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Panama City Beaches Updates

Pier Park Announcement

• Back Porch Seafood House, Reggae J's Island Grill, Ron Jon Surf Shop, Old Navy, Panera Bread, Southern Theatres 16 screen Cineplex and Starbucks have committed to Pier Park. Simon's 130-acre project will have 1 Million plus sf of retail, entertainment and restaurant space and should serve as a major catalyst for growth. www.pierparkretail.com

P.C. Beach Park Receives Praise

- According to Don DeDonatis, CEO of the United States Specialty Sports Association, "Panama City Beach offers the ultimate venue for our sporting needs – excellent facilities, a beautiful beach, affordable lodging, top-grade restaurants and entertainment for the whole family." Frank Brown Park with it's nine full-size baseball/softball diamonds designed for tournament level play, five lighted soccer fields, and a 1.25 mile lighted walking/jogging tract continues to grow in size and use. www.thebeachloversbeach.com
- The new \$4 million dollar Aquatic Center opened May 2006 with a 50 meter Olympic-size heated outdoor competition pool, two 1 meter springboards, and a Kid's Activity Pool with slide. www.aquaticcenterpcb.com

"Wild Kingdom" Theme Park

- After years of planning, negotiating and speculating, its official, the man known for his love of wildlife, Jim Fowler "Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom" TV personality is bringing the wild side to Holmes County. The 1,300 acre theme park will feature a variety of animals, both native and exotic which will roam freely allowing visitors to see them in their natural habitat. Fowler said the parks mission would combine adventure with education.
- Holmes County leaders are excited about the possible \$200 to \$500 million the park is expected to generate over the next 10 years. Along with the economic impact the park will bring several hundreds of jobs to the area. Construction on the park will start within the next 2 years. www.EmeraldCoast.com

Panama City Tops Growth Forecast

• CNN Money.com has predicted Panama City to be the fastest growing city in the United States through 2007. The Federal Aviation Administration released its environmental impact study or EIS and affirmed its support for the construction of a new international airport just north of Panama City Beach. It will be the first commercial airport to be constructed in the US over the past 20 years and the second largest in land mass. Alone, it is projected to provide 12,000 jobs. www.CNNMoney.com

CNN Money.com Fastest Growing City Forecast June 2006–June 2007

Panama City, FL	21%
Wenatchee, WA	16%
Mount Vernon, WA	14%
El Centro, CA	14%
Lakeland, FL	14%
Olympia, WA	13%
Ocala, FL	13%
Yakima, WA	13%
Spokane, WA	12%
Flagstaff, AZ	12%

In the Know

The May 2006 issue of *Florida Trend* features The Boardwalk Beach Resort as the no. 1 resort on their "2006 Florida Summer Vacation Getaway Guide." Overlooking Panama City Beach & Florida's Emerald Coast, the area features magnificent beaches, championship golf, excellent fishing, diving and fine dining. More info can be obtained at www.BoardwalkBeachResort.com