

Former Waffle House president/COO, and now Vice Chair Emeritus and author of the book *Find an Old Gorilla*, **Bert Thornton**, will be the guest speaker at the November Panhandle Tiger Bay Club meeting on Nov. 18.

The meeting will be held on **Friday, November 18 at New World Landing**. Lunch will be served at 11:30 AM and the program will begin at noon.

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**Don't miss the  
November meeting!**

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or call 850-293-1902.**



Panhandle Tiger Bay Club gives you what you can't get anywhere else! The quality speakers we have been bringing you cost the Club. We have

## November Meeting: Bert Thornton



### Former Waffle House Executive and Author Bert Thornton

Former Waffle House president/COO, and now Vice Chair Emeritus and author of the book *Find an Old Gorilla*, **Bert Thornton**, will be the guest speaker at Panhandle Tiger Bay Club on Nov. 18.

Speaking on success tactics, mentoring, and his 40-year career at Waffle House, Thornton will share his personal reflections and advice on leadership, branding and his common-sense approach to

established a Sponsorship Committee to find sponsors to help fund these esteemed guest speakers. If you are interested in your business being a sponsor, please contact [Glenda Raines, Sponsorship Committee Chairman](#) at 850-995-0769.

We offer 4 sponsorship packages:

**Platinum Sponsor** - A reserved table for 8 for the duration of the year, sponsor will be introduced and given 5 minutes to speak about your company, your logo will be on display on the Sponsor Board at every luncheon and will be included in all Panhandle Tiger Bay media coverage prior to specific luncheon.

**Gold Sponsor** - A package of 4 luncheon tickets, your logo will be on display on the Sponsor Board at every luncheon and will be included in all Panhandle Tiger Bay media coverage prior to specific luncheon.

**Silver Sponsor** - A package of 2 luncheon tickets, your logo will be on display on the Sponsor Board at every luncheon and will be included in all Panhandle Tiger Bay media coverage prior to specific luncheon.

**Friend of Tiger Bay** - This includes 1 guest luncheon ticket and recognition of your business at the luncheon.

customer service that have proven to be successful at Waffle House. He will answer your burning questions about Waffle House, as well as autograph copies of his book, *Find an Old Gorilla*, a handbook for the development of emerging leaders.

During Thornton's tenure at Waffle House, he grew the business from fewer than 100 restaurants to over 2000 and has served in every capacity of the restaurant from the griddle to president/COO. He even introduced his world famous "Bert's Chili" to us, which is a staple on the menu today with over 11 million bowls being served each year. If we are lucky, he may share the recipe with us.

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Fellow Tigers,

Many of us have heard the purported Chinese Curse: "May you live in interesting times."

Although the attribution and authenticity of those words lack factual bases, I am confident that many of us accept as fact that recent times have not lacked their generational measure of crisis and confusion.

I am writing this with only seven days left until the 2016 general election. Regardless of next Tuesday's result and which party takes this office or that chamber, our community will need the Panhandle Tiger Bay Club as much, if not more, than it has in our nearly 40-year history.

As we approach our 40th anniversary, I have asked the board of directors to help us achieve three goals: increase our visibility, expand the scope of our programs, and become a larger and more diverse organization. Each of these three points supports the others and is critical to our success in 2017-2018 and beyond.

To begin reaching these goals, in recent weeks, board members and I have been busy on all fronts.

We are using face-to-face meetings and other media to expand Tiger Bay's connections and bonds to the Pensacola area's commercial, educational, professional, and military communities.

We have met with representatives of Pensacola

Young Professionals (PYP) and the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition (IHMC). I expect that we shall meet with other area organizations, businesses, and figures over the next few weeks as well, and we hope that you will soon see new faces at our monthly meetings and events. In the next few weeks, Mr. Jack Stevenson, our Vice President for Membership, will be leading initiatives to help attract new members.

Our Club website and social media are in the process of examination, revision, and overhaul into a more accessible, dynamic, and engaging presence that informs everyone. I especially appreciate the work that Ms. Jena Melançon, Mr. Josh Newby, and Mr. Wesley Odom have done to enhance our presence in cyberspace.

Mr. Jeff Weeks, our Vice President for Programs, has found exciting speakers and is developing other prospective speakers for later events.

Led by Mrs. Caroline Kelly, we are considering changes to how we conduct our monthly meetings, so that members have more time to meet with each other, to network, to hear our speakers, and discuss their insights.

We are working to expand our connections to local media. Mrs. Sheila Nichols has done remarkable work to get the word out about Tiger Bay. Please keep your eye on the Pensacola News Journal for a Viewpoint about Tiger Bay as well.

I could write pages about the energy and innovation our board of directors possesses, but every member of Tiger Bay contributes and is vital to the success of our club!

Each of us has a circle of people we know and influence. People listen to our opinions and we take the insights Tiger Bay gives us to our churches, schools, homes, and places of work.

One thing I have learned over the past five years is that there is a real desire for what Tiger Bay does, especially among young people. The younger people we need to bring into Tiger Bay are not always present in those places where we are most often, so I want to leave you with a few notes we heard from a young person we hope joins the club.

Young people today are looking for older and experienced people to help them find their way-young people today want pathfinding. These are very uncertain times for many people, especially the young, and many of the traditional ways we have shaped our thoughts, opinions, and decisions are changing and disappearing. Something new must now fill the void-this is the empty space where young people will choose to join us. As you see these newer people at our meetings, please take a few minutes to engage with them and get to know them.

We provide something that many people want but only a few have found, so let's help them.

Thank-you again for giving me the privilege to be part of Panhandle Tiger Bay and to continue the good work started by my predecessors: Mrs. Jo Jones and Mr. Charles Gund.

As always, if you have any ideas, I am eager to hear them!

Sincerely,  
Edwin Howard  
President  
Panhandle Tiger Bay Club

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## ■ October Meeting Recap: Dr. Martha Saunders of UWF



Dr. Martha Saunders, incoming president of the University of West Florida effective January 2017, spoke on October 21 about her vision for UWF. She shared her desire to raise the awareness of the university in the global community through building on apprentice programs, logistics and cybersecurity.

Dr. Saunders shared how her background of growing up in Mississippi, being a Marine Corps spouse and raising seven children helped shape her dedication to higher education. She spoke of her commitment to students, wishing them to give feedback and engage in their education with faculty.

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