

FREE!

Gulf Coast *Snow* **BIRDS**

A Winter Visitor
Publication
January 2022

Calendar

New Years, Mardi Gras & more!
page 10-11

Welcome Events

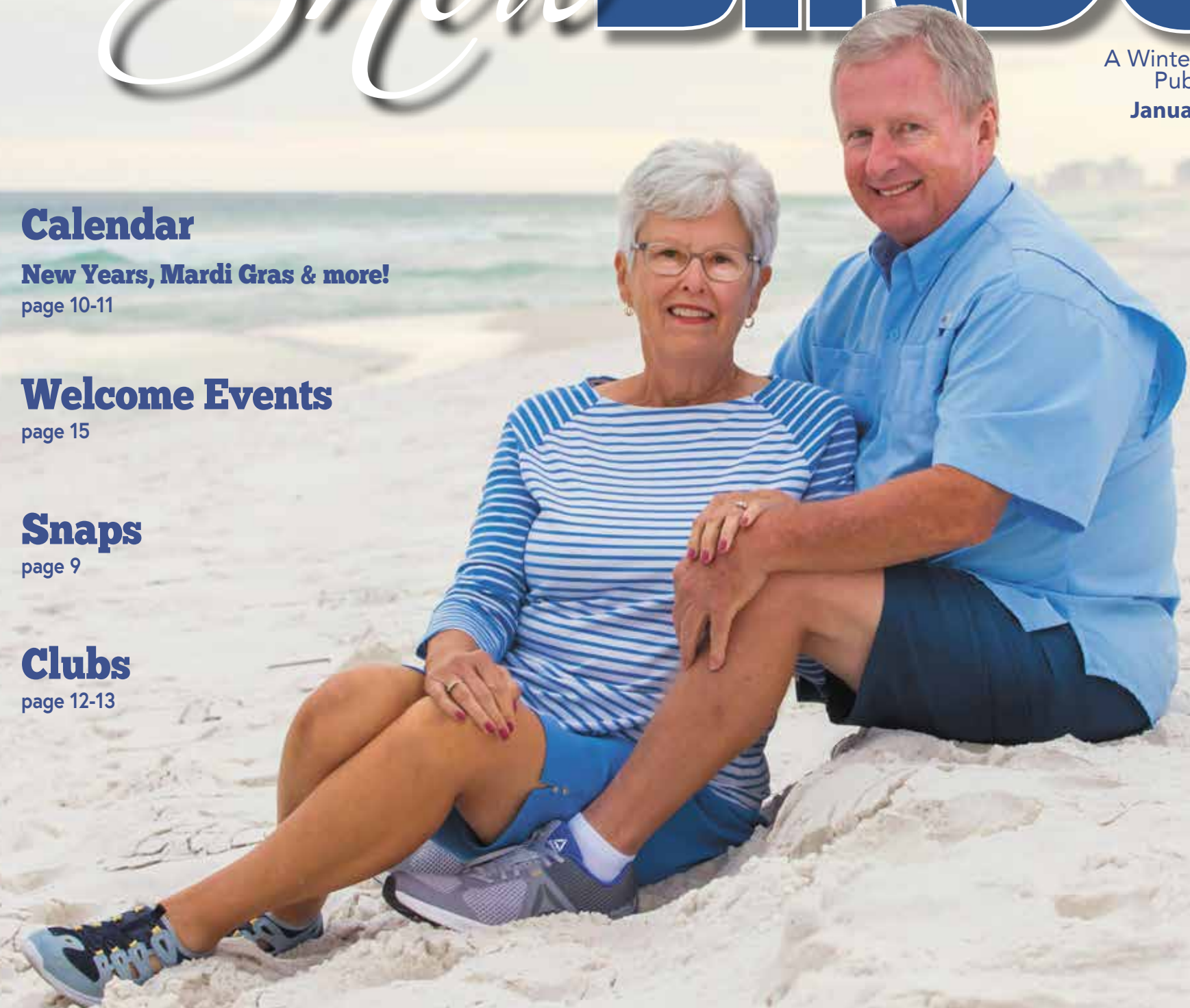
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In print and online
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Gulf Coast Snow BIRDS

ON THE COVER

Our January cover couple, Dean and Debbie Harper, has distinctive southern accents - unusual for "Snowbirds." Their search for a friendly environment and warmer winters landed them in Miramar Beach, Fla.



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DESTIN FORT WALTON BEACH FLORIDA CONVENTION CENTER
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Gulf Coast Snow BIRDS

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<https://www.fwbchamber.org/events/calendar>
850.244.8191

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Gulf Coast Snow BIRDS

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Welcome!

By the time you pick up this edition, the holiday season will have come to a close. But, it's Dec. 20 as I write it and I'm aware that many things can change.

Most of the Snowbirds I've talked to are fully vaccinated – and boosted. We're all ready for a "return to normal" Snowbird season. Many of you expressed to me that you would rather be down south than stuck in snow, ice and gray days.

There certainly is plenty to do year-round here and fresh air is reportedly one of the best things to stay healthy. So, open a few windows, don your mask in stores and indoor places and stay well.

Snowbird club organizers have been busy making plans. With uncertain numbers, some have had to cancel the season. Most have to 'guarantee' numbers to reserve and pay for facilities. That's something members often do not realize. How can you help? Dues for most clubs are nominal, so offer to pay. That would give the volunteer boards confidence to move forward.

We have a club roundup in each edition and you can find information there. Be sure to read this edition's cover couple Dean and Debbie Harper, native Kentuckians who now live in eastern Tennessee. They were invited to join the Destin Snowbird Club 12 years ago and have been active volunteers since.

We appreciate you all as we mark our 16th year publishing this magazine. Thanks for the support.
Best,

Karen Harrell, publisher@snowbirdsgulfcoast.com

850-291-1266



30A Farmers' Markets

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Watersound Town Center Farmers' Market • Saturdays 10am - 2pm
170 N. Watersound Parkway • Panama City Beach, FL 32461
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4 Convenient Locations

Grand Boulevard Farmers' Market at Sandestin Grand Park (Between Tommy Bahamas and Cantina Laredo) 600 Grand Blvd Miramar Beach, FL 32550 Saturdays: 9am - 1pm	Niceville Florida Community Farmers' Market at Palm Plaza 1003C John Sims Parkway Niceville, FL 32578 Saturdays: 9am - 1pm	30A Farmers' Market In the Rosemary Beach Community 28 N. Barrett Square Rosemary Beach, FL 32461 Sundays Year Round: 9am - 1pm
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KY/TN retirees enjoy Destin Club

Our January cover couple, Dean and Debbie Harper, has distinctive southern accents - unusual for "Snowbirds." But like most Snowbirds, they were searching for a friendly environment and warmer climate.

Here is their story.

Q. What are your names and ages?

Dean is 70, and Debbie is 67.

Q. Where did you grow up?

We both grew up in western Kentucky but now we live near Knoxville, Tenn., and the Great Smoky Mountains!

Q. How did you meet?

We met at the company we worked for. Dean was 36 and Deb was 32.

Q. Do you have children and grandchildren?

Our son Heath is 52, our youngest son, Chad, died as a result of an auto accident when he was a teenager. Evan is our only grandchild, and he is 13 years old and amazing!

Q. Did you go to college?

Deb returned to college at age 40 to become a Registered Nurse.

Q. What kind of work/career were you in before retiring?

Dean was a maintenance planner/supervisor for Alcoa



Aluminum in Newburg, Indiana across the river from our home in Kentucky. Deb worked as a buyer for a manufacturing company and then became an RN working at the local hospital.

Q. Did you always plan to "Snowbird" or just spend a few winter months in a warmer climate?

We always planned to go to Florida during the winter months after we retired. After working days, nights, weekends and holidays we were fortunate to retire in our 50s.

Q. Do you rent, own, or RV?

We owned an RV for a few years,

then a condo for a few years, a park model for a few years but now we rent at the Mediterranea in Miramar Beach. We have been returning to Miramar Beach for about 12 years now.

Q. How did you find out about Destin and the Snowbird club?

We found Destin while traveling in our RV. Some of our RV friends invited us to a Destin

Snowbird Club meeting, and we were hooked!

Q. How did you get involved?

The club needed a second vice president and Dean volunteered. We have been volunteering and participating ever since.

Q. Would you recommend others volunteer?

Absolutely! It is a great way to meet people that become friends for life!

Q. Did you come back in 2020-21?

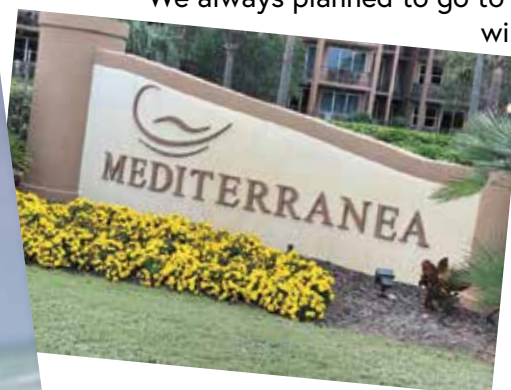
Destin Snowbird Club suspended the season, so we decided to spend just one month instead of the usual 4 1/2 months.

Q. What kind of things besides the Snowbird club do you like to do?

We enjoy going to all the fun events, like the Lighted Boat Parade, the Harbor Boat cruises, the Valentine's Dinner Dance and the TGIT parties that feature entertainment. And we enjoy walking, playing cards and all the restaurants in the area.

Q. Do you have any thoughts I haven't asked about that you want to mention?

We look forward to reuniting with friends from all over the country and Canada. We encourage any new snowbirds to join The Destin Snowbird Club. Dues are only \$12 a year, and it is the best \$12 you'll ever spend!



Snaps!

Early snowbirds attended the first club meeting in a year in late November. Organizers of the Destin Snowbirds Club buzzed about welcoming back longtime friends and greeting new ones. This club organizes and sponsors a wide range of activities and partners with local organizations. Fee to join is just \$12 per year. The "big registration" is Jan. 3, 1 to 3 p.m. , with the first meeting Jan. 4 at The Roost at the Destin Community Center, 101 Stahlman Ave, Destin, Fla.



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Legendary chef "Nino" will return this season for his weekly cooking demonstrations at Rouses Markets in Gulf Shores and Orange Beach. He will cook up a different dish weekly Fridays, 10 a.m., Orange Beach; 3 p.m. Gulf Shores. and Saturdays 10 a.m. Gulf Shores. The Louisiana-based market sources many home-grown items. Details: www.rouses.com.

Events may change or may be canceled because of the changing rules surrounding COVID-19 safety. Call or check websites before going to an event.

WEDNESDAYS

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

1/12-2/23

Winter Wednesdays at Bellingrath Gardens and Home - Wednesday workshops cover special features of the Gardens or Home, tips for making your garden more spectacular, or guest lectures from renowned members of the horticultural and gardening world. Programs begin at 10:30 a.m. and last about one hour. Winter Wednesday events are included in Gardens admission. Admission for members is free. Reservations are requested. Details: 251-459-8868 or bellingrath@bellingrath.org

SATURDAYS

Grand Boulevard Farmers' Market - 600 Grand Blvd., Miramar Beach, Fla. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Details: <https://www.miramarbeachfarmersmarket.com/farmers-market>

Niceville Florida Community Farmers' Market - 1003C John Sims Pkwy., Niceville, Fla. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Details: <https://nicevillefloridacommunityfarmersmarket.business.site/>

SUNDAYS

30A Farmers Market - The 30A Farmers Market is an International Farmers Market Event, featuring foods from around the world, as well as with delicious food from the South. 28 N. Barrett Square, Rosemary Beach, Fla. Details: <https://www.facebook.com/30aFarmersMarket/>

through 12/26

Christmas In the Air at Beau Rivage - Beau Rivage, 875 Beach Boulevard, Biloxi, Miss. Enjoy a feel-good story line told by Santa's elves, with appearances by veteran television and film actors, several well-known Christmas characters and even Santa himself. Dazzling precision dancers, powerful vocalists, exquisite

costuming, scenic elements and numbers that encourage audience participation bring Christmas to life. Details and reservations: 888-567-6667 or visit www.beaurivage.com

through 2/6

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

through 1/5

Magic Christmas in Lights - See more than 1,100 set pieces, 3 million lights and 15 scenes on a walking tour of the 65-acre

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1/8

Birdwatching Trip to Gulf State Park - Meet at the Greer's Cash Saver Grocery at 4051 Barrancas, just east of Navy Blvd., Pensacola, Fla., at 7:30 a.m. for a day of exploration Field trips are open to the public and free of charge, but contributions are appreciated. Reservations required. Details: <http://fmwaudubon.org/event/field-trip-gulf-state-park/>

Celebrate '22 Southern style!

Say hello to 2022 with a certain southern flair!

Cities across the Gulf Coast are celebrating a fresh start for the new year with fireworks, moon pies, a beach ball drop and frigid dips!

Check ahead for event status before heading out the door.

New Year's Eve

12th Annual Beach Ball Drop at Pier Park - 600 Pier Park Dr., Panama City Beach, Fla. New Year's Eve Beach Ball Drop that features an 800-pound LED illuminated beach ball. Free family celebration with live entertainment, fireworks display, 10,000 beach balls & more! Details: <https://www.visitpanamacitybeach.com>

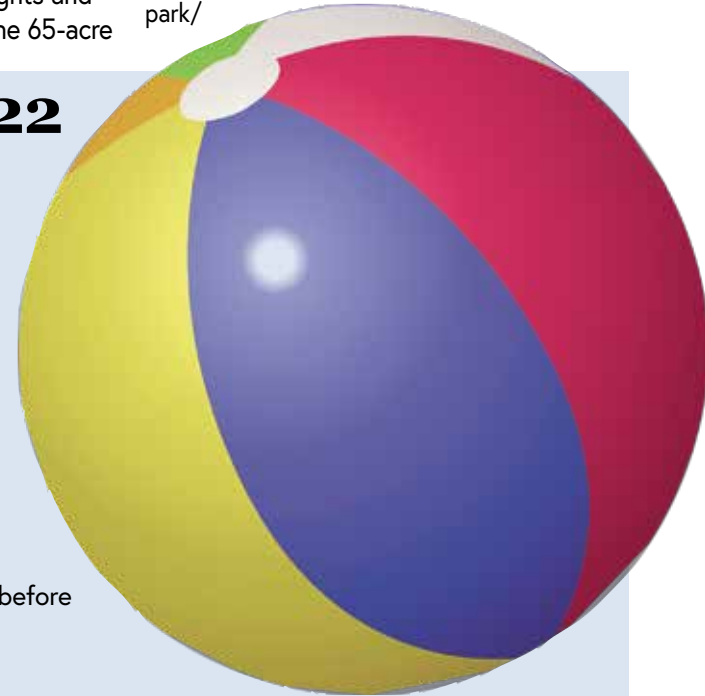
Moon Pie Over Mobile - Ring in the new year with a 600-lb. electric Moon Pie! During the street party, you can dig into the world's largest edible Moon Pie, join the second line, watch live entertainment and fireworks! Details: www.mobilenewyear.com

Pensacola Beach New Year's Eve Firework Display - Free firework display along the Pensacola Beach Boardwalk at midnight. Details: www.pensacolabeachchamber.com

Celebrate the New Year! - 7 p.m. End the year with the timeless music of Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald performed by the Pensacola Symphony Orchestra. Saenger Theatre, 118 S. Palafox Place, Pensacola, Fla. Details: <https://pensacolasymphony.com>

New Year's Day

Pensacola Beach Polar Bear Plunge - Paradise Bar & Grill, 21 Via De Luna



Dr. Pensacola Beach, Fla. Head to Pensacola Beach and plunge headfirst into the Santa Rosa Sound at the annual Polar Bear Plunge. Hundreds of dippers and spectators – many dressed in costume - flock to the beach to participate in this long-established tradition. Registration begins at noon. All proceeds go to the Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce. Details: www.pensacolabeachchamber.com or call 850-932-1500.

Flora-Bama Polar Bear Dip - Flora-Bama, 17401 Perdido Key Dr., Perdido Key, Fla. Take a dip in the Gulf of Mexico at high noon! Those who fully submerge will get a free draft beer and a free New Year's lunch of ham, black-eyed peas, greens and cornbread at the New Year's Day beach party. Details: <http://www.florabama.com/polar-bear-dip>

Kiwanis Club Polar Bear Dip - The Hangout, 101 E. Beach Blvd., Gulf Shores, Ala. The beach party starts at 10 a.m. with a beach bonfire, games and entertainment as we countdown to take the DIP at noon. Details: <https://www.thehangout.com>

Reservations required for dinner & show.

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TODD HERENDEEN THEATRE Recording artist Todd Herendeen presents the newest Branson-style Music Show Room on the Gulf Coast. Tributes to Cash, Orbison, Diamond, Elvis and more. Enjoy a dinner and show or just the show. Family friendly. Reservations required. 850-381-0310. ToddHerendeenTheatre.com

Americana Music at the Lodge - Camp Helen State Park, 23937 Panama City Beach Pkwy, Panama City Beach, Fla. A series of free concerts titled "Americana Music at the Lodge" begins in January and continues through March. The series kicks off with Passerine. Limited seats are available. Only two reservations per email allowed. Only guests with reserved tickets will be allowed inside. Details: <https://www.friendsofcamphelen.org/americana-concerts>

1/22

Francis M. Weston Audubon Birdwatching trip to Southside Nature Preserve - 8 a.m., at 4401 Southside Drive, Gulf Breeze, Fla. Want to learn about our area birds? These short bird walks are designed to introduce "future birders" to the world of "Bird Watching." Details: <http://fmwaudubon.org/event/bird-walk-southside-foundation-preserve/>

1/25

Brown Bag Opera - The Opera Center 75 South Tarragona Street, Pensacola, Fla. Join us each month during our season for a FREE mid-day performance by our Artists in Residence. Featuring favorite arias, duets, and popular songs. All Brown Bag Opera performances are at 12:00 PM at the Opera Center. Details: <https://pensacolaopera.com/events/>

1/28 and 30

The Magic Flute presented by the Pensacola Opera - Pensacola Saenger Theatre, 118 Palafox Pl., Pensacola, Fla. 7:30 p.m. Friday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Mozart's The Magic Flute transports us on a mystical journey filled with genies, spirits, and the hilarious antics of a creature who is half man and half bird! Details: <https://pensacolaopera.com/events/>

1/29

OWA Art and Craft Festival - 1501 S. OWA Blvd., Foley, Ala. Noon to 6 p.m. This family-friendly event is completely free to attend and enjoy. Stroll the pedestrian-only streets of Downtown OWA and experience a wide variety of local arts and crafts for sale plus live performances. Details: visitowa.com

1/29

Trash Bash with the Navarre Beach Sea Turtle Conservation Center - 8 to 10 a.m., 8739 Gulf Blvd., Navarre Beach, Fla. Help clean up our beaches! Navarre Beach Parking lot near the Sand Crab Pavilion. A limited supply of gloves, buckets and pickers are provided, or bring your own. Details: www.navarrebeachseaturtles.org

2/4-6

Vintage Market Days of Mobile - It's the TENTH VMD™ of Mobile event - "Vintage Love"! Shop with more than 100 vendors while enjoying live music and food trucks! The Grounds at 1035 Cody Rd. N., Mobile, Ala. Details: <https://vintagemarketdays.com/market/mobile/>

3/4

Gulf Shores Police Association Golf Tournament 2022 - Peninsula Golf Club, 20 Peninsula Blvd, Gulf Shores, Ala. Golf, range balls, carts, lunch, hole contests, team and door prizes included. Details: <https://gulfshorespoliceassociation.com/pages/tournament-info>

Mardi Gras kicks off 2022 season

Fat Tuesday is March 1 this Mardi Gras season but many events actually kick off in January.

Before heading out, check event websites for updates on times, dates, any safety measures and information about parking. Most sites will offer information about parade routes so you can find the best spot for viewing floats and catching beads!

Mobile, Ala., the birthplace of Mardi Gras, has a full slate of activities and parades but also is planning for "Yardi Gras" for a second year.

Information on homes dressed as parade floats – complete with a music playlist - is available at www.mobileporchparade.com.

Jan. 7

10th Annual Pensacola Mardi Gras Twelfth Night Kick-Off Party - 5 to 11 p.m., 36 E. Garden St., Pensacola, Fla. You're invited to party with the Krewes and see the floats up close! Pensacola Mardi Gras is taking it to the streets and taking over several blocks around East Garden District. Tickets include food, drinks and a wild concert by the Chee-Weez! Details: <http://www.PensacolaMardiGras.com>

Jan. 22

The Krewe of Nauga presents "Gypsies, Tramps & Thieves" 27th Annual Champaign Breakfast and



Native Noontime Ball - Event starts at 11 a.m. at The Dock, 4 Casino Beach Boardwalk, Pensacola Beach, Fla. Event serves as a fundraiser for animal rescues. Theme is always a "pajama party." Fee is \$15 and includes live music, food, drink, trinkets and fun! See the Krewe of Nauga Facebook page for details.

Jan. 29

Krewe de la Dauphine parade, 1 p.m., Dauphin Island, Ala.

Feb. 11-12

Panama City Beach Mardi Gras Celebration & Music Festival - Staged with the Krewe of Dominique Youx's great Mardi Gras at the Beach parade. Activities include kids' parades, costume contests, fireworks, 5k, live music and fun! At Pier Park, Aaron Bessant Park and Frank Brown Park. Details: www.visitpanamacitybeach.com/mardi-gras

Feb. 13

Downtown Throwdown and Parade, Downtown Fort Walton, Fla.

Feb. 19

Navarre Beach Mardi Gras Parade, 1 p.m., Navarre, Fla.

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Snowbird Clubs

As we head into the 2022 Snowbird season the world is experiencing a new Covid surge. Talk is that the virus is now "endemic" - something we may wrestle with for some time to come. Health experts release guidance as they get it and for now, great caution is advised. Risk is something we all have to evaluate for ourselves.

Several clubs have made lengthy plans while others have already tabled the 2022-23 season. Why would that be? Most are charged a fee at their meeting locations and the nominal club fees help cover that.

So, if you want to see the clubs continue, join the club now! And, get involved as well. Participation is a key ingredient for any club.

Panama City Beach: Last we heard from the Visit Panama City Beach folks, they would not be sponsoring events this season. That may change

but we don't have that information at the moment.

Panama City Beach Senior Center has become the hub for local and Snowbird activities.

Organizers charge a nominal fee. Activities range from exercise classes, craft shows, dances, potluck, games, woodworking, excursions and more. Information is updated regularly on the center's Facebook page. You can also pick up a list on-site at 423 Lyndell Ln, Panama City Beach, Fla. Details: (850) 233-5065. Panama City Beach Senior Center.

The Destin Snowbird Club: The Destin Snowbird club has a full slate of activities. The "big" registration is 1 to 3 p.m. Monday, Jan. 3. Club



meetings are staged in two sessions: 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. in January and February at "The Roost" the Destin Community Center, 101 Stahlman

Ave, Destin, Fla. Cost to join is a nominal \$12 per year. Refreshments are available and members have time to enjoy vendor booths followed by entertainment. Details: destinsnowbirds.com for schedules and activities.

Fort Walton Beach: Club meetings resume Jan. 11. Registration 9 a.m. and Noon Jan. 7 and 10 and before meetings, 9 a.m. Jan. 12, Feb. 2 and March 2. at the Fort Walton Beach Recreation Center, 132 Jet Dr. NW, Fort Walton Beach, Fla.



Annual membership fee; \$10. Check activities and details: fwbsbc.com.

Perdido Key: The Perdido Key Chamber will host three "Hootenanny's" at popular roadhouse bar Flora-Bama on the Fla./Ala. line. Details: visitperdido.com



Walton County: The Walton County Snowbirds return this season but urge members to wear masks and social distance for safety. Club meetings will be staged at Destin United Methodist Church, 200 Beach Dr, Destin. Registration is 8:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. Jan. 3 and 7. Dues are \$20 per year. Meetings will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursdays, Jan. 13 and 27 and February 10 and 24. Vendors onsite at 9 a.m. Details: www.waltoncountysnowbirds.com



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Snowbird Clubs

In Alabama, Snowbird clubs developed organically more than 25 years ago. Today, there are about a dozen (mostly midwestern) clubs.

What we know: Annual fundraisers such as the multi-club Bratfest are tentative. We will continue to update our information as clubs finalize plans for the season.

Iowa: Iowa Club meets for breakfast at 8:30 a.m., Wednesdays at Perdido Beach Resort, 27200 Perdido Beach Blvd., Orange Beach, Ala. The cost is \$15. Dates include: Jan. 12, 25, Feb. 9, 22 and March 8. Registration and other details: iowa-alabamagulfcoastsnowbirds.org

Minnesota: Members are encouraged to monitor the club website: <http://www.mnal.org/> for breakfast and activity dates. You must pre-register for breakfast meetings held at GT's on the Bay, 26189 Canal Dr., Orange Beach. There is a 75-person Covid-safe limit. Weekly Tuesday

breakfast meetings start Jan. 11 and continue through March 8 (except Fat Tuesday). Pre-register by the Tuesday prior.

A breakfast buffet is available for \$10 which includes beverage, tax and tips. Masks are optional but encouraged. Activities include golf, pickleball, dancing and card games.

Michigan and Wisconsin: The two largest Alabama clubs have tentatively suspended activities for the season.

Please check our website: www.snowbirdsgulfcoast.com and sign up for our e-newsletter for updates. Do you have club updates for our January edition? Submit by Dec. 5 to publisher@snowbirdsgulfcoast.com. Questions? 850-291-1266

Be sure to check directly with the clubs to confirm dates and times. Be well.

Bellingrath
Gardens and Home

WINTER WEDNESDAYS

January 12 - February 23
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* Limitations: These promotions are for Snowbirds and new patients.
Expiration March 31, 2022. Check website for complete information.



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Exciting events welcome snowbirds back to the Gulf Coast

Snowbirds are invited to a variety of "winter welcome" events across the region. These are events submitted to us and are up to date at press time (Dec. 20.)

Navarre Winter Lecture Series

Begins Jan. 6

A full slate of interactive lectures geared toward Snowbirds are on tap at the Navarre Visitor Center, 8543 Navarre Pkwy., Navarre, Fla. Events begin Jan. 4 with "Welcome Day." Other dates include: Jan. 6 – Game Day; 12 – Nature Trail Lecture; 13 – Makers Studio Craft-Flip Flop Signage; 18 – Naval Live Oaks; 20- Sunny Day Art Studio – Make a Mug (Noon at Sunny Day Family Art Studio); 25 – Artificial Reef Lecture; 27 – Flower Arranging Class; Feb. 1 – Seafood Lecture; (11:30 a.m.); 3 – Rock Painting; 8 – Sea Turtle Conservation; 10- Valentine Card; 15 – Audubon Lecture; 17 –Mardi Gras Craft and 22 – Emerald Coast Wildlife Lecture.

Details: Pre-registration requested as space is limited. 850-981-8900 or www.getrelaxing.com



Perdido Key Chamber "Hootenanny" Series

Jan. 13, Feb. 10 and 24

The hootenanny is happening at the world-famous Florida-Bama Lounge, 17401 Perdido Key Drive, Fla.

The series starts Jan. 13 with "New Year, New Boots." Guests are encouraged to dress up in their favorite western wear to enjoy some live pickin'-and-grinnin' music as well

as games and door prizes, followed by a delicious lunch provided by the legendary Flora-Bama chefs.

The second event Feb. 10, "Sweetheart Saloon." is dedicated to lovebirds of all ages. Attendees will be treated to an afternoon of great food, music, prize giveaways and games with Valentine's Day flair.

The 2022 series wraps up Feb. 24 with "Let the Good Times Roll" and a Mardi Gras twist. Foot-stomping music, plenty of throws, a delicious luncheon and more giveaways will be offered. Admission for each event is \$10 per person.

Tickets are limited and can be purchased online at www.VisitPerdido.com, or in person at the Perdido Key Area Chamber of Commerce; 15500 Perdido Key Dr. Pensacola, Fla.



Pensacola Beach Bash

Jan. 20

The annual Pensacola Beach Bash is sponsored by the Santa Rosa Island Authority at Our Lady of Assumption, 920 Via de Luna Dr., Pensacola Beach, Fla. A \$1 entry fee will be donated to the Pensacola Beach Lifeguards. Event kicks off at 9 a.m. with coffee and a light breakfast. Guests are invited to browse vendor booths followed by entertainment: 10 a.m. - Pensacola Beach Elementary School Sandpipers; 10:15 Perdido Performing Arts & Productions with 10:45 p.m. – Bingo! Details: 850-923-1500.



Fort Walton Beach Chamber Winter Guest Fest

Jan. 20

Winter Guest Fest is happening Jan. 20 from 8 a.m. – Noon at the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Convention Center, 1250 Miracle Strip Pkwy., Fort Walton Beach, Fla. The region's largest winter guest trade show features a variety of vendors, giveaways and fun. Cost to enter is \$2. Details: 850-244-8191 or fwbchamber.org



Gulf Shores Winter Entertainment Series

Begins Jan. 24

The City of Gulf Shores presents the 2022 Winter Entertainment Series lineup. Shows will be held at the Erie

H. Meyer Civic Center and require a purchased ticket. Doors will open at 6 p.m., and all shows will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$35, and are on sale now. The lineup for the 2022 Winter Entertainment Series consists of the following acts: Jan. 24-25, John Mueller's Winter Dance Party; Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, A Toast to the Rat Pack; Feb. 7 and 8, Hollywood Icons; and Feb. 14 and 15, 3 Redneck Tenors "Broadway Bound."

Tickets may be purchased at www.gulfshoresal.gov/Winterentertainmentseries or the Gulf Shores City Store, 1821 Gulf Shores Pkwy. Details: 251-968-1171 or visit www.gulfshoresal.gov/Winterentertainmentseries

Pensacola Snowbird Roost

Feb. 8

Visit Pensacola will host its annual Snowbird Roost at the Museum of Commerce in Historic Pensacola Village. Tickets are \$15 and are available for purchase at the Pensacola Visitor Information Center and the Perdido Key Visitor Information Center (must be purchased in advance). The event will showcase a Mardi Gras theme and feature picnic baskets from Classic City Catering, live entertainment, vendors and more. Details: www.visitpensacola.com/plan-your-trip/snowbirds/

Trolley tour of historic Mobile returns in January

By Louis Cooper

Visitors can once again explore the rich history and culture of Downtown Mobile from the comfort of a climate-controlled bus as the Mobile Historic Trolley Tour resumes service for the first time since the pandemic began.

Tours return Jan. 18, 2022, with trips offered every day, Tuesday through Saturday. Passengers may board the trolley at the Mobile Visitors Center in downtown or at the U.S.S. Alabama Battleship Memorial Park.

The tour has been on hold since March 12, 2020.

"The Mobile trolley is a great introduction to a city that is over 320 years old and is the birthplace of Mardi Gras in the Western Hemisphere," said tour guide Arthur Clevenger.



The tour is an interactive experience, with Clevenger offering commentary and answering questions as the trip unfolds.

"The city has grown under flags of six different governing bodies and each of those has left its own footprint creating a unique cultural heritage," he said. "We see many of the beautiful homes and buildings. Many of Mobile's attractions, restaurants and culture."

Guests can bring well-behaved dogs on the tour.

The Mobile Historic Trolley Tour is a program of Gulf Coast Tours, a Mobile-based charter company that also offers trips to college and professional football games.

Want to go?

Mobile Historic Trolley Tours resume on Jan. 18, 2022.

- Mobile Visitors Center: Tues., Wed. and Thurs., 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m.; Fri., 10 a.m. and noon, and 10 a.m. on Sat.,
- U.S.S. Alabama Battleship Memorial Park: Tues., Wed. and Thurs., 11:05 a.m. and 1:05 p.m., and 11:05 a.m. on Fri. and Sat..
- Price: \$20 per person; \$15 per person in groups of 10 or more.
- Details: (251) 633-0560 or www.gctbus.com

Mark your calendar for the Panhandle Travel Show

Join host Tammy's Journeys on Jan. 22 to learn about individual and group travel opportunities, including a special 2023 cruise excursion.

The travel show will be staged from 1 to 4 p.m. at Santa Rosa Mall, 300 Mary Esther Blvd., Mary Esther, Fla. Following the show there is a 70s/80s dance.

Details: 850-243-3809 or www.tammysjourneys.com

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Jan 13	New Year New Boots
Feb 10	Sweetheart Saloon
Feb 24	The Original Hootenanny

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Safety Second to None for Total Joint Patients at Andrews Institute

Sponsored content

At the Andrews Institute for Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine in Gulf Breeze, Florida, patient safety and satisfaction are always a top priority. Nowhere is that more clear than in the data surrounding the outcomes of hip and knee replacements.

As a participant in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement Model, Baptist Health Care and Andrews Institute rank in the 99th percentile nationally for hip and knee safety measures. The average length of hospital stay (for those admitted) is 1.6 days, well below the national average of 2.4 days.

"We're so proud of our record because it very clearly demonstrates our commitment to safety and satisfaction is working," said David Joyner, M.D., president of Andrews Institute for Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine. "But it doesn't mean our work is done. We can always improve, and a big way we do that is by listening to our patients."

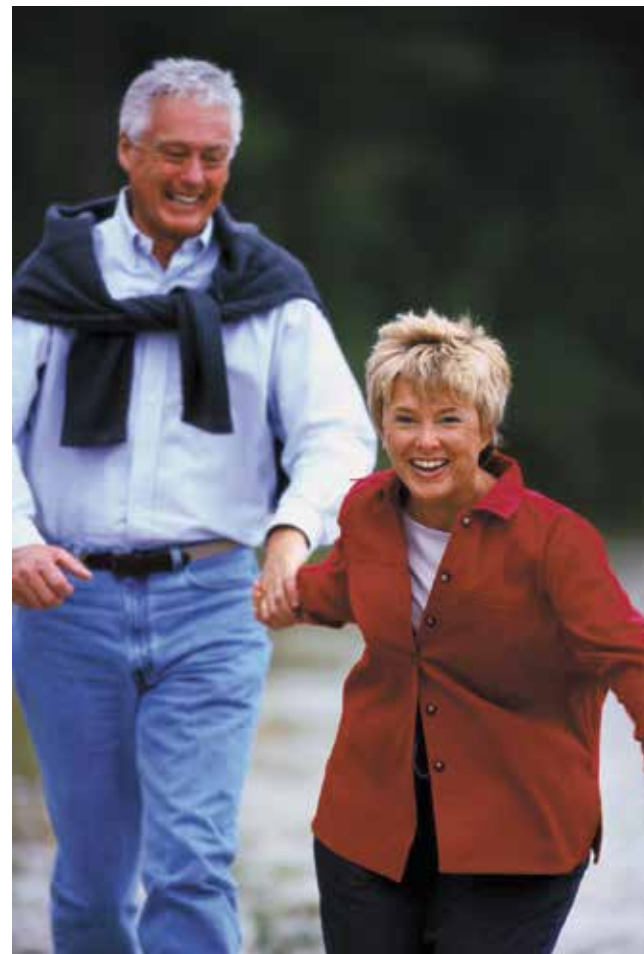
One of the key components to the total joint replacement success at Andrews is the pre-surgical optimization clinical team. Its goal

is to help patients manage their risk factors leading up to surgery. Based on an individual's risk factors, surgery can be scheduled in the inpatient, outpatient or ambulatory surgery center, another big factor in the program's success.

"The idea that our patients who qualify can have a total joint replacement as an outpatient procedure is something most of them really appreciate," said G. Daxton Steele, M.D., who, along with Brett Smith, M.D., and Wesley Mayes, M.D., performs total joint surgeries at the Andrews Institute. "Patients love the idea of recuperating in the comfort of their own home."

Although patients may be out-of-sight, they are certainly not-out-of-mind from the care of their physician and recovery team. They can expect to begin rehabilitation at Andrews Institute within a couple of days of surgery and stick with their program until fully recovered.

For more information on total joint procedures or to make an appointment at Andrews Institute for Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine, visit AndrewsInstitute.com or call 850.916.8700.



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Casino Fun



12/31

The Molly Ringwalds, 10:30 p.m., Beau Rivage Resort & Casino, 875 Beach Blvd, Biloxi, Miss., Details: 888-566-7469 or www.beaurivage.com

1/07-08 - Postponed to 8/26-27

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

1/08

Styx, 8 p.m., IP Casino Resort & Spa, Studio A, 850 Bayview

Avenue, Biloxi, Miss. Details: 228-436-3000 or www.ipbiloxi.com



1/14

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

1/15

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

1/21

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

1/28

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



1/28 - 1/29

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

2/4

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



1/21

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



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Snowbirds Gulf Coast prints four editions each winter: Holiday, January, February and Spring, distributed regionally from Panama City Beach, Fla., across the Florida panhandle to the Alabama Gulf Coast and Biloxi Visitor Center. We also push out .pdf editions through our e-newsletter and Facebook page: Snowbirds Gulf Coast.

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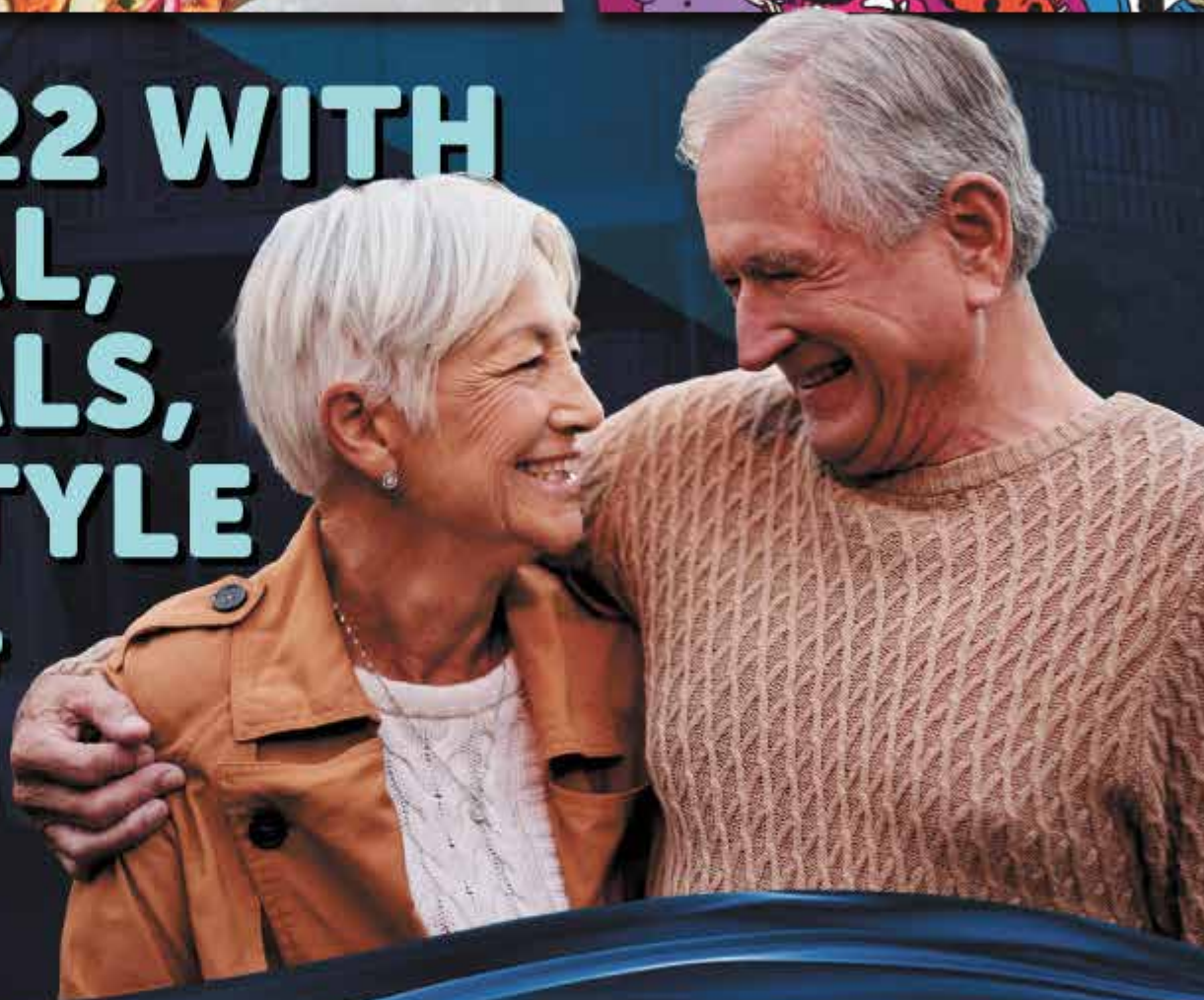
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