

FREE!

Gulf Coast *Snow* **BIRDS**

A Winter Visitor
Publication
Holiday 2022

Calendar

pages 12-13

Clubs

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Snowbird Events

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Gulf Coast

SnowBIRDS

ON THE COVER

Michigan natives Paul, 67, and Elaine, 63, Cummins-Torres will spend five months along the northern Gulf Coast this winter. After spending the holidays in Navarre Beach, they move over to Panama City Beach from January through March. This is their sixth year on the Gulf Coast.



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January edition ad deadline: Dec. 6

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Bringing groundbreaking care to the communities we serve is a part of our history. We were born from a legacy of putting people first through better access, experiences and outcomes. We continue to grow and invest in the health of our community to support our Mission of helping people throughout life's journey.

Our new hospital campus that opens in the fall of 2023 at the corner of Brent Lane and I110 is our latest investment in transforming health care in our community. New photos and videos of campus progress are added to our website each month. Learn more by visiting ebaptisthealthcare.org.

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Welcome!

Here we are again!

So happy to hear and see that many are finally returning to their winter home. Much has changed, yet the spirit of the beach never does. Groups and organizations are eager to welcome you back with a series of "Welcome" events.

We will likely see an influx of new winter residents this season due to Florida hurricanes. We've been there, done that and continue to harden our structures.

Please make them feel welcome. This month's cover couple, Michigan natives Elaine and Paul Cummins-Torres, now spend about five months on the northern Gulf Coast. Their son's family (including two of their three grandchildren) relocated to Gulf Breeze several years ago. They spend the holiday months at a Navarre Beach condo before migrating to Panama City Beach. They, for sure, are part-time locals!

I urge you to explore the region this year and invite friends to share the joy.

Best wishes to you. Be safe, be well.

Karen Harrell, Publisher

850-291-1266 or publisher@snowbirdsgulfcoast.com

17th Snowbird Season of Publication!

<https://snowbirdsgulfcoast.com/magazine-archives>



Cover photos taken on the Gulf of Mexico's longest pier (1545-feet, about one-third of a mile) at Navarre Beach.



30A Farmers' Markets

30A Farmers' Market In the Rosemary Beach Community
28 N. Barrett Square
Rosemary Beach, FL 32461
**Sundays Year Round:
9am-1pm**

Niceville Florida Community 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

Contact: Diane Kolopanas • 850-499-4697

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED CARE LOCALLY

LEADERS

- Age Related Macular Degeneration
- Diabetic Retinopathy
- Gene Therapy and Stem Cell Research
- Inherited Retinal Disease
- Surgical Devices in Macular & Retinal Surgery

DOCTORS:



Anne Baranano, MD



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Maggie Shuler, MD



Ryan Tarantola, MD

LOCATIONS:

5150 N Davis Hwy
Pensacola, FL 3253
(850) 476-6759

2000 Lewis Turner Blvd
Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32548
(850) 664-7887

411 N Section Street
Fairhope, AL 36532
(850) 476-6759

3688 Gulf Breeze Pkwy
Gulf Breeze, FL 32563
(850) 476-6759

1624 N McKenzie St
Foley, AL 36535
(855) 573-8462

2101 Northside Dr
Suite 704
Panama City, FL 32405
(850) 747-3999

10800 Panama City Bch Pkwy
Suite C
Panama City, FL 32413
(850) 250-2637

3290 Dauphin St
Suite 502
Mobile, AL 36606
(251) 272-3618

2781 C.T. Switzer Sr. Dr.
Suite 100
Biloxi, MS 39531
(228) 207-8632

239 Redstone Ave W
Crestview, FL 32536
(850) 634-4342

RETINA  SPECIALTY
INSTITUTE

Michigan couple takes in the whole Gulf Coast

Michigan natives Paul, 67, and Elaine, 63, Cummins-Torres will spend five months along the northern Gulf Coast this winter – just not in the same spot. After spending the holidays (November-December) in the small community of Navarre Beach, they shift to Panama City Beach from January through March. And they take advantage of quality experiences at both. This is their sixth year on the Gulf Coast.

Married 41 years, they are now able to enjoy their full retirement with travel, family and friends.

Here's their story:

Where are you from originally? Did you stay there to work?

We were both born and raised in the small rural communities of Cass City and Gagetown in Michigan. When we married in 1981, we moved to Midland, Michigan, for work and still reside there.

How did you meet?

We met when we both worked at a small local hospital in the community where we grew up.

What were your occupations?

Paul worked as a nurse and in the public health and health

administration field. He also served in the military, retiring as a 1st Lt. from the Army after 27 years of service. After nursing school, he attended Central Michigan University, graduating with a degree in public health administration. Elaine worked in the field of health information management for a large health system, retiring after 34 years of service. She attended Delta College and graduated with degrees in medical office management and health information management.

How did you choose the northern Gulf Coast for your winter stay?

We visited different areas and knew when we stayed on the Gulf Coast, we'd found our winter home. We are drawn to the beach, and to us, there are none more beautiful in the continental US than along the Gulf Coast. The large community of fellow snowbirds and activities, and now having family in the area, keep us coming back.

Tell us about your family.

We have one son, Nathan, his wife, Kim, and three grandchildren, Olivia,

20; Dominic, 8; and Vincent, 6. After vacationing on the Gulf Coast for a couple of years, our son, his wife and two sons relocated from Michigan to Gulf Breeze in 2020. Our granddaughter, Olivia, resides in Michigan.

Do you have visitors from "back home" visit during your stay?

Yes, we have friends and family who visit for varying periods of time. We love showing them the beauty of the Gulf Coast and including them in activities we enjoy. We are always encouraging new retirees, family and friends to come down for the winter or even a short break from the cold.

What do you do during your stay?

Our stay on Navarre Beach is to spend time with our son and his family. We also enjoy walking the beach and pier, bike riding, boating, fishing, shelling, and exploring the Gulf Coast National Seashore between Navarre Beach and Pensacola Beach, as well as Ft. Pickens. January through March, we spend in Panama City Beach and, besides the beach, enjoy activities with snowbird friends, including softball, trivia, karaoke, bingo, line dancing, as well as visiting St. Andrews State Park and participating in the winter events there.

How did you meet friends in Panama City Beach?

I ran into a gal I worked with at home and said we were going to try PCB for a



couple of weeks to see if it would be a fit for our winter home. She told me about Snowbird rates at Tidewater, where they had been Snowbirding for a couple of winters and made friends. We graciously were included in the friend group and have now invited others who are also welcomed into the group. It continues to grow.

Were rental rates higher this year?

Rates definitely escalated this year. We prefer to rent from private owners, but we couldn't find anything on Navarre Beach. We are renting from a private owner (townhouse) in Panama City Beach. She told us she had to increase her rates as her insurance had doubled.

Do you have any tips for new Snowbirds?

Be willing to explore different areas until you find the right fit. Join Facebook groups for areas of interest to learn about the area. Check-in with the local Chamber of Commerce on areas of interest to learn about activities and events.

Are you considering relocating full-time?

We haven't ruled out fully relocating at some point, but for now, we consider ourselves to have the best of both worlds as snowbirds with close family and friends in both locations.



Navarre Beach

UNCROWDED SUNSET WALKS

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Jan. 10, Tuesday 10 a.m. : Welcome with Navarre Visitor Center Staff- Open to All
Learn about winter classes including cooking, arts, crafts, and nature.

Jan. 19, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. : Snowbird and Wintertime Guest Welcome - "A Groovy 70s Festival"
St. Sylvester's Catholic Church, 6464 Gulf Breeze Pkwy.

Moonlight swims, board games, campfires, snugglin'. The action never stops here on the Panhandle, in Florida's Most Relaxing Place.



FLORIDA

Panama City Beach Senior Center has become the hub for local and Snowbird activities. Activities range from exercise classes, craft shows, dances, potluck, games, woodworking, excursions and more. Information is updated regularly on the center's Facebook page or you can pick up a list on-site at 423 Lyndell Ln, Panama City Beach, Fla. Details: (850) 233-5065.

PCB WINTER RESIDENT APPRECIATION

DAYS at Laketown Wharf Convention Center. Free donuts! Jan. 13 (ticket sales for Jan. 20 Homecoming Dance at Laketown Wharf), Feb. 8 (ticket sales for Feb. 20 Senior Prom at Edgewater Beach Resort) and Feb. 22 (ticket sales for Feb. 24 Grand Finale at Edgewater Beach Resort.) 8 to 11 a.m. Cost per ticket: \$10.

WALTON COUNTY: One of the largest clubs in the region! Registration at Faith Assembly Church Hall, 306 South

Geronimo, Miramar Beach begins Dec. 5. Other dates include Jan. 2, 16 and Feb. 6. Annual dues: \$20. Meeting dates: Dec. 8 (St. Andrews by the Bay Episcopal Church, 307 Harbor Blvd.); Jan. 12 and 26; Feb. 9 (Destin United Methodist Church, 200 Beach Dr.) and Feb. 23 (St. Andrews by the Bay Episcopal Church). Doors open at 9 a.m.; meetings start at 10 a.m. Featuring local vendors. Club activities include casino trips, aerobics, pickleball, golf outings, dancing, art group, book discussions, single, tennis and more. Details: www.waltoncountysnowbirds.com.

DESTIN: The club officially opens "The Roost" with the annual ribbon-cutting at 1 p.m. Dec. 5 at the Destin Community Center, 101 Stahlman Ave., Destin, Fla. The club's first meeting is 10 a.m. Dec. 6. The annual "Big Registration" is 1 to 3 p.m. Jan. 3 and 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. prior to meetings.

The 2023 calendar includes weekly 10 a.m. meetings Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31; Feb. 7, 14, 21 and 28. Meetings include vendors and entertainment. Activities include cards and games, crafts, golf, pickleball, casino outings and more. Details: thedestinsnowbirdsclub.com.

FORT WALTON BEACH: This is the club's 46th year! Registration dates are: 9 a.m. to noon Jan. 7 and 10 and 9 to 10 a.m. Jan. 11. Weekly 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays starting Jan. 18. Fee is \$10 for the season. General meeting dates are Jan. 11, Feb. 1 and March 1 at Fort Walton Beach Rec Center, 132 Jet Drive, Fort Walton, Fla. Registration at 9 a.m.; meeting at 10 a.m. Club socials are Jan. 16, Feb. 20 and March 10 plus a Valentine's Day Sweetheart Dance. Activities include golf scrambles, pickleball, casino bus trips, crafts, cards and more. Details: fwbsbc.com

NAVARRE: A Snowbird Welcome is set for 10 a.m. Jan. 10 at the Santa Rosa

County Welcome Center, 8543 Navarre Pkwy, Navarre, Fla. A list of Snowbird winter classes is available. Space is limited. The Snowbird Welcome "A Groovy 70s Festival" is 2 to 4 p.m. Jan. 19 at St. Sylvester's Catholic Church. Details: (850) 981-8900

PENSACOLA BEACH: The annual SRIA Snowbird Beach Bash is Jan. 19 at Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church, 920 Via de Luna, Pensacola Beach, Fla.

PERDIDO KEY: The popular Hootenanny's are back at the world-famous honky tonk Flora-Bama. Dates are Jan. 12 - New Year New Boots; Feb. 2 - Sweetheart Saloon and Feb. 16 - Original Hootenanny. Tickets are \$10. Details: www.perdidochamber.com

ALABAMA

INDIANA: The Indiana Snowbird Club meetings are Jan. 12 and 26 and Feb. 9 and 23 at the Orange Beach Community Center, 27280 Canal Road, Orange Beach, Ala. Doughnuts,



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coffee and tea, and orange juice will be served. Please RSVP with Sharon Kimmel, (260) 229-4344, at least five days before the meeting. Dues are \$2.50 per person. Please bring correct change or a check. 50/50 raffle and door prizes. January meetings feature ticket sales for a new Calendar Drawing fundraiser for the fire departments. Luncheon is Jan. 19 at Glen Lakes Golf Club in Foley, Ala. Open to members and non-members. RSVP three days before the luncheon to Becky Heidenreich (260-760-5130).

MICHIGAN: After a two-year hiatus, club meetings will move to The Island Church, 25550 Canal Road, Orange Beach. Coffee and doughnuts are served at 9 a.m. with the meeting to start at 10 a.m. Dates are: Jan. 5, 19; Feb. 2, 16 and March 2. Annual picnic is Feb. 23. Annual membership is \$5 per person. Full details are available at www.michiganclubalabama.com or

michiganclubalabama@gmail.com.

MISSOURI: Most are from Missouri, but the club extends an invitation to ALL SNOWBIRDS for activities. There are two or three activities every week during January and February. A "Welcome Back" party is scheduled for Jan. 7 at Phoenix V. The club meets at 8:30 a.m. Wednesdays for breakfast at Tacky Jacks, 240 E 24th Ave, Gulf Shores. Cost is \$14 includes a buffet breakfast, tax, and tip. RSVP on the website. Activities include a mixed golf scramble every Wednesdays at 1 p.m. at the Gulf Shores Country Club, 520 Clubhouse Drive in Gulf Shores, Ala. Weekly Happy Hour, 4 p.m. Mondays at Cobalt, the Restaurant, 28099 Perdido Beach Blvd., Orange Beach, Ala. RSVP on our website preferred. Join our private Facebook page for members and potential members. Search for Missouri Club of Gulf Shores. Details: <https://missourisnowbirds.org/> or

mer2@charter.net

MINNESOTA: Weekly breakfast meetings start Jan. 10 at GT's on the Bay, 26189 Canal Road, Orange Beach, Ala. Doors open at 7:30 a.m., breakfast, 8:15 a.m. There is a minimum number of 75 to host the breakfast meetings through March 14 (except Fat Tuesday, Feb. 21). Cost is \$12 per person and sign up is the prior Tuesday at www.mnal.org. Tuesday lunch meetings are November, December and mid-March through May at The Ugly Diner, 2200 E 2nd St., Gulf Shores, Ala.

NEW YORK: The NY Snowbirds meet for lunch Jan 12, 26, Feb 9, 23, and Mar 9 at Ginny Lane at the Wharf in Orange Beach, Ala. at 11 a.m., order off their special lunch menu, with separate checks, have guest speakers, a meeting, and door prizes. \$1 per person collected at registration for expenses and year end donations to the community. RSVP three days prior

at nysnowbird@gmail.com.


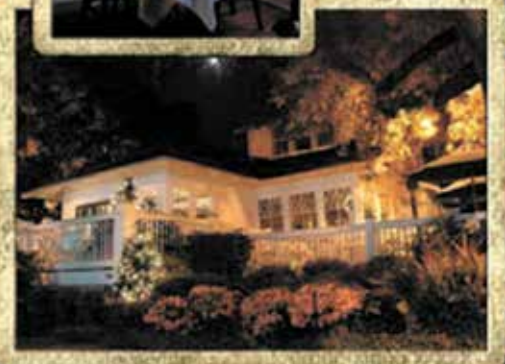
PENNSYLVANIA: The Pennsylvania Snowbird Club meets weekly at 9 a.m. on Wednesdays for breakfast at BuzzCatz Restaurant on Canal Road in Orange Beach. Our 2023 breakfast dates are Jan. 4, 11, 18 and 25; Feb. 1, 8, 15 and 22; and March 1 and 8. Details: Rich Smith at (610)217-6674

WISCONSIN: Breakfast gatherings vary locations but have already started. The club gathers at noon Nov. 24 for Thanksgiving Dinner at the Orange Beach Community Center. Lunches held at 11:30 a.m. Nov. 30 Papa Rocco's and Dec. 21 at Original Oyster House. On Christmas Day there will be a potluck and gift exchange at noon at the Orange Beach Event Center. Details: www.wisconsinsnobird.com

FUNDRAISER

The Low Country Boil has been moved back from Feb. 17 to Feb 10 so it will not conflict with Mardi Gras.

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It's A Winter Wonderland at OWA Parks & Resort! Join OWA this holiday season for Christmas activities, events, and special offers! Shopping, dining, family fun and even meeting Santa Claus! 101-N South OWA Blvd. Foley, Ala., Details: <https://visitowa.com/winter-wonderland/>

Through Feb 26

Leaving Appalachia: The Art of Gregory Saunders - 925 Camp St., New Orleans, La. The Ogden Museum of Southern Art present works by Pensacola, Fla., artist Gregory B. Saunders, a contemporary realist master working in powdered graphite. This museum is adjacent to the National WWII Museum of New Orleans. Details: www.ogdenmuseum.org.

11/25

Arctic Express at Wales West Light Railway - Greet Santa and Mrs. Claus



and enjoy almost two million holiday lights at The North Pole. 13670 Smiley Street, Silverhill, Ala. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays starting Nov. 25, 4 to 9 p.m. Open Nightly Dec. 14 to 24. Pictures with Santa Pet Night: Dec. 9. Details: <https://www.waleswest.com/arctic-tickets.htm>

12/2

Community Christmas at Sims Park - 6 to 8 p.m. Christmas festivities at Sims Park in Gulf Shores, Ala.. Enjoy pictures with Santa, holiday treats, crafts, and the 7th Annual Snowball Drop. The Snowball Drop features 8,000 ping pong balls dropped by Santa. Winning snowballs will have a number that correlates with a prize. Details: www.gulfshoresal.gov

12/2-3

St. Mary's Milton Winterfest Arts and Crafts Fair - Celebrate the season and shop for gifts at the historic

Gulf Coast Ice Skating

The Wharf Ice Skating Rink – Daily through Jan. 16. Skate on Tuesdays for WKRG News 5, Give 5 and a \$5 donation will be made in your honor for Toys for Tots. 4550 Main Street, Orange Beach, Ala. Details: www.alwharf.com

Ice Skating at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Coliseum - Skaters must have a ticket to rent skates. Each session lasts 90 minutes. 2350 Beach Blvd. Biloxi, Miss. Details: www.mscoastcoliseum.com

Baytowne on Ice – Hit the ice at the JVC Broadcasting Skating Pavilion at the Village of Baytowne Wharf,

church, 6849 Oak Street, Milton, Fla. Friday noon to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Details: stmarysmiltonflorida@gmail.com

The Choral Society of Pensacola presents

Christmas Messiah – Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 3, 12 p.m. Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, 1212 E. Moreno St., Pensacola, Fla. 100-voice chorus, chamber orchestra and organ with Pensacola Opera's Jan Miller Studio Artists. Enjoy part one of Handel's Messiah, the "Hallelujah" chorus, Mendelssohn, Rachmaninoff, Vivaldi

9300 Emerald Coast Parkway, West Miramar Beach, Fla. Ice rink is open through Feb. 5. Hours vary daily. Details: www.baytownnewharf.com

Pensacola Bay Center Public Skate Session - Public ice skating sessions through April.

All public skate sessions last one hour. Sessions typically occur on the weekends and after Ice Flyers Home games. Details: www.pensacolabaycenter.com/events/ice-skating



and more. Details: www.choralsocietyofpensacola.org or www.Eventbrite.com

12/3

The City of Gulf Breeze Jolly Holiday Market and Parade - The City of Gulf and the Gulf Breeze Chamber of Commerce bring the community a Jolly Holiday Market and Parade inside the Gulf Breeze Parks and Recreation Community Center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Parade begins at Gulf

From Mississippi to Florida: Holiday Parades

11/26

Bay St. Louis Christmas Parade - 5:30 p.m. The Bay of St. Louis, Miss., parade begins at the Bay Saint Louis Municipal Harbor and ends with the tree lighting at the Hancock County Courthouse. Details: <https://www.facebook.com/baystlouischristmas/>

12/3

1st Annual Strolling and Rolling Jolly Holiday Parade - 4 p.m. The new parade will be featuring carts, homemade floats, classic cars, a marching band, bicycles, and walking participants. The parade route is from Gulf Breeze High School to the Parks and Recreation Community Center. Santa will follow in the traditional Fire Truck. Details: www.facebook.com/GBParksnRec

12/10

2022 Cox Pensacola Christmas Parade – 5:30 p.m. Palafox St., Downtown Pensacola, Fla. Parade includes nearly 100 entries, and eight bands from Escambia County, Santa Rosa County, and New Orleans. Details: www.coxpensacolachristmasparade.org

12/21

Mobile's Annual Christmas and Holiday Parade – 1:30 p.m. The Mobile, Ala., annual Christmas & Holiday parade includes giant balloons, bands, colorful holiday floats, and, of course, the jolly old elf himself, Santa Claus! The parade will start at the Mobile Civic Center on Claiborne Street. Details: www.cityofmobile.org

Breeze High School at 4 p.m. Details:
www.facebook.com/GBParksnRec

Biloxi Main Street presents the 18th Annual "Christmas in the City" Festival – Enjoy live Christmas entertainment, pictures with Santa, and special Biloxi Pusharatas, a traditional holiday treat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., in Downtown Biloxi. Details: www.facebook.com/ChristmasinthecityBiloxi/

12/6

The Baldwin Pops Holiday Concert – 7 p.m. Christmas Concert at the Erie H. Meyer Civic Center, 1930 W 2nd St. No ticket required - seats are first come, first serve. Patrons are encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped gift or the US Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots. Details: www.gulfshoresal.gov

12/9

Holiday Pops Feat. The Doo Wop Project – 7:30 p.m. Destin-Fort Walton Beach Convention Center. 1250 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE, Fort Walton Beach, Fla. Original members of Jersey Boys on Broadway! The Doo Wop Project boys get you into the holiday spirit with holiday classics and contemporary hits. Details: <https://sinfoniagulfcoast.instantencore.com>

12/10

Heritage Museum Annual Yule of Yesteryear – 1 to 4 p.m. 115 Westview Ave. Valparaiso, Fla. Letters to Santa, bake sale, free admission, food and craft vendors, Walton Guard Reenactors, and more Live music! Details: <https://heritage-museum.org/>

The season sets sail with lighted boat parades

12/3

Pensacola Beach Holiday Lighted Boat Parade – 6:30 p.m. The Pensacola Beach, Fla., Lighted Boat Parade sets sail from Sabine Marina and makes its way around the Santa Rosa Sound to the Pensacola Beach Boardwalk



Photo courtesy of Visit Pensacola

12/10-11

Holly Days on Main at The Wharf – Two days of vendors lining up and down Main Street at The Wharf, music and dance performances, a Santa Pub Crawl, and the perfect viewing spot for the Annual Lighted Boat Parade! 4550 Main Street, Orange Beach, Ala. Details: www.alwharf.com

12/12

Jingle Jazz Presents Sandra Daggs – 6:30 p.m., Phineas Phogg's, Seville Quarter, 130 E. Government St., Downtown Pensacola, Fla. Enjoy a free blast of seasonal fun with Sandra Daggs and a five-piece band. This

event is a food drive. Please bring non-perishable items Details: <https://jazzpensacola.com>

Biloxi's Christmas on the Water – 6

p.m. Boats parade in full holiday décor, with a fireworks show after the parade. The schooners depart the Schooner Pier Complex at 367 Beach Blvd., Biloxi at 4:30 p.m. to rendezvous with the parade lineup at Channel Marker #5 south of the Biloxi Lighthouse. Details: www.gulfcoast.org

12/10

LuLu's Lighted Boat Parade – The boats leave LuLu's Gulf Shores and Homeport Marina at dusk and head to the Wharf in Orange Beach, boats will be visible along the canal from Gulf Shores or Orange Beach. Details: www.LuLusFunFoodMusic.com

12/11

2022 Destin Boat Parade – 6 p.m. Destin Harbor, 10 Harbor Blvd., Destin, Fla. The Destin Boat Parade makes its way from the east side of the harbor near Boshamps restaurant to the west side at Harborwalk Village/Emerald Grande, ending near the Destin Bridge and East Pass area. Details: sowal.com

event is a food drive. Please bring non-perishable items Details: <https://jazzpensacola.com>

12/16-19

The Pinta at Lulu's – Come visit the Pinta replica at LuLu's Gulf Shores! Self-guided tours run from December 16-19, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Details: www.lulusfunfoodmusic.com/

12/18

Danny O'Flaherty's Celtic Christmas at the Beach Church – 7 p.m. 920 Panferio Drive, Pensacola Beach, Fla. Join Danny and slip back in time to savor the Christmas season as it has been celebrated among the Celtic people



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Snowbird events offer fun throughout the season

The region is putting on party hats – and boots to welcome back Snowbirds for what is expected to be the first full season in a, well, few years.



January 10, 19

Navarre: A Snowbird Welcome (for all staying along the coast or who are interested in learning more) will be held at 10 a.m., Jan. 10, at the Santa Rosa County Welcome Center, 8543 Navarre Pkwy, Navarre, Fla. A list of Snowbird winter classes is available. Space is limited, and people are urged to sign up early. Also, the Snowbird Welcome "A Groovy 70s Festival is 2 – 4 p.m. Jan. 19 at St. Sylvester's Catholic Church. Loads of fun are planned! Details: (850) 981-8900



January 12

FWB Winter Guest Fest - This popular event will move to a new location this year: Christian Life Center at First Baptist Church, 21 First St.,

Fort Walton Beach, Fla. 8 a.m.-Noon, Admission: \$2. The event includes a variety of food vendors, attractions, hospitality and more. Presented by Fort Walton Beach Chamber and Tammy's Journeys. Details: 850.244.8191 or www.fwbchamber.org



January 19

Pensacola Beach - The annual SRIA Snowbird Beach Bash will be held at 9 a.m., Jan. 19, at Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church, 920 Via de Luna, Pensacola Beach, Fl. Various vendors welcome guests with food, information, prizes, and entertainment. Details: www.sria-fl.com



Hootenanny Series at the Flora-Bama

- Perdido Key, Fla., the sweet little beach town adjacent to Orange Beach, Ala., will welcome back winter residents with three "Hootenanny's" staged at the world-famous honky-tonk Flora-Bama, a roadhouse style bar/lounge. Dates and themes are Jan. 12 – New Year New Boots; Feb. 2 - Sweetheart Saloon and Feb.16 - Original Hootenanny. Tickets are \$10 and available at Perdido Key



Chamber/Visitor Center, 15500 Perdido Key Drive. Only 200 tickets available. Details: perdidochamber.com



Varying Days

PCB WINTER RESIDENT APPRECIATION

DAYS at Laketown Wharf Convention Center. Free donuts! Staged 8 a.m. – 11 a.m. on the following dates: Jan. 13 (ticket sales for Jan. 20 Homecoming Dance at Laketown Wharf), February 8 (ticket sales for Feb. 20 Senior Prom at Edgewater Beach Resort) and 22 (ticket sales for Feb. 24 Grand Finale at Edgewater Beach Resort.) Cost per ticket: \$10. Details: www.visitpanamacitybeach.com



Winter Wonderland Returns at The Beau

It has become a holiday tradition for all ages along the coast.

From Thanksgiving to New Years, Beau Rivage is transformed into a winter wonderland adorned with larger-than-life nutcrackers, colossal Christmas ornaments, hundreds of frost-covered trees, thousands of brilliant poinsettias and Santa's sleigh and reindeer soaring high above the atrium. A stunning 25-foot Christmas tree and classic winter scenes throughout the resort's public spaces invoke the spirit of the season.

The award-winning BR Prime will host an upscale Santa Brunch on Dec. 4. Capture memories and dine on an exquisite holiday meal with an exclusive event featuring everyone's favorite big guy, Santa. Enjoy strolling characters, a commemorative photo and a cherished keepsake gift to mark this special holiday occasion.

From Dec. 15-26, Beau Rivage and Rand Productions present Finding Christmas, a Broadway-style musical variety production that follows young

siblings as they set out on a quest to find the true meaning of Christmas.



Finding Christmas provides the perfect mix of holiday classics and modern-day favorites from an ensemble cast of singers,

dancers and actors. Accentuated by a guaranteed snowfall at each performance, the production transforms the Beau Rivage Theatre and delivers the joy of the season to guests of all ages.

Beloved holiday tradition The Nutcracker, presented by the Mississippi Gulf Coast Ballet Theatre, performs on Dec. 10 and 11.

Shoppers enjoy the Beau Rivage's



annual Holiday Open House provides an opportunity to find distinctive gifts for everyone on the Christmas list.

From Dec. 6-10, dozens of vendors and Coastal artisans will showcase their wares in the resort's retail promenade

and hotel's second floor. Popular party band The Molly Ringwalds will close out 2022 with an unforgettable New Year's Eve performance in the Beau Rivage Theatre. Learn more at: www.beaurivage.com

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Casino Fun

11/26

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

11/30

Chapel Hard - 8 p.m.
Ground Zero Blues Club, 814 Howard Ave., Biloxi, Miss.
Details: 228-910-6600 or www.groundzerobiloxi.com

12/2

Pam Tillis - Island View Casino Resort, 3300 West Beach Blvd, Gulfport, Miss. Details: 288-314-2100 or www.islandviewcasino.com



12/3 - Roots and Boots 90s Electric Throwdown - 8 p.m. IP Casino Resort & Spa, Studio A, 850 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Miss. Details: 228-436-3000



Keith Sweat & Friends - Mississippi Coast Coliseum, 2350 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, Miss. Details: 800-726-2781 or www.mscoastcoliseum.com

The Commodores - Beau Rivage Resort & Casino, 875 Beach Blvd, Biloxi, Miss. Details: 888-566-7469 or www.beaurivage.com

12/3

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

12/9

Josh Turner - King Size Manger Tour, Beau Rivage Resort & Casino, 875 Beach Blvd, Biloxi, Miss. Details: 888-566-7469 or www.beaurivage.com



12/10

Brandon Bennett: Elvis My Way Christmas, IP Casino Resort & Spa, Studio A, 850 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Miss. Details: 228-436-3000

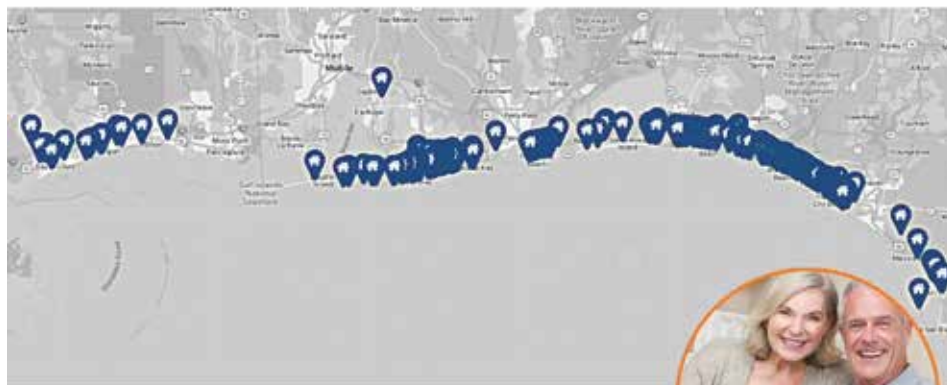
12/16

Grand Funk Railroad - Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, 777 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, Miss. Details: 228-374-7625 or www.hrhcbiloxi.com

12/31

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

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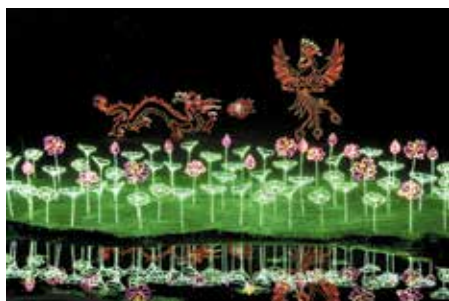
All is bright! Holidays light up the Gulf Coast

While Christmas carols celebrate silver bells, winter wonderlands and dancing snowmen, on the Gulf Coast, we create holiday magic with millions of twinkling lights.

When planning your visit, confirm hours and admission prices on event websites. Here are some of the biggest displays and events:

Through 1/4

Magic Christmas in Lights at Bellingrath Gardens and Home – 12401 Bellingrath Gardens Road, Theodore, Ala. Magic Christmas in Lights is an hour-long walking tour of the Gardens. Hot cocoa and snacks are available for purchase on Live Oak Plaza. Wheelchairs and wagons are available for a \$6 rental fee. Group rates are available. Details: 251.973.2217 or bellingrath.org/experiences/events/magic-christmas-in-lights-2021/



Bellingrath Gardens and Home

11/26 – 12/31

Christmas Reflections - DeFuniak Springs, Fla. More than 10 million lights reflect on the perfectly round spring-fed lake glowing in holiday splendor. Chipley Park lights up with the annual Christmas Reflection displays. Various Victorian, animal and toy soldier cutouts, Santa's workshop and the grandfather clock are among the thousands of decorations. Details: <https://www.defuniaksprings.net/1097/Christmas-Reflections>

11/26 - 1/1/22

Snowflakes in the Bay and Sugarplum Festival - Enjoy the illuminated snowflakes in the historic live oaks in Bay St. Louis and Waveland. Bay St. Louis, Miss. Details: 228-463-9222 or <https://www.gulfcoast.org/event/annual-snowflakes-in-the-bay/5701/>

11/26 – 12/26

Sowell's North Pole Christmas Lights - 7650 Sowell Rd., Milton, Fla.

Sowell's North Pole Christmas Light Display is open every night, including Christmas Eve and Christmas night. This event is featured on ABC's "The Great Christmas Light Fight." Details: <https://www.sowellfarms.com/northpole>



Gulfport Harbor Lights Winter Festival

11/26 – 12/31

Gulfport Harbor Lights Winter Festival - Highway 49 & Highway 90, Gulfport, Miss. See Mississippi's Largest Christmas Light Show with over 1.5 million lights throughout 40 acres in Jones Park! Enjoy a self-guided walking tour and carnival rides. Visit Santa Claus, or hop on a train at the Train Station. Details: <https://gulfportharborlights.com>

11/26 – 1/13/22

First City Lights Festival - 226 S Palafox Place, Downtown Pensacola, Fla. Experience music, shopping, food, art and nightlife under a canopy of half a million white lights illuminating historic buildings, parks, shops, galleries and outdoor spaces. See live street performances, caroling in the streets, Santa and Winterfest Trolley Tours. Downtown Pensacola provides an unforgettable holiday experience for families. Details: <https://downtownpensacola.com/events/>



Bellingrath Gardens and Home

12/1-22

12 Nights of Lights – Shows at 6, 7 and 8 p.m., Events Plaza Lawn, The Village of Baytowne Wharf, Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort, Miramar Beach, Fla. Enjoy a festive light show every Wednesday, Friday and

Saturday leading up to Christmas! This sparkling event is featured during the special holiday edition of the Wednesday Night Concert Series with live holiday music on Wednesdays. Shows at 6, 7, and 8 p.m. Details: www.baytownewharf.com

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Snowballs and Ice Flyers: Winter sports on the Gulf Coast

Pensacola Ice Flyers hockey

Hockey continues in Pensacola as the Ice Flyers compete in the Southern Professional Hockey League, having won the President's Cup title four times.

The Ice Flyers have prepared fan interaction and events, including post-game skate-arounds and player autograph sessions, things that could not happen the previous two seasons because of COVID-19.



"It's kind of the like the good ol' days where it is, 'Hey, let's get back to normal.' I feel we are there," Ice Flyers owner Greg Harris said on the team's website. "We are back to normal. This has been a very pre-Covid-like off-season for us, and we hope it's a very pre-Covid like season for us as well.

"It's been nice to not think about the restrictions and all the things that we had to change, or had not thought of, in order to comply with league protocols just to play games."

Ice Flyers home games in December at the Pensacola Civic Center begin at 7:05 p.m.:

- Dec. 2 – vs. Huntsville
- Dec. 3 – vs. Birmingham
- Dec. 16 – vs. Huntsville
- Dec. 23 – vs. Birmingham,
- Dec. 27 – vs. Macon
- Dec. 30 – vs. Birmingham

Single-game and mini-season ticket plans are available. For more information, go to www.iceflyers.com

Another hockey team is located in Mississippi. The Sea Wolves played out of the Mississippi Coast Coliseum in Biloxi. The team is part of the Federal Prospects Hockey League.



Snowball Derby stock car race

All of the nation's short-track racing fans' eyes will be on Pensacola for the 55th annual Snowball Derby race on Sunday, Dec. 4, at the famed half-mile Five Flags Speedway off Pine Forest Road.

About 55 drivers will vie for 36 starting positions, attracting many of the top short-track stars and up-and-coming stars. Previous winners include current NASCAR stars Chase Elliott, Kyle Busch and Erik Jones.

Derek Thorn dominated last year's event, only to be bumped out of the lead with eight laps left by eventual winner Chandler Smith.

A new addition this year is that the highest-finishing rookie will receive a \$10,000 bonus.



Racing in other classes starts on Thursday, Dec. 1, with Snowball Derby qualifying on Friday, Dec. 2. Last-chance races and the Snowball Pro Late Model feature will be on Saturday, Dec. 3, with the 300-lap Snowball Derby dropping the green flag at 1 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 4.

Tickets are available at the track on Pine Forest Road. More information at www.5flagsspeedway.com.



Lending Tree Bowl in Mobile pits college football teams

The LendingTree Bowl will be played at Hancock Whitney Stadium in Mobile, Alabama, on Saturday, Dec. 17, at 4:45 p.m. CST. The game will be televised nationally on ESPN.

The game matches teams from the Sun Belt Conference and the Mid-American Conference.

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"Our hotel guests, New Orleanians and tourists from all over the world come to The Roosevelt every year because it is truly the brightest, most brilliant place to evoke the holiday spirit for young and old," said Tod Chambers, general manager, The Roosevelt New Orleans.

Dazzling Décor

To celebrate the start of the New

Orleans holiday season, on November 29, legendary New Orleans singer Irma Thomas will unveil the hotel's spectacular, block-long holiday décor. She will "flip the switch" in a ceremonial lighting of more than 112,000 lights, 1,600 feet of garland and 4,000 glass ornaments adorning the beloved Waldorf Wonderland in the hotel's grand lobby.

Festive Food and Beverage Experiences

For foodies, The Fountain Lounge offers a four-course Reveillon Dinner from December 1-24, part of a centuries-old New Orleans custom of long, celebratory meals families traditionally held on Christmas and New Year's Eve into the wee hours of the morning. The Roosevelt has adapted the tradition to regular dining hours but kept the indulgent local touches. The Roosevelt will also host sumptuous Thanksgiving and Christmas brunches in its beautiful ballroom, featuring an array of options.

The hotel's dedicated staff will work with each guest to customize the



perfect holiday getaway complete with personal touches like an in-room Christmas tree decked to perfection and a luxury spa treatment.

For more information or to book a suite, visit The Roosevelt's website,

www.hilton.com/en/hotels/msyrhwa-the-roosevelt-new-orleans/ or call 1-800-HILTONS. The Roosevelt New Orleans, A Waldorf Astoria Hotel is located at 130 Roosevelt Way, New Orleans, La.

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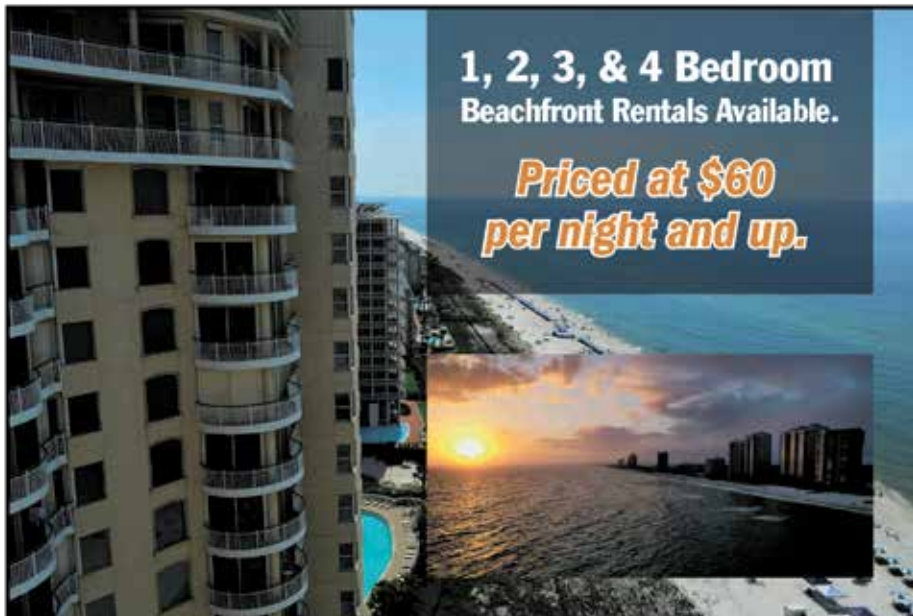
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