



August Newsletter

The Taj Renee Community Aquatic Center has had a busy summer. Here are some highlights!

- Destin Dolphins finished another great summer season with their Summer Extravaganza. More than 240 athletes from four local teams competed at the event. The swimmers ranged in age from 5 to 18. The season wrapped up with a week of fun in the pool!
- Coast Aquatics completed an amazing summer season with its 47th annual Sand Dollar meet! The meet is one of the longest running meets in the country. This year's meet featured swimmers from Coast Aquatics, as well as teams from Panama City, Pensacola and Alabama.
- The Taj Renee Community Aquatic Center hosted summer camps from Rocky Bayou and Shalimar United Methodist Church, as well as the Destin Jr. Lifeguard Camp.
- Some local businesses you might see training in our pool include Scuba Tech and Benthic Freedivers. The Destin Beach Lifeguards and the Destin Fire Control District also train in our pool.
- The Taj has also been a popular spot for swimmers from all over the Southeast. Swimmers from at least 30 club teams and universities have trained here during the summer months!

Meet the ROC Pool's new manager!

The ROC Pool has a new facilities manager in Brandi Hernandez, who is bringing in corporate management experience and will be helping the ROC grow and thrive. The Emerald Coast Fitness Foundation took over the management of the ROC in May 2021. Brandi replaces Katie Searles, whose family moved out of the area.

Brandi and her husband, David Hernandez, have a blended family of eight children and share a passion for the pool. David, a retired Navy diver, works at the pool and five of their children are swimmers. David is also the new coach of the Crestview High School team, which just began its second season. Brandi took over the pool's management Aug. 1.

"In the next month, I would like us to work on how we can bring more funds into the pool and bring more awareness of the pool to the community," she said.

A longtime community member, Brandi said she wasn't initially aware of the pool and all of its programs that are available to the public. Currently, the Crestview High School team trains there, as does Coast Aquatics and Rocky Bayou Christian School's team. Parent-tot lessons are available, as are private lessons and extensive lap swim time. Aquacize classes are also offered at the ROC.



Emerald Coast Fitness Foundation

What's up at the Bernie?

Our Tuesday morning Aquacizers are moving with the music! Every weekday morning at 10 a.m., dozens of aquacise students enter the Bernie waters to get their daily dose of exercise.

Aquacise classes are offered at the Bernie on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 7 a.m., weekday mornings at 10 a.m. and Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 6 p.m.



... and there's change on the way!

Regular swimmers at the Bernie may look at the wall at the deep end of the pool and wonder what's missing. The scoreboard which was there for decades has been removed and is being replaced by a new board funded by our friends at Special Warfare. And speaking of...

The Bernie is happy to spread the word about **Military Mondays!**

During July, the Bernie started Military Monday at the Bernie offering instruction to active duty and those aspiring to be in the military. The specialized instruction is donated by our friends at Special Warfare and early responses have been positive. One airman who needed instruction has already passed a swim test as a direct result of this class! It's offered from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Mondays and is a fee-based program.



Emerald Coast Fitness Foundation

Pool loses beautiful soul

The Emerald Coast Fitness Foundation lost a beloved swimmer this summer with the passing of Linda Augustin.

The 59-year-old Niceville woman swam almost every day at the Taj Renee Community Aquatic Center, supplementing her outdoor swims with laps at the Bernie when weather conditions made indoor swimming more practical. She died June 30.



“She was an amazing person inside and out and gave so much of herself to the staff and patrons at the pool,” said Jackie White, the manager at the Taj. “She always came in with a smile.”

Linda would swim for hours at a time, taking full advantage of the only exercise that was available to her. Although she relied on a power wheelchair for mobility, she had gained enough strength to practice walking in Destin’s family pool in the last weeks of her life.

“Her daughter was heading back to school, and she was ready to be more independent,” Jackie said.

Dan, her husband of 36 years, said Linda had been swimming for years and that the two used to swim together at the former YMCA pool in Niceville. He said she needed weightless exercise that she could do without worrying about falling. She loved the pool in Destin.

“She enjoyed being out in the sun,” Dan said. “She always enjoyed being around people. She pretty much swam every day that she could.”

Dan and Linda had three children.

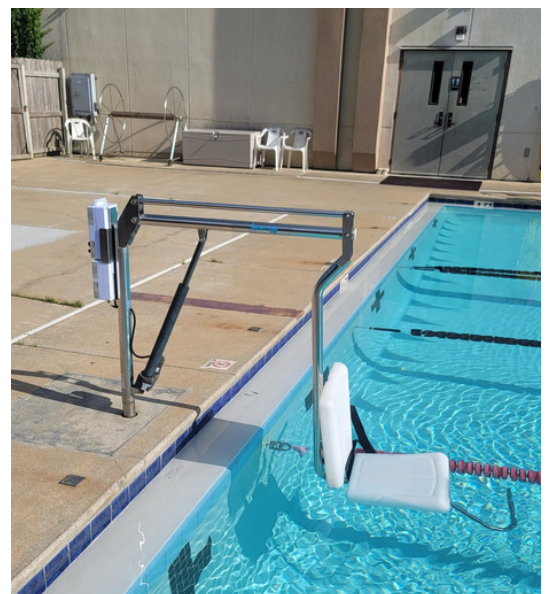
White said Linda is missed at the Taj, but in the days after she died, staff noticed a rainbow over the pool that they like to think represented Linda’s beautiful spirit.

“She was very special to me,” Jackie said.

Crestview Community gives ROC a lift

ROC Pool Manager Katie Searles asked for assistance in providing business sponsors to help fund replacement of the lift. Through crowdsourcing on a popular Crestview Facebook page, nearly \$1,500 was raised in three days, much of it in large cash donations. A big thank you to the Crestview community members who contributed to this important cause.

The pool’s Certified Pool Operators, Jake Dickelman and David Hernandez, installed the lift within weeks of the funds being raised.



The Kiwanis Club of Fort Walton Beach has provided \$3,000 in future water safety funds! Thanks Board Member Paul Singleton for carrying our message to this amazing service club.



Fort Walton Beach (The Bernie)

The schedules have all been updated to reflect the high school swim season, which started at the beginning of August. Good luck to all of our young swimmers!



General Pool Activity Schedule August 1, 2022 to October 22, 2022 (subject to change)

Pool Telephone Number:
850-863-SWIM (7946)

1127 Hospital Road, Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547

Note: Masters Swim and Coast Aquatics are restricted to registered members of those teams. For more info, visit www.coastaquatics.org or find Okaloosa Liquid Dragons (OLD1) on Facebook

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday		
5:00-6:30	Choctaw HS 5-7am	Masters Practice 5-7am	Choctaw HS 5-7am	Masters Practice 5-7am	Choctaw HS 5-7am	Closed	Closed		
5:30-6:00		Choctaw HS 6-7am		Choctaw HS 6-7am				Choctaw HS 6-7am	Lap Swim 6-8 am
6:00-6:30		Aquacize 7-8 am		Lap Swim 7-8:45				Aquacize 7-8 am	Lap Swim 7-8:45 am
6:30-7:00	Lap Swim 7-9 am		Lap Swim 7 am-9 am		Lap Swim 7-9 am	Sat Lessons 8 am			
7:00-7:30	Lap Swim 7-9 am	Lap Swim 7-8:45	Lap Swim 7 am-9 am	Lap Swim 7-8:45 am	Lap Swim 7-9 am	Sat Lessons 8 am			
7:30-8:00								Pool Rental Time	Lessons 9 am
8:00-8:30	Pool Rental Time	Lessons 9 am	Pool Rental Time	Lessons 9 am	Pool Rental Time	Sat Lessons 9 am			
8:30-9:00								Aquacize 10-11 am	Sat Lessons 10:15 am
9:00-9:30	Lunch Bunch Lap Swim 11:15-2:15 pm					Sat Lessons 11:15 am			
9:30-10:00						Sat Lessons 12-2 pm			
10:00-10:30						Lap Swim 1-3 pm			
10:30-11:00							Ft. Walton Beach HS Practice 2:30-4:00pm		
11:15-11:30						Pool Rental Times 2 6pm			
11:30-12:00							Family Swim 3-5 pm		
12:00-12:30						Closed			
12:30-1:00							Closed		
1:00-1:30						Closed			
1:30-2:00							Closed		
2:00-2:30	Closed								
2:30-3:00		Closed							
3:00-3:30	Closed								
3:30-4:00		Closed							
4:00-4:30	Closed								
4:30-5:00		Closed							
5:00-5:30	Closed								
5:30-6:00		Closed							
6:00-6:30	Lap Swim 6-8 pm		Aquacize 6-7 pm	Lap Swim 6-7pm	Lap Swim 6-8 pm	Aquacize 6-7 pm	Lap Swim 6-7pm	Lap Swim 6-8 pm	Family Swim 6-8 pm
6:30-7:00		PM Lessons 7-8pm	Special Olympics	PM Lessons 7-8pm		Closed	Closed		
7:00-7:30	Military Mody	MM		Closed	Closed			Closed	
7:30-8:00			Closed			Closed	Closed		Closed
8:00-8:30	Closed	Closed		Closed	Closed				
8:30-9:00			Closed			Closed	Closed	Closed	

This schedule is subject to change due to weather conditions, mechanical issues, or any problem that affects the safety of our patrons. Additionally, infrequent special events, such as Swim Meets, may cause temporary closure of the facility. Every attempt will be made to minimize the inconvenience to our patrons and notify them in advance of schedule changes.

Bernie R. Lefebvre Aquatic Center is a community pool open to all members of the public, managed by the Emerald Coast Fitness Foundation, Inc., a 501©3 non-profit corporation, located on the grounds of Liza Jackson Preparatory School's Ron Crawford Recreation Center at 1127 Hospital Road, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547 Telephone 850-863-SWIM(7946) email: swimECFF@gmail.com

Pool Schedules

Destin



Taj Renee Community Aquatic Center Pool Activity Schedule Aug 1 - Nov 13, 2022

4345 Commons Drive W, Destin, FL 32541
Pool Telephone Number: 850-837-SWIM (7946)
Email: destinaquatic@gmail.com

The Family Pool will be closed once the air temp is consistently below about 65 degrees. Actual closure date may differ from end of Sept.

SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE: FOR FACILITY STATUS UPDATES, JOIN REMIND APP: TEXT @acdInfo to 81010

Note: Masters Swim, Destin HS and Coast Aquatics are restricted to registered members of those teams. For more info, visit www.coastaquatics.org or find Okaloosa Liquid Dragons (OLDs) on Facebook

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Comp Pool	Family Pool *Thru September*	Comp Pool	Family Pool *Thru September*	Comp Pool	Family Pool *Thru September*	Comp Pool
6:00-6:30							
6:30-7:00	OLD1 Masters Team Practice 6:00-7:30am	Aqua Therapy 6:00-8:00am	OLD1 Masters Team Practice 6:00-7:30am	Aqua Therapy 6:00-8:00am	OLD1 Masters Team Practice 6:00-7:30am	Aqua Therapy 6:00-8:00am	
7:00-7:30							
7:30-8:00							
8:00-8:30							
8:30-9:00							
9:00-9:30		Aquacize 9:00-10:00am		Aquacize 9:00-10:00am		Aquacize 9:00-10:00am	
9:30-10:00							
10:00-10:30		Lessons 10:00-11:00am		Lessons 10:00-11:00am			
10:30-11:00							
11:00-11:30	Lap Swim 7:30am - 3:00pm		Lap Swim 7:30am - 3:00pm		Lap Swim 7:30am - 4:00pm		
11:30-12:00		Lap Swim 6:00am - 4:00pm		Lap Swim 6:00am - 4:00pm		Lap Swim 10:30am-1:00pm	
12:00-12:30							
12:30-1:00							
1:00-1:30							
1:30-2:00		Family Swim 12:00-4:00pm		Family Swim 12:00-4:00pm			
2:00-2:30							
2:30-3:00							
3:00-3:30							
3:30-4:00	Destin HS Practice 3:00-4:30pm		Destin HS Practice 3:00-4:30pm				
4:00-4:30							
4:30-5:00	Coast Aquatics Practice 4:00-6:00pm		Coast Aquatics Practice 4:00-6:00pm		Coast Aquatics Practice 4:00-6:00pm		
5:00-5:30		Coast Aquatics Practice 4:00-5:30pm		Coast Aquatics Practice 4:00-5:30pm			
5:30-6:00							
6:00-6:30	Lap Swim 6:00-7:00pm	Swim Lessons 5:00-7:00pm	Lap Swim 6:00-7:00pm	Swim Lessons 5:00-7:00pm	Lap Swim 6:00-7:00pm		
6:30-7:00		Lap Swim 5:30-7:00pm		Lap Swim 5:30-7:00pm			
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday

This schedule is subject to change due to weather conditions, mechanical issues, or any problem that affects the safety of our patrons. Additionally, infrequent special events, such as swim meets, may cause temporary closure of the facility. Every attempt will be made to minimize the inconvenience to our patrons and notify them in advance of schedule changes whenever possible. Available lanes during lap swim may be limited occasionally due to lane space rentals to outside organizations.

The Taj Renee Community Aquatic Center is a community pool in Destin, FL, which is open to the public, managed by the Emerald Coast Fitness Foundation, Inc. a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, located at 4345 Commons Dr. W, Destin, FL Telephone 850-837-SWIM(7946) email: destinaquatic@gmail.com Patron registration and waiver required. Cash, Check, and Credit/Debit Card accepted.

Crestview (ROC Pool)



Pool Activity Schedule: August 1 – 31, 2022

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
6:00-6:30	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
6:30-7:00							
7:00-7:30							
7:30-8:00	Lap Swim	Lap Swim	Lap Swim	Lap Swim	Lap Swim		
8:00-8:30	Lap Swim	Lap Swim	Lap Swim	Lap Swim	Lap Swim		
8:30-9:00	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim		
9:00-9:30							
9:30-10:00	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim		
10:00-10:30							
10:30-11:00	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim		
11:00-11:30						Lap Swim	AQ
11:30-12:00	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim		
12:00-12:30						Lap Swim	Lap Swim
12:30-1:00	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim		
1:00-1:30						Lap Swim	Lap Swim
1:30-2:00	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim	Open Swim		
2:00-2:30						Lap Swim	Lap Swim
2:30-3:00	CHS	CHS	CHS	CHS	CHS	Open Swim	Lap Swim
3:00-3:30	CHS	CHS	CHS	CHS	CHS		
3:30-4:00	CHS	CHS	CHS	CHS	CHS		
4:00-4:30	CHS	CHS	CHS	CHS	CHS		
4:30-5:00	RBCS	RBCS	Closed	RBCS	RBCS		
5:00-5:40	RBCS	RBCS		RBCS	RBCS		
5:30-6:00	LS	LS	Closed	LS	LS		
6:00-6:30	SL	SL		SL	SL		
6:30-7:00	SL	SL		SL	SL		

SL – Swim Lessons AQ – Aquacize CHS – Crestview High School RBCS – Rocky Bayou Christian School

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Questions? Email: therocpool@gmail.com

Interested in helping or sponsoring a community event for the pool? Contact Community Outreach Coordinator Wendy Rudman at 850-598-0176 or wendyrudman@gmail.com.