

VISIT PANAMA CITY BEACH

WINTER 2015 MAGAZINE

Great Escape

Winter Visitors Trade Ice and Snow for Fun and Sun

HIT THE TRAIL
Parks offer pathways to natural beauty

AW, SHUCKS
Lowly oyster is a Gulf coast delicacy

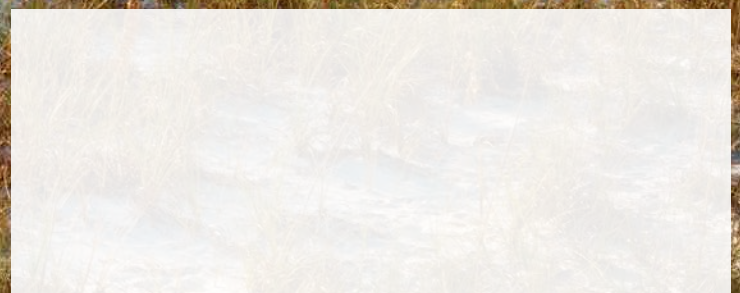
GET A BITE
Fishing stays hot after area waters cool



Panama City Beach

REAL FUN. BEACH.

VisitPanamaCityBeach.com



Book Direct and Save 15%!



15191 Front Beach Road
(888) 607-0006
SeahavenBeach.com

SEAHAVEN BEACH IS YOUR BEACH!

Seahaven Beach Resort features four distinct properties, each with its own personality. With choices ranging from beachfront hotels to fully equipped condominiums, all conveniently located near world famous Sharky's beachfront restaurant, Seahaven Beach is YOUR beach! We've got it all.

Book direct and save 15%! Ask about our unique group, meeting and special event venues! Call us today.

Sterling Stories



FIND YOURS AT
Sterling
RESORTS
A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES

(877) 423-9304
SterlingResorts.com

CREATING VACATION MEMORIES THAT LAST A LIFETIME STARTS WITH A REALLY GOOD STORY

The week your family looks forward to all year. The weekend that was just because. The extras you didn't have to pay for. Some memories we will remember more than others — those are the Sterling Stories.

Discover your next escape, along with attractive offers, on our website.

By The Sea Resorts



Legacy By The Sea | Beachcomber By The Sea
Beachbreak By The Sea | Beach Tower By The Sea
(888) 627-0625
ByTheSeaResorts.com

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

By The Sea Resorts features four beachfront properties all conveniently located within walking distance of shopping, dining and entertainment. From standard hotel rooms to suites with full kitchens, each property is uniquely suited to fit your needs and budget. Plus, you'll enjoy FREE continental breakfast and FREE daily housekeeping when you stay By The Sea!

CALL FOR WINTER SPECIALS!

Counts~Oakes Resort Properties



Rental Office Locations in PCB:
Pier Park | PCB Parkway-West End
Thomas Drive-East End | Horizon South Resort
(850) 636-6700 | Panamabeachrentals.com

DELIVERING THE EXPERIENCE UNIQUE TO YOU

Your time ... Your experience. Choose Counts Oakes Resort Properties for the best selection of vacation rentals in Panama City Beach featuring resorts, condos and beach houses. We specialize in luxury beach house rentals ranging in size from 3-9 bedrooms. Perfect for family gatherings, weddings, special events and sports teams.

All vacation rentals include an *exclusive unlimited all access VIP pass* to Cobra Adventure Park and Emerald Falls Family Recreation Center.

Sugar Sands Inn and Suites



20723 Front Beach Road
(800) 367-9221 | (850) 234-8802
sugarsands.com

MAKE A LIFETIME MEMORY

Sugar Sands cordially invites you to experience the sugar-white sands and emerald-green waters as only our Southern hospitality can provide. Our family atmosphere is second to none, and our tropical Gulf-front location is the perfect place to create lasting memories. Our breathtaking sunsets will beckon you to come back every year.

Contents

/ WINTER 2015

FEATURE

48 OYSTERS An effort is underway to restore oyster beds in West Bay, a move that will be welcomed by Panama City Beach oyster sellers and connoisseurs.

54 SHOOTING THE WEATHER It's a little like stepping into a river. When photographing the weather, you will never encounter the same scene twice.

58 STARS IN THE SKIES We offer a primer that will help you identify the military aircraft — Navy and Air Force — frequently seen in the skies above Panama City Beach.

62 REFLECTIONS OF THE MAYOR Panama City Beach Mayor Gayle Oberst looks back on her two terms in office and the dramatic ways in which the city has changed.

64 WINTER ROYALTY Thousands of snowbirds flock to Panama City Beach each winter, but only two emerge as king and queen of the Senior Prom.

68 FISHING SHOW Chasin' the Sun, a television show set to debut in January, will bring viewers across the country fishing adventures from Panama City Beach.



Contents / WINTER 2015



36

SCOTT HOLSTEIN

DEPARTMENTS

SPOTLIGHTS

24 GOLF Signal Hill, Panama City Beach's first golf course, is a mecca for winter visitors. The layout is just a 5-iron from the Gulf of Mexico and accommodates beginners while also challenging the veteran player.

30 SHOPPING We feature products that you can use to accessorize your home or your latest outfit; dress up a salad; or breathe underwater.

32 FISHING In and around Panama City Beach, the fishing stays hot even after the water cools. For pursuers of speckled trout and redfish, winter can be the best fishing season of them all.

36 ATTRACTIONS At the Seacrest Wolf Preserve near Chipley, visitors get up close with canines known for their ferocity and learn that they are not so big and bad after all.

40 ECO ADVENTURES Restore your connection with Mother Earth by hiking trails at St. Andrews State Park, Camp Helen State Park or Panama City Beach's Conservation Park. No guide required.

44 DIVING The waters off Panama City Beach are rich in wrecks and artificial reefs. A favorite is the dive site known as the Twin Tugs. Improbably, one tugboat has come to rest on top of the other.

30



IN FOCUS

73 EVENTS No community rings in the new year quite like Panama City Beach. Its Beach Ball Drop has been recognized as one of the best New Year's Eve events in the country.

78 SPORTS With a model private/public partnership, the Panama City Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau, The Bay District School Board and the St. Joe Co. are working to bring a new recreational sports complex to Breakfast Point.

82 NEIGHBORHOODS We visit the area of the beach known colloquially as the "West End," where a sense of classic beach community prevails.

86 FOOD Central to the Saltwater Grill is a magnificent saltwater aquarium that is home to tangs, wrasses, butterfly fish and other species not for sale. But the seafood entrees are to die for.

88 VACATION The Panama City Beach Visitor Information Center is the first stop for answers that save vacationers time and money.

90 INSIDER TIPS For people who treasure the past, Bay County on both sides of the Hathaway Bridge offers antique shops that make for a memorable day.

98 BEACH HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS Make fun memories with a new family tradition.

EVERY ISSUE

16 AREA MAP

18 FISH

21 BIRDS

23 SHELLS

95 BEACH SAFETY

97 BEACH ETIQUETTE



86

The WonderWorks Experience



WONDER WORKS™

INDOOR AMUSEMENT PARK!

9910 Front Beach Road
(850) 249-7000
wonderworkspcb.com

THE THING TO DO DURING YOUR VACATION!

An indoor amusement park for the mind with 35,000 square feet of “edu-tainment,” WonderWorks combines education and entertainment with more than 100 hands-on exhibits that challenge the mind and spark the imagination. Explore the six WonderZones, three-stories high Ropes Course, Lazer-Tag and our new Space Fury ride!

Visit wonderworkspcb.com to plan your visit, check specials and purchase tickets. WonderWorks opens daily at 10am.

PANAMA CITY BEACH CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

PRESIDENT/CEO Dan Rowe

VICE PRESIDENT OF ADMINISTRATION Marcia Bush

VICE PRESIDENT OF SPORTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS
Richard Sanders

VICE PRESIDENT OF TOURISM DEVELOPMENT
J. Michael Brown

DIRECTOR OF VISITOR SERVICES Barrie Ainslie

DIRECTOR OF SALES Ann Gager

DIRECTOR OF PARTNER ENGAGEMENT Tracy Rudhall

DIRECTOR OF SPORTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS Chris O'Brien

SPORTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR Patrick Stewart

MANAGING EDITOR/PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER David Demarest

INTERACTIVE MARKETING MANAGER Lynsey Beasley

SALES MANAGER Chip Seal

SALES COORDINATOR Anne Williams

MARKETING COORDINATOR Michaellean Dyer

BAY COUNTY FILM COMMISSIONER Julie Gordon

VISITOR SERVICES Dara Adams, Nelda Fields, Stephanie Harry,
Suzi Leistner, Bill Poteet, Susan Seals

"What's your favorite winter event in Panama City Beach?"



The New Year's Eve Beach Ball Drop! I love ringing in the New Year with a great party.
— **Lynsey Beasley**



I love the Winter Resident "Grand Finale," where our winter residents show off their singing and dancing skills. — **Richard Sanders**

ROWLAND PUBLISHING

PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER Brian E. Rowland

DIRECTOR OF EDITORIAL SERVICES Steve Bornhoft

CREATIVE DIRECTOR Lawrence Davidson

PRODUCTION MANAGER Daniel Vitter

EDITORIAL DESIGNER Shruti Shah

ADVERTISING DESIGNERS Jillian Fry, Amanda Hartsfield

CORPORATE CLIENT LIAISON Sara Goldfarb

DIRECTOR OF SALES & MARKETING McKenzie Burleigh

AD SERVICES COORDINATOR Lisa Sostre

PROOFREADER Melinda Lanigan

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Chay D. Baxley, Steve Bornhoft, Hannah Burke, Blake Corley, Jason Dehart, David Demarest, Wendy O. Dixon, Lynn Grisard Fullman, Tisha Keller, Linda Kleindienst, Scott Lindsey, Pat McCann

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS David Benz, Blake Corley, Lawrence Davidson, Julie Eliassen, Lynn Grisard Fullman, Scott Holstein, Steve Wells



Though not an official event on a calendar, there's not much I enjoy more than spending time at Marcus' Gulf Pizza eating the best pizza in town while hanging with life-long friends.
Cheers! — **Daniel Vitter**



For years, I have enjoyed the Panama City Beach Chamber of Commerce's Run for the Redfish, held in December at Pier Park. It's one of the most well organized runs I've participated in and it's exciting to find that the event has now evolved to become the Panama City Beach Marathon.
— **Steve Bornhoft**

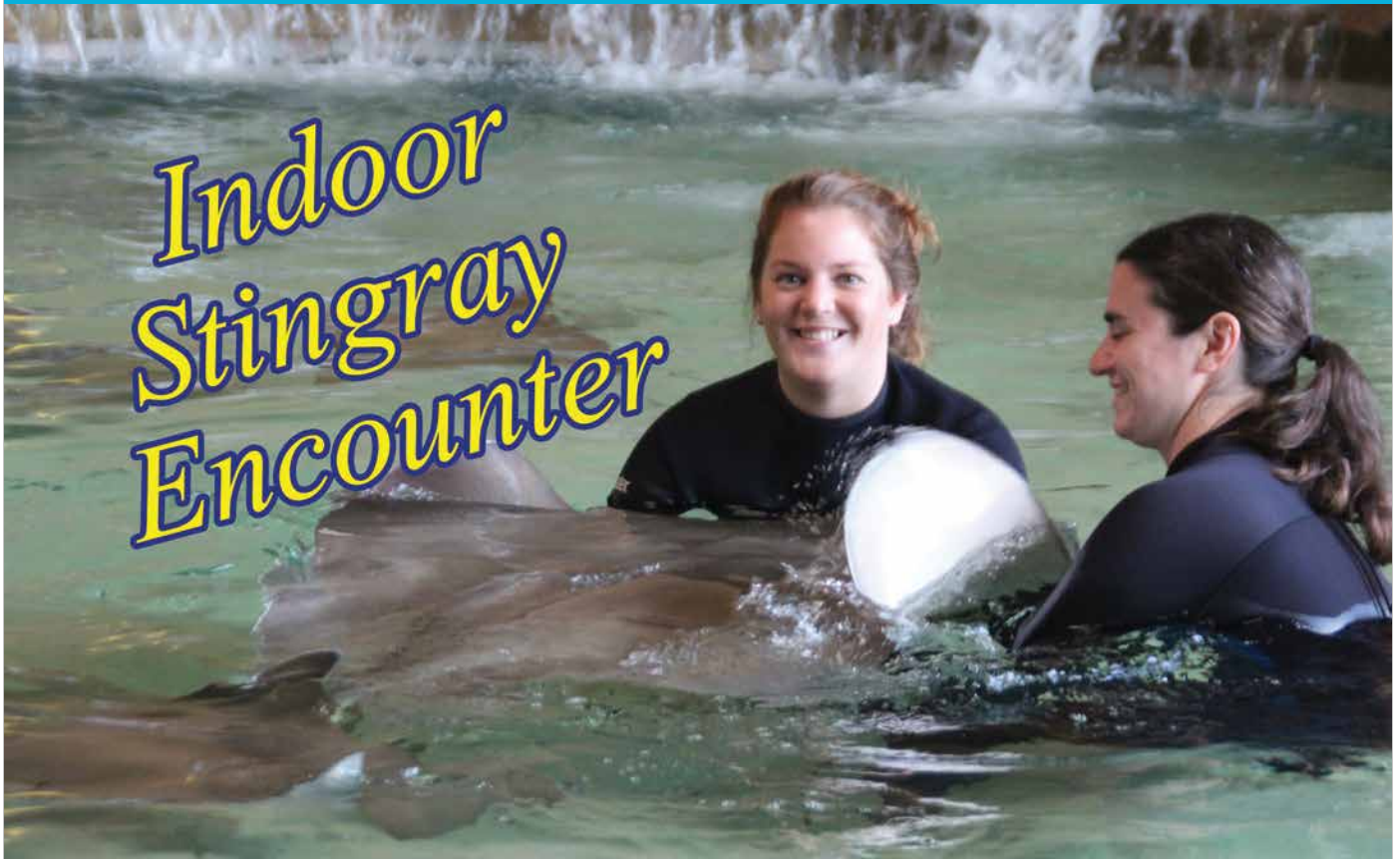


17001 Panama City Beach Pkwy, Panama City Beach, FL 32413
VisitPanamaCityBeach.com (850) 233-6503



1932 Miccosukee Road, Tallahassee, FL 32308
RowlandPublishing.com (850) 878-0554

Get in touch with fun!



**Indoor
Stingray
Encounter**



**Daily
Shows**



**Swim &
Play**



15412 Front Beach Road
(850) 234-5271
GulfWorldMarinePark.com

LIMITED WINTER HOURS

Visit Gulf World Marine Park and pay one daily price to see educational shows featuring dolphins, sea lions, tropical birds and their friends. Explore indoor and outdoor tropical gardens showcasing sea turtles, penguins, alligators and much more!

Make a reservation online for one of our interactive programs: Swim & Play with a Dolphin, become a Trainer for a Day, Indoor Stingray interactive program. Check website for days open.



VISITORS ARE JUST beginning to discover winter in Panama City Beach. The busy crowds of summer are a distant memory, but the spirit of “fun” is alive and well in the winter time, and as winter events have grown in popularity, word is out that Panama City Beach still has a lot to offer those of us here to enjoy the holiday season and a fresh start to a new year.



Stick around and you’ll find winter residents who make their home here between December and March celebrating life with dances, continuing education classes, socials and dinners. You’ll also meet the families who swap gray days of winter at home for bright beaches and fun events like the New Year’s Eve Beach Ball Drop, the Panama City Beach Mardi Gras & Music Festival, and a lineup of holiday themed events as part of this year’s Beach Home for the Holidays celebration.

From a walk along the beach, to a hike in the woods or a sports competition like this year’s first annual Panama City Beach Marathon, you don’t have to look far for a reason to get out and explore. But just in case, we’ve provided some ideas within this year’s winter edition of Visit Panama City Beach Magazine — tips for the angler on what’s biting, a look at one of our more famous restaurants for those interested in doing the biting, or a look at one of our featured artificial reefs for those taking part in our year round SCUBA diving.

You’ll find a lot more within these pages, and if you’re not already spending part of your winter with us here in Panama City Beach, I hope that you’ll also find another good reason to do so. We’d love to have you.

Sunny regards,

Dan Rowe, President and CEO

Visit Panama City Beach

Carillon Beach Rentals by ResortQuest®



On-Site at Carillon Beach, Celadon,
Palazzo, Tidewater, Sunrise Beach
and Seychelles
(844) 602-5246
RQLovesPCB.com

EXPERIENCE THE AWARD-WINNING DIFFERENCE!

ResortQuest by Wyndham Vacation Rentals® professionally manages a vast selection of beautiful, Gulf-front condos and beach homes in Panama City Beach.

Now offering more than 50 homes and condos in Carillon Beach and Pinnacle Port, guests will enjoy shopping and strolling through downtown Carillon, kayaking and fishing at the community lake, plus multiple pools and beach accesses. We're where you WANT to be!

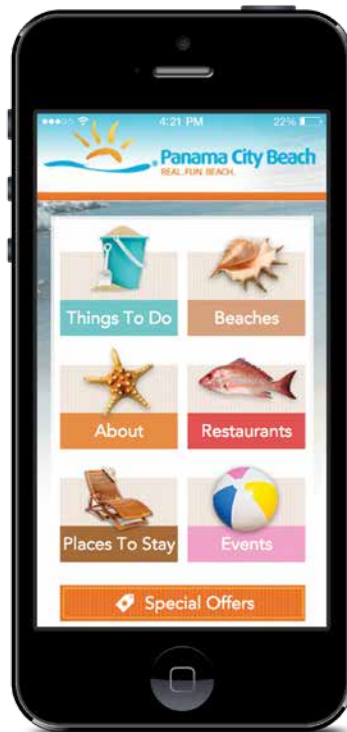


VisitPanamaCityBeach.com

>> MOBILE WEBSITE

Take us with you while you're in Panama City Beach. Our mobile website will help you:

- Find where to eat, play and stay based on your current location
- Easily access driving directions to attractions, restaurants and more
- Stay updated on current beach conditions
- View events and special offers from local businesses
- Find the nearest beach access points
- Connect with us through social media



>> PLAN THE PERFECT VACATION

Visit our website to plan your vacation. You'll find all the information you need, from accommodations to restaurants, events and attractions.

VisitPanamaCityBeach.com



Visit our website to find out about current beach conditions!

VisitPanamaCityBeach.com/Beaches/Beach-Warning-Flags

>> SOCIAL CABANA

Check out what's happening in Panama City Beach through our range of social media: Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Instagram, Google Plus, YouTube and our Blog.



VisitPanamaCityBeach



@visit_pcb



>> Get Inspired

While you're planning, check out the photos that other visitors have already posted. **#RealFunBeach**

Vacation Rentals & Long Terms



YOUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME EXPERIENCE

At Joni's Beach Rentals, we provide vacation rentals throughout Panama City Beach. Whether you are looking for a secluded getaway or want to stay in the middle of the action, we can help you find your dream vacation home.

Why stay in a hotel? We can make those vacation dreams come true!



1800 Thomas Drive
(800) 830-1433 | (850) 230-3988
stay@bchrentals.com
bchrentals.com

A gift gallery for all your senses



Touched By Fire

WHEN ORDINARY JUST WON'T DO...

Shop the most unique collection of North American artisans on the beach, with works from over 90 local, regional and national artists. Find the perfect treasure this holiday season from our exquisitely handcrafted jewelry, pottery, blown glass, exotic culinary items and much more!



11260 Panama City Beach Pkwy., Ste. 104
(next to Publix at Breakfast Point)
(850) 588-8008
BlueHeronFineGifts.com



Panama City Beach

Talk Like a Local

- “Back Beach Road” Panama City Beach Parkway
- “Middle Beach Road” Hutchison Boulevard
- “City Pier” Russell-Fields Pier
- “County Pier” M.B. Miller Pier

**NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

Major Road

Bike Path



Distance Chart

Atlanta, GA	297 mi	470 km
Birmingham, AL	280 mi	440 km
Dallas, TX	751 mi	1,310 km
Houston, TX	639 mi	1,034 km
Montgomery, AL	186 mi	206 km
Nashville, TN	476 mi	744 km
New Orleans, LA	305 mi	513 km
Orlando, FL	340 mi	617 km
St. Louis, MO	745 mi	1,243 km
Tallahassee, FL	98 mi	171 km
Tampa, FL	339 mi	546 km



Exciting Fishing Adventures Await!

EXPERIENCED ANGLERS, families ready for the “next big adventure” and fathers passing on their love of the sport to the next generation all know that fishing in Panama City Beach does not disappoint. From the sandy marshes and tidal flats of St. Andrew Bay to the depths of the Gulf of Mexico, our waters abound with a variety of marine life sure to entice the adventurer in anyone!

In Panama City Beach, pros and amateurs alike catch an array of species, including amberjack, bluefish, cobia, flounder, grouper, king and Spanish mackerel, mahi mahi, marlin, pompano, redfish (or red drum), red snapper, trout, wahoo, sailfish and yellowfin tuna. Two of our premier locations to fish are the Russell-Fields Pier (or City Pier) and the M.B. Miller Pier (County Pier). An admission fee of \$6 will include a license to fish from that pier for the whole day.

In the winter, fish like the popular speckled trout may move from the bay and into slightly warmer area rivers, where they can be more easily targeted. In the bay and Gulf of Mexico, you’ll have luck fishing for redfish and targeting flounder.

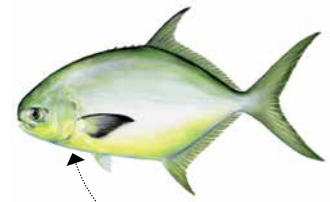
For those who want to get farther offshore, trolling, bottom-fishing and deep-sea excursions range from private

crew charters on luxury yachts to large group experiences on party boats. Small boat rentals are also available. In either case, you’ll benefit from the expertise of a knowledgeable captain and crew when zeroing in on some great fishing.

In addition to speckled trout, flounder, and redfish, winter time anglers can target pompano and cobia, species that are known to swim toward the shoreline for food. The warmer shores, in fact, lure larger fish throughout the cold weather.

At the onset of spring, Spanish mackerel, bluefish and cobia can be caught off the piers and in the bay, while trout and redfish populate the grass flats to feed.

Information and resources for fishing expeditions are available from the Panama City Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau website at VisitPanamaCityBeach.com under Ecotourism. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission publishes fishing regulations and license applications online at MyFWC.com, and the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council posts federal and state regulations on its website at gulfcouncil.org. Find additional information on fishing and charters at VisitPanamaCityBeach.com/things-to-do/fishing-charters.



Pompano



Redfish



Flounder



Mahi Mahi



Grouper



Cobia



Red Snapper



King Mackerel



Sea Trout

The Best Rates on the Beach



12525 Front Beach Road
(888) 842-3224
ChateauMotel.com

OFFERING THE MOST BEAUTIFUL VIEWS OF PANAMA CITY BEACH

Located in the center of PCB, The Chateau is close to all the great activities the beach has to offer. We have rooms that are only a few steps to the sand, and you will not find a better view anywhere else! Soak up the sun on our beachfront tanning deck, cool off in our lagoon-style pool or have lunch at our poolside bar and grill. Come stay at The Chateau, and you'll be treated like family. Check our website for great weekly rates and current specials!

“Sea Dragon” Pirate Cruise



5325 N. Lagoon Drive
(850) 234-7400
piratecruise.net

GREATEST SIGHTSEEING ADVENTURE EVER!

Come, if you dare, to walk in a pirate's shoes and see through a pirate's eyes! Enjoy an exciting and scenic two-hour family adventure cruise that includes dolphin sightings, great music and non-stop pirate activities for the kids. Cold beer, soda, snacks, T-shirts and pirate souvenirs are available on board as well as clean restrooms.

We're located on Grand Lagoon at the Lighthouse Marina. Open March through October!

The Best Birding, Naturally

NATURE ENTHUSIASTS have much to explore in and around Panama City Beach. Birding is a hobby that is growing in popularity on the Gulf Coast, and with our diverse ecosystems of coastal dunes, salt marshes and freshwater wetlands, a wide variety of birds can be viewed in their natural habitat.

The Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail (GFBWT) is a program of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission designed to conserve and enhance Florida's wildlife habitats by promoting birding and wildlife-viewing activities and conservation education. At its core is a network of nearly 500 sites throughout Florida selected for their excellent bird-watching, wildlife-viewing or educational opportunities. Miles of this self-guided trail run right through the Panama City Beach area.

St. Andrews State Park is featured on the GFBWT. Lush nature trails wind through the park, providing an excellent opportunity for birding. Or, take a kayak out and explore the coast for a more unique vantage point. Also, from

St. Andrews State Park you can take a boat tour to Shell Island, a 700-acre island populated with a variety of wild birds, including pelicans, sandpipers, gulls, egrets and snowy plovers.

Camp Helen State Park, another site on the Trail, boasts a wide array of bird-watching opportunities. There is no end to what the attentive bird-watcher will see at Camp Helen since it is bordered by water on three sides. By the Gulf of Mexico to the south and Lake Powell — one of the largest coastal dune lakes in the world — to the east and north.

The Panama City Beach Conservation Park was born from a desire to protect and balance our natural resources while providing outdoor recreational opportunities. Twelve trails, ranging from just over half a mile to 11 miles, provide endless opportunities, so bring your binoculars and camera and enjoy a day in nature!

For more information on birding in the Panama City Beach area please visit: BayCountyAudubon.org and FloridaBirdingTrail.com.



Bald Eagle



Brown Pelican



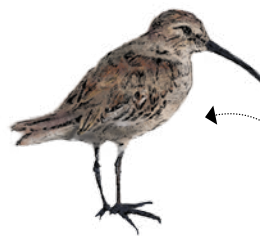
Osprey



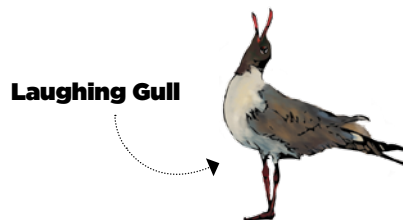
Red-Shouldered Hawk



Sandpiper



Dunlin



Laughing Gull



Great Blue Heron

Affordable Beach Front Hotel



9600 S. Thomas Drive
(800) 224-4853
BoardwalkBeachResort.com

ENJOY ONE COMPLIMENTARY NIGHT WHEN RENTING TWO NIGHTS OR MORE

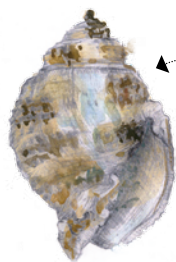
Experience smaller crowds and milder temperatures while enjoying the serenity of our breathtaking beach! Treat yourself to a better vacation this winter, and soak up the sun with a FREE night when booking this three-night package!

BUY 2 NIGHTS & GET 1 FREE — Extend your beach vacation by an extra night for free! Use promotional code **"SANDY"** when booking! Offer valid with travel from 11/9/15 to 1/31/16. Restrictions apply.

Stop for Nothing? Sure About That?

DISPLAYED ON WINDOW SILLS, end tables and bathroom shelves all over the world are samples of nature's handiwork plucked from the sugar sands of Panama City Beach and the bay bottoms and nearshore waters of Bay County's Gulf Coast. Anyone who says they will stop for nothing surely hasn't walked anywhere between St. Andrews State Park and Camp Helen the day after a heavy surf deposits sand dollars and the latest raft of seashells on the

sand. Shells can be found along the entire 27-mile length of Panama City Beach — make sure you pack a mesh bag along with your towels and sunscreen whenever you hit the sand — and especially on the uninhabited and aptly named Shell Island, accessible by shuttle boat from the state park. Serious collectors gather their most spectacular shells while snorkeling or diving. The species below represent a sampling of those that are indigenous to our area.



**Common
Nutmeg**



Angel Wing



Alphabet Cone



Lion's Paw



**Atlantic
Giant
Cockle**



True Tulip



**Lightning
Whelk**



**Florida
Fighting
Conch**



Calico Scallop



A Mecca for Golfers

FOR THE SERIOUS

GOLFER — or the lucky beginner — there could be no Panama City Beach souvenir more precious than a golf ball retrieved after it rattles the flag stick and drops into the cup for a hole-in-one. Courses here offer easy-to-reach par 3s that make just such an achievement possible. There are plenty of driving holes, too, that will tempt you to take the big stick out of the bag. And, hey, if your sand wedge is a little rusty, there's no better way to sharpen your sand play than to practice at the beach before hitting the links. Panama City Beach's eight-course golf menu includes:

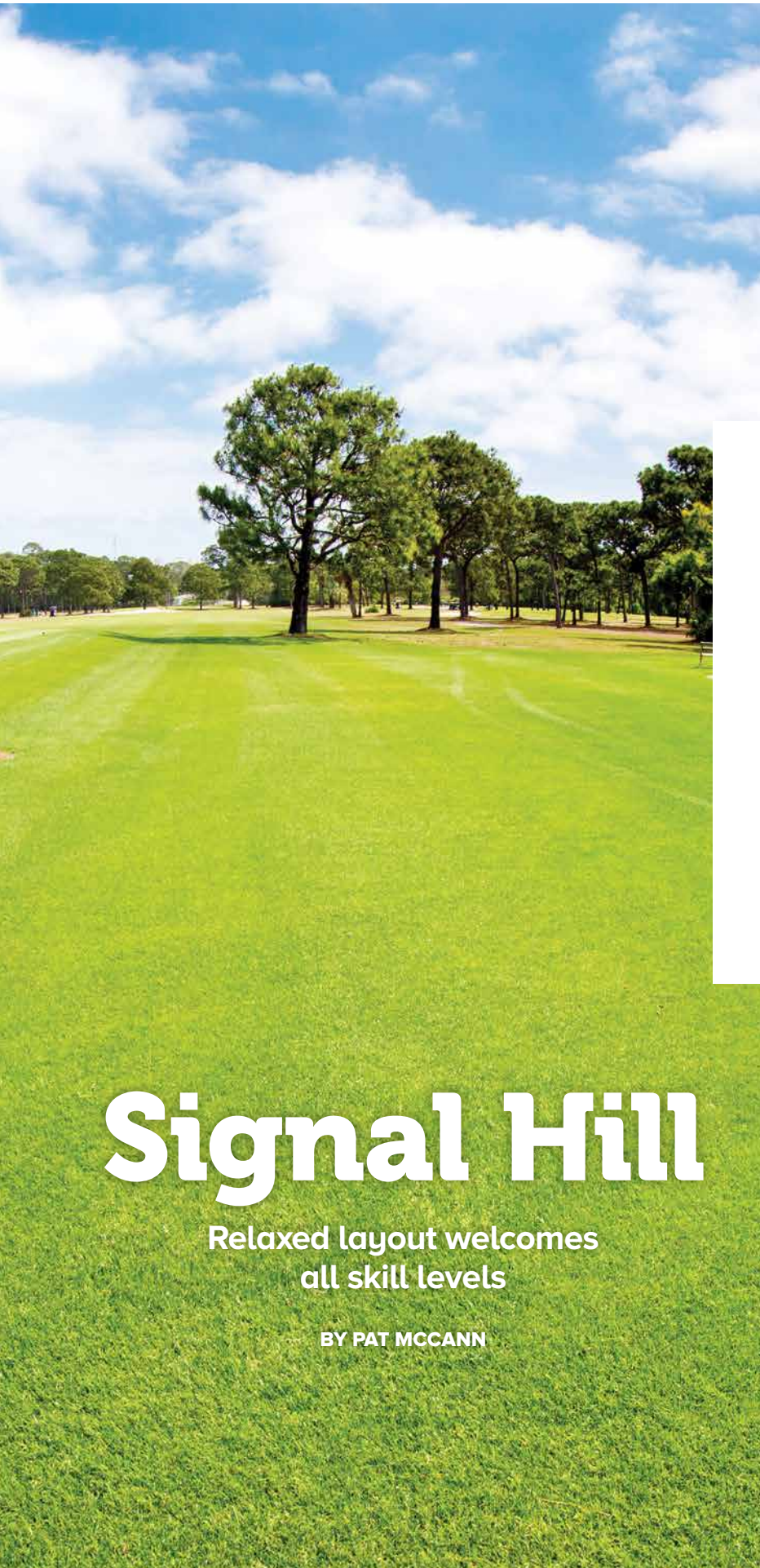
BAY POINT, offering two layouts, the only Nicklaus Design course in the region and a more subtle Walter Byrd layout.

HOLIDAY GOLF, home to both a regulation 18-hole layout and a lighted par-3 executive course.

HOMBRE, three courses each provide a distinctive challenge and lots of water.

SIGNAL HILL, delivering a varied 18 holes, open on the front side, but dicier on the back.





Signal Hill

Relaxed layout welcomes
all skill levels

BY PAT MCCANN

IF FRIENDLY, SCENIC AND affordable describe your ideal 18, you are sure to enjoy the experience provided by Signal Hill Golf Course in Panama City Beach. Designed and developed by John Sherman in 1962, the course was the first in Panama City Beach and has been locally owned and operated throughout its history. Signal Hill is an accessible layout for players of all ages and skill levels.

Neighboring a popular Gulf-front tourist corridor, Signal Hill doesn't intimidate as much as it accommodates. Walkers are welcome year-round, and the rental clubs are available to those new to the sport or vacationers who may have left their sticks back home.

Rates are highly competitive at this course featuring water, sand and gentle slopes.

The layout plays to a par 71 (37-34) and measures 5,617 yards from the tips. The course rating from the blue tees is 66.5, dips to 64.8 from the whites and is 67.4 for the red, or women's tees.

Signal Hill is open 365 days per year unless the skies open up or the greens are being aerated.

It's best to call ahead and reserve a tee time from January through March because the course is wildly popular with winter visitors. A snack bar serves breakfast and lunch.



Discover the Arts in You



ART FUN FOR EVERYONE

Create your own masterpiece or take home an original treasure created by one of our local artists.

Paint Parties, workshops, watercolor, acrylic and drawing classes, exhibitions — private parties



7940 Front Beach Road
Panama City Beach
(850) 541-3867
beachartgroup.com
beachartgroup@att.net

The back nine was developed first, says Beth Sherman-Langford, daughter of John Sherman, who helps carry on the family tradition. She described Signal Hill as rich in history and natural splendor and very well maintained, especially considering that this was the first golf course built in Panama City Beach.

Although it is not demanding, Sherman-Langford says, the course is spiced up with enough tricky holes to make it ideal for families, tourists and even professionals seeking a relaxed golfing experience.

The par-3 16th is perhaps the signature hole, carved out of sand dunes by John Sherman in 1962. Its change in elevation provides a picturesque view of both the golf course and surrounding area.

“We’re a family-friendly golf course,” Sherman-Langford stresses. “We also love juniors, as well as kids just learning how to play.”

HOLES 1-3

The opening hole is a modest dogleg right that provides a view of the green through the trees off the tee. Most will need only a medium- to short-iron approach to a green that is trapped both left and right. No. 2 is a par 5 with a welcoming landing area and accessibility that can be influenced greatly by choice of tee box. Small ponds can swallow short approach shots on both sides of the putting surface, but par is possible for some mid-handicappers and above. No. 3 is a short par 4 complicated by four traps that guard the green and a large pond that helps define the right side of the fairway.

Family Friendly Destination



The
Palmetto
INN & SUITES

17255 Front Beach Road
(850) 234-2121
PalmettoMotel.com

STAY HERE AND FEEL LIKE FAMILY

Palmetto Inn & Suites provides two locations — one on the Beachside as well as on the Northside which provides all of the accommodations you will need. Come experience our Southern hospitality at its finest. For a complete list of accommodations please visit our website today!

Free airport shuttle | Private Gulf-front balconies
Poolside Tiki Bar | Gulf-front pool, hot tub and sundeck
Gulf-front kids playground

Gulf Coast Regional Medical Center



CHOOSE QUALITY AND SAFETY

Gulf Coast Regional Medical Center is a 218-bed acute-care hospital located in Panama City. The hospital was named a Top 100 Hospital by Truven Health Analytic and recently unveiled a 42-bed critical care wing, which includes a 20-bed adult-level Intensive Care Unit and the region's only four-bed Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and an 18-bed (six Level III) Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.



449 W. 23rd St.
(850) 769-8341
gcmc-pc.com

Fun for the ENTIRE family!



PLAN YOUR NEXT VACATION WITH US...

Stephens & Associates offers a wide range of properties to fit most budgets, from Gulf front to spacious units just steps from the beach. We specialize in resort properties on the west end of beautiful Panama City Beach, Florida.



(800) 476-0244
(850) 234-7772
stephensrentals.com
info@stephensrentals.com



HOLES 4-6

Hole No. 4 is another inviting par 4, assuming the drive negotiates a pond that demands about 150 yards of carry. Once that's accomplished, birdie and par can be a wedge away. Golfers return to the clubhouse on No. 5, a par 5 with a dogleg right that offers plenty of options for those willing to gamble. A large trap behind the green awaits those who are too bold. The par-4 No. 6 veers to the right with a fairway trap along the left side and a green that is well bunkered and demands some precision on the approach.

HOLES 7-9

The seventh hole is the lone par 3 on the front side and is guarded by two bunkers that are far from imposing. The par-4 No. 8 begins near the Pro Shop with a tee box that looks straight down a fairway with a large sand trap on the right side of the green. A scenic par 4 completes the front side. Danger exists on the left for errant tee shots, but otherwise the

approach ensures a beneficial sight line to a welcoming green.

HOLES 10-12

A yawning bunker on the right side of the fairway frames the short par-4 10th, which begins a different visual experience with tighter fairways and varied terrain. No. 11 is another short par 4 with water down the right side and traps guarding the front of the green. As with the first three holes on the back side, iron off the tee can be a valuable alternative for many. No. 12 is a friendly looking par 4 that is somewhat deceiving. Water to the right accepts stray tee shots, the fairway is relatively tight and traps again guard the front. Long is not good, however, as a huge bunker collects anything hit through the green.

HOLES 13-15

The par-3 13th over water is the shortest hole on the golf course and places a premium on finesse while giving almost

all players a fighting chance at par. They then encounter a par 5 with a large sandy area short and right of a green that is set atop a plateau. Depending on pin placement, players can have a blind second or third shot to No. 14, but a glimpse of the Gulf awaits them on the rise. The par-4 15th is bisected by a creek that provides varied contours for a picturesque approach to a steep green.

HOLES 16-18

Hole No. 16 is a challenging par 3 framed by vegetation with danger awaiting in all directions for a shot that wanders far offline. The green rests on the highest elevation point of the golf course, with anything short and right sure to collect at the bottom of a daunting incline. No. 17 is a straightaway par 4 that travels downhill to an inviting target which can't be seen from the tee. The Signal Hill experience concludes with the longest par 3. It is well trapped but otherwise an honest finishing hole. ●

GEAR UP FOR WINTER

A BLUSTERY WINTER DAY with the fresh wind out of the north and the temperature dropping to the point of (darn it!) shoes-and-socks weather is a perfect occasion for exploring Panama City Beach's assorted shopping venues. They range from unique beachside boutiques to the retail giants at Pier Park and offer everything from essential sundries to darling suncatchers. Specialty shops from Thomas Drive to Pinnacle Port will help you discover the perfect clothing item, accessory or souvenir that will always serve to remind you of a place where the sands seem to shimmer and the sun shines brighter.



LAWRENCE DAVIDSON

SERVE SOMETHING SPECIAL

Delicious recipes won't be the only thing you serve up in this olive-inspired salad bowl set created by Mud Pie. An impressive blend of beauty and practicality, this stunning souvenir will showcase your healthful eating habits just as finely as it will the impeccable taste it took to purchase such a welcome find.

Carousel Supermarket
19440 Front Beach Road
(850) 234-2219



LAWRENCE DAVIDSON

ARTISTIC CREATIONS

Artists have always been drawn to the pristine natural beauty of Panama City Beach. Along the area's white sand beaches, driftwood, seashells and inspiration can be found in equal parts. Standing two feet tall, The Corner Store's handcrafted driftwood angel is a divine example of the artisan craftwork coming out of this diverse region.

The Corner Store
2511 Thomas Drive
(850) 238-8588



LAWRENCE DAVIDSON

COVET THE COAST

The tropical vacation you're about to embark upon need not end at checkout. Bring a touch of the coast to your everyday life with home décor accessories that speak to Panama City Beach's laidback style. Who knows — a cute sea critter could be just the extra splash your drab patio always needed!

Peaches to Beaches
17203 Panama City Beach
Parkway, Suite B
(850) 588-7422



SHIMMERING SEA

SPARKLING SELECTIONS

Celebrate the journey of special moments with the beautifully crafted collection of Waxing Poetic Jewelry. With this eye-catching, hand-detailed line, you can spell out sweet memories more beautifully than ever before. These endless possibilities are available at Shimmering Seas Jewelry & Gifts in Pier Park & 30 Avenue.

**Shimmering Seas
Jewelry and Gifts**
820 Pier Park Drive
(850) 234-6200



DIVER'S DEN

A DIVER'S DREAM

Boasting a high-end look and quality design, the Aqua Lung® Legend promises that divers both novice and experienced will breathe a little easier knowing this unmatched system is working for them. Durable, streamlined and attractive, this regulator comes backed with a guarantee of free parts for life and is sure to inspire many amazing descents to come.

Diver's Den
3120 Thomas Drive
(850) 234-8717

Everything You Love All in One Place



PierParkNorth.com

Aspen Dental • Bed Bath and Beyond • Chan's Wine World
Chili's • Dick's Sporting Goods • The Fresh Market • Great Clips
Ichiban Hibachi Grill • IHOP • Jake's Wayback Burgers
Kirkland's • Mattress Firm • Max Fit Sports Nutrition
Men's Warehouse • Michaels • PetSmart • Pier 1 Imports
Ross • Sally Beauty • Shoe Carnival • Sweet Frog Frozen Yogurt
Texas Roadhouse • World Market and more!



castoinfo.com



Go Fish!

30.1767° N,
85.8056° W.

THAT'S THE

latitude and longitude for Panama City Beach, Florida: a world-class fishing destination with easy access to year-round fishing opportunities.

What do you dream of reeling in? Perhaps you see yourself chasing a big billfish, or reeling a large grouper or snapper up off a shipwreck resting on the Gulf floor?

In Panama City Beach you can troll for mackerel, target redfish and tarpon on fly tackle, or just take the kids out for a day on the water to have a good time.

With three public piers on the Gulf of Mexico, lucky spots to fish from shore and countless charters available, Panama City Beach has something to offer every angler. Remember, in Panama City Beach fishing season lasts all year long.

Winter Fishing in Bay County

Fishing stays hot after the water cools

BY SCOTT LINDSEY

IF YOU'RE PLANNING a family vacation in Florida this winter and have doubts about what there is to do during the cooler months, worry no more. Many people imagine that fishing in Florida is all hot sun and long days on the water, but if you have never spent a winter in Northwest Florida, you will be pleasantly surprised at the mild climate.

Back in the old days, when Labor Day was over, everything seemed to shut down, including the fishing industry. The saying was, "After Labor Day you can walk from one end of the beach to the other and hardly ever see another person." Well, let me tell you that has all changed.

There may not be as many species of fish to catch in cool weather months compared to the summer, but there are plenty of fish to keep an angler busy. Keep in mind that the type of fisherman you are will also determine the type of fishing license you'll need (or won't need).

If you bring your own boat, you will need a saltwater license if you take anything from the Gulf of Mexico or St. Andrew Bay, including fish, crabs or

even shells if they contain a live animal inside (like a scallop or hermit crab). Even if you don't intend to fish it would be a good idea for one person on board to have a saltwater license when you're out on a private boat.

If you only plan to fish from one of our new cement piers, you will not need a license. Locals have their own names for these piers — the identical Russell-Fields Pier and the M.B. Miller Pier in Panama City Beach are often called the City Pier and the County Pier, respectively. These piers were built at about the same time using identical plans as a cost-saving measure, and the new design will stand up to the wind and weather longer and survive severe storms much better. At either one, the price of admission includes your license to fish from the pier for the day.

Because of the included licenses at the City and County piers, we have two piers in Bay County that do not require a license and three that do. To the east in Mexico Beach you have the opportunity to fish from a wooden pier where you will need to have your own fishing license,

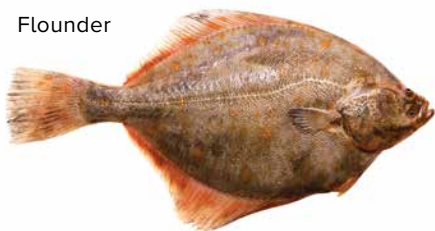


Winter cold snaps cause speckled trout (top photo) to bunch up in holes in creeks, while redfish (bottom photo) continue to frequent shallows.



If we have a very cold week or two the trout leave the colder waters of the bays and move into the warmer creeks and rivers. These freshwater creeks are only a few degrees warmer than the bay, but a few degrees is all it takes to draw these fish into an area that makes them easier to find and catch.

Flounder



and in the St. Andrews State Park the Tiller Pier offers good fishing and great Gulf views, while a second pier is located on the Grand Lagoon side. In the state park, you'll need to bring your own fishing license even if you're fishing from the jetties or beach. In fact, whenever you're casting a line from the beach, you'll likely need a saltwater fishing license. (You can get a fishing license at many local sporting goods stores, or buy them and check on current regulations from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at MyFWC.com.)

In the winter months we have incredible speckled trout fishing. You'll find them in different locations depending on the temperature. If we have a very cold week or two the trout leave the colder waters of the bays and move into the warmer creeks and rivers. These freshwater creeks are only a few degrees warmer than the bay, but a few degrees is all it takes to draw these fish into an area that makes them easier to find and catch.

If you bring your own boat and are not familiar with this area I would highly suggest you hire a guide for your first trip. This way you can learn how the locals fish and what type of bait to use. These guides don't mind showing fishermen their favorite spots simply because they know most fishermen visiting this area won't stick around long enough to fish out these spots. Ask questions and put the knowledge you gain to good use during the rest of your vacation.

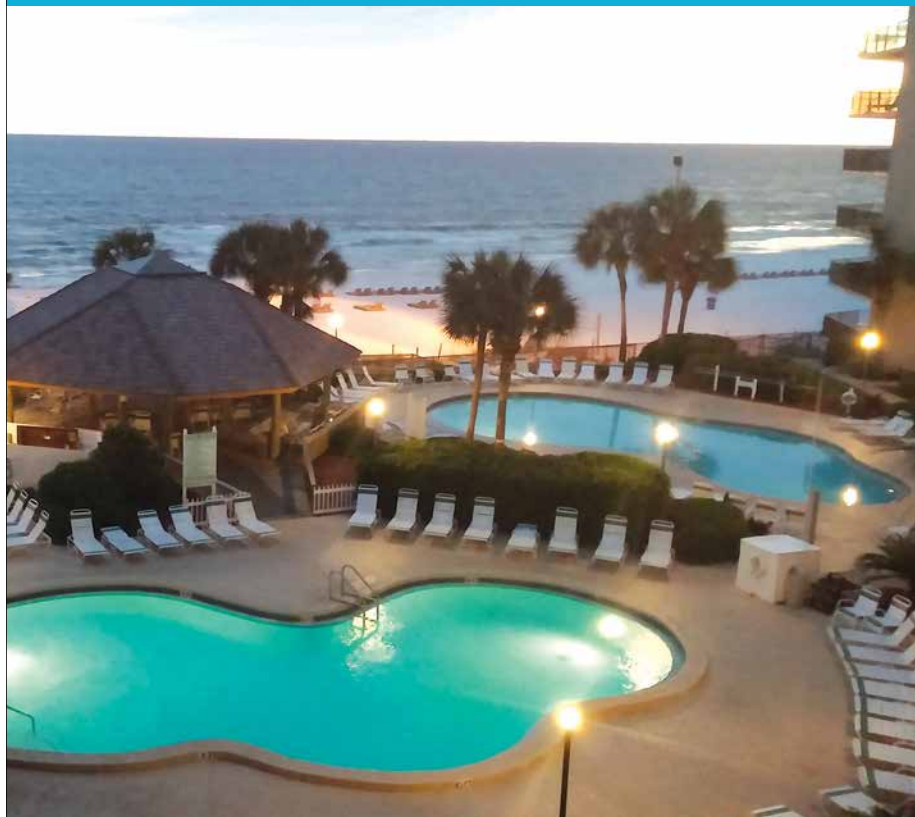
Rules and regulations will put certain fish off limits in the winter, but there are still plenty that can be caught. To target them, remember that light tackle is the name of the game in the winter.

Two winter fish that are popular in this area are the redfish and the flounder. The flounder may be an unusual looking fish, but according to who you ask it is probably the better tasting of the saltwater fish. The winter is when the flounder gang up in deep holes in the surf and in the bays.

The redfish is the staple among the local guides. These can be caught from piers and off the beach proper. The redfish is also very cold water tolerable and can be caught in the shallowest of water in the winter.

So you see, each season of the year has its advantages and disadvantages, but never let anyone tell you cold weather fishing in Florida is dull, because it isn't. ●

Your Home Away From Home



FAMILY ACCOMMODATIONS

We invite you to make The Summerhouse your "home away from home." Come enjoy our snow-white beaches, emerald-green waters and breathtaking sunsets. Two bedroom condominiums directly on the beach. Beach-side pools, hot tub, kiddie pool, tennis, shuffleboard and more.



6505 Thomas Drive
(800) 354-1112
summerhousepc.com

Where Family Memories are Made



GrandLagoon.org
facebook.com/GrandLagoonPCB

THE PLACE FOR FAMILY FUN

Panama City Beach's renowned Grand Lagoon is home to dining, shopping and easy access to the Gulf. Enjoy a round of golf, a day at St. Andrews State Park or many other outdoor adventures. From boat rentals and romantic cruises to waterfront dining and live entertainment — you'll find it all at Grand Lagoon, your gateway to the Gulf!

Visit GrandLagoon.org
Your #1 resource for family fun!

**Instant
Attractions**

FOR THOSE
LOOKING FOR
ATTRACTIONS
GALORE, PANAMA
CITY BEACH IS LOVE
AT FIRST SIGHT

“FUN IN THE SUN” may be one of Panama City Beach’s unofficial mantras, but this booming beach town has a lot more to offer than simply world-class natural amenities. Sure, the miles of pristine coastline are what draw people in. But once visitors arrive in this vacationers’ wonderland, there are a million reasons to stay.

Sightseers in need of a reprieve from the sunshine will have an array of adventures to choose from in Panama City Beach.

On the agenda? Well, for starters how about partaking in a round of mini-golf, getting into a laser tag shootout with loved ones or making friends with a stingray? As a true, All-American seaside retreat, this beach is chock-full of fun attractions.

Seacrest Wolf Preserve

Get your howl on at a unique wildlife sanctuary

BY HANNAH BURKE

ENVELOPED BY THE BOUNTIFUL woodlands of The Oaks Farm is the Seacrest Wolf Preserve near Chipley. Less than an hour’s drive north of Panama City Beach, the secluded forest stretches over 430 acres that are home to wolves, foxes, raccoons and other furry residents. This wildlife sanctuary is dotted with ponds and replete with lush subtropical vegetation that lines the scenic nature trails.

This winter, visitors will have the rare opportunity to participate in interactive walking tours of the preserve. Guided expeditions will immerse guests in the world of wolves as they traverse the wolves’ habitat and witness firsthand their way of living.

Preserve personnel will educate tour-goers about all of the animals they meet. For most who take part, those encounters will be a first-in-a-lifetime event. The experience takes visitors on a hike through large, natural habitats that are home to gray, Arctic and British Columbian wolves.

“The visitors become part of the pack,” enthuses preserve owner Cynthia Watkins. “The fall and winter seasons are excellent times to visit the preserve. Visitors enjoy the beautiful fall foliage in November and the gorgeous full blown winter coats of the wolves December through February.”

A guest-favorite moment of the tour is joining the wolves in “the great howl” and visiting the creatures’ dens. There, visitors are welcome to join the denizens in a photo session with one of the photographers that Seacrest has on site. Guests may purchase photos of their choice at the conclusion of the tour. All proceeds will go to the maintenance of the preserve’s wildlife habitat.



SCOTT HOLSTEIN

SCOTT HOLSTEIN





After photos have been taken and the wolf tour ends, visitors young and old yelp with excitement during up close and personal encounters with Seacrest's gray, silver and Arctic foxes.

Visitors literally rub noses with the breathtakingly gorgeous and curious animals, who often are joined by more familiar skunks and raccoons.

Guided tours are held on Saturdays at 1 p.m. and last around four hours, with tour groups numbering approximately 50 to 100 people at a time. The preserve also offers VIP and special group tours on weekdays at select times.

Appropriate dress is important.

Fur or faux fur coats and hats or leather and suede shoes are not to be worn around the habitat's residents. Pants, long-sleeved shirts and comfortable, closed-toed walking shoes are best suited for the trek through the nature trails of the preserve. Lunchtime concessions and rest areas are available to those who want to make a day out of their visit to Seacrest. Choose among a variety of souvenirs at the preserve's gift shop to commemorate your visit, and consider becoming a sponsor of one of the animals you encountered during your stay.

The Seacrest Wolf Preserve was founded in 1999 and is the largest non-profit wolf preserve in the Southeastern United States. In addition to providing a refuge for each inhabitant, the preserve strives to inform its visitors of the importance of wildlife and habitat conservation.

"Our mission is to educate the public about the natural world and its relationship to all living entities on planet Earth, with special focus on wolves and other wild species of North America. Our goal is to promote conservation and preservation of America's wild species and wild lands through education based on science."

— Cynthia Watkins

"Our mission is to educate the public about the natural world and its relationship to all living entities on planet Earth, with special focus on wolves and other wild species of North America," Watkins said. "Our goal is to promote conservation and preservation of America's wild species and wild lands through education based on science."

Specifically, Seacrest endeavors to make visitors aware of the significance of each species' contribution to the ecosystem it inhabits. Visitors will leave substantially more knowledgeable about wolves and the stunning section of Florida they occupy.

To obtain more information on the preserve, book your tour or find out what you can do to help Seacrest's mission, please visit Seacrestwolfpreserve.org. ●

Perfect Location, Perfect Vacation



**Flamingo**
Motel and Tower

15525 Front Beach Road
(850) 234-2232
FlamingoMotel.com

OUR FAMILY IS YOUR FAMILY

Location, cleanliness and value are standard at the Flamingo Motel. We do not charge for extra people, parking, local calls, Wi-Fi or cleaning. Value is our mission and we publish our rates in advance with no add-ons.

Located directly on the beach within walking distance of Pier Park and across the street from Gulf World, you would be hard pressed to find a better location on Panama City Beach.

LOW MONTHLY RATES FOR SNOWBIRDS

Hitting the trails

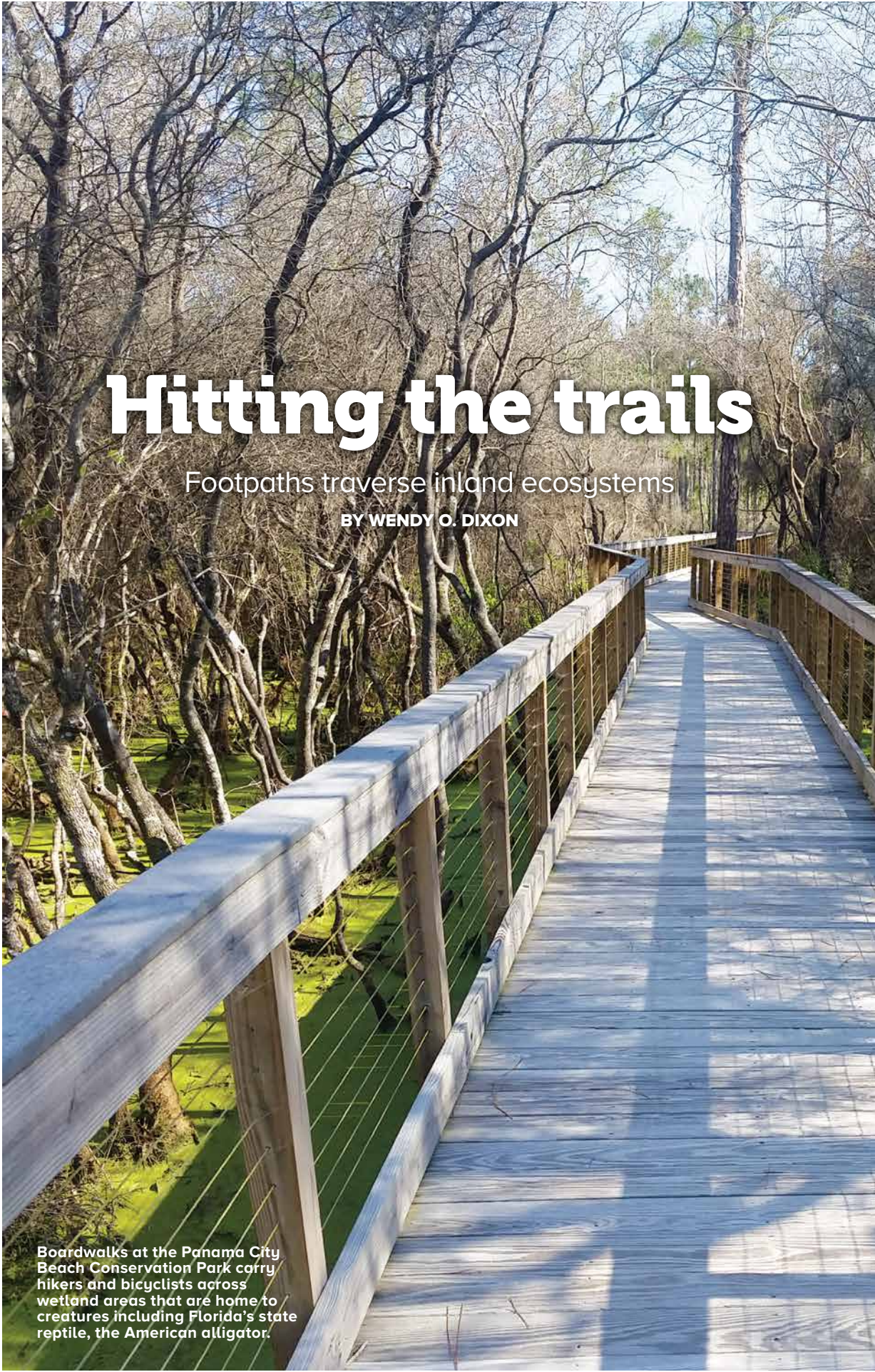
Footpaths traverse inland ecosystems

BY WENDY O. DIXON

Natural Diversions

SET OUT TO

explore “the last undiscovered Florida coast” and find out firsthand how diverse and rare animal species and plant life make Panama City Beach a nature lover’s wonderland. With 27 miles of beach, a multitude of parks and forests and a 700-acre natural barrier island, eco-tourists have their choice of wonderful adventures, from hiking and biking to kayaking and canoeing. You don’t have to go far to enjoy a swim, look for shells or just log some great bird watching time.



Boardwalks at the Panama City Beach Conservation Park carry hikers and bicyclists across wetland areas that are home to creatures including Florida’s state reptile, the American alligator.



Blake Corley took all of the photographs accompanying this story with his Samsung Galaxy S5 phone, proof positive that you can capture Panama City Beach's natural beauty and precious vacation memories with a device you carry around in your pocket.



THE SUGAR WHITE SAND may take center stage in Panama City Beach, where vacationers spend hours lounging at the water's edge, snorkeling in the Gulf of Mexico and sculpting sand masterpieces, but the area offers much more than can be seen from condo balconies for people willing to explore inland ecosystems.

Bay County is home to protected natural lands and hiking trails — lots of them. In addition to flip-flops and sunscreen, add hiking shoes to your suitcase and spend an afternoon walking along hiking trails and footpaths in Panama City Beach.

Panama City Beach Conservation Park

Located near the intersection of U.S. 98 and State 79, the Panama City Beach Conservation Park is a vast pine plantation and cypress dome restoration area. With loop trails ranging in length from 0.6 to 11 miles, the park encompasses nearly 3,000 acres of protected land featuring mostly flat paths, boardwalks, restrooms, picnic areas and outdoor classrooms. A color-coded map depicts a dozen trails of varying lengths.

The park is perfect for families, groups, bird watchers, flora and fauna fans, bicyclists and serious hikers. See if you can spot the various native wildlife soaring and roaming freely, including eagles, alligators, woodpeckers, wild boar, whitetail deer, snakes and coyotes.

At less than two miles, the green trail is ideal for short walks with children, while the yellow trail (4 to 7 miles) and blue trail (5.2 to 6.5 miles) provide for more ambitious hikes. A 9- to 11-mile orange route leads hikers around the perimeter of the park, while the 11-mile red route goes around and through the middle of the park. Along the way, you'll experience several wetlands and woodlands.

The Conservation Park project also includes Gayle's Trails, made up of nine miles of linear paved trails for hikers and bikers. They can be accessed at Frank Brown Park and connect to the trails at the Conservation Park, and also stretch north to the Intracoastal Waterway.

The trails are open daily from sunrise to sunset. Paved trails are wheelchair-accessible. Dogs are permitted but must be kept on leashes.



St. Andrews State Park

A pristine dune environment along the shoreline of Panama City Beach, St. Andrews State Park brings together the best of both on- and off-the-beach activities. In addition to one-and-a-half miles of beaches with a jetty, designated swimming areas, picnic pavilions, fishing piers and a play area, you can also find bikes, kayaks, stand up paddleboards and snorkeling equipment for rent. The park also offers nature trails that intersect a rich diversity of coastal plants and wildlife. There are two trails in the park to choose from. The Heron Pond trail takes you on a hike through a pine forest and past a historic turpentine still. The Gator Lake trail provides a scenic lakeside view and, sometimes, an opportunity to see Florida's state reptile.

To get to the park, turn south onto Thomas Drive from U.S. 98. Veer to the left (east) as Thomas Drive approaches the Gulf and follow it to the park gates. Admission is \$8 per vehicle. Admission for pedestrians, bicyclists and extra passengers is \$2.

Camp Helen State Park

Abutting the Gulf of Mexico and Lake Powell, Camp Helen State Park is located in westernmost Panama City Beach. The lake is one of the largest coastal dune lakes in the world, providing visitors with a unique look at the coast's diverse environment. From dunes and marshes to wetlands and pines, this park gives guests a snapshot of flora and fauna in a variety of ecosystems. Along with beach access, the park offers nature trails, biking, picnic areas and wildlife viewing areas.



Great Florida Birding Trail

Nearly 500 locations across the state of Florida make up the Great Florida Birding Trail — a 2,000-mile, self-guided route for bird lovers. Northwest Florida is home to 79 stops on the trail, and five of them are easily accessible from Panama City Beach, including Camp Helen State Park and St. Andrews State Park. For a full listing of birding trail sites, visit FloridaBirdingTrail.com.

When hiking the trails, wear neutral colors and unscented lotions, as bright colors and fragrance are bug magnets. Bring binoculars and a camera for bird and wildlife watching. Respect wildlife and plants, and keep loud voices to a minimum and wear earphones with music players.

For more information on the trails in Panama City Beach, visit floridahikes.com. ●

Southern Vacation Rentals



A SWEET SOUTHERN EXPERIENCE

Escape to the “World’s Most Beautiful Beaches” and find yourself surrounded by adventures and attractions. We represent some of the finest accommodations in Panama City Beach. Stay with us in a private beach home or in a popular family condo. Take advantage of terrific rates and our Southern Perks for deals and discounts on local attractions.



400 S. Arnold Road (Hwy 79)
(866) 624-0983
SouthernResorts.com

World’s Most Famous® Surf Shop



SURFING SINCE 1959

For over 50 years, Ron Jon Surf Shop has been offering the best apparel and accessories for the surf, skate and beach lifestyle for the whole family. Ron Jon is the place to get everything you need for a great day at the beach!



16150 Front Beach Road
Open Daily at Pier Park
(850) 233-8898
ronjonsurfshop.com



Diving Panama City Beach

THE NUMBER

ONE destination for scuba diving in the Southeast is right here, or to be more precise, offshore in the calm waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

There are six dive shops in the area and a number of independent dive charters, a testament to the world-class diving that can be found in Panama City Beach.

Artificial reefs, made from decommissioned ships, old bridge spans and other structures give divers from all over the world a chance to see a wide variety of undersea wildlife.

An artificial reef off Panama City Beach is like an oasis in a desert, because this part of the Gulf sea floor is 98 percent sand and the wrecks help attract and support sea life. The wrecks themselves can be found at depths starting at 60 feet and as far down as 110 feet, providing opportunities for novices and experts alike.

DAVID BENZ



Tugs Below

The 'Twin Tugs' offer a unique diving experience

BY JASON DEHART



DAVID BENZ

TWO AMAZING WRECKS in one dive. You can't say that about many dives, but that's what you have with the "Twin Tugs," a pair of derelict tugboats that were sunk by the Florida Aquatic Marine & Institute, Inc. (FAMI), back in 2003.

Dive instructor and artificial reef enthusiast Danny Grizzard says the tugs were surplus Navy ships and part of a fleet of four vessels abandoned by a defunct corporation in a Panama City-area bayou. The ships were removed by Resolve Marine Group,

a Fort Lauderdale salvage company, and Grizzard was able to secure two of them for creating a new artificial reef off Panama City Beach.

Artificial reefs like this are useful for attracting marine life because the sea floor in this region is mostly flat and open, with very little cover. The Twin Tugs — 85 and 95 feet long, respectively — now reside on the sea floor of the Gulf of Mexico about 11 miles from the St. Andrew Bay pass.

The first of the tugs was sunk on July 10, 2003. Stripped of its superstructure,

the remaining hull settled upright, and mostly level, on the bottom in about 100 feet of water. The second tug was left intact and sunk the next day. Grizzard said plans called for it to settle bow-to-bow with the first. But a change in wind and water caused the ship to settle at a slight angle to the other vessel and about 30 feet away from it. Sometime later a powerful storm shifted the second ship, stacking it on top of the first one, creating a unique combined wreck.

"Fish started coming in on the second day," Grizzard says, noting that the tugs

offer plenty of nooks and crannies for bait fish to seek shelter in and grow. Commercial boats started bringing divers out to the site almost right away once the two tugs were settled.

"This was a rare opportunity for visiting divers to see a new artificial reef from the beginning," Grizzard says. Bait fish were already swarming the ships and making themselves at home, followed by Spanish and king mackerel. A week later dive teams discovered triggerfish, small snapper, amberjack and a barracuda.

More than 10 years after being sunk, the two vessels have become famous for their abundant sea life.

"The Gulf out here is pretty much a desert, and like deserts on land they don't have much population on them. But as soon as you build something the fish come," says Mike Gomez, co-owner of Panama City Dive Center. "The tugs hold a lot of fish life and have been down a long time and are well-established."

Wrecks in general are popular with divers. There are all kinds of other artificial structures down below, including concrete spheres and pyramids, and these attract fish as well, but wrecks seem to have more character and mystique.

"These structures are more of a tourist draw than the old concrete pyramids or balls," Grizzard said. "Divers come to Panama City Beach to dive shipwrecks."

Divers also flock to Panama City Beach because of the offshore geography. Unlike other parts of the state, you don't have to motor

"The Panama City Beach area is unique in that we are one of the biggest drive-to-dive destinations in the country, second only to the Florida Keys."

— Danny Grizzard, Dive instructor and artificial reef enthusiast

out too far to reach deep water. Grizzard said divers have been coming here for training dives for years because of that feature.

"The Panama City Beach area is unique in that we are one of the biggest drive-to-dive destinations in the country, second only to the Florida Keys," he said.

The primary purpose of FAMI is to facilitate the funding and creation of artificial reef systems so that sea life can take root and thrive. Dozens of vessels, concrete structures, cylinders, steel bridge

spans and even Army tanks have been sunk in this region over the years to provide habitat.

The Twin Tugs are a popular part of the Florida Panhandle Shipwreck Trail, which consists of 12 shipwrecks off the coasts of Mexico Beach, Panama City Beach, Destin and Pensacola Beach. Five are located off Panama City Beach, one is near Destin, five others are south of Pensacola and one other is located just south of Mexico Beach. In fact, Panama City Beach has so many different artificial reefs to choose from that Skin Diver Magazine dubbed the local waters the "Wreck Diving Capital of the South."

Want to see for yourself? Local dive shops offer all levels of certification and even a "Discover Scuba" program that lets you get a taste of scuba diving without committing to a full certification course. Dive charters are available year-round, weather permitting, though wetsuits are necessary in the early spring and winter months. ●

Start Your Vacation!



TAKE OFF NOW WITH NORTHWEST FLORIDA BEACHES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

With service from Delta, Southwest, United and Silver, the region's newest airport provides daily flights to worldwide destinations, including nonstop flights to Atlanta, Baltimore, Dallas, Houston, Nashville, Orlando, Tampa and St. Louis.



NORTHWEST FLORIDA
BEACHES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

6300 West Bay Parkway
(850) 763-6751
ifybeaches.com

Last Local Beach Club



SCHOONERS
LAST LOCAL BEACH CLUB®

5121 Historic Thomas Dr.
(850) 235-3555
Schooners.com

THE BEST PLACE ON EARTH

This is where the locals come to build a sand castle, take a dip in the Gulf and count down to the cannon roar at sunset. There's no better place to watch the surf roll in, sip a cold one and truly relax. Voted "Best Local Flavor," "Best Bar," "Best Place for Live Music" and "Best Place to Take Friends from Out of Town!"

SHELLING OUT FOR REEFS

The image features a dark, weathered wooden surface as the background. On the right side, there is a rustic metal plate containing several oysters on the half shell, some with their meat exposed. A pair of light-colored, heavy-duty work gloves is laid out in the center, with a wooden-handled oyster knife resting on top of them. The overall aesthetic is rugged and coastal.

PROJECT AIMS TO
RESTORE BAY COUNTY AS
OYSTER PRODUCER

BY STEVE BORNHOFT AND JASON DEHART





Little things mean a lot. Take oyster spat, for example. In the right environment, the tiny marine larvae take root and grow into the tabletop appetizer known the world over. But more importantly, they're useful in keeping coastal areas and ecosystems happy and healthy.

Enter West Bay, which is the northwest arm of the St. Andrew Bay Estuary and is rebounding from a considerable decline in water quality and habitat. Back in the 1970s, wastewater discharges, combined with commercial shrimp farming, began damaging the West Bay seagrass. Murky water, caused by algae and sedimentation, impeded the sunlight necessary for grass beds to thrive. And without sea grass, the oyster fishery falters. Only within the past four years have these pollutants been stopped completely and conditions are now right for recovery.

That's where oysters come in. As filter-feeders, oysters act like kidneys by removing impurities in water. But oysters need something to glom onto to grow, like a reef system. Lacking a natural reef, they have to rely on the intervention of people. This year, the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission was funded by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to install an acre of artificial oyster reef habitat in West Bay. That project was completed this summer as a test. A bigger project begins in 2016, according to Katie Konchar, a state biologist.

"Next year we're funded to expand the project another three-and-a-half acres," she says.

According to Fish & Wildlife, the reefs are constructed using two methods. One involves the use of bagged oyster shells to establish an outer wall with clean shell forming the inside of the



Bucket brigade: State Fish and Wildlife Commission employees ready oyster shells destined for an oyster bed restoration project in West Bay.

reef. The second uses fiber mats that have clean shell fastened to them. The mats are staked in place on the seafloor. The idea is to mimic the structure and flow of a natural reef system. Oyster larvae will attach to the clean shell and create the “kidney” needed to filter the water and promote grass growth, among other things.

“Our goals are multifold: The presence of oysters will clean up the water and improve water quality. The reefs will also provide a great habitat for fish and invertebrates,” Konchar said. “The space between the oysters will provide hiding spaces for small fish. Our main goal in providing that habitat is to reduce wave energy and protect the shoreline. And all of those things together will foster the recovery of seagrass.” Which, in turn, will be great for coastal fish nurseries.

It’s too early to tell about the results of the project’s first phase, Konchar said.

“We have to wait a month and then take measurements on water quality and how fast the oysters are clinging to the material, and what fish species are being attracted. We’ll have to monitor it on a monthly basis,” she says.

Phase Two will expand on the initial work and will start next year between May and October. All told, scientists are expecting to restore nearly 30 acres of historic seagrass habitat. This vegetation is crucial to a variety of commercial and recreational fish and shellfish such as speckled trout, mullet, grouper, red drum, flounder, shrimp, blue crab and scallops.

SPICY JALAPEÑO BACON AND CHEESE OYSTERS

Serves 6

INGREDIENTS

- » 36 oysters, shucked, on the half shell
- » Rock salt
- » 12 ounces mozzarella cheese, grated
- » 1/2 cup cooked bacon, crumbled
- » 4 jalapeno peppers, chopped

DIRECTIONS

- 1** Arrange oysters on rock salt in a baking dish.
- 2** Top each oyster with 1/2 teaspoon of the cheese, crumbled bacon and chopped jalapeño to taste.
- 3** Bake in a preheated oven at 350 degrees F for 10 minutes or until edges of oysters begin to curl.

Source: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services



FOR PCB RESTAURANTS, OYSTERS ARE ESSENTIAL

The prospects for the increased availability of locally produced oysters are sure to excite restaurants for whom the bivalves are a staple. Bacteria counts, fresh water flows, interstate politics, point-source pollution and other factors can result in selected bay closures, so the more bays in the immediate area producing oysters, the better.

Scott Mandeville is an assistant chef at the Montego Bay Seafood House and Oyster Bar where he has worked for 10 years. Asked about the importance of oysters to the business, he replies, simply, “They’re vital.”

He estimates that fully half of Montego Bay’s tourist season customers arrive with oysters on their mind. The restaurant often goes through six bushels (600–900 oysters) in a day — baked, jalapeño baked, steamed, raw and Oysters Montego. The latter, a house specialty is a steamed oyster doctored with garlic butter, char (salt, pepper and garlic), crab meat, bacon and jalapeño cheese.

Montego Bay, Mandeville said, relies on a supplier, King’s Bay, that obtains oysters from harvesters in Apalachicola and Texas. They arrive at the restaurant individually banded like lobster claws.



Oyster sellers place a premium on freshness. “I know where my oysters come from and when they came out of the water,” says Mack Carter, owner of Shuckums Oyster Pub.

“They are well taken care of, clean, fresh and safe,” Mandeville said.

At the Bayou on the Beach Cafe, oyster consumption can range to 15 bushels a day, according to Maria Buxton, who owns the business along with her husband, Jordan.

Here, oysters are prepared in more ways than Forest Gump ever thought about fixin’ shrimp. Rockefeller, Butter and Garlic, Four Cheese, Pepper Jack and Bacon, Chargrilled — the list goes on. Buxton favors recipes developed by her mother-in-law, Donna Buxton, who hailed from Lafayette, Louisiana.

You’ll find Tabasco, Crystal and other commercially produced hot sauces at Bayou on the Beach, but many habitués favor the Buxtons’ own sauce, made on site and sold in unlabeled canning jars for \$10 a jar. Just don’t expect to come by the manifest of ingredients it contains.

“That’s a secret,” Buxton says and adds, “We go through about 10 gallons a week.”

“I like it because it has lots of flavor, and it’s not too mild and not too hot,” says Bayou on the Beach employee Randall Hines, who introduces himself as the finest shucker ever to come out of the Amish country of Mount Vernon, Ohio.

Speak to Hines for a while and you’ll conclude that he’s capable of writing a book titled, say, “Zen and the Art of Bivalve Bifurcation.”

The best shuckers, he says, are less concerned about speed than presentation. Oysters shouldn’t be butchered or even stabbed, and shells should be free of grit. He uses Dexter oyster knives of different lengths right out of the package, unlike some shuckers who customize their knives’ blades and handles.

“The thinner the shell, the longer you want your knife blade to be,” Hines offers. “It’s all about finding the right fulcrum.”

Behind him at the shucking station is a small but growing collection of pearls.

“We’re working on a necklace,” Buxton says, “but we’ve got a ways to go.” ●

“The thinner the shell, the longer you want your knife blade to be. It’s all about finding the right fulcrum.” — Randall Hines, shucker, Bayou on the Beach





Capturing a
breathtaking photo
is all about being
in the right place
at the right time.

AN ENDLESSLY FASCINATING SUBJECT

PHOTO BUFF CAPTURES
THE WEATHER FROM
HERE TO THE HORIZON

BY DAVID DEMAREST

JULIE ELIASÉN





Julie Eliassen moved to Panama City Beach in 2014 after graduating from Valparaiso University where she majored in meteorology and mathematics. Also the wife of a local television weather forecaster, Julie says she’s had an eye for weather since growing up near Baltimore, Maryland, where her parents’ house was struck by lightning three times! “I actually transferred to Valparaiso once I learned about their meteorology program,” Julie says.

Although not a professional photographer, thanks to social media platforms like Instagram (where she posts under the name @WxJoules), Julie is now sharing photos that showcase dramatic views of Panama City Beach weather with followers across the country, capturing moments that can’t be recreated anywhere else. “I’m always watching the radar. The weather patterns here are pretty unique, but I am especially on the lookout for shelf clouds, or outflow boundaries on the radar. Here, when a low pressure system advects into the Gulf, we will see storm cells that progress from the east to the west, and you don’t see that very often in the North. The mesoscale circulation of the sea breeze creates the possibility for interesting weather daily,” Julie says, “but what people really seem to like are pictures of the sky lighting up and the vibrant colors of the water and sky.”

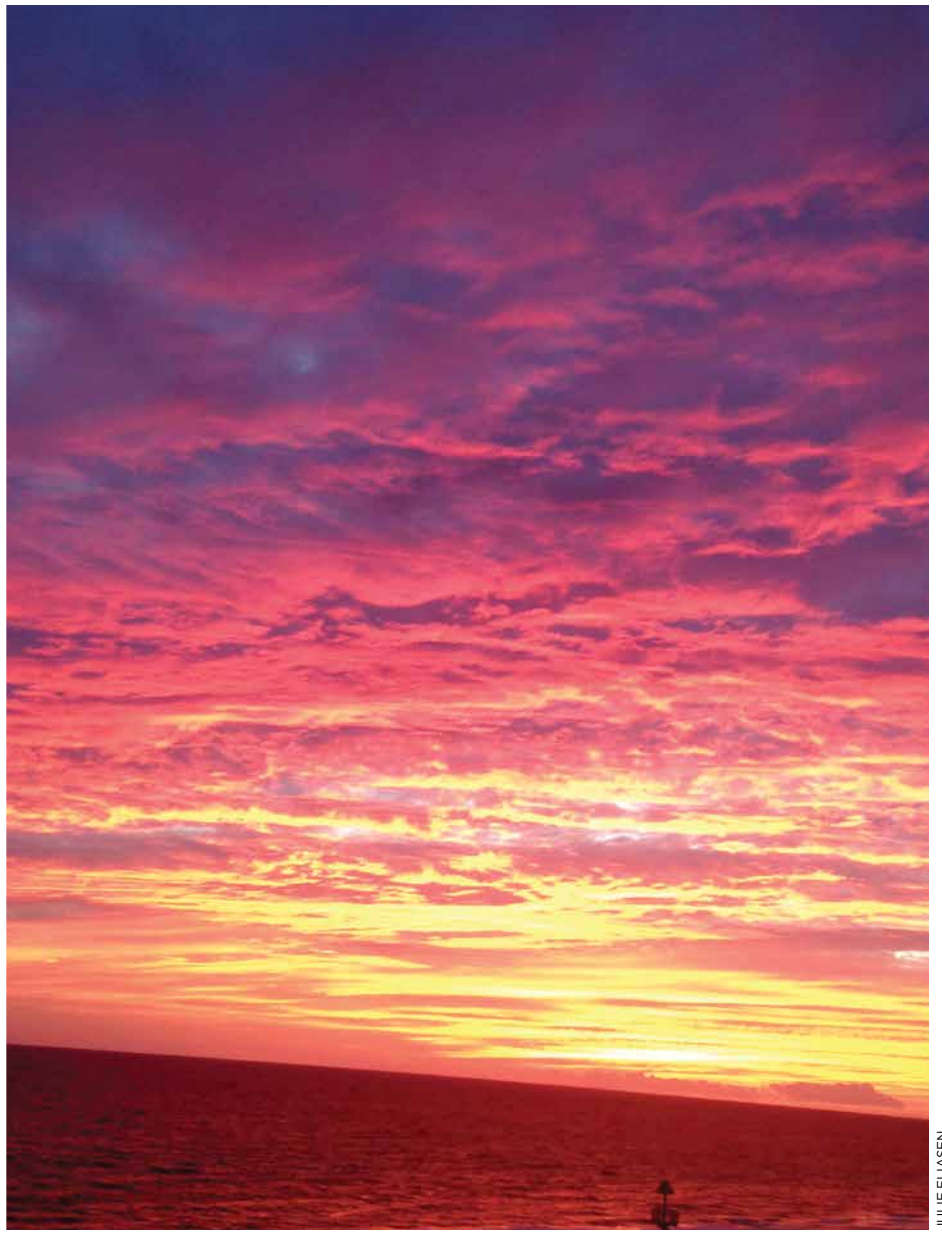
So what’s the secret to capturing great weather pictures? “Watching the radar can help, but I just keep snapping pictures. For me, any sky over the Gulf of Mexico is going to make a good picture.”

It doesn’t hurt that the beachfront condominium that Julie calls home is often on the front row for some of the most beautiful vistas to be found anywhere. “The special thing about beach weather and vistas is that it’s just such a dynamic atmosphere,” Julie says, referring to the weather systems such as sea breezes and squall lines.

As for capturing those great shots? Julie downplays her role in the process. “For me, this is God’s creation, and I’m just getting to see it and happy to share. I’m not shooting with anything special — most of my photos are taken with my iPhone and occasionally with my Nikon. I’m just a fan of these types of images, and I think everyone should give it a try!” ●



JULIE ELIASSEN



JULIE ELIASSEN



JULIE ELIASSEN



Stars in the Skies

MILITARY AIRCRAFT
DOT PANAMA CITY
BEACH'S SKYSCAPE

BY TISHA KELLER



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

A formation of 325th Fighter Wing F-15 Eagles and an F/A-22 Raptor fly over Panama City Beach. The Raptor is scheduled to replace the F-15 Eagle in the Air Force inventory.



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

The sound of freedom rings loud and clear in Panama City Beach — it's the sound of military aircraft soaring overhead.

There are two main sources of military flight activity in the area: the Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division and Tyndall Air Force Base. Both of these installations train service personnel, practice maneuvers and conduct research missions.

According to Jeffrey Prather, Public Affairs Officer with the Naval Surface Warfare Center, most sky watchers in the area will notice the Navy's MH-60S Seahawk helicopter for the Dragonmasters squadron that supports airborne mine countermeasures and search and rescue missions. Recently, these helicopters have been used for testing missions aboard the USS Independence.

Thomas Bonifay, the civilian Chief of Community Engagement at Tyndall AFB, says the U.S. Air Force uses several aircraft in the Panama City area. Major stars in the skies are the F-22 Raptor and T-38 Talon.

The F-22 Raptor is the Air Force's newest fighter aircraft. The Raptor performs both air-to-air and air-to-ground missions to support ground missions of the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps. It is highly regarded as the most state-of-the-art aircraft in the sky today.



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE



DAVID DEMAREST

The T-38 Talon is a twin-engine, high-altitude, supersonic jet trainer used in a variety of roles because of its design, easy maintenance, high performance and exceptional safety record. USAF Air Education and Training Command uses the T-38C to prepare pilots for front-line fighter and bomber aircraft such as the F-15E Strike Eagle, F-15C Eagle, F-16 Fighting Falcon, B-1B Lancer, A-10 Thunderbolt and F-22 Raptor.

Other aircraft in the USAF arsenal at Tyndall include the E-9 Widgeon, which is a twin turboprop plane used to clear the Gulf of Mexico of civilian boaters and aircraft before live missile launches and other dangerous activity.

The BQM-167 Subscale Aerial Target is a missile-like drone aircraft that provide lifelike targets for the Air Force Weapon System Evaluation Program. The remote-controlled drone is land

launched using a rocket-assisted takeoff and launched from a rail system. The craft can be recovered by a parachute and repaired, tested and reused.

The Air Force also uses the MU-2, a small turboprop aircraft that is used to give student pilots their first taste of controlling a plane at the beginning of flight school. The MU-2s and the nine retired military pilots that fly them provide direct flying support for the 325th Air Control Squadron's Air Battle Management course.

Now that you know a little bit more about the military aircraft that inhabit the airspace over Panama City Beach, we hope you'll have an appreciation for the highly trained military personnel who pilot these craft and keep them maintained. Until next time ... keep watching the skies!



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE



UNITED STATES NAVY

This page: A crew steadies and lowers a BQM-167 sub-scale drone following a recovery demonstration; an aircrewman from the Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City secures a cargo line dropped from an MH-60 helicopter. **Opposite page, clockwise from top:** a pair of F-22 Raptors, a flight of Navy helicopters and an unmanned QF-16 full-scale aerial target.

Trailblazer

Mayor Gayle Oberst has been a change agent

BY DAVID DEMAREST

Due to a two-term limit for mayors in Panama City Beach, at the end of her current term Mayor Gayle Oberst will retire from a position she has held as the beach has undergone a tremendous amount of change. We sat down with Mayor Oberst to discuss those changes, what she sees for the future of the beach and what's next for the woman whose first retirement was quickly superseded by a 16-year career dedicated to the service of Panama City Beach.

You've been mayor of Panama City Beach for 10 years, plus you served six years on the Panama City Beach City Council. How have you seen the beach change in that time?

When I ran for office the very first time, part of my platform was that we were more, and we were going to be much more, than a strip of sand with some motels on it. That's what we had been. We had a lot of old motels built in the 40s and 50s and 60s, and we have the world's most beautiful beach. And it really is! I've been to a lot of beaches all over the world, and it's so pretty here. But we've grown up — we went



STEVE WELLS



from being that little strip of sand with motels on it to being a real vibrant, great community. And a good place to visit!

When you came to Panama City Beach back then the only thing you could do was go in the Gulf of Mexico. You played on the sand and went in the water. Now, people have fun here even when it's not beach weather. People are having fun all year, because there's always something to do. They can go shopping, they can go eat, there are tours ... there's just so much else to do now. I think what happened is we grew up. That's the real change.

What accomplishments are you most proud of during your tenure? I would guess that Gayle's Trails (the walking and biking trails that will someday span Panama City Beach and beyond) are a high point.

I'm so proud of our parks, and especially the Panama City Beach Conservation Park. It's really unique — 3,000 acres of natural Florida. It does a few things.

It's a wet weather discharge area, which most people don't realize. That means that our treated wastewater doesn't go straight into the bay. We did that to keep St. Andrew Bay pretty. We (Panama City Beach) bought those 3,000 acres ourselves and built the park infrastructure to make that happen. That is a great thing for the environment. But in the process, what I said to the engineering folks was, "If we're going to spend that kind of money, we need to get more out of it. So, let's make a park out of it that people can enjoy." And that's what we did. People go there to walk, to ride their bikes — it's a good example of ecotourism, too. So it's great for recreation, and it's great for the environment. And Gayle's Trails connects to all of it.

You spoke about the city paying for the Panama City Beach Conservation Park, and the city paid to build its new library facility, too. It seems like financially the beach is in really good shape.

We are one of the very few cities that does not have an ad valorem tax. We don't have a property tax at all in our city. We live on a 1 percent sales tax and the franchise fees on utilities, which means that we really live off tourism, because everyone who buys something pays that 1 percent. That's a pretty unique way for a city to operate. We have about a \$100 million budget this year, and for a city of 14,000 people that's unheard of. So we really do well, but we're a very conservative city. We budget our money and use it wisely.

What do you see in the future of Panama City Beach?

We'll soon start the second phase of the Front Beach Road CRA (Community Redevelopment Agency) project, and that will mean underground utilities, landscaping, streetscaping, widening Front Beach Road, putting in a trolley or some kind of mass transit lane and a bike lane, and sidewalks. All of that will be happening, and we're in the second phase. It's a long-range project, and it's all being paid out of CRA funds generated on Front Beach Road. We'll transform the whole section of the city that's on the beach into a beautiful landscaped, streetscaped, walkable community. You're going to see that happen.

I think, too, that our beach has been "discovered," and you're going to see more and more people visiting us and wanting to live here, or wanting a second home here, and we will grow into a full-time, year-round resort.

What is the message that Panama City Beach needs to share with the world about this destination?

I really think that Panama City Beach is a great place to live, work and play. It really is. It's a fun beach — I like that tagline, "Real. Fun. Beach." because it is. If you want to come and walk on the beach and look at the sunset you can do it; if you want to wander through nature you can do it; if you want to go out at night and



dance you can do it. When I was first elected, we didn't have a whole lot of choices for shopping or going out to eat. And today we have, almost anything you can think of, or we're going to have it shortly. It's been like night and day. People who haven't been here, or haven't been here in a while, should come see what Panama City Beach has become — they'll be impressed!

Thank you for your time and your service as mayor of Panama City Beach. What are your plans for the months and even years following your last day in office?

When I retired from Troy State University, I only managed to stay retired for six months. I'm a Type A personality, a pretty high energy person. But I learned to play golf, and I moved down to the beach, and then I woke up one morning and I knew I wanted to go back to work.

So I don't know what I'm going to do, but I'm sure that it's going to be fun. I'm going to do something that's really fun. I may do more travelling in the U.S. I've lived in Europe and Asia, and I've been through the airports of most major cities in the United States, but that's not really seeing a city when you fly in and fly out. I'd really like to see more of the United States. I may travel, but Panama City Beach will always be my home. ●



WINTER ROYALTY

CORONATION CULMINATES SENIOR PROM

BY HANNAH BURKE



Panama City Beach annually welcomes thousands of winter residents who travel to the Gulf Coast to realize dreams of a white Christmas — and not the kind that results from crystalline precipitation. It is the white sand that beckons them along with the opportunity to spend a few months immersed in a spontaneous community of like-minded, migratory seniors.

Over time, certain locales have emerged as snowbird hubs. Signal Hills Golf Club — where the Canadian flag is flown along with the Stars and Stripes — is one. The Pour activities center and karaoke at Bayou on the Beach Cafe are two more. Snowbirds gather at Frank Brown Park to walk their lap dogs, play pickle ball, swim laps and socialize.

And, each year, snowbirds gather to celebrate the election of a new king and queen. The coronation is the culmination of the Winter Resident Senior Prom, a happening coordinated by the Panama City Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau. There is dinner and live music and then there is that moment when two individuals, heretofore commoners, become Panama City Beach Royalty.

Connie and Jim Demulling of New Richmond, Wisconsin, were heralded as the 2014 king and queen of the Winter Resident Senior Prom. Having frequented Panama City Beach for 11 winters, both had become actively involved in numerous activities for senior visitors and become friendly, familiar faces among the winter residents of Panama City Beach.

Connie Demulling leads an indoor water aerobics class for seniors at the Tidewater Beach Resort, while Jim loves charter fishing. Both regularly attend “Donut Days” at the Panama City Beach Visitor’s Center (formally called “Winter Resident Appreciation Days,” the nickname has grown out of the tradition of free donuts being made available to attendees). They frequent potluck suppers and never miss Wisconsin Resident State Days at Harpoon Harry’s restaurant.

“I think these events all help make PCB such a wonderful place to spend the winter,” Connie says. “People are so friendly and always take time to talk to us. Most of us seniors don’t need to have it in the 80s to lie in the sun. We enjoy being away from the cold and freezing temperatures back home and being able to sit

THIS PAGE:
Left: Jim and Carol Jean Butzler with Jim and Connie Demoling
Right Top & Bottom: Winter residents dance and meet new friends at the Mardi Gras themed 2012 senior prom.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Jack and Louise Mitchell 2015



by a hot tub or pool, enjoying good fellowship with those around us.”

Two couples nominated Jim and Connie as candidates for Senior Prom King and Queen. Ten days prior to the event, residents were encouraged to vote online via the Convention and Visitors Bureau website.

“The prom was held at a beautiful resort at Bay Point near Grand Lagoon,” Connie recalls. “Tickets were gone in less than two hours on the day they went on sale. Jim was in line that morning at 6:30 so he would be sure to get ours.”

The theme for the sold-out event attended by 650 people was Twilight Invasion. Decorations included light blue tablecloths; large, beaded centerpieces and strings of lights draped from the ceiling nearly to the floor. In the lobby, a photographer took pictures of attendees in front of a large seashell sculpture.

“Now we can always look at the photos, which bring back so many wonderful memories,” Connie says. “We had a wonderful buffet meal — salad, soup, main dishes and yummy desserts. Everyone enjoyed dancing to the wonderful music. The dance floor was always full. After the meal, each of the five couples who had been nominated

THIS PAGE:
Left: Mike and Brenda Sherwood
Right: Dancing “Under the Starry Skies” in 2015

were introduced and called forward. We each received a corsage or boutonniere. Then we all waited for the announcement.”

Connie and Jim experienced what she describes as a “surreal moment” when they were named king and queen.

“I was speechless, which is unusual for me,” Connie jokes. “We felt it was an honor just to have been nominated. When they placed the crown on my head and handed Jim the scepter, we truly realized that this was really happening and it was not a dream.

“Then the mayor of Panama City Beach, Gayle Oberst, presented us with a key to the city and an official proclamation honoring us as the king and queen of the third annual Winter Resident Senior Prom.”

Connie has never been a queen before, but in high school, Jim was voted “First Attendant to the Prom King” and his date won Prom Queen. Now, both had the opportunity to reign as royalty and to be introduced at special events, such as the annual Mardi Gras parade, as Panama City Beach’s Senior Prom King and Queen.

“We were also interviewed by the local newspaper,” Connie recalls. “We were thrilled to see our photo and a



wonderful write-up about the entire night's activities in the next morning's paper. It means a lot when the local media shows such support to all of us winter residents. It really makes us feel appreciated."

Adds Jim, "Words cannot express how rewarding and memorable the entire evening was. It was a year we will never forget."

The currently reigning Senior Prom King and Queen are Canadians Jack and Louise Mitchell from Ontario. They are close friends of the Demullings.

"We were thrilled to be nominated to be the Senior Prom King and Queen," Louise recalls. "When the announcement was made that we had been chosen, we were shocked! What an honor to be voted ambassadors for Panama City Beach. Our first dance as King and Queen was quite emotional. We felt so much pride representing Panama City Beach."

Jack and Louise are fond of the natural beauty of Panama City Beach and exercise by taking walks at St. Andrews State Park and Frank Brown Park. They participate in the 5-kilometer race at Mardi Gras time. They enjoy shopping at Pier Park and attend many live performances at Gulf World, the Martin Theater and the Marina Civic Center. In 2016, they will represent Panama City Beach at a homecoming dance and the Mardi Gras Parade. The 2016 king and queen will be chosen after the parade.

The Winter Resident Senior Prom is typically held in February, and the event is a much anticipated highlight of the winter season, which also includes a Homecoming Dance social and a Grand Finale singing and dancing talent show, along with a host of other events catering to Winter Residents.

After spending the past five winters in Panama City Beach, presiding King Jack and Queen Louise proudly say, "As Canadians, we feel like Panama City Beach is truly our 'winter home.' Thank you for your welcome and friendship, Panama City Beach!" ●



"Words cannot express how rewarding and memorable the entire evening was. It was a year we will never forget."

2014 Prom King Jim Demulling, New Richmond, Wisconsin



CHASIN' THE SUN ... AND VIEWERS

Fishing show will showcase Panama City Beach and its coastal lifestyle

BY CHAY D. BAXLEY AND STEVE BORNHOFT

Long time Bay County residents and visitors may remember television personalities like Jim Wilson and Red Holland, contrasting characters and fishing show hosts whose love of outdoor pursuits was clearly evident in episodes broadcast over local airways... even if the footage wasn't always quite in focus.

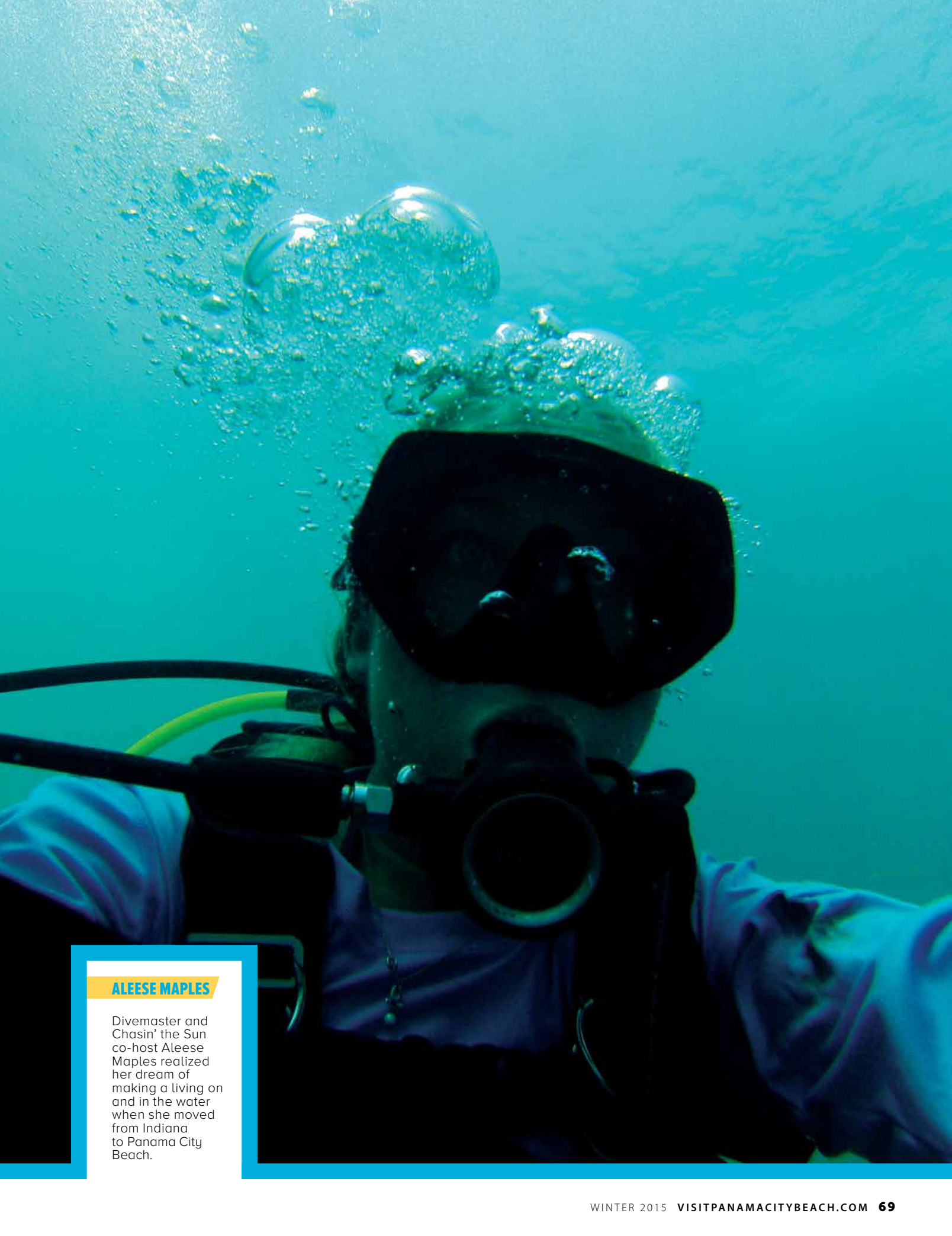
The angular Holland, a native of Bonifay, Florida, favored sweet water, while Wilson, who strayed south from New England, favored salt. Holland busted bream with telescoping fiberglass rods while the gear Wilson used nearshore and offshore was more sophisticated. But the production values of both shows retained a modest, home-movies quality.

Beginning in January, fishing and diving enthusiasts across the country will meet the next generation of Bay County's outdoors TV personalities. Justin Leake and Aleese Maples will co-host "Chasin' the Sun," an outdoors and coastal lifestyle program whose development is being funded by the Panama City Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The program will air on the Sportsman Channel, the nation's fastest growing outdoors network, reaching 36 million U.S. households, and will be available in Bay County via Comcast, Direct TV, the Dish Network and Mediacom.

Leake is a Panama City, Florida, native who has succeeded in turning his childhood passion for fishing into a career. He is a U.S. Coast Guard licensed captain and the owner/operator of Panama City Inshore guide service. His fishing fixation has carried him to Alaska and international fishing destinations including Puerto Rico, Costa Rica and Belize. He has been a frequent contributor to multiple outdoor shows.

Maples moved to Panama City Beach in 2012 after graduating from Indiana University with a degree in environmental policy. Like



ALEESE MAPLES

Divemaster and Chasin' the Sun co-host Aleese Maples realized her dream of making a living on and in the water when she moved from Indiana to Panama City Beach.

**CAPT. JUSTIN
LEAKE AND CAPT.
STEVE BACHMAN**

Creville Jack can be tackle busters, but this one proved to be no match for Capts. Leake and Bachman, who bagged a big one fishing near shore from a skiff.



Leake, she is a licensed captain and, in addition, is a Professional Association of Diving Instructors divemaster and a certified instructor of advanced diving techniques including the use of mixed gasses. Her hobbies include paddleboarding, kayaking and sailing. She is living a dream, both on and under the water.

Viewers will find that Leake and Maples clearly are experts in their fields and also friendly, personable, and engaging. They're not just chasing fish and showcasing the area, they're having a lot of fun, too.

Chasin' the Sun is being produced by Bay County Outdoors whose principals bring more than 30 years of outdoor media experience to the equation

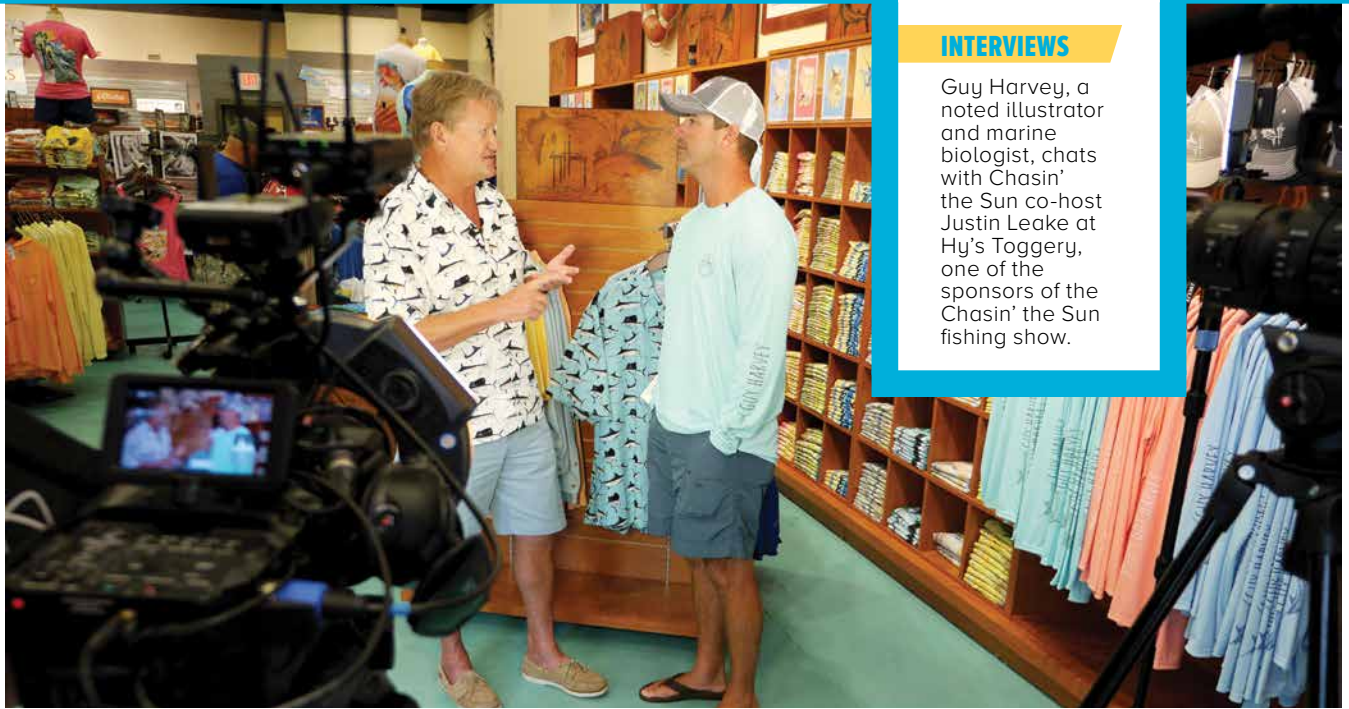


CAPT. JUSTIN LEAKE

A mahi-mahi (or dolphin) nears the surface at the end of Capt. Justin Leake's line. The mahi-mahi is one of the fastest growing fish in the Gulf.

INTERVIEWS

Guy Harvey, a noted illustrator and marine biologist, chats with Chasin' the Sun co-host Justin Leake at Hy's Toggery, one of the sponsors of the Chasin' the Sun fishing show.



including credits with ESPN Outdoors, NBC Sports, Destination America, the Pursuit Channel and North American Fisherman TV, along with the Sportsman Channel.

The project coordinator is J. Michael Brown, vice president of tourism development at the Panama City Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau. Brown's resume includes production and anchor desk experience with two Bay County network affiliate television stations, WMBB and WJHG.

Give Brown just a minute and he will go to his keyboard, pull up a trailer for Chasin' the Sun and enthuse about its production quality. Gone is the home video vibe of other locally produced fishing shows. This, dare we say, is the reel deal.

"This isn't VHS and it's not a fluffy destination thing," Brown says. "We'll be producing 13 episodes and each one will focus on a different species of fish or type of fishing. The fishing segments will be coupled with content about our coastal lifestyle, our parks and our attractions, including the Museum of Man in the Sea. Sponsored segments will deal with how to select the perfect fishing rod or how to prevent sea sickness."

Each episode will air 78 times on the Sportsman Channel. Fishing segments will spotlight cobia, pompano, redfish, bull redfish, red snapper, king mackerel, tarpon, wade fishing, kayak fishing, offshore fishing, reef fishing, and beach and pier fishing.

Hy's Toggery and Half Hitch Tackle have emerged as local sponsors. Together, Tom Putnam at the tackle shop and Gary and Josh Wakstein at the clothing store are working with national brands – AFTCO and Guy Harvey Sportswear, to name a couple – to give Chasin'

the Sun exposure on the brands' websites and social media outlets in exchange for product placement consideration.

"We could hope to sell a high-profile sponsor a \$35,000 advertising package on our show," Brown says, "but if we can succeed in getting clips from the show on their social media channels, those impressions can be much more valuable."

"We're using our relationships with brands to get them involved with the show to help it look like the professional operation that it is," says Josh Wakstein. "Tom at Half Hitch has been a friend of ours forever. He told the CVB folks that they needed to get with us and now we're all working together to make the show as good and as widely seen as possible.

"Everything is in place," Wakstein says. "The talent and film crew are doing a fantastic job."

Capt. Bob Zales II agrees. Zales, who operates a charter fishing fleet out of Panama City Beach, is the president of the National Association of Charterboat Operators.

"The show will help promote fishing and Panama City Beach generally," Zales said. "And the more people we bring to our beach, the more visitors those of us who make a living fishing will be able to attract to our boats. I am certain the show will have a positive effect on tourism."

Brown and others involved with Chasin' the Sun already are looking forward to Season Two.

"We expect that awareness of the show and its reputation will build each year," Brown says. "We're pursuing a boat sponsorship and a truck sponsor so we can get 'em wrapped with graphics and have them at our events and local parades."

Tune in to watch Chasin' the Sun on the Sportsman's Channel this January, and get ready to see Panama City Beach as you've never seen it before! ●

Extended Season for FALL & WINTER 2015!



CAPT. ANDERSON'S MARINA

Get out on the water and enjoy Deep Sea Fishing and Dolphin Sightseeing Cruises all year long!

Join us for upcoming FREE events:

10/11 Pirate Festival & Fireworks

11/11 Veteran's Day Cruises

12/16-12/19 Bethlehem

Christmas Village

Providing UNIQUE FAMILY FUN since 1957



(850) 234-3435 | (800) 874-2415
CaptAndersonsMarina.com

Memorable Adventures for All



EXPERIENCE THE MOMENTS & TREASURE THE MEMORIES

49 Passenger Catamaran
Daily Sunset Sails

Adventure Tours with Inflatable Water Playground, Banana Boat Rides, Snorkeling, Kayaks and Paddle Boards
Dolphin Sightseeing Sails
Private Charters and Specialty Sails
Full-Service Bar on Board



3901 Thomas Drive
(850) 769-FUNN (3866)
ParadiseAdventuresPCB.com

Fun, Food and Music for Everyone

Eighth Annual Beach Ball Drop, Dec. 31, 2015

Celebrate New Year's Eve on the beach! A family-friendly countdown at 8 p.m. culminates with fireworks and 10,000 beach balls being dropped over the crowd. As the seconds tick down to midnight, thousands of revelers watch an 800-pound glowing beach ball descend to signify the start of a New Year with a second round of fireworks.

Find Your Own Adventure at Sea



5709 N. Lagoon Drive
(Across from Capt. Anderson's)
(850) 235-0099 | watersportspc.com

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO GET OUT ON THE WATER...

We offer the largest fleet of pontoon boats and wave runners in PCB, as well as the closest access to spectacular Shell Island. Enjoy clean, reliable, fully equipped pontoon boats for full or half-day rental, fuel included! Need more excitement? Experience the thrill and freedom of riding new WaveRunners®, two-hour tours and hourly rentals at more than 12 locations.

Ask about our Dolphin Tours and \$30 off special!

Beach Home for the Holidays Nov. 27–28, 2015 The lighting of a 100-foot Christmas tree and holiday music from John Berry and the Panama City POPS Orchestra kick off the holiday season.

2016 EVENTS

Panama City Beach Mardi Gras & Music Festival, Feb. 5–6 The two-day festival and parade takes place in and around Pier Park and is one of the most fun Mardi Gras events anywhere. The event is perfect for the whole family and includes a Mardi Gras Kidz Zone, float tours, street fair and live music.

Winter Resident Senior Prom, Feb. 10 Now in its fourth installment, the Senior Prom is a fun opportunity for winter residents to get out their dancing

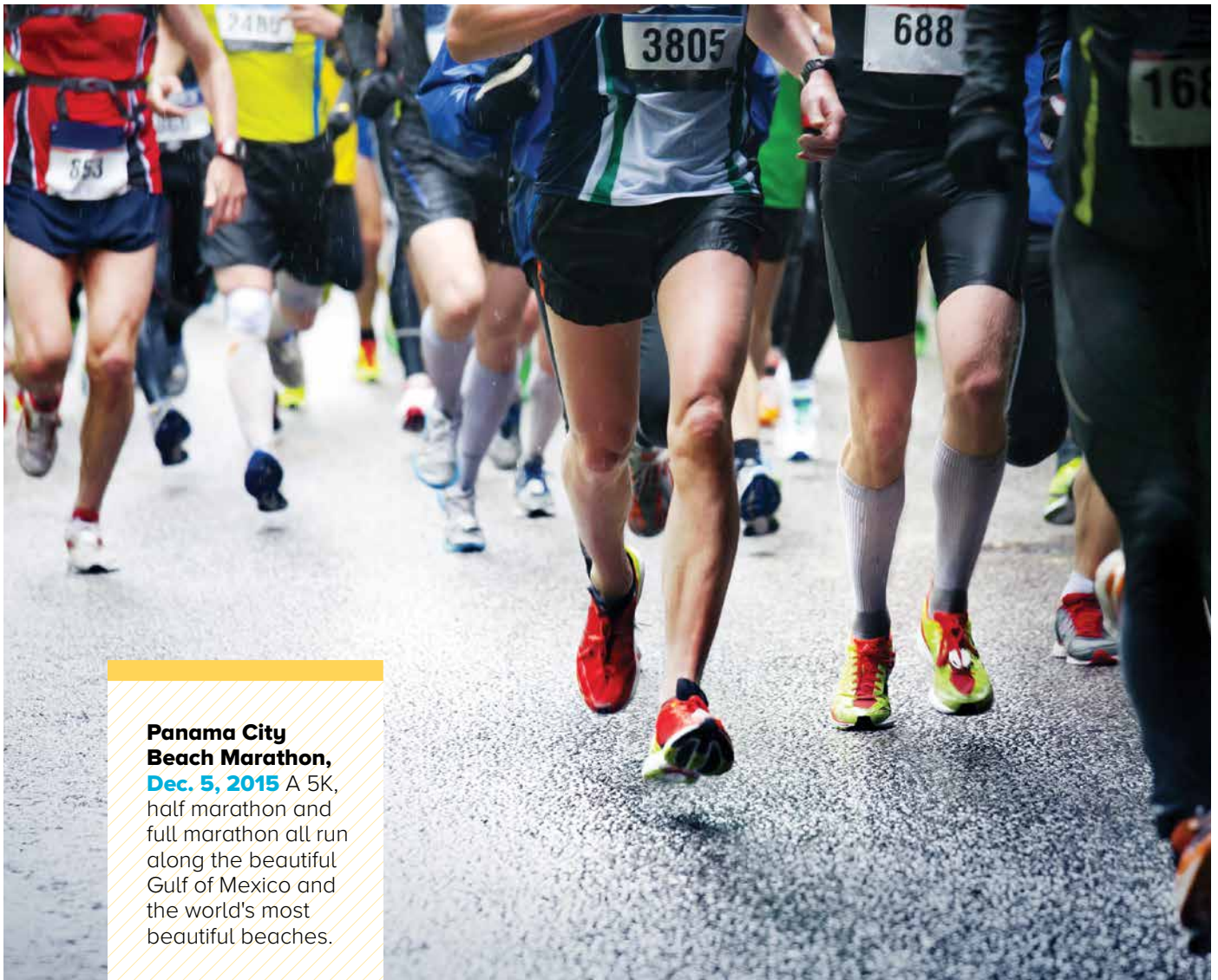
shoes. Held at Edgewater Beach & Golf Resort, the 2015 theme was “Under the Starry Skies.”

Seabreeze Jazz Festival, April 20–24 Named a “Top 10 Jazz Festival in the USA” by JazzIZ Magazine and recently nominated as “Best Jazz Festival” at the Oasis Smooth Jazz Awards, the Seabreeze Jazz Festival combines the top national smooth jazz artists with a full weekend of fun, sun, great beaches and good times — all on the west end of Panama City Beach. The event attracts thousands of fans from the U.S., Canada and Europe for the ultimate performance-packed weekend of jazz.

There’s Music in the Air in Panama City Beach Summer Throughout the

summer, visitors and locals gather for the free summer concert series at Aaron Bessant Park amphitheater, where live performances in the open-air amphitheater set the tone. The PCB Summer Concert Series takes place every Thursday night, and Groovin’ on the Green offers a scaled down version of the open-air concert series on Monday nights at the Carillon Beach neighborhood.

Star Spangled Spectacular, July 4 Panama City Beach celebrates the 4th of July with the largest fireworks display on the Gulf Coast at Pier Park. Families enjoy a day filled with live entertainment, children’s activities, tasty food and drinks, as well as breathtaking firework displays at multiple locations.



Panama City Beach Marathon, Dec. 5, 2015 A 5K, half marathon and full marathon all run along the beautiful Gulf of Mexico and the world's most beautiful beaches.



IRONMAN FLORIDA

Pepsi Gulf Coast Jam, Sept. 2–4

This Labor Day weekend, the Pepsi Gulf Coast Jam will bring the best of today’s country music to the beach. When the sun begins to set, patrons can ride free shuttles to the headline stage at Frank Brown Park from participating lodging properties.

Lobster Festival and Tournament, Sept. 12–18

Schooners sets the stage for the largest lobster festival in Florida, as the 26th Annual Lobster Festival & Tournament gives divers a chance to compete and attendees a chance to eat amazing lobster dishes. Tournament participants compete in a variety of categories, including spiny lobster, shovelnose lobster and Big 6. Weigh-ins begin Saturday and end Sunday with grand prizes and a Lobster Feast. The popular Sand Sculpting Contest is now

in its 18th year and takes place on the beach behind Schooners.

3rd Annual Chasin’ the Sun Music Festival, Sept. 23–24

Enjoy a few bonus days of summer at a festival created to celebrate artists who wrote and continue to play classic beach songs.

Fall Fishing Challenge, Oct. 1–29

To showcase the world-class fishing in the Gulf of Mexico, Panama City Beach is luring avid anglers with weekend-long pier fishing tournaments this fall. Through the month of October, the City Pier vs. County Pier Challenge guarantees fun and prizes for participants. Extending more than 1,500 feet into the Gulf of Mexico, the M.B. Miller Pier (County Pier) and the Russell-Fields Pier (City Pier) are two of the longest on the Gulf Coast and are prime fishing spots for

anglers of all ages. There is no fee to enter the contest — anyone fishing from the pier is automatically entered into the tournament.

Chili Vibrations World Music Festival

Oct. Date TBA Soul-soothing music serves as the backdrop for an International Chili Society (ICS) Cook-off. Because, why not? It all comes together at Aaron Bessant Park and Amphitheater.

Pirates of the High Seas Fest

Oct. 7–9 Columbus Day weekend will bring a wave of fun-filled adventures to Panama City Beach with the Pirates of the High Seas Fest. Taking place throughout the coastal community, the festival will include an ensemble of parades and sword-swinging showdowns, culminating with a dueling fireworks display re-enacting The Battle of the Seven Seas.



UNwineD, Oct. Date TBA The Panama City Beach Chamber of Commerce presents a spectacular weekend celebration of vines, steins and palate-pleasing food. Enjoy perfectly paired wine, craft beer and appetizers at Aaron Bessant Park.

Thunder Beach Motorcycle Rally, Oct. 19–23 Known as “The Most Biker Friendly FREE Rally in the United States,” the Thunder Beach Motorcycle Rally is held twice yearly in Panama City Beach during the first weekend in May and mid-October. Bikers from around the country enjoy scenic rides along the Emerald Coast, live entertainment and local cuisine.

Ironman Florida, Nov. 5 What began as a challenge between groups of Navy Seals has become one of the most recognized endurance events in the world. The Ironman consists of a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile run, with the Florida edition of the challenge serving as one of the most popular races on the circuit.

Emerald Coast Cruizin', Nov. 8–13 The annual event at Aaron Bessant Park is perfect for families and attracts thousands of classic cars, hot rods, custom cars and trucks. Live music will also be featured at the event.

Visit VisitPanamaCityBeach.com for more details.





Diamonds Are For... Economic Development

New project aims to expand and extend PCB's sports season

BY LINDA KLEINDIENST



Upgrades totaling \$4 million are slated for the Frank Brown Park recreational complex.

SPORTS IS BIG BUSINESS in Bay County — and it's about to get even bigger.

Visit Panama City Beach, The St. Joe Company and the Bay County School Board are joining forces in a unique public-private partnership to improve life in and the economy of Panama City Beach by developing a world-class sports park and a K-8 school.

With the agreement being finalized now, the project will be built on about 210 acres of land St. Joe has agreed to donate on the east end of Breakfast Point.



Hundreds of girls fastpitch softball teams travel to Panama City Beach for tournaments each summer.

The first phase of the \$15 million sports project will focus on rectangular fields for competitions such as lacrosse, soccer and flag football. Several fields will have multipurpose capabilities to host full-size baseball and softball tournaments. The lead designer on the project is The Sports Force, which is responsible for pulling together a master plan.

“Events such as major softball and baseball tournaments bring in hundreds of teams to the region, and this facility with rectangle fields will attract even more large competitions,” said Richard Sanders, vice president of sports marketing for Visit Panama City Beach. “The new sports park is a cornerstone to increasing year-round business for hotels, restaurants and attractions — a home run for the entire community.”

Events such as USFA softball and Grand Slam baseball bring more than 1,000 teams to the region already. Current sports facilities generate \$75 million and draw 250,000 visitors to Panama City Beach annually, resulting in at least

100,000 room nights. State research indicates that while visiting, an adult spends \$150 per day and each child, \$75.

“Sports have become a major part of the Panama City Beach experience, and our scenic coastal setting is a natural draw for athletes and fans alike from across the country,” said Visit Panama City Beach President and CEO Dan Rowe. “Having a coalition of the tourism community, the private sector and local schools helps all the residents of Panama City Beach.”

The new location, targeted for completion in spring 2018, is located away from current facilities, so sports-related traffic will be spread more evenly through town and “help mitigate some of the traffic congestion,” Rowe said. The complex will be accessed through a 10-acre tract of land on Panama City Beach parkway that was purchased by Visit Panama City Beach.

Until now, the 200-acre, 40-year-old Frank Brown Park — built on land also donated by St. Joe — has been the main local host for the annual games, but hundreds of teams are being turned



Frank Brown has a broad spectrum, multigenerational appeal.

“This is an exemplary partnership, which is of great benefit to our students, parents and community. We welcome this multifaceted plan that offers solutions to address concerns brought on by tremendous growth on Panama City Beach.” — Bill Husfelt, Bay County Schools Superintendent

away each year because there isn't room to accommodate them.

“We've always been big on making community investments,” said Jorge Gonzalez, senior vice president of development for St. Joe, who said the company was at first approached separately by school and tourism officials. “Every asset in the community is good for everybody, including ourselves. This one in particular. We do have a Breakfast Point residential project about 1.5 miles away and Breakfast Point Academy, which is at capacity. So there is need for additional room on the school side, and the sports complex makes sense.”

Construction of the planned K-8 school could take up to five years and \$30 million to complete, but it will relieve the school district's growing pains and crowded beach schools when it does open — and

will serve the burgeoning Breakfast Point community in particular.

“This is an exemplary partnership, which is of great benefit to our students, parents and community,” said Bay County Schools Superintendent Bill Husfelt. “We welcome this multifaceted plan that offers solutions to address concerns brought on by tremendous growth on Panama City Beach.”

As plans are underway for the new sports park, Frank Brown Park will also be getting about \$4 million in updates to ensure its continued attractiveness to competitive sports teams. Groups such as the World Softball League and U.S. Fast Pitch Association have games scheduled throughout the year and into 2016.

“We want to enhance the spectator experience and provide some updating for the entire facility,” Rowe said. “Frank

Brown Park has been a wonderful asset for us for years, and we want to make sure it stays as one of the best venues for people to come and play on.”

The new sports complex will be able to handle overflow from those tournaments while hosting its own, giving the city more opportunities to stretch the tournament season year-round. The new complex will have rectangular fields that can be used for a variety of sports that are played in the shoulder seasons.

“It allows us to drive business in the fall and the spring,” Rowe explained, adding that the city is also hoping to attract teams for spring training. “The multi-purpose fields will ensure everyone who is out there playing feels like it's a facility built for them, whether they are playing lacrosse, soccer, baseball or fast pitch softball.” ●

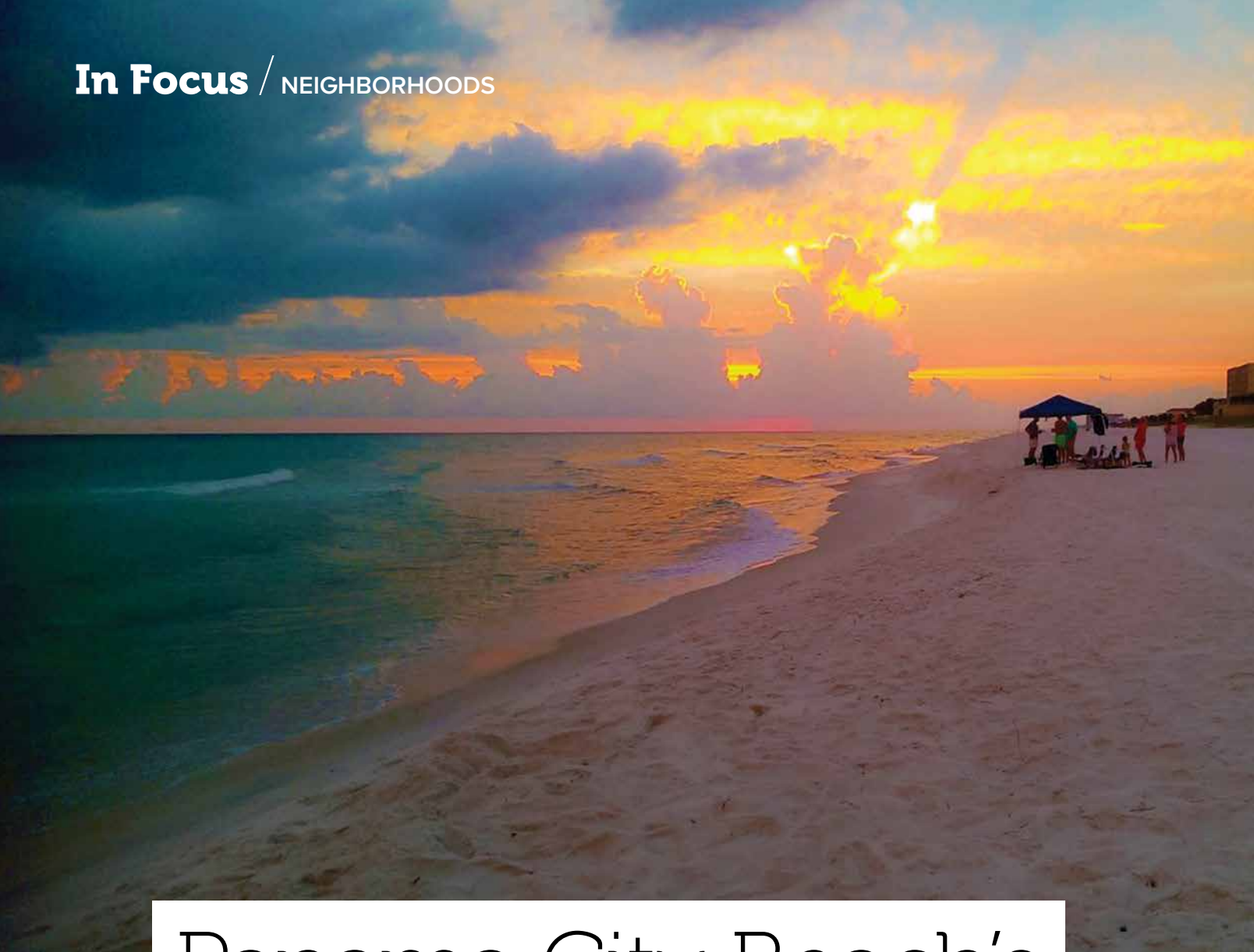
Hidden Gem Centrally Located in PCB



1957 Allison Ave.
Daily 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
(850) 236-0924
rvinfo@rvresort.com | www.rvresort.com

EMERALD COAST RV BEACH RESORT REMAINS THE HIGHEST RATED RV RESORT ALONG THE EMERALD COAST

What began as one man's vision has evolved into a securely gated, beautifully landscaped, secluded resort offering exclusive amenities with the main focus on guest services. Once entered you are within a mile of the beautiful white powdery beaches and emerald sea. Reserve your perfect RV site or relax in a Lakeside Park Model Cottage.



Panama City Beach's West End

Here, a sense of classic beach community prevails

BY LYNN GRISARD FULLMAN

ALMOST AS ROUTINE AS the nightly setting sun, a golf cart with American flags flapping glides down a street in Panama City Beach's West End neighborhood. A couple waves as their brown dog leans over the cart's front where he seems almost to smile as the wind whips back his ears. And, why not grin? This is a dog's life. The life, actually.

It's a place where joggers tread up and down streets. Where nightly a young man, zooming on a skateboard, takes his puppy for a walk. It's here that golf carts, often

with colorful floaties tied to their roofs, circle. People nod and wave. Some pause to chat and share news of the nearby sea.

This is the place where sun worshippers stake their claims by day, often erecting some sort of beach shelter to protect them from the sun's rays and to provide a place for coolers, flip flops and sunscreen.

Most people have a favorite beach spot, although the coastline itself consistently is outlined by white sand and lapping waves. Nearby are majestic houses and quaint cottages, some more aged than others. Few

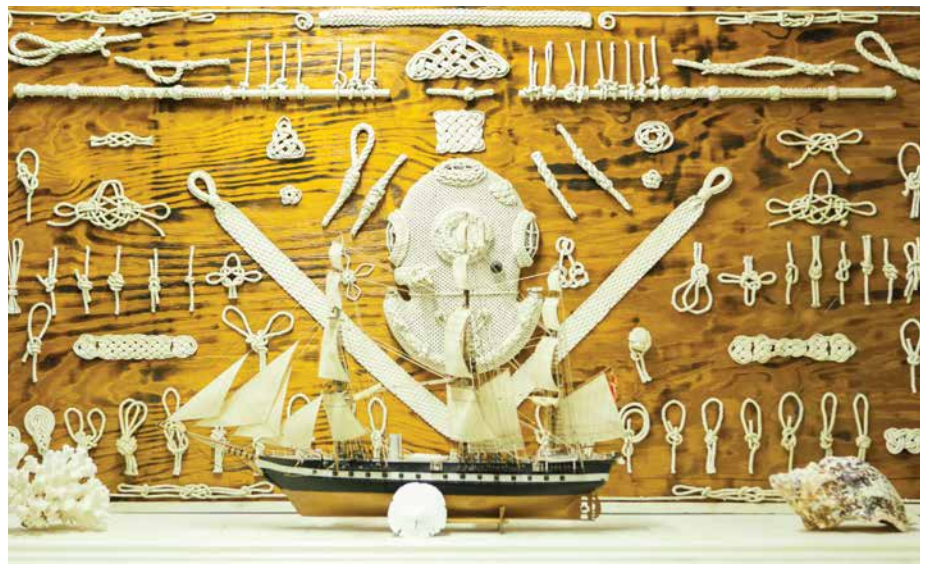
high-rise buildings are here, which explains the plentiful views and sparse population.

The stretch from the "Y" — where Highway 79 flows in a Y shape into Highway 98 (also known as Front Beach Road) and runs several miles west to where Front and Back 98 merge — has an appeal all its own. It is quiet (by most beach standards) and occupied by people who favor solitude and don't require the bustle of busy places. No amusement parks. No sprawling shopping complexes. Just peace. Quiet. Solitude. Yet with plenty of enticing places.



Whether the sun is rising, setting or blazing overhead, visitors enjoy the white sand beaches along the West End.

LYNN GRISARD FULLMAN

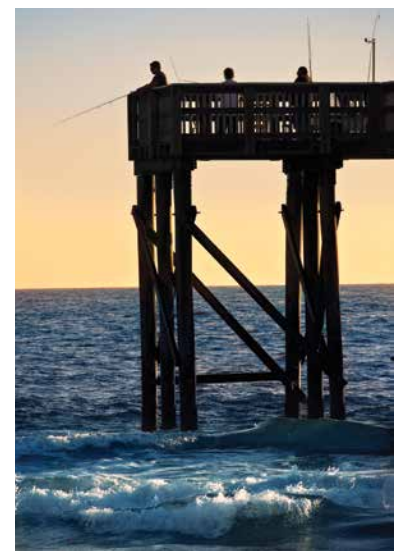


artists. [Facebook.com/PeachestoBeaches](https://www.facebook.com/PeachestoBeaches); (850) 588-7422

Don't judge a store by its exterior because the Carousel Supermarket & Liquor Store (19440 Front Beach Road.), despite its exterior, is not a convenience store. In its current location long before the coming of nearby chain supermarkets, the neighborhood market has survived and thrived, offering fresh produce and meats, abundant wines, a wide range of grocery items and a great gift shop. Don't miss the wine tastings. (850) 234-2219

Locals and visitors alike don't seem to mind standing in line to order at Thomas' Donut & Snack Shop (19208 Front Beach Road.) which got its start selling just donuts. Since those early donut-only days, the business has expanded to include the food of the gods: pizzas, sub sandwiches, bagels and breakfast biscuits (opening is at 6 a.m.), hamburgers, hot dogs, lunch boxes (now that's thinking ahead for a day on the beach) and Texas-style kolaches. ThomasDonutAndSnackShop.com; (850) 234-8039

You'll rarely find a maddening crowd at the public boat launch at Lake Powell, just behind Publix Super Market (near the convergence of Front and Back Beach roads). What you will see, however, are people towing boats and jet skis that they slip into Florida's largest coastal dune lake that has been designated a "Pristine Florida Waterway." Some wade into the roped-off water (be advised, the bottom feels squishy between your toes), while others picnic at the shaded pavilion, swing or shoot baskets (bring your own ball).



WEST END TRIVIA AND TREASURE

Country music singer Luke Bryan – who fell in love with Panama City Beach while growing up in southern Georgia – chose the West End as the backdrop for his “Roller Coaster” music video which was released in the summer of 2014. (Four months after its release, “Roller Coaster” became Bryan's tenth #1 hit on Billboards Country Airplay chart.) The melancholy video features, among other area sites, the tattered skeleton of a wooden pier that juts into the gulf behind Camp Helen State Park, the often overlooked historic park that anchors the westernmost slice of Panama City Beach's West End.

Within the West End is one of the state's best-kept secrets: the Man in the Sea Museum, which holds rare diving equipment representing the history of diving technology. Although small, the museum (17314 Panama City Beach Parkway) is filled with diving helmets (some quite old), rare diving equipment and a submarine that you may climb through. Among exhibits in the parking lot is U.S. Navy SEALAB-1, the world's first underwater living facility. ManInTheSea.org; (850) 235-4101

Not far away, Peaches to Beaches Gift Shop (17203 Panama City Beach Parkway) is enticing with out-front displays of enchanting pieces, including secondhand furnishings, home and garden décor and home accessories. The fun here is that you never quite know what you'll find – whether jewelry, books, kitchen items and art, including works by local



White Rail at Carillon Beach

LYNN GRISARD FULLMAN

With some 767 acres outlined by barrier beaches and sand dunes, the lake is a mix of fresh and salt waters and a beehive of activity on sunny days.

Some people put down roots and others stay only briefly at Carillon Beach, a village where no two homes are exactly alike yet where the harmony of home designs creates a coastal getaway at the far end of the West End. Everything is within walking distance at the property that sits on some 104 acres and includes an inn, a 13-acre lake and the Village Green which often serves as the location for music performances or outdoor weddings. Surrounded by forests, wetlands, dune systems, pristine lakes, native oak trees and abundant wildlife, the area, like all of West End, is quiet — which may not have been the case in the 1800s when sailing ships sank in nearby waters. *Rentals (866) 832-7070; Sales/Weddings (850) 234-5600; Carillon-Beach.com*

“This is just an ideal place,” reports Ann McCommon, who with her husband Clay moved to the West End 15 years ago. Relocating from Georgia, the McCommons, who for years had vacationed in the area with their three sons, sought to leave behind the rat race and put down roots in the area which she describes as “more peaceful, less crowded and with less traffic than other areas.”

“We love it here,” she says, adding, “Who could ask for more?”

As Ann talks, another golf cart zooms past — and all is well on the West End. ●

A professional writer who has written six books and contributed to newspapers, magazines and websites, Lynn Grisard Fullman is a part-time resident of the West End where, over the years, she has seen scores of houses built, home values rise and new neighbors moving in.



Bike Rentals at Carillon Beach

LYNN GRISARD FULLMAN

WEST END HIGHLIGHTS

SUN BEAR GALLERY Many of the items sold here are the handiwork of wood carver and gallery owner Sun Bear, who spends much of the winter carving large objects — including dolphin, mahi-mahi, eagles, turtles and, most popular, pelicans. Also here (19800 Front Beach Road.) are works by other artists, Native American silver jewelry, buckskins, ceremonial drums and items (including leather) for motorcyclists. Taught to carve by his Creek grandfather, the Pennsylvania native who moved to the Panhandle in the late 1970s, describes his gallery as having “a lot of layers.” [850\) 234-7701](http://850.234-7701), SunBearGallery.com

SUNNYSIDE GRILL Although there’s nothing eye-catching — except perhaps the mermaid mural — about the pink building at this locally owned eatery (21828 Front Beach Road.), the food is consistently tasty and reasonably priced. Breakfast likely will remind you of what your mom used to serve, back when people didn’t pay much attention to cholesterol or portion control. Cash or check only. [850\) 233-0729](http://850.233-0729)

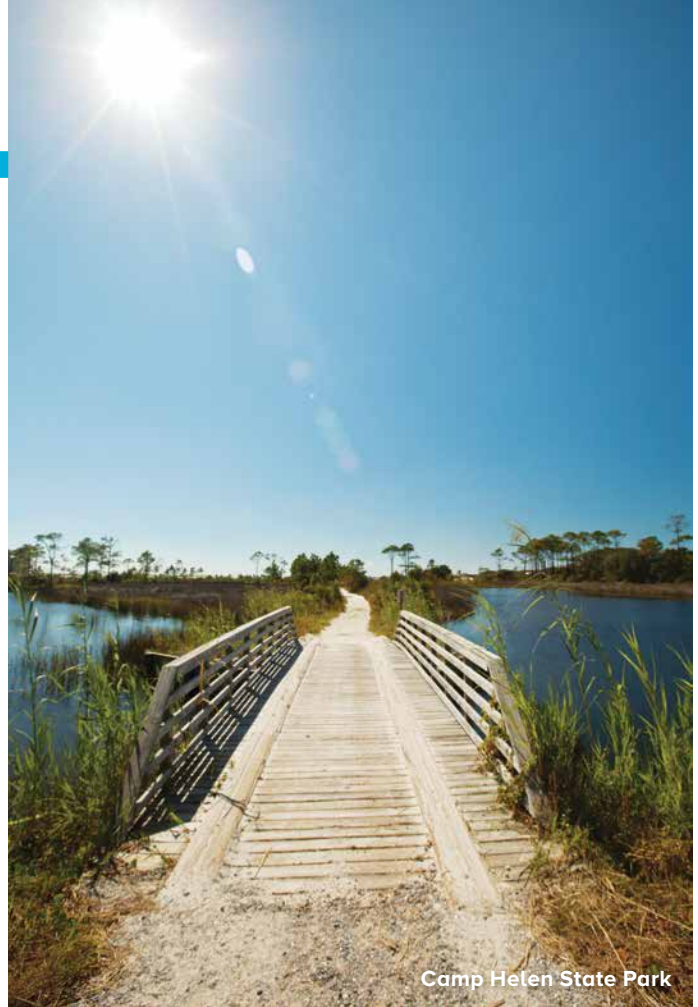
SPLASH RESORT One-, two- and three-bedroom condos are available at the family-focused property (17698 Front Beach Road.) that has an onsite covered water park with a lazy river and tot splash pad, indoor and out swimming pools, fitness center, hot tub and arcade. SplashResort.com, [866\) 628-3482](http://866.628-3482), [800\) 3-SPLASH](http://800.3-SPLASH)

PANAMA CITY BEACH CONSERVATION PARK With 908 uplands acres and 2,004 wetlands acres, Bay County’s largest public park is laced with more than two dozen miles of trails (ranging from 0.6 to 11 miles) and 1.2 miles of boardwalks. The admission-free park — where sap for turpentine was harvested in the 1920s and ’30s — is suited to roaming, biking, picnicking beneath a pavilion or simply escaping life’s bustle. PCBeach.org/ecotourism/panama_city_beach_conservation_park, [850\) 233-5050](http://850.233-5050)

CAMP HELEN STATE PARK Once in Creek Indian territory, the land later was a summer getaway for the Hicks family. Robert Hicks, quite a scoundrel in his early years, reformed, married a third time, and in the late 1920s built a home on the 185 acres. Although Hicks died when work was completed, his wife and daughter remained many years before selling to Avondale Mills, an Alabama textile company, that (from 1945 to 1987) used the site as a summer camp for select employees. The grounds are great for picnics, fishing, seeing previous campers' cottages and traipsing shaded trails. FloridaStateParks.org/Park/Camp-Helen, (850) 233-5059

LAGUNA BEACH CHRISTIAN RETREAT Begun in the late-1980s by Michigan couple Ted and Pat Garbutt, the retreat has expanded to include accommodations for some 2,000, including church groups and families. There are dorm units for large groups plus cabins and cottages (with as many as three bedrooms) with living areas and full kitchens. Guests have access to several swimming pools (some heated), meeting rooms, a 700-seat chapel, basketball and volleyball courts and, of course, the nearby Gulf. ChristianCamp.com, (850) 234-2502

ALVIN'S ISLAND TROPICAL DEPARTMENT STORE The store (17698 Front Beach Road.) is a one-stop place for beach necessities (think bathing suits or clothes for the family) plus air-brush T-shirts, shell gifts, garden items, beach bags, toys, floats, beach mats, sun hats, barware and jewelry. It's a fun place to spend a rainy day — or adopt a hermit crab that's free if you buy its cage. AlvinsIsland.com, (850) 234-3804



SAND-SATIONAL!



MAKE THE DUNES OF PANAMA YOUR EMERALD COAST DESTINATION

Choose the Dunes of Panama for our spacious 1,500 feet of beachfront, three Gulf-front pools, volleyball, tennis, charming two- and three-bedroom furnished condos, family-friendly atmosphere and our incredible rates.



**DUNES OF PANAMA
VACATION RENTALS**

7205 Thomas Drive, Building C
(800) 874-2412 | (850) 234-8839
DunesofPanama.com

Saltwater Grill

Freshness is restaurant's focus **BY WENDY O. DIXON**



NEW ORLEANS NATIVE Roy Centanni has been in the restaurant business for 40 years, starting out in the airport catering business with Host International. After opening his first restaurant in 1983, he eventually owned up to nine restaurants in Panama City Beach at one time. Now Saltwater Grill, which he purchased in 2000, is his sole establishment.

Saltwater Grill specializes in fresh Gulf seafood, Maine lobster and choice-cut steaks. Fresh from the Gulf of Mexico, fish and shrimp are delivered daily from fishmonger Greg Abrams Seafood in Panama City, and inspected by Saltwater Grill Chef Rob Burgess. “Chef Rob sees every fish that comes in and inspects it to make sure it’s a healthy fish,” says Trish Spencer, general manager. “If it’s not right, we’re not going to serve it.”

While Centanni says Burgess and Spencer are the faces of the restaurant, Spencer insists Centanni is the guiding force. “It’s great to have an owner who is so involved and so interested in the day-to-day operations,” says Spencer, who has worked alongside Centanni for seven years. “He didn’t have anything handed to him. He worked his way up from the bottom, in every single position. It was definitely through a lot of hard work. We couldn’t do it without him.”

Centanni says the panoramic view of the 25,000-gallon tropical saltwater aquarium makes a memorable first impression, but it’s Chef Rob’s delectable dishes that keep guests returning time and again.

Burgess graduated from Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Atlanta and joined Saltwater Grill in 2009. He and his kitchen staff ensure freshness is the focal point of every dish. “Everything is made from scratch here,” Spencer says. “All the sauces and dressings — nothing comes out of a box, package or freezer.”

Centanni and Chef Rob update the menu four times a year. “He keeps up with the latest trends,” Spencer says of Centanni, “and isn’t afraid to change what’s not working.”

Popular appetizers include seared Ahi tuna served sashimi style with roasted garlic soy, pickled ginger and wasabi aioli, and fried green tomato topped with crab meat and sun-dried tomato hollandaise.

At the bar, Saltwater’s martini selection is vast, and each is just \$5 during happy hour. “We have a white chocolate martini made with Godiva chocolate that is amazing,” Spencer says. “It’s like chocolate milk for adults.” Happy hour is from 4 to 6:30 p.m.





“The great thing about Saltwater Grill is that we get all kinds of people. We have the aquarium that appeals to absolutely everyone, and we have the piano bar which appeals to the adults who dine here.” — Roy Centanni

The entrée menu of choice-cut steaks includes prime rib, top sirloin, ribeye and filet mignon. From the live lobster tank, you can choose your own lobster, flown in twice weekly from Maine. Of course, if you're torn between the two, the surf & turf solves that problem. And the fresh Gulf seafood, subject to seasonal availability, includes scamp filet, grouper filet, yellowfin tuna, red snapper and salmon.

For something a little different, Centanni and Chef Rob worked together to make some creole dishes inspired by Centanni's hometown of New Orleans. The redfish etouffee is served with creole rice, fried green tomatoes and andouille sausage, topped with Chef Rob's special crawfish etouffee sauce. Creole shrimp and grits are made from jumbo Gulf shrimp, sautéed and simmered in a tasso ham cream sauce, served atop smoked Gouda cheese grits.

The restaurant's many gluten-free dishes are noted on the menu. “We can even fry fish using cornmeal,” Spencer says. “Sometimes there's nothing like a good piece of fried fish.”

Guests who prefer to dine early can enjoy the early dinner menu, offered daily from 4 to 5:30 p.m., with six entrees priced at \$14.99 each. Regular menu items are available all evening.

In addition to the café dining room is the intimate Mermaid Room, where the piano bar is open Tuesday through Saturday from 7 p.m. until closing. Pianist Michael Rorah's music and rendition of favorite songs can be enjoyed during dinner or at the piano bar that surrounds the baby grand piano.

“The great thing about Saltwater Grill is that we get all kinds of people,” Centanni says. “We have the aquarium that appeals to absolutely everyone, and we have the piano bar which appeals to the adults who dine here.”

As a seasoned expert in the restaurant business, Centanni credits his staff, many of whom have worked with him since he opened Saltwater. “I couldn't do it without the people who work with me. I don't like to say they work for me, but rather that they work with me,” Centanni says. “Without a great staff, you're nothing.” ●

SIGNATURE RECIPE: GROUPEL MACADAMIA

Serves 4

INGREDIENTS

8-ounce grouper filets (4)
4 tablespoons unsalted butter (melted)
Salt & pepper

Macadamia crust:

2 cups unsalted macadamia nuts (finely chopped)
1 cup Japanese breadcrumbs
Combine & mix both ingredients thoroughly

Orange ginger glaze:

3 cups fresh orange juice (no pulp)
2 tablespoons peeled and fresh grated ginger root
4 tablespoons dark brown sugar
2 ounces cornstarch
2 ounces cold water

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Season grouper filets with salt and pepper and place on a baking sheet coated with pan spray. Top each grouper filet with approximately 2 ounces of the macadamia breadcrumb mixture. Drizzle about one tablespoon of melted butter on top of each filet with the macadamia mixture (this accelerates the cooking process, increases flavor and assists with browning the crust). Place in preheated oven and cook for 9 to 12 minutes depending on the size of the filets.

Bring the orange juice to a boil. Add the ginger root and brown sugar and reduce heat to medium-high. Thicken sauce with cornstarch by mixing 2 tablespoons of cornstarch with an equal amount of cold water. Mix thoroughly and add to sauce until thickened; strain through mesh strainer and serve under the filets. If not certain that the fish is cooked thoroughly when removed from the oven, gently flake apart with a fork being careful not to disturb the crust. The macadamia crust should be golden brown.

Saltwater Grill 11040 Hutchinson Blvd., Panama City Beach, FL, (850) 230-2739, SaltwaterGrillPCB.com

Information, Please

The Visitor Information Center
is in the answer business

EVERY DAY, TOURISTS STOP by the Panama City Beach Visitor Information Center, where they discover a wealth of tips and information to help make any stay in our area a more enjoyable one. The staff working at the front help to enhance the vacation experience for those who stop by, and for those who call in with questions.

Many times the Visitor Information Specialists go far above and beyond their job title, sharing their own favorite tips, or putting in extra time to help figure out the answer to an usual question. Other times, the visitors stopping by seem just as interested in sharing their own personal Panama City Beach story.

Those stories are very often heartwarming, so we thought we'd share a few with our readers >>

SCOTT KOEPP AND EDWIN KOEPP

Edwin Koepp and his son Scott Koepp first stopped by the Visitor Information Center to find out about local golf courses, as both are avid golfers. The staff at the Visitor Information Center was able to point them toward the world-class golf courses nearby, and even provide information about a discount being offered at one of the courses. Both gentlemen also filled out a golf card to receive more golf related information about Panama City Beach.

Normally, that might have been the end of their story, but the Koepps came back a few weeks later to let the Visitor Information Center's staff know that they'd enjoyed some great golf and that Scott had even sunk a hole in one! That's a great way to get into the swing of things over a Panama City Beach winter holiday.



DENNIS AND SALLY WETHERALL

Panama City Beach is certainly no stranger to its share of romantic occasions. From sunsets on the beach, to Gulf front weddings, to honeymoons spent relaxing along our famous white sand beaches, couples have found Panama City Beach to be the perfect backdrop for special occasions.

When Dennis and Sally Wetherall stopped by the Visitor Information Center in February of 2015, they mentioned not only their love for Panama City Beach, but also the very special reason behind their visit – they had come all the way down from their home in Cedar Rapids, Iowa to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary! Congratulations to this couple for their Golden Anniversary from your friends in Panama City Beach.

ELBA AND RUBEN CHACOFF

This edition's final visitor profile story comes all the way from Tucuman, Argentina! In April of this year, Elba and Ruben Chacoff were enjoying their third visit to Panama City Beach. Stopping by the Visitor Information Center, they spoke with the front desk staff and said that even though they've traveled all over the world, Panama City Beach is their favorite place to enjoy the beaches, the relaxed atmosphere and the friendly people.

The reason for their stop by the Visitor Information Center this time was to inquire about making international calls. Although this isn't a specialty of the Visitor Information Specialists, after a few Google searches and a few phone calls, the Chacoff's problems were soon resolved. The comment they left in the guest book really warmed the hearts of the Visitor Information Center's staff: "These people here are the best. They solved all our problems!"





"Old things have soul. You're holding this thing and you think about how many hands have held it, and what is the story of all those hands. They impart something of themselves into these things."

— Belinda Betz



Find Your Treasure

Local antique shops have something for everyone

BY WENDY O. DIXON

FOR ANTIQUE LOVERS, some of the most thrilling places to shop are those where you discover a great find from another era, something someone else held and used long ago — an antique wardrobe, a rare coin or an addition to your vintage doll collection. Finding such treasures can make a vacation all the more special.

But you don't have to be an antique collector or a history buff to enjoy rummaging through old artifacts to find something that sparks an interest. Downtown Panama City, Historic St. Andrews and Panama City Beach have a dozen or so places to go antiquing for unique treasures. Spending a day browsing the various collectibles, rare finds and vintage items, and taking a break for lunch at one of the locally owned restaurants nearby makes for a memorable day.

Antiques work with anything and everything, according to Belinda Betz and Marilyn Pippin, owners of BelMar Antiques in Downtown Panama City. "If you just give it a chance, you would be amazed," Betz adds. "You could have the most modern home, put a quarter-sawn oak buffet in there and it's perfect."

Pairing old and new is a hot trend, as well as marrying high end with low. "It's what's

being done all over the country," Betz says. "There isn't a house that can't have an antique piece in it or a vintage piece."

Displayed in the store are old windows, records, vintage baby items and even recovered ship and airplane parts. "We don't believe in pricing it for what it's worth. We take what we pay and add a little something to it to stay afloat," says Betz.

"We're not paying to store this stuff, we're paying to sell this stuff. We want you to leave here feeling fabulous, like you got a great deal."

Betz says the appeal of antiques and vintage pieces is the story you can conjure in your mind about their past. "Old things have soul," she says. "You're holding this thing and you think about how many hands have held it, and what is the story of all those hands. They impart something of themselves into these things."

Lisa Doss of Clara Jean's Antiques in Historic St. Andrews says even the younger generations have a blast browsing through items from a bygone era. "We try to make things affordable for young adults because they love this stuff," she says, pointing to vintage clothing, roller skates and cameras. "They're trying to get a feel for the past. The girls love vintage clothing and guys like the straight razors."





One of Clara Jean's biggest eye catchers is a melodeon, a type of pump organ dating back more than 160 years. While customers will likely not have any personal memories of such a rare find, certain vintage pieces have the magical power to illicit fond memories from childhood. "For instance, I saw this Cinderella watch for sale and just got so excited because I had one as a kid, too," she says. "It just brought back all these memories I hadn't thought about in forever."

If you love a challenge, or are in the market for the weird, funky and bizarre, head over to Design Salvage in Historic St. Andrews. It would be easy to pass by if you didn't know what to look for. Rather than a store sign, Design Salvage is marked by an eclectic mix of handpicked items from around the country that are as mesmerizing as they are unique — a spiral staircase that leads to the sky, parked alongside an iron gate leaning against a building filled with wondrous items meant only for the adventurous soul. While it's not specifically an antique shop, it does have some antiques that are worth a gander.

Owner Tina Diaz says her specialty is architectural salvage liquidation with a design concept of doing things on a dime. "People love to come here because you never know what you're going to see. I never know what's coming my way," she says. "We salvage components from lovely homes that are being demolished." Diaz works with dealers and designers during the week but opens her shop during the weekend.

You'll see great furnishings and one-of-a-kind pieces. "You get Class-A attention here," she says, noting that she encourages her customers to take their time and enjoy the visual experience. "Everyone who comes in here already has a great personality and is already thinking outside the box," she adds. "Either you're going to love it or you're going to hate it."

But if you're at a loss as of what to do with an antique that needs more than a little spit shine, head over to Pieces on the Beach in Panama City Beach, where an antique tricycle has been refurbished into a gorgeous plant holder. Here, you'll find that expertly renovated, antique and vintage furniture becomes something new again. You can browse for coastal chic decorations or unique finds for a hard-to-shop-for friend. ●

Here are some great picks for a day trip of antiquing:

DOWNTOWN PANAMA CITY BELMAR ANTIQUES

With antique and vintage furniture, clothing and jewelry, as well as sterling flatware, glassware, nautical items, home decor and children's books and toys, Belmar has big and small items and will ship them to your home.

306 Harrison Ave., (850) 640-3104

ESTATE TREASURES

Estate Treasures is a large store with collectibles including tiny ornate glass elephants, arrowheads, coins, military uniforms, cigarette lighters and vintage postcards.

500 Harrison Ave., (850) 215-3782

ELEGANT ENDEAVORS ANTIQUE EMPORIUM

The prices and selection make shopping at Elegant Endeavors worth the effort of examining thousands of antiques and collectibles: vintage toy fans, rare train sets, dolls and other toys.

551 Harrison Ave., (850) 769-1707

ANTIQUÉ COTTAGE

This charming cottage has trinkets, ceramics and antiques.

903 Harrison Ave., (850) 769-9503

HISTORIC ST. ANDREWS CLARA JEAN'S ANTIQUES

Unique antiques, collectibles, furniture, tools, clothing and coastal décor make Clara Jean's a treat to explore.

1107 Beck Ave., (850) 640-2106

DESIGN SALVAGE

Open to the public on the weekends, the shop specializes in an eclectic mix of handpicked, unique items from around the country.

2805 W. 12th St., (850) 214-8003

UNIQUE VINTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

Just right for reminiscing about playing checkers at the old corner gas station, Unique Vintiques has vintage oil cans, car parts, Coca-Cola memorabilia, tin signs and even an old barber chair.

2714 W. 15th St., (850) 527-0172

PANAMA CITY BEACH COASTAL COTTAGE EMPORIUM

Specializing in revamping, repurposing and reclaiming, the shop has unique merchandise from local artists, including old items that have been given a makeover and brought to life again through creativity and a little hard work.

**17756-A Panama City Beach Parkway
(850) 249-3782**

PIECES ON THE BEACH

With several independent vendors, Pieces has everything from coastal chic to refurbished antiques.

2505 Thomas Drive, (850) 234-6277

THE SHADOW BOX

Shabby meets chic at The Shadow Box, where coastal pieces and nautical motifs include shells and marine materials.

1711 Thomas Drive, (850) 249-1388




PIER PARK®
A SIMON MALL

On the Gulf in Panama City Beach
shoppierpark.com

OVER 125 SHOPS AND RESTAURANTS

Ron Jon Surf Shop | Victoria's Secret
Nike Factory Store | Columbia Sportswear
Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville | Hy's Toggery
The Back Porch Seafood & Oyster House
Dave & Buster's | Dick's Last Resort

Bring this ad to the Mall Office to receive a complimentary Style Pass savings booklet.

America's Favorite Seafood Restaurant



Capt. Anderson's
Restaurant & Waterfront Market

5551 N. Lagoon Drive
(850) 234-2225
captandersons.com

A WATERFRONT LEGEND


Capt. Anderson's just gets better with age. Named No. 1 Seafood Restaurant by *Southern Living Magazine*, ranked among America's Top 50, Winner of the *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence, member of *Florida Trend's* Hall of Fame. Specializing in fresh local seafood for over 48 years. Dine early and watch the fleet unload.

Safety First

FLORIDA'S BEACH WARNING FLAG program uses flags in four colors accompanied by interpretive signs along the beach to explain the meaning of each color. Flags are located approximately one mile apart along the beach. Absence of flags does not assure safe waters. Current beach flag conditions can be found on VisitPanamaCityBeach.com. Sign up to receive text alerts for flag changes.



 **GREEN – LOW HAZARD**
Calm conditions, exercise caution

 **YELLOW – MEDIUM HAZARD**
Moderate surf and/or currents

 **RED – HIGH HAZARD**
High surf and/or strong currents

 **RED OVER RED**
Water closed to public

 **PURPLE**
Dangerous marine life

YOUR ADVENTURE AT SEA STARTS HERE



5709 N. Lagoon Drive
(Across from Capt. Anderson's)
(850) 235-0099 | watersportspc.com

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO GET OUT ON THE WATER...

With the largest fleet of pontoon boats and WaveRunners® in PCB, as well as the closest access to Shell Island, we will get you out on the water quickly and easily. Clean, reliable, fully equipped pontoon boats available for full or half-day rental, fuel included! Experience the thrill and freedom of riding new WaveRunners®, two-hour tours and hourly rentals at more than 12 locations.

Ask about our Dolphin Tours and \$30 off special!

Leave No Trace

Take only pictures, leave only footprints

PANAMA CITY BEACH is known for having the “World’s Most Beautiful Beaches,” and we would like to keep it that way for the enjoyment of locals and tourists alike! For this reason, the “Leave No Trace” ordinance was adopted in 2012. Anything you brought to the beach with you should also leave the beach with you. Anything left on the beach overnight could be cleared off the beach by the time you return in the morning. Our goal is to protect our pristine beaches and the natural wildlife, such as nesting sea turtles, by leaving no trace of personal items on the beaches overnight. Please do your part in maintaining our beautiful beaches!

The Leave No Trace ordinance states that all personal items will be removed and disposed of if left on the beach between the hours of 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. These items include, but are not limited to, tents, chairs, toys, umbrellas and coolers. On public beaches or with the upland landowner’s permission, beachgoers may store personal belongings overnight at the toe of the dune. The toe of the dune is the area of the beach immediately seaward of the dune and beach vegetation. To be specific, it is the area of the beach that is furthest from the water that is not in a sand dune or beach access point.

Those who store their personal items overnight do so at their own risk. The county, the city, the Tourist Development Council and the beach maintenance contractor do not assume any liability for any items left on the beach.



START A NEW *Family Tradition*



FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Event Schedule NOVEMBER 27-28

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 27, 2015

7:00 P.M. JOHN BERRY'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Aaron Bessant Park Amphitheater

8:30 P.M. TREE LIGHTING
Pier Park

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28, 2015

7:00 P.M. PANAMA CITY POPS ORCHESTRA CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Aaron Bessant Park Amphitheater

8:30 P.M. FIREWORKS
Pier Park

Visit PanamaCityBeach.com/Holidays



Put a Little Sand in Your Step!



9400 S. Thomas Drive
(800) 224-4853
RABeachGetaways.com

DON'T JUST BOOK A ROOM — UPGRADE TO A BEACH GETAWAY!

Step away from the stress and snow and treat yourself to a Royal American beach getaway! When you upgrade to a getaway, you get 24-hour customer service, the area's best activities at the best rates, exclusive bonuses plus condos to fit every need and budget. Best of all, you'll leave with a spring — and a little sand — in your step.

Enjoy two nights FREE when you pay for three!

Use promo code **"SANDY"** to claim your **FREE** night today!
Offer valid with travel from 11/9/15 to 1/31/16. Restrictions apply.

More resorts, more perks, more fun!

Goin' to the Beach![®]



RESORT COLLECTION[®]

ResortCollection.com
(800) 239-4853

BOOK YOUR WINTER ESCAPE NOW!

Escape this winter with Resort Collection at your choice of 10 premier Panama City Beach resorts and enjoy more activities, more perks and more fun! Winter Guest Monthly Rentals are available from September through March.*

*Restrictions: Based on availability. Some restrictions may apply. Call for complete details.