



Five college football coaches on the hot seat

SPORTS, 1B

PANAMA CITY

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Which Gulf Coast Jam headliner are you most excited for?

Nathan Cobb
Panama City News Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK

PANAMA CITY BEACH – The Beach is just a few months away from being flooded with waves of country music fans.

With the 2026 Gulf Coast Jam scheduled from May 28-31 in Panama City Beach, the News Herald is taking a poll on which headliner people are most excited to see. Options are Keith Urban, Chris Stapleton, Riley Green and Post Malone.

The poll will close at noon on Feb. 25. Vote at news Herald.com

Where will the festival be held?

The 2026 Gulf Coast Jam will be staged at Frank Brown Park, an outdoor sports complex on the west end of Panama City Beach.

The 2025 festival had a combined attendance of about 100,000 people. This was about 20,000 fewer than in 2023, which holds the record as the best year in the event's history.

Who is performing?

● **Thursday, May 28** – Gannon Fremin & CCREV from 2:30 to 3 p.m., Walker Montgomery from 3:30 to 4 p.m., Cooper Alan from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m., Wyatt Flores from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., Treaty Oak Revival from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. and Keith Urban headlining from 9:15 to 10:30 p.m.

● **Friday, May 29** – Hueston from 2:30 to 3 p.m., Cole Goodwin from 3:30 to 4 p.m., Brent Cobb from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m., Jackson Dean from 6 to 7 p.m., Marcus King from 7:45 to 9 p.m. and Chris Stapleton headlining from 10 to 11:30 p.m.

● **Saturday, May 30** – Hannah McFarland from 2:30 to 3 p.m., Ashland Craft from 3:30 to 4 p.m., Josh Ross from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m., Ole 60 from 6 to 7 p.m., Koe Wetzal from 7:45 to 9 p.m. and Riley Green headlining from 10 to 11:30 p.m.

● **Sunday, May 31** – Skeez from 2:30 to 3 p.m., Them Dirty Roses from 3:30 to 4 p.m., Elizabeth Nichols from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m., 49 Winchester from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., Muscadine Bloodline from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. and Post Malone headlining from 9:15 to 10:45 p.m.

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STUDY: PLANET IS IN WATER BANKRUPTCY



Much of world's population faces severe scarcity

Kaveh Madani
United Nations University | THE CONVERSATION

The world is now using so much fresh water amid the consequences of climate change that it has entered an era of water bankruptcy, with many regions no longer able to bounce back from frequent water shortages. ● About 4 billion people – nearly half the global population – live with severe water scarcity for at least one month a year, without access to sufficient water to meet all of their needs. Many more people are seeing the consequences of water deficit: dry reservoirs, sinking cities, crop failures, water rationing and more frequent wildfires and dust storms in drying regions.

Water bankruptcy signs are everywhere, from Tehran, where droughts and unsustainable water use have depleted reservoirs the Iranian capital relies on, adding fuel to political tensions, to the United States, where water demand has outstripped the supply in the Colorado River, a crucial source of drinking water and irrigation for seven states.

Water bankruptcy is not just a metaphor for water deficit. It is a chronic condition that develops when a place uses more water than nature can reliably replace, and when the damage to the natural assets that store and filter that water, such as aquifers and wetlands, becomes hard to reverse.

A new study I led with the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health concludes that the world has now gone beyond temporary water crises. Many natural water systems are no longer able to return to their historical conditions. These systems are in a state of failure – water bankruptcy.

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Remnants of a boat sit on the dry bed of Lake Urmia, once the largest lake in the Middle East, in northwestern Iran on Dec. 19, 2025. Droughts and unsustainable water use have also depleted reservoirs Iran's capital Tehran relies on, adding fuel to political tensions. MORTEZA AMINOROAYAYI/MIDDLE EAST IMAGES/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

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Bay officials refuse to relocate Pinnacle Port public beach parking

Nathan Cobb
Panama City News Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK

PANAMA CITY – Local officials shot down a request to move public parking about 700 feet further away from Beach Access 98.

In a meeting on Feb. 18, Bay County commissioners denied a request from the Pinnacle Port Community Association to relocate public parking for the access off

of its property. The association hoped for this to help prevent unauthorized entry to the property by people claiming to go to the beach.

“I just have a little heart burn (about this),” Commissioner Robert Carroll said. “The whole point is to have public parking, and we’re moving it ... an extra 700 feet. There are no sidewalks, (so beachgoers are) going to be walking through the roadway.

“The residents of Bay County have a

great place to go to the beach right now (there), and ... it’s a lot more of a hazard putting them 700 feet further than what they already are. Personally, I don’t see the public benefit.”

According to the meeting’s agenda, Pinnacle Port in 2011 granted Bay County public Beach Access 98. This was done as a requirement for beach renourishment funding from the Army Corps of Engineers. The new spots proposed by Pinnacle Port still met the same requirements.

Information from the meeting notes Beach Access 98 is one of the area’s most popular access points. Pinnacle Port Community Association officials said the spots often fill up fast, and then association staff has to spend time turning people away until someone leaves.

“If it’s (one of) the most used, why would we move it?” Carroll said. “Why would we make it more inconvenient for our residents to be able to go to the beach?”

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