

Mardi Gras rolling into HarborWalk

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Destin doesn't have Bourbon Street, but HarborWalk Village is gearing up to be Mardi Gras party central through Fat Tuesday.

It should be an easy recipe for Mardi Gras fun, since the spread already has iconic New Orleans fixtures like Pat O'Brien's, Commander's Palace and Jester Mardi Gras Daiquiris and Pizza.

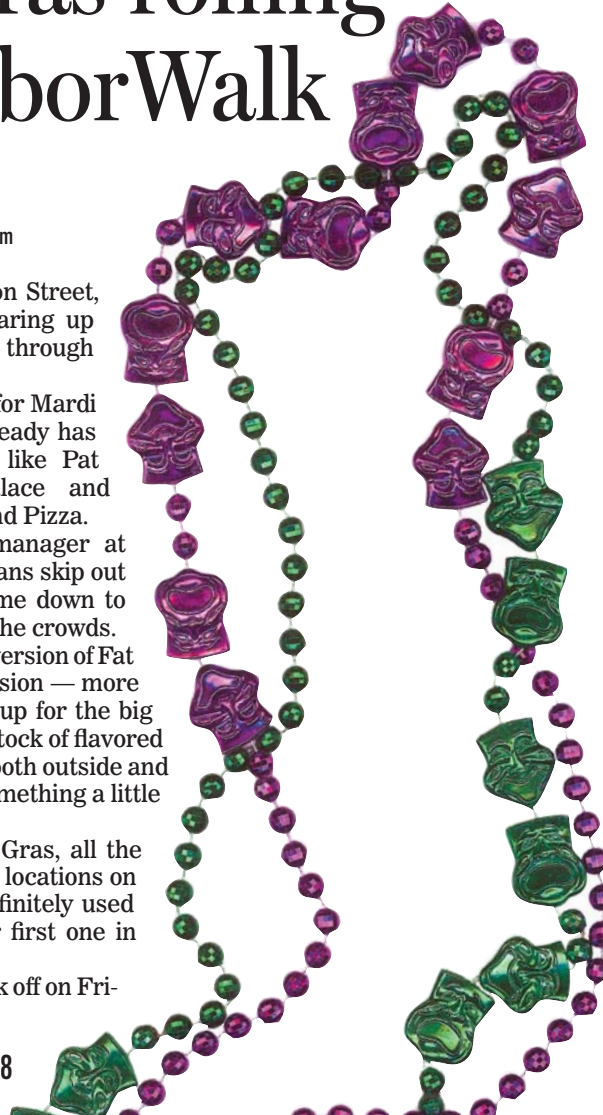
Donte Doussan, general manager at Jester, said many New Orleanians skip out on the annual holiday and come down to Destin to avoid the traffic and the crowds.

Attendees at HarborWalk's version of Fat Tuesday will find a "milder version — more laid back." Still, he is gearing up for the big day and, in addition to his full stock of flavored daiquiris, he will have a beer booth outside and a shot girl for those wanting something a little harder.

"We are actually all Mardi Gras, all the time," he said. "We have three locations on Bourbon Street, so we are definitely used to Mardi Gras, but this is our first one in Florida."

The festive weekend will kick off on Friday with a sidewalk sale.

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FEBRUARY 20th-22nd
HARBORWALK VILLAGE SIDEWALK SALE
Super discounts with something for everyone!
Hours: Friday/Saturday 10am-6pm; Sunday 11am-6pm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21st · 3:00PM
MARDI GRAS PARADE

Enjoy dazzling floats, colorful costumes, street performers, float riders tossing handfuls of beads & childrens activities

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd · 11AM-3PM
JAMBALAYA COOK-OFF & PET COSTUME CONTEST
Dress your pets in Mardi Gras costumes & enjoy Jambalaya!
Music by Terry & the Zydeco Bad Boys.
Proceeds benefit Destin Harvest

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24th · 5:00PM
MARDI GRAS BASH ON THE HARBOR
A wild & vibrant Fat Tuesday celebration! Free red beans & rice, Free Beer sponsored by Budweiser & Music by the Dent Brothers

ON THE DESTIN HARBOR
WWW.HARBORWALKDESTIN.COM

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On Saturday, the highlight is the Mardi Gras Parade that will roll at 3 p.m. and wind through the Village with brilliant floats, colorful costumes and street performers that will shower parade-goers with beads. The kids in attendance will get to make their very own Mardi Gras clowns.

Float entries that roll, float, pedal, and push cost \$10, with proceeds going to

Destin Rotary Education Foundation. HarborWalk Village is attempting to break the Guinness Book of World Record for the most golf carts in a Mardi Gras parade.

Floats will line up in the parking lot adjacent to Destin Yacht Club/Legendary Marine and make their way down the harbor and through the crowds at the Village. A post-parade party

and award celebration will be in the courtyard of Pat O'Brien's

This week, we might need to move the "day of rest" to Monday.

The grand finale for the Mardi Gras Bash on the Harbor will be on Fat Tuesday, Feb. 24. The event will be a street party, with free red beans and rice, free beer by Budweiser and music by the Dent Brothers

from 6 to 10 p.m.

Peter Bos, CEO of Legendary, said the massive celebration is all part of "bringing excitement back to the harbor."

"Louisiana a major part of the clientele base of Destin and they have an affinity to Destin," he said. "What we are doing is piggy backing on that enthusiasm for a four day event that will become a first annual."