

The Destin Log

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50 Cents

Housing plan hits roadblock

By Fraser Sherman
Staff writer

By the time Destin's City Council approves the financing for its attainable housing program, it may be too late to buy the housing, City Manager Greg Kisela says.

Next month, the council will be asked to vote on signing a \$15 million contract with developer James Monsees for 66 units in Sugarloaf Apartments, which Monsees plans to buy and convert to condominiums.

On Monday, however, the council postponed its vote on taking out a loan to buy the units because of concerns the city's unofficial housing committee violated the law.

Kisela said in an interview that although the Nov. 7 vote on the contract has also been postponed, the contract could up for a vote before the council votes on the loan. In that case, he said, the deal would hinge on how long Monsees would be willing to wait.

If the deal goes through, the city would purchase the condos, then sell them to qualified

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City of Destin wants feedback on airport noise study

By Fraser Sherman
Staff writer

How loud should Destin Airport be, and what should be done to make it quieter?

If you have an opinion, October is the month when it could make a difference. The LPA Group, which recently completed a report on noise at the Okaloosa County-owned airport, is taking comments on its report through the end of the month. Community Development Director Jerry Mucci said in an interview.

"I cannot stress how important it is for the community to provide their review comments," Mucci said in a news release. "We will be living with the results for years. It is in the neighborhoods' interest to provide very thorough comments."

Some Destin homeowners have many complaints about living next to the airport, but noise tops the bill: planes that sit on the tarmac revving their engines, dead-of-night flights, and the steady growth in airport activity and sound.

In 2004, the county contracted with LPA Group to perform a noise study and recommend ways to reduce noise around the airport. LPA finished measuring noise levels last year, using a computer model that calculates noise based on the make and number of planes using the airport, plus some real-world

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Tim Creehan: Future TV star?



KEEPING IT REAL: Tim Creehan is negotiating for a TV series that would take the Destin chef into celebrity kitchens.

Prominent chef in talks with Food Network

By Dusty Ricketts
Staff writer

Tim Creehan is already one of Destin's most prominent chefs.

If plans for a reality television series come to fruition, he could become one of the most well-known chefs in America.

Creehan, the chef and owner of Beach Walk Cafe, is negotiating with the Food Network to air a weekly reality show he would star in. If picked up by the network, it could air as soon as the summer 2006 television season, Creehan said.

"My goal is to provide a quality product," Creehan said. "Becoming a food celebrity would be a bonus, but it's not my ultimate goal."

The reality show is being financed by Fisher & Paykel, the parent company of Dynamic Cooking Systems, which supplies the cooking ranges, broilers, griddles and grills in Creehan's restaurants. Creehan is the spokesman for Dynamic Cooking Systems.

Fisher & Paykel, one of the biggest appliance manufacturers in Australia and New Zealand, purchased Dynamic Cooking Systems last year to expand its presence in the United States.

Creehan said he approached Fisher & Paykel about his idea for a television

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A STAR IS BORN: Destin chef Tim Creehan, who owns Beach Walk Cafe, discusses plans to star in a reality television series. He came to Destin 19 years ago to open Marina Cafe. Creehan is collaborating with Destin entertainer David Seering to open a new restaurant, Harbor Grille. The restaurant is scheduled to open in December in a site overlooking the city's harbor.

Log photos by KATHY HARRISON



Log photo by KATHY HARRISON

WORRIED: Residents of the Jetty East condo worry about the integrity of the building following continued beach erosion in storms and hurricanes.

On Holiday Isle, residents worry

■ Some say sea walls are the answer

By Liza Martin
Staff writer

When Louisville native John Besore pinched money from his and his wife's retirement fund to buy a Jetty East condominium on Destin's Holiday Isle, he thought it would be a good investment.

That was a week before Hurricane Ivan slammed into Destin in September 2004. And before Hurricanes Dennis, Katrina and Rita hit this summer.

"Now I'm out \$30,000," Besore said.

Now Besore and other condo owners, as well as Jetty East's property manager, Phil Lofé, desperately want to

build a temporary seawall to protect the property.

"Something has to be done. We have no protection,"

Besore said, adding that he and other owners collected \$400,000 to build a seawall.

Lofé attended several meetings on behalf of Jetty East, including a Walton County Tourist and Development Council meeting on Sept. 28, which focused on temporary beach armoring in



Walton County, and A Destin City Council meeting on Oct. 3.

Besore said the Jetty East Homeowners Association received verbal permission from the state Department of Environmental Protection on Aug. 26 to build a temporary seawall, but that Destin had yet to approve it.

Destin's city engineer, Chuck Meister, said the city declared an emergency order after Rita hit on Sept. 24 and is accepting applications for temporary beach armor until Nov. 26.

Jetty East closed after July's Hurricane Dennis damaged tennis courts, pool house restrooms, the beach pavilion

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Log photo by DUSTY RICKETTS

UP CLOSE: Mattie Hord, who turned 2 last month, is entertained as her father, Rick Hord, shows her a large amberjack weighed in at the Destin Fishing Rodeo Monday evening. Hord is teaching his daughter the species of fish.

Weighin' 'em in

■ Almost 600 fish hit the scales

By Dusty Ricketts
Staff writer

While the "big one" has yet to be brought to the scales this year, there has been no shortage of fish weighed in at the 57th annual Destin Fishing Rodeo.

The 599th fish was weighed in at the Rodeo Monday, the 17th day of month. At that time last year, 487 fish had been weighed in, said Helen Donaldson, executive director of the Rodeo.

"We've been pretty darn busy. There are a lot of people out there weighing in their fish," Donaldson said.

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20th annual Christmas parade set for Dec. 10

Christmas isn't exactly around the corner. But organizers in Destin are thinking about the city's 20th annual Christmas Parade.

It's scheduled for 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10. The theme of this year's event is "Peace on Earth."

Anyone wishing to participate, either by building a float or marching or in some other fashion, may pick up an application at the Destin Community Center, at Morgan Sports Center and at

City Hall. For questions, or to have an application faxed to you, call the center, 654-5184.

Entering the parade is free, except for entries with live animals, and the deadline to enter is Dec. 5.

The parade will begin in the parking lot near the Old Time Pottery store and will move west along U.S. 98 to the Nighttown parking lot, where it winds up. Thousands of people traditionally line the highway as the parade moves slowly along.

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