

FREE!

Snow **BIRDS**

Gulf Coast

A Winter Visitor
Publication
Spring 2024

Snaps

pages 20-21

Trails

page 19

Dan in the Sand

page 17

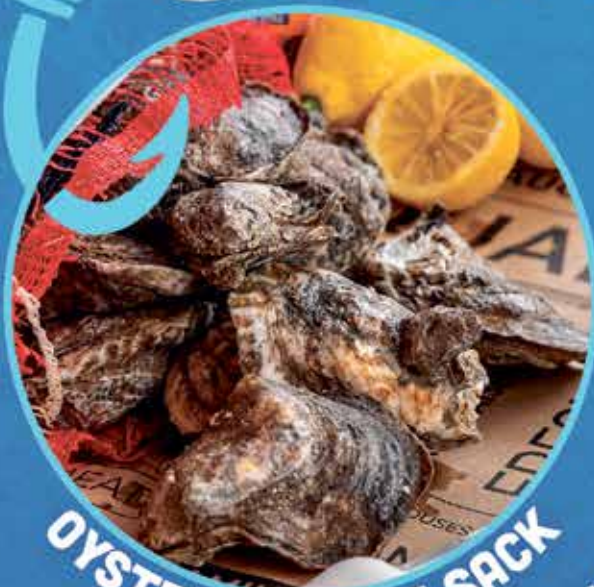
In print and online
SnowBirdsGulfCoast.com

SNOWBIRDS 18TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

BRINGING THE BEST SEAFOOD TO THE GULF COAST!

BOILED SEAFOOD PLATTERS

WHOLE FISH FILLETED FOR FREE



OYSTERS BY THE SACK



LOUISIANA SHRIMP

DELI SEAFOOD HOT BAR



SEE STORE FOR UPCOMING COOKING CLASSES



CURBSIDE CONVENIENCE

Shop curbside pickup through Rouses Markets App or orderonline.rouses.com



Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

ROUSES MARKETS

TASTES LIKE HOME

25405 PERDIDO BEACH BLVD, ORANGE BEACH • 1545 GULF SHORES PKWY, GULF SHORES

CELEBRATING TWENTY-FIVE YEARS



Beau Rivage
CELEBRATING TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

A FEELING LIKE NO OTHER®



As the South's only MGM Resorts destination and the premier entertainment casino in the region, allow us to provide you with a trip unlike any other. From award-winning and newly refreshed dining, renovated hotel rooms, a nationally ranked spa and salon, and exclusive access to Fallen Oak, the No. 2 casino resort course in the world, to the endless excitement of our 24/7 casino, including our unparalleled Vegas-style sportsbook and lounge, our MGM Rewards Resort delivers *A Feeling Like No Other*.

PLAN YOUR VISIT AT BEAURIVAGE.COM OR CALL 1.888.567.6667



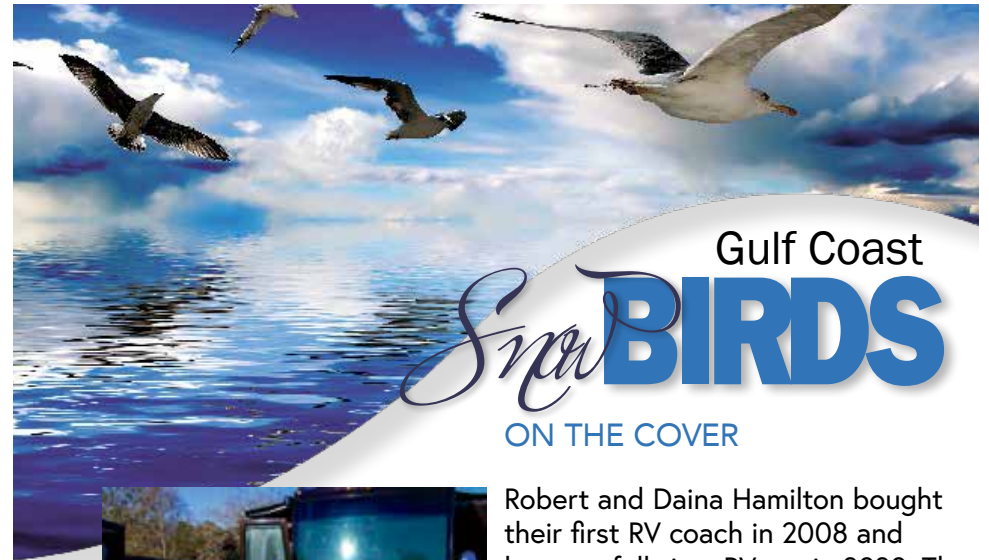


The Brick Oven

Wood-Fired Pizza
Gluten Free Pizza
Beer & Wine
and More!

251-955-1233
BrickOvenFoley.com

21040A Miflin Rd.,
Foley, Alabama
(Across the street from OWA!)



Gulf Coast

Snow BIRDS

ON THE COVER



Robert and Daina Hamilton bought their first RV coach in 2008 and became full-time RV-ers in 2020. The couple travels across the country throughout the year but spends winters along the Gulf Coast, visiting friends, hitting the casinos and enjoying the community life they find at RV parks.

INDEX

Publisher's Welcome.....	6
Cover Couple.....	8
RV Parks.....	9
Clubs.....	12-13
Calendar.....	14-15
Bellingrath in Bloom	16
Dan in the Sand.....	17
Tiger Point Golf.....	18
Trails.....	19
Snaps.....	20-21
Casino entertainment.....	23
Over-55 Communities.....	24
Baptist Heath.....	25
Side Trips.....	26
Advertiser directory.....	27



SUNSET HAPPY HOUR
WEEKDAYS 4 - 6

WINDJAMMERS
ON NAVARRE BEACH PIER.

windjammersonthe pier.com



Rick and Delaine Ball from Northern Wisconsin were the first couple to tie the knot at Majestic Oaks RV Resort in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Publisher: Karen Harrell / Publisher@SnowbirdsGulfCoast.com / 850.291.1266

Art Director: Jahna Jacobson

Writers and Contributors: Karen Harrell and Louis Cooper

Photography: Randy Hamilton/Hamilton Art Agency

GROUNDBREAKING CARE

Close to Home

Pensacola • Gulf Breeze • Milton
Navarre • Fort Walton Beach



850.916.8700 AndrewsInstitute.com



We provide emergency and urgent care services the way it should be, under one roof.

- No appointments, walk-in only
- On-site CT, X-ray, ultrasound and labs
- See an ER-trained physician at every visit
- Only pay for the level of care you need
- 70% of patients are billed at urgent care levels
- In-network with most major insurances, including all Medicare plans



Opening in February at Baptist Medical Park – Nine Mile

Urgent Care Open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Daily
Emergency Room Open 24/7

To learn more, visit baptisteruc.org





Weekly Breakfast Special
Locally Roasted Coffee
Homemade Pastries

Named Best Breakfast in Alabama
 by PEOPLE Magazine and Yelp!

25689 Canal Road next to Cosmo's Restaurant & Bar • www.buzzcatzcoffeeandsweets.com • 251-980-2899 (BUZZ)

Welcome!

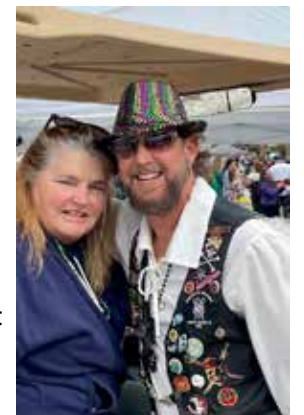
One of my favorite 1980s movies is Dirty Dancing, and my favorite scene is when guests and staff say their emotional goodbyes.



As many of you come to your "goodbye," the same feeling settles in over me - as it does each year.

Some may never return because of sickness. In recent years, skyrocketing insurance rates have been passed on to the consumer. Some are unwilling -or unable to pay the high rates.

Is there a solution? Home sharing has been mentioned and would be a good option for folks who know they would get along. Finding a rental in Mexico is another choice, but only if you are confident in navigating a foreign country.



The last choice is to stay at home.

We hope you had a good time and will be back. There are enough of us who welcome you with open arms. I hope to bring this magazine to you again next season. The best news I've recently had is I qualify for knee replacements in both knees. Woo hoo!

Be well, be safe. Make an overnight stop and rest. Arrive alive (Florida's old motto!)

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



Cobalt Contemporary Coastal Cuisine

28099 Perdido Beach Blvd
 under the Perdido Pass Bridge
 www.cobaltrestaurant.net
 (251) 923-5300 | Catering Available



COSMOS
 Restaurant & Bar

**DAILY HAPPY HOUR
 & LUNCH SPECIALS**

25753 CANAL ROAD IN ORANGE BEACH
 WWW.COSMOSRESTAURANTANDBAR.COM
 (251) 948-9663 (WOOF) || CATERING AVAILABLE



**Good Food.
 Good Friends.
 Good Times.**

GT's
 on the Bay

Daily Happy Hour & Lunch Specials

26189 Canal Road • Overlooking Wolf Bay • 251-980-8400 • www.gtsonthebay.com • Catering Available



LUNA'S
 EAT & DRINK

**Southern Coastal
 Kitchen & Taphouse**

**Daily Happy Hour
 & Lunch Specials**

25689 Canal Road
 next to Cosmo's Restaurant & Bar
 251-980-5862 (LUNA)
 www.lunaseatanddrink.com
 Catering Available

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



Kristine Pierce, 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

Oklahoma Snowbirds spending first full season in Biloxi, Mississippi

Robert Hamilton was born in Morton, in West Texas, and moved to panhandle of Oklahoma as a teenager. His family members were ranchers and in the oil fields.

Daina Hamilton was born in Savannah, Georgia, moved to Atlanta until she was 16, then Oklahoma. She's a family of white collar city folks!

How did you meet and when did you marry?

We met at Robert's sister's 17th birthday party. That night Robert told his frat brothers he had met the girl he was going to marry! We married 4 years later. July will be 45th anniversary of a true case of "opposites attract."

We have two sons, one daughter and five , grandchildren in Oklahoma.



Are you both retired?

We are both retired, Robert in 2019, and Daina in 2004.

Where did you work?

Robert was in Industrial Sales in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Daina did Construction Accounting and Project Management.

Did either of you go to college or serve in the military?

Robert attended College at Southwestern Oklahoma State University and studied Computer Science and Math.

Daina attended vo-tech and technical college in Oklahoma City, studied Aero Mechanics and CAD Drafting.

We did not serve in the military, but both sons are veterans and served in Afghanistan.

When did you first start living the "RV Life"?

We bought our first RV Coach in 2008 and went full time in 2020. We

sold our 5,300-square-foot house and all its contents, upgraded to newer and bigger Coach and hit the road! If it didn't fit in the Coach, it got sold or passed along to others. We don't miss all the STUFF, or the upkeep. I'm a gypsy and Robert is a wanderer now! If we don't like or view or the neighbors, we just move on.



What attracts you to the area?

This is our first full winter in Biloxi. We have been visiting since 2008. Our legal residency is Florida for tax purposes, but we love the entire Gulf Coast. We spent first winters in Fort Myers, and love it there, even rode out Hurricane Ida 40 miles inland in a casino parking lot. But after the hurricane contractors came in and the prices of everything skyrocketed, and it got too crowded. Those of you who were here after Hurricane Katrina can probably relate.



We had a fraternity brother and wife who lived in Ocean Springs, and Daina's parents frequented the area with their RVing friends. If we had to give up FT life, we would settle in Ocean Springs. Just wish it were more tax-friendly for retirees. For the



foreseeable future, Majestic Oaks is our winter home.

How important is finding camaraderie at the parks? What kind of activities do you enjoy? Casinos are a major draw in the Biloxi area - do you have favorites? If yes, what makes them so?

Community is everything! Seeing the same folks every year, and having a friendly place to call home for the season is the most important thing when living the FT lifestyle at our age. Staying put for a few months allows us to catch up with things like annual health care, etc.

We love the casinos! The Scarlet Pearl is our personal favorite. Okies are known for their love of gambling. Oklahoma has more casinos than anywhere else in the world. So we come here for more than just casinos. The weather is a huge perk and Daina is especially partial to spring down south, azaleas and dogwoods are lifetime favorites. Southern cooking and lifestyle are soothing and easy going.

Tell us about a typical day.

We enjoy the Coffee Clutch every morning at the Majestic Oaks office and community center. Current events, personal and worldly are discussed, all opinions are welcome and respected. Where are we going for 1/2 Senior Lunch is our most important topic! The Palace, The Silver Slipper and Sicily's Pizza are group favorites. We have discovered Port City Diner. We miss

Mikey's on the Bayou Restaurant, it was our favorite restaurant of all the places we have traveled. We tend to frequent local Mom and Pop establishments for dining and shopping. Rouses is a grocer favorite for Cajun specialties, and we look forward to Krispy Kremes occasionally! We wish there was a Krystals nearby!

Driving along the coast with in our convertible is a favorite pastime. We also enjoy fishing and sports and look forward to baseball starting up this spring.

When do you pull out for your next destination? Where will that be?

We plan on leaving mid-April or May this year. We are heading north to the Dakotas, Wyoming, Montana and Idaho this year for the summer. We like to stay in each place for a month or so to get the "real" feel of a new place or culture. We love smaller towns and off the beaten path places.

How would you sum up the on-the-road philosophy?

Some of our favorite quotes are:

South of I-10 for the Winter, North of I-70 for the Summer.

A Man with a Motorhome doesn't need another Hobby!

We Plan and God Laughs... so a sense of humor will get you further than tank of Diesel!

Snowbirds can stay at numerous RV parks across the Gulf Coast

When the Covid pandemic hit several years ago many people purchased a RV and hit the road.

They joined thousands of other RV enthusiasts. In response to demand new RV parks cropped up.

New this year are:

OWA Parks & Resort Tropic Hideaway RV Resort

OWA's luxury 190-lot RV resort with top-of-the-line amenities, and stellar location at OWA Parks and Resort, just minutes from the Alabama beaches off the Foley Beach Express.

This well-equipped hideaway offers guests tons of activities and amenities, including pickleball courts, a putting green, adult and family pools, golf cart rentals, a dog park and clubhouse. Tropic Hideaway also has a convenience store and 24-hour services that include propane, ice, showers, and laundry. These premium sites are all extra wide and feature a full complement of Wi-Fi and hook ups. Pull-through sites are also available.

Tropic Hideaway is located at 2252 Creek Winds Road in Foley. Details tropichideaway.com



Splash RV Resort

The newest must-visit destination in Northwest Florida. Splash has endless amenities for the whole family: heated pools, lazy river, water slides, tiki bar, pickleball/basketball courts, dog parks, arcade, a great lodge for groups, and so much more. Splash has many ways to stay including shaded, all concrete RV sites, Luxury

Cottages, and Conestoga Glamping Wagons for a unique experience. Not only is Splash the top summer

destination, Splash is also a must-visit in the winter months. There are endless activities and events for all ages. From paint and sip classes to chartered trips to Biloxi Casinos, Splash proves to be the top snowbird destination in the panhandle. Splash is conveniently located directly off of I-10 at HWY 87 for easy entry and exit for

big-rigs. Details www.splashrvresort.com. (850) 626-8500 or info@splashrvresort.com.

Majestic Oaks

Majestic Oaks isn't brand new but its setting among strong oak trees and locatom near several Mississippi casinos make it a popular Snowbird stop. The friendly atmosphere is

often cited as guests sit on the clubhouse front porch to rock and talk and enjoy free coffee and Saturday socials. Many guests visit a variety of casinos together to dine and game. Details: 228-436-4200 or www.majesticoaksrv.com



Adventures Unlimited

Open with activities year-round, this popular outdoor resort features a variety of overnight options including camping and rental cabins. A canopy zipline is a popular activity along with paddle boarding, tubing, and floating down the calm Coldwater Creek. The resort appeals to all ages. Details: 8506236197 or www.adventuresunlimited.com



Located off I-10 at Exit 31. 25 minutes to Navarre Beach

- Snowbird Packages • 3 Luxury Bathhouses with laundry • Heated pools, spa, waterslides and lazy river • Dog parks with washing station
- 34 Luxury Cottages and 8 Conestoga Wagon rentals

8500 Welcome Church Road, Milton, FL 32583 • 850-626-8500
www.splashrvresort.com

Navarre Beach UNCROWDED SUNSET WALKS

FLORIDA'S MOST RELAXING PLACE. | GETRELAXING.COM

Gulf Coast Renaissance Faire & Pirate Festival • Sat. & Sun., Mar. 2-3, 10 am – 5 pm • 8604 Bobby Brown RD. Milton, FL

Highway 87 Market at Sand Dollar Plaza • Mar. 2 & 16, 9 am • 1900 FL-87, Navarre, FL

Gulf Breeze Celebrates the Arts Festival • Sat., Mar. 23, 9 am – 5 pm & Sun., Mar. 24, 9 am – 4 pm • 800 Shoreline Dr, Gulf Breeze, FL

SpringJam 2024 • Sun., Mar. 24 12 pm - 8 pm • 1451 Navarre Beach Causeway, Navarre Beach, FL

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

BEACH HOUSE SOCIAL

NAVARRE BEACH FL



Situated directly on the Gulf of Mexico

SpringHill Suites by Marriott Navarre Beach is steps away from the beautiful water of the Emerald Coast. Enjoy inspiring and unobstructed views from our gulf-front hotel with spectacular sunrises and sunsets over the Santa Rosa Sound or the Gulf of Mexico. Enjoy a ultimate milkshake or sweet treat at Whitecaps, located in the hotel lobby. Grab drinks or sit down to a memorable gulf-front dining experience at our onsite restaurant, Beach House Social. Our new dining establishment, Emerá Café Coffee + Cocktail Exchange, offers an unparalleled experience, boasting a repertoire of indulgent espresso beverages and artisanal cocktails to delectable bites inspired by the sun, surf, and sand.

EMERÁ

COFFEE & COCKTAIL EXCHANGE



SPRINGHILL SUITES[®] BY MARRIOTT

NAVARRE BEACH

Our beachfront destination in Navarre Beach, FL features resort-like amenities and over 3,000 sq. ft. of event space perfect for weddings, meetings, and special occasions.

Join us on:

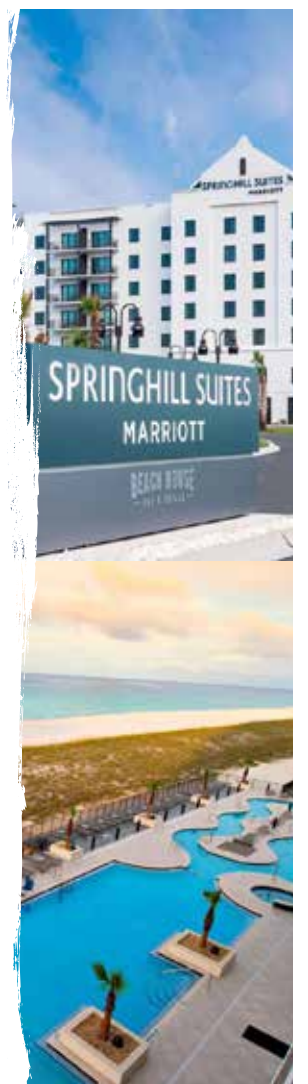


[@springhillsuitesnavarrebeach](https://www.instagram.com/springhillsuitesnavarrebeach)

www.marriott.com/vpssh

Visit us at: 8375 Gulf Blvd,
Navarre, FL 3256

Terms and Conditions apply and for inquiries call Caren Murphy
(850) 654-6330
caren.murphy@concordhotels.com





Snowbirds, head our way for a winning escape.

Escape every day at Wind Creek Casino and on the Casinoverse app.

Present this ad to PLAYER SERVICES to receive:

ALL MEMBERS

\$10 FREE PLAY

CODE: ?A24GC10FP | VALID: 3/4/24 - 3/17/24

ALL MEMBERS

\$10 FREE PLAY

CODE: ?A24SB10FP | VALID: 3/18/24 - 3/31/24



WIND CREEK®
ATMORE

(866) 946-3360 | WindCreekAtmore.com
Play for FREE in the Casinoverse app!

©2024 Wind Creek Hospitality. Management reserves all rights. Must be a Rewards Member or sign up for an account. Membership is FREE. Must be 21 or older to redeem offers. Limit one redemption per Rewards account per offer code. Offers may not be combined or used in conjunction with any other offers or discounts. Valid only at Wind Creek Atmore. Photocopies and digital copies will not be accepted. See PLAYER SERVICES for details.



Join the Club!

Activity begets activity.

As with the case with other "disasters", the Covid-19 virus upended some traditions. A major one is the annual Fort Walton Beach Chamber's Winter Guest Fest, which will not return.

The reason cited was the low number of Snowbirds in the Fort Walton Beach club (at over 300 it is steadily climbing back) Adjacent communities including Destin and Walton County and nearby Navarre were not included in those research numbers.

While the Fort Walton Beach Chamber may not sponsor the event, other areas are stepping up to connect Snowbirds with local businesses.

Only one word for it: disappointing.

GOOD NEWS

Over 80 people showed up at the 42nd annual "Yoopers Club" (Upper Michigan) annual luncheon at Luna's Eat and Drink.

Next year's date has been set for Feb. 13 at Luna's. Organizer Dan Inglis said there was "Great food, great time was had by all with lots of prizes."

The group donated leftover food to local organizations. For details on next year's gathering: Dan Inglis, 906-440-0866 or Sandy Inglis, 906-748-5966. Luna's is located at 25753 Canal Road, Orange Beach, Ala.

FLORIDA

Information provided here may change so we encourage all to visit the club website/Facebook page (if they have one) before setting your plans.

Panama City Beach: Traditional winter resident Appreciation Days (also known as free Donut Days, were staged throughout the winter. Reports are numbers were getting back to pre-pandemic levels.

Annual events included a Senior Prom Dinner/Dance at Edgewater Beach Resort and Grand Finale Dinner/Dance at Edgewater Beach Resort. Tickets are \$20 per person. Details: Visit Panama City Beach, 850-233-5070, or www.visitpanamacitybeach.com

PCB Senior Center: Stop by just about any day and you will find something to do and friendly folks

to meet. Annual membership is \$50. Residents participated in a variety of classes and exercise sessions including woodworking, how to play the ukulele, pickleball, line dance, exercises (including yoga and chair exercises) or create a variety of crafts. A Biloxi bus trip was offered. Folks who want more information are encouraged to join Coffee Shoppe and discover the full list. The senior center is located at 423 Lyndell Lane, Panama City Beach, Fla. (next to the library), Details: 850-233-5065 or pcbseniorcenter.com

Walton Snowbird Club: The club netted more than 200 new members this season and overall had 724 members.

Organizers and volunteers have put a lot of work into developing activities and trips (Biloxi and New Orleans) for members. Water aerobics, tennis, pickleball, singing, poker, mah jongg and other games, blood drives, book discussion, bowling, ballroom dance, basketball, biking, art and so much more! The club regularly posts information on its Facebook page and website. Each year the club awards two scholarships to deserving Walton County

High School seniors. Details: www.waltoncountysnowbirdclub.com

Destin Snowbird Club: The club registered 1082 members this year including 961 from the USA, 120 from Canada and one from the UK. About a quarter registered online.

Welcome, all!

Club members meet weekly during winter at The Roost – aka Destin Community Center, 101 Stahlman Dr., Destin, Fla. TGIT (Thank Goodness It's Tuesday)) at Lulu's., 4607 Legendary Marina Dr., Destin. Activities include bus trips and cruises to games, writer's group, quilting, crafts, singles groups, and activities such as golf, pickleball, bowling, basketball, softball and more. Door prizes were generously donated by local businesses and proved to be a popular draw. Be sure to "Like" the club Facebook page and bookmark the website. Details: thedestinsnowbirds.com

The Fort Walton Snowbird Club: From a pre-pandemic high of 745 (2015) to a low of 276 (2022) the club is steadily growing (313, 2023). Registration and meetings are staged at the Fort Walton



NATIVE CAFE

PENSACOLA BEACH

We love our Native Snowbirds!
10% off meal!

45A Via de Luna Drive

850-934-4848 • thenativecafe.com

Magnolia Grill

"The Museum That Serves Food"

1910 Catalog House
located at the foot of
the Brooks Street Bridge
in historic Downtown
Fort Walton Beach
Snowbird Friendly!

Lunch M-F 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dinner M-Sat. 5 p.m. Closed Sunday
Reservations: 850-302-0266
157 Brooks St. SE, Fort Walton Beach, FL MagnoliaGrillFWB.com

Join the Club!



Beach Recreation Center, 132 Jet Drive, Fort Walton Beach, Fla. There are door prizes and 50- 50 drawings. Monthly club social, golf, tennis, pickleball, card games, crafts and billiards. A Wisconsin group meets for breakfast at 9 a.m. March 7 at The Chicken N the Egg, 348 Miracle Strip Pkwy., Fort Walton Beach, Fla. Golf scrambles, Valentine's Day dance and more. Details: fwbsbc.com or 920-619- 4065.

Navarre/Santa Rosa County:

Snowbirds have discovered this Low-key and laid-back area. Known for beautiful sunsets and the Gulf of Mexico's longest pier, winter activities include a wide range of lectures conducted by local experts at the Navarre Welcome Center, 8543 Navarre Pkwy, Navarre, Fla. The annual welcome "Sock Hop" event co-hosted by the Navarre Beach Chamber and Santa Rosa County Tourist Development Office was a smashing success! A good-bye party is 10 am March 7 at the Navarre Welcome Center. Details: www.getrelaxing.com or 850-981-8900.

Perdido Key: The Perdido Key Chamber sponsored and sold out a

series of "Hootennany's" again this winter at the world-famous honky tonk Flora-Bama Lounge.

The visitor center is a popular stop for all wintering in the region (and this magazine can be found there.)

Details: 850-492- 4660 or www.perdidochamber.com.

ALABAMA

ILLINOIS: Illinois Club club breakfasts were staged at GT's on the Bay, 26189 Canal Road, Orange Beach, Ala. Call Mary Lou Brunner 219-869-1138. 219-869-1138.

INDIANA: All Indiana Snowbirds and residents of Baldwin Co. who have had a relationship with Indiana are invited to meetings and social lunches. Guest speakers are provided and there also is a 50/50, door prizes, and gobs of fun. Social luncheons also are staged.

MICHIGAN: Club meetings will resume in January 2025 at The Island Church, 25550 Canal Rd., Orange Beach, Ala. Coffee and doughnuts are served at 9 a.m. with the meeting to start at 10 a.m. Annual membership is \$5 per

person. Merchandise is for sale at the meetings. A full schedule of golf outings is available on the website: www.michiganclubalabama.com or michiganclubalabama@gmail.com

MISSOURI: ALL SNOWBIRDS are invited! Meetings are 8:30 a.m. Wednesdays for breakfast at Tacky Jacks, 240 E 24th Ave., Gulf Shores, Ala.. Cost is \$14 includes a buffet breakfast, tax and tip. RSVP on the website. Mixed golf scramble every Wednesday at 1 p.m., Gulf Shores Country Club, 520 Clubhouse Dr., Gulf Shores, Ala. Weekly Happy Hour, 4 p.m. Mondays at Cobalt, 28099 Perdido Beach Blvd., Orange Beach, Ala. RSVP on website. Details: missourisnowbirds.org or mer2@charter.net

MINNESOTA: Weekly Tuesday breakfast meetings at GT's on the Bay, 26189 Canal Rd., Orange Beach. 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. 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. Details: MNsnowbird1@ mnal.org

NEW YORK: The New York Snowbirds will meet March 7 at Ginny Lane at the Wharf in Orange Beach, Ala. at 11 a.m., order off their special lunch menu, with separate checks, guest speakers, and door prizes. \$1 per person collected at registration. RSVP: nysnowbirds@gmail.com

PENNSYLVANIA: The Pennsylvania Snowbird Club meets weekly at 9 a.m. on Wednesdays for breakfast in February and first of March at BuzzCatz Restaurant 25689 Canal Rd., Orange Beach, Ala. Details: Rich Smith at (610) 217- 6674 or bettyrich@RCN.com.

WISCONSIN: Join online or before a meeting. Dues are \$4 each year. Members pay \$2 each at the door. Details: Membership Chair Tom Chestnut at tac.smc.14@gmail.com. Final meetings March 7 and 13 at Orange Beach Community Center, 27235 Canal Rd., Orange Beach, Ala. Details: www.wisconsinsnobirds.com or Wisconsinsnobirds on Facebook.

Now closer to you
501 S. Palafox St.
Pensacola, FL

2nd Location!

5260 Gulf Breeze Pkwy, Gulf Breeze, FL

Catering available
&
Delivery services

Jumping Lomo
Peruvian Cuisine

JLPeruvianCuisine.com

(850) 503- 5558



SHRIMP BASKET

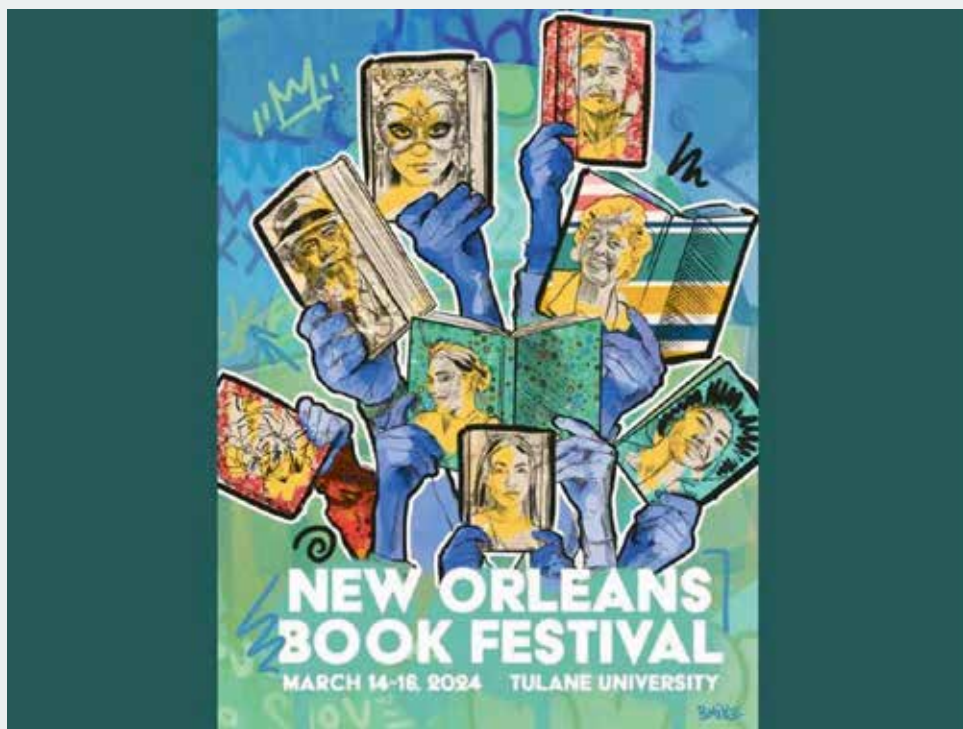
SEAFOOD · BURGERS · WINGS · COCKTAILS



\$10 WINTER SPECIALS

WEEKDAY HAPPY HOUR

FIND YOUR FAVORITE LOCATION AT SHRIMPBASKET.COM



3/14-16

New Orleans Book Festival - The third-annual book festival will take place March 14-16 on Tulane University's uptown campus. Family Day at the Festival will take place on Saturday, March 16, inside the Avron B. Fogelman Arena in the Devlin Fieldhouse on the Tulane University campus. All events are free and open to the public. The Festival features both fiction and non-fiction and convenes readings, panel discussions, symposia and keynote speeches. It also provides an opportunity for outlets, authors and readers to interact with each other in one of the most vibrant and culturally diverse cities in the world. Details: <https://bookfest.tulane.edu/>

Through 5/24

Orange Beach Pickleball – Winter/Spring 2024 Session runs through May 24, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on six courts. 4849 Wilson Boulevard, Orange Beach, Ala. Details: <https://www.orangebeachal.gov/502/Pickleball>

Through 7/27

¡Cuba! - Fresh insights into Cuba, an island nation just 94 miles from Florida's shores. Organized by the American Museum of Natural History in New York, ¡Cuba! makes its last stop in Mobile, Alabama, the sister city to Havana. Exploreum Science Center, 65

Government St., Mobile, Ala. Details: www.exploreum.com.

3/2

Beers and Blooms - 12 p.m. All-day craft beer festival and concert series on the Great Lawn at the heart of the Gardens. Sample a wide variety of craft brews, shop with local vendors and feast with a selection of food trucks. 12401 Bellingrath Gardens Rd., Theodore, Ala. . Details: <https://bellingrath.org/beers-blooms/>
Panama City Beach Scottish Festival - Frank Brown Park, Panama City Beach, Fla. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Celtic Heritage Alliance presents the largest and longest running

Florida Panhandle Scottish Festival – 30 years strong! Food vendors, merchandise, whiskey tastings, music, kids' activities, sporting events and more. Details: <https://pcbsscottishfestival.com/>

2024 Spring Fling - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 100+ vendors from all around the south! Shop with crafters, bakers, boutiques, direct sales and many unique vendors Baldwin County Coliseum, 19477 Fairground Rd., Robertsedale, Ala. Complimentary shopping bags to our first 100 customers! Details: <https://www.facebook.com/baldwincountybssbabes>

3/2-3

The Ballyhoo Festival Fine Art and Culture Festival - This exciting festival event is unique in its focus on fine art and cultural charm. Enjoy fine art from all across the southeast, local seafood, and live music! Gulf State Park, 20115 State Park Rd, AL-135, Gulf Shores, Ala. Details: ballyhoofestival.org/

3/7-8

Murd-ARR! A Pirate Murder Mystery Dinner Show - Brandon Styles & ICM Theatre Group - It's 1735, and we're on Cursed Skull Island, a place rumored to have buried treasure and a curse. Prepare for a thrilling story full of lies, deceit, rum, and a murder mystery. Help us solve the case of the pirate who killed their captain! This family entertainment features actors in a

live, interactive, and comedic experience with audience members. OWA, 101 S Owa Blvd, Foley, Ala. Details: <https://visitowa.com/murd-arr/>

3/8

Songs & Stories Songwriters Showcase featuring The Krickets and Sugarcane Jane - From The Krickets, an extraordinary women's trio with soulful melodies to Sugarcane Jane, the beloved Gulf Coast duo, these two acts will bring an incredible evening of original folk and alt country sound as they share their stories behind the songs! The Frank Brown International Songwriters' Festival and OWA Theater proudly present this exceptional evening celebrating local talent. OWA Theater at OWA, 101 S Owa Blvd, Foley, Ala. Details: <https://visitowa.com/>



3/9

Gulf Coast Mustang and Mega Car Show - It's time for the 44th annual Gulf Coast Regional Mustang & Mega Car Show presented by the Gulf Coast Regional

FOODIES WANTED

Walking Food Tours
in Historic
Downtown Pensacola
Lunch/Dinner

SEVILLE SAVORIES
FOOD TOUR

sevillesavoriesfoodtour.com

3/17

Go Irish on the Island: 37th Annual Pensacola Beach St. Paddy's Day Pub Crawl – Celebrate at 17 participating Pensacola Beach bars, restaurants, and hotels offering up a pot of gold filled with Irish drink specials, live music, and mischievous fun. The 'Pensacola Beach Pub Crawl' App will help revelers jump in and join the fun! Events start at 9 a.m. Details: <https://www.pensacolabeachchamber.com/go-irish-on-the-island/>



Blue Angels Pensacola Practice Schedule

The world-famous Blue Angels are based at NAS Pensacola and can be seen practicing over the Museum at NAS Pensacola on select days throughout the year. Come watch them soar and then spend the day at the Museum. Admission is FREE.

2024 Spring Practice Schedule

March 26, 27*

April 2, 3*, 9, 10*, 16, 17*, 23, 24*, 30

May 1*, 7, 8, 14, 15*, 28, 29*

June 4, 5*, 11, 12, 18, 25, 26

*Indicates an autograph day in the Museum following the Blue Angels Practice.

The National Naval Aviation Museum opens the flight line behind the museum to view Blue Angels practice flight demonstrations.



Gates open at 9:30 a.m. and the Blues are scheduled to take to the skies at 10:30 a.m. Details: <https://navalaviationmuseum.org/blueangels/>

Mustang Club! This dazzling car show will be held in Downtown OWA and is free for anyone to attend. From classic mustangs to (you guessed it!) MEGA cars. Carnival and lawn games all afternoon on OWA Island, as well as live music on the OWA Island stage. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 101 S Owa Blvd, Foley, Ala. Details: <https://visitowa.com/>

3/9-10
Orange Beach Festival of Art - A

celebration of visual, performing, musical and culinary arts. Currently ranked nationally at #25 for the top 100 fine art and design shows. Orange Beach Waterfront Park, 26389 Canal Rd. Orange Beach, Ala. Details: <https://www.orangebeachal.gov/338/About>

3/11
Women During WWII - USS Alabama - From the riveting tales of female combatants who defied convention to serve on the

frontlines to the incredible contributions of those on the Homefront, explore the various ways women contributed to the war effort and the impact of their efforts on society. The talk is open to the public and included with general admission. Please meet in the Wardroom aboard the USS ALABAMA. 2703 Battleship Pkwy, Mobile, Ala. Details: <https://www.ussalabama.com/events/>

3/16-18
Annual Fairhope Arts and Crafts Festival - Downtown Fairhope, Ala. A gulf coast favorite 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: FairhopeArtsAndCraftsfestival.com

3/22-23
Still Standing — A Tribute to Elton John - 7:30 p.m. Immerse yourself in the legacy and extraordinary music of the iconic Sir Elton John. Ben Frey performs his incredible music catalogue to perfection! OWA, 101 S Owa Blvd, Foley, Ala. Details: <https://visitowa.com/>

3/23
America's First Settlement Trail Urban Adventure - 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Explore the America's First Settlement Trail, solve puzzles, and test knowledge of Pensacola's history. Game starts at the Pensacola Museum of History at 330 S Jefferson Street. Top individual prize is \$250 cash prize and the top team will receive a \$500 tab at a bar or restaurant in downtown Pensacola. Facilitated through Gogames. Details: www.visitpensacola.com/americas-1st-settlement-trail/

3/16
St. Patrick's Day Parade - 2 p.m. Howard Avenue, Biloxi, Miss. Presented by Hibernia Irish Society. Details: <https://www.facebook.com/HiberniaIRISH>



3/14-17
2024 Chautauqua Assembly - A Journey into Florida Pioneers: 200 Years in the Panhandle - DeFuniak Springs, Fla. The 2024 Chautauqua Assembly is a three-day celebration of history, art, food and nature, with everything from farm-to-table events to live music, workshops, lectures and more. This year's event focuses on the unique history of the Florida Panhandle, home to some of the country's earliest settlements. Tickets are available online and volunteers are welcome! Details: <https://floridachautauquaassembly.org/>



CLASSICAL CONNECTIONS feat. Steven Banks

PRESENTING SEASON SPONSOR:



PRESENTING MEDIA SPONSOR:



SOUTH WALTON FLORIDA

PRESENTING CONCERTS SPONSOR:



CLASSICAL CONNECTIONS PRESENTING SPONSOR:

SILVER SANDS PREMIUM OUTLETS
A HOWARD GROUP AND SIMON CENTER

Sat., March 23 | 7:30 PM
Destin-FWB Convention Center
TICKETS: \$35 PER PERSON

SCAN HERE TO BUY TICKETS



Box Office:
SinfoniaGulfCoast.org
850.460.8800

Bellingrath Gardens & Home Ushers in Spring with a Spectacular Array of Events

As the flowers unfurl their petals to the warm caress of spring, Bellingrath Gardens & Home invites the public to a series of events celebrating the season's beauty and the joys of gardening.

Azalea Bloom Out – March

As March heralds the return of warmer days, so too does it bring the Azalea Bloom Out at Bellingrath. Visitors are invited to wander through a tapestry of color as thousands of azaleas in full bloom create a living mosaic across the gardens.



Spring Plant Sale

March 8-10

Green thumbs and gardening enthusiasts, mark your calendars for the Spring Plant Sale! This three-day event offers a selection of plants perfect for Gulf Coast gardens, and our expert horticulturists will be on hand to share their knowledge and help you make the best selections for your home landscape.

Easter Egg Hunt

March 23, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Families are invited to hop into spring with Bellingrath's beloved Easter Egg Hunt! Set against the backdrop of our blooming gardens, children can search for treasures and enjoy a day of fun.

Easter Sunrise Service

March 31

Experience the serenity of Easter morning with our Sunrise Service at Bellingrath. As the sun ascends, join us

for a special service that embraces the hope and renewal of the season. Gates open at 5:45 a.m. and service begins at 6:30 a.m.

Cultivate Professional Development Session

April 26, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Professionals in the fields of horticulture, botany, and landscaping are invited to Cultivate, our development sessions designed to inspire and educate. Engage with industry leaders and take your knowledge to new heights.



a 501(c)3 non-profit organization of Walter and Bessie Bellingrath located on the Fowl River in Mobile, Alabama. Walter Bellingrath was one of the first Coca-Cola bottlers in the Southeast, and with his wife, created their estate garden for the enjoyment of future generations. Bellingrath Gardens & Home is dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the 65-acre garden and grand estate home of Walter and Bessie Bellingrath. Bellingrath Gardens and Home is located at 12401 Bellingrath Gardens Road, Theodore, Ala. For more details and to purchase tickets, visit bellingrath.org.



Join Us This Spring

Bellingrath Gardens & Home is

Festival of Flowers blooms in Mobile

The award winning Festival of Flowers will celebrate its 31st year in downtown Mobile's Cathedral Square showcasing life-sized living sculptures created by regionally acclaimed florists, artists and garden designers.

Produced by the Providence Foundation, the 2024 Festival of Flowers will inspire and nurture the gardener in all of us. The event was recognized in 2021 and 2023 as Alabama Magazine's "Best of Bama Charity Event." Festival proceeds will be used to purchase advanced electrocardiogram (EKG) equipment for the USA HealthProvidence Cardiac Care Unit.

Special events include a Saturday morning Exotic Car Show, Buds and Brews and self-guided tours of area gardens. On Sunday, visitors can bring a furry friend to enjoy the show during Welcome All Wags from 3 to 5 p.m.

Show hours are Friday, March 8, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, March 9 and Sunday, March 10, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



A donation is required for entry.

Events include:

ArtWalk – Friday, March 8, 6 to 9 p.m., donation required for entry

Exotic Car Show – Saturday, March 9, 9 to 11 a.m. (Rain date: Sunday, March 10, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.)

Buds and Brews – Saturday, March 9, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., ticket required

Welcome All Wags – Sunday, March 10, 3 to 5 p.m.

Art in the Garden – Original works by noted Mobile artist.

Seminars and Demonstrations – Expert advice for the home and garden.

Self-guided tours – Enjoy area landmarks and gardens

The event is based in Cathedral Square, 300 Conti Street, Mobile, Ala. Details: usahealthsystem.com/festival-of-flowers



AZALEA CITY

BLAZING!

Discover the Vibrant Colors of Bellingrath Gardens

Don't Miss the Season's Showcase – Reserve Your Tickets at bellingrath.org!



Sandcastle artist brings joy and education through his work

Sand castle artist Dan Anderson, 40, grew up in Otsego, Michigan. While he now creates amazing fantasy sand sculptures, he attended technical colleges for additional schooling and held jobs in welding, hospitality, food services, and as a veterinarian assistant before finding his calling on the beach.



Q. How did you get into sand sculpting?

I was taught and employed by Beach Sand Sculptures in 2015! I worked with them through the fall of 2016. Honored to say they taught me the foundation of sand-castling!

Q. Can you be booked for special occasions?

We are honored to offer our services for all occasions! DanCastles.com is the best way to view our services! Typically specialize in private classes, wedding and anniversary sculptures, marriage proposals, birthdays, corporate logos, even team building events! We're always up for something new!!

Q. How long are sessions and what is the cost?

Every session is different! It's always about the experience, never the

amount of time! For our family and smash class we charge \$150 for the first participant, and \$25 for each additional! We do bump it up \$200 for the first participant on a 6 ft, and Create A Castle class, \$25 for each additional person! Classes run about 2 hours long but there is no set time limit on classes!!

Specialty sculptures, such as anniversaries, weddings, etc. I have a minimum charge! My minimum charge up through the end of March is \$300! From March through November, \$400. Typically requires about 3-4 hours to complete.

Q. How many people can observe?

I encourage all people to observe! I have people who book me just to watch! They will specifically ask me to come out and play in the sand just so they can watch! Even in my classes I only count the castles at the end as participants! Please contact my Assistant Tristin to book at tristin@dancastles.com.

Q. How often do you schedule play days?

During the "off season" November through mid-March, I try to get out on every beautiful day that I don't have anything scheduled!! During the busy season it's as often as I get the opportunity! We try to schedule play days throughout the summer, but sometimes they turn into rest days because of how much I give to my other bookings!! I don't typically schedule play days in advance. They are as often as my schedule, and the weather allows!

Q. How is marine life and safety education worked into your sessions?

Lots of marine life education! Mostly for the sea turtles! As we're digging our foundation I explain how holes should be avoided, they make great sea turtle traps and ankle breakers! Consistently throughout our class I'm spreading emerald Coast facts as well as great education for protecting our coast!! It's not uncommon for us to have free sandcastle classes during community beach cleanup events!!

Q. What is the most enjoyable aspect of your job?

Everything! Truly everything! Hearing the stories of families we book, the opportunity to meet all walks of life,



to spread joy like glitter(that's why our shirts sparkle!), and the joy it brings my Sandcastle heart into helping the community come together on our beautiful beaches.

For more information, visit www.DanCastles.com.



JUANA'S PAGODAS AND SAILORS' GRILL

WELCOMING SNOWBIRDS TO BEAUTIFUL NAVARRE BEACH SINCE 1989

SAILORS' GRILL Open Daily 8 AM-9 PM
Serving Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Wine Tastings, Happy Hour

THE CLUB Open Daily 5 PM
Saturdays & Sundays at Noon, Televised Sports
Zumba & Yoga Tuesday & Thursday Mornings
Cornhole Tournaments, Dueling Pianos

THE BIG PAGODA Open Daily
Live Music Friday & Saturday

JUANA BITES PIZZA KITCHEN
Open Daily

THE DECK Open Daily
(as weather permits)

Check our website for the latest information!!

1451 Navarre Beach Cswy, Navarre Beach, FL 32566
850-939-1092 juanaspagodas.com

For a fun round of golf – and a tiki bar! – try Tiger Point Golf Club

Snowbirds who golf can find a challenging and fun venue with a beautiful view of Santa Rosa Sound at Tiger Point Golf Club in Gulf Breeze, Florida.



The par-72 course has undergone several renovations over the last few years to make it an even better experience for golfers.

"It's pretty open and player-friendly," said Troy Raybon, general manager and director of golf. "There's a little bit of water, we keep a good pace of play and the course is in great condition. We're the best golf experience in this area with affordable rates."

The sand bunkers on the course have been

upgraded and modified to allow the greens to go back to their original shape and the clubhouse was renovated a couple of years ago.

"We've also restored the natural areas," said Raybon, who joined the club four years ago. "We added a lot of love grass to give it more of that coastal, windy Scottish type course."

Future plans may include redoing the No. 4 green, the course's signature par-3 hole that faces Santa Rosa Sound.

Another unique feature is the tiki bar on the course that golfers pass twice during a round.

"Everybody likes the tiki bar," Raybon said. "We've had the best winter we've had. We had a lot of work to do and it started paying off last year."

Another benefit is The Pointe Restaurant nearby with lunch, dinner and brunch menus, as well as several bars.

The course is semi-private, offering membership, as well as public play. Seniors can play a round with a \$59 discounted rate on Tuesdays this spring. Check out www.tigerpointgolf.com for more details for other rates.



Senior Rates

\$59

\$59 Senior Rates
Every Tuesday

contact:
Troy (traybon@tigerpointgolf.com)
850-930-4653

book a tee time:
tigerpointgolf.com



By foot, wheel or hoof: 25 years of trail activity in Milton

By Louis Cooper

For 25 years, people who enjoy everything from a leisurely stroll to a quick-paced bike ride - or even a mounted equestrian trot - have benefited from the Blackwater Heritage State Trail in Milton, Florida.

To celebrate the quarter century point in the trail's service, more than 130 people braved the drizzle and chill for a 2.5-mile Fun Run on Feb. 17.

"Every day there are people out there," said Walt Schumann, president of the trail's volunteer support organization. "It gives a walkway for people to get through town, by the high school and out to the country."



The Blackwater Heritage State Trail is a paved, 10-foot-wide trail that is 8.1 miles long, starting in downtown Milton near the intersection of Stewart and Caroline streets. The Visitor Center, which includes restrooms and vending, is located at 5533 Alabama St., Milton, Florida, 32570. The trail is free to use.

"You can literally walk to restaurants on the sidewalks that take you to downtown Milton," Schumann said. "It really connects the whole community."

The trail travels through the commercial area of downtown Milton, passes City Hall, and out into the countryside beside gardens and through woodlands to the eastern gate of Whiting Field Naval Air Station. The northern most sector of the trail is open to those mounted on horses, with a parking lot equipped for equine trailers located along the trail near Munson Highway north of Milton.

At the right times of

year, visitors to the trail can encounter Florida's endangered (and carnivorous) picture plants, copious cascades of intoxicating honeysuckles and the fluttering of orange and black monarch butterfly wings.

The trail attracts people of all sorts, from families with strollers to seniors on electric bikes, according to Schumann.

"People running, rollerblading and walking is what I mostly see on the trail," he said. "It varies on the time of day. If it's during work hours, I see more people who are more senior, people who are 50 and older."

With efforts starting as early as 1989, the Blackwater Heritage Trail is part of the larger "Rails-to Trails" movement where abandoned railroad rights-of-ways were repurposed as "linear parks" for the public use.

The corridor that is now known as the Blackwater trail was once a train track bed that connected Whiting Field to Blackwater Bay. The trail was officially dedicated and opened in February 1999.

Over the life of the trail, it has seen two short extensions: one to the south, starting from the original trailhead at Stewart and Caroline streets, as well as an addition on the north, called the Military Heritage



Trail, near Whiting Field.

There are lots of opportunities to see the great Gulf Coast outdoors from well-maintained trailways, including:

Gulf State Park, Gulf Shores, Ala.

This 6,150-acre park boasts the Hugh S. Branyon Backcountry Trail, which includes more than 28 miles of paved trails, built both for hikers and cyclists and are accessible in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). There are trailheads surrounding the perimeter of the park. Bike rentals are available.

Details: (251) 948-7275 or www.alapark.com/parks/gulf-state-park/trails

Big Lagoon State Park, Perdido, Fla.

This park offers 5 miles of hiking and nature trails.

Admission: \$6 per vehicle (two to eight people); \$4 single-occupant vehicle; and \$2 for pedestrians, bicyclists, and extra passengers.

Details: (850) 492-1595 or www.floridastateparks.org/BigLagoon.

Longleaf Greenway Western Trail, Santa Rosa Beach, Fla.

Trailhead located at 399 Satinwood Dr, Santa Rosa Beach, FL, 32459. This trail runs east-west through the Point Washington State Forest.

Admission: \$2 per person to use the parking area; annual day use passes are \$30, allows access to all-day use areas within any state forest for one year from date of purchase.

Details: (850) 267-8325, or www.beachguide.com/Highway30A/Recreation/longleafgreenwaytrail

Camp Helen State Park, Panama City Beach, Fla.

This park offers an assortment of trails, all accessible from the day-use parking lot at 23937 Panama City Beach Parkway, Panama City Beach, FL, 32413

Admission: \$4 per vehicle. \$2 per pedestrian or bicyclist.

Details: (850) 233-5059 or www.floridastateparks.org/learn/trails-camp-helen

St. Andrews State Park, Fla.

There are two half-mile trails in the park: Heron Pond and Gator Lake trails.

Admission: \$8 per vehicle (two to eight people), \$4 single-occupant vehicle, \$2 for pedestrians, bicyclists and extra passengers.

Details: (850) 708-6100 or www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/st-andrews-state-park

Pensacola Beach to Navarre Beach, Fla.

A paved multi-use pathway, intended for pedestrians and cyclists, runs parallel to the roadway from Fort Pickens in the west, through the commercial and residential areas of Pensacola Beach, through the Santa Rosa Area of Gulf Islands National Seashore and all the way through Navarre Beach on the east.

Snaps!

Snowbirds are closing out the season with fun, friendship, and even some love and romance!

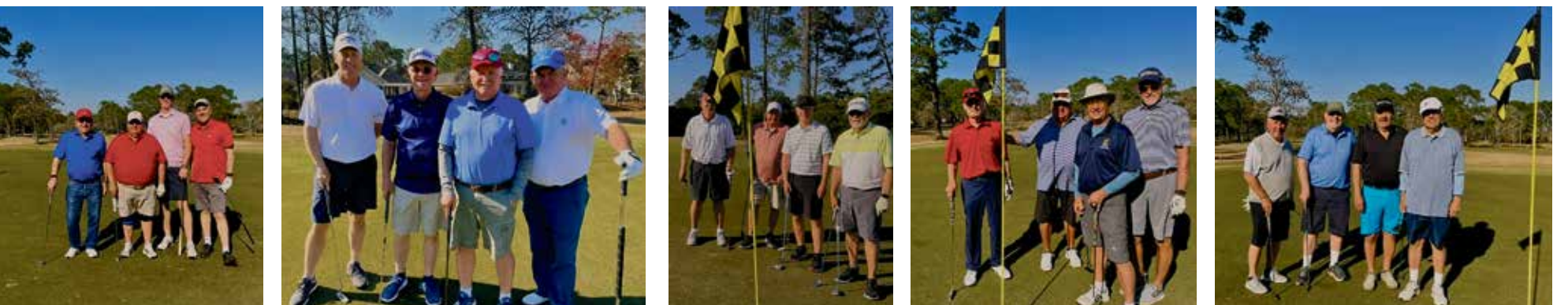
Vow-Renewal Ceremony at Lulu's



Perdido Key Hootenanny held at the FloraBama



Missouri Golfers



Panama City Beach Prom



Walton County Snowbirds were active this winter



Destin Snowbirds kick up their heels



Sinfonia Gulf Coast presents Classical Connections featuring Steven Banks, saxophone

Sinfonia Gulf Coast "redefines the symphony experience" once again with Classical Connections feat. Steven Banks, saxophone. This Southeast U.S. premier of *Diaspora*, described as "symphonic poems," is set for Saturday, March 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Convention Center on Okaloosa Island in Fort Walton Beach.

Hear this newly commissioned work for saxophone and orchestra by award-winning composer Billy Childs: *Diaspora: Motherland, If We Must Die and And Still I Rise* — three compelling pieces inspired by African American poems that chronicle the black American journey from mournful suppression to joyful empowerment. Russian composer Modest Mussorgsky's riveting *Pictures at an Exhibition*, composed as a solo for piano in 1874, completes this compelling program.



Childs explores the Black experience from before the slave trade in Africa to present-day America. He utilized three writers as "architectural signposts:" Nayyirah Waheed, Claude McKay, and Maya Angelou.

Sinfonia Gulf Coast was one of 10 orchestras that co-commissioned this work. Others include Young Concert Artists NYC, National Symphony Orchestra, San Diego Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony, and Kansas City Symphony among others.

Banks has received accolades including the Avery Fisher Career Grant and participation in WQXR's Artist Propulsion Lab. Notably, he was the first saxophonist to win the Young Concert Artists Susan Wadsworth International Auditions. Banks has collaborated with esteemed orchestras and conductors, including Franz Welser-Most and John Adams. He is a founding member of the

Kenari Quartet, which has won prizes and released an album. An accomplished composer, he has received commissions from various organizations and premiered works at Carnegie Hall. Banks is also an advocate for diversity in music, participating in TEDx talks and creating initiatives with the Sphinx Organization.



Currently, Banks is a visiting faculty member at the Cleveland Institute of Music and holds the Jackie McLean Fellowship at the University of Hartford. He received his education from Indiana University and Northwestern University.

Childs, a prominent American composer from Los Angeles, exhibited prodigious piano talent from age six. He studied at USC, mentored by Robert Linn and Morten Lauridsen. Childs gained fame in the L.A. jazz scene and toured with Freddie Hubbard. His debut album, *Take For Example, This...*, launched a successful career with Windham Hill Records. Notable albums include *Twilight Is Upon Us*, *His April Touch*, and *Portrait Of A Player*. Childs won two Grammy Awards and composed for esteemed ensembles. He received multiple awards and honors, including a Guggenheim Fellowship. Childs served as Chamber Music America's President and recorded acclaimed works for Sony Masterworks.

Tickets to Classical Connections feat. Steven Banks are \$35 per person. Discounts are offered for students and active-duty military with valid ID. Purchase tickets online at SinfoniaGulfCoast.org or by calling the box office at (850) 460-8800.

Proceeds benefit Sinfonia Gulf Coast and its education and community outreach engagement initiatives throughout Northwest Florida.

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE

USS ALABAMA BATTLESHIP MEMORIAL PARK SNOWBIRD SPECIAL



Purchase ONE Senior Admission Ticket for \$15 and get ONE Senior Admission FREE.

Must be 55 years or older to qualify. Free ticket recipient must be 55 years or older to qualify.



SPECIAL OFFER

January 1, 2024 - April 14, 2024

Come see history come to life!

Living History Crew Drills - February 3rd & March 23rd

Join Us For Weekly Talks
Thursdays in February & March

Tour Guides On Board
Tuesdays in January - March

Included in admission.



scan for event details

★ **OPEN DAILY: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.** ★
(Ticket Office and Gift Shop close at 4:00 p.m.)

I-10 Exit 27/30 • 2703 Battleship Parkway

1-800-GANGWAY • www.ussalabama.com

This cannot be combined with other offers.



2703 Battleship Parkway • Mobile, Alabama • www.ussalabama.com

Casino Fun

3/1

Kevin James: Owls Don't Walk, Beau Rivage Theatre, 875 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, Miss. Details: 1.888.566.7469 for hotel packages. 21+



3/16
25th Anniversary Drone Show, Beau Rivage Resort and Casino, A dazzling choreographed drone show celebrating Beau Rivage's 25 years on the Coast caps a weekend of events and promotion. The free drone show can be viewed from the sixth floor of the resort parking garage and other areas along the beach. The 500-drone spectacular will be choreographed to music, which can be heard by downloading a free app at www.beaurivage.com.

3/16
Matt Mathews, 8 p.m., IP Biloxi, 850 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, Miss., 228-436-3000 or ipboxi.com

3/22
Michael Bolton, Beau Rivage Theatre, 875 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, Miss. Details: 1.888.566.7469 for hotel packages.

Beach Blvd., Biloxi, Miss. Details: 1.888.566.7469 for hotel packages

3/7-8

Joe Bonnamassa, Beau Rivage Theatre, 875 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, Miss. Details: 1.888.566.7469 for hotel packages.



3/22
Los Lobos, IP Biloxi, 850 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, Miss., 228-436-3000 or ipboxi.com



4/26
Celtic Woman: 20th Anniversary Tour, Beau Rivage Theatre, 875

Good Time Tours
CASINO DAY TRIPS

DAILY TRIPS TO BILOXI
\$15 TO \$20 IN FREEPLAY
DESTIN ~ THE TRACK ~ 1125 HWY 98
MARY ESTHER ~ PIGGLY WIGGLY ~ 251 MARY ESTHER BLVD
NAVARRE ~ WINN DIXIE ~ 8674 NAVARRE PKWY
PENSACOLA ~ OFFICE ~ 8084 N DAVIS HWY
PERDIDO KEY ~ GREERS ~ BAUER RD AND LILLIAN HWY
ORANGE BEACH ~ CACTUS CANTINA ~ 25311 PERDIDO BCH BVD
GULF SHORES ~ CMX CINEMA ~ 3780 GULF SHORES PKWY
FOLEY ~ TRAIN STATION ~ CHICAGO ST
FAIRHOPE ~ WALMART ~ CO RD 64
WWW.GOODTIMETOURS.COM
850-476-0046 *MUST BE 21 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER

Calling all Snowbirds/Wintersippians!

We have 100 landscaped concrete RV sites and 2 cottages (sleeps 4), can accommodate RVs up to 45ft, 30/50 amp, long spacious pull thru', back ins, full hookups, FREE WiFi, all utilities included, clubhouse, business center in clubhouse, on-site propane station, biking, Casino shuttle service, concierge serve, special events exclusively for guests.

Majestic Oaks RV Resort in Biloxi is located just a few blocks north of Hwy 90 and Biloxi Beaches, and just blocks away from the MS Coast Coliseum & Convention Center. From I-10, take I-110 South exit to Hwy 90 Biloxi West to Rodenburg. Continue to Pass Road. Left one block.

MAJESTIC OAKS
RV RESORT | BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI
(228) 436-4200
unitedrvresorts.com/majestic-oaks
majesticoaks@unitedrvresorts.com

Over-55 communities offer events, amenities for residents of like ages

People often remark on the lack of Over-55 communities in north Florida.

But located about an hour away from Pensacola is a highly touted Over-55 community, The Grove in Foley, Ala.

The community recently earned a "Best of Baldwin" Over 55 award by Gulf Coast Media.

Known for the quality of its homes (hand built), well-kept roads, lawns and landscaping and welcoming vibe, The Grove features a wide range of amenities and programs.



Recent additions include a new clubhouse, pickleball, tennis and basketball courts. Also on-site is a heated swimming pool, jacuzzi and hot tub, fitness and wellness center, two-mile walking/bike trail, library,



game room and arts and crafts, community campfire circle and a wide range of community activities. There also is a well-stocked fishing lake and community garden.

Visitors who want to experience the community first-hand have the option of booking a 3-day, 2-night stay for a nominal amount. Details: www.thefoleygrove.com



ACTS Westminster Village

Also located in Baldwin County, Ala., Westminster Village features independent living and assisted living/skilled care.

A featured benefit is on-campus health services. Amenities include an indoor heated swimming pool, pickleball court, fitness center, clubhouse with fireside lounge, billiards and more.

The one bedroom studio measures 555 square feet. Beautiful and well-landscaped grounds provide a safe place to walk. There also is on-site dining and transportation to a variety of places.

Details: www.actsretirement.org 251-355-0594

Latitude Margaritaville Watersound

Opened just two years ago, this community features the laid-back Jimmy Buffet vibe.

Located within an easy drive of both Panama City Beach and 30A, there



are a wide array of amenities offered for the planned 3500 two and three-bedroom homes. Minto Homes is the builder and the St. Joe Company is the developer.

Visit the Welcome Center 9201 Hwy. 79, Panama City Beach. Details: 866-464-4753 or www.latitude margaritaville.com

RESORT STYLE 55+ RETIREMENT LIVING

12,000 Sq. Ft. Clubhouse - Phase III Now Open

Grand Hall with Performance Stage • Library with Computers • Billiards & Game Room, Arts & Crafts Room • Sauna Room • Wellness & Fitness Center

Homes Available for Immediate Occupancy

New Pickleball/Tennis Courts Now Open

"THE GULF SHORES"

"THE BEACH COTTAGE"

\$199,900

MOVE IN READY! This 3/2 home has a split floor plan.

\$265,000

3 bed/2 bath with gorgeous kitchen. THIS IS A MUST SEE!

The Grove is Alabama's Gulf Coast most attractive value in active 55+ living. Nestled within a shady stand of pecan trees, this private, gated community features a lively clubhouse, heated pool, spa, and miles of nature trails.

Scan Here → For More Info

The Grove
Country comforts. Coastal charm.
8648 County Road 66
Foley, AL 36635

(251) 971-1033 • TheFoleyGrove.com



55+ COMMUNITY

Brand New Homes For Sale!

AMELIA ISLAND MOBILE HOME PARK



📞 229-315-5494

✉ ameliaislandmobilehomepark@gmail.com

Revolutionizing Health Care in Pensacola: The New Dual ER and Urgent Care Model

Have you ever been in a dilemma about going to an emergency room or an urgent care clinic? Baptist Health Care is bringing a game-changing solution to Pensacola, making this decision much easier. The new Baptist Emergency Room & Urgent Care - Pensacola-9-Mile is set to open this month, offering a unique health care model that combines ER and urgent care services in one convenient location.

Why Combine ER and Urgent Care?

When we face health emergencies, it's challenging to decide where to go. The ER is equipped for serious conditions, but visiting for less critical issues can be expensive and time-consuming. This is where the dual ER and urgent care model comes into play. It's designed to ensure you receive the appropriate care without unnecessary expense or wait times, handling everything from minor injuries to critical conditions.

A New Approach to Patient Care

Walking into this new facility, you'll find a streamlined process. ER-trained medical staff are on hand to quickly

assess your condition and guide you to the appropriate care path, whether that's urgent care for less serious issues or the ER for more critical needs. This approach not only saves time but also reduces the financial burden often associated with unnecessary ER visits.

Real Impact: A Case from Navarre

A recent case at our Navarre location illustrates the dual model's efficiency. A mother, uncertain whether her daughter's gymnastics-related collarbone injury required ER or urgent care, chose our facility for its quality care, no appointment policy, and efficiency. They received swift and thorough care: an X-ray, physician's assessment, treatment plan, and a specialist referral, all within an hour and billed at the urgent care rate. This approach provided the necessary medical attention and avoided the higher costs associated with a traditional ER visit. Had they gone to a traditional ER, they would have been billed at an ER rate even though this condition could be treated at an urgent care. By being billed as an

urgent care case, the family was spared a significant ER deductible, showcasing our model's dedication to cost-effective, patient-focused care.

A Game-Changer for Pensacola

The Baptist Emergency Room & Urgent Care - Pensacola-9-Mile represents a significant advancement in local health care. It stands to simplify and improve the way residents access medical services. Eliminating the guesswork in choosing the proper care level and offering a hybrid model ensures that patients receive timely, appropriate, and affordable treatment.

Looking Forward

The opening of this facility marks a new chapter in healthcare for Pensacola, one where convenience, efficiency, and patient satisfaction are at the forefront. It's an exciting development that promises to transform the health care experience for the community. So, watch for the opening of Baptist Emergency Room



& Urgent Care - Pensacola-9-Mile. It's more than just a health care center; it's a step forward in making health care accessible and patient-focused for everyone in Pensacola.

Locations

Navarre: 8888 Navarre Pkwy., Navarre, Fla.

ER open 24/7, UC open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Nine Mile: 9400 University Pkwy #101A Pensacola, Fla. Opening Soon

Learn more: <https://www.baptisteruc.org/>

Story provided by Baptist Health Care.



Westminster Village

Where Loving-Kindness Lives



Explore our exciting new amenities. Contact us today for your personal tour!

AboutActs.com/Snowbird | (866) 630-1140

Do you prefer Pensacola? Learn about our sister property. (850) 798-4729

Turn your snowbird vacation into a retirement staycation.

Say goodbye to the cold and hello to a warm, welcoming community at Westminster Village in Spanish Fort, AL. Enjoy a resort-like neighborhood, exciting new amenities, and recently renovated common areas with friends you'll have for life! No home maintenance, no snow, chef-prepared meals, less stress, and peace of mind knowing that Acts Retirement-Life Communities have put the well-being of residents first and foremost for more than 50 years.



Mexico Beach, El Governor Resort Shine Post Michael

When Hurricane Michael slammed into the Panama City Beach region some five years ago, the beaches with its newer construction made a quick rebound. Inland Panama City took longer but new neighborhoods have cropped up and downtown is experiencing a revival! The all-important military base (Tyndall) has a new mission which will keep thousands employed.



The hotel features all gulf-front rooms with kitchenettes, central elevators and a sweeping sunrise view. Across the street is a property-owned RV park that has access to the hotel amenities.



Farther east at Mexico Beach and the rest of the quaint communities that make up the Forgotten Coast progress has been slow but steady.



I had "followed" the hotel on Facebook for a number of years and grabbed a special rate when it was offered. The cool weather wasn't a deterrent and we packed our bags!

After Christmas we took a side trip to Mexico Beach and stayed two nights at the newly reopened El Governor Motel and RV park. Instead of completely tearing down the old-school motel, owners have renovated (pink pelican décor!) and added amenities.



More progress has been made since then with the opening of a new heated pool, splash pad for kids and soon, the outdoor bar.

We enjoyed the region dining at Port St. Joe and taking a driving to the recently reopened and fabulous St.

Joseph State Park at Cape San Blas.

Follow them all on Facebook and take a side trip, if you can. I'll be heading back, soon. Note - many try to visit during the high-season rates (spring and summer) but late Fall, early Spring and Winter offer the best deals.

BOOK A YEAR-ROUND ADVENTURE



River trips, zipline, fire pits, kayaking, tubing, camping (tent and RV), three train car options, cabin rentals, hiking nearby.



Gift cards available!
Great
winter rates!

850-623-6197 or adventuresunlimited.com

Thank you to our Snowbird advertisers!

Acupuncture and Wellness of Pensacola – Features treatments for chronic pain, neuropathy, autoimmune conditions and more. Details: awpensacola.com

ACTS Westminster Village - Picturesque and scenic Retirement Community in Spanish Fort, Ala. www.actsretirement.org

Adventures Unlimited - A top outdoors adventure getaway with cabins, camping, ropes course, zipline. www.adventure4sunlimited.com

Alabama Coastal Catering - Restaurant group which frequently hosts Snowbirds with award-winning BuzzCatz Bakery, Luna's Eat and Drink, Cobalt, and GTs on the Bay. Details: alabamacoastalcatering.com

Amelia Island Mobile Home Park - 2031 Russell Road, Fernandina Beach, Florida.

Andrews Institute - Serves the orthopedic and rehabilitation needs of local families, athletes and professional athletes. www.andrewsinstitute.com

Baptist Health Care - Boasting a brand new, state-of-the art medical facility in Pensacola and multiple primary and emergency care facilities. www.ebaptisthealthcare.org

Beau Rivage Resort & Casino - Celebrating its 25th anniversary, the MGM property raised the bar in Mississippi. www.beaurivage.com

Beltone of Northwest Florida - Free hearing screenings. Three Northwest Florida locations (Pensacola, Navarre, Fort Walton.) Details: www.beltonenorthwestflorida.com

Brick Oven - Wood-Fired oven specialty pizza and Italian dishes. Located near OWA in Foley, Al. www.brickovenfoley.com

Juana's Pagoda - Restaurant and (live music) entertainment complex perched at the base of the Navarre Beach Bridge. www.juanaspagoda.com

Bellingrath Gardens - Top Alabama attraction with luxury historic home and fine gardens. www.bellingrath.org

The Grove - Features affordable Over 55 resort-style living. www.thegrove.com

Good Time Tours - Offers group bus transportation to Mississippi coast casinos, New Orleans and beyond. www.goodtimetours.com

Jumping Lomo Peruvian Cuisine - Authentic Peruvian food on the coast with two locations! www.jlperuviancuisine.com

Magnolia Grill - Historic home turned into a elegant restaurant located one block behind downtown Fort Walton Beach. www.magnoliagrillfb.com

Majestic Oaks RV Resort - Modern RV park located a few blocks from Biloxi's top casinos. www.majesticoaksvr.com

Native Café - Family owned and operated features bright expanded space, a homestyle breakfast and innovative lunch menu. Details: thenativecafe.com

OWA Parks & Resort - A world-class development with restaurants, entertainment, shops RV park and attractions. Details: visitowa.com

Rouses Market - Louisiana-based grocery chain which features numerous specialty items and a hot food bar. www.rouses.com

Pensacola Beach Bash - 9th Annual Snowbird welcome presented by the Santa Rosa Island Authority and Pensacola Beach Chamber. www.pensacolabeachchamber.com

Retinal Specialty Institute - Rapidly expanding practice of the region's best retinal specialists. Currently conducting clinical trials. www.retinalspecialty.com

Santa Rosa County Tourism – Known for sugar white beaches, gorgeous water and the Gulf of Mexico's longest pier. The northern end boasts camping, hiking, tubing and canoeing. www.getrelaxing.com

SB Sock Hop Navarre Chamber - Annual Snowbird and Wintertime Welcome presented by the Navarre Chamber and Santa Rosa County Tourism. www.navarrechamber.com

Seville Savories Food Tour - One of the most popular attractions led by a Gulf Coast native. Sample history and tasty food both! www.sevillesavoriesfoodtour.com

Shrimp Basket - Tasty seafood with All You Can Eat specials. www.shrimpbasket.com

Sisters of the Sea Bingo Brunch - Charity fundraiser. Details: 251-402-2218 Sinfonia Gulf Coast – Innovative and elegant musical productions. Details: sinfoniagulfcoast.org

Splash RV - State of the art RV park with numerous cabins and park models. Heated swimming pools and lazy river. www.splashrvresort.com

SpringHill Suites Marriott Navarre Beach - Gulf Front property features free deluxe breakfast. Snowbird Discount rates \$109 (January and February (call to reserve the rate.) www.marriott.com

Tiger Point Golf - Tigerpointgolf.com

USS Alabama - <https://www.ussalabama.com>

Windjammers/Navarre Pier - Bar and Restaurant located adjacent to the Navarre Pier – the longest on the Gulf of Mexico. www.windjammersonthepier.com

Wind Creek Atmore - Deluxe south Alabama casino with fine dining, luxury amenities, onsite movie theatre and cooking classes. www.windcreekatmore.com

Find your copy of Snowbirds Gulf Coast!

View every edition in easy-to-read pdf format online at: snowbirdsgulfcoast.com.

Also, sign up for our e-newsletter Seasons online to be the FIRST to receive it! We also post the pdf on our Facebook page under SnowbirdsGulfCoastMagazine.

Alabama Gulf Coast Rouses Supermarkets

Alabama Welcome Center at I-10

Area libraries

Area Senior centers

Beach House Restaurant/Spring Hill Suites Navarre Beach

Biloxi Visitor Center

Brick Oven Foley

BuzzCatz Coffee & Sweets

Condo lobbies throughout the coast

Dauphin Island Chamber of Commerce

Destin Chamber of Commerce

Destination Panama City

Emerald Coast Convention & Visitor Center

Fort Walton Beach Recreation Center (FWB Club locale)

GTs On The Bay

J.W. Renfro Pecan Co.

Joe Patti's Seafood

Juanas Pagoda

Mobile Visitor Center

Native Cafe

RV Park offices throughout the coast

Magnolia Grill

Majestic Oaks RV Resort

Navarre Beach Visitor Information Center

OWA

Panama City Beach Senior Center

Panama City Beach Visitor Center

Panama City Chamber

Pensacola Beach Visitor Center

Pensacola Visitor Center

Perdido Key Visitor Center

Perdido Bay Golf Course

Santa Rosa County Visitor Center

South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce

Village Baptist Church, Destin Visit

Pensacola Visitor Center

Walton County Visitor Information Center

...and many more!

ADVERTISER TESTIMONIAL

Snowbirds Gulf Coast
BIRDS

We ♥ Our Advertisers!

“ Small business owners know every dollar spent on advertising must count. Targeting your customer demographic is crucial. That's why I chose to place an ad in Snowbirds Gulf Coast Magazine. I own a food tour in downtown Pensacola and 50% of my business is from out-of-town visitors, Our area sees thousands of snowbird visitors every year and I can directly reach them through Snowbirds Gulf Coast Magazine. I worked in advertising for over twenty years and have the experience to know how and where to place my ads. I saw a valuable ROI placing ads in this magazine. If you have a business that caters to our-of-town visitors this is where you need to be.”

Duel Christian,
President,
Seville Savories
Food Tour, Inc.

SEVILLE SAVORIES

FOOD TOUR



MUSCLE CARS, JOHNNY CASH, & *More* CLASSICS!



Start the month off with tickets to Cashback: a Tribute to Johnny & June Carter Cash, 3/1 at OWA Theater—then start your engines for the Gulf Coast Mustang & Mega Car Show on 3/9. Get ready for Still Standing: a Tribute to Elton John, 3/22-23 only, and come back for classic Easter fun with our Bunnies & Baskets, 3/23-30. Doing good for the community is always a classic—don't miss the Diabetes Walk (3/2) and Ronald McDonald House Rubber Ducky Regatta on 3/23! Get all the details at Visit OWA.com!

OWA
Parks & Resort

THRILL, THEN CHILL.

A WORLD CLASS
DEVELOPMENT BY

