

FREE!

Gulf Coast *Snow* **BIRDS**

A Winter Visitor
Publication
Holidays 2017

New!
Sean of the South
page 23

Casino Fun
page 21

**The
Sounds
of the
Season**
page 16

**Holidays on
the Gulf Coast**



And more on our full Calendar!
pages 14-15

In print and online
SnowBirdsGulfCoast.com

SNOWBIRDS 12TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

DECEMBER 15-25, 2017

TWO SHOWS DAILY 3PM & 7PM

Christmas ON ICE

A RAND PRODUCTIONS SHOW

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS AT THE
BEAU RIVAGE THEATRE! THIS HOLIDAY SEASON,
WATCH A MAGICAL SNOW GLOBE OF A SHOW COME TO LIFE
ON A STAGE MADE OF REAL ICE, FEATURING SNOWFALL,
IN A PERFORMANCE THAT'S PERFECT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.

TICKETS
STARTING AT

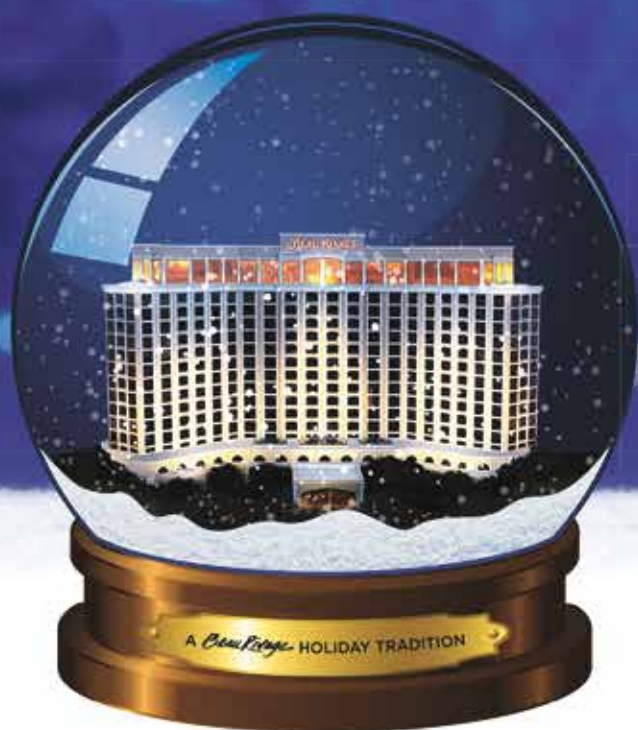
\$12⁹⁵*

PACKAGES OF FOUR
STARTING AT

\$40* CODE:
CHRISTMAS

WEEKDAY HOTEL
PACKAGES FROM

\$99** CODE:
HOLIDAY17



THE *Buffet*

SHOW YOUR TICKET STUB AT THE BUFFET
ON THE SAME DAY AS THE SHOW AND
CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER EAT FREE!***

FOR TICKETS, CALL 1.888.566.7469,
VISIT THE BEAU RIVAGE TICKET OFFICE
OR GO TO BEAURIVAGE.COM.

Beau Rivage

RESORT & CASINO • BILOXI

An MGM Resorts Luxury Destination



Not retroactive. Schedule subject to change. Space is limited. Anyone under 21 must be accompanied by a legal adult to attend show. Valid ID required. *Plus tax and service fees. **Limited availability. 48 hour advanced booking required. 24 hour cancellation policy. Package rates are per room and limited to one package per trip. Two show tickets are per room, per stay, valid only during package trip and cannot be transferred. Package cannot be combined with any other package or promotions. Not available to persons attending meetings, groups or conventions. Nontransferable. A deposit for full package price is required and charged at time of reservation. Must be 21 to reserve a room and check into Beau Rivage. Beau Rivage charges a daily Resort Fee. This daily Resort Fee is in addition to the daily room rate charge and local and state taxes. Theater seating is based on availability and on a first come first served basis. ***Two children per one adult buffet purchase. Not valid for comp purchases. Cannot be combined with any other offer. ©2017 MGM Resorts International. All rights reserved. If you need to win, you need to quit. Gambling problem? Call 1.888.777.9696.

RESORTQUEST.

By Wyndham Vacation Rentals®

Rates in NW Florida as low as \$990/month!*

If you're dreaming of walks along uncrowded beaches, dinners at renowned restaurants, and discounted rates at championship golf courses this winter in Northwest Florida, we have you covered! What's more, **we've partnered with many local organizations to bring you discounts through our Key to the Beach Guest Privileges Program.** It's time to plan your winter getaway!

855-525-9528 | RQWinterGuests.com



Alabama's
Gulf Coast

Northwest Florida:

Pensacola Beach
Navarre Beach
Okaloosa Island
Destin
South Walton/30A
Panama City Beach

Orlando

Does your winter travel take you to Alabama's Gulf Coast or Orlando, FL?
Visit us online at WVRSnowbirds.com and start mapping out your adventure or
call 855-996-9377 to book today!

WYNDHAM
VACATION RENTALS®

*Visit www.RQWinterGuests.com for terms and conditions. Northwest Florida reservation must be booked by calling 855-525-9528 and ask for promo code SNOW.

Fia, Seller of Travel Reg. No. ST-3832, Washington Seller of Travel Reg. No. 60378961. Wyndham Vacation Rentals and related marks are registered trademarks and/or service marks in the United States and internationally. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A. 14 Sylvan Way, Parsippany, NJ 07054 ©2017 Wyndham Vacation Rentals North America, LLC.



SWING BY ON YOUR TIME OFF

Take a swing at the Bridges Golf Course, a 2017 *Golf Digest* Mississippi Top 10 Course. Plus, sample our other courses at our award-winning restaurants or try your hand at gaming in our state-of-the-art casino, all while living in luxury at our hotel and spa or RV park.

Golf, hotel and spa packages start at only \$149!

HOLLYWOOD
Casino

GULF COAST

HOLLYWOODGULFCOAST.COM



GAMBLING PROBLEM? 1-888-777-9696.



Gulf Coast *Snow* **BIRDS**

ON THE COVER

Joan and Bob Jansma hail from Fremont, Mich. They split their year between Michigan and the Gulf Coast, keeping it mobile in their RV. Joan is president of the Michigan Snowbird Club, the largest of Alabama's 11 state clubs with 996 members in 2017.

INDEX

Publisher's Welcome	6
Cover Couple	8
Welcome to the Flora-Bama.....	9
Snapshots.....	9
Clubs	12-13
Calendar	14-15
Holiday Music Across the Coast.....	16-17
Bellingrath Home: Holiday Decor.....	18
Snowball Derby	19
Beau Rivage Holiday Events	20
Casino Fun	21
Sean of the South.....	23

Publisher: Karen Harrell / Publisher@SnowbirdsGulfCoast.com / 850.291.1266

Art Director: Jahna Jacobson

Writers and Contributors: Karen Harrell, Louis Cooper

Photography: Randy Hamilton/Hamilton Art Agency

DEALS ON EVERY

Table

WILD BUNCH SENIORS CLUB members receive HALF OFF lunch at Boomtown Buffet on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays! Plus, earn up to \$10 SlotPlay®!

Come get in on the good times at Boomtown Casino Biloxi! Featuring first-rate gaming, fine dining, endless buffets, it's no secret why Boomtown is a local favorite.



BOOMTOWN
CASINO ★ BILOXI
THE ORIGINAL LOCALS CASINO

BOOMTOWNBILOXI.COM

GAMBLING PROBLEM? 1-888-777-9696.

HEATED POOL

GREAT RATES

Make us your winter home!

Seaspray

CONDOMINIUMS

Convenient to area restaurants and attractions

On the Gulf of Mexico between Fort Walton Beach and Destin

Group activities and winter guest social calendar

1530 Miracle Strip Pkwy, SE, Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

1-800-428-2726 or www.seaspraycondos.com



FOR THOSE WHO MOVE™

850.916.8700

ANDREWSINSTITUTE.COM

ANDREWS INSTITUTE
ORTHOPAEDICS & SPORTS MEDICINE
An Affiliate of Baptist Health Care

BAPTIST **EasySchedule**

No hassle appointment scheduling is here. With Baptist Health Care's EasySchedule, you can directly book online appointments with **Baptist Medical Group primary and urgent care providers** from your desktop computer, smart phone or other electronic device.

It's simple.

1. Visit EasySchedule.com.
2. Choose a provider or location.
3. Select a time.
4. Confirm your appointment.

Once you've confirmed your appointment, you will have the option of receiving an email or text message to remind you of your visit.

Try out this new scheduling tool and give us feedback. Visit EasySchedule.com, or call **850.434.4080**, and EasySchedule your appointment today.



EASYSCHEDULE.COM

BAPTIST
HEALTH CARE

GRAND OPENING

OF OUR NEWEST LOCATION IN NICEVILLE!!

**CALL NOW FOR YOUR GRAND OPENING
DISCOUNTS AND TO SCHEDULE YOUR:**

**FREE CONSULTATION • FREE HEARING SCREENING
FREE VIDEO EAR SCAN**

WE CARRY AND SERVICE THE WORLD'S LEADING MANUFACTURERS:

NOW, THE NEW OPEN FIT TECHNOLOGY
at the most affordable price anywhere... We Guarantee it!

30 Day Trial
**RISK
FREE**



- No Plugged Up Feeling
- Natural Sound Quality
- Feedback Cancellation
- Virtually Invisible
- Fully Automatic

\$595

Half-Price Sale
Reg. \$1190

**NO-GIMMICKS, NO FINE PRINT!
LOWEST PRICES ON ALL MANUFACTURERS
WE GUARANTEE IT!**

Other Digital Specials

\$395
ITE
(In-the-Ear)
WAS \$790
Fits up to 40 db loss.

\$495
ITC
(In-the-Canal)
WAS \$990
Fits up to 40 db loss.

\$595
Micro-CIC
(Completely in the Canal)
WAS \$1190
Fits up to 40 db loss.

SPECIAL
\$99
Hearing Aid Repair
Any make or model with 6 mo. warranty.
Expires 7/31/17

SPECIAL
99¢
Zinc Air Batteries (4pk)
Limit 2 pk. per person.
Expires 7/31/17

FREE
Hearing Aid Battery Tester
with every appointment for your free, no obligation hearing test.

FREE
Hearing Aid Analysis
Analyze your present hearing aid performance in real life conditions with the state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment.
(Reg. Value \$89)



Tammara L. Thompson, BC-HIS
Hearing Aid Specialist, Board Certified,
Hearing Instrument Sciences.

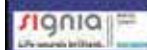
Don't buy a hearing aid until you try one
100% RISK FREE!

New Location! Niceville:

(850) 729-0773
1173 E. John Sims Pkwy.,
Niceville,
FL 32578



Miramar Beach:
(850) 837-0497
42 Business Centre Drive,
Suite 304, Miramar Beach,
FL 32550



Like us on Facebook! • www.allclearhearing.com



Welcome!



What do you do when you are away from family on the holidays? Well, if you are a Snowbird, chances are you have an extended family to celebrate the season. This particularly is true if you stay in an RV park like our Holiday cover couple Joan and Bob Jasma.

The couple, who spend six months on the Gulf Coast, have made the outside space of their "stick" or spot at Island Retreat RV Park in Gulf Shores, Ala., welcoming with an all-weather rug, foldout chairs positioned in a cozy circle while nearby a firepit is at the ready for a cool night.

They often attend potluck celebrations at the famed Flora-Bama each winter and are among more than 900 fellow Michigan Club friends engaged in club activities where Joan this year is president. The Alabama Gulf Coast features about a dozen state Snowbird clubs that developed organically and are run by volunteers. Other areas also have clubs and often the local hospitality folks set up special events to make Snowbirds feel welcomed.

This magazine is published four times each winter (Holiday, January, February and March/Spring) each year and distributed regionally from the Alabama Gulf Coast to Panama City Beach, Fla., and at select destinations along I-10. This is an area that offers many attractions such as the Mississippi casinos, state and national parks, the world's whitest beaches, airports that increasingly are offering convenient flights and toe-tapping entertainment venues with views of the Gulf of Mexico.

Snowbirds who winter here also find ample winter vacation rentals available at a fraction of the cost peak summer tourists pay. Some find this region from recommendations from others who have paid a visit while others test drive different areas with two-week journeys in the years before they collect their first retirement checks.

What they also find is a slower pace and often a soft and welcoming southern drawl. Take a moment to get to know the people while you are here. Often you will find they, too, are new friends.

Find your winter "tribe" through our clubs listings and there are no shortage of things to do found in our center events calendar.

Finally, enjoy the month of December as we prepare for the huge Snowbird influx in January. This time is for you. Have a safe and warm holiday season.

As always, we are happy you are here.

Karen Harrell, Publisher@SnowbirdsGulfcoast.com

You can reach me at 850-291-1266 and I will do what I can to help you.

LIFE IS AN ADVENTURE
Canoe, Tube, Kayak, Ropes Course ...
Discover the FUN of outdoor adventure!

ADVENTURES UNLIMITED
Milton, Florida • 850.623.6197
www.adventuresunlimited.com

SNOWBIRDS, SEE WHAT'S COMING TO THE REAL FUN BEACH



BEACH HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS Thanksgiving Weekend, Aaron Bessant Park
PANAMA CITY BEACH MARATHON Dec. 2, Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville
SENIOR SOFTBALL Recurring Wednesdays, Dec. 6 – Mar. 14, Frank Brown Park
AN EMERALD COAST CHRISTMAS Dec. 8-10, Aaron Bessant Park
NEW YEAR'S EVE BEACH BALL DROP Dec. 31, Pier Park
WINTER RESIDENT APPRECIATION DAYS Jan. 18, Feb. 8, Feb. 22, Lyndell Building
WINTER RESIDENT HOMECOMING DANCE Jan. 23, Laketown Wharf Resort
PCB MARDI GRAS & MUSIC FESTIVAL Feb. 9-10, Pier Park
WINTER RESIDENT SENIOR PROM Feb. 13, Edgewater Beach & Golf Resort
WINTER RESIDENT GRAND FINALE Feb. 26, Sheraton Bay Point

Plan your fun getaway today at VisitPanamaCityBeach.com



Beaches and "Bushwackers": Michigan couple finds the best of all worlds in their RV

Two-week family Gulf Coast spring break trips in the 1990s fed Joan and Bob Jansma's desire to escape Michigan's harsh winters when it came their time to retire. Little did they know that Joan eventually would become president of the Michigan Snowbird Club, the largest of Alabama's 11 state clubs which boasted 996 members in 2017.



The couple hails from recreation-rich Fremont, Mich., located in the state's southwest corner and about 30 miles from the white sandy beaches of Lake Michigan. They are the parents of three children: Paul, 50, who lives in Oregon; Andrew, 47, of Fremont and Libby, 44, of Atlanta, Ga. They have five grandchildren ranging in age from 7-11. The Jansma's followed the tradition of other Fremont residents who began migrating to the Perdido Key, Fla.-area in the 1970s with many staying at the Sundowner Condominiums. The condos are within walking distance of the famed southern "Road House" bar, the gulf-front Flora-Bama where the Jansma's and others would regularly meet to enjoy live music from favorite artists such as Lea Anne Creswell and to toast sunsets. Their favorite cocktail is Gulf Coast specialty the "Bushwacker" a creamy concoction of rum, Baileys Irish Cream, Kahlua, ice cream and more. Bob worked for many years as a long-distance truck driver and later in sales for a tractor supply and farming equipment company. He was diagnosed with a mobility-limiting condition in the muscular dystrophy-family called CMT (Charcot Marie Tooth) syndrome in his late 40s and ultimately retired at age 61. Joan, 78, worked as an administrative assistant for Gerber Foods, a position which provided generous time off that allowed her take a month vacation in winter in the years before her retirement at age 69. In addition to her duties with the Michigan Snowbird Club she also tutors school children several days per week with a local organization. The couple settled on an ample 33-foot travel trailer when they became longer-term Snowbirds in

2003 in the Gulf Shores, Ala., area. They sold their home several years ago and now are "full-timers" living six months per year on the Gulf Coast and the rest of the time at a Fremont RV park where they now have a second travel trailer. Bob learned construction skills from his dad who was a master builder and that came in handy when it came time to modify their travel trailer for his mobility issues and to better accommodate full-time living. He crafted wider, deeper and sturdier stairs to get in and out of the trailer and constructed better storage options in the bedroom and kitchen.

Both Joan and Bob said the camaraderie of the RV life is why they chose it. RVers typically use their outside spaces more and gather as neighbors to dine, visit and enjoy a campfire.

The Michigan Club has given them a chance to meet many new friends and the organization helps to give back to the community they love through fundraisers with other clubs and collaboration with area churches and organizations. Thanksgiving typically is celebrated in Gulf Shores with friends and they go to Atlanta to have Christmas with their grandchildren. Their family also visit the area during their stay enjoying all the Gulf Coast area has to offer.

Summers they reconnect with friends at the Michigan RV park and spend visiting their children all the while preparing for their winter return to the Gulf Coast.





America's "Last Great Roadhouse"

Tucked between two towering condominium complexes is a beloved symbol of the beach of yesteryear.

Known as America's "Last Great Roadhouse" - the Flora-Bama aptly reflects its location straddling the Florida and Alabama borders.

Generations of tourists and locals have poured into the wood-frame building since it was founded in 1964. The sprawling complex has been enlarged and expanded over the years. Live music plays daily and you can find regulars straddled up to the bar joined by enthusiastic tourists.

Each January through March 1, visitors enjoy the "Winter Wednesdays" Snowbirds potluck.

Entertainment begins at 11 a.m. and the 1 p.m. buffet is \$3 per person or free if you bring a side dish. In recent years, a yacht club, marina and the Flora-Bama Ole River Grill have been added across the street.

To check the schedule: www.florabama.com



Snap!

Wisconsin Breakfast

Orange Beach, Ala.



Explore

in NW Florida

Historic houses, Museums, State Parks

JACKSON COUNTY
www.visitjacksoncountyfla.com
850-482-8061

Visit Washington County
Experience Life Naturally
visitwefla.com
850-638-6013

Feb. 5 - Bus tour Pickup at Good Time Tours Florida locations
Feb. 9 - Bus Tour pickup at Good Time Tours Alabama Locations
Falling Waters State Park, Marianna Caverns and Chautauqua Winery

Snowbird Rates Available Through May!
Within walking distance of the Flora-Bama in Perdido Key, Fla.

Needle Rush Point

Perdido Key Florida

- 1, 2 and 3-bedroom units
- Views of Ole River and the Gulf of Mexico
- Large private balconies, fishing pier, tennis court, sunset observation dock, grilling and picnic area, free boat slips and more!
- Rates starting at \$1250 per month (including utilities with FREE PARKING)

Call: (850)-492-2180 or www.needlerushpoint.com

ATTENTION GULF SHORES, ORANGE BEACH AND ALL OTHER WINTER RESIDENTS!
PLEASE JOIN US FOR



The Mobile tourism community is once again hosting a special event for all the winter residents of the Gulf Shores/Orange Beach area. Enjoy prizes, entertainment, refreshments and a great opportunity to meet the good folks from the Mobile area who will tell you about all the events planned for the next couple of months. Receive special updates on events being held at the USS ALABAMA Battleship, Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center, Bellingrath Gardens and Home, the History Museum of Mobile, city tours and all other Mobile area attractions and cultural activities.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2018
THE CONFERENCE CENTER AT THE WHARF
1:00PM TO 3:00PM



BORN TO CELEBRATE



VISIT MOBILE | 1-800-5-MOBILE | WWW.MOBILE.ORG | WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/VISITMOBILE

There are nearly forty restaurants, bars, delis and cafes in downtown Mobile, and we've also compiled a suggested list of activities you can do in two, four and six hours in Mobile:



TWO HOURS

MARITIME: About 230 steps from the Alabama Cruise Terminal (yes, we counted!) is the one-of-a-kind GulfQuest National Maritime Museum. GulfQuest is the first and only museum dedicated to the Gulf Coast's rich maritime traditions from its discovery in the 1500s to the present day and one of the only interactive maritime museums in the country. So before you head out into the Gulf, learn all about the Gulf. It'll make your cruise that much more interesting, believe us!

PORT & FORT: The downtown waterfront of Mobile, Alabama is full of rich history, culture and economic importance to the region. This bustling port welcomes ships from all over the world along with tug boats and barges that roam the many rivers of North America. See them all up close from a USCG Certified passenger vessel with Wild Native Tours. The city skyline, maritime museum, Austal shipyards, cruise terminal and cruise ship are also seen on this tour. Courteous and knowledgeable guides will educate and entertain as you cruise these local waters. After your port tour, be sure to visit the Fort of Colonial Mobile, an immersive, interactive exhibit about the people who colonized early Mobile.



FOUR HOURS

HISTORY LOVERS: Take an historic city tour, starting at the Visit Mobile Welcome Center, by car, van, trolley or duck boat. These usually last an hour to an hour and a half, which leaves plenty of time to explore historic downtown Mobile on foot, including the History Museum of Mobile and the Mobile Carnival Museum or hop across the Mobile River to board an authentic World War II battleship, the USS ALABAMA.

SHOPAHOLICS: Several new locally owned clothing boutiques, gift shops, vintage and antique stores and art galleries (some will ship your purchases home!) are located within blocks of each other downtown. We know you'll be grabbing some souvenirs in the Caribbean, but hey, taking a little bit of Mobile home with you is pretty awesome, too.

FAMILY FUN: The Gulf Coast Exploreum offers rotating exhibits and permanent activities designed to bring the scientist out in all of us. You'll notice an Oyster statue out in front of the Exploreum, which is a great starting point to walk The Oyster Trail throughout downtown Mobile (how many can you visit?). Mobile's newest addition to outdoor family fun is ArtGo, a self-guided free walking trail and outdoor art gallery that leads visitors to 33 public art pieces/installations. Pick up your map at the Mobile Arts Council at 318 Dauphin Street.



SIX HOURS

OUTDOORS: With a little more time on your hands, you can explore a little more of what the entire area has to offer. The crown jewel of Mobile, Bellingrath Gardens and Home is about 45 minutes west of the Alabama Cruise Terminal - plan to wander amongst the blooms for a few hours. Or, head east, just a few minutes of downtown and take an airboat ride, sightseeing cruise or guided kayak/canoe tours of the Mobile/Tensaw Delta (the views are a little different from the deck of the cruise ship but fascinating just the same!)

HISTORY AND CULTURE LOVERS: There are several historic homes in or near downtown, each offering guided tours. Pick up a Historic Homes brochure and plan to visit all five during your time here in Mobile. Hit the Mobile Museum Trail, visiting some of the previously mentioned downtown museums but also plan to stop by the largest art museum on the Gulf Coast, the Mobile Museum of Art, the Mobile Medical Museum, and the Archaeology Museum at the University of South Alabama.





Snowbird Clubs

Send your club news to Publisher@
SnowbirdsGulfCoast.com

Each year there are a variety of activities put on either by Snowbirds or area organizations for the Snowbirds. If you have activities to share, please email: publisher@snowbirdsgulfcoast.com by the 5th of the month preceding publication (we publish Holiday, January, February and March each year.)

PANAMA CITY: Panama City Senior Center: A hub of activity for Panama City Snowbirds is the sprawling senior center. Membership fees are just \$35/year. Activities include health, fitness and exercise; arts and crafts; fun and games and social and learning opportunities. Upcoming events: Thanksgiving Dinner, noon Nov. 23. Turkey and ham will be provided and participants are asked to bring a side dish and/or a dessert. A Christmas Craft Bazaar is 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 2. Phil's 6th Annual Fish Fry is 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 8. Tickets are available for a \$10 donation. Events are held at: Oatfield Center, 423 Lyndell Lane, Panama City Beach, Fl. Details: 850-236-3038 or 850-233-5065.

The Panama City Convention and Visitor Bureau: Winter Resident Appreciation Days are Jan. 18, Feb. 8 and 22 at the Panama City Beach Senior Center from 8 to 11 a.m. Shop a variety of vendors and buy tickets to the annual Homecoming Dance Jan. 23 at The Wharf, Senior Prom Feb. 13 at Edgewater Beach Resort and The Grand Finale Feb. 26 at the Sheraton Bay Point Resort. Details: 800-722-3224 or www.visitpanamacitybeach.com.

WALTON COUNTY: Meetings are at 10 a.m. at the Destin United Methodist Church, 200 Beach Drive. Dates include: Dec. 6, Jan. 10, 24; Feb. 7 and 21 (at Village Baptist Church, 101 Matthew Dr.) Meetings include entertainment, information from local vendors and club activity sign up sheets. Please park on the east side of the church. Activities include art, ballroom dance, casino trips, book discussion, bowling, cards and games, pickleball, computer, softball, golf, tennis, Zumba fishing and more. Volunteers are needed to help administrate the activities. Membership dues are \$10 per year. Details: www.waltoncountysnowbirds.com or for membership: Joan Dougall jmr166@gmail.com

DESTIN: Meetings are held at "The Roost" – the Destin Community Center, 101 Stahlman Ave. The first registration date is Nov. 27 at 1 p.m. Registration fee is \$8. Registration also will be held from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. before 10 a.m. meetings Nov. 28, Dec. 5 and 12 with the "Big Registration" set for 1 to 3 p.m. Jan. 4. Weekly Tue. meetings start Jan. 9 with sessions at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Meetings include entertainment, activities and information from local vendors. Club activities include cards and games, fishing, golf, tennis, pickleball, skeet shooting, cruises, casino trips and more.

FORT WALTON BEACH: With over 700 members, the Club offers activities, events, camaraderie and fellowship. Meetings dates are:

Jan. 9, Feb. 6 and March 6 with registration from 9 a.m. – noon at the Fort Walton Beach Recreation Center (132 Jet Dr. NW). Scheduled socials are Jan. 14, Feb. 11 and March 4 and a Valentine's Dance on Feb. 14. There are three state "breakfast" groups that meet throughout the year at the Ramada Plaza Resort. Wisconsin dates are: Jan. 16, 30 and Feb. 13, 27. Michigan – Jan. 11, 25; Feb. 8, 22 and March 8. Minnesota meets Mondays at 9 a.m. The club sponsors craft, cards, games, golf outings and social events. Details: information@FWBSBC.com or www.fwbsbc.com.

NAVARRE: The Navarre Beach Snowbird Club continues to grow and offers a variety of programs and social events. The first of five scheduled "Snowbirds Sessions by the Sea" is 1 p.m. Dec. 14 at the award-winning Navarre Beach Marine Science Station including a create-your-own ornament "Holiday Crafting." Cost is \$10. Details: www.navarresciencestation.org. www.navarrebeachsnowbirdsclub.com

PENSACOLA BEACH: The Pensacola Beach Community Church welcomes Snowbirds to monthly potlucks on the fourth Sunday of the month plus other church activities including winter Trivia night! Details: 850-932-6628 or www.thebeachchurch.com/church-events.html St. Ann Catholic Church in Gulf Breeze hosts the "Fun Bunch" senior group meeting at 11:30 a.m. every third Tue.. Lunch and Bingo, all are

welcome! Details: Darlene Goderski 850-677-8321 or online at www.stannngulfbreeze.org/seniors **PERDIDO KEY:** Area activity and event information is available at the Perdido Key Visitor Information Center, 15500 Perdido Key Drive, Pensacola, Fla. Details: 850-492-4660.

ALABAMA GULF SHORES MEN'S COFFEE CLUB: The Gulf Shores Men's Snowbird Coffee Club at Gilbey's Restaurant, 25775 Perdido Beach Blvd. in Orange Beach on Mon., Wed. and Fri., 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Membership information is available at these meetings. This is the oldest continually active snowbird club with more than 280 members from 26 states and three Canadian provinces. Besides raising money for local charities, the club holds golf outings, sponsors casino trips and conducts breakfast meetings for members and spouses and throws horseshoes on Mon., Wed. and Fri. at noon at Meyer Park in Gulf Shores.

DAUPHIN ISLAND: The Dauphin Island Chamber of Commerce invites Snowbirds to visit the Welcome Center, 1016 Bienville Blvd., for info on island events including the twice-monthly Boardwalk Talks the first and third Wednesdays at 11:15 a.m. at The Estuarium. Island representatives are actively engaged in forming a club. Details: www.townofdauphinisland.org.

SENIOR SNOWBIRDS: Meets Thursdays Jan. through March. Bring a dish to feed 10. Cost is 50 cents at the Adult Activity Center, 260

Experience. Trust. Compassion. Hope. Affordable



AFFORDABLE RATES

\$79 Cleaning, Exam, Xray
\$29 Emergency Visit
\$89 Simple Extraction
Free Assessment*

All You Need Is Love . . . And a Good Dentist

Frank Dentremont DMD is an experienced general dentist with many years of local experience caring for patients along the Alabama Gulf Coast. We are excited to announce that he has opened a new practice locally in Gulf Shores, AL.

"Dr. D" hails from Maine and is a graduate of Tufts Dental School in Boston. He is well-known for his gentle, caring attitude and for rendering professional services.



Welcome Snowbirds!

Dentremont Dental Services
3501 Gulf Shores Pkwy., Suite 4
Palm Center Plaza
Gulf Shores, AL 36542

251-943-0004
or www.dentremont-dental.com

* Limitations: These promotions are for Snowbirds and new patients.
Expiration March 31, 2018. Check website for complete information.



SCAN TO VIEW OUR WEBSITE

Join the Club!



Clubhouse Dr., Gulf Shores, Ala. Details: Michael O'Rourke 251-981-6060

ILLINOIS: The 2018 Illinois Club meets the second and fourth Fridays in Jan., Feb. and March 9 at GT's On the Bay (26189 Canal Rd, Orange Beach) at 7:30 a.m. RSVP: 630-738-8717.

INDIANA: Indiana Club meets for breakfast at 8 a.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays through March 1, 2018 at 7:30 a.m. Luna's 25689 Canal Road, Orange Beach, AL. Speakers at every meeting. Cost to join: \$5. Breakfast is \$10 including meal, tax and tip. Details: Bev Walker 513-519-9645 or bwalker@etczone.com.

IOWA: Iowa Snowbirds invite Iowans and guests to attend their breakfasts and the cocktail parties held January through early March 2018. Snowbird breakfasts are the second and fourth Wednesdays in January and February. The first Iowa "breakfast" will be at OWA, a change from previous announcements. The "meet and greet" coffee and donuts gathering will be Wed., Jan. 10, 2018 at the Groovy Goat, 8 to 10 a.m.. Cost is \$6 for an informal coffee time. Reservations can be made at iowa-Alabamagulfcoastsnowbirds.org

MICHIGAN: The Michigan Club will hold registration from 1 to 3 p.m. Dec. 3 at the Gulf Shores Activity Center. The Christmas Dinner is noon Dec. 14 at Ginny Lane at The Wharf. The first 2018 club and golf registration is 4 to 6 p.m. Jan. 2. Meeting dates are: Jan. 4, Feb. 1, 15

and March 1 at Erie Meyer Civic Center. The doors open at 8:30 a.m. with coffee and donuts at 9 a.m. Meetings include entertainment, Club activities and door prizes. Membership dues are \$3 total per person for the entire year. Details: www.michiganclubalabama.com

MINNESOTA: The Minnesota Club meets weekly through Mid March in our "home away from home" state of Alabama. The club hosts weekly Tuesday luncheons in Nov. and Dec. at The Diner, 2420 E. 2nd St., Gulf Shores, Ala. Breakfast meetings start weekly in Jan. on Tuesdays at GT's on the Bay, 26189 Canal Rd, Orange Beach, Ala. Doors open at 7:30 a.m., Breakfast costs \$10. Info on golf, upcoming events or updates: www.mnal.org.

MISSOURI: The Missouri Snowbirds spend Jan., Feb. and for some lucky folks, March also, in the Orange Beach, Ala., Gulf Shores, Ala., and the Perdido Key, Fla., area. The first club meeting is 9 a.m. Jan. 3 at Phoenix V condominiums. A welcome back party is 6 p.m. Jan. 6 at Phoenix V. The club will meet for breakfast at 9 a.m. Jan. 10, 24, Feb. 7 and 21 at Perdido Beach Resort (27200 Perdido Beach Boulevard, Orange Beach). Business meetings held at Phoenix V will alternate with breakfast. Details: www.mosnowbirds.org

NEW YORK: New York State Snowbirds have been gathering for social times since 2000. The 2018 New York Snowbird Club will meet for

lunch on Jan. 12, 26; Feb. 9, 23 and March 9 at Ginny Lane Bar and Grill, 4851 Wharf Pkwy E, Orange Beach). Registration: 11 a.m., Lunch: 11:30 a.m. from a special menu. \$1 per person fee collected at the door. Reservations required. Frank and Tracy at 585-748-0432 or email at nysnowbirds@gmail.com, no later than 3 days before the scheduled luncheon.

NORTH DAKOTA/SOUTH DAKOTA: The Gulf Shores, Alabama-based North and South Dakota Snowbird Club meets every second and fourth Tuesday morning in Jan., the second Tuesday Feb. and fourth Monday and second Tuesday in March at 8:30 a.m. at Luna's for breakfast with a meeting to follow at 9 a.m. Events include pot lucks, dinner at local restaurants, etc. and collecting items for the local food pantry. Details: Joyce, 605-351-0274 or pdinsf@msn.com.

OHIO: Meetings are Jan. 11, 25, Feb. 8, 22 and March 8 at Luna's, 25689 Canal Road, Orange Beach. Cost is \$10 per person. Doors will open at 8 a.m. with breakfast at 9 a.m. Details: Gayle Hofacker, gaylehofacker@gmail.com or 937-621-1700

PENNSYLVANIA: Pennsylvania Snowbird Club Members meet 8 a.m. Wednesdays, Jan. through March at Hazel's Seafood Restaurant in Orange Beach, Ala. Dates are Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; Feb. 7, 14, 28 and March 7. "Eat and Talk" at 5 p.m. At O'Charley's in Foley, Ala., on select

Mondays (TBD). A potluck luncheon is noon Feb. 21 at Orange Beach Presbyterian Church in Orange Beach. Details: Rich Smith 908-420-8806 or bettyrich@rcn.com

WISCONSIN: The Wisconsin Snobird Club activities are open to all winter visitors to the southern Alabama and northern Florida areas. Upcoming breakfast meetings include: 8 a.m. Nov. 29 at Tacky Jack's; Dec. 9 at The Diner and Dec. 20 at the Gulf Shores Diner. A lunch is 11:30 a.m. Dec. 15 at Papa Rocco's. A Christmas (potluck) Dinner starts at 12:30 p.m. with a social at the Orange Beach Event Center, 4671 Wharf Pkwy W, Orange Beach, Ala. Club meetings are Jan. first and third Wed. and Feb. on the first Wed. and fourth Thurs. at the Orange Beach Event Center. March meetings are the first and second Wed. at the Orange Beach Community Center. Meetings begin at 9 a.m. with updates, raffles. Coffee and doughnut social hour before. Details: Kenn 251-967-2463 or www.sites.google.com/site/wisconsinssnobirdclub/company-calendar

CLUB FUNDRAISERS: * Key dates for major Alabama Snowbird fundraisers this year include: Feb. 3 – Bob Gilray Memorial Bratfest; Feb. 10 - Fireman's Pancake Breakfast; and Feb. 15 - Baldwin Heritage Museum Golf Tournament; Feb. 17 – Trivia Night; Feb. 23 - Low Country Boil.

RESORT QUEST By Wyndham Vacation Rentals presents

Winter Guest FEST

Friday, January 12, 2018
8 am to Noon, \$2 admission
Emerald Coast Convention Center
1250 Miracle Strip Parkway, SE, Fort Walton Beach
Area's largest seasonal guest Expo.

RESORT QUEST By Wyndham Vacation Rentals

NORTHWEST FLORIDA Daily News

Gulf Coast SnowBIRDS

EMERALD COAST

NEWS TALK 1260 WFTW

FWB Chamber of Commerce

FWBChamber.com or 850.244.8191

Save The Date!

Join us!

Alabama Lifestyle Expo

February 8, 2018

Previous 3 EXPO's Attracted
3,000 to 4,000 Winter Visitors!

Meet 70+ Exhibitors

Cash Prizes

Free Services,

Giveaways,

Free Admission!

Caribe the Resort

28103 Perdido Beach Blvd., Orange Beach, AL 36561



LuLu's 3rd Annual Billy Claus and The LuLuBelles - Free event noon Sunday, Dec. 10, at noon. Billy Claus is Santa's warm weather-loving brother who lives in the Caribbean, but comes this way to help Santa during the Holiday season. The LuLuBelles are Billy's version of Santa's elves. Billy and the LuLuBelles will be available for photos with the children. Lucy Buffett will also be there for a reading of her children's book, Billy Claus and the Spirit of Christmas. LuLu's is located in Destin at the foot of the Mid Bay Bridge, next to Legendary Marina. For more Billy Claus and Noon Year's Eve information, visit www.lulubuffett.com/destin or call 850-710-5858.

ALL SEASON

Holiday Ice Skating - 201 E. Gregory Street, Pensacola, FL, Pensacola Bay Center. Skate sessions are available throughout the season. Details: 850-432-0800 ext. 252 or www.pensacolabaycenter.com

through Nov. 22

54th Annual Fall Outdoor Cascading Chrysanthemums - Bellingrath Gardens and Home - See the nation's largest outdoor display of the signature blooms of the season. Details: www.bellingrath.org

WEDNESDAYS

Boardwalk Talks, Dauphin Island Sea Lab Estuarium - The Northern Gulf Institute presents informal talks about all things scientific in the Gulf of Mexico region. 101 Bienville Blvd, Dauphin Island, AL. First and third Wednesdays, 11:15 a.m. FREE. Details: www.disl.org/estuarium or 251-861-2141

Winter Wednesdays - Bellingrath Gardens and Home - Sessions are held each week in the Magnolia Room from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. from Jan. 3 - Feb. 28. Admission to the program is included in the regular Gardens admission. Guests are encouraged to tour the Gardens after the session. Register: 251-459-8864. Details: www.bellingrath.org

SUNDAYS

Americana Cafe Sundays - Roberts Hall, 831 Florida Avenue, Lynn Haven, FL. Live music weekly at the Legendary Roberts Hall. Concerts start at 4 p.m. Open mic at 3 p.m. Details: 850-722-4915, 850-774-3561 or Luckymudmusic.com

thru 1/7

Curious George: Let's Get Curious! - Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center - Interactive fun that teaches math, science and engineering. 65 Government St, Mobile, AL 36604 Details: 251-208-6893 or www.exploreum.com

thru 2/20/18

Baytowne On Ice - Apex Skating Pavillion, 9300 Emerald Coast Parkway, West Miramar Beach, FL. The perfect place to find the winter spirit! Details: 850-714-7614 or www.baytownewharf.com

11/17 and 12/15

Gallery Night - Stroll through Downtown Pensacola and experience an eclectic array of music, art and cuisine. Downtown Pensacola, FL, 5 - 9 p.m. Details: 850-417-7321 or www.downtownpensacola.com

11/18,19, 24-26, 12/1-3, 8-10, 15-24

Winterfest Performance Tour - Downtown Pensacola, FL. See 16 holiday performances featuring new holiday characters and old favorites as you take a 60-minute trolley tour through Pensacola. Details: 850-583-1365 or www.pensacolawinterfest.org

11/21 - 12/24

Festival of Trees - Uniquely decorated Christmas trees from area non-profits remain in the park through Christmas. Grand Boulevard at SanDestin, 495 Grand Blvd., Miramar Beach, FL. 4 to 6 p.m. Details: www.visitsouthwalton.com

11/21-22

Creek Indian Celebration Days - Annual two-day event of intertribal dancing, heritage and customs, great foods and Native American vendors with authentic crafts. Florida Town Park, 3900 Florida Town Rd, Pace, FL. Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun. Noon - 5 p.m. Details: 850-516-6960

11/24

Apalachicola Historic Downtown Christmas Celebration - Streets lined with luminaries and the sounds of carolers. Santa arrives by shrimp boat at 4 p.m. Apalachicola Riverfront Park, Apalachicola, FL. 3 to 8 p.m. Details: www.aahs.wildapricot.org

11/24 - 12/23

Fish River Christmas Tree Farm - Cut your own tree or pick one off the lot! Enjoy a manger scene with live animals, free tours on the tree train and more holiday fun. 3982 Woodhaven Dairy Road, Summerdale, AL. Details: 251-988-8144 or www.fishrivertrees.com

11/24-12/30

Magic Christmas in Lights - Bellingrath Gardens and Home celebrates 22 Years of dazzling nighttime displays. See more than 1,100 set pieces, 3 million lights and 15 scenes on a walking tour of the 65-acre estate. Nov. 24 - Dec. 31, 5 to 9 p.m. Closed Dec. 25. Details: www.bellingrath.org



11/24 - 12/31

3rd Annual Gulfport Harbor Lights Winter Festival - See beautiful holiday lights and visit Santa's Village on a walking tour or aboard a free heated trolley. Jones Park, Highway 90, Gulfport. Open 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. admission. Details: 228-868-5881 or facebook.com/GulfportHarborLights

Annual Snowflakes in the Bay - Beautiful century old Live Oaks decorated with illuminated snowflakes throughout the Bay St Louis and Waveland, Miss. area. Downtown Bay St. Louis & Depot Row, Bay St. Louis. Open nightly. Details: 228-463-9222 or www.mswestcoast.org

11/25

Coastal Half Marathon and 5K Run - Kaiser Realty by Wyndham Vacation Rentals, Orange Beach Sportsplex, 4389 William Silvers Pkwy, Orange Beach, AL. Details: 615-460-9927 or <http://www.team-magic.com>

11/28

Orange Beach Tree Lighting - Caroling, Christmas medleys from Gulf Shores Chorale and Brass Bands, the annual reading of the Christmas story and lighting of the tree. Marlin Circle, The Wharf. 5:30 to 7 p.m. Details: www.alwharf.com

12/1

Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker - The holiday classic performed by an award-winning, world-traveling company. Mariana Civic Center, 8 Harrison Ave, Panama City, FL. 7 p.m. Details: www.marinaciviccenter.com

First Friday ArtWalk in Seaside, Ruskin Place & Central Square, Seaside, Santa Rosa Beach, FL. Live music, local art and artist demos at the galleries and shops. Details: sowal.com/event/first-friday-artwalk-at-seaside

The Very Mary Christmas Spectacular -

A cavalcade of Coast Stars kick off the Holiday Season at the Mary C O'Keefe Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Center of Arts & Education, 1600 Government Street, Ocean Springs, Miss. 8 p.m. Details: 228-818-2878 or www.themaryc.org

12/ 1-2, 9

Dauphin Island Holiday Events - The island Christmas Pageant is 7 p.m. Dec. 1 at St. Edmunds Church Hall. The 29th Annual Christmas Parade rolls at 11 a.m. Dec. 2. The Christmas Tree Lighting is 5 p.m. Dec. 9 at the Water Tower. Details: 251-861-5525 or townofdauphinisland.org.

12/1-3, 8-10

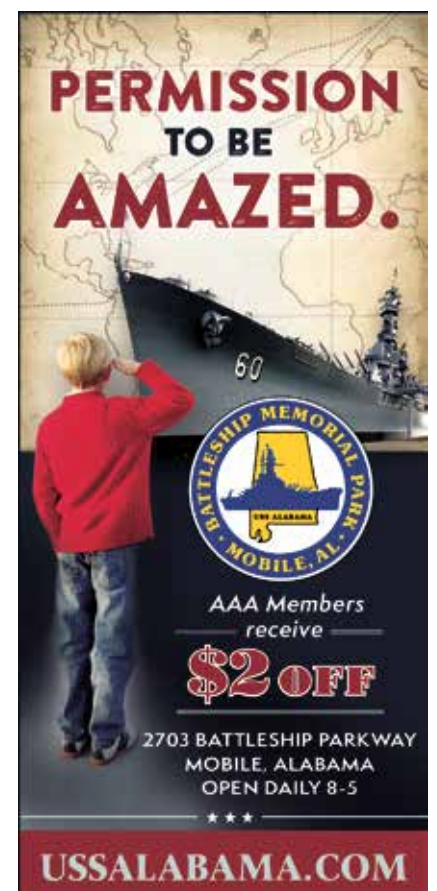
A Christmas Story - Go back in time to Christmas in the 1940s, when all Ralphie wants from Santa is a Red Ryder BB gun! 2022 West 2nd St., Gulf Shores, AL. Details: 251-968-6721 or www.sbct.biz

12/1-22

Holiday Season at the Bragg-Mitchell Mansion, 1906 Springhill Avenue, Mobile, AL. See the Mansion in all its traditional holiday splendor. Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Details: www.braggmitchellmansion.com

12/2

Holiday Fresh Market - Shop for handcrafted Apalachicola baked goods, artwork, woodcarving, pottery and hand-knitted goods. Dixie Theatre, Avenue E and Market St., Downtown Apalachicola, FL. Details: www.apalachicolabay.org or 850-653-9419
13th Annual Biloxi Christmas in the City - Great entertainment featuring choirs, bands and dancers, pictures with Santa, and special Biloxi treats Pusharattes. Rue Magnolia & Water Street - Downtown Biloxi Arts District. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Details: 228-435-6339 or www.mainstreetbiloxi.com



Annual Holiday Tour of Homes

- Six homes in historic Bay St. Louis festively decorated for the Holidays and a Christmas Boutique. Bay St Louis area. 1 to 4 p.m. Details: 504-451-2823 or www.friendsoftheanimalshelter.org

12/4

Coast Big Band Holiday Show –

Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Center of Arts & Education, 1600 Government Street, Ocean Springs, Miss. 7:30 p.m. Details: 228-818-2878 or www.themaryc.org

12/6-20

Wednesday Night Concert Series

- Holiday Edition & Visits with Santa - Get in the Holiday Spirit with us and listen to some of your favorite holiday classics. Every Wednesday this December enjoy our holiday edition of the Wednesday Night Concert Series. Each Concert will feature a festive choreographed light show and visits with Santa. 6 p.m. Details: www.baytownnewharf.com

Nights of Lights - Festive light show every Wed., Fri. and Sat. leading up to Christmas! Shows at 6, 7, and 8 p.m. Details: www.baytownnewharf.com

Holiday Parades: By land and by sea

12/1, 2

Christmas Parade - Town of Dauphin Island, AL. Enjoy holiday festivities at 7 p.m. on Fri. and 11 a.m. on Sat. Details: www.townofdauphinisland.org

12/2

32nd Annual Christmas on the Water Boat Parade (pictured right) - Boats in full holiday décor, followed by fireworks. Mississippi Gulf Coast, Biloxi. 6 p.m. Details: 228-617-3112.

Gulf Breeze Holiday Parade - Join the "Merry Masquerade" as they parade through Downtown Gulf Breeze, FL.. 10 a.m. Details: 850-932-7888 or www.cityofgulfbreeze.com

Milton Christmas Parade – Floats, live music and more holiday fun! Begins at Milton Community Center on Byrom St., North to James St., East on James Street to Stewart Street, South on Stewart Street to Elva St. Milton, FL. 6 p.m. Details: 850-623-2339

Jaycees Christmas Parade – It's a Whoville Holiday! - Parade on Harrison Avenue, Downtown Panama City, FL. 7 p.m. Details: www.pcfjaycees.com or 850-763-8282

Christmas in the Park - Event includes Navarre Community Christmas parade – Santa and the Mrs. arrive by fire truck! Grab a treat at Mrs. Claus's Bakery, enjoy entertainment, shop the marketplace and more. Navarre, FL. Details: www.navarrechamber.com

12/7

10th Annual Chocolate Affair - Gala event to benefit homeless families with children. Silent and live auction items, desserts and heavy hors d'oeuvres, and live music. Foley Civic Center, 407 E. Laurel Avenue Foley, AL., 6 p.m. Details: 251-947-7035 or www.familypromisebc.org

12/7-22

"A Wrinkle in Time" - Emerald Coast Theatre Company. Harborwalk Village Veranda Room, 10 Harbor Blvd. Destin, FL. Details: www.emeraldcoasttheatre.com or 850-687-1637

12/8

Holiday Pops with the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra

– Holiday carol performance and sing-along. Mattie Kelly Arts Center, 100 College Boulevard East, Niceville, FL. 7:30 p.m. Details: 850-729-6000 or www.MattieKellyArtsCenter.com.

12/8-9

6th Annual Merry Market – More than 70 vendors with gifts galore! Orange Beach Event Center, at the Wharf, Orange Beach, AL. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. www.alabamacoastalchristmas.com



12/3

Surfing Santa Beach Parade - Holiday floats wind their way down Santa Rosa Island's main street, with Santa riding atop his red fire engine! Via DeLuna to Casino Beach, Pensacola Beach, FL. 2 p.m. Details: 850-932-1500 or www.pensacolabeachchamber.com

12/9

Tuba Christmas & Holiday Lantern Parade

- Big brass instruments play holiday classics! 9100 Baytowne Blvd. #120, Miramar Beach, FL. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Details: www.baytownnewharf.com

Boat Parade of Lights in St. Andrews Bay - Watch as boats decked out in Christmas lights parade through St. Andrews Bay. For more information visit www.destinationpanamacity.com

34th Annual Pensacola Christmas Parade

- Spring & Garden Streets, Downtown Pensacola, FL. 5:15 p.m. Details: www.coxpensacolachristmasparade.org

Annual Christmas Lighted Boat Parade

- Begins at LuLu's at Homeport Marina. Intracoastal Waterway Canal, 5 to 8 p.m. Details: 251-981-2300 or www.alabamacoastalchristmas.com

12/8-16

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

- The most inventively awful kids in history take over a church pageant. Martin Theatre, 409 Harrison Ave, Panama City, FL. Details: www.martintheatre.com.

12/9

Christmas through the Ages - Join Soldiers from the past and their families as they celebrate Christmas. Fort Gaines Historic Site, 51 Bienville Blvd., Dauphin Island, AL. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Details: 251-861-6992 or www.dauphinisland.org

Santa Drop – Santa parachutes onto the beach to kickoff the holidays! FloraBama, 1740 Perdido Key Drive, Pensacola, FL. Details: www.florabama.com or 850-492-0611

Yule of Yesteryear – A Traditional Christmas Festival at The Heritage Museum of Northwest Florida, 115 Westview Ave, Valparaiso, FL. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Details: www.heritage-museum.org or 850-678-2615

Bragg-Mitchell Mansion Christmas Open House Fundraiser

- Spend a "A Southern Christmas" afternoon at the historic antebellum mansion. Event includes Home tours, beautiful music, homemade refreshments and a visit by Santa. Tickets: \$12 adults, \$7 children under 12. Proceeds benefit the preservation and operation of the mansion. 1 to 4 p.m. Details: 251- 471-6364 or www.braggmitchell.com.

12/10

Compassionate Friends - Non-denominational celebration of lives of children who have passed away. Worldwide candle lighting service. Pointe of Grace Lutheran Church, 491 West 23rd Ave, Gulf Shores, AL. 6:30 p.m. Details: 251-583-0216 or 251-968-5991.

12/15-17

The Nutcracker - The beloved holiday classic ballet set in a glistening winter wonderland. Saenger Theatre, 118 S. Palafox Place, Pensacola, FL. Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun. 1:30 p.m. Details: 850-595-3880 or www.pensacolasaenger.com

12/16

Holiday Pops Concert - Holiday performance from Pensacola's Symphony Orchestra. Seaside Amphitheater, Seaside, FL. 5:30 p.m. Details: www.seasidefl.com

12/31

Pensacola Symphony "Celebrate the New Year," - Saenger Theatre, 118 S Palafox Place, Pensacola, FL. 7 p.m. Details: 850-595-3880 or www.pensacolasymphony.com

Moon Pie Drop - Downtown Mobile, AL. Mobile kicks off the New Year with a giant, lighted Moon Pie. Details: www.mobilenewyear.com.

Baytowne Countdown NYE – Family friendly from 6 to 8 p.m. Ring in the New Year with fireworks displays at 8 p.m. and midnight. Dance the night away with LIVE music till 1 a.m. Details: www.baytownnewharf.com

SINFONIA
GULF COAST

DEMETRIUS FULLER ~ MUSIC & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

TICKETS
ON SALE
NOW!



A ROCKIN' HOLIDAY

with Mary Wilson of The Supremes

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2017 | 7:30 pm
DESTINY WORSHIP CENTER



SYBARITE5

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2018 | 7:30 pm
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



THE FOUR SEASONS OF BUENOS AIRES

featuring violinist Corinne Stillwell

SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2018 | 7:30 pm
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



SINFONIA GULF COAST

GALA event

MEREDITH WILLSON'S

THE MUSIC MAN AT THE SYMPHONY

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2018 | 7:30 pm
EMERALD COAST CONVENTION CENTER

© 2018 Meredith Willson Music LLC & Happy Valley Foundation. All Rights Reserved.

Season
Presenting Sponsor

Merrill Lynch
Wealth Management
Bank of America Corporation

Presenting
Concerts Sponsor

Hancock
Bank.

Presenting
Media Sponsor

VIE
LIVE

Classical Connections
Presenting Sponsor

SILVER SANDS
PREMIUM OUTLETS
A MERRILL LYNCH WEALTH MANAGEMENT COMPANY

SINFONIA BOX OFFICE:
850.460.8800 SinfoniaGulfCoast.org

Holiday concerts ring in the season across the coast

By Louis Cooper

The piney scent of a freshly cut evergreen. The way tinsel catches the light. The feel of a smooth satin ribbon. Certain catalysts evoke the spirit of the holidays in our minds. Perhaps the strongest is familiar holiday music. From Motown classics to the rhythms of smooth jazz, holiday concerts are scheduled across the Gulf Coast that are sure to put you in the Christmas mood.

Here are five opportunities for a holiday musical treat:

Mobile's Magical Christmas

When: Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m., and Dec. 10 at 2:30 p.m.

Where: Saenger Theatre, 6 S. Joachim St., Mobile, AL.



The Mobile Symphony and Mobile's Singing Children are collaborating and soprano soloist Diane Penning to present music from "Home Alone," "Charlie Brown's Christmas," "White Christmas" and lots more.

"Our annual Christmas concert is one of the most popular events of our season," said Meghan Squier, the symphony's marketing associate. "The experience of hearing a symphony orchestra is profound and powerful. Combining this experience with a choir and a soloist creates a sound which is truly moving." "We have many snowbirds who love attending our performances every year, including several who are season subscribers," Squier said. "Frequently, we are told that Mobile Symphony is a hidden jewel that is comparable to the top well-known orchestras in the country."

Tickets: \$10 to \$75. For more information, call (251) 432-2010 or visit mobilesymphony.org.

A Rockin' Holiday with Mary Wilson of the Supremes

When: Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Destiny Worship Center, 122 Poinciana Boulevard, Miramar Beach, FL.

A living musical legend is coming to Destin as Sinfonia Gulf Coast welcomes Mary Wilson of the Supremes to its holiday performance.

"The program features a fun combination of the songs that made the Supremes famous,

as well as holiday favorites that everyone loves," said Demetrius Fuller, Sinfonia Gulf Coast's director. "Ms. Wilson has had all of these arranged for her band and orchestra, with all of the holiday pieces especially created for our performance. It will be a high-energy and beautiful performance." Fuller said Wilson's performance is tailormade for snowbirds. "Many snowbirds grew up to the iconic music of Motown and certainly the Supremes," he said. "Mary remains an icon and she is a pleasure to work with. It is a great event for everyone." Sinfonia has up to 75 contracted musicians each season with eight to 10 concerts every year. Tickets: \$32.50 to \$55. For more information, call (850) 460-8800 or visit www.sinfoniagulfcoast.org.

Beach Home for the Holidays

When: Nov. 24-25; musical performances at 5 and 6 p.m. each day

Where: Aaron Bessant Park, 600 S Pier Park Dr., Panama City Beach, FL.

After you finish your turkey sandwich lunch on the day after Thanksgiving, enjoy Beach Home for the Holidays concerts in Panama City.

"We want visitors and their families to leave the stress of the holidays to enjoy our sugary sand beaches and our endless entertainment," said Jayna Leach, spokeswoman for the Panama City Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"Holiday festivities kick off in full swing on Friday evening with a free concert featuring lots of fun Christmas music, along with the lighting of the new 30-foot Christmas tree. Saturday evening also features

a full line up of entertainment and festivities."

On Friday, the all-woman barber shop quartet Harmony Shores Chorus performs at 5 p.m. and the Panama City POPS Orchestra will take to the stage 6 p.m. On Saturday, the Christmas Carolers will perform classic holiday songs at 5 p.m. and the country group Restless Heart will bring their sweet harmonies and holiday-themed melodies to the park's amphitheater.

In addition to the featured performers, Beach Home for the Holidays will include Santa and Mrs. Claus, fireworks and strolling carolers.

This is the third annual Beach Home for the Holidays event. New for 2017, Visit Panama City Beach has partnered with



Conductor David Ott, Panama City POPS

Southern Living magazine in the Beach Home for the Holidays Sweepstakes. The winner will receive a three-night stay for four guests in a beach home decorated for the season by a Southern Living network designer. For more information on the sweepstakes, visit www.promotions.southernliving.com/5bf.

The Beach Home for the Holidays concerts and other activities are free. For details, call (850) 233-5070 or visit www.visitpanamacitybeach.com.



Norman Brown's Joyous Christmas



When: Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Mattie Kelly Arts Center at Northwest Florida State College, 100 College Blvd, Niceville, Fla.

The holidays will take on a decidedly jazzy tone in Norman Brown's Joyous Christmas. Brown, a Grammy Award winning guitarist, will be joined by vocalist Bobby Caldwell and saxophonist Marion Meadows. This marks the 14th annual Christmas concert sponsored by WSBZ-FM The Seabreeze in Destin.

"It is a unique show in that it blends

traditional holiday music with contemporary jazz," said Sea Breeze's Mark Carter. "The three jazz artists perform some of their hits along with the Christmas tunes."

"This is the first time with this configuration of artists, so we are very excited," he said. "While two of the three are instrumentalists, Bobby Caldwell is a renowned vocalist from the Micheal Buble style. So, there is a wide variety of styles and tastes covered in this show."

Tickets: \$45 to \$80. For more information, call (850) 729-6000 or visit www.seabreeze.fm.



Christmas on the Coast

When: Dec. 8 and 9 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 10 at 2:30 p.m.

Where: Saenger Theatre, 118 S. Palafox St., Pensacola, Fla.

The 200 young members of the Pensacola Children's Chorus began rehearsals for its annual Christmas on the Coast concert back in September.

"Christmas on the Coast is a sparkling holiday spectacular that celebrates the magic and music of the holiday season," said chorus spokeswoman Kate Appleyard VanMeter. "It has something for everyone, from sentimental renditions of Christmas classics to fresh new tunes that will leave you laughing. Not only is the music spectacular, but the costumes and choreography bring the performance to the next level. From angels to elves to the Grinch, you will be in the spirit."

The chorus provides quality music education and performance enrich the lives of children from all religious, racial, cultural and economic backgrounds.

Tickets: \$19 to \$38. For more information, call (850) 434-7760 or visit www.pensacolachildrenschorus.com.



Magic Christmas in Lights

A Holiday Tradition Unlike Any Other

November 24 — December 31 • 5-9 PM

Closed Christmas and New Year's Days

VOTED 'TOP 10 PUBLIC LIGHT DISPLAYS IN AMERICA'



2016
TOP 100
EVENT



Bellingrath
Gardens and Home

Advance tickets available
online and at the Gardens.

bellingrath.org • 251.973.2217







Preparing the Bellingrath Home for Christmas

The Christmas decorations at the Bellingrath Home can't wait until after Thanksgiving. Crews begin working on the historic mansion in early November every year. Here's what goes into creating the Magic Christmas in Lights at Bellingrath Home:

- Crystal chandeliers and sconces are cleaned throughout the 15 room home.
- Artificial garlands are placed on 9 fireplace mantels and decorated with assorted ornaments and colorful ribbons.
- Garlands with and without lights are carefully attached to the railings of two staircases and elaborate ribbons and ornaments are added.
- Six lighted Christmas trees are set up in various parts of the house and each is decorated with colors and ornaments to complement their location.
- Assorted wrapped gifts are placed beneath the tree in the Living Room along with a mechanical toy horse which was a Christmas present to Walter Bellingrath's nephew in 1952.
- A dozen wreaths are prepared to hang on exterior and some interior doors.
- In the Kitchen and Butler's Pantry garlands are hung above doorways and display cabinets and decorated with ornaments themed for Coca-Cola.
- Center table in the kitchen is transformed to hold lighted ceramic Coca-Cola Christmas village.
- Lighted garlands are placed on the Dining and Living porches.
- Fresh Bellingrath poinsettias in red, cream and pink are placed on the hearths of 9 fireplaces, the steps in the Living Room, the Kitchen and Butler's Pantry and the floor on both porches.

Magic Christmas in Lights at the Bellingrath Garden and Home opens on Nov. 24 and is open daily until Dec. 31. Closed on Christmas Day. Details: www.bellingrath.org.



Smilin'

Only at

The Estuarium



An Aquarium at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab
Open 7 Days a Week!

Boardwalk Talks

on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays
A series of informal talks
on a range of science topics.

101 Bienville Blvd Dauphin Island, AL 36528
1-866-403-4409 www.sealabestuarium.com

Photo: B. Jones




Sunset Capital of Alabama™

Townofdauphinisland.com

Dauphinislandchamber.com

Visitsomo.com

Snowball Derby: Winter's hottest racing event

Who would have thought a 100-lap race on a chillingly cold December day in 1968 would still be going on today?

On Sunday, Dec. 3, the Snowball Derby will race for the 50th time at the famed half-mile track at Five Flags Speedway in Pensacola. Pensacola's Wayne Niedecken Sr. won that first race in front of maybe a thousand fans. Now, more than 10,000 fans pack the grandstands to watch more than 30 drivers race 300 laps on their way to the Tom Dawson Memorial Trophy, a big paycheck and the fame that comes with winning one of the top short-track races in the nation. Drivers from California to Canada show up each year for racing action that starts on the Wednesday before the first Sunday in December.



The famed Alabama Gang who raced many Snowball Derbys, include, from left, Donnie Allison, Red Farmer, Neal, Bonnett and Bobby

Over the years, some NASCAR drivers tried but never won the Snowball Derby.

Like Mark Martin.

Like Rusty Wallace (although his son Steven did).

Like Bobby Allison (although his brother Donnie did).

Others who managed to take the checkered flag include former NASCAR champion Darrel Waltrip and current NASCAR stars Chase Elliott and Kyle Busch. In fact, Busch returns this year to attempt to win his

second title.

Two woman drivers have won: Tammy Jo Kirk and Johanna Long. And lately, it's been a race for the young. Long's victory in 2010 at the age of 18 started a current streak of teenagers having won the last seven Snowball Derbys, including last year's winner, Christian Eckes.

One of the attractions of the Snowball Derby is its timing. Always the first Sunday in December, all the racing series, including NASCAR, are finished for the year. Drivers and teams have a couple of months to prepare for the next season, so they can go all-out in this race.

Each year, more than 50 drivers vie for the 36 starting positions, making Friday's qualifying time trials one of the most pressure-packed days of the racing weekend.

Track owner Tim Bryant and his family have been running the show since 2004 and are always looking for fans to make the Snowball Derby weekend a great place for family fun and exciting racing.



Race cars, including Bobby Allison (12) line up for the 1975 Snowball Derby.

Snowball Schedule

Wed., Nov. 29: Pure Stock (50 laps)

Thur., Nov. 30: Sportsman (50 laps), Outlaw Stock (50 laps), Snowball and Snowflake practice

Fri., Dec. 1: Snowball Derby qualifying, Modified B Main (20 laps), Modified (75 laps)

Sat., Dec. 2: Snowball Derby qualifier races, Snowflake (100 laps), Pro Truck (50 laps)

Sun., Dec. 3: Snowball Derby (300 laps), 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$75 for 4-day pass; \$45 Snowball Derby



Dale Earnhardt Sr., and Darrel Waltrip were two drivers in the early Snowball Derby years who went on to have superstar careers in NASCAR.



El Matador Condominiums

From \$1000 per month
\$100 off (first time guests only)

www.elmatador-rentals.com

909 Santa Rosa Blvd
FWB, FL 32548

1-866-796-2507

\$100 off your first months rent!



Winter with Holiday Isle Properties
Providing Winter Retreats for Guests, Friends and Family for over 30 Years

Join us on Saturdays for an Open House from 12 to 3pm
At Inlet Reef | Call 877.671.1825 or visit holidayisle.net to book the perfect retreat

Holiday Isle Properties | 842 Highway 98 East | Destin, FL 32451

Open to the Public

1 Ford Drive, Perdido Florida, 32507




850-492-1223

Upcoming Customer Appreciation Days
Jan. 6 and 20, Feb. 3 and 17, March 3 and 17

Two for Tuesdays
Two for One Cocktails Every Tuesday!

Visit the Legends Premium Wine Bar and Grille




perdidobaygolf.com

It's the most wonderful time of the year at Beau Rivage

Want to capture a holiday photo for a postcard? See a performance of The Nutcracker? Sample tasty holiday treats or toast to the season with friends and loved ones? One of the region's not-to-miss holiday celebrations is at The Beau Rivage Casino and Resort in Biloxi, Miss.

The MGM resort is decked out in grand style through Jan. 2, 2018 with 150 decorated trees, 2,000 poinsettias, thousands of lights, oversized ornaments including larger-than-life nutcrackers, dozens of gingerbread houses and even a visit by the big guy himself (Santa!)

The marquee event Dec. 15-25 is the critically-acclaimed ice and theatrical production Christmas on Ice. World-class skaters perform alongside talented singers, dancers and loveable Christmas characters including an elf from the North Pole. A magical snow globe comes to life with Christmas on Ice's festive sets and costumes, Santa sleigh rides for lucky members of the audience

and snowfall at every performance. Showtimes are at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. daily. Tickets start at \$12.95 plus tax and service fees. The Buffet will offer children ages 12 and under a free meal with show ticket, and the Arcade will offer double redemption vouchers

with each ticket purchased. Christmas on Ice room packages start at \$129 and include deluxe accommodations and two tickets to the show.

Other events include:

Award-winning country superstar Martina McBride will launch her first holiday themed tour The Joy of Christmas in Biloxi with a one-night engagement in the Beau Rivage Theatre, Nov. 24. Tickets start at \$64.95 plus and service fees.

Beau Rivage has partnered with the Mississippi Gulf Coast Ballet to present its eighth annual performance of the Nutcracker Ballet Dec. 2-3. E.T.A. Hoffmann's timeless fairytale will feature stunning sets, vibrant costumes and world-renowned dancers Joseph Gatti and Sarah Lane. Performances are at 7 p.m. Dec 2 and 3 p.m. Dec 3. Ticket prices start at \$10.95 plus tax and service fees.

If you have kids in tow, there is the See Santa in The Buffet. The Buffet will offer an expanded menu to include festive selections for the holiday season. A special children's menu will be featured Dec. 10-14 and 17-21 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and include a free photo with Santa with buffet purchase.

Three-time Grammy Award winner Brian Setzer and his 19-piece orchestra will perform two holiday shows at Beau Rivage, Dec. 8 and 9 as part of the Sirius XM Presents The Brian Setzer Orchestra 14th Annual Christmas Rocks! Tour.



Tickets start at \$34.95 plus and service fees.

The annual Beau Rivage's Holiday Shopping Spectacular, Dec. 12-16 features impressive window displays and more than a dozen artisans and their representatives on hand during their annual holiday trunk shows. Participating vendors include Lagos, David Yurman, John Hardy, Roberto Coin, Erin London, Pewter Graphics, Moments, Mignon Faget, JoAnn Wheeler and many more.

And the year is wrapped up New Year's Eve with special dining and entertainment including 80's tribute band The Molly Ringwald's and a complimentary midnight champagne toast.



Gulf of Mexico Beaches
Lazy River Pool
Hot Tub Spas
Fitness Center
Snowbird Activities

Open House 9am to 5pm
Feb. 24 and March 3, 2018



1310 Miracle Strip Pkwy
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548
800-947-0701
www.destinwest.com

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

Ask about a Private Bus for groups of 40 or more.

For more information visit our website
www.goodtimetours.com

Must be 21 yrs of age or older. *Casino amenities subject to change without notice.



Casino Fun

12/22

Brenda Lee, Rockin the Holiday.

The artist known as "Little Miss Dynamite" and for her 1960 smash hit "I'm Sorry"

Lee charted 37 songs, both Pop and Country, in the 1960's. IP Casino Resort & Spa, 850 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Miss. Details: 888-946-2847 or www.ipbiloxi.com



11/24

Martina McBride - The Joy of Christmas. Beau Rivage Resort & Casino, 875 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, Miss. Details: 888-566-7469 or www.beaurivage.com.

12/1

Country Christmas with Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers.

Island View Casino, 3300 West Beach Blvd., Gulfport, MS. Details: 228-314-2100 or 877-774-8439 or www.islandviewcasino.com



12/8

Strictly Sinatra & The Rat Pack Christmas Show. Hard Rock Casino 777 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, Miss. Details: (877) 877-6256 or (228) 374-7625 or www.hardrockbiloxi.com.

12/9

Brandon Bennett's Blue Christmas. Hard Rock Casino 777 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, Miss. Details: (877) 877-6256 or (228) 374-7625 or www.hardrockbiloxi.com.



12/9

The Beverly Belles. Island View Casino, 3300 West Beach Blvd., Gulfport, MS. Details: 228-314-2100 or 877-774-8439 or www.islandviewcasino.com

12/12

José Madrigal. Island View Casino, 3300 West Beach Blvd., Gulfport, MS. Details: 228-314-2100 or 877-774-8439 or www.islandviewcasino.com

12/15

Christmas with Jennifer Nettles. IP Casino Resort & Spa, 850 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Miss. Details: (888) 946-2847 or www.ipbiloxi.com



12/28

Wynonna & The Big Noise. IP Casino Resort & Spa, 850 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Miss. Details: (888) 946-2847 or www.ipbiloxi.com



12/30

Rick Springfield. Hard Rock Casino 777 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, Miss. Details: (877) 877-6256 or (228) 374-7625 or www.hardrockbiloxi.com.



Palace Casino Resort is the only smoke free casino in Biloxi!

Play your favorite slot machines and table games, enjoy amazing dining and have fun without being bothered by the smoke. Why play anywhere else?



Take Exit 50, south to Ocean Springs, turn right US 90, cross the Biloxi Bay Bridge. Take first right to the Palace Casino Resort.

SNOWBIRD SPECIAL

While you are wintering on the Gulf Coast, come play at the Palace Casino Resort in Biloxi, MS.

Purchase a Lunch or Dinner Buffet and receive

\$10 POWER PLAY!  **PALACE BUFFET**


PALACE CASINO RESORT.

BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

Biloxi's Only Smoke Free Casino

154 HOWARD AVE. • BILOXI, MS • 1-800-PALACE-9
WWW.PALACECASINORESORT.COM

*Residents of Florida, Mississippi and Louisiana excluded. Present coupon to Player Services with receipt for cash or credit card purchase of lunch or dinner buffet. Power Play coupon must be redeemed on date of buffet purchase. No cash value. Players Club membership required. Membership is free. Offer cannot be combined with any other offer or promotion. Limit one coupon per month. Coupon valid for up to two guests. Photocopies are not valid. Valid December 1 - 30, 2017.

CP33273

We love our Snowbirds!
Check out our new menu items!
We've kept the old favorites but
added some tasty new dishes.
Same great prices!

MyChef Catering and Meal Plans
deliver a variety of dinners and
lunches for a lower cost per meal
than typically eating out. We can
accommodate any dietary request,
perfect for home dinners or at the
office for grab-n-go lunches!

850.934.9603

Breakfast, Lunch
Mon. - Sat. 7am-3pm

Sunday Brunch
Sunday 8am-1pm

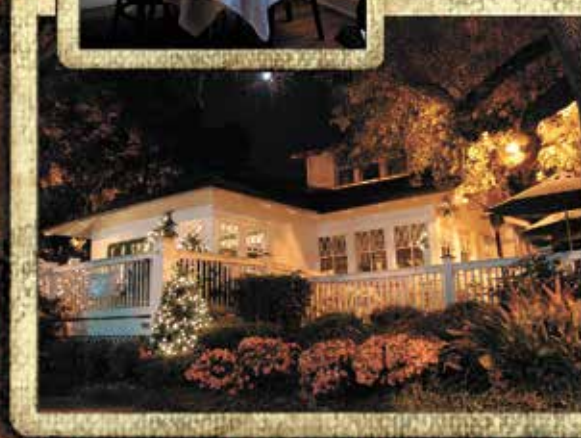
NOW OPEN FOR DINNER!
Wed. - Sat. 4-8 pm



5248 Gulf Breeze Pkwy, Gulf Breeze, FL, Close to the Gulf Breeze Zoo

Magnolia Grill

"The Museum That Serves Food"



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

Welcoming Snowbirds to beautiful Navarre Beach, FL since 1989!

JUANA'S PAGODAS AND SAILORS' GRILL

Sailors' Grill Open Daily 8 AM - 9 PM

Serving Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Wine Tastings * Happy Hour * Dinner Specials



850-939-1092

juanaspagodas.com

The Club Open Daily 4 PM, Sat & Sun Noon

Zumba * Texas Hold'em * Trivia * Televised Sports



**Your Neighborhood
Sports Pub.**

251-980-5862 (LUNA)

Daily Happy Hour and
Lunch Specials

25689 Canal Road

next to Cosmo's Restaurant & Bar

www.lunaseatanddrink.com



Honestly Sweet



Weekly Breakfast Specials

Locally Roasted Coffee

Home-made Pastries

251-980-2899

(BUZZ)



25689 Canal Road • next to Cosmo's Restaurant & Bar • www.buzzcatzcoffeeandsweets.com

just say

**fresh
food!**

10% off!

**Get
Fresh**

**native
cafe**

Breakfast and Lunch

**Go
Native!**

Open Seven Days a Week 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Daily specials, catering.

Mention or clip this ad get 10 percent off!

45A Via de Luna **Pensacola Beach** 850-934-4848

www.TheNativeCafe.com

**Good Food
Good Friends
Good Times**

Daily Happy Hour and
Sunday Brunch

Overlooking Wolf Bay

26189 Canal Road • 251.980.8400 • www.gtsonthebay.com



Sean of the South: What should you do with your life?

DEAR SEAN:

I'm embarrassed to be writing you, but I'm so confused with life. All my friends know what they



want to do and I don't know what I want to do with my life. I'm in my second year at Troy and am lost. Help me.

BOY-WHO-DOESN'T-KNOW-WHAT-HE-WANTS-TO-BE

DEAR BOY:

I know what you can be. Be you.

This world puts big pressure on you to BE something. They'll tell you to BE successful, BE studious, BE punctual, BE a straight-A student, BE involved. Be this, be that.

Well, it doesn't matter what I think, but there are enough overachievers in the world, busy BEING things.

We need more folks who take time to smile. Waiters, waitresses, pipe-fitters, hair-stylists, neurosurgeons, bartenders, line cooks, cops, Episcopalians, musicians, architectural engineers, grass cutters, stick welders, and custodians. People who enjoy life.

I met a man named Paul. Paul is cleaning hotel rooms while I write this. I ran into him in the hotel hallway, ten minutes ago. Paul was pushing his cleaning cart, singing to himself.

Paul is skinny, with a voice as country as cornbread. He cleans hotel rooms every day, even weekends. He starts early and works late. He runs on energy drinks and granola bars. He makes beds, wrestles dirty towels, scrubs toilets.

And he's singing.

Paul came from Georgia, eighteen years ago. He has taken jobs washing dishes, doing stucco work, laying concrete, mopping floors. He has a wife and six kids. All healthy.

Paul doesn't want to BE anything. He's already something. Paul is happy.

You can be, too. You can also be kind to kids, to your girlfriend, and to yourself. You can be kind to elderly women who unload trunks of groceries. You can visit people in nursing homes.

You can be the one who delivers a gift-basket to a family that just had a baby.

And while you're at it, be sweet to the child whose daddy left town. Be the only person who calls the girl whose mother died. Be at her funeral. Be available. Be sincere.

Be a good listener — we need more of them. Be gentle to every dog you see. Be concerned about those you love. Be a shoulder. Be brave when you

don't think you can.

Be funny when you're not supposed to. Be a belly-laugh. Be excited about little things. Be spontaneous. Be lazy. Be easy to talk to. Be easy on yourself.

Be happy for newlyweds. Be jealous of white hair. Be a barbecue lover every day of your cotton-picking life. Be yourself.

Be sad when you're sad. Be glad when your friends win. Be supportive. Be nice. Be decent.

But then, my advice and a dime will buy you a cup of bad coffee.

The truth is, I'm like you. Sometimes, I don't know who I am, or where I'm going. There's a lot I don't know. And I'm not exactly getting any smarter.

So sure, maybe you feel confused about what your Troy University diploma ought to read. But I'll bet you a million dollars you know exactly what you want to "be."

You want to be a good man.

And you're in good company, son. Because one day I hope to be one, too.

Sean Dietrich is a columnist, and novelist, known for his commentary on life in the American South. His work has appeared in Southern Living, The Tallahassee Democrat, Good Grit, South Magazine, Yellowhammer News, the Bitter Southerner, Thom Magazine, The Mobile Press Register, and he has authored seven books.



DEANIE BUCK
REALTOR
251.510.1068
FAIRHOPE REALTY GROUP

Before you
choose your
Realtor...

AskDeanie.net

SERVING CLIENTS FROM
BAY MINETTE TO THE BEACH

Come as you are

Pensacola Beach Community Church

Services at 10 a.m.
Sunday School at 8:30 a.m.

**Christmas Eve
Services**

5 p.m. and 10 p.m.



Via De Luna & Avenida 18
Pensacola Beach, Fla

850-932-6628 or thebeachchurch.com

Want to stay up-to-date year-round?
Register for our Enewsletter SEASONS Online at

www.snowbirdsgulfcoast.com

Don't forget to also "Like" us on Facebook!






Holiday deadline alert!

Don't miss your chance to reach the big influx of winter visitors -



advertise in our January edition!

Ad deadline is December 8.

Remember - even a small ad with us gets BIG results!

Email: publisher@snowbirdsgulfcoast.com or 850-291-1266.

CHECK OUT OUR EXCITING PROMOTIONS IN DECEMBER

ONLY AT WIND CREEK ATMORE



**MONDAYS THROUGH
DECEMBER 18TH
11AM - 2PM**

Guests 50+ win \$100
CASH AUTOMATICALLY
and up to \$250 FREE Play!



**MONDAYS THROUGH
DECEMBER 18TH
3PM - 6PM**

Win your share of \$3,000
FREE Play! First 100
participants automatically
receive \$10 FREE Play!



**WEDNESDAYS IN DECEMBER
11AM - 1PM • 6PM - 8PM**

Spin for a chance to win up to \$400 CASH!

\$10 FREE PLAY

CODE: WCASNOW10

Valid any Monday or Wednesday in December. Limit one redemption per Rewards account in December. Redeem at PLAYER SERVICES.



**\$35,000 CASH GIVEAWAY
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29TH • 7PM - 10PM**
Win up to \$5,000 CASH each hour!

**\$50,000 CASH GIVEAWAY
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30TH • 7PM - 10PM**
Win Up to \$25,000 CASH in the
10pm Grand Prize Drawing!



WIND CREEK[®]
CASINO & HOTEL

FIND YOUR WINNING MOMENT.[®]