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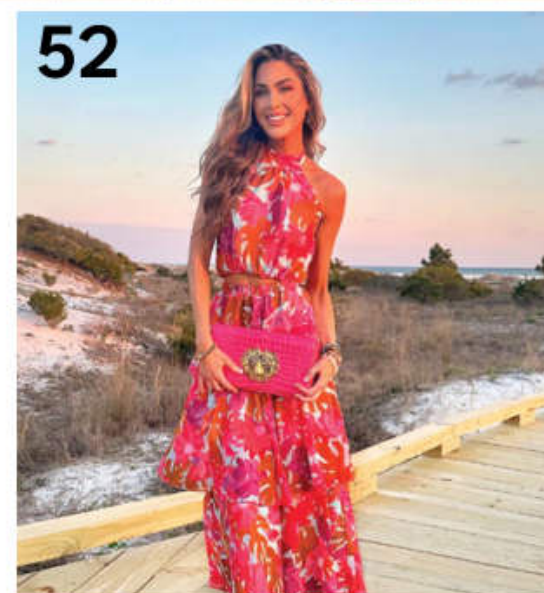
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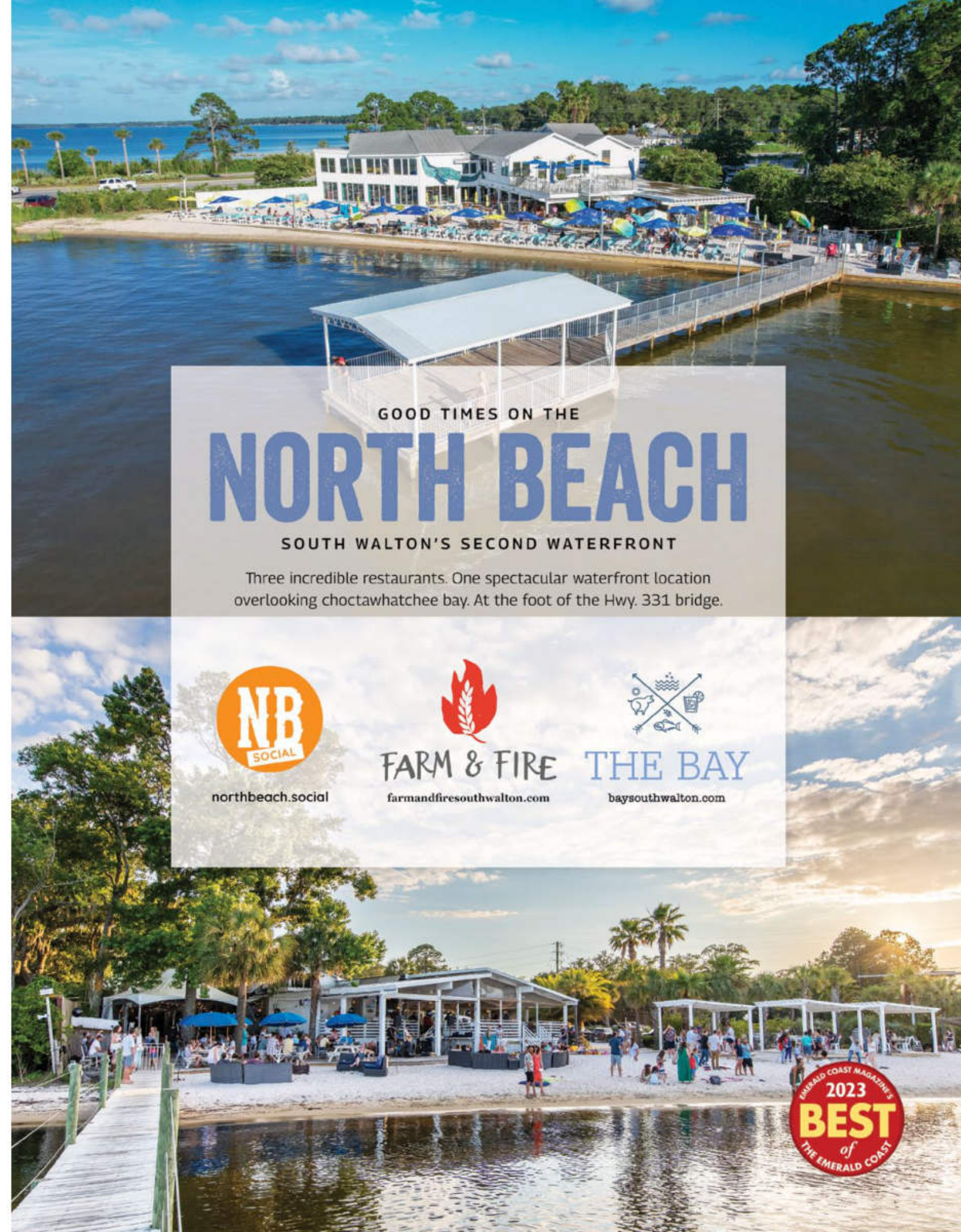
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Happy Summer!

Hello, friends!

Welcome to our big Summer Issue. This is your secret weapon for squeezing every precious ounce of sunshine out of 2024. We have some fun and inspiring stories to share with you—stories that celebrate life, happiness, and the transformative power of the coastal lifestyle. And what better way to kick things off than with a dynamic duo who embody passion and purpose, Tim and Demi-Leigh Tebow.

The Tebrows have seamlessly transitioned from their high-profile careers in sports and pageantry to making a profound impact through their humanitarian work. Their dedication to helping the world's most vulnerable people serves as a lighthouse of hope and inspiration. Their story reminds us that true happiness lies not in success and self-glorification, but in giving back and living with purpose.

We also Om-in to "The Zen of Surfing." Ask most surfers, and they'll tell you that surfing isn't just a sport—it's their therapy. The calming presence of the sea, the thrill of catching that perfect wave, and the camaraderie among surfers create a unique culture that promotes mindfulness and simple joy. It's a beautiful reminder to find your flow state, whether on a board or just as you surf through your everyday life.

For those of us who perpetually crave fresh seafood, "Savoring Sustainability" takes a culinary journey through America's best sustainable seafood festivals. From the Maine Lobster Festival to Musselfest on Whidbey Island, these events showcase the importance of sustainable practices while serving up delectable dishes.

We also share the inspiring journey of Stefany Bare in "The Bare Essentials." Her and her husband Nick's commitment to health and wellness is a testament to the power of consistency and simplicity. They show us that a balanced life, where fitness and family go hand-in-hand, is an essential key to true happiness.

We also explore the artistry of sand sculpting. From coast to coast, talented artists transform ordinary beaches into extraordinary outdoor galleries. These ephemeral masterpieces remind us to appreciate the beauty of the moment, a perfect metaphor for summer itself.

Finally, in "Safeguarding the Seas," we check out the incredible work of a non-profit known as Oceana. Their efforts to protect our oceans from pollution and overfishing are crucial for the health of our planet. As beach lovers, we support such initiatives to help ensure our favorite seaside spots remain pristine for future generations.

So, slather on some sunscreen, slap on your sunglasses, and pour up your favorite fruity concoction, then dive into these pages with a beachy mindset and a big ol' smile. Whether you're catching waves, catching fresh fish, or simply catching a few rays, remember to embrace the joy and simplicity of summer. Here's to living happy, beachy, and inspired.

Beach Happy, my friends!

Mike Ragdale
Founder, The 30A Company

THOUGHTS From The 30A Guy



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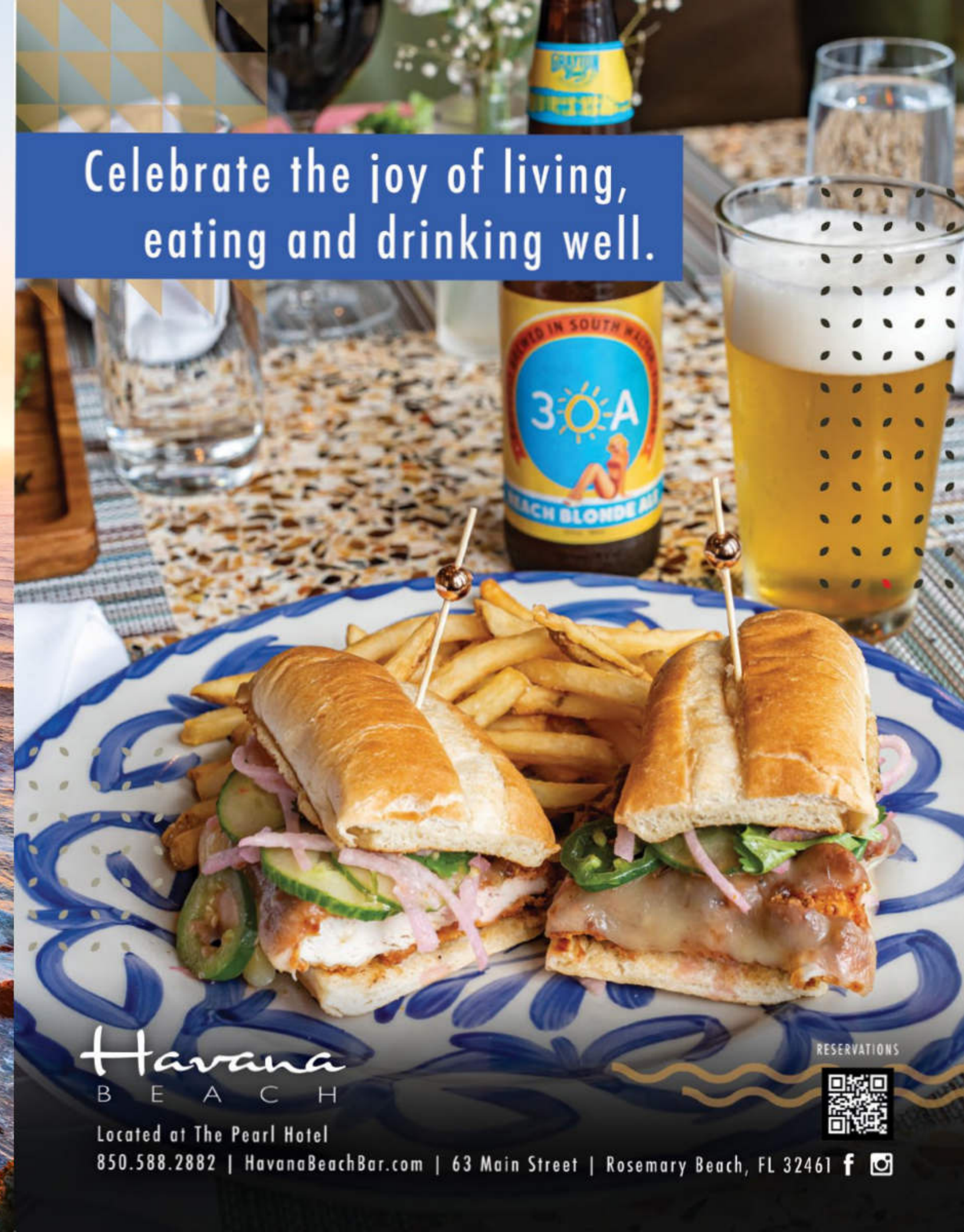
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For over 12 years at The 30A Company, I've been sharing sun-kissed stories that whisk you to the shore and make each day feel like a beach vacation. My own journey has taken me from Mumbai's bustling streets to the sunny beaches of Goa and has now anchored me to the vibrant shores of Vietnam. At *Beach Happy*, we're all about finding that sweet spot between wanderlust and home, adventure and leisure. And every story, every snapshot, is an invitation for you to kick back and immerse in the essence of beach life. So, pull up a (beach) chair, dive into our latest stories, and let's celebrate life's simple, sandy joys together!

Amandeep K
Editor-in-Chief

1 Hailing from the vibrant city of New Orleans and now residing in North East Alabama, my fondest memories involve vacationing on Florida's Gulf Coast beaches. Embarking on my design journey quite some time ago, I've been privileged to work across a spectrum of genres and platforms. With time, my expertise has honed in on magazine design and publishing, encompassing topics from travel to healthcare, and from education to transportation, with several others sprinkled in between. At *Beach Happy* magazine, I channel this passion and hope to share a sunny greeting with you on the coast someday. (Featured alongside me is my beautiful wife of 22 years, Bobbi.)

David Coffey
Art Director



2 A lifelong local residing in Fort Walton Beach, I'm an Air Force brat with a loving family that includes my wife, and twins. I've witnessed the dynamic transformation of the Gulf Coast since the early 1980s. With a degree in Broadcast Journalism from Louisiana State University, I've embraced various roles within the realms of local radio, television, and advertising sales. Currently, I'm approaching my 10th year with The 30A Company as the Director of Advertising. It's an absolute delight collaborating with both local and national clients in the idyllic paradise we call 30A.

Cory Davis
Sales Director

4 With roots deeply embedded in this coastal haven, I've become an expert in crafting compelling narratives that capture the unique charm and allure of our community. My days are a dance between strategizing impactful marketing campaigns and immersing myself in the Beach Happy lifestyle. Whether it's crafting compelling social media posts, curating engaging content, or fostering connections with the community, I thrive on showcasing the magic of the place I have always called home. After all, when your work revolves around a place as incredible as 30A, every day is an opportunity to spread beach happiness.

Logan Burgess
Marketing Director

3 My role is full of purpose, balance, and fulfillment while promoting all that we have to offer. You'll find me around town with a drone in my hand, slinging our ever-popular 30A stickers, *Beach Happy* magazine, and everything in between. There's a spark within me that is ignited each and every day as I work with this incredible community. Bringing fellow beach lovers together, near and far, is what makes my role feel less like work, and more like catching up with friends all throughout the year!

Ragan Smith
Brand Ambassador

5 Raised in Italy's family advertising legacy, I ventured to New York City in the early '90s, immersing myself in the prestigious world of fashion publishing. Over three decades, I've worked as a Creative Director, with contributions to renowned magazines like *Harper's Bazaar* and *Glamour*. My narrative intertwines Old World charm with New World innovation, marked by collaborative endeavors with industry giants and a ceaseless drive for excellence.

Emiliano Neri
Designer

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Contributors



1



2

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is an award-winning freelance journalist currently living in Freeport, Florida. Her work has taken her across the South, where she has covered topics ranging from the wily ways of politicians at the Texas state capitol to the storied land of sunshine and swamp sharks (a.k.a. gators) in Florida.

2 MARTIN LIPTROT
is British but has lived along Scenic Highway 30A since 2004. After a global career in advertising, he made NorthWest Florida his home and runs a local PR and Marketing Agency (98RepublicPR.com). Martin's passions include soccer, cricket, rugby, Formula One and horse racing. He is a fan of craft beers and fine wines and enjoys good company and long, lazy lunches in any of the spectacular restaurants along 30A.



3



4

3 CARRIE HONAKER
is a Florida-based freelance writer who is not sure where she will land next, but it will involve messy eating, a spicy Tempranillo and finding the local dive bar. Her work has been featured in *Wine Enthusiast*, *Bon Appétit*, and others. You can find her on Twitter and Instagram (@writeonhonaker).

4 MICHELLE GARRETT
is an occasional metalsmith, baker, and wine drinker, not necessarily in that order. Her work has been featured on Run Wild My Child, Every Avenue Travel, and Daily Mom, and she is a co-host of the Run Wild My Child Podcast. An outdoorsy mom, Michelle loves everything about living on the Emerald Coast from the beaches and bayous to the pine forests and night skies. You can find Michelle on Instagram (@emeraldcoastoutside).



5

5 GUILLAUME LECHAT
is a French photographer, who moved to the 30A area from Paris and fell in love with the Gulf Coast lifestyle. Check out his modern portrait photography at guillaumelechat.com and familyphotography30a.com.



6

6 GEN HANDLEY
is a music writer living in Vancouver, BC, where he can be found running its wet streets or trying its many restaurants with his wife and son.



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The Zen of Surfing

By Martin Liptrot

Finding Balance and Clarity on the Water

Surfing is fun. Totally rad. Gnarly.

If you are at the beach, on vacation, or just out for a good time, splashing around in the water is guaranteed to give you a rush of positive vibes, even if you fall off your board more than you ride the breaks and waves.

Good fun is important for any pastime, but surfing is more than that. It's a sport with its own culture, language, and rituals. It not only keeps you fit and active, but it also shapes your lifestyle. In ways almost no other sport does, it is considered to positively enhance your mental and emotional health too.

The Spiritual Connection of Surfing

Surfing has been around for a very long time. It is acknowledged to have been practiced by South Pacific islanders as early as the fifteenth century. It was integral to life for ancient islanders, and the study of waves was called ka nalu in their native language. The stories of notable surfing moments and events were preserved in mele—chants and songs—and passed down through the generations.

Even today, there are sites and locations that hold a profound spiritual and religious meaning for surf communities. In Kahalu'u Bay on Hawaii's Kona Coast, there stands a large structure fashioned out of black lava rock called Ku'emanu Heiau where surfers follow in their forebears' wake to pray for good waves.

As surf culture has spread, many modern surfers still combine their love of the sport with religious or spiritual rituals. Every Sunday morning in Huntington Beach, California, surf disciples meet for a beach service and prayers, followed by a paddle-out led by their minister.

Surfing is unique in that it quickly becomes a lifestyle, shaping and influencing its devotees' mental and emotional health in ways other sports and hobbies don't.



**“
Surfing isn’t just a sport;
it’s a lifestyle that teaches
us balance and brings pure joy.
”**

According to Shane Reynolds—a surfer, videographer, and global adventurer—surfing isn’t just a sport; it’s a lifestyle that teaches us balance. “It’s about understanding the balance between physical exercise and mental focus, adrenaline and relaxation, technology and nature, fear and commitment,” said Reynolds. “Those who don’t take to surfing probably focus too much on the literal act of riding waves.”

“Anyone who thinks surfers are slackers is very mistaken,” said restaurateur, avid surfer, and 30A local, Dave Rauschkolb. “Surfing is mostly work—95% paddling, positioning, and getting pounded by waves, and 5% utter joy and pleasure. Every bit of that work is worth it for every second on a wave.”

The Benefits of Surfing on Our Mental Health

There is much research to back up the claim that surfing has positive effects on our mental health. One of the most significant benefits identified is the release of endorphins—the body’s natural painkillers, which help reduce anxiety, ease stress, and improve our mood.

Surfing is an outdoor pursuit too, and another significant benefit is that connection to the world around us. Surfers talk of a sense of well-being as they sit astride their boards, waiting for the right wave, surrounded by nature.

“The act of surfing engages fear, excitement, and adrenaline,” Rauschkolb said. “When you step out of the water, you feel supercharged with energy and positivity. Surfers call this ‘being surfed out,’ and it’s incredible. Surfing builds confidence to live a full and positive life.”

According to Reynolds, every wave is different, so surfing never gets old. “After almost forty years of paddling out, it’s still as exciting to me as it was when I was twelve.”

Being alone in the ocean can give you a sense of your place in the world and be a calming and peaceful experience to ground you and make you feel more centered. Researchers believe that knowing you are part of something bigger is a positive spiritual and mental boost.

Surfing also helps boost confidence. Catching a wave is a big thing. As with any pursuit, when we succeed, we feel a sense of achievement and pride.

This positive view of self can spill over into other areas of our working or personal lives, boosting our confidence and self-belief.

Reynolds explained how surfing has impacted his mental wellness. “When I was young, it helped manage my ADHD, taught me to face my fears, and focused me on what was important. Now, it’s an escape that allows me to shut off all the noise and live 100% in the moment. I honestly don’t know what I would do without it.”

But there are more complex advantages for our mental health from surfing too. One of the most important is the ability to be resilient. Surfing can be a dangerous activity, and one of the biggest mental challenges is overcoming that fear. Even for the most experienced surfers, understanding the risks and threats of large waves, strong currents, and rocks and reefs can never be taken lightly.

It is easy to be intimidated by these dangers, but to overcome these fears requires mental toughness, fortitude, and the ability and willingness to push ourselves beyond our comfort zone and into the uncertain and unknown.

The Flow State: A Surfer’s Nirvana

Surrounded by so many variables and distractions, surfers often operate on a different level. They find they react without conscious decision-making to their surroundings, intuitively knowing the right speed and angle of entry, adjusting their feet and balance as the wave moves beneath them, and gauging when the right moment is to take the drop or end the ride.

It is that moment when it all comes together when everything just clicks. This is called flow state—something of a mental nirvana for surfers.

Perhaps it comes down to years of experience, well-honed muscle memory, or plain old good luck, but this is the mental condition surfers rage about. At that moment, they find themselves completely immersed in the activity. They report it as being almost timeless and weightless, which they liken to an out-of-body experience—they forget everything else and it is just them, the board, and the wave.

Surfing is probably the perfect sport for achieving this heightened flow state. It is the time when you are reacting to the water and the wave; not thinking, just doing.

“
The act of riding a moving mountain, whether large or small, is an exquisite pleasure.
”



The Surfing Community: A Brotherhood and Sisterhood

While much of the pleasure of surfing is that sense of personal achievement, it also provides another great mental benefit: community.

“It is a brotherhood and sisterhood,” said Rauschkolb. “As a surfer, you never meet a stranger—you paddle out, share waves, and enjoy the positive experience from that simple act.”

Surf culture has always been about being part of a club or tribe, sharing a common way of life. Clothing, vehicles, language, and locations all help us feel that sense of belonging, being part of the group. You are no longer just you; you are one of us.

“I looked up to the older surfers in our area when I was young,” said Reynolds. “I wanted their respect, which pushed me to become a better surfer. Now, I respect anyone who embraces the positive aspects of the surfing lifestyle, regardless of skill level.”

For Reynolds, it’s not just about being the best surfer. “Some younger surfers get it, but it can take years for others. Those who never get it are typically the most aggressive in the lineup.”

That connection provides opportunities for wider social interaction, shared experiences, and celebrations. Surfing with friends is a joyful and rewarding pastime where the successes and failures are shared, lessons are learned, and support is offered.

And as with any high-intensity sport, of course, there are downsides to consider too.

Perhaps the most significant is injury or loss of life. Surfing is a dangerous sport and Mother Nature is not to be trifled with. Not only are there risks of catastrophic injury and death, but with such an exhilarating sport, stresses and strains can provoke injuries too.

Environmental Stewardship Through Surfing

Another consideration is the frustration surfers can sometimes run into. Surfers report their exasperation at those who don’t share their respect and love for the oceans. While paddling out in the open water, coming into physical contact with waste, sewage, and discarded trash is a serious physical and mental risk.

Surfers have long been on the front line of campaigns to invest in better water systems, keep our beaches clean,

and prevent the daily disposal of hundreds of millions of single-use plastic wrappers and containers that harm and damage our oceans, marine life, and coastlines.

“Protecting our ocean environment and ensuring access to all beaches is paramount,” Rauschkolb said. “The oceans, gulfs, and even lakes should be for everyone to enjoy. I have worked tirelessly on conservation and access initiatives.”

For Reynolds, surfing is a constant reminder of the importance of our oceans. “Our lives depend on them, as does my livelihood. As an underwater cinematographer, I try to inspire people to protect the oceans through imagery. Many people live inland, and the last thing I want is for the ocean to be ‘out of sight, out of mind.’”

Advice for Aspiring Surfers

But surfing can be the best of times.

Reynolds offers advice and support to those considering surfing. “The juice is worth the squeeze. When you first start, you may feel lost and overwhelmed among surfers who seem far more comfortable. Just know, they all felt that way at some point too. When it clicks, it will change your life forever.”

It can have a deep and meaningful impact on our wellness and mental health. While the risks can’t be ignored and should never be laughed off, the rewards significantly outweigh them.

The power of positive thinking, the pride and sense of achievement, and the camaraderie and community that surf culture incubates are what keep us coming back for more.

“The act of riding a moving mountain, whether large or small, is an exquisite pleasure,” said Rauschkolb. “Surfing has shaped my philosophy, giving me the confidence that anything is possible if you put your mind to it. Surfing is a gift for anyone wishing to live a life full of fun and personal development.”

So, if you haven’t tried surfing yet, grab a board and give it a go. It can be a perfect escape for an afternoon or a long weekend with friends.

Who knows, you may get bitten by the bug, and before you know it, it has evolved into a spiritual calling—one in which you find yourself checking hourly weather and surf reports, trying to balance work calls and meetings with high tide tables, hunting for cheap flights to legendary surf spots where the weather suits your clothes, or browsing real estate websites for that perfect little beachside condo somewhere on the Pacific Coast of Costa Rica.

Yaw! Surf’s up, dude. 🏄



PASSION AND PURPOSE

Tim and Demi-Leigh Tebow's Journey
from Fame to Humanitarian Work

By Lauren Sage Reinlie



Tim Tebow, the two-time college football national champion, retired NFL quarterback, and former professional baseball player, and his wife, Demi-Leigh, the former Miss Universe, have found second—or third—or fourth—callings in life. Today, they are intensely focused on helping the world's most vulnerable people through their work with the Tim Tebow Foundation.

In over 90 countries, the Foundation fights human trafficking and child exploitation, helps with orphan care and prevention, supports people with profound medical needs, and offers special needs ministry.

In addition to his impressive sports career, Tim has written four books and is a sports analyst on television. Demi-Leigh, a model, influencer, and former Miss Universe, has written her first book, *A Crown That Lasts*, about the dangers of tying personal identities to accomplishments instead of aligning with who God created a person to be. It will be released in August.

Tim was born in the Philippines and grew up traveling around doing Christian ministry with his family. Demi-Leigh grew up in South Africa in a small town focused on sustainable farming. Today, the two live with their three dogs in Jacksonville, Florida.

You both seem so busy. What is your day-to-day life like?

Demi-Leigh: Each day brings something new with a bit of chaos. We are grateful to be keynote speakers. We travel around the world for ministry events and mission trips, which is one of our greatest joys. Anytime we get to work together, it's always fun. We often run from flight to flight and event to event, so when we are home, we love to take it slow. That might be working out together, taking the dogs on a run in the field, cooking together, or having friends over for a super-competitive game night. (We can't help it! We're both so competitive.)

Tim, you've had many careers. How do you navigate the end of something and find your way to the next venture without getting lost?

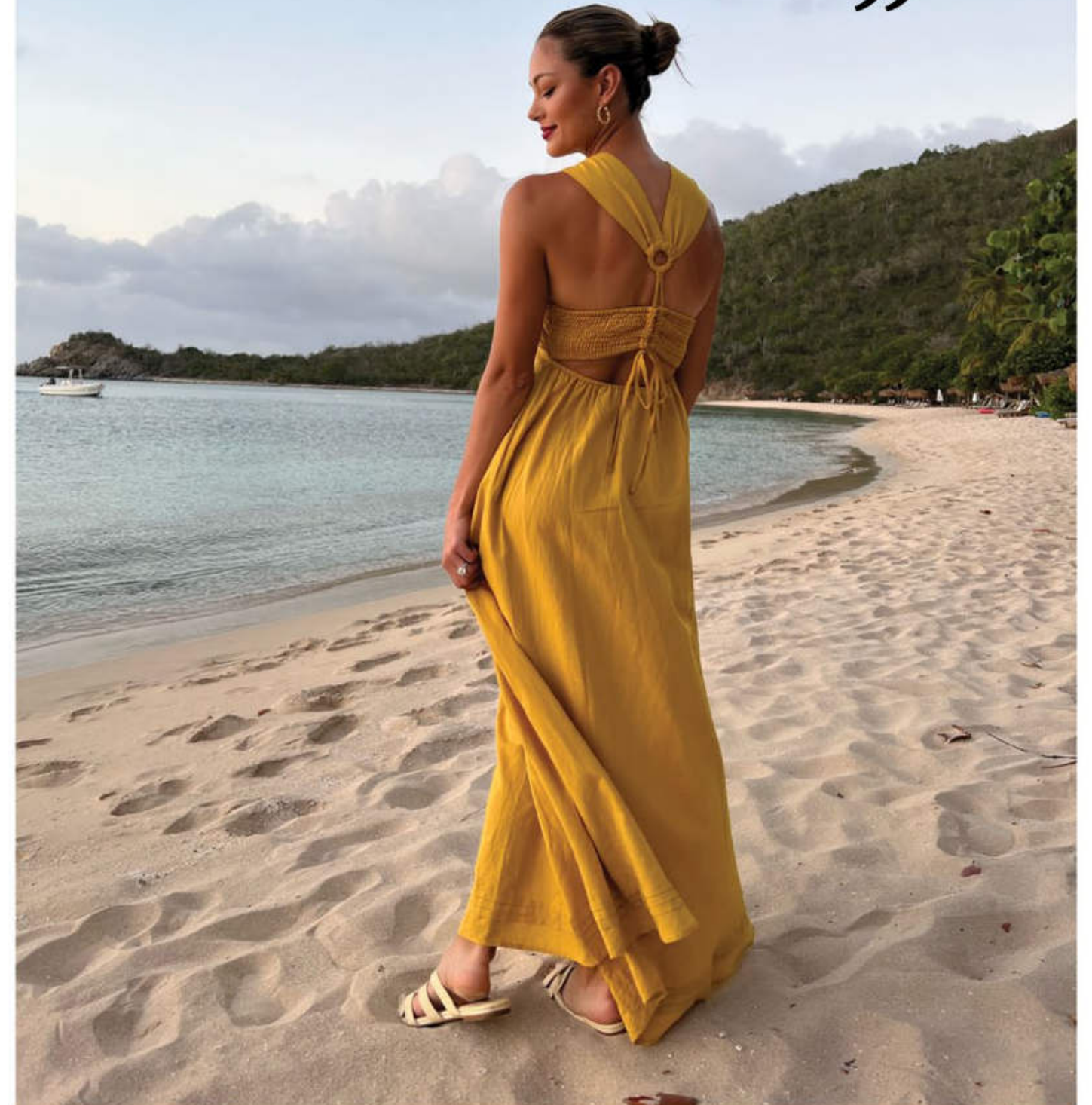
Tim: I try to navigate life by doing what I love to do and what I feel God has called me into. I've been blessed with many opportunities throughout my life—some of which ended sooner than I thought—but I strive to be my best in whatever I'm doing.

One of my favorite words is "urgency." I want to live with a sense of urgency for what God has called me to. Unfortunately, for most of my life, I have not lived this way. I'm truly grateful for the many careers I've had, but with the time I have left on earth, I want to focus on what really matters, and that's God and impacting people.

What are you focused on now?

Tim: One of the greatest calls of my life is to fight for people who can't fight for themselves. When I was fifteen, I met a boy in the jungles of the Philippines who was born with his feet backward. Because of that, his village viewed him as cursed and considered him a throwaway. But I

“
*Instead of chasing after temporary things,
I encourage you to pursue an everlasting
crown—the purpose God created for you.*
”





“
Passion means that you care so much for something that you're willing to suffer for it.
”



PHOTO: NANCY PAULINE PHOTOGRAPHY

knew that he wasn't a throwaway to God, and God was putting on my heart that he better not be a throwaway to me. While I haven't done it perfectly, ever since then, I've known I was supposed to fight for vulnerable people all over the world who were viewed just like that boy. As the founder and chairman of the Tim Tebow Foundation, we work to bring faith, hope, and love to those in need. This is my greatest focus, and our team works every day to get to one more precious life.

Have you always felt passion and drive in your life? Were there any specific experiences in your early years that helped foster this in you?

Tim: Passion is a word we often throw out flippantly. We think it means excitement, motivation, or hype. But let me tell you something—when I would get hit by a 300-pound lineman, I was no longer excited, motivated, or hyped. But I was still passionate. Why? Because passion means something different. Passion comes from a twelfth-century Latin word meaning “to suffer.” So, by definition, passion means that you care so much for something that you're willing to suffer for it. Jesus was passionate. He cared so much for humanity that He was willing to suffer on our behalf. This type of passion is contagious.

I watched my dad live this way. He was willing to suffer and work hard for the sake of the Gospel. He

told me that if I lived with passion, I'd be different, unique, and contagious, and people would want to be around me. And I believe that to be true, not just for me, but for everybody. If you live with passion, you will be contagious, unique, and different, and people will want to be around you.

Have there been any times when your passion and drive have waned? How did you get yourself out?

Tim: I think one of the biggest ways to get out of a slump or a pity party is to get out of your comfort zone and help someone. I have an agreement with one of my friends that when something bad happens, before reacting in any way, we go out and serve others. Whether that is getting cut from a team or something else super-disappointing. So much of what we do in our lives is about us, but when we finally change the focus from putting ourselves first to actually serving, that can drastically change us.

I have one story from my time at the University of Florida. It was the weekend of the college football awards, and we had just lost the SEC Championship game, ending our chance to win another national championship. I was devastated.

The night before the ceremony, my family was invited to a dinner to honor the two teams that made it to the championship. I remember feeling



so bitter watching those players walk on stage. I wanted to puke. While my negativity was spiraling, a waitress approached us and said a girl and her family were asking to meet me. Whew, anything to get out of that room!

A few moments later, I met Kelly Faughnan, a girl who had overcome more than I could imagine. Kelly suffered from brain tumors and tremors. I got to hear more about what she had been through and just how courageous and inspiring a young woman she is. On a whim, I asked Kelly to be my date for the next night's award ceremony. We all went dress shopping, and later that night, we walked down the red carpet together. She looked beautiful, and it was an incredible night.

I learned that what mattered at the moment was Kelly. At the banquet the night before, everything was about me and my legacy. But when I met Kelly, everything changed. I stopped focusing on myself and started thinking about her. And, you know what? I finally regained the right perspective.

When we feel stuck or like our passion is waning, we must find ways to regain perspective on what matters most. I'm so grateful for what Kelly did for me at that moment, and she continues to impact me today.



Demi-Leigh, what inspired you to write your book?

Demi-Leigh: When I won Miss Universe in 2017, it was a life-changing moment—one of the greatest honors of my then 22 years. While I had an incredible whirlwind of a year with amazing experiences, I eventually had to give that crown back to the next deserving Miss Universe winner. I was left questioning myself in many ways. I had put so much of my identity into pursuing that physical crown, the title, and the purpose behind the crown that when I had to give it back, I felt insecure, confused, and lost.

The book I wrote is for people like me, who put their confidence, worth, and hard work into something that didn't last. It's for those who waited so long for that "next thing," that label or title they dreamed of—college graduate, promoted, wife, mother, boss lady—and now that they have it, they

realize it didn't fulfill them the way they thought it would.

If we put our entire identity into what we do, we start to believe that's who we are. But the only person who can define us is the One who created us. Instead of chasing after temporary things, I encourage you to pursue an everlasting crown—the purpose God created for you.

Would you say you are both beach people?

Tim: You won't find me venturing out to the beach alone, but my wife loves it, so whenever she wants to go, I'm excited to spend time with her. Although I might be more of a cool, crisp weather and snowy mountain guy, some of my favorite family memories have been on the beach.

Demi-Leigh: My hometown was on the coast, and I spent all summer on the beach. I love reading under an umbrella or laying out in the sun with my friends. It's one of my favorite ways to recharge. I'm grateful to share my love for the beach with our golden retriever, Kobe. He loves the water and sand. Chunk and Paris, our other two pups, would rather join Tim in the mountains (or air conditioning).

What are your favorite coastal spots and why?

Demi-Leigh: Jacksonville, Florida, is home for us. Even though we love the nearby Neptune and Ponte Vedra beaches, some of our favorite coastal spots are Rosemary Beach and Alys Beach in Northwest Florida.

How do you find happiness? Are there any practices that help you?

Demi-Leigh: Our happiest moments are the ones we get to spend together. In our wedding vows, we said, "Every day, all day, I choose you," and we live by that. Sometimes, our schedules aren't synchronized due to travel, events, meetings, and everything else life throws at us. During these busy seasons, we make it a priority to continue to choose each other, keep communication open and consistent, and make time to be present for each other. 📸

To learn more about Tim and Demi-Leigh's work, visit timtebowfoundation.org. Follow Tim (@TimTebow) and Demi-Leigh (@DemiTebow) on social media.



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Dunes & Tunes



10 Years of Music and Memories with Huck and Lilly

By Gen Handley
Photos: Guillaume LECHAT

It's funny how life works out. For years, songwriting couple Ken and Andi Johnson visited the 30A area on Florida's Gulf Coast, and Andi has particularly fond memories of the picturesque Seaside Amphitheater.

"We would come down to 30A to write songs and to get inspired—retreats with other songwriters—and every time I walked by the amphitheater, I thought how fun it would be to play a show there," she recalled. "And I think we just threw it out to the universe because we've been playing there every Tuesday and Thursday, for ten years."

They play at the outdoor venue as renowned musical duo Huck and Lilly and

Ken and Andi Johnson,
aka Huck and Lilly



“I think we just threw it out to the universe because we’ve been playing there every Tuesday and Thursday, for ten years.”



The Seaside Amphitheater



have done so for a decade, entertaining thousands of children and their families with catchy songs that stay in your head long after the speakers have been turned off. Over ten years, they have gained a strong reputation and following for their energetic live performances and residency at the amphitheater as well as other locations such as Marina Park and weekly shows at Alys Beach and Hammock Bay.

What initially began as a side project, Huck and Lilly, has become a surprise labor of love for Ken and Andi. They have recorded two popular records: 2015's *There's a Tree Growing in My Room* and 2018's *Sunshine*. Over the years, they have heard touching stories about how their music has impacted the lives of their listeners, such as a young autistic girl who danced and sang to their songs when nothing else worked.

“I always tell people that if I'd have known I'd be 53 years old singing 'I Sat on a Porcupine,' I'd probably have never gone to Nashville,” Ken laughed. “But having experiences like that is something we never saw coming and is such a rewarding thing.”

This summer, they are planning to release their third album, *Lemonade Stand*, which will treat fans with ten new Huck and Lilly songs, including the first single, “Be Good to One Another Today.” Like much of their music, these are songs you can dance to that are inspired by 30A and its gorgeous beaches.

“Yeah, there are lots of songs about this place,” Andi said. “Living in the area has greatly influenced our music.”

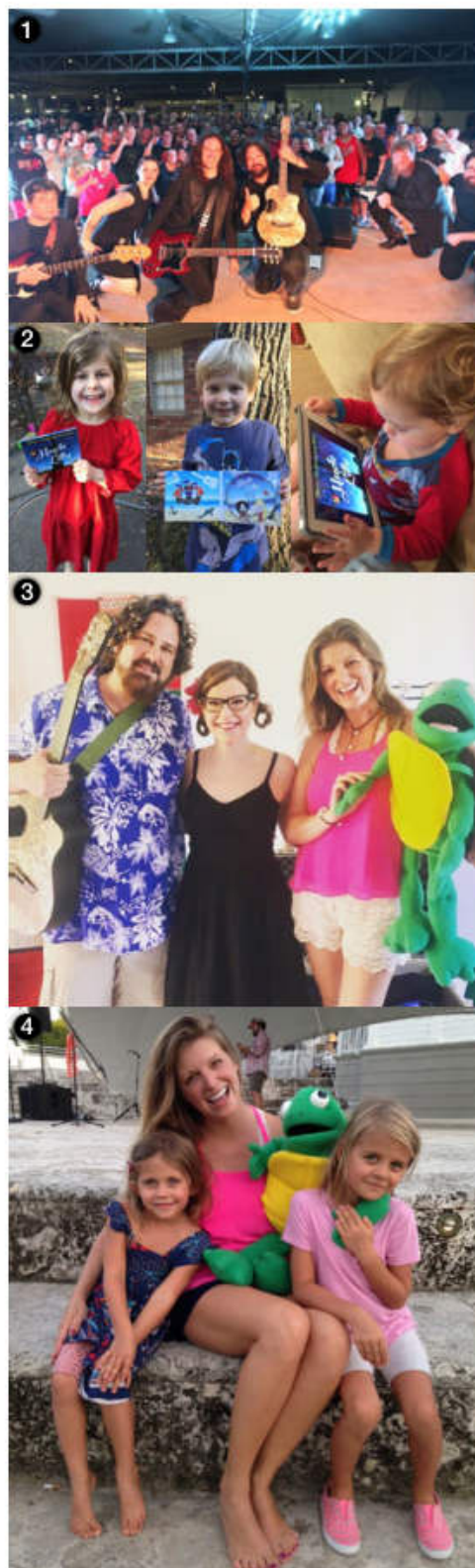
The magic of this coast and its natural beauty energized their music and captured their hearts during what was supposed to be a brief summer visit.

“We came down here for three months, and that was 10 years ago,” said Ken, who now has a home with Andi in Santa Rosa Beach. “We were only supposed to stay here for the summer.”

The duo also enjoyed the creative freedom that the children's music genre allowed, unlike the artistic constraints of Nashville and specific genres like country.

“It's really fun writing kids' music because there are no boundaries as long as you keep it family-friendly,” he said. “You can write any genre. It can be a reggae song, a country song, a pop song, a blues song – creatively, it's a lot of fun for us.”

But in addition to writing for children, Ken and Andi also think about the parents when they're writing their songs.



1. Performing with the Black Jacket Symphony band
 2. The duo released their first album *There's a Tree Growing in My Room* in 2015
 3. Performing with Lisa Loeb in Mexico
 4. Andi with little fans, Myla and Avery

"We always wanted to make music that if you were listening to it on the way to school and you dropped the kids off, you'd keep listening to it on the way to work."



"We always wanted to make music so that if you were listening to it on the way to school and you dropped the kids off, you'd keep listening to it on the way to work," said Ken. "And not even realize it," Andi added. One of these songs is "The Fiddler Crab," which was actually written on a visit to 30A before they had moved to the region ("She thought it was an albino beach tarantula or something.") and "Not a Worry in the World," a beautiful song about living in Seaside that closes out all their live performances. There's a strong connection to not only the surrounding water and land

but the community and people who live along Scenic Highway 30A as well. Ken and Andi are regularly recognized in public, which, unlike some artists, they are comfortable with and enjoy. "We'd be on the beach and kids would walk by with their families and be like, 'Huck and Lilly!'" Andi gushed. "They recognize us in this community and we love it." For many of these kids, Huck and Lilly are a positive, bright first impression of music and wherever that leads. "Until they're about nine, we're pretty cool," Ken said

with a chuckle. "But until then, we're like The Beatles and that's amazing." In celebration of their 10th anniversary, they are putting together a scrapbook featuring memories, photos, and stories from over the years. Any fan stories and photos are welcome and can be sent to huckandlilly@yahoo.com for possible inclusion. Look for "Huck & Lilly" on Spotify, Facebook (@HuckandLillyOfficial), and Instagram (HuckandLilly).



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Depths



Join us as we dive into the captivating world of Amanda Cotton, a seasoned wildlife photographer with nearly two decades of experience capturing the ocean's most enchanting inhabitants. Featured on National Geographic, BBC, and Discovery, Amanda's photography transcends imagery, serving as a powerful call to action for ocean conservation. Through partnerships with organizations like The Conservation Fund and the Women Divers Hall of Fame, Amanda leverages her art to advocate for marine ecosystem preservation. Her evocative images, showcased in global dive industry campaigns and TV productions, highlight the mesmerizing beauty and urgent need to protect our underwater worlds.

of Beauty

PHOTOGRAPHER AMANDA COTTON'S PASSION FOR PRESERVATION

PHOTOS BY AMANDA COTTON. UNDERWATER EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY ISOTTA HOUSINGS (ISOTECHN.IT/EN).



In the enchanting cenotes of the Yucatan, a freediver finds solace in the stillness, suspended in the tranquil waters, allowing time to stand still. Surrounded by the ancient beauty of nature's hidden gems, she immerses herself in the peaceful embrace of the underwater world, a moment of serene reflection amidst the captivating depths.

Freediver and majestic great hammerhead glide side by side in the tranquil, shallow waters of the Bahamas, showcasing the sanctuary's harmony between humans and sharks.





Oceanic whitetip sharks cautiously swim by in the crystal-clear waters off Cat Island in the Bahamas, showcasing their grace and resilience in this pristine marine habitat.



Beneath the waves off Bimini, Bahamas, a bustling pod of dolphins gleefully darts and twists, their playful energy lighting up the underwater world with exuberance and delight.



In stark monochrome, a majestic great hammerhead shark glides through the crystalline waters of the Bahamas, embodying a timeless symbol of power and grace. This captivating image captures the essence of the ocean's apex predator, showcasing its formidable presence against a backdrop of serene beauty.



Graceful eagle rays glide alongside a freediver, their elegant forms dancing in harmony with the mesmerizing underwater world, a silent ballet of beauty and tranquility.

A sailfish, with its distinctive elongated bill, cuts through the azure waters off the coast of Isla Mujeres, Mexico, a testament to its remarkable hunting prowess and unparalleled grace in the ocean's realm.



To learn more about Amanda and her photography, visit her website (acottonphoto.com) and follow her on social media (@acottonphoto).



In a burst of colors, a great hammerhead shark swims through the vibrant waters of the Bahamas, its distinctive silhouette cutting through the ocean's depths. This vivid image encapsulates the raw power and natural beauty of this apex predator, offering a glimpse into the mesmerizing realm beneath the waves.

FROM NASHVILLE



TO NETFLIX

Alexandra Harper's Path to *Selling the OC*

By Lauren Sage Reinlie

Alexandra Harper's motto: Make a decision every day that terrifies you.

"Really, without making those hard decisions, there would be no room for growth," the 31-year-old Nashville native said recently. "In every circumstance, they always are the most beneficial and rewarding things."

For her, one of her life's biggest, most terrifying, and genuinely unexpected decisions landed her as a cast member on a reality television show, *Selling the OC*, a popular Netflix series about a set of high-

powered real estate brokers in the Los Angeles area.

"Anytime I tell it, it never makes sense," Harper said of how she landed on the show.

Harper majored in journalism and had been picking up jobs here and there in technology sales, website design, social media—you name it. In 2023, she ran into an old friend, Adam Devillo, the television producer behind several successful shows, including MTV's *Laguna Beach: The Real Orange County* and *The Hills* and

Netflix's *Selling Sunset* franchise, which includes the show Harper stars on today.

"I was just catching up with him, and he was like, 'Would you like to come try this out? Come meet the cast and see if you are a good fit,'" Harper recalled.

That's how she found herself stepping off a plane in Orange County, California, for the first time in her life. With no real estate experience, she walked into a multimillion-dollar mansion and joined some of the top real estate brokers in the country. During the most recent season, which was released in May, she worked to get her real estate license.

The whole experience was not something she had ever imagined herself doing.

"No way in the world did I ever think that I would put myself in such a vulnerable position, being on this show and in a career of luxury real estate in Los Angeles," Harper said. "But I don't need experience to be interested in something and to go for it. I think that if you have the X factor, you can do whatever you want. It's about genuinely believing in yourself and loving yourself."

Harper said she learned some tricks of the reality TV trade during her time on the show. One is being incredibly self-aware and careful with your words. ("You can say one thing, and it could be detrimental to the rest of your life.") She has also learned to choose those she surrounds herself

with wisely. She's made some missteps ("There's a scene I like to call 'the window knock' that was heard around the world"), but she's also made incredible relationships and lifelong friends — some will be in her upcoming wedding.

"If I had gotten there, and everyone was horrible or mean to me, I wouldn't have wanted to stick around for this," she said.

She got to step into some of the most incredible properties she'd ever seen, including a waterfront mansion with a private dock that sold for \$24.5 million. She got to live in Laguna Beach, a smaller city with a sense of community that reminded her more of small towns in the South and with some scenic views she could only have imagined. "There's actually a spot called Top of the World, and it's the most beautiful view ever."

However, Harper said the most intriguing part of her experience on the show was seeing all the agents' different sales styles, how they develop relationships, and their tactics. The show follows real estate brokers from The Oppenheim Group.

"Not everyone gets the chance to shadow incredible agents from an outstanding brokerage," Harper said.

Despite enjoying the experience, Harper said that when her time with the show is over, she doesn't plan to relocate to California; she will instead return to Nashville, where she was born and raised, and possibly sell real estate there.

"I know Franklin County so well, like the back of my hand. This is my home," she said. "So selling southern homes, and homes and styles that I'm familiar with, and also just the connections I have here, that's a possibility."

Like many Nashville natives, Harper grew up vacationing in the 30A area, a string of distinct beach communities located along a scenic highway in Northwest Florida. ("I've stayed in every nook and cranny from Blue Mountain Beach to Rosemary Beach.")

During our interview, Harper had just returned from taking two castmates, Kayla Cardona and Alexandra Rose, to 30A to celebrate the release of the show's third season.

"They just absolutely died," Harper said. "I think for them, Orange County is this place with beautiful, perfect weather. Laguna Beach looks like a fairytale. I mean, it's crazy how perfect those places are, but then they came to 30A, and they were like, I can't believe a more perfect place even exists."

Harper said the real estate in places like Rosemary Beach and Alys Beach also took her friends' breath away. But when asked, she noted she doesn't know of any plans for a *Selling 30A* franchise and hopes there never will be.

"I kind of just want to keep 30A from everyone on the West Coast," she joked. "Honestly, I don't think there's anything in the world that compares to 30A—the way of living, the people, the beaches, the water. I mean, the most beautiful beaches you've ever seen, the shops, the bike riding. You are in a little bubble, and it's my safe place." 🍷

To learn more, follow Alexandra Harper on Instagram (@alexandra__harper). *Selling the OC* is now streaming on Netflix.





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Credit: Hampton Beach Sand Sculpting Classic

SCULPTING *Sandscapes*

America's Top Sand Sculpting Events

By Michelle Garrett

Some people travel the world in search of culture, whether it's artwork hanging on the walls of museums or symphonies bellowing from great orchestras. If you enjoy vacationing on sandy beaches and in seaside towns, you can have the best of both worlds by planning your travel to coincide with world-class sand sculpting events.

From coast to coast, sand sculpture artists have elevated the beach pastime of sandcastle building into an art form. There are fewer than 400 professional sand sculptors worldwide, along with many semi-professional sand artists who compete in sand sculpture contests around the USA.

For the American Institute of Architects Sandcastle Competition in Galveston, Texas, competitors take planning seriously.

"Teams begin months in advance generating ideas, developing designs, and assigning duties," said Ashley Heitmeier Hesser, 2024 AIA Sandcastle Co-Chair. "Many designs are so intricate and complicated that some teams use large framework systems, mechanized tampers, and water pumping systems."

What emerges from the sand during these events are fabulous outdoor art galleries. "Unlike other sculpting mediums, sand is transient, making the creations temporary and adding an extra layer of challenge and beauty to the competition," said Eliza Aguilar, events director of the Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce and host of the American Sand Sculpting Championship.

Many of these events are a tourism and economic boon to their host cities. Several sand sculpture events were canceled in the past few years due to weather, natural disasters, and the pandemic. One event, in particular, the Cannon Beach Sandcastle Contest, was born in response to a disaster. Sierra Spinler of the Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce explained that their event was created following the 9.2 magnitude Alaskan earthquake in 1964. "The community created this event following the tragedy and has transformed it into the vibrant competition it is today," she said.

Organizing sand sculpting events is not for the faint of heart. Pulling off these events takes a lot of passion, volunteers, and coordination. However, the special moments and goodwill bring event



Credit: Atlantis Rising International Sand Sculpture Competition

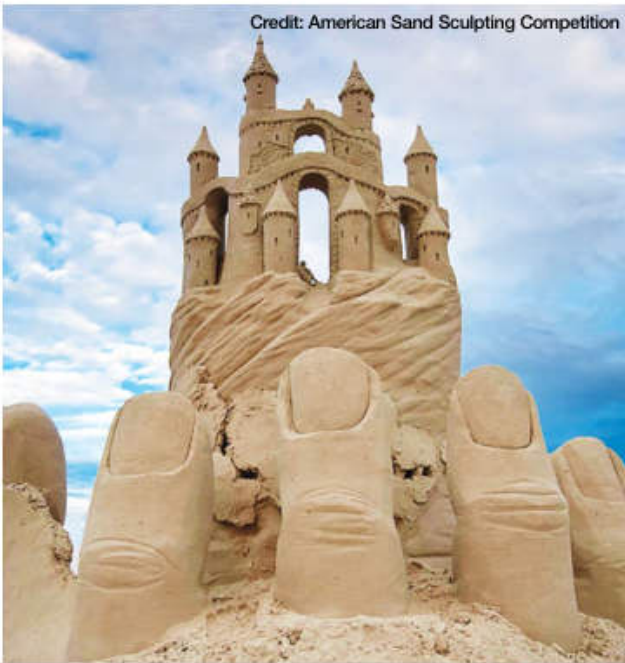


Credit: American Sand Sculpting Competition

organizers back to the planning table year after year. “We had a marriage proposal at Sandfest one year,” said David Brooks, president of the Friends of the Fort Gratiot Light and organizer of the Blue Water Sandfest Competition in Michigan. “The proposal occurred at the top of the Fort Gratiot Lighthouse, the oldest lighthouse in Michigan, while family and friends cheered them on from below.”

Whether it's the memories or how sand artists capture our collective imagination, remember that sand sculpture events are ephemeral. You'll need to plan your beach vacations accordingly. Gathered here are the top sand sculpting events across the United States. Use this list to make plans and check sand sculpture events off your bucket list. We guarantee you'll walk away wondering how these sand artists do what they do using little more than sand, water, and a few utility tools.

GULF COAST



Credit: American Sand Sculpting Competition

AIA Sandcastle Competition
Galveston, Texas
September 21, 2024

Sponsored by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Houston and the ArCH Foundation, the AIA Sandcastle Competition takes place in Galveston, Texas, and is one of the top five revenue-generating events for its host city. Over 60 teams compete and begin generating ideas, developing designs, and assigning duties months in advance. Teams build non-stop for five hours before judging and viewing take place. Each team vies for the Golden Bucket Award but might also take home the Best Architectural Icon Award since this event is, after all, sponsored by the AIA.

American Sand Sculpting Championship
Fort Myers, Florida
November 21 – 24, 2024

The American Sand Sculpting Championship in Fort Myers, Florida, is making a highly anticipated return in 2024. For the first time in five years, sand sculptors at every level, from amateur to world-class master, will amaze you with their artistic talent at the 34th running of this annual event. Spectators witness incredible works of art while enjoying the sandy beaches and natural beauty of Fort Myers.

Siesta Key Crystal Classic International Sand Sculpting Classic
Siesta Key, Florida
November 15-18, 2024

We don't want to twist your arm, but you'll have to travel to the Florida Keys for the Siesta Key Crystal Classic. Twenty-four artists gather to carve eight solo and eight team sculptures, which, once finished, look as if they are carved in marble due to the pristine white sand in the Keys. The Siesta Key Crystal Classic is a favorite amongst professional sand sculptors because of its location. Can you blame them?

Texas Sandfest
Port Aransas, Texas
April 25-27, 2025

The Texas Sandfest is a sand sculpting party on the beach. Sculptors from around the world use only local beach sand during this three-day annual event. Admire the masterpieces, enjoy festival food, or grab a sand bucket and form your own amateur team during one of the largest sand sculpture competitions in the United States.

Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival
Clearwater Beach, Florida
April 2025

An impressive 21,000-square-foot tent is erected on the sugar-white sands of Clearwater Beach to house the Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival. Over the course of 17 days, 14 skilled sand artisans create works of art using 1,000 tons of Clearwater Beach sand. Visitors to this seaside community are encouraged to take a free sand sculpting workshop or watch speed sand demonstrations by professionals.

WEST COAST



Credit: Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce

Cannon Beach Sandcastle Contest
Cannon Beach, Oregon
June 15, 2024

The Cannon Beach Sandcastle Contest is a 60-year tradition going strong on this iconic beach of the Pacific Northwest. When a tsunami washed out one of the local bridges in 1964, the community rallied together and held a sandcastle contest. While the event attracts masters level sand artists, it welcomes individuals, groups, teens, and contestants six years and under. The Cannon Beach Sandcastle Contest is an event-filled experience complete with a concert, bonfire, and 5K Fun Run & Walk.

Sandsations Sand Sculptures & Competition
Long Beach, Washington
July 10–14, 2024

Sand sculptures rise from the sandy beaches all across the southern peninsula of Long Beach, Washington. Master sculptors carve intricate works of sand art for the public to enjoy. Spectators are invited to don holiday apparel for family photos at the Holidays on the Beach sculpture, while brides and grooms can take a memorable photo op next to the Wedding sculpture.

Sun & Sea Festival
Imperial Beach, California
August 17, 2024

This family-friendly sandcastle competition features top professional sculptors from sunny San Diego and hosts a unique Kids-n-Kastles competition for kids ten years and under. The event organizers host a special sandcastle exhibition where an enormous display is built each year. According to their website, the 2024 Exhibition Sandcastle promises to be the biggest one yet.

EAST COAST



Credit: Hampton Beach Sand Sculpting Classic

Hampton Beach Master Sand Sculpting Classic
Hampton Beach, New Hampshire
June 20–22, 2024

The 24th Annual Hampton Beach Master Sand Sculpting Classic is an international, invitation-only sandcastle competition.

Over 200 tons of sand are imported to Hampton Beach, New Hampshire, for world-renowned sculptors to shape and carve into majestic works of sand art. The competition culminates with a seaside fireworks display, with one talented artist taking home the \$25,000 prize.

Revere Beach International Sand Sculpting Festival
Revere Beach, Massachusetts
July 19–21, 2024

Over a few days, the shores of Revere Beach, Massachusetts, transform into an awe-inspiring boardwalk and art gallery. Going twenty years' strong, this sandcastle event gathers world-class sculptors to showcase their talents to thousands of visitors each year. In addition to the main event, the boardwalk comes alive with over 75 exhibitors and food trucks, amusement rides, live music, and a fireworks display.

Neptune's International Sandsculpting Championship
Virginia Beach, Virginia
September 27–October 6, 2024

Every fall, 32 of the world's most talented sculptors convene for Neptune's International Sandsculpting Championship in Virginia Beach. Housed inside a tent the size of a football field, these artists create 22 sculptures, affording spectators the chance to get up close and personal with the artists. Unique to this event is a QuickSand competition where sculptors must be quick on their feet, sculpting works of art in mere minutes.

Atlantis Rising International Sand Sculpture Competition
Charlestown, Rhode Island
October 11–14, 2024

The who's who of sand sculptors face off in this fierce sand sculpture competition. One of the newer sand sculpting events, the Atlantis Rising competition boasts an international all-star line-up of world-renowned sand artists. With a festival atmosphere, this event is a crowd-pleaser.

MIDWEST

Blue Water Sandfest, Sand Sculpting Festival
Port Huron, Michigan
August 2–4, 2024

Considered the best sand competition in the Midwest, the Blue Water Sandfest has been creating lakeshore memories since 2012. This three-day event is held at the foot of the Fort Gratiot Lighthouse along the beautiful beaches of Lake Huron. The event attracts 22 semi-pro, solos, doubles, and dozens of amateur sculptors who compete for the Michigan State Sand Sculpting Championship title. Be sure to stick around for the "Quick Sand" Speed Sculpting Show, when two artists go head-to-head in a 10-minute sculpt-off. 🏖️



Credit: Blue Water Sandfest

JOYFUL JOURNEY



PHOTO: ASHTIN PAIGE

Whether visiting as a child from Memphis, enjoying life as a happy husband and father of three, or a touring musician with his band, The Neighbors, talented singer-songwriter Drew Holcomb has maintained a lifelong connection to the 30A area along Florida's Gulf Coast.

"We've been down here a bunch over the years," said Drew. "We went to Seaside once when I was a kid. My wife Ellie and I have done three or four vacations at friends' houses in WaterColor and Rosemary Beach. We also did the 30A Songwriters Festival about a decade ago."

In April, Drew Holcomb and The Neighbors performed at the Moon Crush Pink Moon festival in Miramar Beach, where *Beach Happy* had the opportunity to catch up with Drew.

"I love this sort of destination festival idea," said Drew. "It seems like they're doing a lot of really fun stuff, bringing people here in their shoulder season, which is cool. Yeah, I love it."

Holcomb and his band of troubadours played songs from their latest album, *Strangers No More*, which came out to the delight of listeners last summer. In a recent surprise announcement, however, Holcomb announced a volume two for *Strangers No More* that has a release date of September 12 with ten new songs to accompany and complement the first record.

You recently announced the release of part two of your album *Strangers No More*. Could you share some of the inspirations and energies driving your music currently?

Well, there's sort of inspiration everywhere. I have a big family, and a lot of my music is about my family. Songs about my wife, songs about my kids, songs about my extended family, one about my 28 grandkids. Our latest is a little bit more of an introspective record about the tension of being young but also growing older. The song called "Find Your People" is about friendship and "Dance With Everybody" is about how we missed the audience during the pandemic and how great it is to get back on stage. It has taken three or four years to get back out there. So I look for inspiration everywhere. I collect words, phrases, song titles, and musical ideas, storing them so when I sit down to write, I have a big palette of paint to use.

Much of your music celebrates gratitude and finding joy in the simplest parts of life. Tell us a bit about how you maintain that perspective, even in the face of adversity or when life gets busy.

The song "Gratitude" specifically is reflective of a five-year journey of making the deliberate choice to wake up every day and roll through the good things. Because life is really hard. It's really tragic. We've been in the midst of a lot of tragedy recently. I lost a niece to cancer about four months ago. Ellie and I are

very extroverted people. We have a lot of friends. So we walk alongside people, not just in our own struggles and difficulties, but with a lot of other people. So there's always this weight. And we also live in this very divided political moment. Life is sort of strange right now. Choosing to think through the small things, the good things, the little things creates a lot of opportunity for perspective. So my music, in a lot of ways, is me preaching to myself. "Gratitude" is about that deep well of good things that are happening in the world, that are in friendships and in relationships, while there's also lots of struggle and tragedy and pain. So, there's that tension. Because I think that's what makes life make sense. Choosing to land on one side of that has been a good health exercise for me, and it's made life a lot better.

DREW HOLCOMB ON FINDING HAPPINESS THROUGH FAMILY AND MUSIC

By Gen Handley

What advice would you give to new artists who are perhaps in a similar boat as you and trying to find inspiration, or even to people who just listen to your music? What advice would you give them about the pursuit of happiness and gratitude and how to stay anchored in it?

I think for me, joy is rooted in not running away from the difficult things but embracing them with the perspective that it's not the entire side... it's not the whole story. It's kind of this idea of climbing a mountain. It's really, really, really hard. But then at the top, you're like, wow, that was totally worth the hard work. So I think the idea of finding joy in the struggle is a great soil for happiness. It's not running away from it but using it to your benefit. And honestly, too, I think the thing that's really changed my life is trying to fight hard for contentment. We live in a world, especially in affluent areas, where you always feel like, oh, I've got to make X money, or I've got to be at X event or get invited to this thing, and that's just an endless, unsatisfying

chase. You know, whereas becoming very confident in who you are and knowing what you're good at and what you're not good at, knowing what you love and what you don't love, and living inside of that, instead of always chasing someone else's dream or someone else's life. It is incredibly satisfying to just become really comfortable in your own skin. I think that is a major key to life. At least it has been for me.

How do you feel like your perspective on happiness—or your drive to pursue that contentment that you talked about—has changed over your music career?

I think more than anything, I'm just learning that the journey is the point, and there's no such thing as an arrival, and that has made every day just make sense in and of itself. Instead of it all being about attaining or achieving, it's now about just being present in the moment and being generous and kind to the people who are in your life. And also, not trying to be everybody's hero... that's an exhausting attitude.

How do you and your wife (singer-songwriter Ellie Holcomb) juggle your busy music careers, while also balancing family life?

Yeah, well, it takes a village, and we live in a very friendly neighborhood where a lot of our friends who have kids of similar ages help us a lot with our kids. We also have a great babysitter who has been with us for years, but Ellie is very choosy about what she does tour-wise, so she only does about 40 shows a year, and half of those are with me in February. The older I get, the more particular I am with what I say yes to and where I travel to, and then we take our kids with us a lot so they get to see.

We tell them, look, your life is gonna be different than your friends at school whose parents work normal hours and have weekends off. I'm gonna miss some soccer games, but I'm gonna be at a lot of them too. It's kind of like being a pilot for an airline; you're gone for these ten-to-twelve-day stretches, but then when I'm home at the house, I'm available. Getting the kids to buy into what we do is not just for us; it's also their life. It manifests in

a sort of a way when our 11-year-old daughter comes out with us to sell merch and she's a part of the thing. And our littlest, he will help load stuff in and out. He's a little too small to really be of much assistance, but he's there, he's learning. Inviting our family into our work and blurring the lines has been good for all of us.

How has your music, or the inspiration you draw from others' music and artistry, contributed to your sense of contentment? What role does music play in your life?

Music plays an immense role in my life. It serves as a soundtrack to pivotal moments in life. Whether it's a road trip, wedding, romance, breakup, or funeral, music marks these milestones. As a fan, I've experienced this through the work of countless artists. Our fans often tell us how our music has soundtracked significant moments in their lives, asking us to play specific songs that hold special meaning for them. Someone told me that their son went to college a month ago, and they listened to a song on the way home and then cried themselves to sleep. The next day he called his son, and he's doing great, and now this person just really loves hearing that song. You hear stories like that all the time and you go, this is really, really cool.

Our song was recently used as the commercial for the NCAA basketball tournament. So now people are forever going to hear that song and think about their team winning or losing and all this stuff. You don't have a lot of control over how your music is used and interpreted. I love

that. Art does that. It creates a sort of a frame for people's lives, memories, dreams, and disappointments. And I love that. I'm honored to do that and enjoy that. I used to be more about wanting to have a number one song, but now I just want music to keep meaning something to people. If that happens, I'll probably get to keep making it. 🎵

To learn more, visit Drew Holcomb's website (drewholcomb.com) or follow him on social media (@[drewholcombmusic](https://www.instagram.com/drewholcombmusic)).



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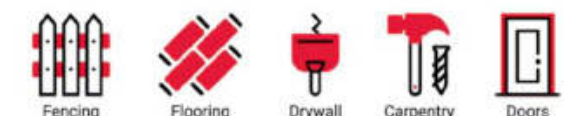
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SAFEGUARDING THE SEAS



Oceana's Crusade for Coastal and Oceanic Preservation

By Lauren Sage Reinlie

Oceana, the largest international advocacy group dedicated solely to ocean conservation, is strategically stationed in coastal communities around the world. It is probably working to protect the waters that lap the shores of your favorite beach.

The nonprofit launched in 2001 after a group of leading foundations discovered that less than 0.5 percent of all resources spent by environmental nonprofit groups in the United States went to ocean advocacy. Today, the group works to implement laser-focused, science-based policy changes worldwide. In the United States, their focus is primarily on federal laws, but they also work on state and local legislation and campaign to change policies at major corporations.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF OCEANA

“We build people-power to influence decision-makers to help us win campaigns and pass laws to protect our communities and oceans,”

said Hunter Miller, campaigns manager for Oceana’s field team in the Southeast U.S.

Miller, based in St. Augustine, Florida, said one of Oceana’s main focuses is passing federal legislation to address the plastic pollution crisis, which has extreme adverse effects on oceans, beaches, and human health around the world. They have found that the most effective method for addressing this issue is passing policies that limit the production and use of single-use plastic.

Current proposed federal policy changes include banning plastic foam food containers, loose-fill foam, and single-use foam coolers nationwide. They are also having success passing policies like this at the local and state levels.

What Goes Up Must Come Down

Most recently, this past spring, Miller’s team helped pass legislation in Florida banning the intentional release of balloons. The bill passed with overwhelming bipartisan support and, as of this writing, was awaiting the governor’s signature.

“Balloons and ribbons attached to them are problematic because they’re one of the deadliest forms of plastic pollution,” Miller said. Once deflated, balloons and their plastic ribbons can look remarkably like a food source, such as a jellyfish, which is one of sea turtles’ favorite foods. Once swallowed, they can be deadly.

Before this bill, people in Florida were allowed to release up to ten balloons a

day. The balloons can travel hundreds of miles and end up in oceans or other bodies of water.

Miller and his team heard about the problem from various people on the ground—those patrolling for sea turtle nests, offshore fishermen and shrimpers, and even duck hunting guides inland in the Everglades. “Balloons were one of the most common things people were pulling out; they’re really pervasive,” he said. “Sometimes it can be a mistake, but oftentimes people just don’t know or don’t realize when you release ten balloons, you could be fatally injuring an endangered species. What goes up must come down.”

Miller said the balloon bill was a prime example of the type of work

Oceana does: identifying a problem that threatens oceans and working with a diverse group of stakeholders to find a solution and change laws.

Crystal Clear, and Keeping It That Way

Some of Oceana’s other wins in the Southeast include influencing the Trump Administration to pass a ten-year ban on offshore drilling off Florida’s Gulf Coast and in the Atlantic Ocean up to North Carolina.

“Just a few years ago, Florida’s Gulf Coast, the entire Atlantic Coast, the Pacific Coast, and parts of the Arctic were offered up for potentially expanding offshore drilling,” Miller said. “Especially here in Florida, our beaches and healthy and abundant oceans and coastlines are critical to our economy.” The Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010, which happened off the coast of Louisiana but threatened Florida’s economy, was still fresh on people’s minds.

“There was a concerted effort to oppose that expansion, and with the help of our partners and bipartisan support in Congress, we were able to stop that.”

Miller said aerial satellite images of the Gulf of Mexico show black dots of oil and gas infrastructure everywhere in the central and western Gulf, and thousands of miles of pipelines are buried underneath. “If you look at the eastern Gulf, it’s just this crystal-clear blue, vast space. And we want to keep it that way,” Miller said. “We don’t want that infrastructure and that risk of oil spills to be coming closer to our state.”

Gentle Currents, Greater Conservation

Oceana also focuses on policies directly impacting specific endangered species.

Only about 350 North Atlantic right whales exist, and they spend most of their lives in the frigid waters off the coast of Canada. But every fall and spring, the mothers make this incredible migratory journey down the eastern shore of the United States to birth their calves in the waters off Southern Georgia and Northeast Florida. “With so few left, they certainly are at

least four or five whales had been killed by ships or boats by the start of spring this year, he said.

Oceana is working to build support for and to implement a federal rule that would slow vessels down in areas where scientists know right whales are present. Miller likened it to how cars slow down in school zones in areas where children are.

Some fishermen and shipping companies are opposing the rule because they want to get to their destinations as fast as possible, but Miller said others are fine with the rules. “For us, if we want to save this species from extinction, these rules are reasonable, and they’ll help us do that.”

Horizons of Hope and Change

Miller said his team was impressed with the broad-based bipartisan support the balloon bill received in Florida. Once it was in committee, it moved quickly through the branches to approval. Following that momentum, Miller and his team are working with stakeholders to develop additional state legislation that will directly impact the amount of plastics ending up in the ocean.

risk of going extinct in our lifetime,” Miller said. They face two main threats: getting entangled in roped fishing gear, like lobster traps, mainly in the Northeast United States, and being struck by ships and big boats.

The right whale population is so small that it is observed very closely by scientists and advocates. When a new calf is born, as one was earlier this year, it is a huge celebration. One of the calves born earlier this year died after being hit in the face with a boat’s propeller. “It was completely heartbreaking,” Miller said. “And it’s a huge blow for the species.” At

“We are looking for ways to reduce plastic pollution at the source versus just doing endless cleanups,” Miller said. “We know that cleanups and individuals bringing their own reusable water bottles will not be enough to solve that problem. We need to be looking for solutions in our individual lives but also for businesses, and certainly, the government at every level needs to play a role. We can’t keep passing the buck on to one group. We all have to chip in to adequately address the problem of this magnitude that is plastic pollution.”

To learn more, visit oceana.org





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North Carolina Oyster Festival

Savoring SUSTAINABILITY

A Culinary Journey Through
America's Seafood Festivals

By Carrie Honaker

Tables bursting with chowders, booths offering oysters right off the grill, carts serving little cups filled with snapper ceviche—sustainable seafood festivals around the U.S. serve this and more. According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), sustainable seafood is defined as fish, shellfish, and seaweeds harvested or farmed in a way that allows the species to reproduce, habitats to flourish, and productive ecosystems to be available for future generations.

If you love cracking lobster, slurping oysters, and speed-eating seafood specialties, we rounded up some of our favorite sustainable seafood festivals around the country where attendees indulge in succulent seafood offerings, live music performances, cooking demonstrations, artisanal crafts, blessings of the fleets, and maritime exhibits.



Maine Lobster Festival
Rockland, Maine

This festival celebrating all things lobster began in 1947 and now includes activities such as a sea goddess coronation, a parade, live music, an art expo, a crafts show, cooking contests, and a marine tent. The scenic coastal town of Rockland holds the Maine Lobster Festival every year on the first weekend in August (July 31–August 4, 2024). Paying homage to the diverse marine life here, the Marine Experience Tent provides touch tanks and educational exhibits that teach about the local ecosystem. Another popular event, the International Great Crate Race, was invented by William Atwood in the 1970s and still involves scampering across 50 floating lobster crates. But the main attraction is the 20,000 pounds of lobster cooked in the world’s greatest lobster cooker, offering a taste of Maine via the heritage seafood that has been a part of this state for generations. Admission is free each day of the festival. Put on your bibs and get cracking.
mainelobsterfestival.com

Destin Seafood Festival
Destin, Florida

Kicking off the Destin Fishing Rodeo, which runs the entire month of October and showcases the local fishing fleet, the Destin Seafood Festival has operated since 1978. Over 100 artisans and food vendors line the space between the Heron Harbor parking lot through HarborWalk Village. Seven live music stages sprinkle around the festival. There is a Kids Zone with face painting, cotton candy carts, a casting contest, a mingo toss, and more. Scales behind AJ’s Oyster Bar offer a firsthand view of the charter boats weighing in for the fishing rodeo. The festival takes place September 27–29, 2024. It is free and open to the public, but there is a VIP ticketed event, Call to Chef, where 11 local restaurants prepare food to sample. Guests vote on their favorite dishes spotlighting local sustainable seafood.
destinseafoodfest.com

Cedar Key Seafood Festival
Cedar Key, Florida

With fewer than 1,000 permanent residents, Cedar Key is a historic fishing village that holds the title as one of the nation’s top sources of sustainably farm-raised clams. October 19–20, 2024, more than 100 arts and crafts exhibits, live music stages, and local seafood, including booths serving those succulent clams, line the streets. The festival is also one of the only times you can tour historic Seahorse Key, part of Cedar Key National Wildlife Refuge. A shuttle boat ferries visitors to tour the island and its lighthouse, built before the Civil War. The festival is free and open to the public.
facebook.com/cedarkeylions

Florida Seafood Festival
Apalachicola, Florida

On November 1st and 2nd, 2024, Apalachicola hosts one of the oldest seafood festivals in the country, featuring fresh seafood from the Gulf of Mexico. The two-day event includes a parade, arts and crafts exhibits, live music, oyster eating and shucking contests, blue crab races, a 5K Redfish Run, the Blessing of the Fleet, a historical exhibit, and tonging for treasure. Seafood lovers will find fresh oysters, smoked mullet, and a bevy of locally caught fish set up on Food Row in Apalachicola’s Battery Park. Local nonprofits sell all seafood to benefit churches, schools, and civic organizations.
floridaseafoodfestival.com

Hilton Head Island Seafood Festival
Hilton Head, South Carolina

Celebrity chef dinners, culinary demonstrations, wine tastings, and fishing instruction, emphasizing local history and seafood, fill the agenda at this festival held every February (February 17–23, 2025). Hilton Head Island comes alive with fresh seafood specials crafted by local restaurants and unique opportunities to learn about local wildlife. The week-long celebration of sustainable seafood and Southern culture has events at various locations around the island, but the main festival spans three and a half hours where attendees indulge in food and drink from over 100 vendors, listen to live music, observe cooking demonstrations, and mingle with famous chefs and cookbook authors.
hiltonheadseafoodfestival.com





North Carolina Oyster Festival Ocean Isle Beach, North Carolina

Held annually in October (October 19–20, 2024), the North Carolina Oyster Festival brings together seafood lovers to indulge in sustainably sourced, freshly shucked oysters, prepared in various ways. The first festival dates back four decades to late October 1978 and highlighted North Carolina's multi-generational oystermen, fishermen, and family seafood restaurateurs. Alongside the culinary delights, visitors enjoy live music, arts and crafts, and a range of family-friendly activities set up throughout Ocean Isle Beach Town Park. ncoysterfestival.com



Winter Waters Portland, Willamette Valley, and along the Oregon Coast

The annual seaweed-centric dinner series held throughout February is a collaboration of dozens of chefs celebrating regenerative seafood and aquaculture. With a mission to raise awareness of farmed sea vegetables—including wakame, kombu, sea lettuce, and dulse—as a superfood culinary ingredient, over 20 events organized by restaurants highlight the ingredients with proceeds benefiting the Oregon Kelp Alliance. Visitors will find sea-centric dishes and cocktails on menus throughout February. The Pacific Northwest is home to some of the most sustainable and regenerative fisheries, yet most of the seafood produced ships outside Oregon and most seafood eaten is imported. This festival helps bring focus to the importance of sustainable, locally sourced seafood through education and shared meals. winterwaterspnw.com





PHOTO: SUZI PRATT



Mussel Fest Whidbey Island, Washington State

This annual festival celebrates the renowned mussels cultivated in Coupeville by Penn Cove Shellfish. Top island eateries compete for the title of best chowder, attendees compete in a mussel-eating contest, and mussel cooking demonstrations led by local and regional chefs line the streets. Beer gardens, live music, and artisan booths fill the charming downtown. The festival's highlight is the exclusive boat tour to the Penn Cove mussel beds, offering a rare glimpse into mussel farming, available only during the festival. Mussel Fest takes place March 7-9, 2025.

[whidbeycamanoislands.com/event/penn-cove-mussel-fest/2023-03-03](https://www.whidbeycamanoislands.com/event/penn-cove-mussel-fest/2023-03-03)



Bodega Bay Fisherman's Festival Bodega Bay, California

Having celebrated its 51st anniversary in 2024, the Bodega Bay Fisherman's Festival centered around the historic observance of the Pacific salmon fishing season. This annual event showcased locally sourced seafood, robust zero-waste reduction strategies, and collaborations with environmental organizations, underscoring its commitment to environmental stewardship. The festival featured a wooden boat challenge, interactive tide pools, and the capstone event, the Blessing of the Fleet, all of which honored the resilience of local fishermen and the preservation of the coastal Sonoma County marine ecosystems. On May 4-5, 2024, Westside Park was filled with craft booths, live music stages, and a sampling of culinary delights paired with over 25 Sonoma Coast wines. Be sure to watch out for the 2025 edition next May to experience this unique celebration.

www.bbfishfest.org



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The Bare Essentials

Fitness Gurus Nick and Stefany Bare's Journey to Health and Happiness

By Martin Liptrot

There's something about living at the beach that makes you want to look as good as you feel.

Fitness entrepreneurs Nick and Stefany Bare have run their wellness and health company, Bare Performance Nutrition, for over a decade, providing athletes, fitness fans, and those looking to start their wellness journey with the motivation, support, resources, and tools to "Go one more."

The couple's products and services are designed to support a positive lifestyle. Through books, coaching, and an online community, they want to inspire you to train harder, learn a little more, and over time, make progress toward your goals.

Beach Happy sat down with Stefany on one of their frequent family trips to the beaches of 30A to learn more.

Hi, Stefany, and welcome back to 30A! Could you tell me a little about yourselves, where you are from, and how you and Nick met?

Hello, and thank you for the warm welcome. We love it here.

We both consider ourselves Southern transplants. Nick was born and raised in Pennsylvania, and I was brought up in Michigan. We've since lived in Nashville, and we currently reside in Austin where we run our business, Bare Performance Nutrition.

We initially met through work and social media. I was living in Nashville at the time, and Nick was in Austin. Nick invited me down to Austin for a Jon Pardi concert and an epic first date, and we were engaged and living together eleven months later. The rest is history!

You are both successful in the fitness and wellness industry. Were you sporty as youngsters, or did your interest in fitness develop later?

Surprisingly, neither of us was super sporty or athletic growing up. I was a competitive dancer and Nick dabbled in a bunch of different sports, but we both fell in love with the gym and fitness at a young age—that's something we have in common.

Our disciplined mindsets developed through the teams we were part of growing up—dance for me and the military for Nick. We believe that's what makes our approach to fitness so relatable. We love to show that you don't need to be a naturally gifted athlete to live a healthy, fit, high-performing lifestyle.

What was the motivation for your wellness journey? Did you have a set goal, maybe a marathon, weight loss, or recovery from an injury?

Our motivation is all about the feeling, and the quality of life it gives us and our family. When you feel great, you perform great, which is true in all areas of life.

Taking care of our health and staying fit is non-negotiable because it makes us better spouses, parents, friends, and leaders. Everything in life is more fruitful when you make the time to take care of yourself. Honestly, we don't know any other way to live life. We truly believe that if you don't have your health, you don't have anything.

Today, wellness is a multi-billion-dollar industry with countless guides, products, and services available. What do you think has contributed to the success of your business?



“
Everything in
life is more
fruitful when
you make
the time to
take care
of yourself.
”

It's an extremely saturated, somewhat overwhelming industry. We try our best to not contribute to all the noise and instead look for ways to simplify things.

For us, it's all about going back to the basics and not overcomplicating it. From the ingredient labels on our products to the training ideas and guides, keeping it simple is key. But perhaps the most important thing when it comes to health and fitness is consistency. In everything we do, we commit to being consistently good rather than just occasionally great...I think that's what has led us to our success.

Wellness builds happiness. Where is your happy place and what activities and events bring you the most joy?

No doubt we are happiest when we are together as a family, getting out into the world, being active, and exploring. Our two-year-old daughter, Charli, thrives when we're out and experiencing new things.

I'd say our "happy place" as a family is most definitely 30A. It's a place that allows us to be outside almost 24/7, to shop and support local businesses, and to enjoy the simple things in life. There's nothing better than a long run or a stroller walk down 30A early in the morning with an Amavida coffee in hand.

We also love being in the kitchen. We try sourcing our family's food from local producers and the various farmers markets as much as possible, and then getting creative in the kitchen with our favorite in-season finds. Cooking is a huge passion of ours—even Charli loves to help in the kitchen—and we love leading by example when it comes to properly nourishing and fueling our bodies.

30A is both a beautiful place and a beautiful lifestyle. What are some of your cherished memories from spending time here?

One of the first vacations we made as a couple was to 30A, so it's a special place for us. Since then, we've been back multiple times every year, and it now truly feels like our home away from home.

We've made so many amazing memories along 30A. We've brought our families here, hosted employee breaks and celebrations, got engaged here, and I even got pregnant here. Now, we get to enjoy 30A through our daughter's eyes, and in the coming months, we'll get to welcome our new son here too!

What we find so special about 30A is how you can enjoy it in any season of your life.

Now that we are parents to a toddler, we feel like we are experiencing an entirely different version of 30A than we did when it was just the two of us. There's so much magic to each beach town, and every house we've stayed in has its own personality. It is hard to explain but you'll understand once you've experienced it—that's the reason everyone keeps coming back.

Your business is growing and evolving all the time. What is next for you and Nick?

We are excited because we both have books coming out soon! I'm releasing a children's book, *Go One More*, focused on the

health and fitness space in September this year. I hope it is the first of many, as I've seen such a gap when it comes to children's books that are good examples of healthy living for our little ones.

Nick's second personal development book will be released in April next year, but other than that, we'll both continue to build the business one day at a time.

Stefany, it's been wonderful to hear all your news. Do you have a final thought or message of encouragement for any Beach Happy reader who is just starting their wellness journey?

We've said it before and we'll say it again: consistency is everything!

We urge all our followers to find a health and wellness routine that is both realistic and sustainable for them and their lifestyles. Everybody's journey is unique and that's the beauty of it. Don't force something you know won't stick, or doesn't feel good for you, your body, or your family.

Oh, and once in a while, eat dessert and have a margarita or two. Don't deprive yourself of the things you love. After all, life is meant to be enjoyed! 🍹

For more health and wellness tips, follow Stefany Bare (@stefany.bare) and Nick Bare (@nickbarefitness) on Instagram.



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PITCH PERFECT

TOP 5 TENTS FOR YOUR NEXT BEACH GETAWAY

By Martin Liptrot

Dads around the world share common experiences.

One which has united them each and every summer across the ages is traipsing to the beach with a mountain of paraphernalia – chairs, toys, inflatables, coolers, umbrellas, and beach tents. Huffing and puffing, dragging trolleys and buggies through dry fine sand, and finally trying to scope out a suitable pitch to set up camp for the day is a modern-dad's dilemma.

And, after dad performs these tasks, he gets to relax for a few short hours, with the nagging knowledge that it will all need dismantling and dragging back to the rental house, hotel, or car park again.

With that in mind, I am reviewing the best beach tents currently on the market. Here are the three critical factors I will be assessing these contenders against: 1. Portability. 2. Ease of assembly. 3. Shade and space.

Which one suits your needs?

MANTA POPUP SUN/WIND SHELTER BEACH TENT BY ONIVA

I like this one. It provides instant shade and wind protection within seconds of arriving at the beach.

The Manta Portable Beach Tent is a lightweight pop-up beach shelter and sun shade with a UPF 50+ sun protection rating, a heavy-duty floor, and a double-zippered mesh window to let you feel the breeze.

The Manta has an easy setup with just metal stakes and tie-down cords instead of a bag of awkward poles of varying lengths, which means you'll be spending more time enjoying the beach than erecting your structure.

The whole kit comes in its own bag and weighs just 5 pounds, so it is very portable.

The downsides include its size. It is only 40" high and 45" wide and 85" deep, which is ideal for mom and dad's beach chairs and perhaps a little toddler, but not much space if you are a multi-kid family.

And while you can pull it from its bag and it pops up almost ready to go, getting it back in the bag is a bit more complicated. I suggest having a practice at home before entertaining all the other dads on the beach with your repeated attempts to get it back in its sack.

PICNICTIME.COM
(\$63.95 AND UP)





NESO GRANDE BEACH TENT

If you have been on any beach anywhere this year, you will have seen the Neso Beach Tent.

The Neso is a canopy made of Lycra/nylon. Its flexible fabric is designed to deal with a sea breeze, and it is resistant to any sudden downpour.

The poles that support the front of this tent are a fraction under 7' tall, so even your tallest friends can be accommodated, and with a 9' x 9' span, this tent is large enough to have all the family shelter inside, protected from the blazing sun.

At about 7 pounds, the Neso Grande is portable and comes in its own easy-access bag.

The negatives are two-fold. First, this is a canopy rather than a tent. It has no sides, so any privacy or a quiet corner for a little one to have a well-needed nap doesn't exist, and if the wind picks up, there is no shelter.

The other is that as the day progresses, and the sun moves across the skies, the shade moves with it, so you have to factor that into how you pitch up so you aren't constantly having to reposition to follow the shade.

NESO.COM
(\$134.99)

LIGHTSPEED QUICK CABANA

This is a popular choice with families. Not only does the interior of the tent offer plenty of space to dodge the hottest part of the day, but there is also an extra-long, roll-out ground sheet that creates a little porch or sitting area for kids to play and sprawl on.

The Cabana comes in a handy shoulder strap tote bag and weighs just 6 pounds, so dads will be delighted, as it leaves them hands-free for chairs and coolers, etc. The dimensions are generous at 8' wide, and with the porch area, the Cabana is 8' deep and 4' high.

Especially popular with this model are the large mesh windows, which allow a breeze to pass through while offering some privacy, and the aforementioned extra porch allows for the whole family to spread out.

A nice little feature is that it comes with numerous pockets on the inside walls of the tent – perfect for keeping phones and wallets, keys, and sunglasses from being lost in the sand.

There are a few cons to consider. First, the dark grey extended porch gets super-hot when in direct sunlight, so be careful with your little ones' delicate pinkies. You may have to cover it with beach towels, but hopefully the manufacturers will read this and provide a lighter-colored version soon.

Also, it would be nice if the extra porch could be folded up to create a little privacy screen across the front of the cabana, but all-in-all, this is a pretty solid choice.



LIGHTSPEEDOUTDOORS.COM
(\$129.99)

ZEEPAIR BEACH TENT

Canopy tents are super popular this year. The Zeepair is one of these available in neon blue or green. Weighed down by its built-in sandbags, it has a sort of alien-insect look.

This canopy is supported by four 6.6 ft poles, which extend the shaded area by about 50% to a massive 10' x 10', which is especially nice if you have a gaggle of kids and friends in your party.

As with nearly all the tents and canopies on the market, it is constructed of elasticated Lycra fabric, offering UPF 50+ sun coverage protection, blocking up to 98% of harmful UV rays.

The Zeepair comes with its own sand shovel to fill all 4 sandbags, and it fits into the easy-to-carry, waterproof travel bag and weighs a smidge over 6 pounds.

There are drawbacks. I do like the manufacturer's marketing team's bold attempt to turn a negative into a positive, but declaring the lack of privacy experienced by all canopy-style tents as "excellent 4-sided ventilation" is a bit much.

If you are looking for a lightweight, easy-to-erect, large shade providing cover, with room for the kids to come and go easily, this is a strong contender.

AMAZON.COM
(\$89.99)



SHIBUMI SHADES

Finally, when is a beach tent not a beach tent?

For the purpose of this review, it doesn't really matter, so long as it fulfills the key criteria of providing the requisite amount of shade and acts as a home base for all the chairs, coolers, and kids you have brought with you.

This loose interpretation opens the door for a favorite of mine this year: the Shibumi range of shades. This is a newish innovation in the beach shade game, with its single arched pole and a large expanse of brightly-colored nylon flying behind and flapping in the gentle breeze.

This is also the lightest and most portable, weighing between 2 and 4 pounds, depending on the size you choose. With garbage polluting our beaches and oceans worldwide, it is pleasing to learn Shibumi's shades are made here in the USA from 40% recycled sea plastic and bottles.

Of course, there are drawbacks. There is obviously no privacy, and if it's very windy, it can make a bit of noise as it flaps in the wind. The biggest problem, ironically, is if you get a perfect beach day and if there isn't a lick of wind, your shade will just hang from its pole. Realistically though, there is nearly always a faint breeze at the beach, and the lightweight fabric needs only the slightest of gusts to flutter overhead.

SHIBUMISHADE.COM
(\$270.00)

ALYS BEACH

AN INSPIRED APPROACH TO QUIET,
SIMPLE LUXURY LIVING



Those familiar with the charming string of coastal communities along 30A know Alys Beach for its striking white architecture and the Buttreries at either end of the palm-lined allée. But, if you haven't made your way behind the walls and meandered its pedestrian paths and pocket parks, you've yet to truly experience what sets Alys Beach apart – a holistic approach to cultivating a quiet, simple luxury.

Inspired by the courtyard homes of Antigua, Guatemala, Alys Beach homes are designed to pull the Southern porch into the interior of the home, providing privacy, while the pathways, parks and spaces offer community engagement when desired. The duality of this design has given the town an enhanced feeling of "quiet," with as much life happening within the walls as beyond them.

Further encouraging an environment of calm is the management of vacation rental properties exclusively by Alys Beach, with fewer than 20% of homeowners opting to list their homes with the program.

The town makes a concerted investment in building community amongst residents. A robust and incredibly vibrant events program connects the community in festive and meaningful ways, with owners receiving priority and often exclusive access to events.

While the high bluffs and elevated terrain provide natural protection for the town, the Fortified for Safer Living certified construction further ensures the resiliency of the homes in Alys Beach, supporting the environment, minimizing maintenance, and encouraging the longevity and sustainability of the infrastructure.

As development progresses in Alys Beach, a growing Town Center offers

unparalleled dining and retail access. Over \$100 million in private amenities enrich the lifestyle of residents and guests, with the final amenity complex, The Silva, currently in construction. Caliza Pool & Restaurant offers an oasis with multiple pools and daytime dining, ZUMA Wellness Center provides comprehensive fitness, swimming, and recovery opportunities, with a café, retail, spa services and newly expanded racquet sports facility. The private, owner-exclusive, Gulf-front Beach Club features pools, dining spaces, and lounges with panoramic Gulf views. As Alys Beach's greatest amenity, its 1,500-linear-foot stretch of white sand beaches provide a spacious, private beach experience with options for beach set-ups, recreation, and direct-to-beach chair food and beverage delivery.

With a limited, phased release approach to new purchase options, there are still many original ownership opportunities to enjoy. The Phase 4 homes in the northwest corner of town celebrate the organic terrain of the Nature Preserve with proximity to The Silva amenity, while The August condominium residences and Somerside Terrace rowhomes will be adjacent to the Beach Plaza and private owners' Beach Club. More immediate opportunities include resale options for homes and condominium residences.

For those looking to make Alys Beach a permanent part of their story, the Alys Beach Real Estate team is exclusively dedicated to the sale of Alys Beach properties.

You are invited to step inside and explore how Alys Beach captures the power and beauty of intentional design with a growing community of people who value a life defined.

Learn more at alysbeach.com

A BARTENDER'S GUIDE TO AMERICA'S UNDERRATED BEACH BARS

INDUSTRY PROS SHARE THEIR FAVORITE BURIED BAR TREASURES

By Carrie Honaker

There are plenty of reasons a great beach bar could go unnoticed by the larger drinking public. It could be the lack of a website or an off-the-beaten-path location. It may be situated in a strip mall that looks like nothing special out front but boasts a great vibe with dollar bills hanging from the ceiling, friendly bartenders, and world-class cocktails (or just perfect ice-cold beer). But how does one go about finding these hidden gems? Ask a bartender!

With that in mind, we made it our mission to uncover the most loved beach bars in the United States by surveying bar professionals from around the country about places they like to frequent—with programs they think deserve more love than they get when they want to knock back a drink or two.



PHOTO: JUNGLE BIRD

THE JUNGLE BIRD SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

Located on the edge of La Placita in San Juan, Puerto Rico, the Jungle Bird serves Taino-tropical drinks. Rattan tables and chairs outside and hand-painted furniture inside complement the mural of tropical foliage and umbrella-laden drinks in every hand. The drinks contain serious layers of flavor with whimsical garnishes like the pink flamingo koozie fitted to the signature Jungle Bird—a house rum blend, with lime, pineapple, and Campari. The menu has versions of the classic tiki cocktails like the Fog Cutter and playful tropical drinks like Frida's Visit to Moma. Every ingredient is fresh—you will not find a slushy, overly sweet colada at Jungle Bird. And the bites complement the creative concoctions. Expect Korean-style pork belly, Japanese-style fried chicken, and odes to cauliflowers amid the rotating menu.

This cozy little tiki bar has captured the hearts of many locals and industry

insiders. But the co-founder and CEO of *Thirsty*, Tara Fougner, feels it hasn't received the global attention it deserves. "Its contributions to rum culture, active role in addressing cultural appropriation of tiki while celebrating tropical cocktail culture, and acknowledging the importance of Puerto Rico's and the Greater Antilles' role in both are [important to the industry]," she said.

While that is impressive enough, its employee-owned business model really sets it apart from its industry brethren. Most customers don't realize Jungle Bird was purchased by its employees when the previous owners, who run nearby North America's 50 Best Bars La Factoria, decided to sell. Keeping in that spirit of collaboration, the team actively supports their local community, invests in travel to events,

enters competitions like Speed Rack, and buys books for their staff to keep spreading the message of honoring tiki in a culturally appropriate way while serving delicious, innovative drinks. And it strives to be a safe and inclusive space for all cultures and identities, including the LGBTQ+ community.

[INSTAGRAM.COM/JUNGLEBIRDBAR](https://www.instagram.com/junglebirdbar)



DOVE ISLAND LODGE SITKA, ALASKA

Located on a private island renowned for salt and freshwater fishing, this luxurious lodge offers a heavy dose of luxury surrounded by panoramic wilderness. A river rock fireplace warms the air while racks of antlers and taxidermied fish remind guests why they are there. Owners Duane and Tracie Lambeth hail from Napa Valley, California, and brought their 35 years of experience in wine country bed-and-breakfasts to Sitka. The bar, a simple slab of hewn wood populated with a few primitive wood stools, has the largest wine list of any lodge in Alaska. But the menu of 100 different Scotches, specialty Cognacs, and creative cocktails (like the strawberry vodka, banana purée, and balsamic fig Amigo Juice, garnished with a mozzarella cheese ball) draws Alex Velez, the beverage director at Las Vegas's Lost Spirits Distillery and competitor on Netflix's *Drink Master*. He loves how the exclusive and serene environment enables him to connect with nature and his inner self. "Their [premium] spirits selection, amazing cocktails, and award-winning wine cellar make it not just the best bar in Alaska, but the best bar anywhere," Velez said.

[DOVEISLANDLODGE.COM](https://www.doveislandlodge.com)





LOUIE'S AFTERDECK KEY WEST, FLORIDA

Everybody who knows Key West knows Blue Heaven and the chickens. Louie's is the owners' little secret located on the quieter corner of Waddell and Vernon streets. Set in a Victorian former home with an expansive deck overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, it's open from midday until late at night. Teak cocktail tables fill the space and dogs are welcome. One of Jimmy Buffett's former homes is next to the bar, which started in 1971 with only twelve seats. In 1983, Phil and Pat Tenney bought and renovated the space, earning a spot in the National Register of Historic Places. Linger with a Louie's Lemonade as the sun slips on another day in the Conch Republic.

LOUIESBACKYARD.COM



PHOTO: LOUIE'S BACKYARD



HUCK'S COVE GAUTIER, MISSISSIPPI

This funky watering hole located on the West Pascagoula River has been serving dedicated locals for 25 years, but the legend of Huck goes back much further. Locals say Huck washed ashore near the now town of Gautier during the great hurricane of 1609. He built a shack and started cooking burgers that became famous with locals and the French and Spanish explorers who passed through. Locals say Huck's spirit still lives, and some evenings he can even be spotted sitting at the Fetchpoint with a cocktail in one hand and his fishing pole in the other. His dog

"Fetch" is said to be seen lying at his feet welcoming all the other pups to the dog-friendly space. You can reach this secluded spot by boat or car. Yvette Vogel, Coast Transit Authority marketing/mobility coordinator, and resident of Gautier, loves hanging out at Huck's. "It is one of the coolest dining places on the Coast. Get the Shrimp and Mushroom Quesadilla and eat on the water."

HUCKSCOVE.COM

PHOTO: HUCK'S COVE

PALM PAVILION CLEARWATER BEACH, FLORIDA

This toes-in-the-sand local favorite has been serving its signature Palm Rum Runner since 1926. There is live music most days and the sunset over the Gulf of Mexico is a perfect way to end a day on the sugar-white sand. It is the oldest operating beach pavilion in Florida, and they have been serving the community since before refrigeration when beer came in a bucket of ice. They make their Cuban sandwiches Tampa-style with salami on the renowned La Segunda Bakery Cuban bread.

Longtime local and realtor Fran Bartlett travels extensively when not working, but nothing makes her feel more welcome than returning to the Palm Pavilion. She added, "I love the vibe where locals welcome visitors to their backyard. It sits on sand so fine and white it feels like sugar. The sunsets are amazing. I love to take my time and listen to music, sipping a frozen margarita, and just enjoy people-watching."

PALMPAVILION.COM



PHOTO COURTESY OF VISIT ST. PETE-CLEARWATER



IDLE HOUR BIERGARTEN ATLANTIC BEACH, NORTH CAROLINA

This German beer garden caters to all members of the family, including the furry ones. There is live music every Friday and Saturday by local artists and a rotating seasonal selection of native North Carolina craft beers, along with German craft beers, available by the glass, pint, stein, bottle, or can. Their signature Beach Water Cocktail, soothing coastal palate, and hearty bratwurst served with homemade mustard and beer cheese have kept the locals returning for over a decade.

IDLEHOURAB.COM

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Road Trip

By Sean Dietrich



Day One

The first day of beach vacation. We have been in the car for seven and a half hours. I am seeing double.

There is a 12-year-old girl in our backseat, steadily talking. She is blind, and she is our goddaughter. She is going to spend the weekend with us at the beach. And she has a lot to say.

The child has not paused to take a breath since we passed through Atlanta.

Many, many hours ago.

“...Why are there lines in the middle of the highway?” she asks happily. “Why does some cheese have holes in it but others don’t? Have you ever eaten a whole pumpkin? Why is it called Cracker Barrel when they don’t have crackers? Don’t you think it’s fun to drive? Who is Jimmy Carter...?”

Currently our vehicle is packed full of beach gear. We have so much vacation paraphernalia crammed into our van that we all have to take turns breathing so we don’t blow out the windows. There is an umbrella tip stabbing me in the rear.

Becca sits in the backseat of this crowded vehicle, nestled in a cove of stacked luggage, swinging her legs cheerfully, wearing a starfish barrette, conducting a one-woman monologue with nobody in particular.

“...What makes thunder? Is there

a difference between hail and ice cubes? How many cups in a quart? Do you know how tall you are in centimeters? What is the square root of 298?”

“Becca?” I’ll periodically say toward the backseat, glancing into the rearview mirror. “Isn’t your voice getting tired?”

“No. Is yours?”

“Yes.”

“Well, that’s okay, I’ll just do the talking so you can rest your voice.”

And the streak of dialogue remains uninterrupted.

We have just crossed the state line into Florida. There are advertisements for discount liquors and lottery tickets, factory-farm oranges, alligator eyeballs, and other Native Floridian touristy wonders.

We pass a sign at a little roadside stand. We pull over because the sign is advertising “Bulled P-Nuts.”

Florida is my home state. I am about to introduce Becca to my favorite pastime of bulled p-nuts.

The guy serving peanuts wears overalls. He has a wad in his lower lip about the size of a regulation softball.

He is watching Becca as she tastes her first boiled peanut. Although, frankly, I’m surprised the child is able to eat the peanut while she is still talking.

“...Why is it called Florida? Are peanuts actually nuts or peas? Why are they called TV dinners when they don’t have TVs in them? What is an intestinal parasite? Did you ever answer me about Jimmy Carter?”

The man just looks at us and blinks.

Then, it’s back in the car. More driving. More backroads. We have a lot of driving left to do.

We spend the remainder of the trip listening to “Little House on the Prairie” episodes blaring on my iPhone at a volume loud enough to crack dental fillings. Becca holds the iPhone, and generously provides a running commentary for each episode.

Several hours down the road, she reaches a hand out and holds mine.

She pauses to take the first breath I’ve seen her take all day. Then she says:

“I just love our conversations.”

Four more hours to go.

Day Two

Day Two of beach vacation. It’s sunny in Florida, I’m sitting on the beach with a blind 12-year-old girl. We have sand in all major orifices including the crevices between our teeth.

The gang’s all here. My wife is reading a book. Becca, my blind goddaughter, is eating sand.

“Well, I just wanted to know how it tasted,” Becca pointed out.

Becca is eating sand, of course, because she is from a North Alabama region called Sand Mountain, and they do different things on Sand Mountain.

This is not Becca’s first time at the beach, but it’s her first time being in Florida with actual Floridians.

My wife and I grew up on the Gulf Coast and thought it would be fun to take our goddaughter with us on a beach trip so we could introduce her to some uniquely Floridian pastimes. Such as, standstill traffic, highway construction, and DR Horton subdivisions.

So far the trip has been great. Yesterday, Becca had boiled peanuts. There was a learning curve. It wasn’t easy teaching a blind child to eat boiled peanuts, but we eventually got there.

I taught her how to open the peanuts, how to suck the Cajun-spicy juice, and most importantly, how to wipe her messy hands on the seat of her shorts so that she had little orange Cajun handprints on her rear.

“Are you sure this is how I should wipe my hands?” she asked. “It doesn’t seem very neat.”

“You’re fine,” I insisted like any guy would.

Then we pulled over to eat seafood. We stopped at a genuine Florida fish house called Boon Docks in Panama City Beach. It was the kind of authentic place with tin roofs and seagulls soliciting handouts. There was a long wait.

When we arrived, the hostess pulled me aside and said, “Did you know there are orange handprints on the seat of this little girl’s pants?”

Becca was thrilled.

Our supper was good. And it turned out to be a meal of many firsts for Becca. She ate grouper for the first time. She ate shrimp. She ate oysters—my cup runneth over.

“How do you like the oysters?” I asked.

“Mmmmmgrpplwhmmggghh,” she replied with a mouthful.

“Huh?” I said.

“Mmmmmgrpplwhmmggghh!”

Then she gave me a thumbs up and ate six more oysters that were all approximately the same size as Danny Devito.

After supper, we arrived at the rental condo and it was already dark. The condo was very nice, and we were staying on the eleventh floor. I was surprised we were staying at such a fancy place and asked my wife how she managed it.

“I got a great discount,” my wife explained. “Because the elevator is broken.”

We schlepped our luggage up endless flights of steps. Becca accompanied us on each back-and-forth luggage run, holding our shirt tails as we marched up and down the stairwell carrying full Coleman coolers.

“I have to pee,” said Becca.

After our rental condo was organized, after children had evacuated their bladders, and after all our discs were herniated, we went down to the beach. It was night by then. The stars were

out. The sound of the surf was deafening.

Becca turned her face toward the breeze and took it all in. Her little hand squeezed mine.

“Does this mean I’m a Floridian now, like you and Jamie?”

“You’re more than just a Floridian,” said my wife. “You’re our goddaughter.”

Last Day

“I enjoyed our vacation together,” the 12-year-old said.

It was the last day of beach vacation. We stood in our driveway. It was time to part ways. Becca’s ride was waiting.

Vacation was over. She had school. I had work. Real life awaits us all.

But we had four days of beach. Four days of sand. Four days of seafood joints. Four days of lethargy wherein the biggest problem of the day was: Should I scratch my butt now or later?

“I’m going to miss you,” Becca said, clutching her pocketbook.

So grown up.

Her little face was sunburned. She wore her platform sandals, like a big kid. She wore cutoff shorts and a colorful tee. Hair in bobby pins. Cuter than a duck with a hushpuppy.

(continued on next page) →



I forget she's 12 sometimes. She was a child when we met. Itty-bitty. She still knew all the words to "Baby Shark."

Now she's on the cusp of teenagehood. You never know what she will say. One moment she's eating a popsicle, with a purple tongue, talking about puppies. The next moment, she's discussing the finer points of existential free will like a French poetry major.

We've had a good four days. And after four days of living with my blind goddaughter, I've learned things. The main thing I have learned is that never once does one get a break from being blind.

Not once is blindness not a factor in her interaction with the world. Not once.

A few days ago, someone emailed about a column I wrote. "Why do you ALWAYS feel the need to mention that Becca is blind? It's offensive to me."

I'm going to go out on a limb and guess that this remark was made by a non-blind person.

It's simple really. The reason I always mention Becca's blindness is because Becca is always blind. Believe me, she never forgets it. And neither do her loved ones.

And yet here on the beach, she was less blind, somehow. And so was I. If that makes any sense.

"What was your favorite part of the trip?" I asked her.

"Hard to choose," she said. "A lot of good moments."

"Yeah."

"What was your favorite moment?" she asked.

That's easy. My favorite part of our trip happened when Becca and I were playing in the Gulf. The waves were powerful. We were having a large time, splashing, laughing, and carrying on when something happened.

Suddenly, Becca shouts, "HEY! I LOST MY BRACELET!"

The bracelet she was talking about was one I got her during a trip to Italy. It was maybe \$3. I was meandering the streets of Firenze, I found a guy selling leather bracelets. I bought three. One for me, one for my wife, one for Becca. Becca rarely takes hers off.

I looked at her bare wrist and said, "Becca, there's no way we can find it out here in the water."

"WE HAVE TO!" she said. "IT'S VERY SPECIAL TO ME!"

So there I was, out in the Gulf of Mexico, wading through crashing waves, looking for a tiny leather bracelet on the seafloor, with a 12-year-old child, slung on my hip.

Road Trip

The sand was making the water cloudy. The waves were crashing over our heads. I had a better chance of finding a needle in a needlestack.

Finally I broke the news to her. "Becca, this is impossible, sweetie. I'll just buy you another one."

That's when Becca released me. She sprang into the water, facefirst. All I could see were her little feet poking above the water as she swam around the seafloor. She was underwater for a long time. Waves crashing around us.

I told her to give it up. But she kept on searching.

Finally, Becca burst out of the water and said, "I FOUND IT!"

In her hand was the bracelet. I have no idea how a blind child accomplished this. I have no idea how such a feat was even possible.

"That was my favorite moment," I told Becca.

"Well," she said, embracing me before climbing into the car. "Let's be honest. I am pretty stinking amazing."

I'm gonna miss you, kid. 🍷



Sean Dietrich, nicknamed Sean of the South, chronicles life in the American South. Find him online at seandietrich.com.

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What You Get FOR YOUR MONEY

By Karina Caraballo

They don't say 'visit once, return for a lifetime' for nothing! From one coastal beach town to another, the Emerald Coast lifestyle is second to none. Explore some of the best opportunities to own your personal slice of paradise along the Northwest Florida Panhandle.



\$9,500,000



146 Paradise By The Sea
Inlet Beach, FL
7 BED | 6/2 BATH | 8,069 SQ. FT.

This magnificent estate boasts 8,069 sq. ft. of refined living space, featuring a sturdy concrete exterior, private elevator, and expansive pool area with mesmerizing Gulf vistas. With a reverse layout, living areas are elevated to maximize panoramic sea views, while the ground floor offers a spacious suite, full kitchen, and direct pool access. Enjoy luxurious amenities such as a home theater, gym, and sauna, all amidst the splendor of Paradise by the Sea's gated community.



\$1,979,999

A rare gem awaits in the highly coveted Prominence on 30A community with this Laguna Plan tucked away on a peaceful cul-de-sac with community preservation land directly across the street. Amenities include two large resort-style community swimming pools, a fitness center, and The Big Chill town center with dining, shopping, and entertainment. In addition to on-site amenities, the beach is just minutes away!

9 Siasconset Lane
Inlet Beach, FL
4 BED | 4.5 BATH | 2,884 SQ. FT.

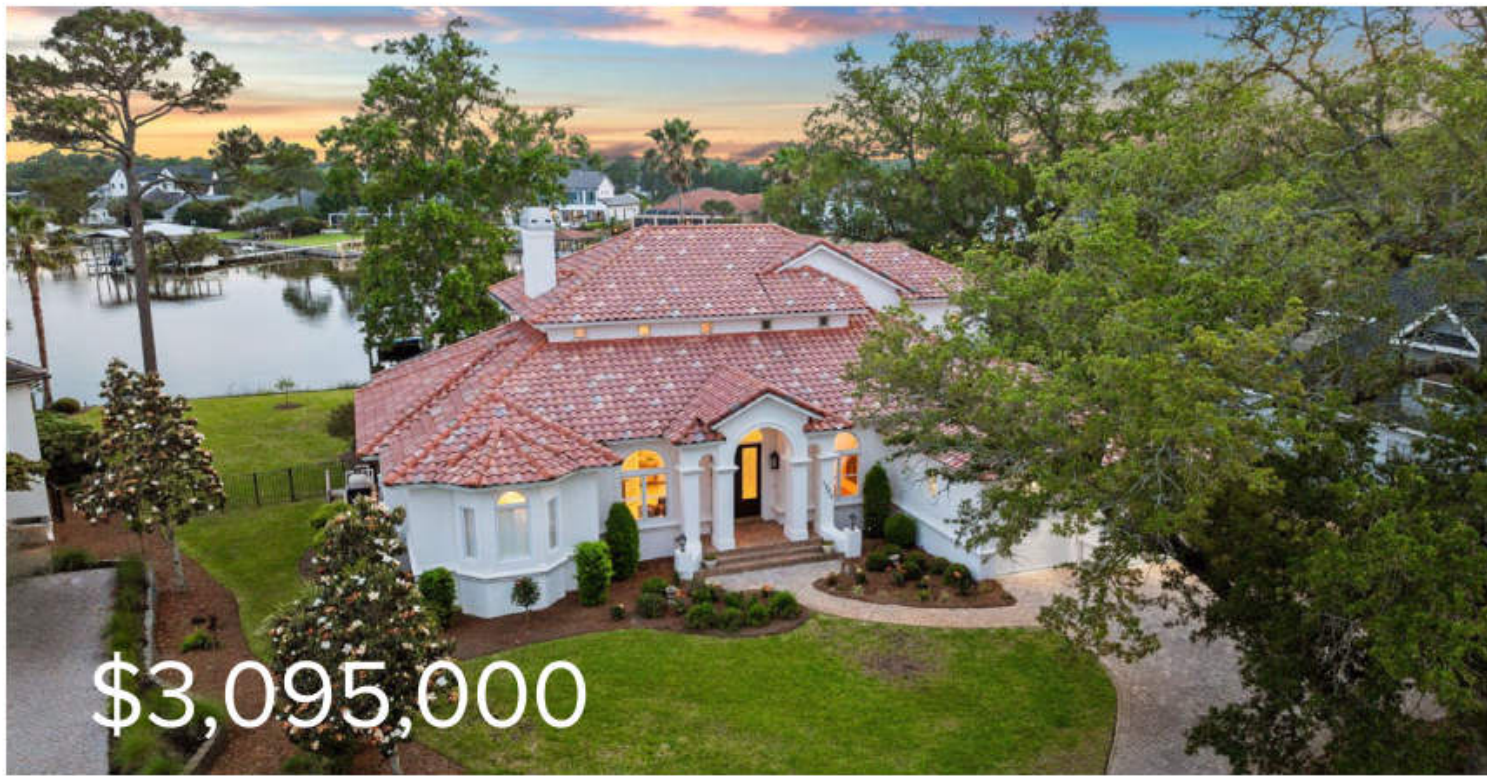


\$4,999,000

Welcome to Penthouse 400 at Costa Blanca, a prestigious beachfront residence on Scenic 30A. This exclusive penthouse offers unparalleled luxury with four bedrooms and four baths, boasting breathtaking southwesterly views of the Gulf of Mexico's sparkling waters and the pristine sands below. With only 14 condominium residences in this gated beachfront enclave, Penthouse 400 promises a highly private and refined living experience.

4463 W Co Hwy 30A #400
Santa Rosa Beach, FL
4 BED | 4 BATH | 2,824 SQ. FT.





\$3,095,000



1802 Driftwood Point Road
Santa Rosa Beach, FL
3 BED | 3.5 BATH | 3,420 SQ. FT.

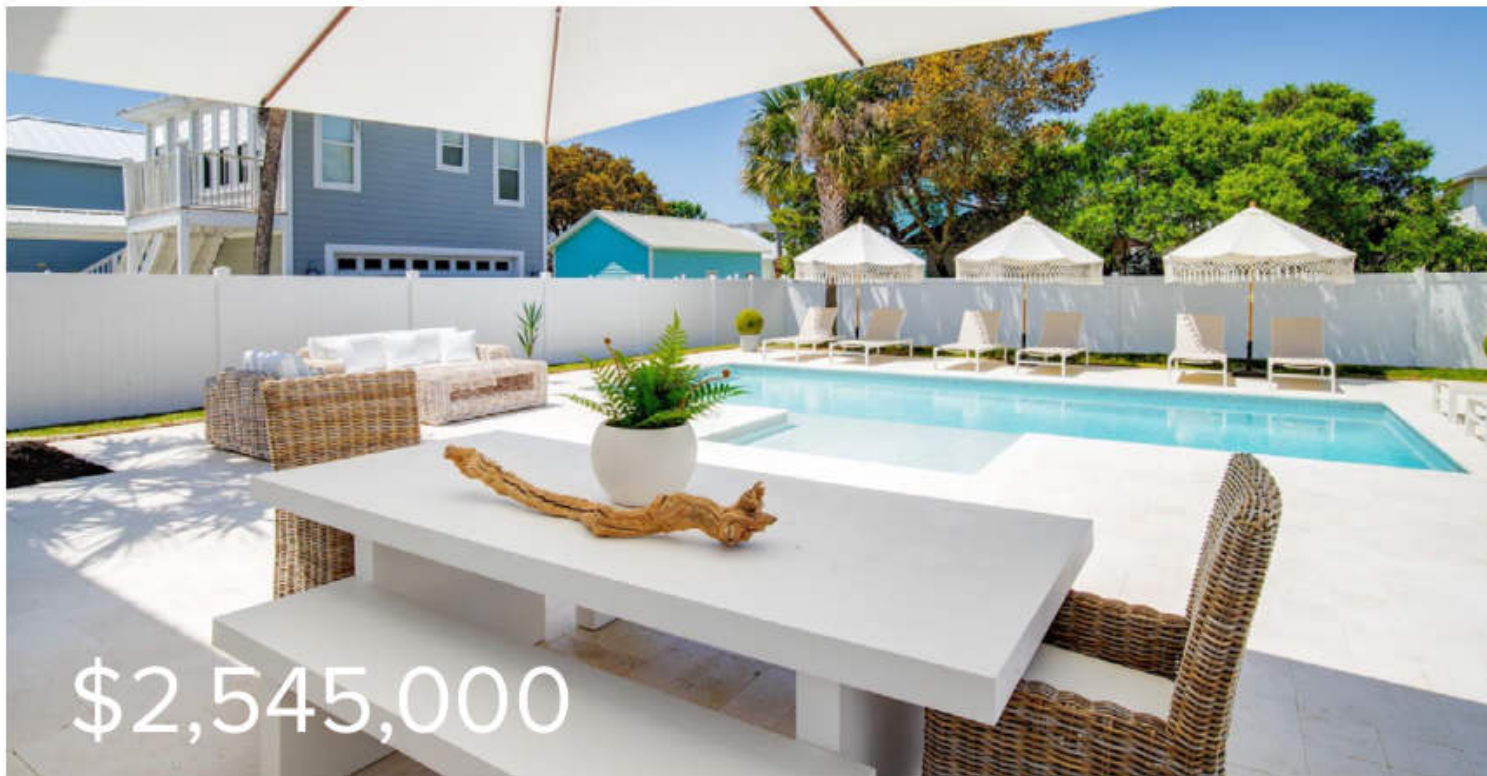
Grand Cove, where luxury meets tranquility along the shores of Honeymoon Cove. With 150 feet of water frontage and a new dock, this stately residence offers the ultimate coastal living. Indulge in the gourmet kitchen, relax by the limestone-framed fireplace, and unwind in the main floor master suite—this home is a haven of elegance and serenity.



\$2,624,900

Crafted by Key Lime Construction, this custom home seamlessly blends coastal vibes with classic Nantucket architecture, creating a truly distinctive retreat. From the bespoke brick fireplace to the upscale designer master bath, every detail exudes sophistication and comfort. With a screened summer kitchen, heated pool, and expansive yard, outdoor entertainment is elevated to new heights, making this home a sanctuary for family gatherings and memorable moments.

746 Medley Street
Watersound, FL
5 BED | 6/2 BATH | 3,890 SQ. FT.

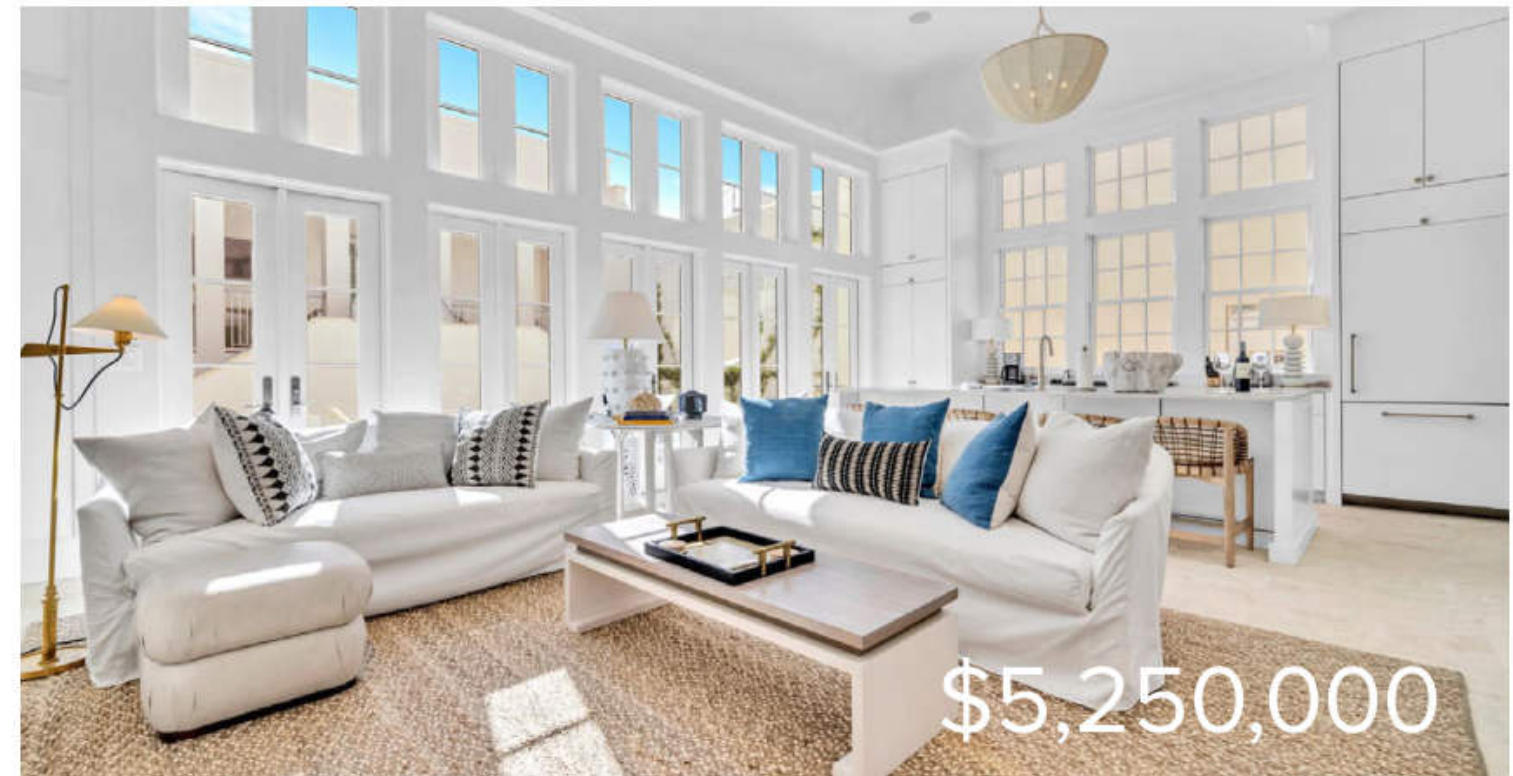


\$2,545,000



96 Shirah Street
Crystal Beach, FL
4 BED | 4.5 BATH | 3,038 SQ. FT.

Step into coastal elegance in this fully renovated gem, perfectly situated near world-class beaches. With 4 bedrooms plus a custom bunk room, this home offers both luxury living and rental potential. From the open-concept living area to the private outdoor oasis, every detail exudes quality and relaxation, making it an ideal beach retreat for generations to come.



\$5,250,000

Experience the epitome of coastal luxury living in this premier Alys Beach residence, where every detail exudes elegance and comfort. With its tranquil courtyard, private plunge pool, and thoughtfully designed living spaces, this home offers the perfect blend of sophistication and relaxation in one of 30A's most coveted communities.

22 Sea Garden Street
Alys Beach, FL
4 BED | 4.5 BATH | 2,868 SQ. FT.





\$899,000



89 W Country Club Dr
Destin, FL

4 BED | 4 BATH | 2,590 SQ. FT.

This freshly renovated 4-bed, 4-bath brick home, nestled in Indian Bayou Neighborhood, offers impeccable taste and stylish finishes throughout. From the open-concept kitchen with high-end Thor appliances to the stunning two-story grand room with a beautifully finished stone fireplace, every detail exudes coastal elegance. Don't miss the designer master bath, spacious bedrooms with custom closets, and the inviting outdoor living space.



\$3,800,000



196 Windsong Drive
Inlet Beach, FL

4 BED | 4.5 BATH | 4,116 SQ. FT.

Located in the prestigious Watersound Camp Creek community, this newly completed residence boasts unrivaled privacy and breathtaking views of the natural surroundings. With high-end designer finishes, expansive porches, and a summer kitchen overlooking the tranquil backyard, this home is an entertainer's dream. Enjoy access to an array of luxurious amenities, including the Watersound Club Beach Club, Camp Creek Golf Course, and more.



\$4,750,000



8334 E County Hwy 30A #10
Seacrest Beach, FL

4 BED | 4.5 BATH | 4,300 SQ. FT.

With only ten units in this all-penthouse development, Andante offers unparalleled opulence and prestige, redefining coastal living in South Walton. These meticulously crafted residences, elevated 40 feet above sea level, boast Mediterranean-inspired architecture, expansive balconies, and state-of-the-art smart home technology, providing a sophisticated and indulgent beachfront lifestyle unmatched along the scenic shores of the Gulf of Mexico.



\$3,350,000



7944 Gulf Boulevard
Navarre Beach, FL

7 BED | 8.5 BATH | 4,551 SQ. FT.

Where luxury meets laid-back beach living. With panoramic views and upscale features like shiplap walls and a chef's kitchen, this home offers the epitome of coastal elegance. Step outside to your private oasis with a heated pool, spa, and expansive outdoor living spaces, perfect for entertaining or soaking up the Florida sunshine.

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WHAT'S 30A?

30A® is the #1 Guide to Florida's Scenic Highway 30A. Every day, 30A shares Beach Happy® stories and eco-conscious products with 30A's 1.7 million followers on Facebook, Instagram, X, YouTube, and TikTok. 30A has raised \$3.2 million for coastal charities, has given away 4.5 million of its famous blue 30A stickers, and has prevented 6.5 million plastic bottles from going into our oceans and landfills through 30A's line of recycled apparel.

30A LICENSING PARTNERS

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30A Coffee by Amavida
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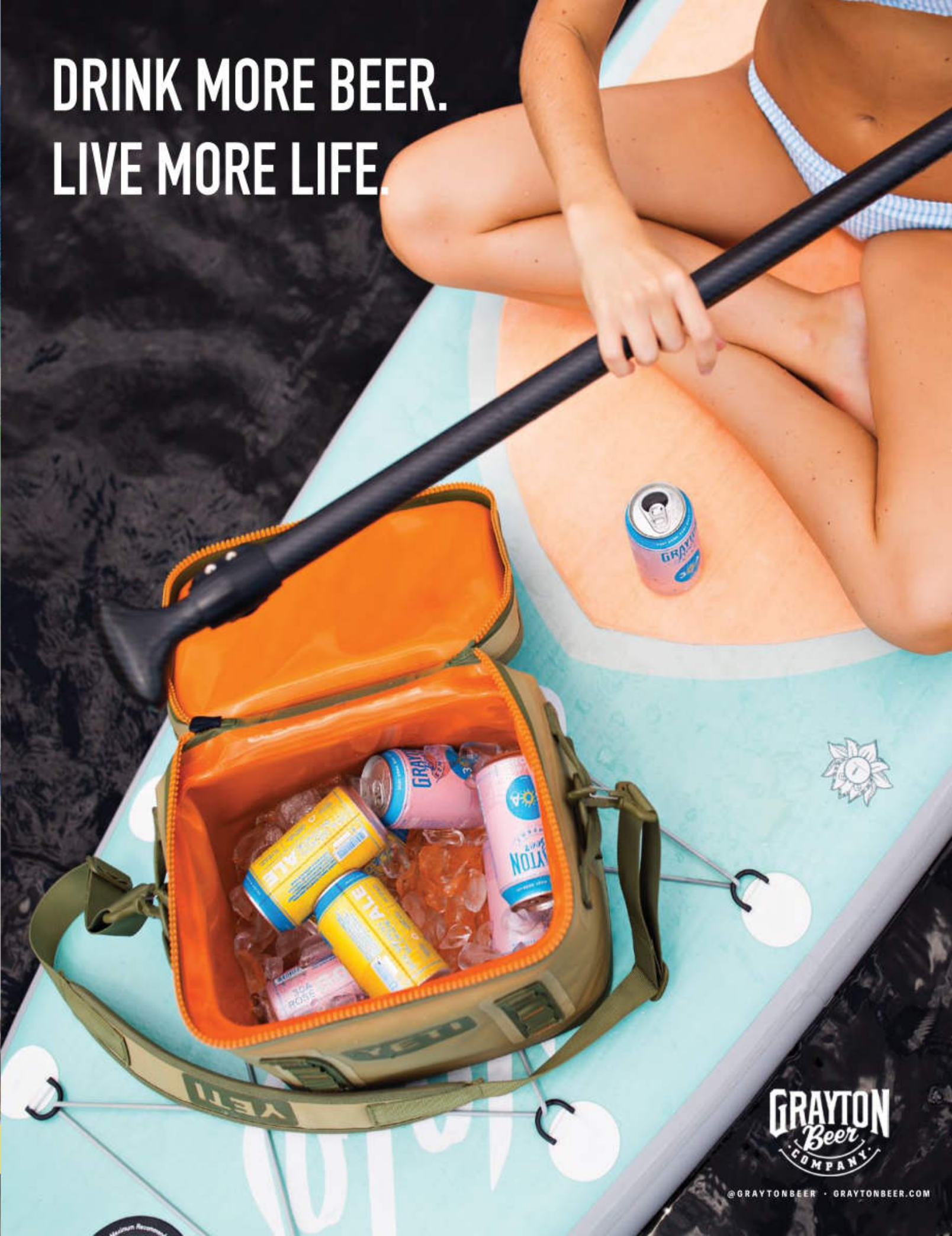
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THE BEACH TOWNS OF 30A

This is a map of our little beach community. Old Florida "State Road 30" once started at the Alabama state line and meandered 283 miles east across the panhandle. Several "alternate routes" (hence the "A" in 30A) offered drivers a slower scenic option, usually along the beach. But we don't think of 30A as disjointed miles of soulless asphalt. 30A® is a celebration of small town beach life – the kind that's been enjoyed by families for decades all along the Gulf Coast. 30A isn't just a line on the map. It's a lifestyle; an attitude. It's that happy place we all dream of when we need to unwind, unplug and celebrate life. – 30A.com



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Introducing Scout Home Watch by Keith Batson, owner of LUXE 30A. Scout Home Watch is tailored to the needs of non-rental homeowners in the beautiful beach communities of Destin and 30A. We go above and beyond to ensure that your private luxury home is cared for, even when you're away. From regular inspections and maintenance checks to security monitoring and emergency response, we've got you covered. Don't let your non-rental home go unattended. Contact Scout Home Watch today and let us take care of your property while you focus on enjoying the finer things in life.

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