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Panama City Beaches Updates

Beaches Get Recognition

- On Tuesday, June 13, 2006 the Tourist Development Council for Panama City Beach received a pleasant surprise in their meeting as Jayna Leach, Director of Marketing, distributed copies of "Southern Living Magazine" to each member.
- In this month's "Florida Living" section, Panama City Beach is prominently featured for their recent beach nourishment project restoring 3.3 million cubic yards of sand to its beaches. According to Jim Lawson, a member of the TDC research shows that Panama City Beach is currently up 4-5% in visitation versus many surrounding destinations. www.wmbb.com (WMBB News 13 Panama City, FL)

CRA plans take shape

- Visitors to Panama City Beach park their cars and catch a ride to their favorite beach access on a motorized tram, pedestrians walk safely on sidewalks along an eight mile stretch of Front Beach Road. It's a future that's taking shape right now on Panama City Beach, as officials there work through the details of implementing some \$400 million in plans made possible by the city's community redevelopment area. www.newsherald.com

Wild Kingdom Theme Park is just the beginning

- Developer Blue Dolphin purchased approx. 7,000 acres for planned attractions, potential commercial, retail and residential projects. A 160 acre theme park and a 15,000 seat amphitheater are now scheduled to join Jim Fowler's "Wild Kingdom". Construction on the amphitheater scheduled to start within nine months.
- The Celebrity Coast Theme Park will feature five major roller coasters, and an indoor glow-in-the-dark miniature golf room, with glowing golf clubs. Ferris said work on the "Celebrity Coast Theme Park" will begin three years from now. www.newsherald.com

Panama City has earned the reputation as one of the premier diving locations in the south

- With access to the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea, the North Pacific Ocean and the Panama Canal, water remains a vital part of the area's economy. With 27 miles of coastline offering ample sites for fishing, swimming, boating, diving and snorkeling.
- From the novice to the skilled divers, the shallow waters around St. Andrew's jetties remain the perfect jumping off point. The best time for diving the waters off Panama City is April through September, yet the warm gulf waters can be enjoyed well into the cooler fall and even winter months. www.newsherald.com

Ripley's Believe It or Not!

- In addition to the interactive and educational exhibits within the museum, there will be a separate attraction called "Ripley's Moving Theater", named for its virtual reality atmosphere. It's a four dimensional ride in which customers wear a pair of 3D glasses to experience wind, water and visual aspects. For one cost customers will partake in two moving film presentations one of which will be a simulation of a roller coaster ride. This unique tourist attraction opened Friday, June 16, 2006. www.wmbb.com (WMBB News 13 Panama City, FL)

In the Know

State of the Arts

- The Summer 2006 issue of **BAY LIFE** features Panama City sixth on the "100 Best Small Art Towns in America" list according to John Villani of MUIT Press. Bay County "state of the arts" is manifested in the quality and variety by the concerts, shows and art exhibits that travel to the area annually, usually equivalent to -if not better than- the efforts of many major metro areas.
- One of the best known is the annual Performing Arts Series that brings top national touring performances to St. Andrews Bay Marina Civic Center. The current well-received productions included "Thoroughly Modern Millie," "cats," "A Chorus Line," "Carousel," "Fiddler on the Roof" and the Bolshoi Ballet. www.baylifemagazine.com
- And there is always the great concerts in the park hosting local talents.

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