

Carrabelle Chamber of Commerce

105 St. James Avenue (Hwy 98), PO Box DD Carrabelle, FL 32322
(850) 697-2585
chamber@nettally.com

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www.carrabelle.org



The Pearl of the Panhandle



Friday, May 12, 2017

May

Fri 12th Estuary Class 12-4 pm Do you know what an estuary is and why it is so vital to our economy and way of life? Explore and learn about the habitats and creatures that make up our estuary and how the river and bay are intricately connected. Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve, Eastpoint. The class is \$ 20, please register in advance. (Rain date is May 26th) For more info, call (850) 670-7708 or email anita.grove@dep.state.fl.us

Sun 14th Happy Mother's Day!

Enjoy a Special **Brunch at the Crooked River Grill**
9 am- 3 pm—Adults \$ 18.95 + tax/Kids 10 & under \$ 10.95 + tax. Reservations are required. Please call (850) 697-5050.

Tues 16th The PanCare Medical Bus will be at the PanCare Dental Facility in Carrabelle, 106 NE 5th St. 10 am-4 pm. Offers physicals, Exams, Primary Care, Urgent Care & Flu Shots. For an appointment, call (850) 247-9834

Tues 16th Pruning Techniques & Plant Propagation - Presenter Les Harrison, Wakulla County Extension Director 1-30 pm Free & open to the public. Carrabelle Branch of the Franklin County Public Library. Call (850) 697-2366 for info.

Wed 17th Wildflower Talk 2 pm Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve, Eastpoint. For more info, call (850) 670-7708 or email anita.grove@dep.state.fl.us

Sat 20th The Civil War: Loss & Peril on the Forgotten Coast 10 am-1 pm at C-Quarters Marina. Presented by the Carrabelle History Museum. For more info, call (850) 697-2141 Thurs-Sat 10 am-5 pm or leave message.

Sat 20th & Sun 21st Miller Lite Scratch Tour-Golf Event at St. James Bay Golf Resort. Split Tee start each day (11 am Sat/10 am Sun) Interested in playing, contact Mike Riley mdrgolf@comcast.net

Sat 20th Crooked River Grill open for regular business 7 am-11 am. TO GO orders only from 11 am-5 pm. CLOSED for wedding post 5 pm. Congratulations to the newlyweds!

Thurs 25th Chamber Mixer/Meeting at Harry's Bar/Marine Street Grill 6 pm. Board meeting at 4:30 pm before mixer.

Sat 27th Come Celebrate Harry's Bar's 75th year in business! Festivities start with a live broadcast on Oyster Radio at noon, the band Nostalgia (greatest hits from 40's & 50's) 3-8pm, Boots & Hill top shakers 9 pm till...Come dressed for the 40's & 50's theme. Free cake & natty light toast at 9 pm

Sun 28th Crooked River Lighthouse Blessing 3 pm Church leaders from the community will share a blessing for the coast and a safe hurricane season from the top of the lighthouse tower. Fee event and all are welcome. Light

Harry's Bar Celebrating 75th Anniversary!

Help us kick-off the weekend of celebration
at our Chamber Mixer/Meeting

May 25th 6 pm

At Harry's Bar & The Marine Street Grill

306 Marine Street, Carrabelle

The mixer/meeting open to everyone, bring a friend, there is no admission charge. You may choose to select something to eat from the Marine Street Grill's variety of delicious meals, or enjoy your favorite beverage al fresco in the relaxing, New Orleans-style courtyard. Join the fun, bring and/or win door prizes. An open discussion style meeting will let you express your opinions on Chamber activities already in place, and what you would like to see the Chamber do in the future. This is a great opportunity to become involved in your community, learn the benefits of Chamber membership, and volunteer for current and future projects. Feel free to stay as long as you like, maybe a little karaoke or stay for a game of pool afterwards?? And the celebration continues through Saturday the 27th with live music, drink specials, and a birthday cake at the 40's Themed Celebration.

Gulf Coast State College selected as *Best Value School* award recipient

Out of nearly 8,000 postsecondary schools, Gulf Coast State College has been selected as the recipient of a *Best Value School* award. The award is issued by University Research & Review, a company dedicated to improving the process of how students select a postsecondary school. "The faculty and staff at Gulf Coast State College are very proud to be recognized as a *Best Value School*," said Dr. Holly Kuehner, Vice President of Academic Affairs. "We are focused on providing our students with a high-quality, accessible and affordable education. By attending Gulf Coast, students are making a good investment that leads to gainful employment and provides the opportunity to pursue a bachelor's degree."

The committee reviewed more than 100 nominees out of the thousands of eligible schools. GCSC was chosen for its rigorous standards including a combination of cost, variety and quality of school programs, accreditation and student satisfaction.

"The selection process is conducted by a combination of researchers and former college presidents and university CEOs. More important than simple metrics, we dig deep into student satisfaction, cost and what makes a school special," said L. Joseph Schmoke, URR Founder and CEO. "Gulf Coast State College qualifies on all counts."

To view the award and criteria, visit bit.ly/BestValueSchoolGCSC.

refreshments will be available after the ceremony. Call (850) 697-2732 or go to www.crookedriverlighthouse.org for more information.

Mon 29th Have a Happy & Safe Memorial Day- Chamber/Visitor Center open regular business hours.

Events on multiple dates:

The Best of the 2017 Quickdraw Competition May 6th-May 13th

11 am-5 pm at Rio Carrabelle Gallery

(Corner of Hwy 98 & Marine St/Tallahassee St)

A selection of the best paintings from the 2017 Quickdraw competition will be selected to hang as a tribute to the "two hour challenge." Many times some of the most spontaneous and creative pieces result from the competitive process. The exhibit may be viewed and purchased.

Fri 5/26 & Sat 5/27- Crooked River Lighthouse Presents "1766: Shipwrecked on Dog Island" An indoor performance of the maritime heritage play at the Chapman Theater in Apalachicola. Tickets are \$ 15 and children 15 years old and under are free with an adult. Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance at the Crooked River Lighthouse & the Carrabelle History Museum. All proceeds of the play will benefit the Crooked River Lighthouse and important projects like rebuilding the playground ship, *The Carrabella*. For more information, call (850) 697-2732.

Exploring Nature: Evening at the Edge of the Sea FSU Coastal & Marine Laboratory Workshops 6 pm-9 pm \$ 15 per person. Registration closes one week before the class, or until full. Spring & Summer Dates: 6/10, 6/21, 6/24, 7/8, 7/19, 7/22, 8/5. Call (850) 697-4120 or go to www.marinelab.fsu.edu for more information.

For More info on any of these area events

See our website www.carrabelle.org under "Things to Do" Events Calendar or the Community Calendar under "The Area"

Events Further afield:

Listen to **WOYS 100.5 FM Oyster Radio**

Or go to

www.oysterradio.com or www.forgottencoastline.com or www.saltyflorida.com

Executive Board

President-**Cher Novaria**/At Your Service Concierge

Vice President- **Lewis Christie**/Christie's Cottage Living

Secretary- **Dr. Lois Mendez Catlin**- Phoenix Family Health Care Ctr.

Treasurer- **Paul Marxsen**/Roberson & Associates, P.A.

Directors

Tonia Chisholm/FC Public Library-Carrabelle

Skip Frink/Old Carrabelle Hotel

Pamela McCreery/The Beachtrader

Sheri Wesson-Marketing/Forgotten Coast Photography

Mixers & Member meetings- **Dr. Lois Mendez Catlin**-Phoenix Family Health Care Ctr.

Economic Development:

Skip Frink/Old Carrabelle Hotel

Bo May/Rio Carrabelle

Lewis Christie/Christie's Cottage Living

Executive Director-Lisa Munson

Representatives-**Chester Reese**-FC Tourist Development Council

Lisa Keith-Lucas-Chamber Special Events Committee

Total www.carrabelle.org Website Visitors: Jan 1-May 7: **82,693**



What a year we have had...we hope to make it better next year!

The crew at **Rio Carrabelle & Caribbean Raft Rentals** would like to thank all of you for your continuing support of the music & arts performed at Rio Carrabelle during our 2016 - 2017 season. We are winding down the music events over the summer. This will allow us to take some time off, make some improvements to Rio Carrabelle and, work on an exciting new "listening" experience that we will bring to you in our 2017 - 2018 season! Next season, which will begin in the late fall time frame, will bring to Carrabelle diverse world class entertainment. We have already started looking at dates and musicians and will announce our schedule around September 1st. The Friday evening jazz series will run from January through March. Rob and Caribbean Raft Rentals, are working on some surprise bands and songwriters paired with food vendors. There is no doubt, next year will be even better than last year!!

Watch for updates from this email address or on either the Rio Carrabelle or Caribbean Raft Rentals Facebook pages. We look forward to seeing all of you again next season!!

Thanks! Bo & Rob

From Coastal Realty Group:

We are about to start the summer vacation season which is our busiest time people for visitors. Our renters numbers should increase this year and produce more income for vacation rental property owners.

It has been another good month for real estate. One of the things that we say about **Coastal Realty Group** is that we are YOUR SOURCE FOR COASTAL AND BEACH PROPERTY. Well April is another example of that as Coastal Realty Group had 48 closed transactions which is more than our nearest two competitors combined. We have the resources to help you buy or sell property along this beautiful area of Florida known as the Forgotten Coast. We always look forward to hearing from you.



- Alert Franklin is an early warning system that Franklin County Emergency Management is implementing.
- This system allows FCEM to send you a warning message to your phone, email or both.
- You can access Alert Franklin by going to our website at www.franklinemergencymanagement.com and Click on the Alert Franklin Icon on our Home Page.
- Be sure to download Contact Bridge App on your smart phone.
- Text the word "FRANKLINFL" to 888777 to anonymously sign up for Emergency Notifications.
- Our old notification system, Nixle, will not be utilized after 06/01/17. We are asking all residents to sign up for our new Alert Franklin System.

Jennifer Daniels, Special Needs Coordinator

Franklin County Emergency Management

850-653-8977 x 102 Em1frank@fairpoint.net

www.franklinemergencymanagement.com



April TDC News

Numbers :

- **Collections:** The most recent TDC Tax collection information is in for the month of January 2017. The Collections for January totaled \$ 41,668.57. This compares with \$47,001 from January 2016. While this year's number is down for the month, the first quarter of the year shows a 26% increase over the previous year (2015-2016) which was an increase of 11% over the year before. (2014-2015). Both October and April, which used to be shoulder months generating around \$50,000 in tax revenue are now approaching \$100,000 for two years in a row. This is significant growth in two shoulder "off season" months.

- **Visitor Centers:** Franklin County Visitor Centers saw 3,532 visitors in March 2017, as opposed to 3,017 in the previous year. This first quarter of 2017 was up almost 500 over last year.

- **Web Hits:** There were 22,022 visitors to our web site in March 2017. This was the busiest month so far for web traffic

WTVJ: Staff have arranged to have the May 4th edition of the WJHG Morning Show with Kayla Gaskins be broadcast from Apalachicola. The show begins at 6:00 A.M. and will feature local notables as Chamber Director John Solomon, Charter Boat Captain Krista Miller, Homes Tour Representative Bella Rudo, and representatives from Paddlejam and Plein Air Artists.

Budget: The TDC is currently working on its budget proposal for the 2017-18 fiscal year which will be finalized at the May 10 meeting of the TDC Board. The budget will include broad categories of expenditures for all expenses. The TDC will hear recommendations for the use of approved promotional monies at their meeting in August.

Contracts: The TDC will be reviewing contracts for the coming year will be the subject of discussion at the TDC Board in May and June. All TDC Contracts will be reviewed including those for Vendors, Non-profit Sustainable Grants and Visitor Centers. In addition, the TDC Board will be discussing the \$2,000 promotional grant program.

Legislature Review: The Legislature is still debating cuts to Visit Florida's budget. This battle will not be resolved until the end of the session. The TDC recently transmitted letters to our delegation in support of Visit Florida. In addition the Board submitted letters to our Congressional delegation in support of the National Estuarine Reserve Program.

Marketing: In the next couple of months the TDC will be releasing several initiatives including:

- Six public service announcements prepared in conjunction with a Visit Florida Grant.
- A Pet Friendly promotion which will include a video, rack cards and inventory of pet friendly venues throughout the county.
- A Video focusing on protection of our turtle habitat – thanks in part to a request by Commissioner Parrish
- A new focus on wildflower corridor protection spearheaded by Commissioner Sanders with our Marketing partner Big Bend Scenic By-ways.

Lodging Providers: The TDC will be conducting a series of workshops for local lodging providers over the next several months. Key topics will be how to utilize TDC promotional efforts in lodging marketing strategies. Providers will receive notice of meetings dates and times as soon as a schedule has been finalized.

Travel Writers: This month the TDC is helping to sponsor travel writer contributors to a number of publications in the US and Germany. Publications for which these writers provide material include: Atlanta Magazine, AAA, The Local Palate Magazine, Garden and Gun and two German publications: "Saarbrucker Zeitung + Pfalzer Merkus" and "Die Woch".

US Highway 98 "Old Florida Coastal Trail": Franklin County has been a participant in a pilot planning effort with Dixie and Taylor Counties and the Apalachee Regional Planning Council and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. When completed the project will include a marketing program designed to attract visitors originating in Orlando looking to visit areas of the state that are authentic representations of Florida's coastal history. Marketing efforts are expected to begin in the fall.