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Gulf Coast

Snow **BIRDS**

A Winter Visitor
Publication
Spring 2022

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Play ball!

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ON THE COVER

Our cover couple, Canadians Joanne and Stan Carter, hail from Toronto, Ontario, where they stay active all year with summer and winter activities. This year they were looking for a warmer getaway - and a chance to play the fastest growing sport in the nation, pickleball. They found that and more at Destin's Seascape Resort.

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Welcome!

We persevered!

Omicron had an impact but the 2021-22 season still went on. Snowbirds generally were cautious but still managed to socialize and enjoy their winter stay. Fingers crossed this thing finally moves on!

I'm anticipating Spring as a time of renewal. So, it's almost like it's the first of the year for me after a hectic season.

This edition our cover couple are Canadians who are happy to be out of the great white north playing a game they love - pickleball! They love it so much they extended their stay at Seascape Resort in Miramar Beach for an additional six weeks!

We managed to make it to a couple of events, club meetings and to check out the masterful woodworkers at the Panama City Beach Senior Center. While I was in the neighborhood I stopped by the Jimmy Buffet-inspired Latitude Watersound welcome center to check out the plans for the massive new amenity-rich development. Check it out, if you can!

At this point many of you just aren't ready to go home but you have to vacate your property for the Spring Breakers. Explore some inland destinations! We have a new partner, CajunTravel.com. Just west of Baton Rouge, La., it looks like a terrific place to explore for a few days.

Be sure to follow our Facebook page: Snowbirds Gulf Coast and sign up for our newsletter at SnowbirdsGulfCoast.com

Be safe, be well.

Karen Harrell
publisher@snowbirdsgulfcoast.com, 850-291-1266



Reminder that we maintain an online and social media presence year-round. Interested in our advertising programs? Call or text 850-291-1266.

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Canadian couple finds pickleball home at Seascape

Canadians Joanne and Stan Carter are a newly retired, active couple who were seeking a warmer climate and an opportunity to participate in numerous outdoor sports. Extended Covid-19 lockdowns had them ready for some winter fun, so when they chose early retirement, friends "back home" in Toronto, Ontario, suggested they search for Pickleball groups to get ideas. They hit the jackpot when Snowbird groups and Destin's long-established Seascape Resort came up. Here is their story:

Q. How long have you been married?
Eight years.

Q. How did you meet?

We met in a Toronto Bike Club, whereby you go bike riding with groups of people to explore the City and they also had some weekend trips too, to smaller towns, etc.

Q. Do you have any children?

We have three grown children and three grandchildren. (It is Stan's second marriage and Joanne's first.) Stan's grown children's names are Zachary, Danielle and Kara. Zachary has one child named Amburlyn and Danielle has 2 named Sebastian and Freya. Kara graduated with her master's degree and has a degree in Criminology. She is presently working as a Provincial Communication Centre 911 Dispatcher. Danielle is presently a guidance counselor, and Zachary works for Ontario Power Generator as a station manager.

Q. You were early retirees, what kind of work did you do?

Stan is an electrical technician and Joanne a school teacher up to grade 10.

Q. Besides Pickleball, do you play any other sports?

We enjoy our seasonal sports (in Canada) but now are enjoying more time in the sunshine. In the past winters we did a lot of skating, snow skiing, boarding and enjoyed walks to the Lake. During the summer months we've enjoyed boating, hiking, bike riding, swimming and Pickleball.



Q. Tell us about the Seascape community.

We arrived in Destin with a beautiful community of activities to join and the view never gets old in Miramar Beach here in Florida. We love to play Pickleball and found the people at the courts here so welcoming. There are two sessions a day for free play for all levels. The options of where to stay are numerous as we are enjoying the condo-style of living. The pools, hot tubs, exercise room etc., all provide a great atmosphere to enjoy in our early retirement plans.

Q. What was key to your enjoyment of your inaugural stay?

We had the best Tournaments during our stay! We participated in one called Snowball Slam in January and look forward to the Mardi Gras 2022 on February 25. The round-robin type mixer tournament where players had a different partner and different opponents each round. There were 50+ mystery prizes at the end given to players and spectators! Wow, tons of volunteers, dozens of spectators, two giant snowman, and one snow-themed photo booth. The organization of these events have run so smoothly. An event like this was so successful because of all the leadership, dedication, support and teamwork given by the Seascape Community and its sponsors and volunteers.

Q. Have you made plans to return?

We've enjoyed our time here so much that we are staying longer and look to come back next year as well.



Pickleball's popularity is outpacing available courts in most areas. Indoor courts have been fashioned in many gymnasiums and tennis courts built in the game's heyday in the 1970s-80s are being repurposed. New courts also are being added and more to come.

Here is a partial list of in each area. We will be compiling a more expansive list online, soon.

Panama City Beach - The city expanded from two to four courts in 2020 and play is brisk! The courts are located behind the Panama City Beach Senior Center. Indoor play is at the Frank Brown Park Community Center. www.pcbfl.gov

South Walton - Four new asphalt courts are under construction at the Walton County Sports Complex, and are expected to be completed in March. www.sowal.com

Boys and Girls Club of the Emerald Coast has about 140 adult members and three indoor courts.

Other courts at: **Destin Tennis Club, Sandestin Tennis Center, Watercolor Tennis, Hidden Dunes Tennis & Pickleball, Seascape Resort.**

Fort Walton Beach - Six courts were added in 2020 at Mooney Park. There are four courts at both Jet-Holmes and the Fort Walton Beach Tennis Center. www.fwb.org

Gulf Breeze - Indoor play at Shoreline Park Recreation Center.

Pensacola - Pensacola Athletic Center offers monthly memberships. www.pacactive.com

Foley - The Grove 55+ community has four cushioned outdoor courts. www.thefoleygrove.com

Orange Beach - Indoor play at the Orange Beach Recreation Center www.orangebeachal.gov

Gulf Shores - One Gulf Shores (public courts) available day or night. www.oneclubgulfshores.com



On the horizon at Latitudes Watersound - Pickleball courts!



Pickleball playmaker shares love of growing sport

Michigan native Ann Marie Moore purchased a year-round home at amenity-rich Seascape Resort in Miramar Beach, Florida, with husband, Carl. Seascape has 12 pools, six tennis courts, a basketball court and an 18-hole golf course - all just steps from the white sand beach and turquoise waters of the Gulf. The professional organizer discovered a love of Pickleball in 2020 shortly after the new courts were installed and she put her organizing skills to work to advocate for additional courts.

Pickleball is growing in popularity every year, and Moore is helping to grow the Gulf Coast player community.

Q. How did you get new courts built?

Shortly after I was elected to the Seascape HOA Board, I supported Pickleball courts based on owner requests and also based on hearing about great things pickleball had done for other communities. I had never played Pickleball before nor did I have a tennis background. At that time I had no idea I would enjoy the sport myself once I started playing.

Once the HOA installed the pickleball courts, I started encouraging others to try the sport, by word of mouth and Facebook posts. Week by week, more and more Seasappers were introduced to pickleball and nearly everyone that tried it really enjoyed it.



Q. How many courts does the property have?

Seascape currently has six clay pickleball courts. In early 2020 Seascape converted one of eight tennis courts to three pickleball courts. The following year, due to increased demand for pickleball, Seascape converted a second tennis court to three more pickleball courts, for a total of six pickleball courts. As soon as the three new courts were added, they were immediately being used and now all six courts are often full throughout the day.

Q. What do you attribute the growing popularity of the game?

Pickleball is a sport that is easy to learn, fun to play, and people from many sports backgrounds can apply those skills and become good Pickleball players pretty

quickly - tennis, racquet ball, badminton, ping pong, etc. For recreational-type play, pickleball is also less physically demanding than other sports so a much wider range of people can play, including older folks who make up a large proportion of our community.

Our Seascape Pickleball community has grown quickly and includes players of all skill levels, from beginners to advanced players and everything in between. We also have an active Facebook group called "Seascape Pickleball," where we post group pix and action shots to encourage others to join us. The group has grown to 550 members in less than two years.

Q. How many players do you have in the winter?

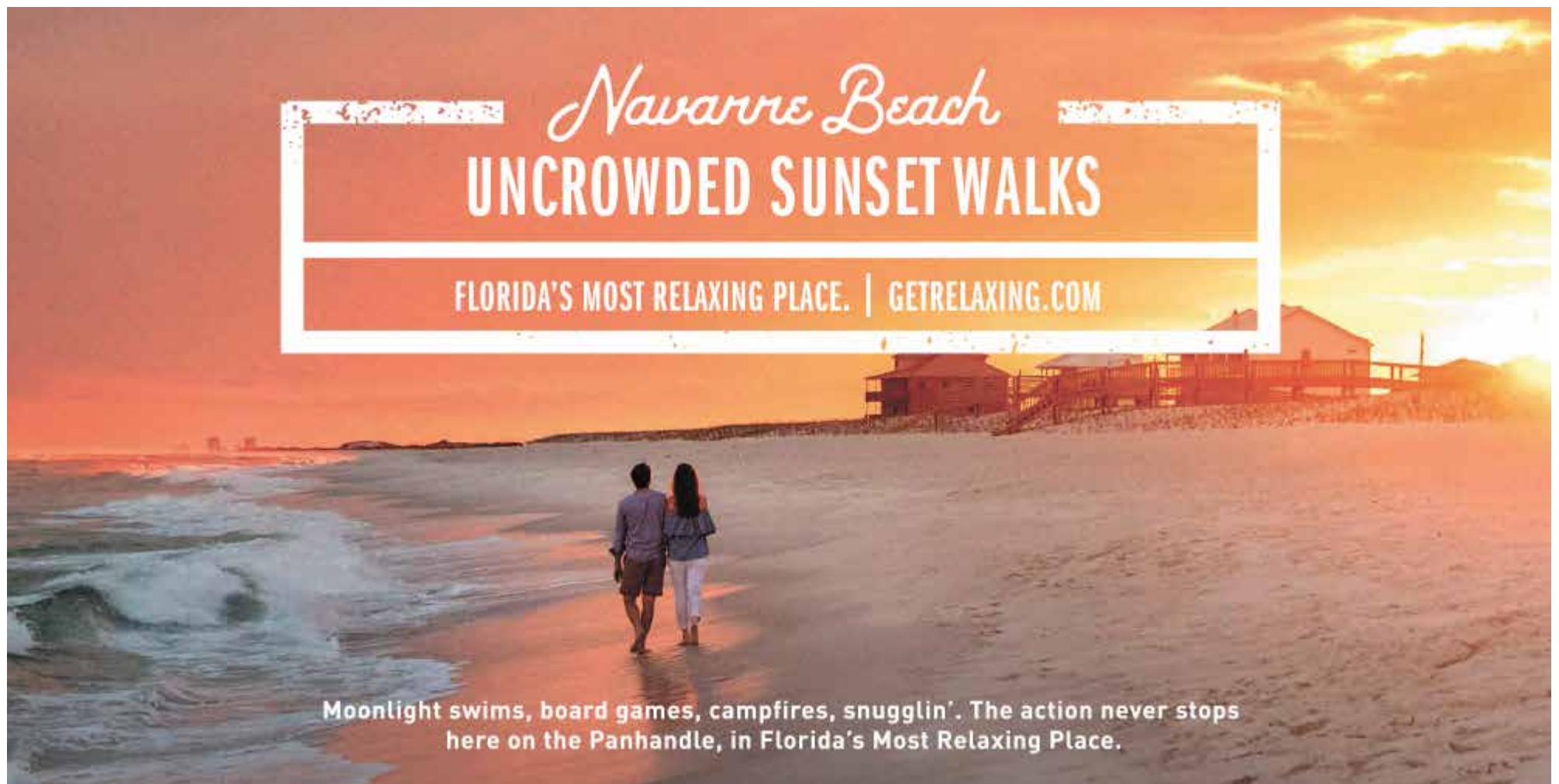
I'd guess we'll have at least 250 or more players using the courts over the winter with 50+ folks who play regularly. They are a mix of residents, snowbirds and short-term rental visitors.

Our daily round robin play is typically attended by 20+ players in the morning and afternoon. Many times we have so many people at the courts that we have to take turns playing.

Q. What is the most enjoyable part of the role?

Watching our community take shape and blossom. Prior to a couple years ago there wasn't anything at Seascape that unified folks. Pickleball has created opportunities for Seasappers to get to know one another. So many friendships have formed off the courts because of Pickleball.

Pickleball is such a fun sport that I would encourage anyone to give it a try. It's a good workout and a great way to meet folks in your community.





Time to hit the high seas! Tammys Journeys will take a Snowbird group on a cruise next winter from the Port of Mobile, Ala. The Jan. 21-26, 2023 cruise to Mexico is aboard the Carnival Sensation with port calls at Cozumel and Progreso in the Yucatan. Inside cabins start at \$332.65 and outside \$372.65. Rates include port taxes and are per person, double occupancy. A \$150 per person refundable deposit is due by Sept. 20. Who knows? Your publisher may even be on board! Details: 50-243-3809 or www.tammysjourneys.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.

Ongoing Pensacola Lighthouse Tours - The Historic Pensacola Lighthouse is not open to the public but you can be sponsored by folks with a

valid Department of Defense identification. Take the historic Pensacola Trolley Tour or one can be arranged at the website: www.pensacolalighthouse.org/ or 850-393-1561

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

SATURDAYS

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

Palafox Market - Martin Luther King Jr. Plaza on N. Palafox St. between Wright St. and Garden St., Downtown Pensacola, Fla. Details: <https://palafoxmarket.com>

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/>

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" continues through March. Limited seats are available. Details: <https://www.friendsofcamp Helen.org/americana-concerts>

Through 5/14

The Science of Archimedes - Journey back in time more than 2,000 years to discover the incredible inventions of Archimedes, the father of modern science. Exploreum, 65 Government St · Mobile, Ala. Details: www.exploreum.com

3/3-5

SGI Charity Chili Cookoff - Family-friendly event includes a golf tournament, 5K, silent auction, food vendors and lots of musical entertainment. Fundraising event for Florida's St. George Island Volunteer Fire Department (SGIVFD). Details: <https://www.stgeorgeislandchilicookoff.com/>

3/4

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

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St. Patrick's on the Emerald Coast

3/12

O'Mancis 4th Annual St. Patrick's Day Block Party – Mancis's Antique Club, 1715 Main St., Daphne, Ala. 4th annual party with live music throughout the day. \$25 cover. Details: www.mancisantiqueclub.com/events/

McGuire's 45th Annual 5k Run – 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. - 600 E Gregory St., Pensacola, Fla. One of the country's largest prediction runs! Costumes, speed and prediction awards, pre-race breakfast and post-race party. Details: <https://www.mcguiresirishpub.com/special-events>

3/12-13

Lucky Leprechaun 5K/10K and the Get Lucky Half Marathon – Fort Walton Beach, Fla. Race and after party with food, brews and live music! 5K and 10K Saturday, March 12 at 8 a.m. start and Half Marathon Sunday, March 13 at 7 a.m. start. Details: <https://luckyleprechaun.itsyourrace.com/event.aspx?id=13094>

3/15

Irish Trivia at House of Henry - One event of many during #PaddyGras at HoH! 461 Harrison Ave Panama City, Fla. Details: <https://hohpub.com/>

3/17

Go Irish on the Island St. Paddy's Day Pub Crawl - Pensacola Beach, Fla. It's the 35th year of the annual crawl featuring 16 participating beach bars, restaurants and hotels serving up Irish drink specials, music and mischief. Details: <https://www.pensacolabeachchamber.com/go-irish-on-the-island/>

3/19

2nd Annual Shamrock Stroll 5K Fun Run/Walk, Pet Parade and Costume Contest - 8578 Gulf Blvd. Navarre Beach. 8 to 10 a.m. The Run/Walk and pet parade will take place simul behind the runners. Prizes for costumes and festive spirits! Pre-registration required. Details: www.navarchamber.com or 850-939-3267

30A St. Patrick's Day Block Party at Idyll Hounds - 6 p.m. - 845 Serenoa Rd. Santa Rosa Beach, Fla. Ultimate St. Patrick's Day Block Party featuring Roosevelt Collier w/ Special Guests Nerf The World. Details: <https://www.idyllhoundsbrewingcompany.com/upcoming-events/>



local bands, and sample a wide variety of craft brews and shop local vendors. 2401 Bellgrath Gardens Rd., Theodore, Ala. Details: <https://bellgrath.org/beers-blooms/>

3/16-18

Annual Arts and Crafts Festival in Fairhope - An Eastern Shore staple for more than 60 years! Vendors and attendees come from all over the country for the fine art, live music, kids' art & delicious food! Details: <http://fairhopeartsandcraftsfestival.com/>

3/18-19

FLUXE Art Festival – Panama City Beach, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The festival is behind Destination Panama City at 101 W Beach Drive. Details: <https://www.fluxeartsfestival.com/>

3/18-27

17th The Forgotten Coast en Plein Air Paint-out – A cultural art event held throughout Franklin county. Details: <https://forgottencoastculturalcoalition.wildapricot.org/>

3/19

Carrabelle Culture Crawl – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hosted by the Carrabelle History Museum, this free celebration of art, music, history, food, and fun in downtown Carrabelle, and will take place on March 19 from 10 am to 3 pm. Event includes the popular Fishy Fashion show and a scavenger hunt. Details: <https://www.carrabellehistorymuseum.org/>

3/26

2022 Dauphin Island Native American Festival - Celebrate the area's Native American heritage dating back to 1100 AD! Event includes demonstrations of pottery, weaving, and canoe carving, exhibits of 18th and 19th century Creek hunting camps and more. Food and traditional arts and crafts available for purchase. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Indian Shell Mound Park: 2 Iberville Dr., Dauphin Island, Ala. Details and tickets: <https://dauphinislandarts.networkforgood.com/events/37811-2022-dauphin-island-native-american-festival>



3/11 – 13

2nd Annual Buggin' Out: A Vintage VW Festival and Car Show - The Island Resort at Fort Walton Beach, 1500 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE, Fort Walton Beach, Fla. Vintage Volkswagen lovers, start your engines and head to a weekend full of spectacular vintage cars, poolside fun, live music, and more! Details: <https://850tix.com/events/buggin-out-a-vintage-vw-festival-and-car-show-3-12-2022>

3/12

2nd Annual Beers & Blooms at Bellgrath Gardens and Home - 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The azaleas will be blooming in full force, and the beer will be flowing. Hear great music from

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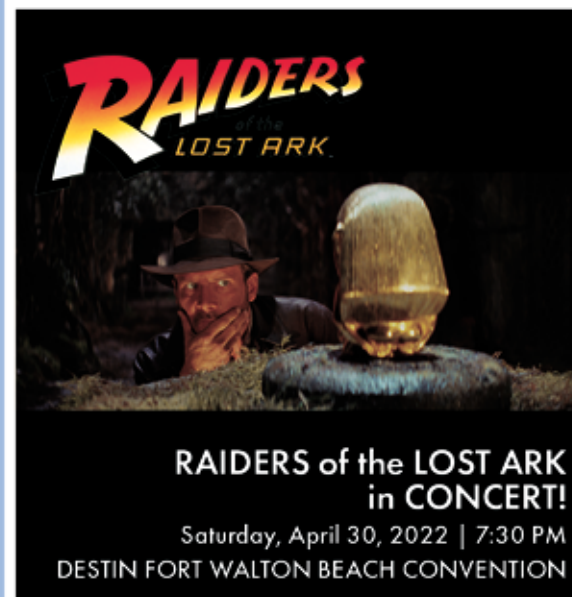
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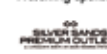


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Snowbird Clubs

Normally the clubs information would span two full pages. As we (fingers crossed) emerge from the Omicron variant, information for the 2022-23 season is still in process. We've listed club webpages and/or Facebook pages, where available.

Most clubs formed organically as a way to meet other snowbirds and socialize. The clubs depend on volunteers to fulfill vital roles, and that is something most are looking for at this time - for next season. Most set limits on their time and scope of responsibility so they don't burn out. The friendships made are worth the time.

PANAMA CITY BEACH: 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, FL. Details: (850) 233-5065.

DESTIN: The Destin Snowbird club has a season-opening roost usually in October. 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, FL. Cost to join is a nominal \$12 per year. Check destinsnowbirds.com for schedules and activities.

FORT WALTON BEACH: Final club meeting is March 2. at the Fort Walton Beach Recreation Center, 132 Jet Dr. NW, Fort Walton Beach. Annual membership fee; \$10. Check activities and details: fwbsbc.com.

NAVARRE: Coastal Classes by the Sea will be staged March 3, 10, 24. The beach cleanup "Trash Bash" is March 26. Free weekly music concerts "Tunes on the Dunes" return March 10. Check Navarre Beach Snowbird Club on Facebook or <https://navarrebeachsnowbirdsclub.com/> or 850-981-8900 or getrelaxing.com

PERDIDO KEY: The Perdido Key Chamber hosted three of its popular "Hootenanny's" this year at the popular roadhouse bar Flora-Bama

on the Fla./Ala. line. Information isn't yet available for 2023. Pick up the Snowbirds Gulf Coast Magazine at this location. 15,500 Perdido Key Dr. Details: visitperdido.com.

WALTON COUNTY Snowbirds cautiously returned in-person this season. Club meetings are staged at Destin United Methodist Church, 200 Beach Dr, Destin. Dues are \$20 per year. Details on numerous activities can be found at: www.waltoncountysnowbirds.com

ALABAMA

The major club-sponsored fundraisers (Bratfest, Low Country Boil) were canceled this year but organizers expect them to return in 2023.)

NEW YORK: Club activities were suspended this season. Check for updates on Facebook: New York Snowbirds of the Alabama Gulf Coast.

ILLINOIS: The club has a Facebook page: Illinois Snow Birds Gulf Shores/Orange Beach to communicate with members. No commercial posts are allowed.

IOWA: Club info, breakfasts, activities,

etc., are posted at www.iowa-alabamagulfcoastsnowbirds.org/

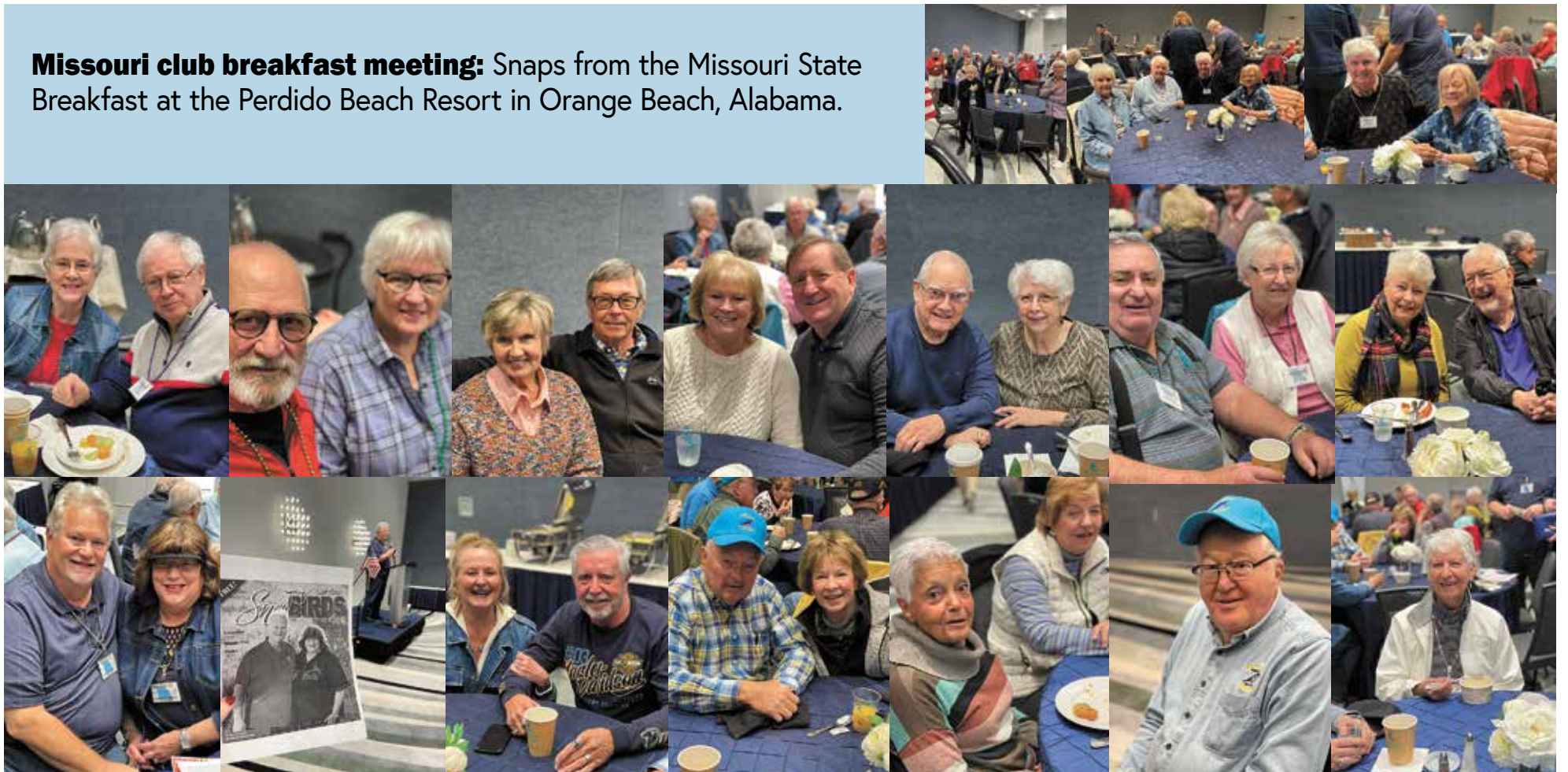
MISSOURI: The club membership is mostly Missouri natives, but welcomes Snowbirds from around the country. Join the FB page: Missouri Club of Gulf Shores. Details: mer2@charter.net or mosnowbirds.org.

MICHIGAN: Updates on the Michigan Club plans for 2023 will be posted at: <http://www.michiganclubalabama.com/>

MINNESOTA: The final club breakfast meeting is March 8 at GTs on the Bay in Orange Beach, Ala. Pre-register by 5 p.m. the Tuesday before the next meeting. Cost is \$10. Check other events and club details at mna.org

WISCONSIN: The pandemic kept our club from having meetings in January, February and March of 2021. BUT, members sent in their dues anyway and generously donated to our Angel Tree project of giving \$25 gift cards to the Foster Children of Baldwin County. The club has a private Facebook page: Wisconsin Snowbird Club.

Missouri club breakfast meeting: Snaps from the Missouri State Breakfast at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, Alabama.





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



SCAN TO VIEW OUR WEBSITE



Snaps!

We have been at events and venues across the coast meeting snowbirds from all over the country , including:

- Pensacola Snowbird Roost (above)
- Latitude (below left)
- Woodstoke Festival and kiln opening (below right)
- Panama City Beach Senior Center (bottom)





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Pro baseball returns in April to Pensacola, Biloxi

Minor-league baseball returns to the Gulf Coast in April as the Pensacola Blue Wahoos and the Biloxi Shuckers open the season April 8 for a three-game series at Blue Wahoos Stadium in downtown Pensacola.

The two teams are part of the new look of the minor leagues after Major League Baseball took control last year. They are now part of the Double-A South League. The Blue Wahoos are an affiliate of the Miami Marlins; the Shuckers are an affiliate of the Milwaukee Brewers.

Fans can watch future major leaguers hone their skills. Family promotions and fireworks shows are often a part of the teams' events.

Single-game tickets vary in price range depending on the location of seats. The teams play a 138-game schedule.



The Blue Wahoos are celebrating their 10th season this year. The Shuckers, who play at MGM Stadium in Biloxi, Mississippi, are in their seventh season. Go to www.milb.com/pensacola and www.milb.com/biloxi for more information about the teams.



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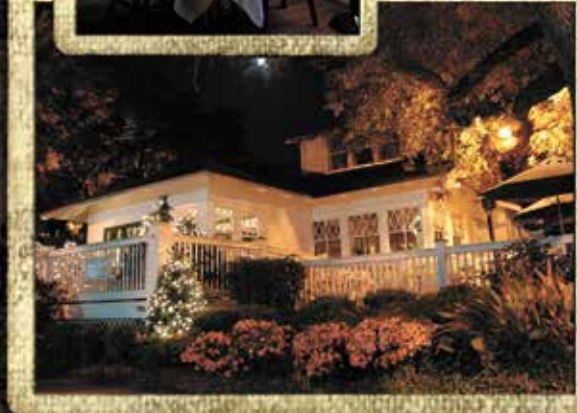
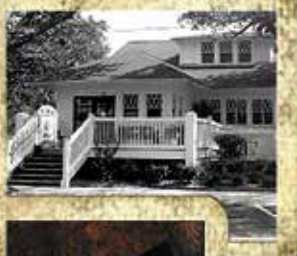
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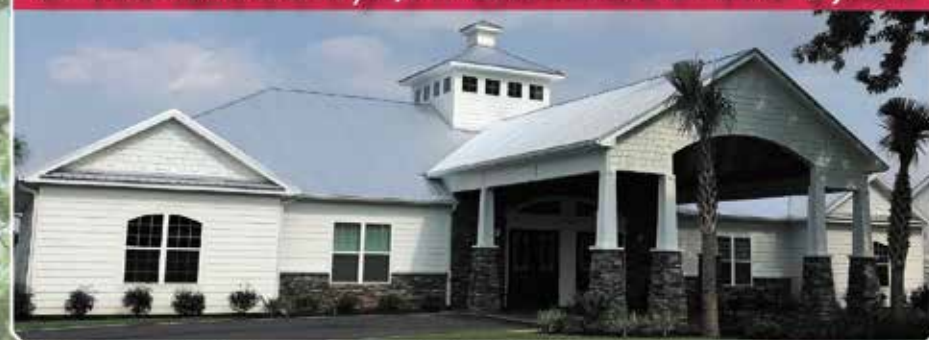


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Casino Fun

3/1

Rockin' Dopsie, Jr. with Amanda Shaw - 8 p.m., Island View Casino. Details: islandviewcasino.com

3/4

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

Larry the Cable Guy

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

3/5

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



4/23-4/24

Celtic Woman - Postcards from Ireland - 8 p.m., Beau Rivage Resort & Casino, 875 Beach Blvd, Biloxi, Miss. Details: 888-566-7469 or www.beaurivage.com



3/12

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

Little River Band - IP Casino Resort & Spa, Studio A, 850 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Miss. Details: 228-436-3000 or www.ipbiloxi.com

3/26

Jon Dorenbos, Life is Magic - 8 p.m., Beau Rivage Resort & Casino, 875 Beach Blvd, Biloxi, Miss. Details: 888-566-7469 or www.beaurivage.com

4/8

Marshall Tucker Band - IP Casino Resort & Spa, Studio A, 850 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Miss. Details: 228-436-3000 or www.ipbiloxi.com

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



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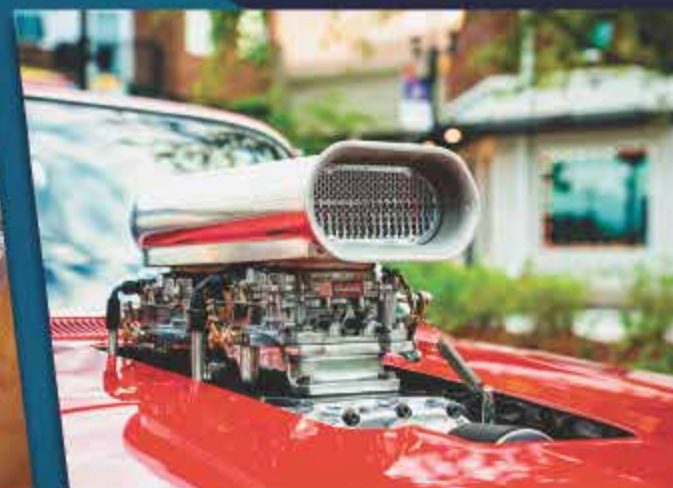
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