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TITLE:Beaches get national applause

SECTION:Business

PUBDATE:Tuesday, February 7, 2006

HEADLINE:Beaches get national applause

SUBHEAD:Magazine includes Panama City Beach in best list

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TEXT:Panama City Beach continues to pull in the accolades for its pristine beaches, as it received a new honor this month from a nationally renowned travel magazine. [Conde Nast](#) Traveler

included Panama City Beach in its list of the 20 Best Beaches in America.

The list appeared in the magazine's February 2006 issue, available this week at newsstands.

Jayna Leach, director of sales and marketing for the Panama City Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau, said this was the first time in the eight years she has been with the CVB that [Conde Nast](#) has honored the beach. The magazine informed the CVB of Panama City Beach's inclusion on the list in a Jan. 31 letter. Leach said she has received a lot of calls from other destinations and tourism industry professionals, congratulating Panama City Beach on the honor. "This is just really huge for the industry and the destination," Leach said. [Conde Nast](#) Traveler has a circulation of 777,231 and was named the Best Travel Magazine in the 2005 Zagat Survey.

Other destinations included in [Conde Nast](#) Traveler's Best Beaches list include Clearwater, Naples, South Beach, South Padre Island, Texas, Cumberland Island, Ga., and Martha's Vineyard, Mass.

In addition to the honor, the magazine also included Panama City Beach in its "Places and Prices" column, highlighting the lodging, dining, and nightlife available to area visitors.

Leach said travel writer Ron Hall wrote the Best Beaches article. She said she met with Hall last year when he unexpectedly dropped into the Visitors Information Center.

After a brief interview, Hall went and explored Panama City Beach on his own, Leach said.

In his article, Hall mentioned his stay at the Edgewater Beach Resort, and the area's ongoing transition from a Spring Break destination to one that's more upscale.

Leach said the magazine specifically cited Panama City Beach for its soft, white sand, beautiful beaches, rich tropical wildlife and a large variety of accommodations.

What's all the fuss?

See for yourself why Panama City Beach is great to view by linking to Web cams at several beach hot spots at www.news Herald.com.

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