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Snow **BIRDS**

Gulf Coast

A Winter Visitor
Publication
February 2018

Mardi Gras and MoonPies

pages 20-21

Snaps!

pages 18-19

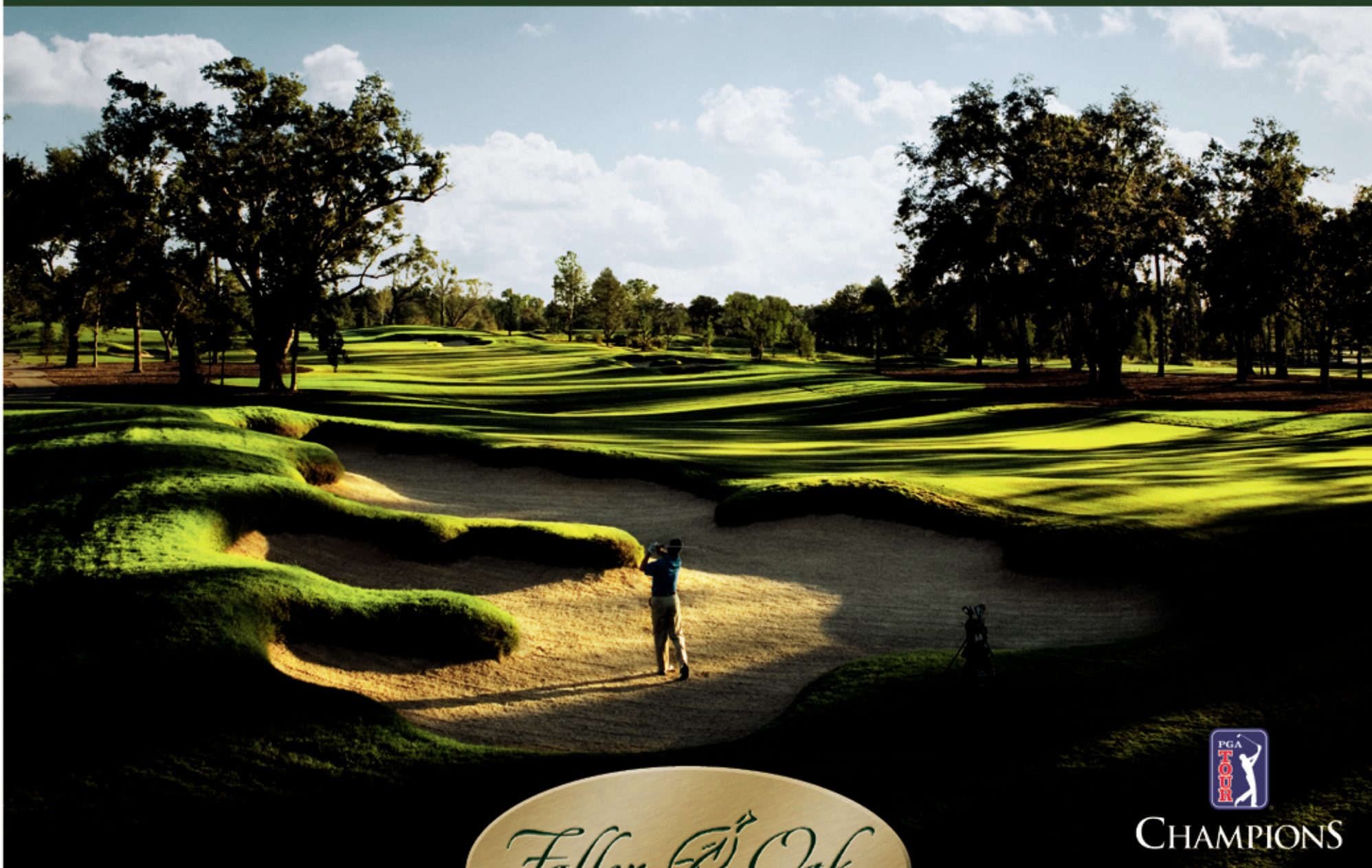
Clubs and Calendar

pages 10-11 & 14-15

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Gulf Coast *Snow* **BIRDS**

ON THE COVER

The laid-back Dauphin Island life, complete with spectacular sunrises and sunsets and world-class golf nearby, draws Ohio Snowbirds Brenda and Allen Lloyd back to Alabama each year.

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Welcome!



As we wrap up a colder-than-normal January, I find myself remembering last year when everyone was saying "can you believe how nice it's been?"

Aaah.

For those just arriving we had a couple of SNOW days over the past six weeks. Just freaky. No shovel needed, though.

As always, there are plenty of things to do even if the weather doesn't cooperate. Communities across the region sponsor many activities designed to keep you entertained and active. Be sure to support the Snowbird-led fundraisers detailed in this edition. Also, have a look at our two-page event calendar and casino entertainment calendar.

We were at several Snowbird events including the Fort Walton Beach (FL) Winter Guest Fest, Panama City Beach Winter Guest Appreciation Day and the Meet Mobile Day. Check out our Snaps page to see if we "snapped" you and "Like" our Snowbirds Gulf Coast Facebook page as well.

Coming up this month we will be at the Alabama Lifestyles Expo, Feb. 8 at the Caribe in Orange Beach, Ala. Be sure to stop by our booth and say hello.

Are you looking for an opportunity to spend a special Valentine's Day dancing and dining? Our writer Louis Cooper profiles several special dances across the region.

On a sad note – I lost my buddy and nephew, Adam, this past month. Just 33, he had recently married and purchased a home but after several years of being clean suffered a relapse. We are all devastated. Adam along with his wife Mary helped me with the distribution of this magazine along the Alabama Gulf Coast. He was my heart.

But I'm especially grateful that it's Snowbird season, and I get to see the bright smiles of so many of my friends.

As always, contact me if I can help in any way. We are glad you are here.

Warm wishes,
Karen Harrell, publisher@snowbirdsgulfcoast.com
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WINTER RESIDENT APPRECIATION DAYS Feb. 8, Feb. 22, Lyndell Building

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

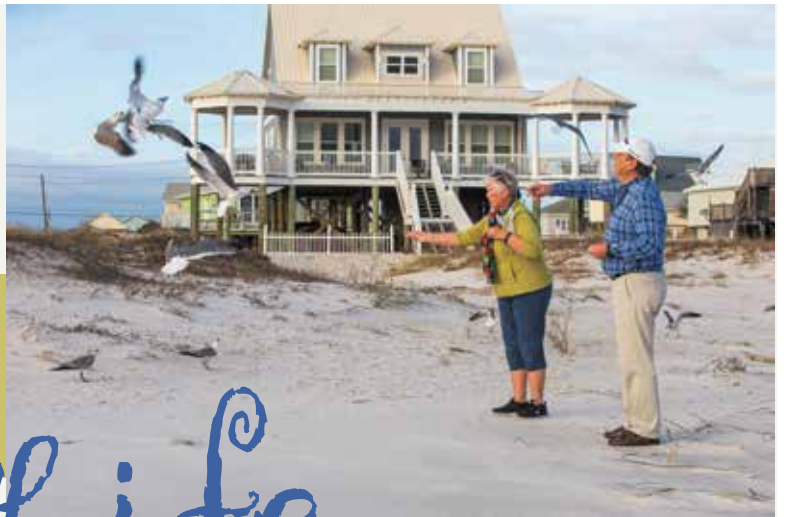
EMERALD COAST BOAT & LIFESTYLE SHOW Mar. 2-4, Aaron Bessant Park

SCOTTISH FESTIVAL Mar. 3, Frank Brown Park

EMERALD COAST CRUIZIN' CAR SHOW Mar. 7-10, Aaron Bessant Park

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Living the Island Life

The laid-back Dauphin Island life, complete with spectacular sunrises and sunsets and world-class golf nearby, draws Ohio Snowbirds Brenda and Allen Lloyd back to Alabama each year.

Brenda, 70, is a retired home economics teacher while Allen, also 70, retired after 40 years as a project manager for several large companies.

They hail from tiny Clarington, Ohio, (population 500), where they have a view of the Ohio River – and nearby West Virginia. Dauphin Island also has small-town ambiance with a year-round population of around 1,200 people. The friendliness of the people is one of the main attractions to the region, Brenda said.

The couple was introduced to the state in the early 1990s when Allen had a lengthy project in Huntsville. His work required frequent travel that allowed him to discover a wide variety of golf courses.

He found that he enjoyed the Robert Trent Jones golf courses, developed by the state retirement system. One year the couple did a golf tour of the state, playing all of the courses. They cite the Auburn/Opelika area as one of their favorite destinations.

Allen said the quality of the courses is what attracted him to purchase annual winter RJT packages. He usually plays three to five days per week.

Four years ago, the Lloyds rented a furnished apartment in Mobile, Ala., (close to several courses) and the couple discovered they enjoyed taking day trips to Dauphin Island. So, for the past three years, they have rented at the beach.

Brenda is an avid reader, and she loves photography. Along with the

island's vivid sunrise and sunsets, her favorite subjects include passing shrimp boats, barges and birds and wildlife are favorite subjects. The island's two Mardi Gras parades are something they look forward each season. They also usually take the Mobile Bay ferry across to Fort Morgan and the Gulf Shores area at least once during their stay.

This season the couple hosted their son, Allen II, his wife, Jill, and their two grandsons, Byron, 9, and Winston, 8, in a four-bedroom, three-bath Gulf-front beach home over Christmas and New Year's holiday.

Although scheduled to stay through mid-March, a special "babysitting request" will send them home to Ohio at the end of February for a brief stay before heading out to Montana.

They plan to return next season – after a Christmas trip to Montana. Golf, beach, sunrises and sunsets await.



ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL

Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail is the largest golf course construction project ever attempted. In the late 1980's, two important things were on the mind of Dr. David Bronner, CEO of the Retirement Systems of Alabama. First, how to effectively diversify the assets of the state's pension fund; and secondly, how to help the state of Alabama. His philosophy was this: "The stronger the Retirement Systems can make Alabama, the stronger the Retirement Systems will be." With that in mind, and borrowing a page from the movie, Field of Dreams, Bronner decided to "build it, and they will come" — not to a baseball diamond in a cornfield, but to a dazzling collection of public golf courses in the state of Alabama.



By the numbers:

Championship holes: 468

Golf Courses: 26 Sites

Across Alabama: 11

Source: www.rjtgolf.com/trail

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Doors open: 6:15 pm

Show starts: 7:00 pm

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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.)

PERDIDO KEY: Feb. 1 - Perdido Key Chamber/Visit Pensacola Snowbird Roost will move to downtown Pensacola this year. The event will be staged from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Skopelo's at New World Landing, 600 S. Palafox St., Pensacola, Fl. Fee is \$15. Tickets can be purchased at the Perdido Key Visitor's Center- 15500 Perdido Key Drive. Details: 850-492-4660 or www.visitperdido.com.

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 include: Feb. 3 – Jumble Sale, 9am-2pm; 18 – Painting Partners Art Exhibit Clothesline Sale, 9 am-2 pm; 23 – Grand Slam Fundraiser at Edgewater Resort Conference Center, 6pm-10pm. 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 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 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 start at 10 a.m. Vendors are set up at 9 a.m. with area information. Dates include: Feb. 7 (at the Destin United Methodist Church, 200 Beach Drive) with David Seering, entertainment and 21 (at Village Baptist Church, 101 Matthew Dr) with Walton County Snowbird Singers. 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. There are numerous volunteer opportunities so don't be shy! For membership: Joan Dougall jmr166@gmail.com. Details: www.waltoncountysnowbirds.com

DESTIN: Meetings are held at "The Roost" – the Destin Community Center, 101 Stahlman Ave. Weekly Tuesday meetings are 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. through February and 10 a.m. March 6. 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. Details: www.destinsnowbirds.org

FORT WALTON BEACH: With over 700 members, the Club offers activities, events, camaraderie and fellowship. Registration 9 a.m. – Noon on Tuesdays. Annual fee is \$8. Upcoming meetings are 10 a.m. Feb. 6 (Choctawhatchee High Band) and March 6 (Emerald Coast Community Band) at the Fort Walton Beach Recreation Center (132 Jet Dr. NW). Scheduled socials are 4:30 p.m. Feb. 11at Red Lobster and 4:30 p.m. March 4, AJ's on the Bayou.Valentine's Dance on Feb. 14. There are three state "breakfast" groups that meet throughout the season and the 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. A Snowbird breakfast is 7:30 a.m. Jan. 30 at 98 Bistro 98 (formerly Sail Inn) in Midway. Cost is \$8 plus tax and tip. A new 4-week Cornhole league launches weekly on Wednesdays 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. Jan 31 at Juana's on Navarre Beach. The cost is \$20 for all four play dates. Upcoming Navarre Beach Marine Science Station "Sessions by the Sea" include: Feb. 1 – Where's the Reef and Feb. 15 – Birds and Barrier Islands. Also, The Holley

Navarre Senior Center is offering a Snowbird Guest Pass for \$25, which is good through March 31. The annual Navarre Beach Snowbirds Business Expo & Social is 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Jan. 23 at the Navarre Conference Center. To learn more: navarrebeachsnowbirdsclub.com

PENSACOLA: A special VIP discount card is available at the Pensacola, Pensacola Beach and Perdido Key Visitor Centers for all Snowbirds. The Pensacola Beach Church will sponsor a (free) potluck on Feb. 4. Church services start at 10 a.m. Details: 850-932-6628 or www.thebeachchurch.com/church-events. Also, St. Ann Catholic Church in Gulf Breeze hosts the "Fun Bunch" senior group meeting at 11:30 a.m. every third Tuesday for lunch and Bingo, all are welcome! Details: Darlene Goderski 850-677-8321 or online at www.stanngulfbreeze.org/seniors

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. Besides 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. Snowbird Coffee Gathering, 9 a.m. Feb. 6, 20 & 27 at Gulf Shores United Methodist Church. 1900 Gulf Shores Parkway. The free event is

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Expiration March 31, 2017. Check website for complete information.



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geared toward the Snowbirds. Includes refreshment and entertainment, door prizes ree event and open to the public with an emphasis on Snowbirds from all states. Details: Mary Rebert: maryrebert@yahoo.com or 269-330-3748

RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT LUNCHEON

FEBRUARY 21, 2018 - Snowbird Retired Law Enforcement Luncheon: Feb. 21 at noon at the American Legion Post 44, 6781 State Hwy. 59, Gulf Shores, AL. All retired and former law enforcement officers and their spouses are invited. Jim MacMeekin, a retired Michigan Prison Administrator, will speak about Michigan Prisons. RSVP to Tom Westgate at 269.252.7029

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 through March. Bring a dish to feed 10. Cost is 50 cents at the Adult Activity Center, 260 Clubhouse Dr., Gulf Shores, Ala. Details: Michael O'Rourke 251-981-6060

ILLINOIS: The 2018 Illinois Club meets the second and fourth Fridays through 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 25753 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 through early March 2018. Breakfast meetings are Feb. 7, 21 and March 7, 8:30 a.m. at the Perdido Beach Resort, 27200 East Perdido Beach Boulevard in Orange Beach. Cost is \$10.50 per person. Cocktail party: Feb. 23, 5-7 pm at the Caribe Resort, Building C, 28103 Perdido Beach Boulevard, Orange Beach. No RSVP is required. Bring a dish to share and your own beverage. There is no membership fee and all Iowans and their guests are welcome at club events. The Iowa golf group can also sign up online. Details: iowa-Alabamagulfcoastsnowbirds.org

MICHIGAN: The Michigan Club will have regular meetings Feb. 1, 15 and March 1 at Erie Meyer Civic Center. 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 per year. Details: www.michiganclubalabama.com

MINNESOTA: The Minnesota Club meets weekly through mid-March in our "home away

from home" state of Alabama. Breakfast meetings are weekly 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 or www.facebook.com/mnalclub

MISSOURI: The club will meet for breakfast at 9 a.m. 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.

OHIO: Upcoming events include: Jan. 31 – lunch at McGuire's; Feb. 2 – Royalty & Rampart Bus Tour; 5 – Craft Farms Lunch; 7 – Club Breakfast at Magnolia Hall at Luna's; 12 – Deep Sea Fishing; 14 – Potluck at Phoenix 5; 18 – Bill's by the Beach Dinner; 20 – Dolphin Cruise; 21 – Club Breakfast at Luna's; 23 – Low Country Boil and March 7 – Last Breakfast meeting at Luna's. Details: Gayle Hofacker, gaylehofacker@gmail.com or 937-621-1700

NEW YORK: New York State Snowbirds have been gathering for social times since 2000. Lunch meetings are Feb. 8, 22, and March 8. Registration and social time starts at 11 a.m., lunch at 11:30 a.m. The club will order off a special menu with separate checks. The fee is \$1 per person collected at the door for expenses. Reservations to 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, Ala.-based North and South Dakota Snowbird Club meets at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast with a 9 a.m. meeting to follow. Dates are Feb. 6, 20 and March 6 at Luna's Eat & Drink, 25753 Canal Road, Orange Beach. The club also sponsors several other social events and it collects food and infant items for donation. Details: Joyce 605-351-0274 pdinsf@msn.com

PENNSYLVANIA: Pennsylvania Snowbird Club Members meet 8 a.m. Feb. 7, 14, 28, March 7 for breakfast at BuzzCatz Restaurant A covered dish luncheon is Feb. 22, at Noon location to be determined. A Feb. 19 "Eat and Talk" at 5 p.m. at O'Charley's in Foley, Ala. Details: Rich Smith 908-420-8806 or bettyrich@rcn.com

WISCONSIN: The Wisconsin Snowbird Club activities are open to all winter visitors in southern Alabama and northern Florida. Upcoming club meetings are Feb. 7, 22; March 7, 14 at the Orange Beach Event Center. A fish fry is 5 p.m. Feb. 15 at Ribs & Reds. Club picnic if Feb. 22 at OBCC. The Wisconsin-Michigan Golf Outing is Feb. 19 at Timbercreek. 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/wisconsinsnowbirdclub/company-calendar Orange Beach Event Center, 4671 Wharf Pkwy W, Orange Beach, Ala.

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BORN TO CELEBRATE MARDI GRAS



As the city that is Born To Celebrate, we consider this our Super Bowl of celebrations. Welcome to Mobile, America's original Mardi Gras. You should know that Moon Pies, a gentleman named Joe Cain and bead trees are a thing here. Every year, we dance in the streets, dive for the best throws and celebrate the season right where it originally started.

The celebration begins by following **Mobile Mardi Gras** on Facebook where you'll enjoy a behind-the-scenes look at parades, balls and other festivities as we partner with Mobile Mask to bring you the best coverage of the 2018 Mobile Mardi Gras season. Between parades, you'll discover that our celebratory city will charm you and like our cuisine, will leave you craving for more. When Mardi Gras comes to a close, it doesn't mean the party is over. Mobile.org is the place to go for year-round activities, events and Mobile happenings you won't want to miss!



BORN TO CELEBRATE



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

When you're not busy catching beads, there are nearly forty restaurants, bars, delis and cafes to enjoy in downtown Mobile. We've also compiled a suggested list of activities you can do in two, four and six hours in Mobile, perfect to explore before or after the parades.



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.

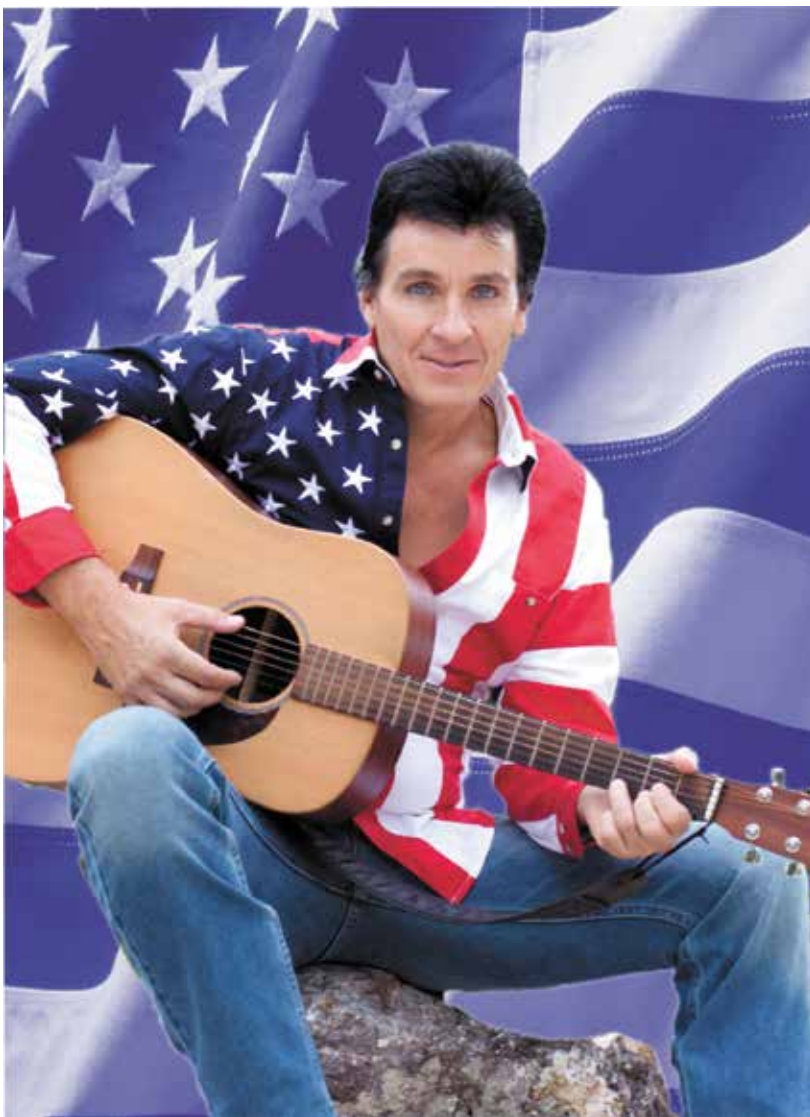


SIX HOURS

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.





2/ 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, 24, 27

Tribute to the Legends of Rock and Country Music at the new Todd Herendeen Theater, 8010 Front Beach Road, Panama City, Fl. Snowbird favorite Todd Herendeen and the FTD Band present a Branson-like show. Dinner and show: \$29.95, show only \$19.95. Box office open Tue-Fri, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Details: 850-381-0310 or toddherendeentheatre.com.

DAILY

"We, The Marines" on the The Giant Screen at the National Naval Aviation Museum - Daily shows. For information on tickets and show times, please call 850-453-2389 or visit www.navalaviationmuseum.org.

MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS

AMERICAN LEGION: Bingo 6 p.m. Mondays and 10 a.m. Thursdays at Gulf Shores American Legion, 6781 Gulf Shores Pkwy (AL-59). Details: 251 948-6119

TUESDAYS

1/23,30 - 2/6,13,20,17

Winter Civil War Tours, 110 Hwy 180, Gulf Shores, Ala. Tours of Fort Morgan are led by a uniformed historical interpreter. Artillery firing will happen during the tours. 2 p.m., Details: 251-540-5257 or www.fortmorgan.org

2/6, 13, 20, 27

National Naval Aviation Museum located at Naval Air Station Pensacola. **"Breakfast and a Movie"** schedule includes: Feb. 6 - Hurricane; 13 - Dream Big: Engineering our World; 20 - We the Marines and 27 - Rocky Mountain Express. Fee: \$10 includes Chick fil A breakfast and IMAX movie. Presentation at 9 a.m, movie at 10 a.m. Details: 850-453-2389 or navalaviationmuseum.org.

WEDNESDAYS

Seniors Softball, Oakland Terrace Park, 1900 W.11th Street, Panama City, Fla. 55+ non-competitive and lots of FUN! Just

bring your glove and join in. 1 p.m. Details: 850-238-0549.

Bingo Night, American Legion Post #240, 8666 Gulf Beach Hwy, Pensacola, Fla., 6 - 8:30 p.m. Details: 850-455-6111.

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

Winter Wednesdays, Bellingrath Gardens and Home, 12401 Bellingrath Gardens Rd, Theodore, Ala. Winter workshops include gardening tips and guest lectures. Reservations requested. Details: 251-973-2217 or www.bellingrath.org.

2/3,10,17,24

The Market Shops Winter Concert

Series. Free. 1 - 3 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own chairs and blankets. Located at the entrance to Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort. Details: themarketshops.com

2/1-28

The **Destin Library** will showcase the work of local artist Charlotte Parrish during February 1- 28. Parrish's exhibit will feature a variety of the artist's work including paintings and small table sculptures. The artist may be contacted at parrishstudiogallery@gmail.com

2/3

Grease Sing-A-Long, Mattie Kelly Arts Center, 100 E College Blvd., Niceville, Fla. This fully interactive screening of the classic film with on-screen subtitles is "The one that you want". Tickets: \$15. Details: 850-729-6000 or www.mattiekellyartscenter.org

Sarah Mac Band Final Farewell Swan

Song - Dixie Theatre, 21 Avenue E, Apalachicola, Fla. Wine tasting at 6 p.m., concert at 8 p.m. Details: www.dixietheatre.com.

Beethoven & Blue Jeans, Saenger Theatre, 170 Reynoir St, Biloxi, Miss. 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$35, student and military, \$15. Details: www.gulfcoastsymphony.com.

2/3, 4, 10, 11, 25, 27

Good Time Tours Mardi Gras New Orleans trips. Cost for day trip is \$50. Overnight trips are \$345 and include hotel and select tours. Details: goodtimetours.com or 850-476-0046.

2/5 & 9

Good Time Tours Underground Florida Tour. Visit Falling Rivers State Park; tour Marianna Caverns and visit Chautauqua Winery. Cost is \$69 per person. Details: goodtimetours.com or 850-476-0046.

2/6, 15, 16, 22

A series of balance and memory screenings will be staged at various locations in Baldwin County (Ala.) this winter. Upcoming dates include: Feb. 6 - Gulf Shores Cultural Center, Noon - 4:30 p.m.; Feb. 15- Foley Cultural Center, Noon - 4 p.m.; Feb. 16 - Fairhope Nix Center, Noon - 4 p.m.; Feb. 22 - Orange Beach Community Center, Noon - 4 p.m.

2/7-11,14-18

The South Baldwin Community Theatre 21st Snowbird Season Production Presents Nana's Naughty Knickers, Show times: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday - Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday.

Adult tickets are \$18 and Students \$15. Tickets go on sale Jan. 29. Details: 251-968-6721 or www.sbct.biz/tickets

2/7, 11, 18, 21, 25&28

Snowbird Dances With Jim Lawson. 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. at the Boardwalk Beach Resort, 9600 Thomas Dr., Panama City Beach, Fl. Special Valentine's Dance Feb. 14. Details: www.boardwalkbeachresort.com.

2/8

Rod Stewart Tribute Dinner and Show. 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Cost: \$24. Boardwalk Beach Resort, 9600 Thomas Dr., Panama City Beach, Fl. Details: www.boardwalkbeachresort.com

2/7 - 3/18

20th Annual Gulf Coast Winter Classics Horse Show, Harrison County Fairgrounds, 15321 County Farm Road, Gulfport, Miss. United States Equestrian Foundation AA Rated Hunter-Jumper event with more than 1,000 of the sport's finest equine athletes from across the nation. Sun. and Wed.-Sat. Spectators attend free on Sundays. Details: 228- 832-3691 or www.gulfcoastclassiccompany.com.

2/9

Lecture Heritage Musuem of Northwest Florida: "Do You See What I See?" Free. Located 115 Westview Ave., Valparaiso, Fl . Details: info@heritage-museum.org, 850-678-2615, www.heritage-museum.org

2/7-10

Gulf Coast Clay Conference with Jan McKeachie

Johnston and Randy Johnston at the Anna Lamar Switzer Center for Visual Arts, Pensacola State College. Event includes lectures, slideshow, workshops, demos and exhibits. Cost for workshop: \$125. On Feb. 10, the free Woodstoke Pottery Kiln Walk Festival will be staged at 7507 Buckeye Dr., Navarre, Fl., Items will be on display and for sale. There is a chili cookoff. Details: www.gulfcoastkilnwalk.org or Brenda Stokes 950-939-2744.

2/10

Seascape Art Show, 9 a.m. - 4 pm. At Seascape Conference Center, 556 Seascape Dr., Miramar Drive, Destin, Fl Work of various artists will be on sale including local instructor Sharon Long. Details: 850-240-3220.

2/12 & 19

Magi Shaun, illusionist. Dinner and show; \$24. 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. at Boardwalk Beach Resort, 9600 Thomas Dr., Panama City Beach, Fl. Details: www.boardwalkbeachresort.com

2/14

Permian Monsters: Life Before Dinosaurs, a special traveling exhibition blending art and science at the Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center, 65 Government St., Mobile, Al. Suitable for adults and children. IMAX shows: Dream Big: Engineering Our World and The Galapagos Archipelago. Details: www.exploreum.com or 251-108-6893.

2/16-17

Sandestin Gumbo Festival - This winter festival favorite is back for the 29th annual event! Sample a variety of gumbo and vote your favorite as the "People's Choice" winner! 9100 Baytowne Avenue, Destin, FL. Details: www.sandestingumbofestival.com

2/16-18

Mobile Area Orchid Society's 39th Annual Orchid Show and Sale, Magnolia Cafe, 12401 Bellingrath Gardens Rd., Theodore, Ala. Bellingrath Gardens is hosting Mobile Area Orchid Society's 40th Annual Orchid Show and Sale. Snowbird special ticket prices. Details: 251.973.2217 or bellingrath.org.

2/16&18

Sinfonia Gulf Coast Launches Crescendo!, a new fundraising event featuring a cabaret performance by TV, film and Broadway star Nicholas Rodriguez. Tickets to

Crescendo! 2018 are \$100 per person and include all food, wine, reserved table seating and valet parking. Tables of 10 may be reserved by calling (850) 460-8800.

2/17

City of Destin Spring Craft Show, Destin Community Center, 101 Stahlman Ave, Destin, Fla. More than 50 artists showcase jewelry, paintings, woodcarving and more! Details: 850-654-5184 or www.cityofdestin.com

Gallery Night, Downtown Pensacola, Fla. Stroll through historic Downtown Pensacola and enjoy an eclectic array of music, art and cuisine. 5 to 9 p.m. Details: www.downtownpensacola.com or 850-434-5371.

2/19-20

62nd Annual Edition of It's Magic! - Erie Meyer Civic Center, 1930 W. 2nd St. Gulf Shores, AL. Live stage show features many of the top magicians from around the world. 7 p.m. Details: 251-968-1174 or www.gulfshoresal.gov

2/20 & 21

Good Time Tours Peanuts, Presidents and Cannonball Tour. Visit Jimmy Carter's boyhood home in Plains, Ga., tour Habitat for Humanity's Global Village and enjoy a guided tour of the National POW Museum and Andersonville Civil War Encampment. Cost: \$149 (pp). Details: goodtimetours.com or 850-476-0046.



2/23

The Snowbird Writers Group will host a public presentation of member's works, 1:30 PM at the Destin Library, 150 Sibert Ave., Destin, Fl. The program, **"Snowbird Voices - From Pen to Paper to You"**, includes short stories, art, poetry and music. During the winter months, the Snowbird Writers Group meets weekly (free) at the Destin Library. This program is free and open to the public. A reception will follow the presentation. Details: Pat Hager, phager60@hotmail.com

2/23

Emerald Coast Chorus Songs of Stage and Screen featuring 2017 International Quartet Champions "Main Street" along with Sugar Beach A Capella Chorus and Niceville High Chorus, 7 p.m. at Village Baptist Church, 101 Mathews Blvd., Destin, Fl. Tickets: \$20. Details: 844-474-6437 or www.emeraldcoastchorus.org.

2/24

26th Annual Orange Beach Seafood Festival & Car Show, 4830 Main St., Orange Beach, Ala. The Festival is a full day of delicious food, 80 arts and crafts vendors, and



Baptist Heart and Vascular Institute to Host the MEGA Heart

The Baptist Heart & Vascular Institute team invites you to walk through the MEGA Heart, a 21 feet long by 15 feet wide by 12 feet high, inflated heart on Saturday, Feb. 3 from noon to 4 p.m. at Cordova Mall center court. Admission is free. Visitors can step inside the human heart, learn about cardiovascular functions, observe examples of various types of heart disease and see displays explaining some of the latest medical treatments for heart problems. For more information, visit eBaptistHealthCare.org or call 850.469.5736.

music. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Benefits the Orange Beach Sports Association. Details: 251- 981-1524 or www.obparksandrec.com

NFSO 31st Season Special Event - "Cirque de la Symphonie" - Mattie Kelly Arts Center, 100 E College Blvd., Niceville, FL. This Special Event features artists from across the globe, including aerial flyers and silks, acrobats, contortionists, dancers, jugglers, balancers and more, choreographed music performed by the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra. Tickets: \$37. Details: 850-729-6000 or www.mattiekellyartscenter.org

Choctaw Bay Music Club Annual Scholarship Opera Brunch Fundraiser - Niceville Community Center, 204 Partin Dr. N, Niceville, FL. Pensacola Opera Artists in residence will sing excerpts from Man of La Mancha and other operas. Includes lunch and there will be a raffle. Tickets are available online at <https://www.eventbrite.com> or at Bayou Books, 1118 E John Sims Pkwy, Niceville, FL or P.S. Gifts, 29 Walter Martin Rd NE, Ft Walton Bch, FL. Details: 850-527-4200 or www.choctawbaymusicclub.org

2/25

Mobile Symphony Orchestra: "Two of a Kind" at the Mobile Saenger Theatre, 6 S. Joachim St., Mobile, AL. Performances 7:30 p.m. Feb. 24 and 2:30 p.m. Feb. 25. Details: www.mobilesymphony.org or 251-432-2010.

2/26-27

The 3 Redneck Tenors, Erie Meyer Civic Center, 1930 W. 2nd St. Gulf Shores, AL. Down home laughs with big city music! 7 p.m. Details: 251-968-1174 or www.gulfshoresal.gov.

3/16-18

The 21st Annual 'Young at Heart' Performance: Country Cousins and City Slickers - WSRE-TV, Jean & Paul Amos Performance Studio, Pensacola State, 1000 College Blvd., Bldg. 23, Pensacola, Fl. 7 p.m. Proceeds benefit senior programs in the Pensacola Bay area. Details: 850-453-3016 or www.pensacolaseniorfollies.com

SINFONIA
GULF COAST

DEMETRIUS FULLER ~ MUSIC & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

TICKETS
ON SALE
NOW!



**THE FOUR SEASONS
OF BUENOS AIRES**
featuring violinist Corinne Stillwell
SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2018
7:30 pm
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Violinist extraordinaire Corinne Stillwell performs alongside Sinfonia's principal musicians for Copland's *Appalachian Spring* (13-instrument version), Mendelssohn's *Octet*, and will be the featured soloist on Piazzolla's *Las Cuatro estaciones porteñas* (*The Four Seasons*).

Tickets: \$29.50 & \$45.00



SINFONIA BOX OFFICE:
850.460.8800 SinfoniaGulfCoast.org

From Snowbirds to Love Birds

By Louis Cooper

This is the time of year when we find ourselves reaching for heart-shaped boxes of candy, flowery lines of poetry and, well, flowers.

With Valentine's Day approaching, there is no shortage of opportunities available to help snowbirds get their romantic grooves on.



Lucy Buffett's LuLu's Tropical Re-Union

Destin, Fla.,: Saturday, Feb. 10, 2 p.m.

Gulf Shores, Ala.,: Saturday, Feb. 17, noon

Snowbirds make up as much as 80 percent of the participants at these annual wedding vow renewals, according to Gabrielle Barnett, marketing and communications director for LuLu's. There is no charge to participate in the events.

"We pre-register couples on our website prior to the event so we can have their personalized wedding certificates pre-made and ready for pick up the day of the event," Barnett said. "We have wedding cake, flowers for the brides and a champagne toast. We also have beautifully decorated arbors for picture opportunities."

This year marks the 10th annual Tropical Re-Union for Gulf Shores and the third



The annual wedding vow renewal draws a crowd at LuLu's.

annual event in Destin. There will be bridal contests for best costume/dressed, longest married and newest married.

"It averages about 200 couples for the Gulf Shores event," Barnett said. "Destin is a bit smaller. However, it grows every year."

For more information, go to lulubuffett.com.

Navarre Beach Snowbirds Club's Sweethearts Dinner & Dance

Monday, Feb. 12, 5-9 p.m. at Juana's Pagoda

The Sweethearts Dinner & Dance will welcome participants to happy hour, appetizers, drinks, dinner, dessert, music and dancing for \$30 each.

"This is year three of the event," said Club Director T.J. Goulet. "The goal is to have fun and enjoy Valentine's Day with friends and loved ones."

Entertainment will be provided by Stevie Hall, a Navarre-based artist who is locally famous for playing events, including weddings, all along the Gulf Coast.

"He plays all kinds of music including live music, and he takes requests," Goulet said. "The snowbirds love him."

The Navarre Beach Snowbirds Club includes about 400 members. Other than the Valentine's dinner and dance, the club also sponsors a welcome reception, several happy hour meet-and-greets, a breakfast social, a business expo, a bridge club, a poker night and, new this year, a cornhole league.

For more information about the Navarre event and club, go to navarrebeachsnowbirdsclub.com.

Emerald Coast Chorus' Singing Valentines

Tuesday-Wednesday, Feb. 13-15, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

For anyone in the Greater Fort Walton Beach area who wants to give their honey a Valentine that really sings, the Emerald Coast Chorus has exactly what you're looking for.

"We sing two songs, present a rose and a small bag of candy," said Jim Brown, who handles public relations for the chorus. "We are willing to sing to individuals or groups and make special exceptions to our schedule to fit the needs of the customer."

Each performance, which costs \$50, is presented by a quartet of singers. For Valentine's Day, the musical selections are usually love songs.

The Emerald Coast Chorus has 35 members. While the chorus usually has one or two engagements per month, it hosts two formal concerts every year, its fall concert and its annual concert, which is set for Friday, Feb. 23, at Village Baptist Church in Destin.

"This year we pay tribute to Broadway and Hollywood by singing songs made famous in these venues," Brown said. "Our featured guest quartet is Main Street, the current gold medal champion quartet of the International Barbershop Convention."

For more information about the Emerald Coast Chorus, go to www.emeraldcoastchorus.com.



Beach Boogie Dance and the Senior Prom, Panama City Beach

In the Panama City Beach area, there are two opportunities to cut a rug around the Valentine's holiday, although neither event is specifically themed as Valentine's events.

The first event is the Beach Boogie Dance and Silent Auction, set for Feb. 3, 6 p.m., at the Lyndell Conference Center. This is the Women's Civic Club's an annual fundraiser.

For \$15 per person, attendees will enjoy a night of dancing, food, prizes and more. For more information, contact Diane Vitale (850) 819-2236.

The Panama City Visitor and Convention Bureau's seventh annual Senior Prom is set for Tuesday, Feb. 13, 4 p.m., at Edgewater Beach and Golf Resort.

"The Senior Prom is one of our biggest events of the year," said Catie Feeney, public relations manager for Visit Panama City Beach. "This is where we announce our winter resident king and queen, as well as provide an opportunity for the winter residents to catch up with their friends, and make new ones."

The theme for this year's Senior Prom is "Motown and More."

Tickets for the prom are \$10 each and will be available at the Winter Resident Appreciation Day at the Lyndell Senior Center on Thursday, Feb. 8, at 10 a.m.

For more information about the Senior Prom, visit www.visitpanamacitybeach.com/events/winter-residents/



Okaloosa Island Dance Party: Dancing Through the Years

Emerald Coast Conference Center, Fort Walton Beach, Fla.
Feb. 3, 6 - 11 p.m.

This event is a benefit for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. Dance to the Emerald Gold Band. Fee includes free food samples. Cash bar and games available. Cost is \$10 advance. Buy four and get one free or \$20 at the door. 850-609-3800.



FLOCK to the BOARDWALK



Snowbird Dances with DJ Jim Lawson	FREE Entertainment	Rod Stewart Tribute Show	Magi Shaun	Superbowl Party
3pm-6pm	The Anchor Bar & Grill	6pm-9pm	6pm-9:30pm	2:30pm-5:30pm
Feb 7, 11, 18, 21, 25 & 28	Food & Drink Specials	Feb 8	Feb 12 & 19	Feb 4
Beer & wine specials, free popcorn, drawings, prizes and giveaways in the convention center ballrooms. Valentine's Dance • February 14 • \$28.95	Sing karaoke, dance and listen to live bands in The Anchor starring Woody and the Peckers, 3x's a Lady and Don Audette throughout February. Food & drink specials all winter long!	Sing along with some of Rod Stewart's classics and enjoy this amazing dinner & show for only \$24 in the convention center ballrooms.	Incredible illusions, magic & comedy dinner & show for \$24 in the convention center ballrooms.	Beer, drink & food specials plus giveaways throughout the game, including free popcorn in The Anchor Bar & Grill.



850-596-8125 • BoardwalkBeachHotel.com
9600 South Thomas Drive, Panama City Beach, FL 32408

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR THE FULL SEASON SCHEDULE!



FWB Winter Guest fest

Snaps!

Meet Mobile Day



Navarre Business and Snowbird Expo & Navarre Welcome Luncheon



Panama City Beach Winter Resident Welcome

Mardi Gras parties and parades across the Gulf Coast

"Laissez les bon temps rouler!"

With a name like Mardi Gras and the celebratory shouts of, "Laissez le bon temp rouler!" you may think the springtime celebration is an age-old French tradition.

In fact, Mardi Gras started right here on the Gulf Coast in Mobile, Alabama.

While New Orleans may have the most widely recognized American celebration, the first Mardi Gras was held in Mobile in 1868. The celebration has grown from a few costumed men running the streets in a decorated coal wagon to a three-week celebration that draws about 150,000 people to downtown Mobile every year.

Communities large and small across from Biloxi, Mississippi to Apalachicola, Florida hold parades, parties, pub crawls and family festivities to celebrate this uniquely southern tradition. Here are just a few of the parades and events you can catch leading up to and on Fat Tuesday!

Alabama

Mobile: Mobile Mardi Gras season includes several dozen parades and hundreds of events. Fat Tuesday parades include Order of Athena Parade, 10:30 a.m.; Knights of Revelry Parade, 12:30 p.m.; King Felix III Parade, 1 p.m.; Comic Cowboys Parade, 1:30 p.m.; MAMGA Mammoth Parade, 2 p.m.; Order of Myths Parade, 6 p.m. To see the full schedule of events, including parade route maps, visit: www.mobile.org/things-to-do/special-events/mardi-gras



Maids of Jubilee Mardi Gras Parade, Feb. 9, 6:45 p.m.

Downtown Fairhope.

Mystical Order of Mirams, Feb. 9, 6:30 p.m., Perdido Beach Blvd., Orange Beach.

Mystic Revelers Parade, Feb. 10, noon, Downtown Bay Minette.

Mystics of Pleasure, Feb. 10, 5:30 p.m., Perdido Beach Blvd., Orange Beach.

Mystic Magnolias Mardi Gras Parade, Feb. 12, 6:45 p.m. Downtown Fairhope.

Gulf Shores Mardi Gras Parade, Feb. 13, 10 a.m. Gulf Shores Pkwy, beginning near E. 16th Ave. and ending at East Beach Rd. Orange Beach Mardi Gras Parade, Feb. 13, 2 p.m. Perdido Beach Blvd., Orange Beach.

Mississippi

www.gulfcoast.org/events/mardi-gras-events

3rd Annual Krewe Unique Mardi Gras Parade, Jan. 27, Historic Downtown Ocean Springs, Front Beach, Ocean Springs, immediately following the Elks Mardi Gras Parade.

14th Annual Lizana Mardi Gras Parade, Jan. 28, 1 p.m. Lineup at Lizana Elementary, 15341 Lizana School Rd, Gulfport.

17th Annual Biloxi Children's Mardi Gras Walking Parade, Feb. 3, 10 a.m. Downtown Biloxi, Rue Magnolia District.

Annual Carnival Association of Long Beach Mardi Gras Parade, Feb. 3, 6 p.m. Begins at Long Beach High School, 300 E Old Pass Rd., Long Beach.

50th Annual Krewe of Nereids Mardi Gras Parade, Feb. 4, 12 p.m. Begins on Drinkwater Rd, Waveland.

Ocean Springs Carnival Association Night Mardi Gras Parade, Feb. 9, 7 p.m. Downtown Ocean Springs, Porter Ave & Front Beach Dr.

47th Annual Krewe Of Gemini Mardi Gras Day Parade, Feb. 10, 2 p.m. Downtown Gulfport, 19th St & Hwy 49, Gulfport.

Annual Krewe of Neptune Night Mardi Gras Parade, Feb. 10, 5:30 p.m. Krewe of Neptune, Main St, Biloxi, followed by the Annual Krewe of Salacia Parade.

Annual Jackson County Carnival Association Mardi Gras Parade, Feb. 10, 1 p.m., Jackson County Carnival Association,

Ingalls Ave & Market St, Pascagoula.

Annual St. Paul Mardi Gras Parade, Feb. 11, 11:30 p.m. Begins at Davis Ave & Hwy 90, Pass Christian.

Annual D'Iberville/St Martin North Bay Area Mardi Gras Parade, Feb. 11, 1:30 p.m. Downtown D'Iberville, Lemoyne Blvd, D'Iberville,

Annual Mystic Krewe of the Seahorse Mardi Gras Parade, Feb. 12, 5 p.m. Begins at Bookter St, Bay St Louis.

Annual Gulf Coast Carnival Association Coronation Ball, Feb. 12, 8 p.m. Mississippi Coast Coliseum & Convention Center, 2350 Beach Blvd, Biloxi. Viewing Only Allowed.

11th Annual Krewe of Diamonds Mardi Gras Parade, Feb. 13, 1 p.m. Downtown Bay St. Louis, Necaise Avenue, Bay St Louis.

Annual Gulf Coast Carnival Association Mardi Gras Parade, Feb. 13, 1 p.m. Downtown Biloxi, Main St, Biloxi.

47th Annual Krewe Of Gemini Mardi Gras Night Parade, Feb. 13, 5:30 p.m. Begins at 19th St, Gulfport, 19th St. Gulfport.

Florida



The 21st annual St. Andrews Mardi Gras Parade and Festival is Feb. 2-3 in the historic area of Panama City. The two-day parade and festival is one of the biggest on the coast.



Panama City Mardi Gras & Music Festival, Feb. 9-10 at Pier Park in Panama City Beach. Combine the excitement of authentic Mardi Gras celebration with the spectacular views of emerald green water and sugar white sand, and you're in for a real treat at the Panama City Beach Mardi Gras and Music Festival. In conjunction with the Krewe of Dominique Youx's great Mardi Gras at the Beach parade.

There is a Mardi Gras 5k Run/Walk! **The Mardi Gras 5K Run/Walk & 1 Mile Family Fun Run/Walk** at Frank Brown Park starting at 8 a.m. Sign up here: <https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/PanamaCityBeach/MardiGras5KRunWalk>

Pensacola Area
Dozens of events are staged by a variety of krewes in the Pensacola and Pensacola Beach area. Mardi Gras has a long history in the area dating back to 1874 when the first Knights of Priscus was formed. Kids, krittters, mermaids, shamrocks and wrecks are all welcome. Here is a list:

Krewe of Nauga Champagne Breakfast and Native Noontime Ball, Pensacola Beach, Jan. 27, 10 a.m. The Dock

Krewe of Brewe Beach Babe Contest, Pensacola Beach, Jan. 27, Sandshaker, 3 p.m.

Krewe of St. Patrick Shamrock-N-Roll Ball, Pensacola Beach, Jan. 27, Castaways, 7 p.m.

Mardi Gras Glossary

Do you speak Mardi Gras? Here are a few definitions to get you started!

King Cake – Circular bread pastry with cinnamon, icing, sugar sprinkles and a small, plastic baby representing Jesus to honor the Christian holiday Epiphany.

Krewe – A group of people who create floats and organize parades. Everyone on a float is in the same krewe. They often do charitable work throughout the year.

MoonPie – The perfect, circular combination of chocolate, graham crackers and marshmallows.

Throws – If it's flying from a float, it's a throw! Throws include beads, Moon Pies, stuffed animals, cups, commemorative "doubloons," T-shirts, small toys and other trinkets.

"Laissez le bon temp rouler!" – "Let the good times roll!" in the Cajun French of the coast.

Joe Cain – The legendary founder of the modern Mobile Mardi Gras, which he singlehandedly launched by parading through the streets in a plaid skirt and feathered headdress on Fat Tuesday, 1868.

Kids and

Krittters

Parade,

Pensacola Beach, Feb. 3, Casino Beach Parking lot, 2 p.m.

Krewe of Wrecks Grand Costume Ball, Pensacola Beach, Feb. 3, Castaways, 7 p.m.

Krewe of Blues Mardi Gras Ball, Feb. 3, 6 p.m., Sanders Beach-Corinne Jones Resource Center, 913 South I Street, Pensacola. Tickets: \$45 in advance from Krewe member or Eventbrite.com or \$55 at the door. Details: 850-436-5198 or sbcj@cityofpensacola.com

Krewe of Lafitte Illuminated Parade, Feb. 9, 7:30 - 9 p.m. Downtown Pensacola, Palafox and Government Streets. Details: www.kreweoflafitte.com

The Pensacola Grand Mardi Gras Parade, Feb. 10, 2 - 6 p.m. The largest and most extravagant parade in Pensacola. Palafox and Garden Streets, Historic Downtown Pensacola. Details: pensacolamardigras.com

Krewe of Wrecks Parade, Pensacola Beach, Feb. 11, 2 p.m.

Krewe of Wrecks Red Beans and Rice Luncheon, Pensacola Beach, Feb. 12, 11 a.m. Sandshaker

Krewe of Coma Coronation and Lighted Hat Contest, Pensacola Beach, Feb. 13, 6 p.m. Sandshaker

Shoe Box Float Contest and Final Toast to Mardi Gras, Pensacola Beach, Feb 13, 7 p.m. Paradise Bar and Grill.

32nd Annual Navarre Beach Mardi Gras Parade, Feb. 3, 1 p.m., Navarre Beach.

The Pensacola Mardi Gras Fat Tuesday Priscus Celebration, Feb. 13. Marks the end of the Mardi Gras season. A new King and Queen Priscus will be revealed to lead us for the following Mardi Gras Season. Family friendly event. Details: <http://pensacolamardigras.com>

Destin

10th Annual Mardi Gras Parade, Destin Harbor, Feb. 10, 2 - 5 p.m.

Fat Tuesday Celebration/ Mardi PAWS, Feb. 13, 5 - 8 p.m.

Village of Baytowne Wharf Mardi Gras Dog Parade, 2 p.m. Feb. 11 and Fat Tuesday Parade 5 p.m. Feb. 13.

8th Annual Apalachicola Mystic Krewe of Salty Barkers Mardi Gras Barkus Parade, Feb. 10. Festival at 11 a.m., Riverfront Park; parade at 1 p.m., downtown Apalachicola.



MoonPie and Mardi Gras Madness

Heading to downtown Mobile, Ala., for one of dozens of Mardi Gras parades this season?

Be sure to stop off at one of the historic city's fastest-growing attractions, the MoonPie General Store. Opened in late 2016, the Mardi Gras favorite throw is centerpiece of the 6000-square-foot store located on the first floor of the RSA Trustmark Building (where each New Year's Eve, a giant lighted MoonPie drops at midnight.)

The store is within an easy walking distance from the Mobile Convention Center making it popular year-round among visiting groups and the downtown business crowd.

An old-fashioned soda fountain serves breakfast and lunch until 6 p.m. but is open later during Mardi Gras and other times. Try one of the specialty "milkshakes" – with or without alcohol or MoonPie specialty recipes (our photographer, Randy Hamilton got the deep-fried chocolate MoonPie hamburger – and he said it was tasty!)

Timeless memorabilia is for sale along with many Mardi Gras items including beads, masks and décor.

The MoonPie – a combination of graham cracker and marshmallows – was created by Chattanooga Bakery in 1917. A variety of flavors are now offered in addition to the traditional chocolate. The restaurant stocks old-fashioned southern favorites such as RC Cola and other bottled soft drink products.

Other stores are located in Chattanooga, Pigeon Forge Franklin and Lynchburg, Tenn., and Charleston, S.C.

If you go:

MoonPie General Store

107 S. Francis St., Mobile, Ala.

Hours: Monday - Saturday. 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Open late during special events

Details: 251-301-7453 or moonpie.com



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Casino Fun

2/2

Tracy Lawrence, IP Casino Resort & Spa, Studio A, 850 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Miss. 8 p.m. Details: 228-436-3000 or www.ipbiloxi.com

2/2

Rodney Carrington, 8 p.m., Beau Rivage Resort & Casino, 875 Beach Blvd, Biloxi, Miss., Details: 888-566-7469 or www.beaurivage.com

2/3

The Front Men of Country – Tim Rushlow, Larry Stewart and Richie



McDonald, 8 p.m. Island View Casino, 3300 W. Beach Blvd., Gulfport, Miss. Details: 1-877-774-VIEW (8439) or www.islandviewcasino.com.

2/9

Willie Nelson & Family, IP Casino Resort & Spa, Studio A, 850 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Miss. 8 p.m. Details: 228-436-3000 or www.ipbiloxi.com

2/9

Chaka Khan, 8 p.m., Beau Rivage Resort & Casino, 875 Beach Blvd, Biloxi, Miss., Details: 888-566-7469 or www.beaurivage.com

2/10

The Australian Bee Gees, IP Casino Resort & Spa, Studio A, 850 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Miss. 8 p.m. Details: 228-436-3000 or www.ipbiloxi.com



2/13

Rockin' Doopsie, Jr. & Amanda Shaw, 8 p.m.

Island View Casino, 3300 W. Beach Blvd., Gulfport, Miss. Details: 1-877-774-VIEW (8439) or www.islandviewcasino.com.

2/16

Tim Allen, 8 p.m., Beau Rivage Resort & Casino, 875 Beach Blvd, Biloxi, Miss., Details: 888-566-7469 or www.beaurivage.com

2/16

An Acoustic Evening with Daughtry, IP Casino Resort & Spa, Studio A, 850 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Miss. 8 p.m. Details: 228-436-3000 or www.ipbiloxi.com

2/23

Mary J. Blige, 8 p.m., Beau Rivage Resort & Casino, 875 Beach Blvd, Biloxi, Miss., Details: 888-566-



7469 or www.beaurivage.com

2/23

Michael McDonald, IP Casino Resort & Spa, Studio A, 850 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Miss. 8 p.m. Details: 228-436-3000 or www.ipbiloxi.com

2/23

The Guess Who, Golden Nugget Biloxi, 151 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, Miss. 8 p.m. Details: (228) 435-5400 or www.goldennugget.com/biloxi

2/24

The Fab Four: The Ultimate Tribute, 8 p.m. Hard Rock Casino 777 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, Miss. Details: (877) 877-6256 or (228) 374-7625 or www.hardrockbiloxi.com

2/27

Petty & Heartshakers, 8 p.m. Island View Casino, 3300 W. Beach Blvd., Gulfport, Miss. Details: 1-877-774-VIEW (8439) or www.islandviewcasino.com.

3/2

Village People & Sister Sledge, 8 p.m., Beau Rivage Resort & Casino, 875 Beach Blvd, Biloxi, Miss., Details: 888-566-7469 or www.beaurivage.com



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CP33275

Food and fun for a cause: Upcoming fundraisers mean good eats and friendly competition

Over the past 20-some-odd years Snowbirds who winter along the Alabama Gulf Coast have joined forces to stage several successful fundraising events that benefit community groups.

This year the community will be invited to enjoy the **20th Annual Pleasure Island Fire Fighters Benefit** (formerly the Bob Gilray Memorial "Bratfest.") The event is set for 11 a.m. Feb. 3 at the Gulf Shores Adult Activity Center.

An estimated \$160,000 has been raised over the past 19 years for three area fire department organizations including Orange Beach, Gulf Shores and Fort Morgan. Part of the funds have been used to buy educational equipment to utilize in the area schools.

Event organizer Kenn Krouse, president of the Wisconsin "Snobird" Club said the board (comprised of members from 10 area state clubs) wanted to bring closer ties to the community to ensure its long-term viability. He said when the event first started many on the Gulf Coast didn't know much about "brats" – popular back in Wisconsin - but the tasty sausages have "migrated south" and are more common. Krouse and other Snowbird representatives put in many hours planning the events which helps bring a united sense of purpose and camaraderie among the clubs which man stations from cooking, logistics, condiments, cashier, setup and takedown and more.

Although brats are now more common in grocery stores and at events, what makes the tasty Snowbird "Bratfest" Johnsonville brats stand out is the cooking process. First the brats must be thawed, cooked on a grill until firm then bathed for 20 minutes in a combination of water, beer and onions for flavor.



Brats are served with choice of sauerkraut, ketchup, mustard and relish. They are a bargain at \$4 with drinks just \$1. There is a drive-through lane available and indoor seating. Details: Kenn Krouse 251 967 2463.

Zoo Fundraiser: The popular Low Country Boil fundraiser for The Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo is set for Feb. 23. There are four seatings available (11 am, 12:15 pm, 1:30 pm, 2:45 pm) but tickets must be purchased in advance.

The Low Country Boil is a seasoned pot of shrimp, sausage, corn and garlic. Tickets are \$13 available at any Snowbird club meeting. A limited number of tickets may be available the day of the event but that isn't guaranteed. Details: Kenn Krouse 251 967 2463.

TRIVIA NIGHT: The annual fundraiser started by the Missouri Club now is managed by the Friends of the Orange Beach Library. This year's event is set for 6 p.m. Feb. 17 at the Orange Beach Event Center at The Wharf. A table of eight costs \$120. Bring your own tailgate. Prizes for the best table theme. Details: 251-975-1258.

8-Pin Tap Bowling Tournament: This year's Snowbird clubs event is 10 a.m. Feb. 13 at Gulf Bowl. Proceeds benefit the Christian Services Center. Details: 251-943-4575

PANCAKE BREAKFAST CANCELED: A busy Mardi Gras season will sideline the popular "Fireman's" Pancake Breakfast originally scheduled in January. The event has raised more than \$58,000 in the past 18 years but is expected to return in 2019.



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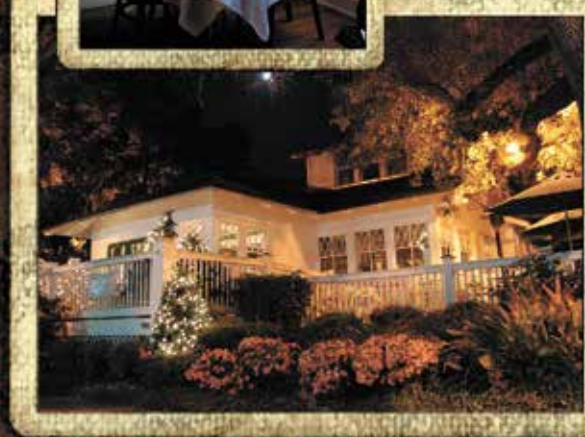
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Explore Alabama at February Expo

For many years representatives from Alabama sponsored an expo for its growing Snowbird population to showcase the communities and attractions around the state to lure possible retirees.

The Alabama Lifestyles Expo launched 26 years ago at Gulf State Park, which was destroyed in 2004 by Hurricane Ivan. Bill Meadows has managed the event for 17 years. The year after Ivan he staged it in tent at the Orange Beach Sportsplex and later at an aircraft hangar at the Gulf Shores Airport.

Then, 11 years ago he found a fancy home for the growing event at The Caribe Resort in Orange Beach. About 60 booths are staged in three venues in two of the resort's three towers.

More than 3000 people are expected this year. Visitor center and chamber representative from around the state will be on hand along with several others from the Gulf Coast region.

Other vendors range from local and regional restaurants that will be sampling their dishes, to retail outlets, rental companies, golf courses, attractions and more.

Bill's advice is to come early as the crowd will be large. But it flows well throughout the rambling resort.

"You just follow the arrows and you will be able to visit every booth," Meadows said.



If you go:

What: The Alabama Lifestyles Expo

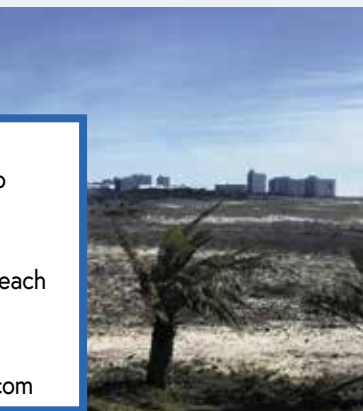
Date: Feb. 8, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Location:

The Caribe Resort, 28103 Perdido Beach Blvd., Orange Beach, Ala.

Cost: Free

Details: www.alabamaadvantage.com



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Get green: Spring Snowbird golf events

5th Annual Snowbird

Cup: The annual challenge match between the Destin and Walton Snowbird clubs is 10 a.m. Feb. 25 at Bluewater Bay Country Club in Niceville, Fla. The event is limited to 36 golfers from each club (men and women). Sign up as a two-person team. Cost is \$40 and includes golf, cart lunch and prizes. Walton County has won the four previous events (but it's all for fun!) Details: Walton Club mrbillssnowbird@gmail.com or Destin Joe Pierce, 813-766-8561 or sign up at club meetings.

Ladies Golf Scramble: Feb. 23 at Shalimar Pointe Country Club in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. Entry fee: \$45 includes 18 holes, lunch, prizes and door prizes. Enter as a single or foursome. Guests are welcome. Details: Mary Pierce, 419-250-9377.

6TH Annual Baldwin Golf Scramble:

Fundraiser for the Baldwin County Heritage Museum is 9 a.m., Feb. 15 at GlenLakes Golf Club. Registration is limited to 144. The fee is \$60 per golfer and includes cart, 18 holes of golf, range balls, lunch and prizes. There is a \$10,000 Hole-In-One prize and other Special Events. We also offer individual Hole Sponsorships (\$100) and Corporate Sponsorships (\$1,000). Details: Tammy at 251-986-8375 or bchm@gulftel.com for information and registration forms.






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Jacksonian Guard bring Downtown Pensacola's history to life



The tune and rat-tat-tat of a fife and drum and the boom of a volley of musket guns were heard in downtown Pensacola in 1821 and now can still be heard once a month today.

The Jacksonian Guard is a Pensacola re-enactment group of Jacksonian era and Spanish soldiers, fifers and drummers who perform a Colors Ceremony once a month, every third Saturday at noon from March to November, in Plaza Ferdinand, on Palafox Street in downtown Pensacola. The ceremony commemorates Pensacola's 195th Birthday and Florida as a U.S. Territory in 1821.

The plaza, where the ceremony was conducted by U.S. troops under command of the state's first governor, Andrew Jackson, on July 17, 1821 where the transfer of ownership between the U.S. and Spain occurred, still exists.

The Jacksonian Guard was founded by Wesley Odom and Pamela Homyak in April 2016. His Go Retro Tour Company specializes in historic tours and is among the sponsors of the re-enactments, as well as Visit Pensacola and the University of West Florida Historic Trust.




"Pam had been to St. Augustine (Florida) and knew they had organized a large historical celebration in 2009," Odom said. "She said, 'How can we do this in Pensacola?' "

The performance includes soldiers dressed in 1821 period uniforms, fife-and-drum music and the transfer of a Spanish flag to a replica 23-star U.S. flag that first flew over the plaza. They use students ages 12 to 29 to represent the youthful composition of Jackson's army.

Odom says the event helps attract attention to historical Pensacola and has helped to bring in tourism. He said he met a lady who came to Pensacola for the first time to see the Jacksonian Guard.

"She said, she thought it was just a Navy town and it wasn't," he said. "She said it's a charming community. That's exciting to hear."

National Naval Aviation Museum




Breakfast and a Movie


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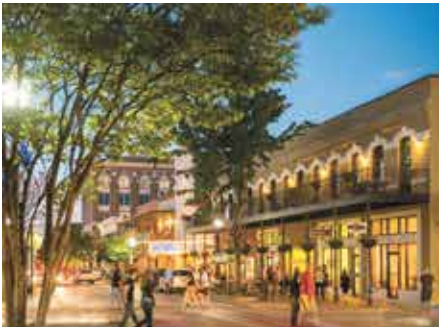
Enjoy Chick-fil-A breakfast and choice of beverage from the new refreshment counter followed by a presentation and movie in the recently renovated, Giant Screen Digital Theater. Doors open 9 a.m., presentation begins at 9:30 a.m., followed by movie at 10 a.m.

February 6Hurricane
February 13Dream Big: Engineering Our World
February 20We, The Marines
February 27Rocky Mountain Express

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Take the ferry! A new view of the Gulf Coast

Many highways along the Gulf Coast offer scenic drives for Snowbirds to enjoy in their vehicle.

And there's one scenic adventure Snowbirds can take in which they're with their vehicle, but don't have to drive.

Mobile Bay Ferry Service

The Mobile Bay Ferry Service connects Dauphin Island and Fort Morgan across the mouth of Mobile Bay in Alabama. The 40-minute trip gives riders a view of two historic forts – Fort Gaines on Dauphin Island and Fort Morgan on Mobile Point -- as well as birds, sea life and other boats and ship.

"The Mobile Bay Ferry is known as The Gulf Coast's most scenic drive," said Tim Aguirre, general manager of HMS Ferries Alabama. "The 40-minute cruise across Mobile Bay travels between historic Fort Morgan and Fort Gaines where you are likely to see dolphins, pelicans and other marine life. The ferry can carry cars, trucks, motorcycles and motorhomes as well as bicycles for those who want to enjoy a day trip. We are also pet friendly!"

The service has two ferries, the Fort Morgan and the Marissa Mae Nicole. One operates until Memorial Day, then both go in service during the summer months through Labor Day. Prices through April range from \$16 for automobiles, pickup trucks and small RVs to \$35 for motor homes and 5th wheels. Motorcycles are \$10 and additional passengers for every category are \$5 each. Pedestrian tickets are \$5 (children 6-under free).

"Dauphin Island offers sugar white beaches, public golf, parks beneath ancient oak trees and a public estuarium, all within walking or cycling distance of the landing," Aguirre said. "The Mobile Bay Ferry is perfect way to explore Alabama's Gulf Coast!"

For more information, go to www.mobilebayferry.com

Shell Island Express Ferry



On Panama City Beach, the Shell Island Express Ferry takes passengers from Grand Lagoon through St. Andrew's Bay over to the dock at legendary Spanish Shanty Cove on Shell Island. This 7 1/2-mile long, 1/2-mile wide stretch of sand is a barrier island sitting at the mouth of St. Andrew's Bay.

While there, visitors can go shelling, snorkeling and just enjoy the sun.

The ferry service will resume on April 3 with three trips daily and will expand to hourly trips beginning May 28. Go to captandersonsmarina.com/shell-island-dolphin-tours/ for more information.

Pensacola Bay Ferry System

Later this year, the Pensacola Bay Ferry System will open and offer a scenic boat ride between downtown Pensacola, Fort Pickens on the west end of Santa Rosa Island and Quietwater Pier on Santa Rosa Sound on Pensacola Beach.

Go to www.cityofpensacola.com/1126/Pensacola-Bay-Ferry-System for more information.




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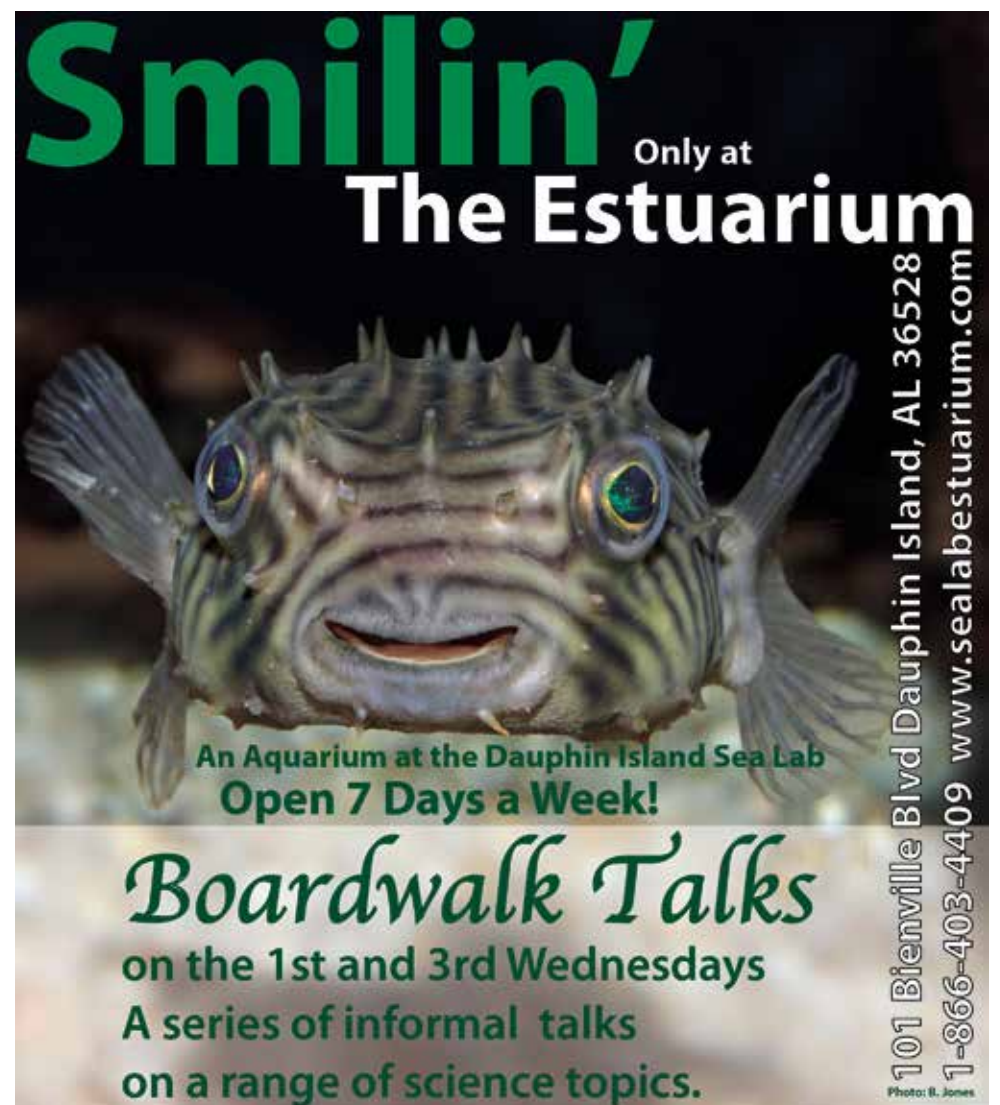
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February 7	Birding on the Gulf Coast, with Dr. Mark LaSalle
February 14	Raising Roses, with Linda Guy
February 21	Shipshape Urban Farms, with Dale Speetjens
February 28	Caring for Gulf Coast Appalachia, with Bobby Green

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Town of
Dauphin Island
- townofdauphinisland.org -

Dauphin Island
Chamber of Commerce
- dauphinislandchamber.com -

South Mobile County
Tourism Authority
- visitsomo.com -



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28 S. Barrett Square
Rosemary Beach, FL 32461
Sundays Year Round
9am-1pm

30A Farmers' Market
at Palm Plaza
1003C John Sims Parkway
Niceville, Florida 32578
Saturdays Year Round:
9am-1pm



Grand Boulevard Farmers' Market at Sandestin
Grand Park
(Between Tommy Bahamas and Cantina Laredo)
600 Grand Blvd • Miramar Beach, FL 32550
Saturdays Year Round: 9am-1pm

30A Farmers Market at 30Avenue
12805 Highway 98 E
Inlet Beach, Florida 32461
Re-opening March 8, 2018
Thursdays Year Round: 9am-1pm

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Feb. 5 - Bus tour Pickup at Good Time Tours Florida locations

Feb. 9 - Bus Tour pickup at Good Time Tours Alabama Locations

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Navarre Snowbird Cornhole League at Juana's Pagoda
Wednesday, February 7, 14 and 28, 2pm - 5pm

Snowbirds Sweethearts Dinner & Dance with Stevie Hall
Monday, February 12, 6-9pm

Snowbird Sessions by the sea at the Navarre Beach Marine Science Station What's on the Reef
Thursday, February 1, 2pm - 3pm

32nd Annual Navarre Beach Mardi Gras Parade
Saturday, February 3, 1pm

Gulf Coast Clay Conference and Woodstoke Pottery and Kiln Festival/Kiln Walk at Holley Hill Pottery,
February 7-10, 2018

Snowbird Sessions by the sea at the Navarre Beach Marine Science Station Bird and Barrier Islands
Thursday, February 15, 2pm - 3pm

30th Annual Riverwalk Arts Festival
Saturday & Sunday, March 3 - 4, 10am - 5pm



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CODE: SNWBRDBUF2

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FREE LUNCH BUFFET

CODE: SNWBRDBUF3

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FEBRUARY 26TH – FEBRUARY 28TH

\$10 FREE PLAY

CODE: SNWBRD4

FREE LUNCH BUFFET

CODE: SNWBRDBUF4

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