

# THANKFUL

Last week I reported that, when some snowbirds were asked what they were most thankful for, with a wink and a smile, they answered that they were thankful to be here in Destin and away from the ice and cold of their northern homes. That may sound like a lighthearted, whimsical answer, but it actually goes pretty deep. Here is what I heard between the lines. Snowbirds are thankful to have the resources that allow them to take a vacation for two or three months or more. They are thankful that their health is such that they are able to go the distance. They are thankful to have families that encourage and support their travel plans. They are thankful to have discovered the Emerald Coast where the sun shines warm and the residents and businesses always add to that warmth. They are thankful for the wonderful



friendships they have developed over the years. They are thankful for the opportunities to keep their summer games, such as golf and tennis, in shape. And yes, they are thankful to be here, away from the cold winds, ice and snow that is currently blanketing the north. Thanksgiving is a wonderful holiday that affords everyone the opportunity to reflect on all these blessings and more. I hope everyone enjoyed the day abundantly.

For those who are here for the golf, you will be pleased with the discounts and special deals that the local clubs are offering to snowbirds. At Seascope Golf, Beach and Tennis Resort, Pro Shop attendant Jason Weenink has put together a Snowbird Golf League that looks like a lot of fun. It will begin the second week in January. The format will be Dog Fight points and prizes will be awarded each week. For more information, contact Jason at 312-497-7678 or email [seascopegolfclub@gmail.com](mailto:seascopegolfclub@gmail.com).

Karen Kimber of Ontario has taken over the scheduling for the Nine & Wine & Whine league and she has already secured courses and dates for the months of January and February. More information will be coming on that soon. Golf chairman Joe Pierce has been busy meeting with the area golf pros to confirm snowbird discounts and to set up dates for the snowbird 18-hole roaming league. Courses that have agreed to offer snowbird/winter specials include Kelly Plantation, Emerald Bay Golf Club, Regatta Bay Golf and Yacht Club, Indian Bayou, Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort, Shalimar Pointe Golf Club, Blackstone Golf Course, Ft. Walton Beach Golf Club, Rocky Bayou Country Club, Bluewater Bay Golf Course, and Eagle Springs Golf Club formerly known as Defuniak Springs Golf Club.



All of the clubs mentioned have donated gift certificates to be given out as door prizes at our Tuesday morning meetings. The special rates and golf play dates will soon be available on our website, [www.destinsnowbirds.org](http://www.destinsnowbirds.org). Or you can email: [snowbirdgolf@gmail.com](mailto:snowbirdgolf@gmail.com).

Speaking of meetings, the next meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 3, at 10:00 a.m. Rich McDuff, known as Northwest Florida's most popular folk performer and a McGuire regular, will provide the entertainment. Besides popular Irish tunes, the classically-trained guitarist offers a mixture of American country and classic rock. He has a reputation for drawing his audience into the act and will be sure to have everyone clapping their hands and tapping their toes. If you've never heard about "kissing a moose", you'll want to be sure to be there. Also, tickets for the popular lighted boat parade on December 15, will be available for purchase at \$20 pp. Remember, registration will **not** be available before the meeting. Registration will take place on Monday, December 2, from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Destin Community Center.