



Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival Announces Special Shapes

Foley, AL (March 10, 2022): The South Baldwin Chamber of Commerce proudly welcomes three special shape balloons to the 18th Annual Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival presented by Wolf Bay Restaurants. Keep your eyes on the skyline over OWA Parks & Resort on May 12th through 14th for a rare and unique sight. You may just see **Laska the Unicorn**, **Sunny Boy**, or **Humpty** gracing the festival grounds! If you attended the event in 2021, you probably got to see Laska and Sunny Boy in action. We loved them so much we had to invite them back. Special-shaped balloons are always the stars of the show at ballooning events. **Laska the Unicorn** is traveling to us from Land O' Lakes, Florida, flown by Tom Warren, **Sunny Boy** is piloted by Benjamin Drennan of Cordele, Georgia, and **Humpty** is flown by Rich Lawhorn from Louisville, Kentucky.

Over 55 beautiful hot air balloons will be participating in this year's festival and at dusk and dawn, wind and weather permitting, they will be rising to fly in our South Baldwin skies for all to see. Along with balloons at dusk and dawn and balloon tethered rides (both weather permitting), there are lots of activities for everyone to enjoy at the festival throughout each day. A complete schedule of events including balloon glows, entertainment, and other incredible activities can be found on our website.

Here is a quick look at the festival schedule:

Thursday, May 12 – 5:00 pm - 10:00 pm = Event open to public, Balloon Glow and Live Entertainment.

Friday, May 13 – 11:00 am - 10:00 pm = Festival open to the public with arts and craft vendors, children's activities, Tropic Falls at OWA, and live entertainment.

Saturday, May 14 – 11:00 am - 10:00 pm = Festival open to the public with arts and craft vendors, children's activities, Tropic Falls at OWA., and live entertainment.

For the complete list of activities, visit gulfcoastballoonfestival.com/schedule. Follow, like and share the updates from the Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

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About OWA Parks & Resort: Award-winning OWA Parks & Resort in Coastal Alabama is owned and operated by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. OWA's name is derived from a Creek word for "big water," and the tropical theme of the 520-acre property was inspired by the Gulf of Mexico, minutes away via the Foley Beach Express.

At the heart of OWA is Tropic Falls, which includes a 23-ride theme park, outdoor wave pool and the region's largest indoor water park—bigger than a football field and covered by a convertible roof. Just outside the ticketed areas is Downtown OWA. This pedestrian-only streetscape was inspired by Southern small towns and features numerous options for dining, shopping, and entertainment.

The destination resort offers a full calendar of events, from Downtown OWA's own Mardi Gras Parade to the annual Christmas tree lighting with fireworks and snowfall. With its own award-winning TownePlace Suites by Marriott, OWA is the place in Coastal Alabama to thrill, then chill.

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