

# Seafood festival serves up weekend fun, food

## ■ Local flavor on tap beginning Friday

**By Keri Holt**  
(850) 654-8443  
keri\_holt@link.freedom.com

True Destin seafood will be in abundance more than ever at the 29th annual Destin Seafood Festival, set to kick off Friday.

For the first time, the event has a large corporate sponsor — Legendary Inc., — bringing with it three local restaurants: Grande Vista Bar & Grill, Rutherfords 465 and Tony's Ristorante.

Combine those with the five local Southern Restaurant Group restaurants, returning to the festival this year — The Back Porch, Café Grazie, Fisherman's Wharf, Louisiana Lagniappe and Pompano Joe's — and this weekend's festival will serve up more local seafood dishes than ever.

"We are very pleased that we've added more local restaurants to the mix," said Shane Moody, Destin

Area Chamber president and CEO. "Being able to share our great local fare with the attendees at the festival is what the festival is all about. It also shows the sense of community that these restaurants feel — it is all about Destin and the great dining experiences you can have here."

The Southern Restaurant group stepped up in 2006 to bring Destin seafood back to the Destin Seafood Festival. In previous

---

Please see **FUN** on **A8**

## EVENT INFO

- Friday through Sunday at the Morgan Sports Complex in Destin.
- Admission is \$5 per day or \$10 for the entire weekend. Advance tickets may be purchased at the Destin Area Chamber of Commerce. Doors open Friday at 4 p.m.
- Event parking is available at The Track Recreation Center, Emerald Coast Centre and Grace Lutheran Church. Parking is available at the church Friday, Saturday and Sunday after 12:30 p.m.
- For more festival information, visit [www.DestinSeafoodFestival.org](http://www.DestinSeafoodFestival.org).

# FUN

Continued from page A1

years, the majority of the vendors featured out-of-town seafood or non-seafood items.

The issue arose several years ago when harbor construction caused the festival to move from its original location on the Destin harbor, which was in close vicinity to many seafood restaurants, to the Morgan Sports Center. It became more difficult for local restaurants to transport food to the festival and provide the additional staff to man their booth, said Moody.

Responding to the outcry that local restaurants had turned their backs on the Destin Seafood Festi-

val, John Comer, CEO of the Southern Restaurant Group, brought all five of his local seafood restaurants to the 2006 festival. And now he's excited to bring them back, he said.

"We are happy to do our part to help the Destin Chamber of Commerce make the festival a first-class event by serving guests the local seafood and flavors that Destin is known for," said John Karagas, director of operations for Southern Restaurant Group.

Immediately following the 2006 festival, Legendary Inc., jumped aboard, expressing its interest in participating in 2007. It signed on as the festival's first-ever corporate sponsor.

"Legendary is pleased to be a part," said Julie Cotton, vice president of

## THE ENTERTAINMENT

<b>Friday</b> 4 p.m. - Destin Cheerleading Exhibition 6 p.m. - Dread Clampitt 8 p.m. - Telarc Recording Artist Tab Benoit	6 p.m. - Atlanta Rhythm Section 8 p.m. - Mark Farner, formerly of Grand Funk Railroad
<b>Saturday</b> 2 p.m. - Chuck Lawson 4 p.m. - Ambrosia	<b>Sunday</b> 12 p.m. - Jones and Company 2 p.m. - Sal Salaz Project

marketing for Legendary. "Our goal as a company is to provide experiences that exceed the expectations of visitors and residents living in or visiting the area. We feel the Destin Seafood Festival showcases what Destin has to offer, from seafood to a family-friendly atmosphere. We strive to help set the standard for quality and service while continuing to make the area a wonderful place

to work, live and play."

Other area restaurants serving seafood this week are Landry's Seafood House and Hammerhead Fred's Seafood. Caribbean Cafe, Cuppy's Smoothies and More, Destin Marble Slab Creamery, Dippin' Dots of Navarre, McGuire's of Pensacola Root Beer, Ruben's Oriental Concession, Ted Roberts Funnel Cakes, Tropical Smoothie Cafe and Tropical Sno will

also serve food.

More than 60 arts and crafts vendors will set up booths as well.

Entertainment will also be provided throughout the weekend, with three big names taking the stage on Saturday.

Ambrosia has earned five Grammy nominations and multi-platinum status. Past hits include "Biggest Part of Me," "How Much I Feel," "You're the Only Woman," and "Holdin' on to Yesterday."

After its release of 15 albums and more than 30 years of live shows, the Atlanta Rhythm Section is a major player in the Southern Rock movement. Its biggest hits include "So Into You," "Champagne Jam," "Imaginary Lover" and "Spooky."

Mark Farner is the former voice, guitarist,

and songwriter of one of the 1970's biggest bands, Grand Funk Railroad, which earned 12 platinum and 15 gold albums. Hits include "We're an American Band," "Foot-Stompin' Music," and "I'm your Captain (Closer to Home)." Farner has also released critically acclaimed albums as a solo artist.

Local favorites, including Dread Clampitt, Chuck Lawson and the Coconut Crew, Sal Salaz, and Jones and Company, also pack the entertainment line up. Most have played in previous festivals and are back by popular demand.

The 29th annual Destin Seafood Festival, was recently named a Top 20 Event for October by the Southeast Tourism Society. More than 25,000 locals and visitors attended the 2006 event.