

### TREASURE HUNT

#### LOOKING FOR TREASURES:

John Draper of Maine spends some time on a recent Monday afternoon looking for treasures with his metal detector at James Lee Park. This is his first year using the detector and so far his biggest find has been a bullet. For a full report and photos from the snowbirds big gathering at the Community Center Roost, see [thedestinlog.com](http://thedestinlog.com)



KATHY HARRISON | The Log

## 'Hand-Tied': City may have to dredge channel again in short-term

By Matt Algarin  
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Just months after the city scraped sand out of the harbor, dredge work is once again needed to clear out the choked-up navigation channel.

"We could come in and do it right now, but if we had a storm come in, we would just have to do it again," Public Services Director Steve Schmidt told The Log.

While city leaders approved a stabilization plan for Norriego Point Dec. 19, there is no funding for the roughly \$7-\$10 million project yet, so city leaders are looking at ways they can temporarily remedy the problem until funding becomes available.

Meeting this week with

various entities, Schmidt and City Manager Maryann Ustick are discussing alternatives such as the use of geotubes for temporary stabilization.

"Right now we are hand-tied by regulations," Schmidt told The Log.

"We must work above the mean high water line." Basically, the city can move sand, but they cannot put it on top of wet sand, where it's critically needed due to erosion that has shrunk the tip of Norriego Point for years.

Unfortunately for the city, there are problems associated with the continual dredging on the point. As Schmidt has said in the past, the project is a "lose-lose situation" because every time they take eroded sand out of the navigational channel,

they are reducing the overall size of the point.

"It's like putting water into a leaky pool," he said.

Both Schmidt and Ustick know the continual "Band-aid" fixes can only last so long, especially since these quick fixes carry a significant cost.

The last dredge had a \$14,000 price tag. If the city chooses to dredge again, it's likely the cost would be close to the same.

As for the geotube option, Ustick said the city would need to find funding.

After a week of meetings, more information and stabilization options will be presented to city leaders.

"We are trying to choose between some very tough options," Ustick said.

# FREE COUPON CLASSES

**Mon., January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30pm**

**Crestview Church of the Nazarine**  
395 Aplin Road, Crestview, FL

AND

**Weds., January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2:00pm**

**DeFuniak Springs Senior Center**  
312 College Ave, DeFuniak Springs, FL

AND

**Sat., January 7<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am**

**Holmes Cnty Chamber of Comm.**  
106 E. Byrd Ave, Bonifay, FL

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## Deputies: Man jumped from 9th floor of Palms

An investigation into an "apparent suicide" of a local man at the Palms of Destin early Sunday morning is still ongoing, officials from the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office said.

The 36-year-old white male jumped to his death, according to Michele

Nicholson, spokeswoman for the OCSO. He was staying in a 9th floor unit at the resort and was found on the ground near the pool at about 6:54 a.m.

An autopsy was scheduled for Tuesday and the investigation was still active as of press time. More information

will be released once the investigation is complete.

The incident would be the second such suicide in Destin since November, when a 17-year-old Destin boy, was found lying on the ground at Water Place Condominium in Destin.

— Matt Algarin

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## the DESTIN log

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Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment Trustee Council

Help Restore the Gulf

### Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Draft Phase I Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Trustees want to hear from you! A draft plan of proposed early restoration projects is available for public review and comment. The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Draft Phase I Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment describes eight projects, two in each of these states: Alabama, Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi. The projects are intended to benefit injured marshes, coastal dune and nearshore habitats, oysters, and human uses (on water recreation).

The trustees will conduct two public meetings in Florida where you can learn more about the draft restoration plan and comment on it.

#### FLORIDA PUBLIC MEETINGS

Jan. 11, 2012	6:00 – 7:00 PM 7:00 – 9:00 PM	Open House Meeting	Emerald Coast Convention Center 1250 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548
Jan. 12, 2012	6:00 – 7:00 PM 7:00 – 9:00 PM	Open House Meeting	Univ. of W. FL Conference Center 11000 University Parkway, Pensacola, FL 32514

To learn more about Early Restoration, review and comment on the draft plan, visit [www.gulfpillrestoration.noaa.gov](http://www.gulfpillrestoration.noaa.gov) or [www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon). For more information by phone, please contact, Kristin Lock, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 850.245.2112, or Nanciann Regalado, Dept. of the Interior, 678.296.6805.