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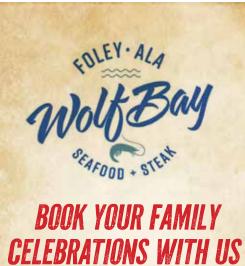
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RED WHITE AND BLUE

Local business helps everyone become more patriotic

LOCAL FOCUS

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ON THE COVER: Surf Fishing Guide Jordan Gooding with G2 Coastal. Photo provided by G2 Coastal

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REEL ADVENTURES

BY LINDA WILLIFORD

The Gulf Coast is a true angler's paradise, offering a variety of fishing experiences from freshwater to saltwater fishing. No matter what your skill level, you are sure to find an interesting or fantastic "reel" story to embellish as you share it with friends and family.

Jordan Gooding owns and operates G2 Coastal, which is a guided surf fishing business. Gooding says, "No need to leave dry land when you can catch fish right off the beach." He provides all the gear, so all you have to do is show up and start fishing. Gooding says that it's not uncommon to catch five or more species in a single guided fishing trip. The best times of the year are spring and fall, and the best times of the day are around sunrise and sunset. Go to www.G2coastal.com for more info about surf fishing.

Suppose you want to specifically shark fish from the beach, contact Kyle Mac, owner and operator of K.M. Shark Fishing Charters and Surf Fishing Excursions. His business is based in the Pensacola area due to the blood baiting ordinance laws in

Orange Beach and Gulf Shores. Mac says, "We use giant bait like stingrays and go out about 400 + yards in a kayak and drop off your bait while you fish from shore." They offer various package plans that cater to the whole family. They generally fish at night for 6 hours and provide all the fishing gear along with chairs. Mac says, "We catch, tag, and release for NOAA. (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) One of the NOAA's missions is to help conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources. For more information about shark fishing, contact Kyle Mac on Facebook.

The bowfishing experience might pique your interest. Captain Dustin Mizell says they can set up freshwater or saltwater trips. He says, "Since fish can see you, it's better to fish at night." Mizell has 18 years of experience and has worked with clients ranging from 4 to 96 years old. He says they have smaller bows for children. He provides quick training before the boat departs. Captain Mizell says, "Most people shoot stingrays because they are bigger targets. The largest stingray caught was 30 lbs." And he added, "You

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Photos provided by Captain Dustin Mizell with Fish Kabob.Com

can also eat Stingrays." For more information, visit fishkabob.com.

Another interesting method of fishing is spearfishing. Spearfishing combines scuba diving with hunting. Chris Kendrick, owner of Southern Patio and Screen in Summerdale, says, "We scuba dive 10 miles out 100 feet deep water when spearfishing for Flounder or Snapper. We go further out for Grouper, Sheepshead, Amberjack, and Lobster. It all depends on what you are fishing for." Kendrick participates in many tournaments and comes home with trophies. He says, "Anything you can catch with a rod and reel, you can catch spearfishing." When scuba diving, sharks usually show up. Kendrick says, "That's because they are inquisitive and want to see what you are. If you are in 100 feet deep water and they have clear vision of you and they know you are not bait fish or prey, then they will not bother you."

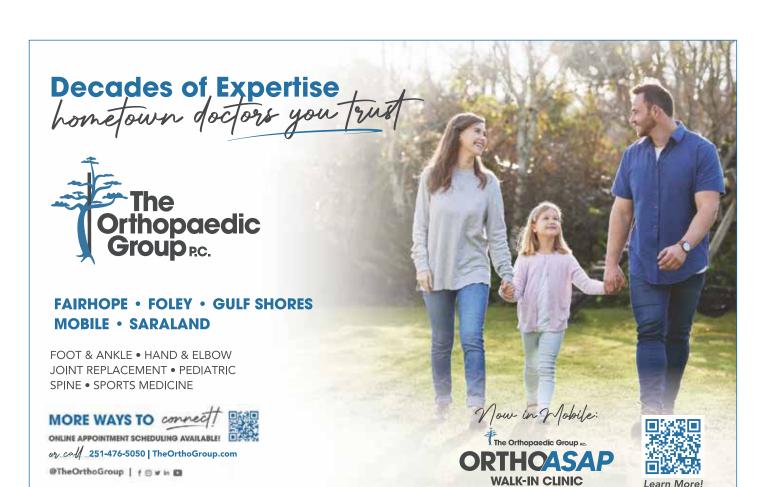
Anglers who fish from the Gulf State Park pier can catch some interesting species. The pier is 1,540 feet long and 22 feet deep at the end of the pier. According to Travis Milton, pier manager, "The best time to fish the pier is early morning around 5:00 a.m. or in the evening around 7 or 8 p.m." Other than an occasional landing of octopus or shark, the most common fish caught at the pier are Redfish, Sheepshead, Pompano, and Spanish & King Mackerel. A little tip from Milton, "The lighter your fishing line, the better. Because the line is not as visible to the fish."

The pier offers an Angler's Academy class for those who want to gain skills in saltwater pier fishing. Check www.OutdoorAlabama. com for information on fish and size limits.

If you want to go out on the open sea with a small group, consider chartering a boat. Ari Looney with Tight Line Charters in Orange Beach says, "We generally take about three to four people out for four hours. Tight Line Charters provide all the necessary gear, except for food and drink. They usually go about nine miles out, which is the State water boundary line. Looney suggests Dramamine for those who are concerned about motion sickness. Looney said that one of the coolest unusual catches he had was a Mantis Shrimp, which was between a foot and a foot and a half long. "I didn't know what it was at first until I did the research," he said. The Mantis Shrimp has an exceptionally powerful punch, comparable to that of a .22 caliber bullet. Tight Line Charters will clean and fillet your fish for you, and they will also recommend a couple of restaurants that will cook your catch. Website: www. fishtightlinecharters.com.

Whether you are a true angler or a recreational fisher, the Alabama Gulf Coast has it all and is enjoyed by millions.

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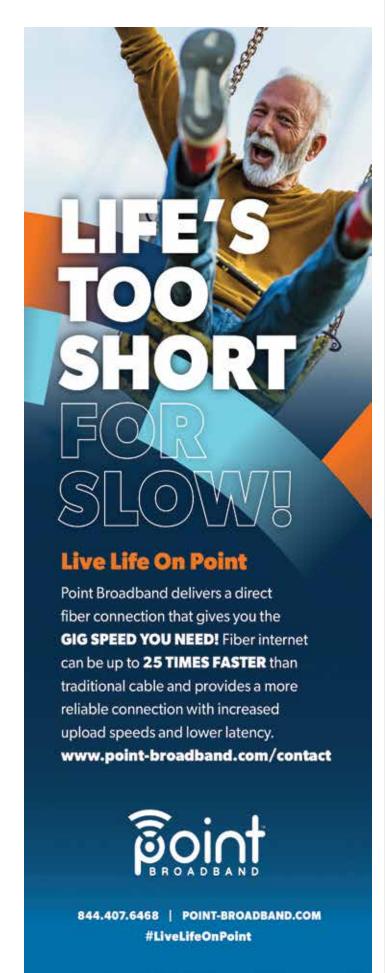
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RECIPES

Sotto Rustico



From the kitchen of Cheri Robinson

- 2 CELERY STALKS, DICED
- 8 OZ. SLICED MUSHROOMS
- 32 OZ. CHICKEN STOCK
- 1-1/2 CUPS ARBORIO RICE
- 1 CUP SLICED CARROTS
- A COUPLE OF HANDFULS OF BABY SPINACH
- 2 TBS BUTTER
- 2 TBS OLIVE OIL
- ITALIAN SEASONING

DIRECTIONS

- Brown sausage in skillet, breaking it apart as it cooks. Remove to bowl.
- Add a little olive oil to the skillet and sauté onion, carrots, celery and mushrooms until mushrooms release their liquid and begin to brown.
- Remove to bowl.
- Add 2 Tbsp. Butter and 2 Tbs olive oil to skillet and then add arborio rice.
 Stir to coat and sauté until the rice begins to turn golden.
- Heat chicken stock in saucepan and add a ladle full of stock to risotto in skillet and stir constantly until liquid is absorbed.
- Continue adding stock, a ladle at a time, and stirring frequently. The key to creamy risotto is to cook low and slow and stir often.
- After you have added half the stock add the vegetables and sausage to the skillet and mix thoroughly.
- Continue adding stock and stirring. Add spinach and stir until wilted.
- When all the stock has been absorbed sprinkle with Italian seasoning and Parmesan cheese if desired.



PATRIOTIC LEGACY

BY LINDA WILLIFORD

"We are red, white, and blue to the core," said Nikki Rye. She and her husband, Troy, are the owners and operators of the American Legacy store in Gulf Shores. They sell patriotic and presidential merchandise. Nikki Rye said, "We believe in our mission and our country and want to inspire and preserve the deep red, white, and blue. We want to remind people of our country's values where families of veterans can be seen and heard."

The Rye family has a military background. Troy is an Army veteran, and they have a son in the Navy. Nikki's brother is in the Air Force, her brother-in-law is in the Marines, and their youngest

son is a police officer. Even Nikki's grandfather was killed fighting in WWII.

Nikki Rye said, "I don't sell anything negative. We print clean and positive patriotic merchandise. We want to have a positive impact in our community."

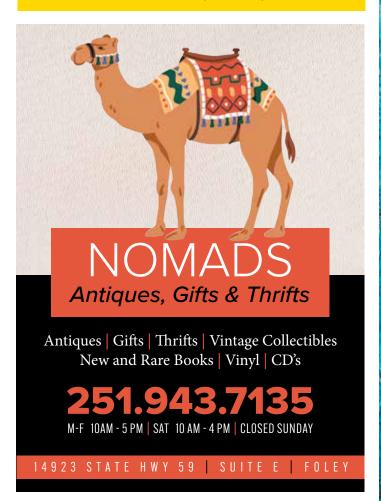
The Ryes moved here from St. Petersburg, Florida; she said, "We came here for two weeks in July of last year to set up a mobile Trump Store on County Road 12 and Hwy.59 in Foley. We fell in love with the area, with the people, and with the community. So, we decided to relocate here. They recently opened a storefront in Gulf Shore.

Along with operating the storefront, the Ryes stay busy trav-

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eling with their two mobile Trump Stores, serving as vendors for rallies and events. They attend many events, including rallies and dinners involving President Trump. Even though they participate in these events, Nikki said that they have not shaken President Trump's hand because the closest they have been to him has been within two feet of him.

Although the store sells a majority of presidential merchandise, Nikki emphasized that they sell all things patriotic — the red, white, and blue, our country's freedom, and our veterans. Nikki Rye says, "Sometimes, we will have people come into the store that don't agree with our political views, but we welcome all with respect, especially the veterans. We appreciate all those who have fought for our country, and we respect their opinions." She added that the store carries a whole line of products for the veterans.

American Legacy is becoming well known to the point that they are being invited to many events. They are invested in the Veteran's non-profit programs in Gulf Shores and have done events with the American Legion for Police and Fire Departments. Recently, they participated in a "Jeepin" event with 20,000 bikers in Biloxi, MS. They also had the opportunity to set up in Washington, D.C., for the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army and President Trump's 79th birthday.

On the 4th of July, Nikki said they will have a big red, white, and blue sale. When you visit the store, you will probably meet Nikki's mother, Brenda, who is another patriotic member of the family. Her mother is a huge asset to the store and is very supportive of the business. Store hours are Monday-Saturday 10-6 and Sundays 12-5. Website: www.freedommerch.shop See ad on page 10.



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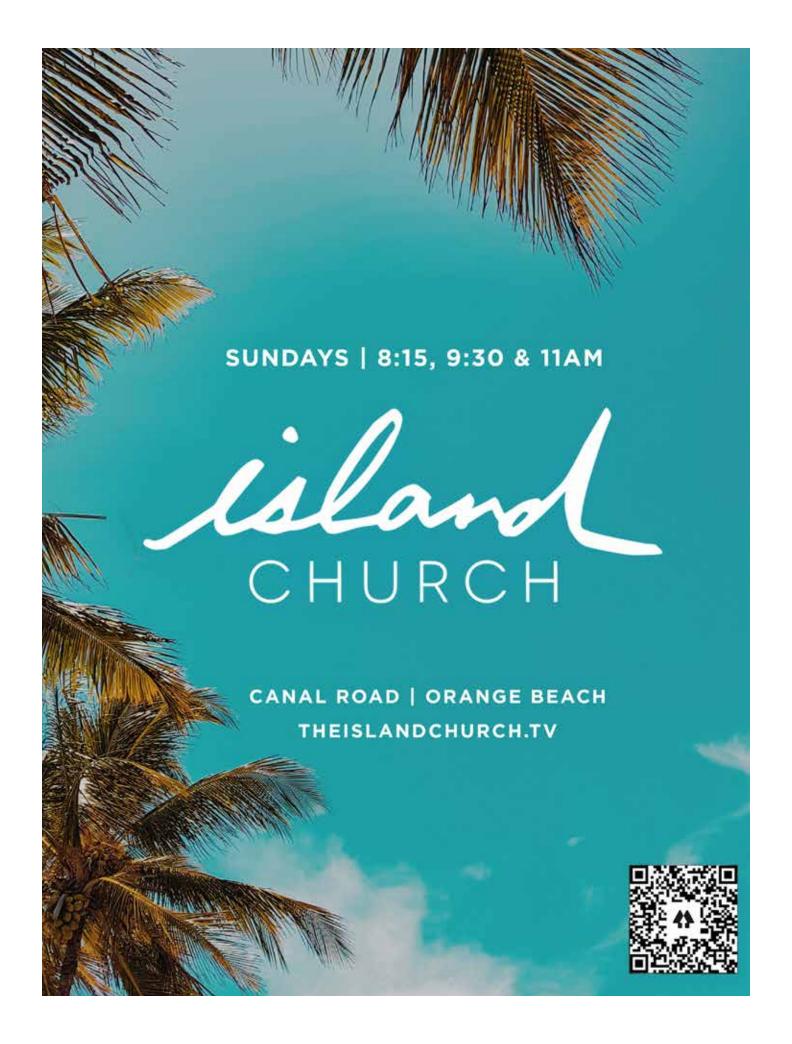
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