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Snow **BIRDS**

Gulf Coast

A Winter Visitor
Publication

January 2023

Calendar

pages 12-13

Clubs

pages 10-11

Snowbird Events

page 14

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Gulf Coast Snow BIRDS



ON THE COVER
Canadian couple Beverley Lee, 72, and Charles Vertes, 77, met aboard a cruise ship pre-Covid. They are calling the Alabama Gulf Coast home port for the winter, with plans to set sail several times throughout the season. At left, they enjoy Luna's, a favorite snowbird spot in Orange Beach.

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Gulf Coast
Snow BIRDS
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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!

Welcome!

Another January is here!

New respect. That's what I have for folks who've endured many tough winters and now spend time on the Gulf Coast.

My family traveled to Arkansas over the holidays, anxiously awaiting our daughter's arrival (the day before, the arctic blast freakily charged through, dropping temperatures by some 40 degrees). She miraculously made her flight (her connecting gate in Charlotte had changed, but the flight had to be delayed because the plane had a glancing blow with the retreating stairs. So she arrived late but in time to "hunker down" with us and assorted other family. A nephew took a 24-hour bus ride home from Arizona, and although there were delays, he arrived late at night, and the station happened to be across the interstate from our hotel. What an ordeal!

Many of you are just returning, while others are first-time visitors. Some are refugees from Hurricane Ian. All are welcome. This region's community organizations organize "Welcome" events for you all. Vendors set up, and they give you a chance to interact. I highly recommend you try to make as many as possible and explore! From the casinos of Mississippi to the beautiful beaches along Alabama and Northwest Florida, there are many rich experiences to be had.

Our cover story this month is a wonderful story of finding love on a cruise ship after losing their spouses. Yes, it can happen!

If you've been here before, you will notice the magazine is a bit smaller this time. Like many news media, we are working to survive and will do all we can to bring you winter visitor news. As long as we can...

Ok, put a smile on your faces and get out there and engage each other. That's the spice of life.

Best wishes,

Karen Harrell, publisher@snowbirdsgulfcoast.com

850-291-1266

Be sure to "Like" our Facebook page, go to our website, and sign up for our Seasons, our e-newsletter. We try to have fun with both. Take care. Be well.



30A Farmers' Markets

3 Convenient Locations

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



Sunil Gupta, MD



John Myers, MD



George Peters III, MD



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

Canadian Couple makes Alabama home port for cruise season

Beverley Lee, 72, and Charles Vertes, 77, met aboard a cruise ship pre-Covid with a made-for-television movie-type script. Both are fit and adventuresome with bright, welcoming smiles. This year they are renting a three-bedroom condo at Turquoise in Orange Beach. Here is their story as told by Lee.

Q. Are you married?

(We are) not married. Our spouses passed away several years ago. We met on a transatlantic cruise in November 2019.

Q. Are you still working or retired?

I retired as a school principal in 2006, and Charles retired as a McDonald's franchise owner in 2019.

Q. Where are you both from?

I am from Midland, Ontario, and Charles is from Vancouver, British Columbia. We spend our time between our two homes and travel extensively.

Q. Do you have children and grandchildren?

No children for me. Charles has two boys and eight grandchildren – four-year-old triplets (two girls and a boy), a nine-year-old boy, three teenage girls and a teenage boy.

Q. How did you decide to spend your winter on the Alabama Gulf Coast?

Back in 2008, I visited friends here and instantly fell in love with the area. (I)

have been spending winters here since then. (I) stayed at the Beach Club, Fort Morgan, from 2008 until 2020. (I) was active as a volunteer yoga instructor and helped snowbirds with technology. (I) still help with their snowbird Facebook page. (I have) made many friends and keep in touch.

Charles visited in winter 2020. Then, Covid (happened) and we were unable to travel until the fall of 2021. We are thrilled to be back again.

Q. You met on a transatlantic cruise and were both traveling solo? How did that happen?

We both love cruising - a safe and fun way to travel alone. Ship excursions provide numerous opportunities to explore each port. As a woman, I would not have felt confident going to many of these places. Charles and I boarded the ship in Barcelona, Spain.

Charles left after 15 days in Miami, while I continued on the same ship for 15 more days through the Panama Canal and other ports, all the way to San Diego. As an avid boater, it had been my dream to do this repositioning transatlantic cruise.

Q. For those who don't know how cruising works - particularly transatlantic cruises - explain what attracted you guys to that option.

Transatlantic and/or repositioning cruises are usually longer and involve many sea days. Ships are being moved to or from their seasonal locations. We both love days at sea and exploring new destinations not easily available by car, train or plane.

Q. How did Covid affect your relationship?

Our travel plans changed dramatically. We canceled several cruises and missed a winter on the Gulf Coast but enjoyed many Canadian winter activities, including snowshoeing. Our first cruise since Covid was in November out of New Orleans to Mexico and the Western Caribbean. Short cruises are a great way to get started.

Q. Is there anything you wish you

had known about cruising and snowbirding before retirement?

No... in my wildest imagination, I did not think retired life could be this amazing. Highly recommend it. Live every day to the fullest.

Q. What kind of activities do you like to do on the coast? Are there any you miss doing at home?

Enjoy symphony and theatre in Gulf Shores, Orange Beach, Pensacola and Mobile. Walking the beautiful beach, local trails and practicing yoga are my favorite activities. Charles loves golf. He participates in the Iowa-Alabama Snowbird Golf Club group several times a week. We both love trying new restaurants, especially seafood. The Gulf, Cosmos, Acme (and) Cobalt are long-time favorites. Both our homes are on the water, but we miss the sights and sounds of the Gulf, the beautiful quartz sand and fresh seafood from Joe Patti's in Pensacola.

Q. What are your favorite places to go? Any new ones?

Love Fairhope, Pensacola, New Orleans and the National Seashore between Gulf Breeze and Navarre.

Q. Do you have out-of-town visitors during your stay?

Yes, over the years, (we) have had many visitors for a week's stay. Since Covid, no. Most Canadians find it too difficult to fly here and are not keen on the cool temps.



Q. Do you ever take side trips to and from the coast?

No! Usually, (we) can't wait to get here. (We) normally drive down from Toronto in two or three days. (We) often stop in Niagara Falls, Nashville and/or Birmingham.

This time, we did a cruise out of NOLA before our vacation. (We) loved doing cruises from Mobile to Mexico. Usually (we) took at least one a winter. (We're) looking forward to them being back in Mobile. We are doing another cruise from Jacksonville to the Bahamas in January and will likely visit friends in Florida before and afterward.



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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.



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FLORIDA

Panama City Beach Senior Center has become the hub for local and Snowbird activities, from exercise classes, craft shows, dances, potluck, games, woodworking 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. 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. \$10.

WALTON COUNTY: One of the largest clubs in the region! 2023 Registration dates include Jan. 2, 16 and Feb. 6. Annual dues: \$20. The club meets Jan.

12, 26 and Feb. 9 at Destin United Methodist Church, 200 Beach Dr., and Feb. 23 (St. Andrews by the Bay.) Doors open at 9 a.m.; meetings start at 10 a.m. Annual dues: \$20. Details: www.waltoncountysnowbirds.com.

DESTIN: At the Destin Community Center, 101 Stahlman Ave., Destin, Fla. 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. 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. "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 -

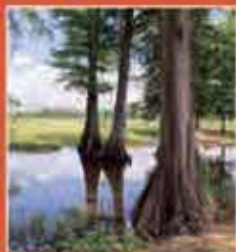
Original Hootenanny. Tickets are \$10. Details: www.perdidochamber.com

ALABAMA

Alabama Snowbird Fundraisers: Check with individual clubs for participation information. Dates and events: Feb. 7 - Baldwin County Heritage Museum Golf Scramble Fund Raiser, Glenlakes Golf Course; Feb. 10 - Low Country Boil. Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo; Feb. 11 - Trivia Night 6 p.m. OBEC; Feb. 14 - Pin Tap Bowling Christian Services, The Gulf Bowl.

ILLINOIS: Jan. 6 - 9 a.m. Welcome Back Coffee & Donuts, Orange Beach Senior Activity Center; 13 - Breakfast meeting 7:45 a.m. GT on the Bay (reservations Mary Lou Brunner 219-869-1138); 17 - Potluck, 5:30 p.m. at Orange Beach Senior Activity Center; 27 - Breakfast Meeting, GT's pm the Bay. Updates are on the Illinois Club Facebook page.

INDIANA: The Indiana Snowbird Club meetings are Jan. 12 and 26 and



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Feb. 9 and 23 at the Orange Beach Community Center, 27280 Canal Road, Orange Beach, Ala. Doughnuts, coffee, 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 prior to Becky Heidenreich (260) 760-5130.

MICHIGAN: Club meetings held at 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. Details:

www.michiganclubalabama.com or michiganclubalabama@gmail.com.

MISSOURI: 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 website preferred. 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 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 at nysnowbird@gmail.com.


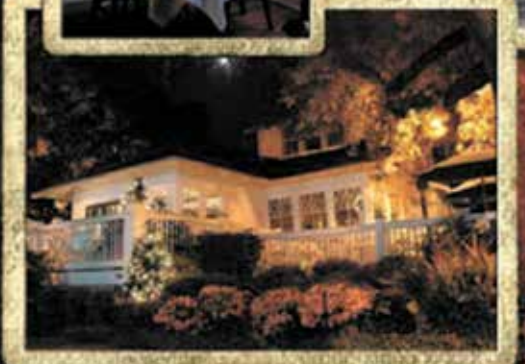
PENNSYLVANIA: The Pennsylvania

Snowbird Club meets weekly at 9 a.m. on Wednesdays for breakfast at BuzzCatz Restaurant on Canal Road in Orange Beach. 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: First 2023 general meeting is at 9 a.m., Orange Beach Event Center. Other meeting dates are Jan. 17 Feb. 2, 16 and March 1. Other events include: Jan. 6 - March 10: Weekly cards 9 a.m., Gulf Shores American Legion Post 44. Jan. 25 - Pot Luck, 11 a.m., Orange Beach Community Center. Other upcoming club events include: Jan. 30 and Feb. 13 - Golf Fun Day, Glen Lakes Country Club. Feb. 21 - Fat Tuesday/ Mardi Gras and Feb. 23 - picnic. Details: www.wisconsinsnobirds.com

Many clubs also have Facebook pages.

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He's back! Snowbird favorite "Chef Nino" returns to the Gulf Shores and Orange Beach Rouses Markets for weekly cooking demonstrations (and tastings) through the end of February. Fridays at 10 a.m. (Orange Beach) and 3 p.m. (Gulf Shores) and 10 a.m. Saturdays. Good fun!

ONGOING

Brandon Styles Live - Theater & Magic Shop at OWA. Be sure to check out this lively variety show during your stay! The show features 60 different celebrity and speaking impressions in a fast-paced show. Performances are held Tuesdays and Saturdays year-round. Brandon Styles Theater, OWA, 1501 South OWA Blvd., Foley, Ala. Details: <https://visitowa.com/> or (251) 237-3330

Seville Savories Food Tours - Seville Savories, an innovative food tour deeply rooted in area history, is led by Pensacola native Duel Christian. Options include lunchtime and evening tours with tastings at Pensacola's finest restaurants. Details: www.sevillesavoriesfoodtour.com or (850) 341-5731.

The Pensacola Ice Flyers - Pensacola's Ice Flyers play several January home games at the Pensacola Bay Center. January home games have a 7:05 p.m. start time except where noted. Game dates include Jan. 6, 14, 16 (4:05 p.m. start), 20, 21 and 27. 201 E Gregory St, Pensacola, Fla. Details: www.iceflyers.com

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

1/4-2/15

Winter Wednesdays at Bellingrath

Gardens and Home - Wednesday workshops cover special features of the Gardens or Home, gardening tips and guest lectures. 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: <https://bellingrath.org/experiences/events/winter-wednesdays/> or (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.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/>

SUNDAYS

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

1/2

Jazz Jam at Odd Colony Brewing Co. - Join Jazz Pensacola at its first 2023 Jazz Jam at downtown Pensacola's Odd Colony Brewing Co. Led by professional musicians, Jazz Jams are strictly fun opportunities to

perform jazz with other musicians. Drummers, please bring your own sticks/brushes. Vocalists, please bring your own mic. Details: www.jazzpensacola.com or oddcolony.com

1/4-6/21

"Spirits of the Passage: The Story of the Transatlantic Slave Trade" - In conjunction with the 160th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's 1863 Emancipation Proclamation, the National Maritime Museum of the Gulf of Mexico (GulfQuest) hosts a powerful and important exhibition exploring the strength of the human spirit through a display of nearly 150 historical objects spanning more than 350 years. 155 S Water St, Mobile, Ala. Details: (251) 436-8901

1/6 - 2/4

Crooked River Lighthouse Full Moon Climbs - The Crooked River Lighthouse at Carrabelle Beach will host a Full Moon

Lighthouse Climb on Jan. 6, from 6 to 8 p.m. See the views of the St. George Sound and Carrabelle Beach. SGI Lighthouse Full Moon Climb also happens in January with views of St. George Island, the Gulf of Mexico, and Apalachicola Bay. Details: www.crookedriverlighthouse.com

1/7

Todd Herendeen Elvis Tribute - Todd Herendeen pays a birthday tribute to the king! Dinner-and-show tickets or show-only tickets available. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., show at 7 p.m. Doors for show-only guests 6:45 p.m. Todd Herendeen Theatre, 8010 Front



Celebrate '23 Southern style!

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!

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/events/holiday-events/new-years-eve-beach-ball-drop/>

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: <https://moonpieovermobile.com/>

Pensacola Beach New Year's Eve Firework Display - Free firework display along the Pensacola Beach Boardwalk at midnight. Details: <https://www.pensacolabeachchamber.com/new-years-eve-firework-display/>

Celebrate the New Year! - 7 p.m. End the year with the most memorable musical theater melodies 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! Registration begins at noon. All proceeds go to the Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce. Details: <https://www.pensacolabeachchamber.com/polar-bear-plunge/> 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>

Gulf Shores Kiwanis Club Polar Bear Dip - Details: <http://www.gulfshoreskiwanis.org/polar-bear-dip.html>

Beach Rd. Panama City Beach, Fla. Details. toddherendeentheatre.com or (850) 381-0310

1/11 - 3/1

Murder in the Bayou - When Aunt Thelma goes missing, her sister, Mrs. Gladys White-Clark-Lash-Von Schmitt, fears the worst. Join in this interactive whodunnit! Wednesday evenings Jan. 11 through March 1. Limited seating and cash bar. Tickets are \$45 for adults and \$25 for children 12 years and under. Buffet will be open 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Showtime 6:30 p.m. Details: <https://lunaseatanddrink.com/events/>

1/14

Apalachicola's annual Oyster Cook-Off - Downtown Historic Apalachicola at Riverfront Park. The event features oysters galore, shrimp, smoked mullet, hot dogs, hamburgers, local beer, live music, kids' activities, dancing performances and a 5K run! Well-mannered pets are welcomed on a leash. All proceeds benefit the Apalachicola Volunteer Fire Department. Details: <https://www.floridasforgottencoast.com>

1/28

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 Downtown OWA and experience a wide variety of local arts and crafts for sale plus live performances. Details: visitowa.com

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

Mardi Gras kicks off 2023 season

Mobile, Ala., the birthplace of Mardi Gras, has a full slate of activities and parades throughout the Mardi Gras season. See a full roster of events at <https://www.mobile.org/events/mardi-gras/>



Mobile Mardi Gras, Visit Mobile

1/7

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 Krewe! Pensacola Mardi Gras is taking it to the streets and taking over several blocks around East

2/4

Fort Morgan Home Tour - 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Share the Beach Sea Turtle program is hosting a Tour of Homes to raise funds for a UTV to help us with our morning patrols. The tours will consist of 6 beautiful homes along the Fort Morgan peninsula including the amazing Skywalk. Details: [https://](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fort-morgan-home-tour-tickets-467783582287)

Garden District. Tickets include food, drinks and a wild concert by the Chee-Weez! Details: <https://pensacolamardigras.com/kick-off-celebration/>

1/21

Krewe de la Dauphine parade, 1 p.m., Dauphin Island, Ala. Details: <https://www.gulfshores.com/events-calendar/byway/krewe-de-la-dauphine-mardi-gras-parade/>

2/3-4

Panama City Beach Mardi Gras Celebration & Music Festival - Staged with the Krewe of Dominique Youx's great Mardi Gras at the Beach parade. 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

2/11

Kids & Kritters - Walking procession for pets and people in the Casino Beach parking lot, west side near the Pensacola Beach Visitor Information Center. Entry is

www.eventbrite.com/e/fort-morgan-home-tour-tickets-467783582287



open to well-behaved people and pets. Free for humans, \$10 per pet. Pets must be on a short-leash. Registration at 1 p.m. Dancingly Yours PreParade Showcase at 1:30 p.m. Parade starts at 2 p.m.

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

2/18

Harborwalk Village Mardi Gras Celebration - 2 p.m. Celebrate Mardi Gras with LIVE music by Fais Do-Do, followed by beads, dazzling floats, and street performers as the parade rolls through the Village at 4 p.m. Details: www.nicevillechamber.com/events/details/mardi-gras-celebration-02-18-2023-6836



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CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Upcoming events welcome Snowbirds across the coast

January 19

Navarre: Ready to rediscover your groove? **"A Groovy 70s Festival"** is 2 – 4 p.m., January 19, at St. Sylvester's Catholic Church. Loads of fun planned!

January 10

Also, the **Snowbird Welcome** (for all staying along the coast or interested in learning more) is scheduled for 10 a.m. on January 10 at the Santa Rosa County Welcome Center, 8543 Navarre Pkwy, Navarre, FL. A list of Snowbird winter classes is available. Space is limited, and people are urged not to delay. Details: (850) 981-8900

January 12

Perdido Key, Fla., the sweet little beach town that rests adjacent to Orange Beach, Ala., will welcome back winter residents with three **"Hootenanny's"** staged at the world-famous honk-tonk Flora-Bama, a roadhouse style bar/lounge. Dates and themes are January 12 – New Year New Boots; February



2 Sweetheart Saloon and February 16 Original Hootenanny. Tickets are \$10 and available at Perdido Key Chamber/Visitor Center, 15500 Perdido Key Drive. Only 200 tickets will be sold. Details: perdidochamber.com

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. to 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 is scheduled for 9 a.m. January 19 at Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church, 920 Via de Luna, Pensacola Beach, Fla. A variety of vendors welcome guests with food, information, prizes and entertainment. Details: www.sria-fl.com

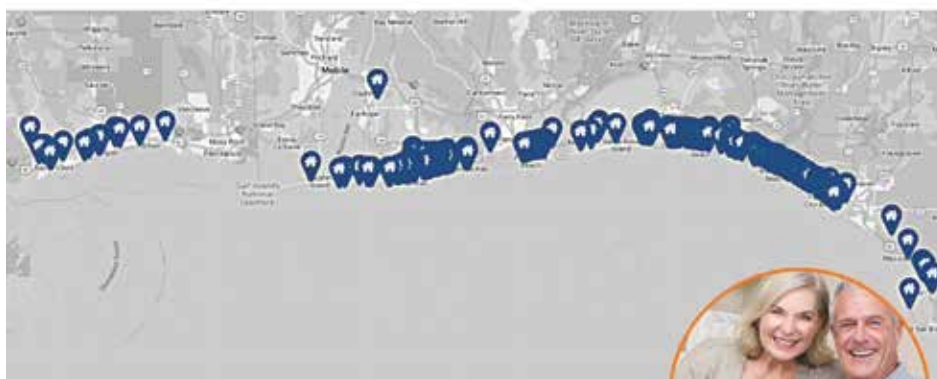
PCB Winter Appreciation Days at Laketown Wharf Convention Center. Join fellow snowbirds from 8 to 11



a.m. on January 13, February 8 and 22. Details: www.visitpanamacitybeach.com

Paradise Music Festival: Great live music at the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Convention Center to wrap up the season on Feb. 18! "Paradise Bayou" plays at 4 p.m. followed by Eagles tribute band 7 Bridges at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Details: ParadisepromotionsFL.com

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Snaps! Destin Snowbird Club Ribbon Cutting

The Destin Snowbird Club opened the season with the annual ribbon cutting at "The Roost" at the Destin Community Center. Far right photos are representatives from Destin/Fort Walton meeting sites and Welcome Centers.



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Mississippi Coast

2/25

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

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

1/6

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



1/7

Keith Jophson and the Big Muddy Band, 8 p.m., Ground Zero Blues Club, 814 Howard Ave., Biloxi, Miss. Details: 228-910-6600 or www.groundzerobiloxi.com

1/12

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

1/14

Super Chikan & The Fighting Cocks, 8 p.m., Ground Zero Blues Club, 814 Howard Ave., Biloxi, Miss. Details: 228-910-6600 or www.groundzerobiloxi.com

1/20

Ed Willis & Blues4Sale, 8 p.m., Ground Zero Blues Club, 814 Howard Ave., Biloxi, Miss. Details: 228-910-6600 or www.groundzerobiloxi.com

1/20

Pure Love on the Coast, Mississippi Coast Coliseum, 2350 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, Miss. 800-726-2781 or www.mscoastcoliseum.com

1/14

Chrisette Michele, 8 p.m., IP Casino Resort & Spa, Studio A, 850 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, Miss. Details: 228-436-3000

1/20

Rock Show NOLA, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, 777 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, Miss. 228-374-7625 or www.hrhcbiloxi.com/

1/21

Big A & The Allstars, 8 p.m., Ground Zero Blues Club, 814 Howard Ave., Biloxi, Miss. Details: 228-910-6600 or www.groundzerobiloxi.com

1/27-28

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

1/28

CAM, 8 p.m., IP Casino Resort & Spa, Studio A, 850 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, Miss. 8 p.m. Details: 228-436-3000

2/10

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

2/17

Stayin' Alive, A Tribute to the Bee Gees, 8 p.m., Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, 777 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, Miss. 228-374-7625 or www.hrhcbiloxi.com/

2/18

Home Free, 8 p.m., IP Casino Resort & Spa, Studio A, 850 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, Miss. 8 p.m. Details: 228-436-3000

2/24

Dancing With The Stars, 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 keep learning after retirement

Kick off 2023 by learning something new!

Lifelong learners can explore new or different ideas, skills and hobbies at community colleges, universities, senior centers and other resources along the Gulf Coast.

Snowbirds in Santa Rosa County/Navarre Beach area can reserve space in a wide range of lectures in January, February and March. Topics range from making Mardi Gras masks to learning about sea turtles and other aquatic creatures to snorkeling, history of the area, fishing and casting, seafood cooking and more. Details: (850) 981-8900

Gulf State College: Gulf State College in Panama City offers Education Encore. Classes start Jan. 20 and run for a variety of times. Topics range from history and ancestry to art, health, fitness, computer programs and much more. Details: gulfcoast.edu

Northwest Florida State College: Courses offered through these options range from personal enrichment, recreation, leisure, and crafts to professional development and customized business/industry training. These courses are non-credit and may not be used toward any NWFSC degree or

certificate program. Students enrolled in non-credit courses receive all of the benefits of the regular students, including use of the library, access to special events, and free parking. Details: nwfs.edu



Pensacola State College: Adult Education classes are offered for just \$30 per semester on a wide range of topics. Details: pensacolastate.edu

Learning Campus at Gulf State Park: Ring in the first day of the new year on a hike through nature! Naturalists at Alabama's Gulf State Park lead the

way from Bear Creek to the Lake Shelby Overlook. It's an easy-grade hike, perfect for all ages and experience levels! Leashed pets are welcome to join. Details: Nature Center (251) 948-7275 ext. 2092 for updates.

Leisure Learning: The University of West Florida in Pensacola has multiple field-trip-type outings that highlight many local topics. One of the most popular is a day trip to Pensacola's award-winning Double AA baseball stadium, which features a meal cooked by a team chef. Details: www.uwf.edu/



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Cruises and casino trips: Travel fun made easy

One of the great things about spending a winter along the northern Gulf Coast is access to numerous cruise ports.

New Orleans is home to Disney Cruise Lines, Norwegian, Carnival and Royal Caribbean. Also, Mississippi River Cruises via American Cruise Lines and American Queen. The port has numerous year-round options. Visit: www.portnola.com for the list.

In Mobile, Ala., the Carnival Spirit is slated to return in Oct. 2023 with six to eight-day sailings. Port of Call includes a variety depending on the length of the cruise: Mexico - Cozumel, Costa Maya; Bahamas - Bimini, Freeport, Mahogany Bay, Nassau, Princess Cays and Half Moon Cays.

Jacksonville, Fla., is an easy drive from most northern Gulf Coast locations along I-10. Carnival offers four and five-day Bahamas trips aboard the Ecstasy with discount prices starting at \$196.

Tammy's Journeys, located in Fort

Walton Beach, Fla., has 2024 group space for three six-night sailings on the Spirit (one Bahamas and one Western Caribbean) and one five-night sailing on the Carnival Elation from Jacksonville 13-18, 2024.

The six-night Bahamas sailing is January 14-19, 2024, and the six-night Western Caribbean sailing February 11-16, 2024. The ship has balconies, ocean views and interior cabins. Reservations and deposits are being taken now to hold space. Final payment is due in October 2023. Details: visit www.tammysjourneys.com, or (850) 243-2809 or tammy@tammysjourneys.com

CASINO BUS ROLLS: Why drive when someone else can handle those duties?

The Good Time Tour buses roll out from several Gulf Coast locations daily to the Mississippi Gulf Coast casinos, including free play. The price begins at \$30 per person, depending on your departure point. Free play includes Beau Rivage Casino - \$15, IP Casino - \$20 and Hard



Rock - \$15.

Florida pickup locations include Piggly Wiggly, 251 Mary Esther Blvd., Mary Esther; Winn Dixie, 8674 Navarre Pkwy., Navarre; and Pensacola, 8084 N. Davis Hwy., Northcross Shopping Center. Alabama pickup locations include Perdido Bay, 12255 Lillian Pkwy., Greer's

Grocery; Orange Beach, Cactus Cantina, 25311 Perdido Beach Blvd; The Track 3200 Gulf Shores Pkwy; Foley - The Train Station (Carolina Street, east side); and the Fairhope Walmart. To reserve your trip, call (850) 476-0046. Check updated locations and times at www.goodtimetours.com.



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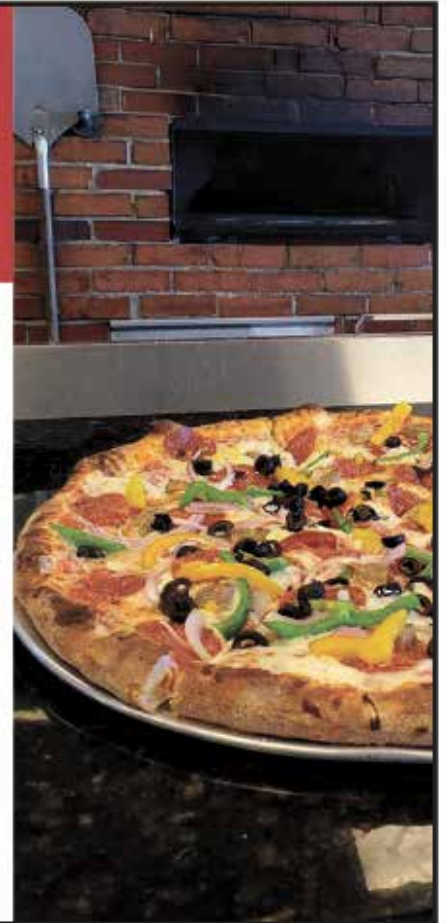
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Beau Rivage unveils new rooms and Wind Creek offers stay/spa packages

Beau Rivage Resort & Casino: Known for grace and elegance, MGM Resort International's Beau Rivage Resort & Casino in Biloxi, Miss., recently unveiled its newly completed \$55 million room remodel of the resort's 1,645 guest rooms.

The Beau Rivage is recognized for its mini-Bellagio style. All rooms feature views of the Mississippi Gulf Coast or historic Biloxi and its Back Bay.

The refreshing new designs feature upgraded amenities and state-of-the-art technology.

The King room features a buttercup yellow palette reflective of the sky at sunrise, while the Mississippi sky inspires the two-Queen room's coral tones at sunset. Both boast finishes infused with textures and patterns reminiscent of Southern homes.

With a color palette that pays homage to local sunrises, sunsets and reflections of the water, the finishes

are reminiscent of the seashore and incorporate details of driftwood, high gloss surfaces, coral and aqua blue.

Beau Rivage's colorful array of flowers and evergreens creates an unforgettable arrival experience. Guests are greeted by 29 Live Oaks flanking the front drive, creating a graceful canopy reminiscent of the entrance to a stately Southern mansion. Visitors enter the lobby and are greeted by an indoor arboretum featuring a glass ceiling with specialty lighting designed to highlight the grandeur of the atrium's elements.

The guest rooms feature a custom-commissioned triptych that honors flora and fauna indigenous to the Deep South. The newly redesigned corridors are fresh and bright, with tranquil carpets reflecting the spirit of the Southern Mississippi River waterways.

The expansive resort features headliner entertainment, a range

of dining options, a spa, a golf course and more. Sign up for MGM Resort's rewards program for special deals.

The Beau Rivage is located at 875 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, Miss. Details: www.beaurivage.com or (228) 386-7111

Wind Creek Atmore: Looking for a casino getaway close to home? The Wind Creek-Atmore has a \$159 overnight stay (Monday-Thursday) package that includes a \$70 spa package. Additional nights (Monday-Thursday) can be added for \$99. The AAA Four-Diamond hotel features 237 rooms with premier bedding and free

high-speed internet and the option of a spacious walk-in shower or standard tub and shower combo. Sign up for the Wind Creek Rewards program to tap into special offers. Daily rates at the on-site RV resort start at \$38.

Wind Creek is located at 303 Poarch Rd., Atmore, Ala. Details: www.windcreek.com/atmore or (866) 946-3360



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Find your copy of Snowbirds Gulf Coast!

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. A selection of locations include:

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Area libraries
Area Senior centers
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Suites Navarre Beach
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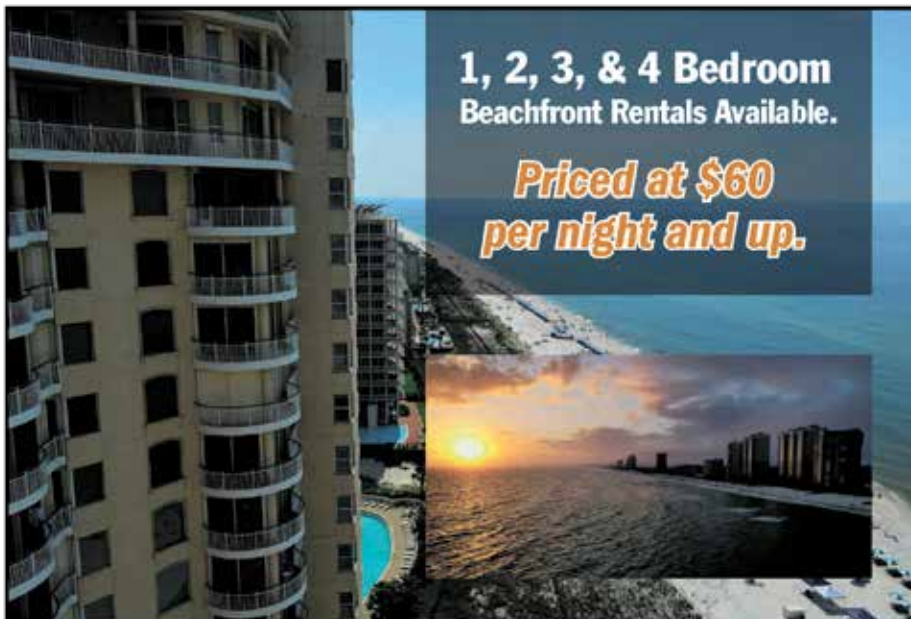
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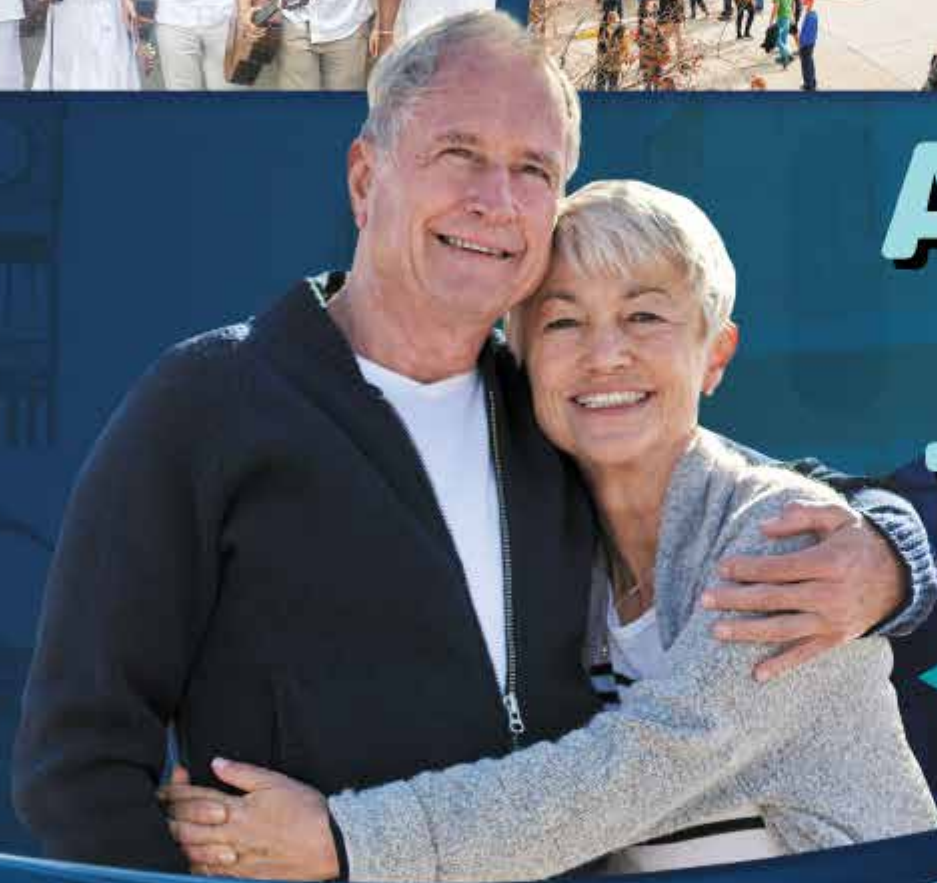
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