

# THE CIRCUIT

*your connection to the beach*

SPECIAL ISSUE:

## Resorts and Real Estate

**BANKING CENTER  
REAL ESTATE CORNER  
GRAND OPENINGS  
AROUND TOWN  
MEMBER NEWS  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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- ♦ Seared Grouper "In The Sac"  
*with Toasted Almond Rice Pilaf in a Butter Poached Lobster Sauce*
- ♦ Bacon Wrapped Gorgonzola Stuffed Pork Chop with Red Skin Potato Hash
- ♦ Handmade Angel Hair Shrimp Elfo  
*with Mushrooms, Chardonnay & Asiago*
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~Asparagus, Bacon, Brie, Fontina, Truffle Oil  
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## Are You Connected to the Beach?

Advertise your business in **The Circuit!**

### 2007 Spotlight Schedule:

- JAN/FEB Chamber's Annual Report
- MAR/APR Special Restaurant Guide
- MAY/JUN Shopping & Things To Do
- JUL/AUG Resorts and Real Estate
- SEP/OCT Health & Wellness
- NOV/DEC Going Green

Call Bethany Edwards for rates and information at (850) 235-1159.

## chairman's report

**David Powell**

It's hard to believe we are halfway through this year! The old adage 'time flies when you're having fun' could sum up my time so far as your Chairman. We have certainly had some fun events this year, from the Annual Dinner to the Business Expo to the most recent event, our 20th Anniversary Party, and all the Business After Hours and Fridays at the Beach in between. Your Chamber staff, along with numerous volunteers, have done a wonderful job putting these events together.



I'd also like to give a special 'thank you' to the Bay County Chamber of Commerce, which has partnered with us to sponsor both a dedication ceremony for the Thomas Drive flyover and a reception for our local

college presidents. It is exciting to see our chambers working together, and I look forward to working with the Bay County Chamber on future events.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *The Circuit*, as we focus on resorts and real estate in Panama City Beach. We are blessed to be able to live in such a beautiful place and this issue highlights many of those properties available both for rent and for sale. As word has spread across the country about our emerald green water and white sandy beaches, we have seen

unprecedented development, and now we need folks to come and see the new Panama City Beach. If you need me, I'll be reading my copy of *The Circuit* on the beach with a cold drink in hand, enjoying the view.

## president's report

**Debi Knight**

It's amazing to see twenty years go by with the blink of an eye. So many wonderful things have occurred since the incorporation of the Chamber. Without volunteer leadership and direction, the Chamber would not be where it is today. As our budget has grown, we have been able to expand our staff, include a professional marketing and sales team, take the chamber's website and technology to the next level, promote businesses and community globally, work hand in hand with city, county and national leaders, plan a brighter future for residents, businesses and visitors, increase our publications to offer a variety of services, benefits and marketing tools, and bring our leaders and decision makers together with visioning workshops.



For the last fifteen years I have been fortunate to work with many talented people. Board members, civic leaders, ambassadors, committee chairs, volunteers

and staff. We have a dynamic organization because of one reason – we all care about our community and how we help each other grow. That is why your chamber is stronger than ever.

We are currently working on our five year business plan, and it will be exciting to see where the next twenty years takes us. We are also in the process of expanding our Chamber facility, increasing staff, open seven days a week for businesses and visitors, and increase marketing opportunities for members.

I would like to thank all of you for supporting an organization that cares about the quality of life and future for our businesses. Many of you have been members for the last twenty years, and we salute you. Many others have been members for a number of years, and we thank you for your continued support.

I am excited about what tomorrow will bring!



The Chamber's 20th Anniversary Island Luau on June 22nd was a tropical triumph...see page 14.

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Market Leader



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Asst. Manager  
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# THE CIRCUIT

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## 2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Chairman of the Board

David Powell,  
Peoples First Community Bank

### Past Chairman

Russ Smith,  
Towne of Seahaven

### Incoming Chairman

Al McCambry, Knology

### Treasurer

Rick Dye, AmSouth/Regions Bank

### Secretary

Philip Griffiths, Jr.,  
Sugar Sands Beach Resort

### EDC Chairman

Deborah Hunt,  
Peoples First Community Bank

### Legal Council

Steven L. Applebaum

### The Board

- Mike Abney, Prudential Shimmering Sands
- Connie Ballinger, Sterling Realty
- Carol Bell, ID's and More
- Karen Blackerby, Magnum Capital
- Brenda Buschmann,  
Grand Panama Resort
- Robert Carroll,  
McNeil Carroll Engineering
- Mack Carter, Shuckum's Oyster
- Oyster Pub, Another Broken Egg
- Anthony Dubose,  
Coastal Community Insurance Agency, Inc.
- Wes Grant, Travelodge
- John Hamati,  
Marriott's Bay Point Resort
- Fritz Hoehne, Comcast Cable
- Lewis Howell,  
The St. Joe Company
- Terri Huggins, Vision Bank
- Cody Khan, Holiday Inn Sunspree
- Lee Ann Leonard,  
By The Sea Resorts
- Stacie Galbreath,  
Kilgore's Carpet & Ceramic Tile
- Doreen Morgan,  
Century 21 Commander Realty
- Gayle Oberst, CFT Pyramid
- Lisa Powell, Hombre Golf Club
- Bill Sherr, Labor Ready
- Skip Stoltz,  
Countrywide Home Loans
- Bob Zamboni,  
Zeebest McDonald's

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*Cover photo of Panama City Beach by Skip Alford*

### The Greater Panama City Beaches Chamber of Commerce

415 Beckrich Rd., Suite 200, Panama City Beach, FL 32407

Phone: (850) 235-1159 Fax: (850) 235-2301

Online: [www.pcbeach.org](http://www.pcbeach.org)

## CHAMBER OFFICERS

- President/CEO Debi Knight
- Senior VP Marketing & PR Marta Rose
- Executive Asst. / Office Mgr. Beth Oltman
- VP Membership Services Tom Mixon
- VP Membership Services Skip Alford
- VP Relocation Jessica Summers
- Membership Accounting Mgr. Jena Kimmel
- VP Hospitality Services Bertie Reynolds
- Receptionist Joyce Kidd
- Research/Communications Bethany Edwards
- Volunteer Gloria Mallory

## EDITORIAL STAFF

- Editor Marta Rose
- Creative Director Marta Rose
- Advertising Sales Bethany Edwards,  
Jessica Summers
- Production Boyd Brothers Printing
- Distribution Allegra Print & Imaging;  
Chamber Ambassador Team



*Left:* Steve Akiyama created an impressive Wonder Woman for the **15th Annual Business Expo** held on April 24th at Boardwalk Beach Resort. *Above:* Chamber Chairman David Powell of Peoples First Community Bank, and Incoming Chair Al McCambry of Knology--who sponsored the event--arrived ready for action. See page 35 for Best Costumes and Booths.



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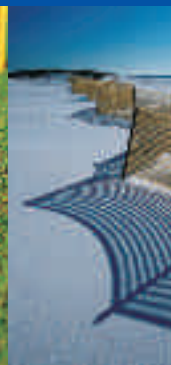
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# Banking Center

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Mike Fitzhugh, President and CEO of BankTrust, feels very strongly about giving back to the community, and he conveys this to his employees. He and the BankTrust staff are heavily involved in the community by participating in a local school mentoring program, contributing to the March of Dimes, American Heart Association, and Habitat for Humanity among many others.



From left: Jana Walker, Julie Lynn, Monica Alderman and Jill Kesecker.



From left: Leonor Rodriguez, Joshua Scribner and Barb Kingsley.

customers to assist with deposits and change orders. BankTrust also boasts a 4:00 pm deposit cut-off time. It is a full service bank offering numerous personal and business checking and savings accounts, commercial loans, mortgages, financial planning services, trust services, CDs, IRAs, online banking and bill pay. Visit one of the three branches in Bay County where you are always sure to see a friendly face.



# Real Estate Corner

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a few  
minutes  
with...

Paul Suke



I am from Montreal, Canada, or through the perception of one Texan that I met several years ago in Dallas, *The Great White North*... where Canadian tribes dress in the indigenous seal pelts, lay down fur traps, and live in condo complexes built of hardened igloo snow! Contrary to that popular Southern belief, Montreal is quite a cosmopolitan city offering culture, wonderful restaurants and amazing festivals.

There is only one drawback: most of this happens during the summer. We either fall into Breezy Autumn or full tilt Dead of Winter (which is during most months with the letter R in them). This is when we consider bringing out the sleds and the team of dogs. Canadians do one of two things with their recreational time in the winter. They brave out into cold to go skiing, snowboarding, dancing or hitting the town—or they simply stay home and hibernate. Even going out for dinner on a Friday night seems laborious on a cold winter's evening.

So you can imagine my enthusiasm in visiting Panama City Beach, with its warm Floridian sun and white sugar beaches, after a long and slumbering Canadian winter. I was invited to visit Panama City Beach by the President of the Beaches Chamber, Debi Knight, to promote our new technology called **Virtual Paper**, which integrates the printed Official Vacation Planner into a dynamic and environmental online solution.\*

As soon as my plane arrived in the tiny Panama City Airport I stepped outside to feel the vibe of this southern air and a magic in the wind that seduced my spirit. It's that feeling of well being, when nature is in harmony with its manmade surroundings. There was a sense that nothing had been frozen here before, except maybe a gator's gaze when it looks at you as if you're a big steak sandwich! There was this faint airy jazz music playing by the outer entrance, which soon became the soundtrack to my first acquaintance with this city.

A man at the airport was walking opposite my direction and smiled and said hello to me. Coming from a country where people never say hello to complete strangers, I returned a reluctant hello, and soon followed with a thought that he may be taking a trip up Brokeback Mountain. That thought was soon replaced with what I have been hearing so much about from the team at the Chamber, the proverbial sentiment of *Southern Hospitality*.

The next couple of days I was given the royal tour of Panama City Beach, and the Chamber team showed me what true Southern Hospitality is. We did everything from visiting the beautiful Gulf of Mexico to sucking the juice out of crawfish and handshaking a large sea turtle, right down to having a staring contest with an alligator. I found the warmth in the locals to be part of the charm that intertwines with the warmth and beauty of Panama City Beach. I was left with a lasting impression of calm and serenity balanced with the bustle of friendly tourists staying at resorts nestled by the shores of a stunning body of water so affectionately known as the Emerald Coast. Panama City Beach


stands to become a world-class resort. This is not another Miami Beach! This city should carve out and boast its own unique culture and attractions, like no other resort town in the country.

"There was a sense that nothing had been frozen here before, except maybe a gator's gaze..."

I have captured a big memory jar of sun, white beaches and radiant sea—North Florida ecology that will keep me warm for many winters to come. And if my spirit ever succumbs to the cold Canadian winds, I will jet back down to meet with that warm Panama City Beach Southern Hospitality faster than you can say "Hotter than Georgia Asphalt!"

\*Paul Suke is Executive Vice President of Virtual Paper, a Canadian-based division of the interactive media giant Tree Technologies. The company transforms printed publications to online, interactive material, giving the User a tactile and immediate experience through Flash animation, flip-page simulation, hot-spot direct links and fun sound clips. Visit [www.myvirtualpaper.com](http://www.myvirtualpaper.com) for more information.

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# MEMBER NEWS

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Irene & Co. at the Shoppes at Edgewater

resort wear. We offer a large selection of jewelry, including exquisite Swarovski crystal pieces and an extensive collection of Sterling Silver.

We are conveniently located in the Shoppes at Edgewater and hope you will stop in soon. Allow our customer service experts to show you an unparalleled shopping experience. Call (850) 236-7848 for more information.

## Gulf Coast Woman's Club Wins #1 Club in State of Florida

Gulf Coast Woman's Club of Panama City returned from the Florida General Federated Woman's Club Spring Awards Conference in Orlando



Gulf Coast Woman's Club of Panama City

the big winner again. For the second consecutive year they are the #1 Club in the State of Florida, besting the 184 Florida Clubs represented at the Conference. The Club's 146 members are excited that their dedication to making our community a better place to live has earned them this award four times: in 2000, 2003, 2005 and now 2006. The Club's commitment to community involvement continues with a variety of projects and programs for 2007.

## Chris Patterson Named As Top Florida Lawyer

Local attorney and Greater Panama City Beaches Chamber of Commerce member, Chris Patterson, has been named by *Law & Politics* magazine as a "Super Lawyer" for 2007. This

is the second such award in as many years.

Super Lawyers names Florida's top lawyers as chosen by their peers and through the independent research of *Law & Politics*. 2007 Florida Super Lawyers is based on the survey of

more than 44,000 lawyers across the state. The goal was to select as Super Lawyers the top 5 percent of Florida attorneys in more than 60 practice areas.

*Law & Politics* performs the polling, research and selection of Super Lawyers in a process designed to identify lawyers who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement.

Each year *Law & Politics* sends a ballot to active lawyers in the state or region who have been in practice five years or more. The ballot asks lawyers to nominate the best attorneys they've personally observed in action.

Chris Patterson is a Board Certified Criminal Trial Lawyer, as recognized by both the Florida Bar Board of Legal Specialization and National Board of Trial Advocacy since 1995.

## Ambassadors ▶

Sharon Rohm from Resort Realty, Inc. (right side) received her White Ambassador Badge in early May; Irene and Ron Phillips from Irene & Co. received their Gold Ambassador Badges.



Super Lawyer Chris Patterson

## 20th Anniversary Island Luau

June 22, 2007, Presented by Comcast

Hundreds of Chamber members attended the Chamber's 20th Anniversary Island Luau on a tranquil June evening at Marriott's Bay Point Resort. Going back twenty years, Chairman of the Board David Powell recognized the past Chairmen and Presidents—a number of whom were present at the party. Guests enjoyed a tropical buffet, steel drum music and a fun video highlighting clips of past Chamber events.

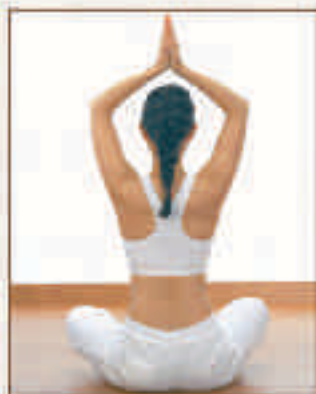
Photos by SkyBlue Images, [www.skyblueimages.net](http://www.skyblueimages.net).



President Debi Knight with Chamber Chairmen (from left): Current Chair David Powell, Russ Smith (2005-2006), Debi Knight, Deborah Hunt (97-98, 2003-2005), Kevin Brackins (92-93), Lou Alessandrini (89-90), and John Gheesling III (99-2000).



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# MEMBER NEWS

## The Power of Entrepreneurial Spirit

The word *entrepreneur* originates from the French word *entreprendre* which means "to undertake." Entrepreneurs appear in different sizes, shapes and strengths in every community. From the local law office or hair salon to the franchised restaurant or daycare center; behind each of these businesses is an entrepreneur.

Some of these entrepreneurs seek to build a huge worldwide business while others seek to be the best business in their small pond. Some entrepreneurs like to start new businesses, sell them, and move to the next venture; some want a business to run for their entire career.

Famous entrepreneurs are often associated with "newness." They provide us with new products (Bill Gates, Microsoft),

new production methods (Henry Ford, Ford Motor Company), new markets (Sam Walton, Wal-Mart) and new forms of organization (Sergey Brin, Google). While we all now recognize these famous entrepreneurs and their contributions to our country and our economy, each of them started as a small business. They were able to build their respective enterprises due to their abilities to envision their success, to think creatively, to believe and trust in themselves and to maintain a "never give up" spirit.

This entrepreneurial spirit is strong in our community. In your everyday life, look at the number of new business enterprises that are springing up in our local economy. **The entrepreneurial spirit that lives in the entrepreneurs behind these enterprises will provide 70% of the new jobs, 70% of our goods and services, 70% of the business tax base and therefore 70% of our dreams as a community.**

As a fifth generation small businessman-farmer, Congressman Allen Boyd knows the rewards and concerns unique to small business owners. "Small Businesses are the backbone of the American economy," Boyd stated. "Today, the values of American independence and resourcefulness are embodied in the entrepreneurial spirit that lives in each and every small business owner."

Join Congressman Allen Boyd for the 5th Annual **Entrepreneurial Spirit Conference** on Friday, July 20 from 8:30am-1pm at Gulf Coast



Congressman Allen Boyd

Community College. The conference is co-sponsored by the Small Business Development Center, Veteran's Business Outreach Center, Bay County Chamber of Commerce, Greater Panama City Beaches Chamber of Commerce, Opportunity Florida, and Gulf Coast Community College.

The common thread between entrepreneurs is the ability to see a problem that needs to be solved, the ability to take and assume risks, and the spirit and determination to succeed.

## Hope For The Hopeless

Rodney and Beth Love, founders of Hearts of Love,

Inc., worked in Josh McDowell's international ministry in Russia for 12 years. In that time, they saw first-hand the deplorable conditions in which children existed as they lived in the orphanages. We have found in speaking with other ministries, it is the same all over the world.

**Hearts of Hope International**, one of the Hearts of Love ministries, is a non-profit, 501c3, privately owned, local children's home that temporarily houses orphans from around the world that need major medical care. Our goal is to help provide that medical care in an efficient manner while giving these precious children the love that they normally would never have. We will also minister to orphans in our care through summer camps, retreats, and time spent with Christian families.

Hearts of Hope International now has a 50 year lease with

Bethlehem Camp just north of Bonifay for 2.5 acres which is part of their 100 acres. Once we have raised the funds to build the children's home

and clinic, we will begin to bring these special children in for care. We have use of the camp 11 months out of the year, and set up programs now for retreats, camps, and special events. One of those events is Camp 2007. We are bringing 9 Russian children in from Kaliningrad to share an American church camp with local youth groups for the month of July.

Your sponsorships for events like our Celebrity Golf Challenge Dinner Cruise on September 24th, as well as the auction items you donate, will go a long way toward helping us build that Children's Home. For more information about Hearts of Hope International, Inc. visit [www.HeartsOfHopeInt.org](http://www.HeartsOfHopeInt.org), call (850) 234-0260, or email us at [PamHeartsOfHope@aol.com](mailto:PamHeartsOfHope@aol.com).

## Eventide is the West End's Newest Coastal Community

Developer Broad Street Partners, LLC and Playground Destination Properties Inc., a world leader in real estate sales and marketing, unveil Eventide, Panama City Beach's newest residential community.

Eventide is located a short bike ride from the beach. This coastal community will have 212 spacious vacation condominium homes with one, two and three bedrooms, mixed with a limited number of townhomes. Eventide's blend of classic styles incorporate a British West Indies design with architectural references to Key West, St. Augustine, Rosemary Beach and old Jacksonville.

The 22-acre community will have nearly one mile of bicycle paths and winding walkways leading to the central clubhouse, complete with a fitness room, game room, club room and media room. Eventide will also have two pools and approximately 15,000 square feet of boutique retail shops, sidewalk cafes

*Continued on Page 29*



Panama City Beach's newest coastal community, Eventide, will have 212 residential condominiums, bicycle and walking paths and more than 15,000 square feet of shops and restaurants.





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Firefly...the lighting of a new era in fine dining.

# Dining Out



by Marta Rose



Nestled in the Shoppes at Edgewater, Firefly is Panama City Beach's newest fine dining experience. From the moment I walked through the door I knew this was no ordinary beach eatery serving the usual beach fare. A beautiful waterfall adorning the wall behind the bar creates a "Wow Factor" upon entering the front lounge. An adjoining lounge with sofas and live music on Thursdays and Saturdays adds a tranquil and sumptuous feel to Firefly's stylish environment. And keep walking...the biggest Wow Factor is yet to come: A huge oak tree – adorned with fireflies throughout – stands smack dab in the middle of the dining room. A description in words doesn't do this vision justice...you just have to go there and see for yourself.

Many of the crew came from Canopies, and the service is friendly, professional and competent. Chef Shelley Cooper, formerly of 30-Degree Blue, has created a menu that tops the charts in cutting edge. "I wanted to create food that is approachable and delicious," she says of the beautiful ensemble of fine fare. Everything I sampled at Firefly was a notch above "really good." Which is to say, simply, they got it right.

We began the journey with an aperitif of martinis. The **Espresso Martini** was thick and rich, cold, and not too sweet (over-sweetness seems to be a common mistake with martinis). The **Pineapple Marini** was refreshingly fruity and mellow. Our **Tempura**



**Fried Apalachicola Oysters** were light and tender, served with a tangy cocktail sauce and an assembly of pickled parsnips, shallots, carrots, snap peas and red endive. The **Tuna Nicoise**, a scoop of sushi-grade rare tuna, was drizzled with basil oil and had a slightly savory, nutty finish. We sampled a bowl of smooth-as-silk **Carrot Ginger Gazpacho** swirled with a biting red pepper coulis, and garnished with a steak kabob. The vegetables and herbs that went into this cool concoction were so fresh the flavor spanked my taste buds, and the oversized white porcelain bowl added a cartoon-like whimsical flair to the presentation. Next came the **Hydroponic Salad**...butter lettuce underneath a confetti of strawberries and goat cheese, trickled with a warm brown butter pecan dressing.

Our lavish meal continued with two exuberant entrees, both served on giant white porcelain platters that matched the fun soup bowls. **Grouper "In The Sac"** was

served with toasted almond rice pilaf primavera, steeped with butter-poached lobster sauce, and baked in a parchment sac. The **Bacon Wrapped Gorgonzola Stuffed Pork Chop** with charred peppers, caramelized onions and sweet tomatoes was infused with a subtle orange essence, and served alongside red skin potato hash. We shared the succulent **Twice Baked Lobster Mashed Potatoes**; a

description of this dish cannot represent the eye-rolling rapture it creates. With such delicious decadence one cannot possibly say no to dessert...and we didn't. We sampled the **Key Lime Icebox Pie** with gingersnap and macadamia crust, mile high meringue and warm coconut cream, which was divine. And check out the **Hot Chocolate Souffle Cake** if you are a chocolate lover, served with chocolate ganache and a trio of homemade ice creams.

Firefly is located in the Shoppes at Edgewater at 535 Beckrich Road in Panama City Beach and is open nightly from 5:00 pm. Reservations are recommended and appropriate attire is appreciated. Check out "Tini Tuesday" with \$5 Stoli martinis. Call (850) 249-FFLY (3359) or visit [www.fireflypcb.com](http://www.fireflypcb.com).



Ready to have your restaurant reviewed?  
Call Marta Rose at the Chamber, 235-1159.





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## Friday at the Beach

with Paris Janos of WJHG Channel 7

**July 13, 2007**

**7:30-9:00AM Edgewater Beach Resort**

*Guest Speaker: Ibis Lake Development*

*Sponsored by*



**August 10, 2007**

**7:30-9:00AM**

**Edgewater Beach Resort**

*Guest Speaker: Mel Leonard, Community Redevelopment Agency*

*Sponsored by*



**DRMP**

**Call the Chamber to RSVP at 235-1159**

## Get Informed at Friday at the Beach

House Representative Jimmy Patronis, Jr. gave Chamber members an overview of the 2007 Legislative Session and how it affects our local community, at the Beaches Chamber's **Friday at the Beach** breakfast on May 11th at Edgewater Beach Resort. The event was sponsored by Vision Bank, Gulf World and Emerald Waste Services.

On June 8th, Kim MacLean from VISIT FLORIDA, the official tourism marketing corporation for the state of Florida, provided an overview of current VISIT FLORIDA programs and future opportunities to help businesses reach the millions of visitors that come to Florida each year. The event was sponsored by VISIT FLORIDA along with Ritz Food Stores and J.B. Flooring of Florida.

On July 13th the developers of Ibis Lake will share



Kim MacLean from VISIT FLORIDA, the official tourism marketing corporation for the state of Florida.



Friday at the Beach on May 11th with (from left): State Representative Jimmy Patronis, Jr., Chamber President Debi Knight, Incoming Chairman Al McCambry and David Powell, Chairman of the Board.

details of this Old World-style village, opening soon, with mid-20th Century coastal cottages of the Deep South. On August 10th join Mel Leonard at Friday at the Beach for an update on the Front Beach Road CRA (Community Redevelopment Agency). Both events will be held at Edgewater Beach Resort; call the Chamber at (850) 235-1159 for more information.

# Calendar of Events

## July & August 2007

**July 3** Tuesday  
County Commission Mtg  
9:00 am  
Panama City Hall

**July 3** Tuesday  
12@12 Luncheon  
12:00-1:00 pm  
Location tbd

**July 5** Thursday  
Executive Board Mtg  
12:00 noon  
Peoples First Bank

**July 10** Tuesday  
TDC Meeting  
9:00 am  
City Council Chamber

**July 11** Wednesday  
Board Meeting  
3:00 pm  
Vision Bank

**July 12** Thursday  
City Council Meeting  
6:00 pm  
City Hall Annex

**July 13** Friday  
Friday at the Beach  
7:30-9:00 am  
Edgewater Bch Resort

**July 17** Tuesday  
County Council Meeting  
9:00 am  
Panama City Hall

**July 10** Tuesday  
TDC Meeting  
9:00 am  
City Council Chamber

**July 24** Tuesday  
Airport Authority Meeting  
10:00 am  
Airport Board Rm (2nd FL)

**July 26** Thursday  
City Council Meeting  
2:00 pm  
City Hall Annex

**July 31** Tuesday  
EDC Meeting  
3:00 pm  
Vision Bank

**August 2** Thursday  
Executive Board Mtg  
12:00 noon  
Peoples First Bank

**August 7** Tuesday  
County Commission Mtg  
9:00 am  
Panama City Hall

**August 7** Tuesday  
12@12 Luncheon  
12:00-1:00 pm  
Location tbd

**August 8** Wednesday  
Board Meeting  
3:00 pm  
Vision Bank

**August 9** Thursday  
City Council Meeting  
6:00pm  
City Hall Annex

**August 10** Friday  
Friday at the Beach  
7:30-9:00 am  
Edgewater Bch Resort

**August 14** Tuesday  
TDC Meeting  
9:00 am  
City Council Chamber

**August 21** Tuesday  
County Commission Mtg  
9:00 am  
Panama City Hall

**August 23** Thursday  
City Council Meeting  
2:00 pm  
City Hall Annex

**August 23** Thursday  
After Hours Mixer  
5:30-7:30 pm  
Capt. Anderson's

**August 28** Tuesday  
Airport Authority Mtg  
10:00 am  
Airport Board Rm (2nd FL)

**August 28** Tuesday  
TDC Meeting  
9:00 am  
City Council Chamber

**August 28** Tuesday  
EDC Meeting  
3:00 pm  
Vision Bank

***Chamber After Hours***  
***Capt. Anderson's***  
5551 North Lagoon Drive, Panama City Beach  
**Thursday, August 23, 2007, 5:30 to 7:30 pm**  
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# AROUND TOWN

*Updates on Community, Governmental Affairs, Workforce & Military*

## Community Update

*Mayor Gayle Oberst,  
City of Panama City Beach*

Work on the new K through 8 school located adjacent to Arnold High School is progressing. Ground clearing was in April and May and the school should be ready for students in the fall of 2008.

New restaurants including Another Broken Egg (Grand Panama) and Panera Bread (Pier Park) are providing great new places to enjoy meals and Willy's Pier Bar (Pineapple Wills latest adventure) gives the blues and jazz lovers a great place. Opening in May, the Grand Theater (Pier Park) with its sixteen screens will seat about 3,000 people and is really state-of-the-art.

A number of new businesses are expected to begin building in the area surrounding the Parkway and Alf Coleman/Beckrich. CVS has plans for building on the southwest corner of Alf Coleman and the Parkway while a hotel and restaurant are

planned for the north side between Beckrich and Alf Coleman. Colonial Bank and McDonald's will be built on the Parkway north of Lowe's.

In Pier Park, Dillard's and JCPenny's stores are working through their permits and getting the infrastructure in place. Walls have been erected and the section of the mall nearest the Pier is taking form. Some of those retailers/restaurants will be opening in the late fall and others early spring. Concerts in the park each Thursday night will take place June - August. The concerts have been a great success with hundreds attending.

The building and planning department and the planning board of the City are working on updating the comprehensive plan. Tallahassee requires that the plan be reviewed and updated in each five to seven year timeframe. They are also reviewing new land development codes for presentation to the Council. It is an opportunity for input from the community and business leaders.

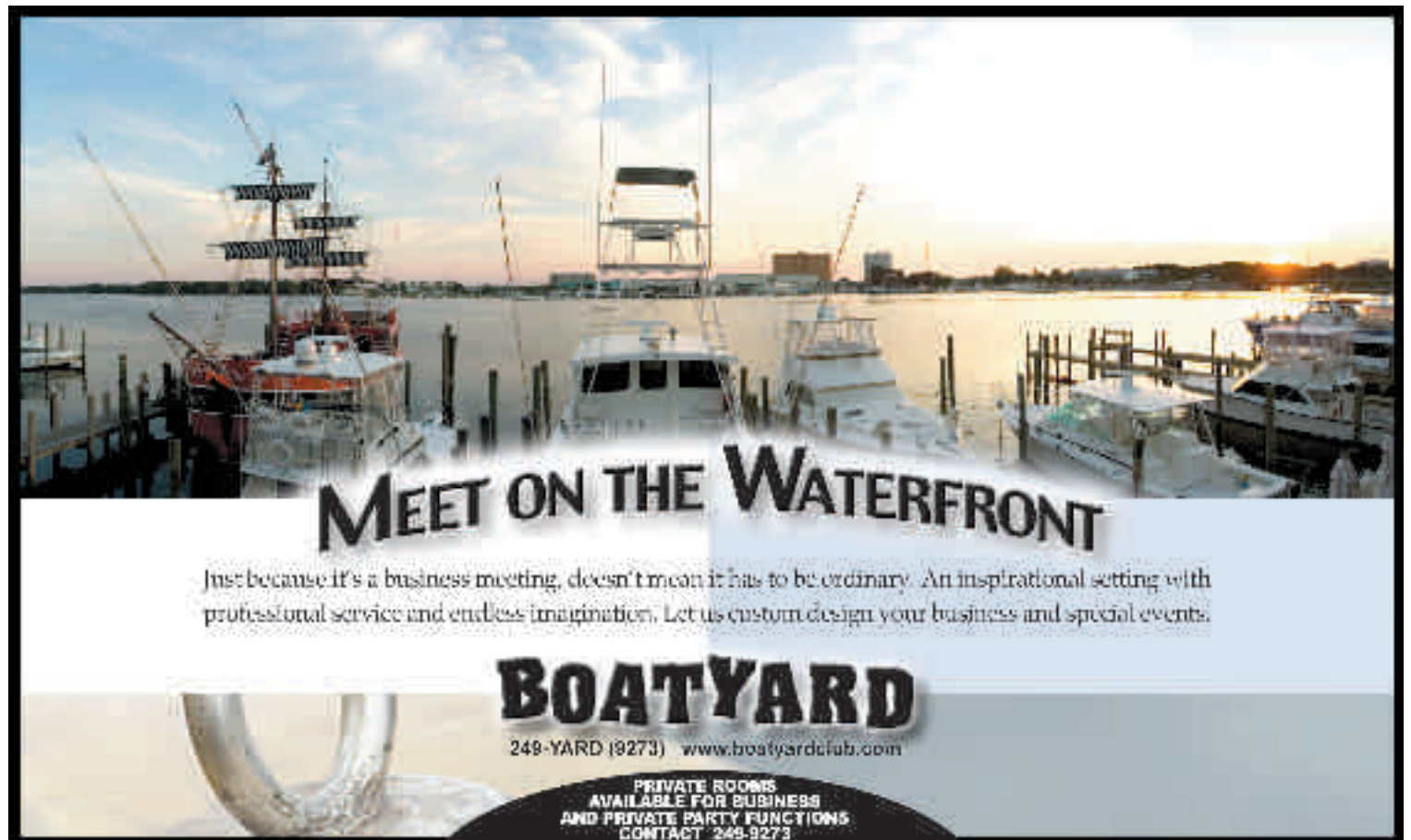
In June, Gayle's Trails was recognized by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Inte-

rior as one of the "40 New National Recreation Trails." The National Recreation Trails are components of the National Trails System and recognize already existing trails that connect people to resources and improve their quality of life.

## Haney to Launch Construction Technology Academy

*Kimberly Bodine, Executive Director,  
Gulf Coast Workforce Board*

In order to meet the workforce needs of the construction industry, Haney Technical High School has partnered with the Gulf Coast Workforce Board and other business and community partners to launch a Construction Technology Academy. Haney is currently accepting students into the program with the first initial class scheduled to start in August. The Academy is open to any student enrolled in a Bay County high school.



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The focus of the Academy will be industry certifications, high school graduation, and Florida Career and Technical Certificates. The Construction Technology Academy will offer programs in carpentry, electrical wiring, and welding. Upon completion of the program, students will receive an industry certification through the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) along with their high school diploma. Welding students will also earn American Welding Society (AWS) certifications. Training to secondary and post-secondary students will be offered during the school day with major emphasis for secondary students. Some adult post-secondary students may enroll in the evening.

The Construction Technology Academy is part of Haney's strategy to develop programs for high growth/high demand occupations. It is partially funded by a grant from Florida's Great Northwest WIRED Initiative.

For more information on Haney's Construction Technology Academy, please contact Eric Johnson at 850-747-5500.

## Local Government Update Bay Solutions

### Bay County

- The final floorplan for the new Emergency Operations Center was due the end of last week. The County expects a groundbreaking in early 2008 and anticipates the construction time to between 12-18 months.
- The Board authorized Mark Bowen, Chief of Emergency Services, to begin negotiations for terms of leasing a local base with Life Net, which is an air ambulance provider.
- The Commission rejected a proposal from the City of Parker to limit the property tax revenue the city could keep for its community redevelopment area. The proposal would have capped the CRA's tax revenue at \$75 million.
- The Board agreed to enter into negotiations with Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative to purchase the company's water and wastewater systems in Southport. The Commission proposed an increase of its wholesale water rate from \$0.90 per 1,000 gallons to \$1.45. A second public hearing is scheduled for the June 19

regular board meeting.

### City of Panama City Beach

- The Council voted unanimously to engage attorney Robert Wright for the purpose of monitoring Florida Public Service Commission's proposed hardening of underground utilities. This will enhance service during storms; however, the cost will ultimately be passed on to the end user. Therefore, it should continue to be monitored.
- The Council followed up on additional Emergency Medical Services. Staff reported they met with Steve Johnson, CEO of Bay Medical Center. Recruiting paramedics and locating adequate housing for the ambulance will be a challenge.

### Panama City-Bay County Airport Authority

- The Airport extended the deadline for construction bids from the six companies deemed eligible by the Airport Authority. This portion of the relocation project includes clearing the land, creating access and perimeter roads and constructing the airport's runways. Currently, bids are due June 21.
- Chandler & Associates are working on the airport appraisal. Staff expects it to be completed within a few weeks.
- Florida Department of Transportation has committed an additional \$67 million in grants for airport relocation. State funding commitments now total \$119 million since the relocation efforts began. This month, FAA committed nearly \$80 million over four years, meeting the Airport Authority's request in full.

## Navy News

*Capt. Hal Harbeson, Commanding Officer  
Naval Support Activity Panama City*

More than 300 Sailors tested their mine warfare proficiency along the shores of Panama City Beach during Gulf of Mexico Exercise May 7-16. This exercise marked the transition of a mine warfare squadron from training to ready-to-deploy status and included surface, air and undersea mine countermeasures operations. Two Canadian ships, the HMCS Goose Bay and HMCS Kingston, participated with the minehunting and countermeasures ships

*Continued on Page 26*

# AROUND TOWN

*Updates on Community, Governmental Affairs, Workforce & Military*

*Continued from Page 25*

USS Blackhawk, USS Devastator, and USS Shrike, and three Sea Dragon helicopters from Norfolk-based Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 14.

The Mine Warfare Association conference convened at the Marriott Bay Point Resort May 7-10, co-sponsored by the Naval Mine and Antisubmarine Warfare Command and the Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City. Speakers from the military and industry added insight into development, advances and the overall status of mine warfare to open new avenues of research and development for mine countermeasures.

The Center for Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Diving held its change of command ceremony May 18 when Capt. Gary Windhorst was relieved by Capt. Randall Getman. Capt. Getman's last assignment was Director of Navy EOD Fleet Liaison Unit in Indian Head, MD. Capt. Windhorst' next assignment is Commander, Task Force 56, supporting EOD Forces in the Middle East. Headquartered in Panama City, the CEODD encompasses the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center here, Naval School, Explosive Ordnance Disposal at Eglin AFB, and training sites in Hawaii and Great Lakes, IL. The enterprise has an annual through-put of approximately 3800 students from all four services, the U.S. Coast Guard, and Allied Nations.

Habitat for Humanity of Bay County dedicated one of the two homes constructed in what was known as "The Sea & Sky Build" on May 19. Located on Center Avenue in Callaway, this project was so named because both the Air Force and the Navy were instrumental in the original blitz build, as well as volunteering on a regular basis throughout the construction process.

The Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City hosted the Autonomous Underwater Vehicle Performance Demonstration, or AUV Fest, June 4-16, 2007. The AUV Fest featured developing capabilities of unmanned vehicles by the operational Navy, research community, and industry. The Office of Naval Research sponsors the AUV Fest about every 18 months, this being the first one held in Panama City. AUV Fest 2007 was the largest ever, attracting more than 400 participants, including 80 Fleet representatives and teams from government, industry, academia, and foreign military personnel from Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

The Navy Experimental Diving Unit and the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center were featured recently on an episode of the History Channel's Modern Marvels titled "Deep Sea Salvage" first airing early in May and will likely be rebroadcast in the near future—check your local listings!



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2br FURN - \$439,000 3br - \$750,000

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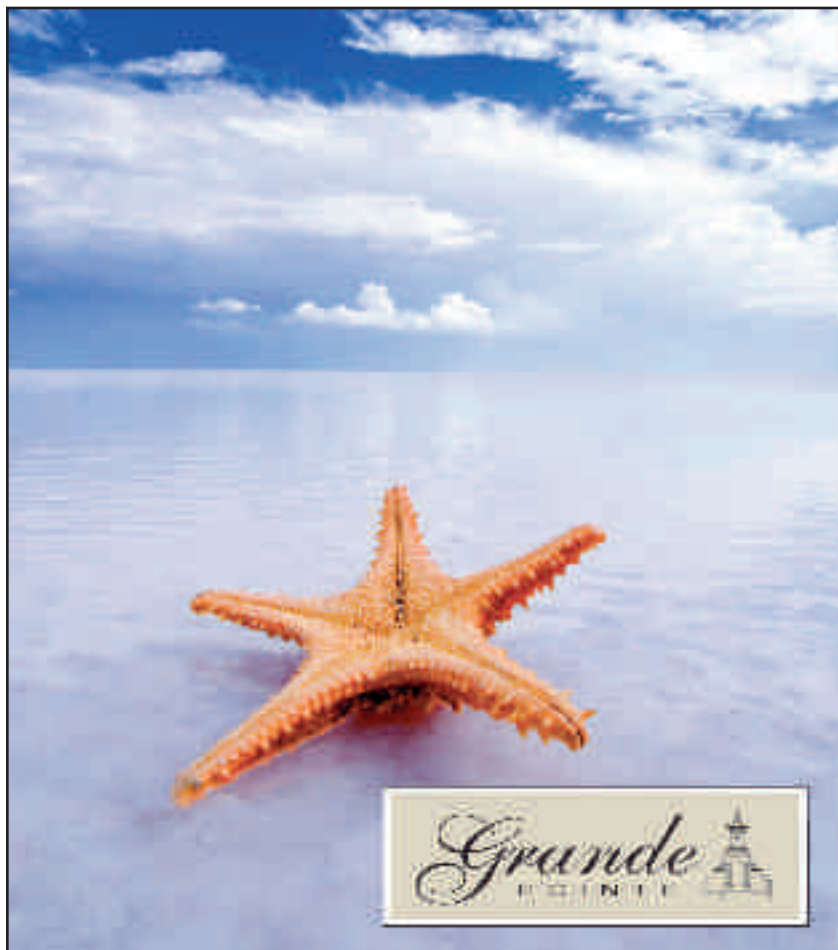
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Irene & Co., 4/18

To schedule a ribbon-cutting or beautification call Tom Mixon at 814-0616 or Skip Alford at 814-4292.



Resort Ready Rooms, 4/18



Gulf Coast Dermatology, 4/19



Joeys Java Juice, 4/25



Moore Bass Consulting, 4/26



Cabana West Apartments, 5/3



Beachside Resorts Realty, 5/8



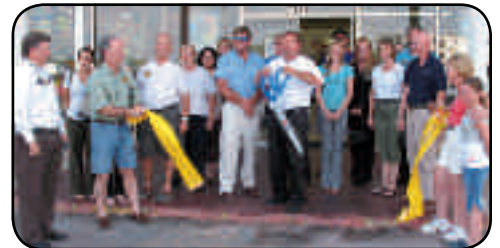
HD Supply, 5/10



Prudential Shimmering Sands, 5/16



The Fish Box, 5/22



Color Wheel Paints, 5/23



Wave Break Facilities, 5/24



Flyover Dedication, 5-25



Panera Bread, 5/31



Majestic Beach Resorts, 6/7



Cosmetic Vein & Laser Center, 6/14



Splash, 6/19

# MEMBER NEWS

Continued from Page 16

and authentic eateries for owners and guests to enjoy. Additional outdoor living amenities include a private beach club, fully-equipped summer kitchens and outdoor living rooms with fireplaces and event lawns.

Please visit the Discovery Center, Eventide's showplace and information outlet for the local community and future homeowners, located at 22606 Panama City Beach Parkway, or contact (866) 617-7619 or [www.eventideflorida.com](http://www.eventideflorida.com).



There's plenty to do at the Carillon Beach Resort & Spa

## Carillon Beach Resort & Spa is Open For Business

Carillon Beach, an upscale resort community located on the west end of Panama City Beach, is completing its \$56 million renovation. In mid-July Carillon is celebrating the grand opening of its newest addition, the Carillon Beach Resort and Spa, a luxurious all-suite hotel / condominium combination.

The Carillon Beach Inn features 70 one-, two- and 3-bedroom hotel suites elegantly appointed with fully-equipped kitchens, stainless steel appliances and granite countertops. The end-unit hotel suites feature romantic fireplaces in the living area, and outdoor hot tubs. Next door to the Inn are the Sunrise/Sunset Condominiums, 24 three-bedroom condominium units featuring 12-foot ceilings, granite countertops, crown moldings and more. All accommodations look out on beautiful Lake Carillon, and the higher floor units have views of the Gulf of Mexico.

There's plenty to do at the Carillon Beach Resort & Spa! Guests are welcome to recline poolside at our new 20,000 s.f. resort swimming pool (opening in August, one of three community swimming pools), take a short walk or a complimentary resort shuttle to the beach, or go fishing on Lake Carillon. They can also explore Carillon's town center, a New Orleans-style market area and village community filled with a

collection of shops, boutiques and restaurants, including the all-new Waterside Cafe.

Early in 2008, the resort will welcome the opening of a 7,500 square foot spa and fitness center, providing residents and guests on the west end of Panama City Beach with a luxurious spa experience in their backyard.

Resort guests and residents alike are invited to come to the Carillon Village Green Monday nights, when Carillon Beach hosts "Groovin' on the Green," a concert series which is open to the public now through August. For more information call (850) 230- 4809 or visit [www.carillonbeachresort.com](http://www.carillonbeachresort.com).

## Bobby Bowden Frequents the Hombre

Hombre Golf Club here in Panama City Beach is FSU Coach Bobby Bowden's favorite golf

course, according to *Golf Magazine*. On June 25th Coach Bowden and sons Jeff, Tommy and Steve played 36 holes on Hombre's "The Good, The Bad & The Ugly."



Coach Bobby Bowden with Lisa Powell, Director of Marketing and Business Development with the Hombre.

## Chamber Thanks Our Florida Welcome Centers

Every year thousands of Florida visitors and vacationers pass through the state's four major Welcome Centers. The operators at these Centers meet and greet visitors tirelessly from morning until evening, answering their questions, suggesting destinations and outings, and giving out Vacation Planners. On May 25th the Beaches Chamber sent two members of the team, Skip Alford and Tom Mixon in Membership Services, to deliver gift baskets to the operators and personally thank them for all the work they do in helping promote Panama City Beach.

## Leads Groups

The Chamber's two Leads Groups meet twice a month to share business leads and information. We strive to keep our group industry specific, and allow one of any profession to avoid conflict. We invite anybody interested in furthering their careers or business to join us:

**LEADS GROUP A** meets at the Boatyard, 5323 North Lagoon Dr., every 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month at 12:00 Noon. Erven Sewell (850) 784-0032 or [erwell@copyproductscompany.com](mailto:erwell@copyproductscompany.com).

**LEADS GROUP B** meets at the Boatyard every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 12:00 Noon. Jared Jones (850) 303-1989 or [jared.jones@knology.com](mailto:jared.jones@knology.com).



Florida's four major Welcome Centers (clockwise from upper left): I-95 near Jacksonville; I-75 near Lake City; Hwy. 231 at the FL-AL State Line; and I-10 near Pensacola.

# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Tom Mixon & Skip Alford  
Member Services

Even though summer time started with a period of rather dry weather, there is always a reason to celebrate here at The Greater Panama City Beach Chamber of Commerce. I'm sure you'll be delighted to know that your Chamber membership now stands at 1,014 strong!

As fellow members, each one of you should take time to consider that YOU are making it happen when it comes community growth and development. A Chamber of Commerce is only as strong as the vision of its leaders and the support of its members. And speaking of member support, one of our most faithful Ambassadors, Ms. Angela Evans of Innovations Federal Credit Union, is leaving us to relocate with her husband Heath to Birmingham, Alabama. Her service as an Ambassador and as an active member of this Chamber has been exceptional. We wish her and her husband great success in their new journey.



For those of us that remain here to usher in

# AMBASSADORS

Skip Stoltz  
Ambassador Chairman



Another great couple of months here in paradise: Panama City Beach. The Greater Panama City Beaches Chamber of Commerce Ambassador team has a lot going on with all the new businesses coming in at Pier Park—and all over the beach. We continue to be out as a shining light for the Chamber and all its great members, now over 1,000 strong, and we encourage you to get involved for your business.

We would like to give special thanks to our meeting sponsors for May: Fred Bredehorst at the Wingate Hotel, and in June: Rick Ackerman at the Betsy Ann River Boat.

what is most assuredly and exciting future, *stay active* and take advantage of every business opportunity available through your Greater Panama City Beaches Chamber of Commerce.



## New Members

AdVisions  
Bay Wallcovering Etc  
Borderline Graphics, LLC  
Brite Beginnings  
C Technology, Inc.  
C.W. Roberts Contracting, Inc.  
Captain Butch Charters  
Cellular Sales  
Disaster Response Team (DRT)  
Emerald Coast Glass Protection  
Envy  
Faith Christian Family Church  
Fish Box Bar & Grill  
Floridadelphia Cheesesteak &  
Hoagie Factory  
HD Supply – Plumbing  
Hearts of Hope International, Inc.  
Int'l Legal Employment Agency, Inc.  
Lake Merial, Inc.  
Liquid Floors  
Mellow Mushroom  
nexAir LLC  
Panera Bread  
Playa Del Sol Beach Rentals  
Remax Real Estate Center  
Renegade Sports Center  
Seclusion Bay  
Southern Theatres, LLC  
Wine World

Gift Basket Designs - 1  
Gulf Coast Dermatology - 1  
Heyman, Charles - 1  
Homes & Land of Panama City &  
Beaches - 1  
Mimi's Shoo LaLa - 1  
Phelps, Jimmy - 1  
Sunglass World of NW Florida, Inc. - 1  
The Coffee Bean Queens, Inc. - 1  
Two Sisters Custom Boutique - 1  
Wilson, Stephen - 1  
Arlyle Realty & Appraisal Services - 2  
Bark Avenue Pet Salon - 2  
Condo Owner Magazine - 2  
G & W Home Inspections, Inc. - 2  
Gwen Scott - 2  
Humane Society of Bay County - 2  
Panhandle Helicopter, LLC - 2  
Penguin Parlor - 2  
Saltwater Lawn and Landscaping - 2  
SunTrust Mortgage - 2  
The Associates Architects - 2  
The Museum of Man in the Sea - 2  
Waterstone Resorts & Vacation  
Homes - 2  
Bank of America Mortgage - 3  
BellSouth - 3  
Benton Village - 3  
Betsy Ann Riverboat Tours - 3  
Carlton S. Schwartz, DDS, PA - 3  
CK's Secrets, Inc. - 3  
Coastal Property Services, Inc. - 3  
Coastal Weddings - 3  
DP Enterprises - 3  
Emerald Waste Services - 3  
GE Modular Space - 3  
Hatch Mott MacDonald - 3  
Investors Advantage Real Estate - 3  
Navy Federal Credit Union - 3  
Oce' Imagistics, Inc. - 3

Surfside Middle School - 3  
Uncle Ernie's Bayfront Grill - 3  
Al.com. LLC - 4  
Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC - 4  
Essentials Salon & Boutique - 4  
Harrison, Rivard, Zimmerman &  
Bennett Chartered - 4  
Labor Ready Worldwide - 4  
Legacy By The Sea Resorts - 4  
Luxury Limousines of Em. Coast - 4  
McConaughay, Duffy, Coonrod,  
Pope & Weaver, P.A. - 4  
Panama City Beach Weddings - 4  
Prestige Resort Properties, LLC - 4  
Sunnyside Beach & Tennis Resort - 4  
Brown Fire Protection - 5  
C Dennis Evans Architect - 5  
Carpet One of the Gulf Coast - 5  
Diver's Den - 5  
Magnum Capital - 5  
Merrimac Resort Condo - 5  
Mortensen, Keith - 5  
The Optimist Club of the Beaches - 5  
Pelican Real Estate - 5  
Steven W. Cox, CLU, LUTCF - 5  
Stroud, Thomas - 5  
The Original J. Michael's  
Restaurant - 5  
WilsonMiller, Inc. - 5  
1st Awards & Engraving, Inc. - 6  
ACE America's Cash Express - 6  
Brown & Brown Insurance - 6  
Capt. Tom Corley & Son Marine  
Surveyors, Inc. - 6  
Edgewater Beach Golf Villa - 6  
Harbour Green Apartments - 6  
Junior Museum of Bay County - 6  
Sonnys Real Pit Bar B Q/Coastal  
Southern - 6  
Venture Out of Panama City Beach-6

Wells Fargo Home Mortgage - 6  
Bay Arts Alliance - 7  
BB&T - 7  
Capt. Jack's Family Buffet - 7  
Emerald Coast Bingo, Inc. - 7  
Home Instead Senior Care - 7  
Hospice of the Emerald Coast - 7  
Marriott Bay Point Resor - 7  
St. Andrews State Park/FI. Dept  
Environmental Protection - 7  
Sterling Companies, LLC - 7  
Better Business Bureau of NW FL - 8  
Compass Marketing, Inc. - 8  
Gulf Beach Baptist Church - 8  
Beachcomber By The Sea - 9  
Panama City Bch. Convention &  
Visitors Bureau - 9  
Burke, Blue, Hutchison & Walters - 10  
Commodore Condominiums - 10  
Emerald Coast RV Beach Resort - 10  
Moonspinner Condominiums - 10  
The News Herald - 10  
Plumb Better, Inc. - 10  
Print Services, Inc. - 10  
Sussex-Bay Foundation - 10  
Berg Steel Pipe Corp. - 11  
Clear Channel Radio - 11  
Coastal Appraisal Services, Inc. - 11  
Coldwell Banker Resort  
Management - 11  
Hutt Insurance Agency, Inc. - 11  
Ms. Newby's Liquors - 11  
Prism Ticket Advertising, Inc. - 11  
Days Inn Beach - 12  
Brian D. Hess - 12  
Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort - 12  
Magic Broadcasting, LLC - 12  
Mariner West Owner's Association - 12  
Paradise Found Resort - 12  
Princess Condo Rental, Inc. - 12

## Renewals

ABATE of Florida, Inc. White Sands  
Chapter PCB -1  
Barks & Bubbles - 1  
Coldwell Banker, Prestige and  
Home Real Estate - 1  
Dr. Myra Reed - 1  
Flamingo Beach Laundry - 1



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- Summer Breeze Motel - 12
- Early Education and Care, Inc. - 13
- Leitz Office Products - 13
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- Cox Pools - 14
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- First National Bank of NW Florida - 14
- Half Hitch Tackle Co. - 14
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- Holiday Golf & Racquet Club - 14
- KLW Enterprises, Inc. - 14
- Landmark General Contractors - 14
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- Bikini Beach Motel - 20
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- Peoples First Community Bank - 20
- Pineapple Willy's - 20
- Summerhouse Condominiums - 20
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# AROUND TOWN

## Bay County's Film Commission

### Julie Gordon, Film Commissioner

The Film Industry continues to make huge strides in Florida's economic impact. The House and Senate voted to appropriate \$75 million in incentives for filmmakers over the next three years. In 2006, 10.3 million dollars was allocated, and completely diminished the first 9 days of the fiscal year. This means that filmmakers are still dedicated to Florida, and are looking for reasons to film in this State.

Panama City Beach and the surrounding area is buzzing with television business and has been working overtime during the first six months of 2007. Productions by the networks and cable stations have all been requesting locations, crew and services. Two reality shows filmed for three consecutive weeks, and one reality show shot for four weeks. E! Entertain-

ment, VH1, The History Channel, UK's Animal Planet, and Court TV have spent many days, and dollars, in Bay County.

And let's also give a hand for HGTV for their variety of shows filmed in Panhandle homes, from Pensacola to St. George's Island. At this time, two features are checking into possibilities of filming their projects here, so this is where YOU come in. Please update your resumes and contact info and forward to the Film Commission at [floridafilmooffice@knology.net](mailto:floridafilmooffice@knology.net) ASAP. Crew and talent info is needed to confirm our capability of being able to support projects that are presented to this office. It's important for the production managers to get in touch with you as soon as they request information, so send your updates today.

*See you in the movies!*

## Art & Culture

### Goldsmith Designer Jewelry

We live in a cookie cutter society, in which someone sets the fashion and everyone runs to imitate it. Before you know it, everyone is wearing the same clothes, eating the same food, driving the same car and wearing the same jewelry. Individuality, which was once cherished and sought after, has been pushed aside and replaced by mass produced, fashion deficient looks.



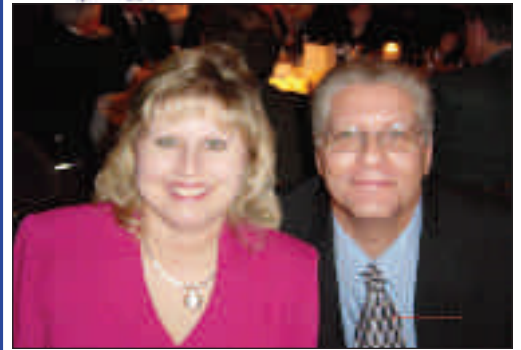
David Adamson and Michael Gose, Master Designers at **Goldsmith Designer Jewelry**, are breaking that mold. We believe that jewelry is a statement of ones personality, and should reflect who we are, not who someone tells us we should be. The designs created here are not determined by the latest trends, but rather, by listening to you, the individual; sitting down with you and learning who you are. Only then, will the final design reflect you and your likes and dislikes, your serious side and your crazy side, your fun side. Our jewelry IS you!

So come in, sit down with us and let's get to know each other. You'll be pleasantly sur-

prised at how enjoyable and refreshing it can be to design your very own piece of jewelry. Something no one else will have -- a beautiful gem that will command people's attention and compliment your personal beauty. Believe me, there really is nothing else like it. I've been doing this for 30 years, and I can't imagine ever doing anything else.

The process is quite simple...just bring in any jewelry pieces you may have that you no longer wear because it's either broken, worn out, or just plain out dated. Bring in any gemstones you would like to use, or, if you have none, just bring in your ideas or desire to have a new piece of jewelry. Add good conversation and a nice glass of wine and next thing you know you'll be wondering why you didn't do this a long time ago. Vivid imaginations are welcome... even encouraged!

Goldsmith Designer Jewelry is located at 1812 S. Hwy 77, Suite 114 in Lynn Haven. Call (850) 271-1444 for more information, or visit [www.damiko.com](http://www.damiko.com).



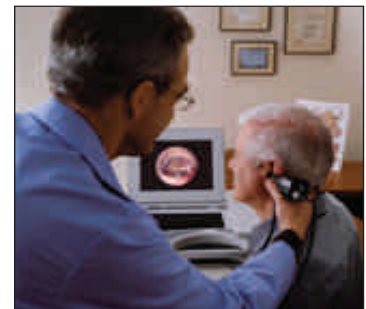
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# MEMBER NEWS

Continued from Page 29

## City Approves DRI Development Order for The Towne of Seahaven

The Towne of Seahaven, a planned 52-acre pedestrian-friendly beachside village in Panama City Beach, is moving ahead as it recently reached a new milestone. After four years of planning and over a year of review by permitting agencies, the Panama City Beach City Council approved The Towne of Seahaven Development of Regional Impact (DRI) Development Order. Due to the size of the nearly 4,000-unit community, The Towne of Seahaven falls under a development of regional impact review process that requires an intensive review by various state and local agencies before work can proceed on the construction of commercial and residential units.

Over the last 18 months, there have been numerous meetings between the Developer, City Staff, Florida Department of Transportation, and other agencies to work out a final development order for mitigating transportation and other impacts. The transportation conditions obligated the developer to fund improvements on several Panama City Beach roads including US Highway 98 and Hills Road. Prior to build-out, The Towne of Seahaven will fund transportation and utility improvements totaling approximately \$9,675,000.

Specifically, The Towne of Seahaven is obligated to fund state and local road improvements. *State road funding consists of:*

- \$3,000,000 – Design and construction of six-laning and signalization of the intersections of US Hwy. 98 - Hills Rd. and US Hwy. 98 - Clara Ave.
- \$2,000,000 – Funding of a Preliminary Engineering and Environment (PD&E) study of US Hwy. 98 (Panama City Beach Pkwy.) from State Rd. 79 to Thomas Dr.
- \$1,000,000 – Funding of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) improvements for US Hwy. 98 corridor between Phillips Inlet Bridge to Thomas Dr. Flyover to include fiber optic system, movable message signs, and signal coordination.



- \$938,766 – Additional funding for Hills Rd. widening.

*Local road funding includes:*

- \$1,735,502 – Funding for Hills Rd. improvements. At full build-out, the development will include 2,952 residential units, 1,000 hotel units, 118,000 square feet of retail and service space, 24,000 square feet of office space, 15,000 square feet of development services, and 60,000 square feet of conference space.

The Towne of Seahaven intends to offer the best of both worlds, with 1,400 feet of a spectacular beach frontage and a full compliment of village amenities. Once completed, the community will offer a variety of residential opportunities, specialty retailers, restaurants, nightlife, spa, office and hotels built around the naturally existing wetlands and beach front that frame the property.

For more information please call (850) 636-6550 or visit [www.towneofseahaven.com](http://www.towneofseahaven.com).

## 15th Annual Business Expo Winners

With a theme like “Panama City Beach Creates Superheroes!” you can be assured the costumes and decor will be plentiful. Such was the case at the 15th Annual Business Expo, held on April 24th at the Boardwalk Beach Resort. The Jr. ROTC Drill Team of Arnold High School performed halfway through the four-hour event, followed by the American Martial Arts Team. This year’s Expo was presented by Knology and sponsored by Boardwalk Beach Resort, Peoples First Community Bank, Coastal Communications, Lamar Advertising, the Workforce Center and Kilgore’s Karpet & Ceramic Tile. **Best Costumes** went to Lamar Advertising (1) and Magic Broadcasting (2); **Most Unique** went to By The Sea Resorts (3); **Best Overall** went to Royal American Hospitality (4); and **Best Booth** went to Fox 28 (5) and By The Bay (6).

## Members Are Saying

*Lynn Webb, Seabreeze Winery*

“Before I opened the doors at SeaBreeze Winery in July 2003 the Beaches Chamber was there to assist in any way they could. From that time until now, four years later, the Chamber still makes contact with me on a regular basis to address any needs that I may have or just to say hello. They are and have always been a valuable resource for me, whether I have a comment or question someone at the Beaches Chamber is always there to take care of me.”



1



2



3



4



5



6

# Health & Wellness

## *The New Neighborhood Playground*

**R**enegade Sports Center is a 60,000 square foot facility providing a multitude of indoor fitness and recreation activities for Bay County's youth, adults and families. Our Mission is to provide a safe, fun and clean environment where the entire family can participate in various recreational and entertainment pursuits.

Our facility includes two indoor state-of-the-art Turf fields that house flag football, soccer, and other relay and team building challenges. Our two indoor basketball courts offer a playing surface for both basketball and volleyball. Renegade also has a full fitness center and a skate park, as well as, a full café.

Renegade offers year-round skill-building clinics, camps and recreational leagues for youth and adults in indoor soccer, flag football, baseball,

basketball, volleyball, and more. Our youth NBA Basketball Leagues and NFL Flag Football Leagues are extremely successful and fun for the whole family.

There is an opportunity for daily drop-in sessions where kids can get in the game – whether our Sports Hosts are facilitating dodgeball, soccer, flag football, wiffle ball, kick ball, basketball, volleyball, or whether they want to spend the day skateboarding in our skatepark. In addition, Renegade is an excellent venue to host company picnics, church events, lock-ins and more!

Whatever the need, we are here to serve our community. It is an honor to be Bay County's "New Neighborhood Playground."



## Indulgence Salon Spa Boutique

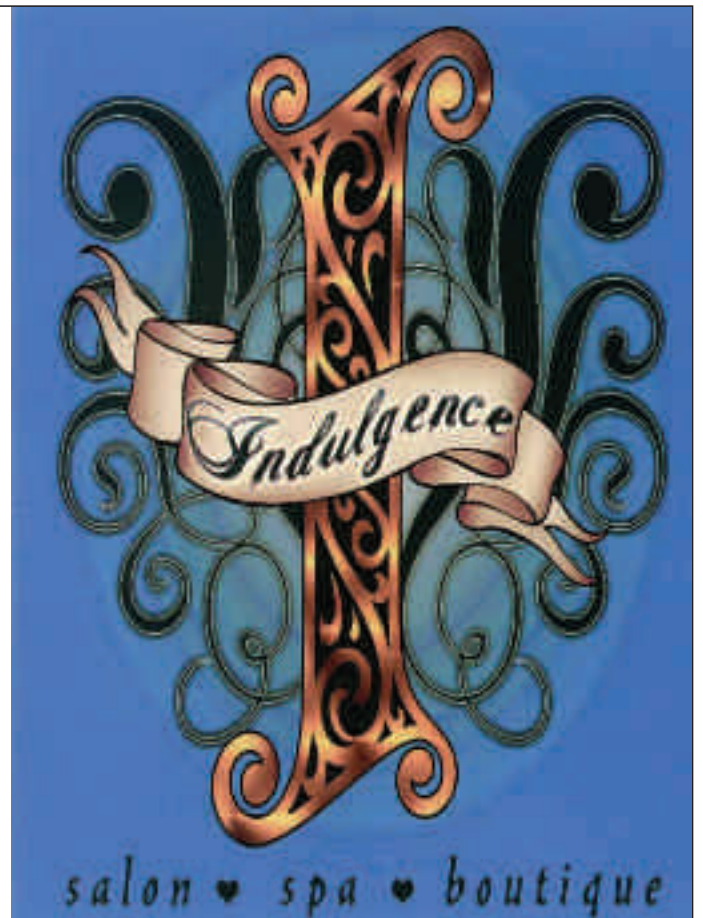
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# MEMBER NEWS

## The Perfect Wedding Guide

The Perfect Wedding Guide of the Florida Panhandle is proud to announce the addition of Diane Chudoba as a full time account executive.

As a very active member in The Greater Panama City Beaches Chamber, Diane is well known and respected in the community and brings great enthusiasm and excitement to *The Perfect Wedding Guide*.

In this capacity Diane will be able to provide clients with better service as well as actively seek new advertisers wishing to gain their share of the \$334 million dollar wedding industry right here in the Florida Panhandle. Additionally, she will re-establish *The Professional Wedding Guide* for networking as well as making *The Perfect Wedding Guide's* Bridal Shows the premier shows in the region.

This guide is the perfect place to reach young brides and grooms who now have to think and shop like adults in need of housing, banking, home furnishings, insurance, healthcare, etc. Not to mention their out of town guests who also need guest accommodations, meals, and gifts. The reach of *The Perfect Wedding Guide* is limited only to one's own imagination and interest in reaching thousands of young couples in need of their goods and services.

*The Perfect Wedding Guide* is a national franchise with individual geographical territories. Published in the Florida Panhandle three times a year, it also provides brides with local information through its website and online leads program. For more information contact Publisher Dave Johnson at (850) 249-7941, Diane Chudoba at (850) 774-1230, or visit [www.perfect-weddingguide.com](http://www.perfect-weddingguide.com).

## Seaside Beach Weddings

Seaside Beach Weddings has been in business since 2003. April Moran, owner/coordinator, is a life long resident of Bay County, living briefly and providing weddings in Jacksonville for five years before managing to find her way back home to the best beaches in Florida.

Seaside Beach Weddings sets up and coordinates beach weddings for bridal couples visiting our beaches from all over the United States. With different packages to chose from, we can help our couples decide on what best suits their budget, providing the

## The wedding industry in the Florida Panhandle is estimated at \$334 million dollars per year, and \$55 million in Bay County.

*Based on county marriage license statistics and national spending averages.*

**Beach weddings are very popular now. Chances are if a couple comes to Panama City Beach to get married, they will come back year after year for vacations, bringing family and friends to experience what our area has to offer.**



flowers, the officiant, the decorations, the photographs—just about everything you would need for a beach wedding. If there is a service we don't provide, we can certainly find someone who can!

## Comcast and Fox Sports Net Present Scholarship

On June 18th Comcast Panama City presented

the Daniel S. Minkey Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to Lindsey West, a 2007 graduate of Arnold High School.

Lindsey was awarded the scholarship based on her outstanding academic and community achievements. She is a student athlete, a math tutor and a volunteer in the community. Lindsey plans to attend the University of Florida in August to study Physical Therapy.



With Panama City Beach's gorgeous sunsets and beautiful white sand beaches you cannot find a prettier spot in Florida to have a beach wedding.

"Danny was a 17 year old senior at Rutherford High School when he died tragically in an automobile accident on November 28, 1999. He loved fishing and swimming, and was a lifeguard at Shipwreck Island Waterpark. During his senior year at Rutherford, he was a member of the film crew for the football team. Danny attended every practice and game, filming the Rutherford football team as they made their way toward the State Championship. He was extremely proud to be a part of the team and all the excitement. Danny will always be remembered most for his wonderful smile and kind and loving nature. He was a friend to all, and would do anything he could to help anyone in need," says Joanne Minkey Crouch, Danny's mother, and also a Comcast employee.

In honor of Danny, Comcast teamed up with Fox Sports Net to fund a scholarship to be awarded in his name each year. On hand for the presentation were Comcast representatives Joanne Minkey Crouch, Cil Schnitker and Sonya Henderson; Dr. John Haley, principal of Arnold High School; Tony St. Amant of Bay District Schools; Lindsey West and her family.

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## Chambers Team Up For a Welcome Reception

On June 25th the Beaches Chamber and Bay County Chamber joined forces to throw a Welcome Reception honoring two academic presidents, Dr. George DePuy at FSU-Panama City and Dr. A. James Kerley at Gulf Coast Community College. The reception was held at 30-Degree Blue, and was attended by both Chamber's board of directors, the Economic Development Alliance's and Economic Development Council's boards, and City and County officials.





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