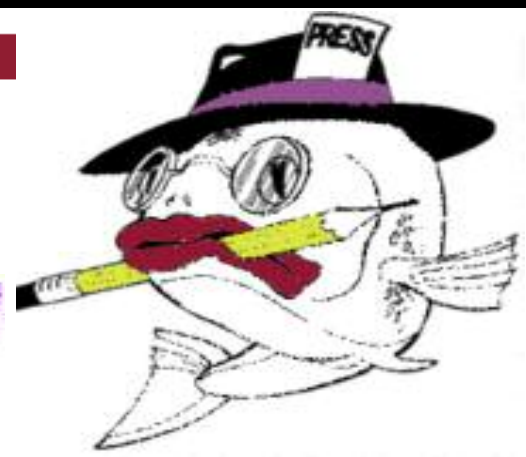


MULLET wrapper .com



251-967-3344 • Sept. 10-24, 2008 • Local News • Views • Photos • 850-492-5221



Island eatery earns national recognition while “thinking local” LuLu’s at Homeport Marina

Her brother Jimmy first made "Cheeseburgers in Paradise" world-famous in a song. And since opening LuLu's at Homeport Marina on Fat Tuesday of 2004, Jimmy's sister Lucy has been making her "crazy sista" version of those burgers in Gulf Shores (now using natural, grass-fed South Alabama beef - the only restaurant in the state doing so) with only the freshest garnishments. LuLu's is now earning a world-famous reputation on its own account thanks to Lucy and her recently published cookbook, "Crazy Sista Cooking: Cuisine and Conversation," which has been featured on The Today Show and in other regional and national media. LuLu's at Homeport Marina, located under the Hwy. 59 Intracoastal Waterway Bridge, is arguably South Alabama's most popular restaurant for locals and tourists alike. In addition to live music nightly, its Saturday afternoon Fresh Art Market and Saturday evening family movies on LuLu's Beach, it hosts popular special events like LuLuPalooza, Noon Year's Eve, the Mardi Gras Boat Parade and BooLu's Haunted House. Plus, Lulu's has now initiated a green theme (see page 32 story) that includes plans to install a 40 ft. wind generator on Sept. 23 to power LuLu's outdoor bar and kitchen, The Bama Breeze, another first for Alabama restaurants.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

As part of Clean Island Initiative, LuLu's at Homeport will install wind generator to power outside bar/kitchen

By Fran Thompson

LuLu's at Homeport Marina, which has already set the bar to the sky when it comes to family dining from the Fat Tuesday that it opened on the Intracoastal Waterway four years ago, is now taking a leadership role in the greening of South Baldwin County.

The Gulf Shores restaurant has partnered with Gulf Shores and Orange Beach and The Alabama Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce to form the Clean Island Initiative.

"LuLu's is making environmentally conscious changes that hopefully will serve as a model for other local restaurants," said general manager Johnny Fisher. "Some of those changes include eliminating styrofoam, using cups made from corn, monitoring energy consumption and recycling paper and cardboard."

On September 23, the restaurant will install Baldwin County's first wind generator, a 40 ft. windmill that will supply power to the Bama Breeze, LuLu's outdoor bar and kitchen. Fisher summed up the project perfectly:

"The Bama Breeze will be powered by the 'Bama breeze.'"

LuLu's generated 510 tons of refuse in 2007, enough to fill 69 tractor trailers.

"That's disgusting," Fisher said. "We hope to significantly reduce that this year."

LuLu's, owned by Jimmy Buffett's little sister Lucy, has been a big part of the beach community and innovative in its approach to providing a full dining experience ever since Lucy moved her business from its quaint cottage at the mouth of Weeks Bay to a marina on the Intracoastal Waterway. As one who has always questioned what's normal, Lucy enlisted the help of a buddy with a barge and, literally, moved the whole venue by water.

"The three most important words we can hear from people who eat here are 'we'll be back,'" Fisher said. "New ideas are part of that. We're always looking for something new and exciting."

The quality of the musicians that Fisher books nightly at LuLu's is in itself worth the trip there. Local music icon Brent Burns - the Alabama Gulf Coast CVB's official musical ambassador - has played there every Monday from the beginning. Gatemouth Brown visited twice before he passed away. The amazing Will Kimbrough, a Mobile native, plays there several times each year. Honey Boy Edwards, a bluesman who helped invent that genre, a grammy award winning national treasure, has also played there. And while parents enjoy a post dinner beverage and listen to the first rate music inside, the children can frolic with their peers on LuLu's Beach and slurp down a snowball from the stand in the middle of that beach.

LuLu's will host the IRA Professional Redfish Tour on Sept. 13 (weigh-in starts at 3 p.m.) and a voter registration party featuring political candidates on Oct. 18.

"We are always challenging ourselves to do something new," Fisher said. "We'll never stick with the status quo."

LuLu's Fresh Art Market features local artists at work in the restaurant's outside gazebo every Sunday from 11-4 p.m. Events like Memorial Weekend's LuLupalooza, BooLu's Haunted House, Billy Claus, the Nautical Night of Light Lighted Boat Parade and Noon Year's Eve Party have already become fixtures on the local calendar. And many of those special events raise funds to promote art education in Baldwin County public schools through the owner's foundation.

And speaking of Lucy. She describes her restaurant like this on the LuLu's website:

"LuLu's is a state of mind, really. It's a great escape, a great family spot. We're all about good food, good folks, good music, and good times. A place to confirm that 'life is good.'"

"LuLu's is making environmentally conscious changes that hopefully will serve as a model for other local restaurants"

music by Cliff & Friends.

• **PZK Center Dance w. Jim & John:** 7-10; Robertsdale; 947-5155.

• **Christ Centered 12 Step Recovery Program for any Hurts, Habits and Hang-ups:** 6 p.m. every Friday; Liberty Church. 2221 S. Blue Angel Pkwy; daycare and dinner provided; 850-492-4857

• **Foley Rotary Club:** 12:15 p.m.; Gift Horse Restaurant in Foley; foleyrotary@gulftel.com.

• **Swing & Latin Dancing:** every Friday night; lessons at 7:30, dance at 8:30; smoke and alcohol free; admission \$5; Bayview Community Center, 2000 Lloyd St. in Pensacola; 850-433-6287.

• **Alcoholics Anonymous:** noon; Perdido Bay Community Center; 13660

Innerarity Pt. Rd.; 850-492-3056 or 492-6362.

• **Alcoholics Anonymous and Alanon:** Our Lady of the Gulf in Gulf Shores at noon; AA and Alanon at Holy Spirit Episcopal Church in Gulf Shores at noon; AA at Holy Spirit Episcopal Church in Gulf Shores at 5:30 p.m.; 800-477-1104.

SAT, SEPT 20

• **21st Annual Coastal Clean Up:** 8 a.m. til noon; volunteers needed; 251-621-1216 for Pleasure Island & 492-1838 for Perdido Key.

• **Sandcastle Cinema at LuLu's at Homeport Marina in Gulf Shores;** 8-9:45 p.m.; Charlie & The Chocolate

Factory; 251-967-5858.

Date: 9/20/2008

• **Nunsensations:** 7:30 p.m.; South Baldwin Community Theatre in Gulf Shores; 251-968-6721.

• **Kristen Duncan in Concert;** 8 p.m.; free; Marina Boardwalk at The Wharf; 224-5503.

• **Flora-Bama Showcase Youth Soccer Tournament:** Orange Beach Sportsplex and Baars Field in Perdido; 60 teams U10 to U18; 850-207-5910.

• **13th Annual Orange Beach Spearfishing Tournament;** weigh ins from 5-7 p.m.; free; Tacky Jack's Marina, Orange Beach; 251-604-9744.

• **Optimist Club of Perdido Bay:** breakfast every Saturday at 7 a.m. at

Full Time ART Show-Over 125 Artists

Large Jewelry Department

20 Jewellery Artists

Artistic Gifts
Prints & Giclees
Original Art
Matting & Framing
Local, Regional & International Artists



Marine Life
In Metal Sculpture
by Frank Ledbetter
8 Pottery Artists
Crystals & Fossils
Fish with Attitude

Rainbow Prisms

The Prosperous Pelican

Located in Lester's Restaurant Plaza
Mon.-Sat. 10-6 • 251-981-2022

"Off The Beach, But Not Out of Reach"

FishTales

AT The WHARF



Open 7 Days A Week
Lunch and Dinner
224.1910

Happy Hour 4PM - 6 PM
\$1 off well drinks and domestic beers

Menu

Bites
Fried Crab Claws
Fried Okra
Smoked Tuna Dip
Homemade Gumbo

Sandwiches
The "Big Burger"
Fish Sandwich
Grilled Chicken Sandwich

Platters
Alabama Boil
BBQ Spare Ribs
Mullet Platter
Grilled Scallops

Baskets
Fried Shrimp Basket
Fried Oyster Basket

Salads
FishTales Windward Salad
Cabo Salad
Shrimp Salad
FishTales Port Side Salad

Cary Laine Every Saturday Night
6PM - 10PM