

10.28.07

KICKS!



BEST OF THE BEACH '07



INSIDE

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Kicks! picks
The Sun News' staff sounds off on the best places you may not have thought of

PAGE 21



Readers' choice
Locals share their favorite spots for everything from shopping to sushi

PAGE 29



Visitors' voice
Tourists speak up about the things that keep them coming back to the beach

BEST OF THE BEACH

About this section

Are you a winner?

Did you send us a paper ballot for Best of the Beach? If you did, you were eligible to win a gift certificate from a Sun News advertiser.

Here are the winners.

\$300 | Martha Hisko of Myrtle Beach

\$125 | J. St. John of Garden City

\$75 | Debbie Hyland of Myrtle Beach

For information on prizes, contact Sun News promotions coordinator Cara Gibbs at 626-0247.

Special thanks

Best of the Beach would not be possible without the following people:

Neil Barbour, Mary Erskine, Kelly Marshall Fuller, Elaine Gaston, Steve Palisin, Jennifer Parker, Sara Elisabeth Potts, Jason Rodriguez and Rob Smoak contributed to Kicks Picks.

Chris Mowder, Charles Slate, Rob Smoak and Chris Tabakian contributed to the visual aspects of this year's Best of the Beach section.

Thanks to committee members Carol Blonowicz, Mary Erskine, Gwen Fowler, Cara Gibbs, Leslie Infield, Rachel Luna, Trisha O'Connor and Natalie Pruitt.

A special thanks goes to Sun News promotions coordinator Cara Gibbs for going above and beyond to produce a great section.

contacting **KICKS!**



News tips

THE GROUND RULES | The Sun News staff invites news releases on all upcoming arts and entertainment events in the Grand Strand. Listings are limited to entertainment-oriented events that are open to the public.

THE DEADLINE | Items must be received by noon Monday to appear in the Friday edition.

NEWS RELEASES | All news releases must have the following basic information:

- Name of event
- Description of event
- Specific location (including street address)
- Date and time of event
- Cost of event
- Contact name and phone number

BY MAIL | Send to Kicks!, The Sun News, P.O. Box 406, Myrtle Beach, SC 29578

BY FAX | (843) 626-0356, attn. Kicks!

BY E-MAIL | kicks@thesunnews.com

ON THE WEB | MyrtleBeachOnline.com

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BEST OF THE BEACH

BEST OF THE REST

Say what? Entries 'creative'

Each year we run our Best of the Beach contest, we get lots of votes. With lots of votes, come lots of misspellings, letter transpositions, smart aleck remarks and some truly funny answers. Here are a few of our favorites, and our reactions.

Anti-aging treatment

Costa Rica. (Does insurance cover Botox there?)

Not that old yet. (We wish you wrinkles.)

Masters Gentleman's Club. (Who knew the key to staying young was strippers?)

Travel

Never leave home. (Someone needs to get out more.)

Ribs

My back porch. (Are we invited?)

Physician

CVS. (If seeing a doctor were as easy as finding a CVS, we're on board.)

What about nurse practitioner? (I guess we need a new category.)

Brain Rabon, instead of Brian Rabon. (That must be one smart doctor.)

Early bird special

Not old enough to know. (Keep telling yourself that.)

Morning radio show

They all suck. (Disgruntled, are we?)

Live entertainment theater

Theater of the Republicans (Who knew Congress was in session in Conway?)

TV personality

Eww freaks. (Enough said.)



Ed the Head Piotrowski, Special Ed Piotrowski. (Whatever you want to call him, he's still a winner.)

Ice cream

Painters, duh. (We'll never doubt again.)

In my living room, snuggled up with my husband. (We'll try some of that flavor!)

Movers

Friends are the best at this task. (They aren't your friends after you move.)

Myself. (That takes some skill.)

Subs

Nowhere in Myrtle Beach, go to Philadelphia. (That's kind of a long drive.)

Mr. Sub, love their tuna. (We'll take your word for it.)

Tattoo parlor

The one on Seadyboard Street. (Seedyboard, maybe? Aren't they all on Seaboard?)

Family amusement

It was The Pavilion. (We miss it, too.)

It will be Hard Rock Park. (We're looking forward to that!)

Sushi

Sunami. (One dangerous California roll.)

No such thing as good sushi. (Not even as bait?)

Yahoos. (We don't recommend buying sushi on the Internet.)

Bad spellings

There were so many bad spellings that they needed their own mention. Here are some truly atrocious spelling gaffes:

Par 3 Golf Course | The correct spelling is Tupelo Bay, but we got Teuplo, Tipulo, Toupelo, Tubelo, Tulepo, Tulpelo, Tupalo, Tupeloe, Tupelope and Tupolo.

Subs | If you stick to phonetic pronunciation, it shouldn't have been so hard to spell Quiznos, but we got Quesnos, Quisnos, Quiz, Quizmos, Quizino, Quizonos, Qusino, Qusinos.

Swimsuit store | Tara Grinna never had so many incarnations. Tara Granna, Tara Grenna, Terra Grinna

Funny mistakes

These were some of the funniest of the responses, due to the not so pleasant thoughts they conjured up.

Swimsuit store | La Plague and La Plaque

BBQ | Sicky Fingers

Tobacco store | Icks cigar world

TM Mary Erskine, Gwen Fowler and Sara Potts

READERS' RESULTS

All-you-can-eat restaurant	24	Miniature golf	22
Annual Event/Festival	22	Morning radio show	22
Appliance Store	25	Mortgage company	27
Asian Restaurant	24	Movie theater	22
Assisted living center	25	Moving company	27
Autobody	25	Nightclub	22
Auto parts store	25	Night spot for live music	22
Bakery	24	Par 3 golf course	22
Bar	24	Pediatrician	27
Beachwear store	25	Pest control	27
Boat dealer	22	Pet shop	27
Bowling center	22	Pharmacy	27
Breakfast place	24	Physician	27
Bridal boutique	25	Pizza	24
Burger	24	Place for anti-aging	25
Chiropractor	25	Place for a hot dog	24
Coffee shop	24	Place for barbecue	24
Consignment shop	25	Place for dessert	24
Cosmetic dentistry	25	Place for ice cream	24
Day care	25	Place for karaoke	22
Day spa	25	Place for ribs	24
Dentist	25	Place for salads	24
Department store	25	Place for subs	24
Dry cleaners	26	Place for wings	25
Early bird special	24	Place for oil change	27
Electronics	26	Piercing	27
Eye/vision center	26	Realtor	27
Family amusement venue	22	Restaurant service	24
Fast food restaurant	24	Romantic restaurant	24
Financial institution	26	Seafood restaurant	24
Financial adviser	26	Shag club	22
Fine dining restaurant	24	Shopping center/mall	27
Floor coverings	26	Sporting goods store	27
Florist	26	Sports bar	24
Frame shop	26	Steak	25
Furniture store	26	Sunday brunch spot	25
Golf course	26	Surf shop	28
Golf equipment retailer	26	Sushi	25
Grocery store	26	Swimsuit shop	28
Hair salon	26	Tanning center	28
Heating/air conditioning	26	Tattoo parlor	28
Home builder	26	Tire store	28
Hospital	26	Tobacco Store	28
Insurance company	26	Toy store	28
Italian restaurant	24	Travel agency	28
Kennel	26	TV personality	22
Landscape service	26	Veterinary hospital/center	28
Live entertainment theater	22	Wireless phone company	28
Manicure/nails shop	26		
Mattress	26		
Medical clinic	26		
Mexican restaurant	24		

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Neurosurgeon, Odessa, TX*

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THE NUMBERS

273

The number of bikers that drive by The Sun News in the time it takes to enjoy a smoke break during bike week



2

The number of hours it takes to print the copies of Kicks! for each Friday's paper



174

The average amount in inches devoted to night life events in Kicks!



KICKS PICKS



Inside

While our readers and visitors have the opportunity to give their opinions on Best of the Beach, we don't want to be left out in the cold. Some of our viewpoints are off the wall and some are right on point, but they're always entertaining.

Turn the page to see what we think about great places to cruise on a motorcycle, where we like to spend time outside and what foods we truly love.

KICKS picks

ENTERTAINMENT

Best spot for quality time with your significant other: For someone who's never swung a golf club, the Cane Patch driving range was a lot of fun. After agreeing to hit a few golf balls to satisfy the significant other's need for an outdoor activity, we got two large buckets of balls and were off. The driving range is situated in a busy section of Myrtle Beach, but it's quiet and green and pretty relaxing. He enjoyed showing me how to swing and giving me pointers. I enjoyed learning something new. He also enjoyed being better at it than me — I discovered a tendency to hit every shot to the left — but it certainly was satisfying when I connected and the ball soared. There will definitely be a return visit, as soon as all the soreness leaves my muscles.



MCT

Cruise our suggested route and get a step closer to riding hard and living free.

Best route for motorcycle cruising:

The Grand Strand has some great highways for motorcycle cruising, including Robert M. Grissom Parkway that parallels U.S. 17 Bypass, scenic Farrow Parkway on the former Myrtle Beach Air Force Base and the wide-open S.C. 31 that connects North Myrtle Beach's S.C. 9 to Socastee's S.C. 544. With cooler temperatures and fewer rubbernecking tourists clogging the highways, now is a good time of year to straddle the noise machine and hit the pavement. Being south-enders, here's the loop we prefer: Start on Farrow Parkway, crossing over onto S.C. 707 to avoid congested U.S. 17 Bypass. Pick up S.C. 544 to S.C. 31. Head north to the end of S.C. 31, then turn around, head south and exit onto Grissom Parkway, following it all the way to the end at Harrelson Boulevard. There's lots to see and smell (pleasant and unpleasant) along this route. Ride hard and live free!

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6617 North Kings Highway
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1303 38th Ave North
(On By-pass)
843-448-4437

512 South Kings Highway
843-448-1684
3411 Socastee Blvd.
843-294-1285
101 Fetlock Dr.
843-236-6300

17 Convenient Locations on the Grand Strand

KICKS picks



MCT

On the west side of the Seagate Village community, on the former Myrtle Beach Air Force Base, check out flocks of Canada geese at dawn and dusk.

Best place for traditional, old-fashioned miniature golf:

No frills, hills or animated creatures dominate Safari Golf, at Kings Highway (U.S. 17 Business) and 19th Avenue South, diagonally across from Myrtle Beach's Midway Park. Just fairways with straight-aways and some with bends on artificial turf. Interspersed statues of elephants, giraffes and gorillas also give players a little company. This might be one of Myrtle Beach's original mini-golf courses, built in simpler times and still independently owned. A wonderful, nonintimidating place for a toddler to debut with a golf club. The mainly flat putting layout also is kind to senior citizens. All at only \$4 for 18 holes, \$5 for 36.

Best place to play golf and see landings and takeoffs at Myrtle Beach International Airport:

Midway Par 3 at South Beach Resort, at South Kings Highway (U.S. 17 Business) and Ocean Boulevard in Myrtle Beach, scores more than holes in one for golfers. How about aircraft ogling? From any of Midway's

three nine-hole courses, including the beginner-driven north course, which offers some shade from the sun and the squirrels hopping among the grounds, players can pause to marvel at aircraft soaring and touching down at the airport across the street. Swing with glee and bask in some fun in the year-round sun on the fairways instead of flying away and looking down from the plane wistfully.

Best place to see a sunrise or ghost crabs at dusk:

From north to south, Myrtle Beach State Park's milelong beach and maritime forest shine as the oasis of Myrtle Beach. Catch a sunrise from the very northern end, at the bottom of the path from the campground, and some dolphins surfacing might add to the sparkle of the rays. Or stick around past sunset, especially on the southern side, by walkways S3 and S4, and watch the holes in the sand, set back from the surf, as ghost crabs emerge in the moonlight. Enjoy the park's new half-mile boardwalk and paved trails north of the pier for

a view of the ocean without high rises in the way or night lights, which keep this beach a productive place for nesting sea turtles and hatchlings.

Best place to see flocks of Canada geese:

On the west side of the Seagate Village community, on the former Myrtle Beach Air Force Base. At dawn and dusk, these honking gaggles, in their trademark V flying formation, breeze over the neighborhood between their watering holes at the lake on the base and the big pond that Crystal Lake Mobile Home Village surrounds, just south of Seagate Village.

See **NEXT PAGE** >

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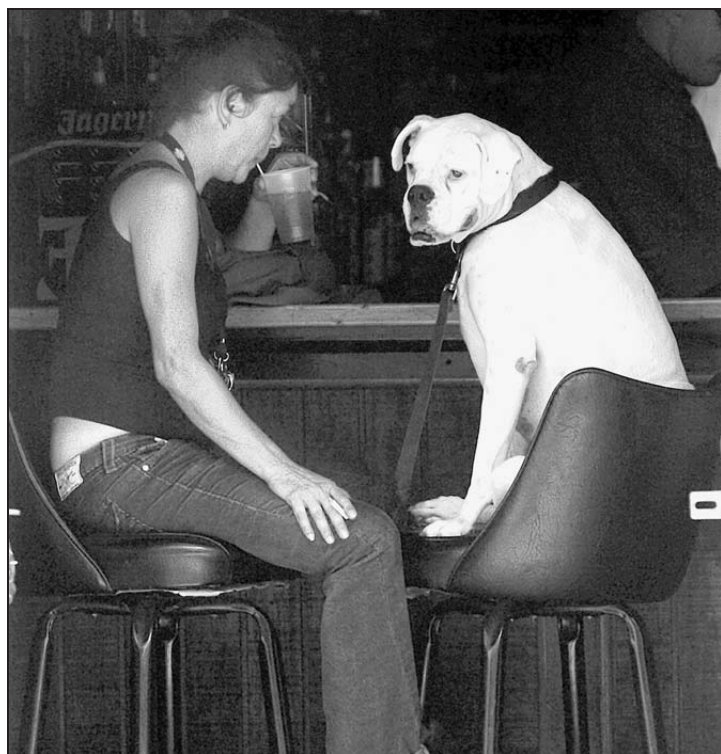
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KICKS picks



MCT

Spud's outdoor tiki bar in Murrells Inlet welcomes all visitors — including the four-footed type.

Best bar when Fido's in tow: If the need for a cold brew along the waterfront strikes you, but you've got your four-legged friend in tow, no worries. Spud's outdoor tiki bar in Murrells Inlet is pet-friendly as long as your pet's friendly. It's a swell place to fetch your favorite beverage while you either sit barside or on a picnic bench in the sand, surrounded by palm trees. Sit a spell and you'll be certain to see the large fishing and cruise boats coming and going at Dick's Marina. You may not choose to sit at all, but instead decide to saunter with your pet and beverage in hand along the pier that juts far out into the inlet, where the views are spectacular. The

outdoor bar, currently open Friday and Saturday nights, also features live music. It's located just outside the main restaurant at 4123 U.S. 17 Business.

Best bar for a sports night: Nothing beats a night of great sports at Jimmagan's End Zone in Little River. The eclectic group of Philadelphia, New York and Midwest natives make Major League Baseball and (especially Sunday) football games something to look forward to each week.

See **PAGE 10** ➤

Best of the Beach



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KICKS picks

FOOD & DRINK

Best place to consume 1,000 calories in 10 minutes:

Though its status as a chain restaurant may be offputting for some, the delicious decadence of Outback Steakhouse's cheese fries is more than enough reason to "go Outback tonight." The spicy ranch dressing and savory seasonings on the fries are tasty enough on their own, but add cheese and bacon and you've got yourself a little piece of caloric heaven. Enjoy it while it lasts, though, because you're going to have to hit the gym eventually, but wasn't it worth it?

Best cosmopolitan:

Who'd a thunk it? Magoo's Sports and Spirits, a very local, laidback pub on the corner of Oak and Broad-

way streets in downtown Myrtle Beach, known for its dart nights, tasty wings and cold beer, also serves a scrumptious cosmopolitan. If you like your cosmo sweet with a hint of lime, a lime wedge garnish on the rim and bone-chilling cold, see one of the bartenders at Magoo's. The yummy cocktail is refreshing and pairs quite nicely with a basket of Magoo's honey-barbecue wings.

Best watering hole along the water:

There are few places along the Intracoastal Waterway where you can tie up to a boat dock and slip out of your watercraft for a bite to eat and a cold beer. But one place in particular, The Boathouse Waterway Bar and Grill near the U.S. 501 bridge, delivers on not just food and beer, but good music as

well, especially when they hold their Sunday evening spring and summer concert series, bringing in talent such as The Blue Dogs. Got the kids with you? No worries, as this eatery also embraces kids, giving moms and dads time to sit back, relax and soak up the tunes while their offspring play badminton out back or billiards and electronic games inside.

See PAGE 12 >



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KICKS picks



Sun News file photo

Englis Glover, right, sings during karaoke night at the Bowling & Billiard Center's Brick House Lounge in Surfside Beach.

Best country thrill ride: Riding the Sunset Beach, N.C., wooden, one-lane pontoon bridge is a fun thrill ride in itself. You never know whether the span will hold up as you drive to the island, nor do you know if it will be there when you try to go back to the mainland.

Best karaoke: Buzz's Roost in Georgetown has the best karaoke. Cold Beer, familiar

karaoke friends and music o'plenty is the scene. Amateur country performers share the stage with disco fanatics and hard rock freaks.

Kick's pickers: Neil Barbour, Mary Erskine, Elaine Gaston, Kelly Marshall Fuller, Steve Palisin, Jennifer Parker, Sara Elisabeth Potts, Jay Rodriguez and Rob Smoak contributed to our picks.



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KICKS picks



Courtesy photo

K&W Cafeteria in Myrtle Beach gets recognition from Kicks for its cafeteria atmosphere and good eats.

Best place to take youngsters for a quick, easy, yummy dinner out: Fazoli's boasts its new "Ahhhtalian menu," with everything "Fast. Fresh. Italian." The chain's outlet on U.S. 17 Business in Surfside Beach, across from the entrance to the Deerfield Plantation development, always works as a win-win dining experience for parents and children alike. Besides pasta bowls, pizza and sandwiches for parents and a children's menu, the staff is happy to pass out complimentary red-and-blue crayon sets and booklets and kiddie beverage cups, to help youngsters feel full with their own dining experience. And if your child seeks the usual — a side order of meatballs — it's served up for only \$1.

Spot you only go with visitors: I love K & W in Myrtle Beach. My parents always like to take me to the K & W because I'm sure they think I do not get enough cafeteria-style food when they

aren't around. It's the only time of year (besides Thanksgiving) that I feel empowered to eat until I can't roll. I love the sweet tea and the line of steaming fish, shrimp, meatloaf and carrot salad. At the end of the line, there is always bread, bread, and more bread. I always give in to their request for a visit to the K&W. The food is always great. Afterward, I usually take a nap. It's that kind of experience.

Best spot for a margarita: Sure, you may have given Casa Villa's orange exterior in Little River a glance as you drove past, but have you stopped in for a margarita? Oh, my friend, you're missing out. Served with a smoothly spot-on blend of margarita mix and tequila, these drinks include tempting flavors such as banana, orange, strawberry and raspberry. If you're feeling brave, try one of the jumbo-size concoctions. Sipping a pitch-perfect peach margarita on Casa Villa's porch for \$1 taco

Tuesdays has become a household tradition. Give it a whirl. Believe me, your taste buds will thank you.

Best place to buy cookies with the most chocolate chips: Looking to get your cookie fix for the day? Dagwood's Deli has their own special recipe for chocolate chip cookies so rich and fantastical that the chips outnumber the cookie portion of the treat 10 to one. It's hard to eat just one.

Good for what ails you: The grilled pimiento cheese sandwich at Sam's Corner in Pawleys Island is the best cure for a hard day. Likewise, the cheese grits at Eggs Up Grill in Litchfield are great. The grits bowl seems to have no bottom. I once had an earache that vanished after I ate cheese grits from Eggs Up.

See **PAGE 14** ►

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KICKS picks



MCT

Onion rings are a delicious treat at Little Pigs in Myrtle Beach.

Best spot to blow a diet: When I want to run away from my Weight Watchers diet plan, I run straight into the arms of Little Pigs. The barbecue joint at the corner of 62nd Avenue North and U.S. 17 Bypass in Myrtle Beach has the best onion rings I've ever put in my well-acquainted-to-fried-goodness tummy. You can't beat their hot, perfectly salted fries and, of course, their barbecue is consistently delicious. Top it all off with some sweet tea and you've got the makings of a perfectly Southern, perfectly

satisfying meal. Plus, it's got great charm if you've got guests in town and want to treat them to some local fare.

Good eats: I reward myself a great rib-eye sandwich from Duffer's Bar & Grill in Shallotte, N.C., when I've had a tough week. The fresh French bread it is served on with my choice of side makes it a meal to salivate over. The au jus the sandwich comes with is so good it's drinkable!

See **NEXT PAGE** ►





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Fridays/Viernes – Viva Mexico! \$2.50 Coronas, \$4.75 Tequila Sunrise, Special Mexican Plate

Saturdays/Sabado – "Vamonos a La Playa!" \$1 OFF Camarones (Shrimp) La Playa, \$1 OFF Homemade Sangria

Sundays/Domingo – Family Day Mexican & Caribbean Sampler Plate Includes Taquitos Del Sol, Cheese Quesadillas, Camarones (Shrimp) Cancun & Cuban Empanadas. All served on a Bed of Lettuce with Fresh Guacamole, Pico de Gallo & Sour Cream
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SNBB

KICKS picks



The Sun News file photo

The Sea Captain's House on Ocean Boulevard has long been a Myrtle Beach favorite.

Worth the wait: Sea Captain's House on Ocean Boulevard isn't a very well-kept secret, hence the long lines and constant tourist traffic. But despite the restaurant's refusal to take reservations, it's worth waiting a little while for the lovely ocean views as well as the food. Featuring tasty and creative seafood dishes and sides such as perfectly ripe fruit, eating at Sea Captain's is especially nice on a breezy day — when the view of the white-capped ocean from your table is a perfect complement to a good meal.

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KICKS picks

SHOPPING & SERVICES

Best spot for beauty junkies:

The 'Benefit experience' may be just a clever marketing gimmick by Benefit Cosmetics, but it is a lovely way to get some extra attention and experiment with some fun products at the brand's counter at Belk in Coastal Grand mall. With great names for items like "Gettin' Steamy" body wash and "Ooh La Lift" eye cream, the counter is a fun stop during a shopping day. The makeup artists will pamper your face with lots of goodies and answer all your product questions. The best part? Leaving with a new lip gloss!

Service with more than a smile:

Even if it's part of the job description, it's always lovely to visit your local Chick-fil-A franchise because the staff is always so nice. Working at a fast-food establishment comes with its own set of stigmas and hardships, but the Chick-fil-A employees always seem to be having a good day. They bid you farewell with "It was my pleasure to serve you." Thanks, guys. It was my pleasure to drive through.

Best outlet store:

Chic headbands seen in the pages of fashion magazines, preppy/cool embroidered shorts, great graphic Ts, even Wellingtons with laces. There are too many great finds at the J.Crew outlet to count. The store is on the small side, so there are sometimes dressing room traffic jams, but the intimate space just makes it more fun to dig for great bargains. And here's where being a local has its advantages — you can always return for more good deals and great finds.



MCT

Check out Belk's Benefit Cosmetics counter for a fun beauty experience.



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KICKS picks



Quiet pedi experience: Lots of people have great relationships with their hair stylists or nail technicians, and are happy to gab away their hour appointment. But there are some of us that need a little relaxation when getting our nails done. Nail Boutique and Spa offers the best of both worlds — a chatty friend if you need one, or a quiet, relaxing service when you don't. They don't mind if you quietly give yourself over to the massage chair and Britney Spears' latest exploits in People. The best part? Your nails look great either way.

MCT

Nail Boutique and Spa is the perfect place to get a pedicure.

See **NEXT PAGE** >

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Taste of The Town

The Taste of the Town committee wishes to thank the volunteers, restaurants and sponsors for another successful event!
See you next year for our 25th Anniversary on October 14, 2008

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KICKS picks

Best-looking doctor (our own McDreamy): The Grand Strand has its share of good-looking men in white coats. But we can't help but single out Dr. Scott Werter with Coastal Podiatry Associates. This foot doctor is definitely a hottie, but he's also a kind and gentle man with a pleasant voice, soft hands (he's worked on enough of our little piggies for us to attest to that fact), and an unmatched bedside manner other doctors should emulate. He has a knack for making patients feel comfortable, takes time to chat and has been known to walk patients to the exit. Step aside "Grey's Anatomy." The Grand Strand has its own Steamy McDreamy! By the way, sorry ladies, he's also very much married.



Patrick Dempsey may be McDreamy on TV, but he's got nothing on local podiatrist Scott Werter.

MCT

Honest/best mechanic: Now in its second year and specializing in anything from transmissions to an oil change, Turn Key Automotive, U.S. 17 Bypass, Myrtle Beach, is owned and operated by Todd Kramer, a former dealership mechanic. In that regard, the labor charge is almost half what most dealerships charge. The technicians are equipped with some of the latest diagnostic

systems, the shop is clean, the service is top-notch and turn-around time is quick. They also offer car and truck accessories. This is a great place to get a second opinion. After that, I'm sure Turn Key will become your

trusted mechanic. Hurry, though, word is spreading fast. They're located next door to RoomStore on U.S. 17 Bypass. Look for the green awning.

See **PAGE 20** >

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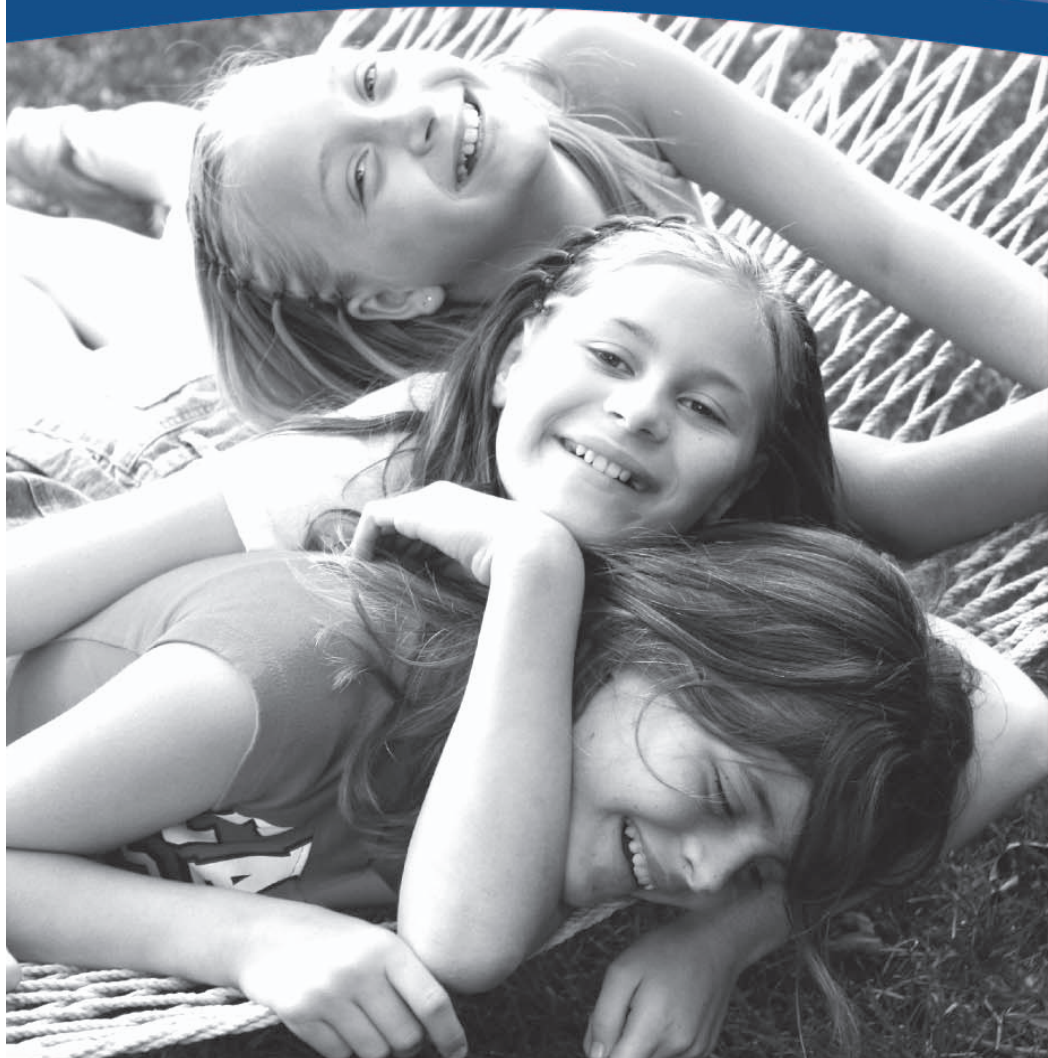
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KICKS picks



MCT

Buy locally grown tomatoes at Barbara's Fresh Fruit Produce on South Kings Highway (U.S. 17 Business).

Best discount shopping: Gay Dolphin, lower level. Incentive sticks are only \$1 each. The refrigerator magnets, coffee cups and keychains with your name inscribed instantly take you back to childhood. Ditto for the sharks' teeth necklaces. I could stay forever.

Best place to put your feet up: Head to the Cinemark movie theater at Coastal Grand for the best movie-going seat on the beach. If you get there early, scope out the row of seats with the bar in front, a perfect place to recline with your feet up during a cinematic adventure.

Best place to buy locally grown tomatoes: Barbara's Fresh Fruit Produce has stayed busy in its first year at its new spot, on South Kings Highway (U.S. 17 Business), south of Myrtle Beach State Park and the Long Bay Estates entrance, across from Myrtle Beach Harley-Davidson. Tomatoes, at 99 cents a pound or \$2 a basket, yield four or five juicy fruits that stay fresh even a week after purchase. Cantaloupe and corn make up a sampling of many other goodies friendly personnel sell from a packed, clean fruit stand with good oldies tunes from a radio bedecking the background.

Best spot for comic books: If you already know the difference between Tony Moore and Alan Moore, you probably already make a regular weekly run to Heroes' Hangout in Surfside. But if you just realized that you need more than the 'Sandman' and 'Spider-Man' collections at the bookstore, it's time to do yourself a favor. Dive in with a few rows of new releases or play catch up with walls of canonical classics. And don't miss the highly erudite employee picks. Plus, there's plenty of gaming junk and Anime. If you have enough cash, you'll never have to see the sun again.

Best place for long-hair highlights: Ask for Michelle at Shear Hair Designs on S.C. 544. Not only can this woman highlight extra-long locks, but she also pulls hair through a cap and doesn't miss a beat. No foil here, and perfect highlights. But make sure you call early; Michelle has a lot fans.

Hot waitstaff: Hands down (or around the waist!), the hottest bartenders award has to go to the Revolutions staff at Broadway at the Beach. The classy ladies — no matter how busy the night — always serve with a smile and sometimes a wink. Most nights, you don't go to the dance floor to check out how caliente the night is, you check right behind the bar!

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9 p.m.

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Number of interstates that run through the Grand Strand

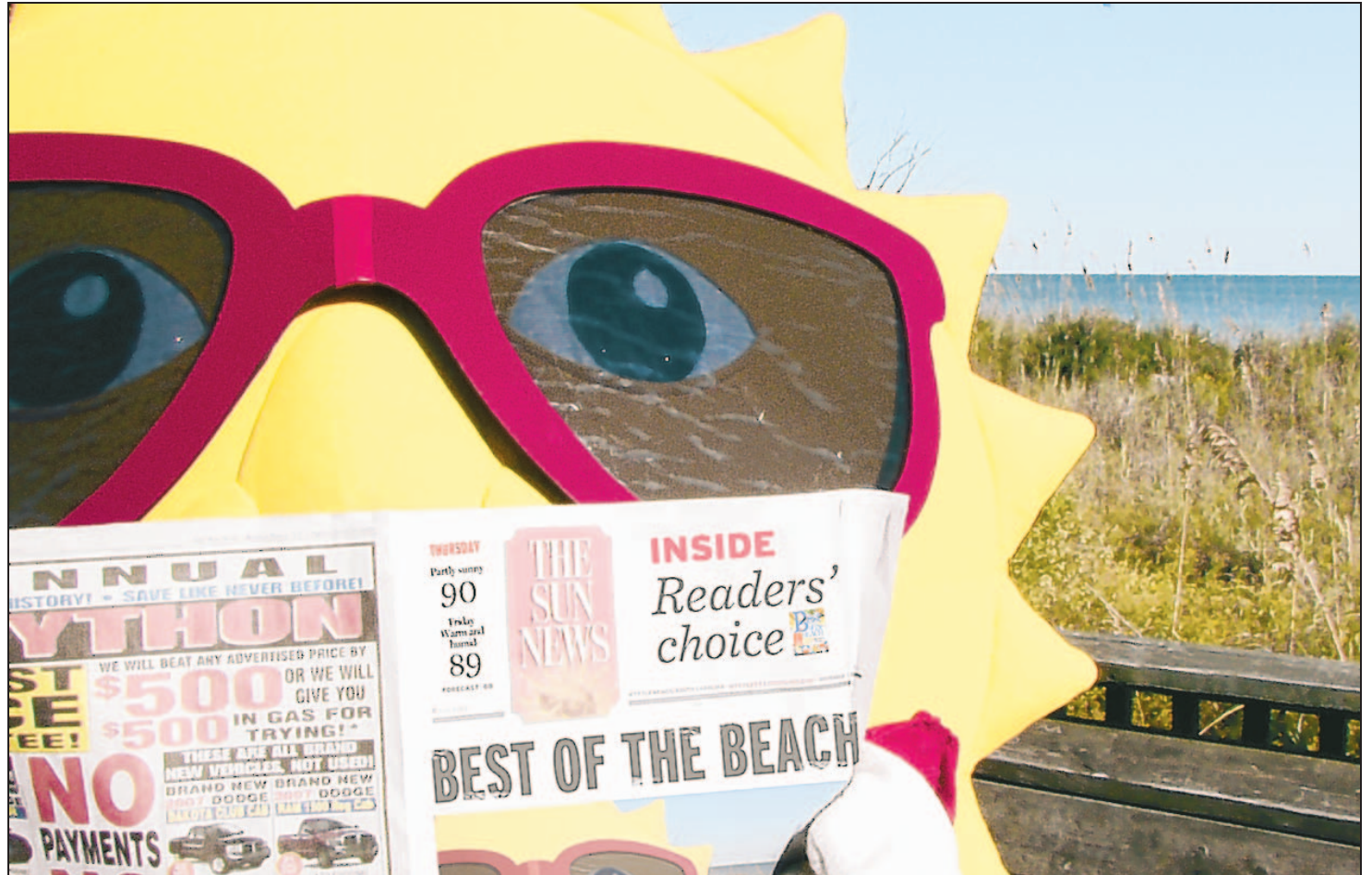


9

Spot where Myrtle Beach ranks on Golf Digest's 2000 list of the 50 Greatest Golf Destinations in the World
Source: 2005 U.S. Census data



Readers' Choice



By CHARLES SLATE *The Sun News*

Inside

Since our readers are the voice of the community, it's great that so many of you responded when we launched this year's Best of the Beach contest. Our readers answered the call for votes, giving us their views on the best place to buy a wedding dress, who's serving up the best burgers on the Grand Strand and even their favorite TV personality. Check out the coming pages to see who the winners are.

READERS' choice

ENTERTAINMENT

Annual event/festival

First place: Blue Crab Festival
 Finalist: Sun Fun Festival
 Finalist: Harley-Davidson Bike Week

Bowling center

First place: Surfside Bowling & Billiard Center
 Finalist: Waccamaw Lanes

Family amusement venue

First place: Family Kingdom
 Finalist: Broadway at the Beach
 Finalist: Myrtle Waves

Karaoke

First place: Broadway Louie's
 Finalist: Calli Baker's Firehouse
 Finalist: Brickhouse Restaurant & Lounge

Live entertainment theater

First place: The Carolina Opry
 Finalist: Alabama Theatre
 Finalist: House of Blues

Miniature Golf

First place: Dragon's Lair Fantasy Golf
 Finalist: Capt. Hook's Adventure Golf
 Finalist: Mt. Atlanticus Miniature Golf

Morning radio show

First place: Blue & Korby Ray, WGTR-FM, 107.9
 Finalist: Steve & Debbie WRNN-FM, 99.5
 Finalist: Ace & TJ, WSEA-FM, 100.3

Movie theater

First place: Cinemark at Coastal Grand
 Finalist: Broadway at the Beach Carmike Cinemas
 Finalist: Colonial Mall Carmike Cinemas

Nightclub

First place: Revolutions
 Finalist: 2001 Nightclub
 Finalist: Crocodile Rocks

Night spot for live music

First place: House Of Blues
 Finalist: Crocodile Rocks
 Finalist: Dynamite's at Dock Holidays

Par 3 golf course

First place: Cane Patch Par 3
 Finalist: Tupelo Bay
 Finalist: Midway Par 3

Shag club

First place: Fat Harold's Beach Club
 Finalist: Studebakers
 Finalist: Duck's Beach Club



Courtesy photo

Cane Patch Par 3 in Myrtle Beach is a winner among Sun News readers.

TV personality

First place: Ed Piotrowski
 Finalist: Cecil Chandler
 Finalist: Martha Hunn

M-F 10-5 • Sat 10-2

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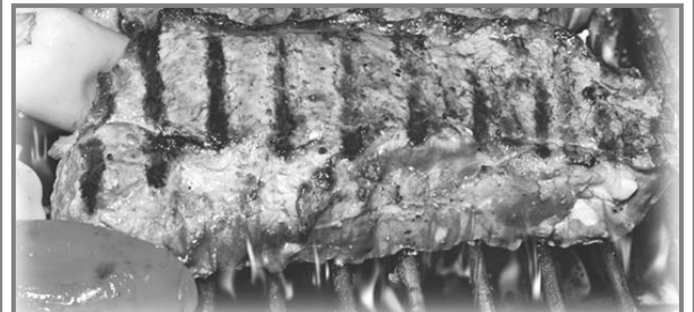
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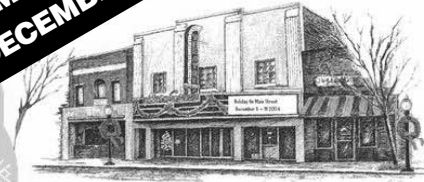
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Make your move today, and you'll be living in the heart of it all when *The Market Common* opens next spring. Just steps away from the vibrant downtown and the legendary beaches of the Grand Strand, The Village is your first and best opportunity to get in on the ground floor and take advantage of this extraordinary lifestyle.

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Withers Preserve is located on Farrow Parkway between Kings Hwy & 17-Bypass, across from Myrtle Beach State Park.

Broker participation welcome. Map not drawn to scale.



READERS' choice

FOOD & DRINK

All-you-can-eat restaurant

First place: Ryan's Family Steak House
 Finalist: Crabby Mike's
 Finalist: Golden Corral

Asian restaurant

First place: E Noodles & Co.
 Finalist: Miyabi Kyoto
 Finalist: China Buffet

Bakery

First place: Croissants
 Finalist: Toffinos
 Finalist: Atlanta Bread Company

Bar

First place: Liberty Steakhouse
 Finalist: Bumsteads
 Finalist: Wahoo's Raw Bar & Marina

Barbecue

First place: Little Pigs Bar-B-Q
 Finalist: Big D's Bar-B-Que Barn

Finalist: Sticky Fingers

Breakfast place

First place: Eggs Up Grill
 Finalist: Akel's Family Restaurant
 Finalist: Cracker Barrel

Burger

First place: Five Guys Famous Burgers & Fries
 Finalist: River City Cafe
 Finalist: Hamburger Joe's

Coffee shop

First place: Starbucks
 Finalist: Dunkin' Donuts
 Finalist: Port City Java

Dessert spot

First place: The Melting Pot
 Finalist: Collectors Cafe
 Finalist: Croissants

Early bird special

First place: Miyabi Kyoto
 Finalist: J. Edwards

Finalist: Gulf Stream Cafe

Fast food restaurant

First place: Wendy's
 Finalist: Chick-fil-A
 Finalist: McDonald's

Fine dining restaurant

First place: Thoroughbreds Restaurant
 Finalist: The Melting Pot
 Finalist: Frank's Outback

Hot dog

First place: Sam's Corner
 Finalist: Sonic Drive-in
 Finalist: Burky's

Ice cream

First place: Brusters
 Finalist: Cold Stone Creamery
 Finalist: Dairy Queen

Italian restaurant

First place: Carrabba's Italian Grill
 Finalist: Olive Garden
 Finalist: Rossi's Italian Restaurant

Mexican restaurant

First place: El Cerro Grande
 Finalist: Abuelo's Mexican Food Embassy
 Finalist: El Patio

Pizza

First place: Ultimate California Pizza
 Finalist: Pizza Hut
 Finalist: Papa John's Pizza

Ribs

First place: Sticky Fingers
 Finalist: Damon's
 Finalist: T-Bones

Restaurant with best service

First place: Bonefish Grill
 Finalist: Thoroughbreds Restaurant
 Finalist: tie — New York Prime
 Finalist: tie — Sea Captain's House
 Finalist: tie — Carrabba's Italian Grill

Romantic restaurant

First place: The Melting Pot
 Finalist: Thoroughbreds Restaurant

Finalist: Gulf Stream Cafe

Salads

First place: Carolina Roadhouse
 Finalist: California Dreaming
 Finalist: Ruby Tuesday

Seafood restaurant

First place: Sea Captain's House
 Finalist: Bonefish Grill
 Finalist: Divine Fish House

Sports bar

First place: Overtime Sports Cafe
 Finalist: Beef O' Brady's
 Finalist: Dagwoods Deli & Sports Bar

Subs

First place: Firehouse Subs
 Finalist: Subway
 Finalist: Jersey Mike's

See **NEXT PAGE** ►

How a firefighter says thanks.



We were going to send thank you notes to all of our customers in Myrtle Beach for awarding us Best of the Beach for 2006. But we ran out of stationery. And that's not really our thing anyway. We'd rather just keep making hot, premium-quality subs and thank each of you personally every time you come in. Besides, our handwriting is horrible.

2701 Church St. • Conway
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1350 N. Fraser St. • Georgetown
843-520-4688

3755 Renee Dr. • Carolina Forest
843-236-7827

5407 Dick Pond Rd. • Socastee
843-215-3473

201 Graduate Rd. • Conway
843-349-9111

804 Inlet Square Dr. • Murrell's Inlet
843-651-9998

1211 38th Ave. • Myrtle Beach
843-626-9111

560 Hwy. 17 N. • North Myrtle Beach
843-663-3473



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READERS' choice

SHOPPING & SERVICES

Anti-aging procedure

First place: Carolina Coastal Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
Finalist: Derma-Vogue

Appliance store

First place: Lowe's
Finalist: Sears
Finalist: AVAC

Assisted living center

First place: Myrtle Beach Manor
Finalist: Lakes at Litchfield
Finalist: Eaglecrest

Autobody

First place: Autobody Works
Finalist: Evans Family Collision Repair Center
Finalist: Quality

Auto parts store

First place: Advance Auto Parts
Finalist: NAPA Auto Parts
Finalist: AutoZone

Beachwear store

First place: Wings
Finalist: Eagles

Boat dealer

First place: Marine Service Center
Finalist: Bass Pro Shop
Finalist: Eastern Sales



MCT

Readers named Her Body and Soul as the day spa winner in the 2007 Best of the Beach contest.

Bridal boutique

First place: Amanda's Collection
Finalist: Merle Norman

Chiropractor

First place: Causey Chiropractic Center
Finalist: Martin Chiropractic
Finalist: O'Neil Chiropractic
Finalist: Atlantic Spine

Consignment shop

First place: Once Upon a Child
Finalist: Moozie's Closet
Finalist: Beehive

Cosmetic dentistry

First place: Pournaras Cosmetics

Day care

First place: Gateway Academy
Finalist: Belin Creative Learning
Finalist: Ocean View Baptist Church

Day spa

First place: Her Body & Soul
Finalist: Victoria Dianne's Day Spa
Finalist: Hibiscus Spa

Dentist

First place: Glenss Bay
Finalist: Dr. Billy Pournaras
Finalist: Dr. William B. Cox

See **NEXT PAGE** >

From Page 24

Steak

First place: Outback Steakhouse
Finalist: Angelo's Steak & Pasta
Finalist: New York Prime

Sunday brunch spot

First place: The House of Blues
Finalist: Chestnut Hill
Finalist: Sea Captain's House

Sushi

First place: Soho
Finalist: Miyabi Kyoto
Finalist: Islamorada Fish Company

Wings

First place: Wild Wing Cafe
Finalist: Hooters
Finalist: Buffalo Wild Wings

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READERS' choice

Department store

First place: Belk
Finalist: Dillard's
Finalist: Kohl's

Dry cleaners

First place: Royal Cleaners & Laundry
Finalist: Surfside Cleaners
Finalist: Sunshine Cleaners

Electronics retailer

First place: Best Buy
Finalist: Circuit City

Eye/vision center

First place: H. Rubin Vision Center
Finalist: LensCrafters
Finalist: Wal-Mart

Financial institution

First place: Wachovia
Finalist: Bank of America
Finalist: BB&T

Financial adviser

First place: Edward Jones
Finalist: Bank of America
Finalist: AG Edwards

Floor coverings

First place: Lowe's
Finalist: Williams Carpet
Finalist: Steven's Floor Covering Center

Florist

First place: Flowers by Richard
Finalist: Kings Florist
Finalist: Lazelles Flower Shop,

Frame shop

First place: Michael's
Finalist: Frame Factory & Gallery

Furniture store

First place: Ashley Furniture
Finalist: Garden City Furniture
Finalist: Rooms to Go

Golf course

First place: Grande Dunes
Finalist: Myrtlewood Golf Club
Finalist: Caledonia Golf and Fish Club

Golf equipment retailer

First place: Martin's Golf & Tennis
Finalist: Golf Dimensions
Finalist: Dick's Sporting Goods

Grocery store

First place: Bi-Lo
Finalist: Food Lion
Finalist: Kroger

Hair salon

First place: Great Clips
Finalist: Mirage
Finalist: Hair Safari
Finalist: Stephanie's Hair Salon

Heating/air conditioning

First place: Carolina Cooling & Plumbing
Finalist: Tech Heating
Finalist: ARS

Home builder

First place: DR Horton Inc.
Finalist: Centex Homes

Hospital

First place: Grand Strand Regional Medical Center
Finalist: Waccamaw Community Hospital,
Finalist: Conway Medical Center

Insurance company

First place: State Farm Insurance
Finalist: Allstate
Finalist: Nationwide

Kennel

First place: Benji's Bed & Breakfast
Finalist: Tamroc Kennels
Finalist: Paw's Inn

Landscape service

First place: Starwood Nursery and Landscaping
Finalist: Evergreen Landscaping

Manicure/nails shop

First place: Happy Nails
Finalist: Nail Turbo
Finalist: Professionalis

Mattress

First place: Bed Man
Finalist: Spencers Mattress World

Medical clinic/doctor's office

First place: Carolina Forest Family Medicine
Finalist: Inlet Medical
Finalist: Doctors Care

See **NEXT PAGE** >

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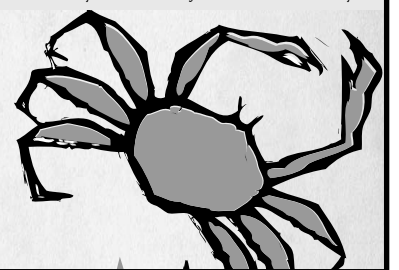
12 Oysters & Clams

1 lb. Mussels & Shrimp

w/ Hush Puppies & Slaw

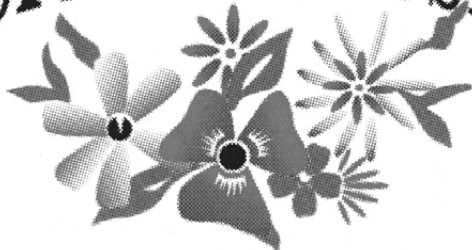
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READERS' choice

Mortgage company

First place: Wells Fargo
 Finalist: Bank of America
 Finalist: Countrywide

Moving company

First place: Two Men & A Truck
 Finalist: C & C Moving Services
 Finalist: Yarborough's

Pediatrician

First place: Grand Strand Pediatrics
 Finalist: Inlet Pediatrics
 Finalist: Palmetto Pediatrics of Conway

Pest control

First place: Lane's Professional Pest Elimination
 Finalist: Terminix
 Finalist: Strand Termite & Pest Control Company

Pet shop

First place: PetSmart
 Finalist: Coastline Pet Supply
 Finalist: Animal Supply House

Pharmacy

First place: CVS
 Finalist: Walgreens
 Finalist: Wal-Mart

Physician

First place: Dr. Lindaberry
 Finalist: Dr. Belden
 Finalist: Dr. Cremer

Piercing

First place: Elite Piercing
 Finalist: Pit Bull Piercing
 Finalist: Claire's

Quick oil change

First place: Shell Rapid Lube
 Finalist: Wal-Mart Tire & Lube Express
 Finalist: Mason's

Realtor

First place: Prudential/B&C
 Finalist: Century 21/Boling
 Finalist: tie — Chicora/Coldwell Banker
 Finalist: tie — Exit Grand Strand

Shopping center/mall

First place: Coastal Grand
 Finalist: Colonial Mall
 Finalist: Tanger Outlets

Sporting goods store

First place: Dick's Sporting Goods
 Finalist: Bass Pro Shop
 Finalist: Martin's PGA Tour Superstore



Courtesy photo

Bi-Lo was named the winner of best grocery store in this year's Best of the Beach contest.



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CHAPARRAL



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See **NEXT PAGE** >

READERS' choice

Swimsuit shop

First place: La Plage Swimwear Fit Specialists
 Finalist: Tara Grinna Swimwear
 Finalist: Evita

Surf Shop

First place: Village Surf Shoppe
 Finalist: Ron Jon's
 Finalist: Surf City

Tattoo parlor

First place: Elite Ink
 Finalist: Pit Bull
 Finalist: Hero Tattoo

Tanning center

First place: Ultra Tan
 Finalist: Ultimate Tan
 Finalist: Myrtle Rays Tanning Studio

Tire store

First place: Black's Tire Service
 Finalist: Mason Tire
 Finalist: Tire Town

Tobacco store

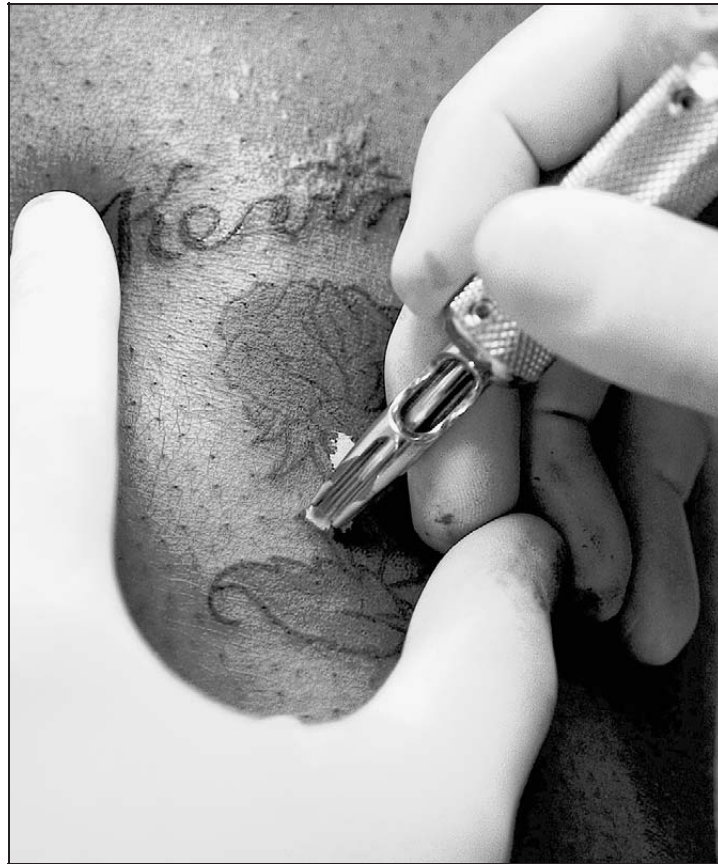
First place: Nick's Cigar World
 Finalist: Tinder Box
 Finalist: East End Tobacco (Cigar Company)

Toy store

First place: Toys R Us
 Finalist: KB Toys
 Finalist: Wal-Mart

Travel agency

First place: Triple A



Sun News file photo

Elite Ink took top honors in the 2007 Best of the Beach contest for best tattoo parlor.

Finalist: Thomas Hogan

Finalist: Kind Care

Veterinary hospital/center

First place: Ark Animal Hospital
 Finalist: Carolina Forest Veterinary Hospital

Wireless phone company

First place: SunCom
 Finalist: Verizon



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THE NUMBERS

14M

Approximate number of people who visit the Grand Strand each year



10

Wings locations in Brunswick County, N.C., and Horry and Georgetown counties



1200

Number of miles a visitor from Quebec must drive to get to the Grand Strand



\$101.76

Average amount of money a visitor spends per day on the Grand Strand

Source: Wings.com, mbchamber.com



Visitors' Voice



By CHARLES SLATE *The Sun News*

Inside

According to the Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce, more than 14 million people visit the Grand Strand each year. That's a lot of opinions. Gathered on www.MyrtleBeachOnline.com, our visitors responded to our Best of the Beach call. They weighed in on what golf course won't put a dent in their wallets, what hotel is perfect for a romantic getaway and, of course, the best store to buy everything you need for the beach. (Hint: It might be Wings.)

Flip to the next page to see what our visitors think ranks as Best of the Beach.

VISITORS' voice



Sun News file photo

Larry Hudson, a member of Team Sandtastic of Sarasota, Fla., uses a painting knife to sculpt a roof on the highest section of a sculpture at the annual Sun Fun Festival. Sun Fun was named the best annual event/festival for the 2007 Best of the Beach contest.

ENTERTAINMENT

Annual Event/Festival

First place: Sun Fun Festival
 Finalist: Harley-Davidson Spring Bike Rally
 Finalist: Carolina Opry Christmas Show

Attraction/Amusement

First place: Broadway at the Beach
 Finalist: tie — Family Kingdom
 Finalist: tie — Ripley's Aquarium

Boat tour

First place: Capt. Dick's Marina

Driving range

First place: Cane Patch Par 3
 Finalist: Tupelo Bay

Fishing charter

First place: Capt. Dick's Marina
 Finalist: Hurricane Fleet

Golf course for the money

First place: Arrowhead
 Finalist: Myrtlewood
 Finalist: Possum Trot
 Finalist: Wicked Stick

Golf course, overall

First place: Caledonia
 Finalist: Grande Dunes
 Finalist: Kings North at Myrtle Beach National

Golf course with the toughest hole

First place: Kings North at Myrtle Beach National
 Finalist: Grande Dunes
 Finalist: World Tour Golf Links

Live entertainment theater

First place: Alabama Theatre
 Finalist: Carolina Opry
 Finalist: Dixie Stampede

Miniature golf course

First place: Mt. Atlanticus Miniature Golf
 Finalist: Jungle Lagoon
 Finalist: Captain Hook

Night spot for live music

First place: House of Blues
 Finalist: Crocodile Rocks

See **NEXT PAGE** >



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on the Grand Strand

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VISITORS' voice



Sun News file photo

Ripley's Aquarium was named the best rainy day amusement venue by visitors in this year's Best of the Beach contest.

Par 3 golf course

First place: Cane Patch Par 3
Finalist: Tupelo Bay
Finalist: Midway Par 3

Pier

First place: Garden City
Finalist: Cherry Grove Pier
Finalist: Pier 14

RV/Camping facilities

First place: Ocean Lakes Family Campground
Finalist: Lakewood Camping Resort

Rainy day amusement venue

First place: Ripley's Aquarium
Finalist: Coastal Grand mall
Finalist: tie — Broadway at the Beach
Finalist: tie — Tanger Outlets

Shag club

First place: Fat Harold's Beach Club
Finalist: Studebaker's

Water park

First place: Myrtle Waves Waterpark

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1st Place 1st Place 1st Place 1st Place 1st Place 1st Place 1st Place

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VISITORS' voice

FOOD & DRINK

All-you-can-eat restaurant

First place: Crabby Mike's Calabash Seafood Co.
 Finalist: Original Benjamin's Calabash Seafood

Bar

First place — tie: Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville
 First place — tie: Bummz
 First place — tie: Murphy's Law

Barbecue

First place: Little Pigs Bar-B-Q
 Finalist: Sticky Fingers
 Finalist: Damon's



MCT

Visitors couldn't decide which bar was the best of the beach. There was a three-way tie.

See **NEXT PAGE** ►

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VISITORS' voice



Sun News file photo

Cold Stone Creamery was a finalist for best ice cream in this year's Best of the Beach contest.

Breakfast place

First place: Dino's Pancake House
 Finalist: Cracker Barrel
 Finalist: tie — Plantation Pancake House
 Finalist: tie — Spring House Family Restaurant
 Finalist: tie — IHOP

Burger

First place: River City Cafe
 Finalist: Hamburger Joe's
 Finalist: Five Guys Famous Burgers and Fries

Dessert

First place: The Melting Pot
 Finalist: Dairy Queen

Early-bird special

First place: J. Edwards
 Finalist: Angelo's Steak and Pasta

Fine-dining restaurant

First place: Sea Blue
 Finalist: Thoroughbreds Restaurant
 Finalist: tie — Sea Captain's House
 Finalist: tie — Greg Norman's Australian Grille

Hot dog

First place: Sam's Corner
 Finalist: Peaches Corner

Ice cream

First place: Painters
 Finalist: Kirk's Ice Cream Parlor
 Finalist: Cold Stone Creamery

Italian Restaurant

First place: Carrabba's Italian Grill
 Finalist: Rossi's Italian Restaurant
 Finalist: tie — Angelo's Steak and Pasta
 Finalist: tie — Olive Garden

Mexican restaurant

First place: Fiesta Del Burro Loco
 Finalist: El Cerro Grande
 Finalist: Abuelo's

Pizza

First place: Ultimate California Pizza
 Finalist: Papa John's
 Finalist: Pizza Hut

Restaurant for dinner before a show

First place: T-Bonz
 Finalist: Chesapeake House
 Finalist: Dixie Stampede

Restaurant with a view

First place: Sea Captain's House
 Finalist: Damon's
 Finalist: Drunken Jack's

See **NEXT PAGE** ➤

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VISITORS' voice



MCT

The Melting Pot, a fondue restaurant, was a finalist for romantic restaurant in this year's contest.

Ribs

First place: Damon's
 Finalist: Sticky Finger's
 Finalist: Tony Roma's

Sports bar

First place: Overtime Sports Cafe
 Finalist: tie — Murphy's Law
 Finalist: tie — Oscar's
 Finalist: Nascar Sports Grill

Romantic restaurant

First place: Thoroughbreds Restaurant
 Finalist: Sea Blue
 Finalist: tie — The Melting Pot
 Finalist: tie — Rossi's Italian Restaurant

Steak

First place: Outback Steakhouse
 Finalist: T-Bonz
 Finalist: Angelo's Steak and Pasta

Seafood restaurant

First place: Sea Captain's House
 Finalist: tie — Drunken Jack's
 Finalist: tie — Bonefish Grill
 Finalist: Captain Benjamin's

Theme restaurant

First place: Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville
 Finalist: Hard Rock Cafe
 Finalist: Nascar Sports Grill

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VISITORS' voice

SHOPPING & SERVICES

Airline

First place: U.S. Air
 Finalist: Spirit
 Finalist: Delta

Beachwear store

First place: Wings, first place
 Finalist: Eagles

Fireworks store

First place, tie: Mr. Fireworks
 First place, tie: Phantom
 Finalist: Willard's

Hotel for couples

First place: Ocean Reef Resort
 Finalist: Bay Watch Resort
 Finalist: Crown Reef Resort

Hotel for families

First place: Sea Mist
 Finalist: Ocean Reef Resort

Hotel for golf packages

First place, tie: Breakers Resort
 First place, tie: Bay Watch Resort
 First place, tie: Ocean Reef Resort

Hotel, overall

First place: Ocean Reef Resort
 Finalist: Camelot By The Sea
 Finalist: Long Bay Resort

Shopping center/mall

First place: Coastal Grand
 Finalist: Tanger Outlets
 Finalist: Broadway at the Beach

Vacation home rental company

First place, tie: Dunes Realty
 First place, tie: Elliott Realty
 Finalist: Garden City Realty
 Finalist: Grand Strand Realty



MCT

Sam's Corner was named by visitors as having the best hot dog on the beach.

Vitality
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 in the Coastal Carolinas

**EVERY THURSDAY
 INSIDE
 THE SUN NEWS**

THE SUN NEWS

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