



**N**OCCA Institute's Richard Reed accepts \$9,426 raised during the 13th MASCARa blowout held Memorial Day weekend from Wood Enterprises' GM Ken Grandpre at Rawhide 2010 in New Orleans. Sponsored by Wood Enterprises and Bud Light, the event included the 12th Hamster Derby at Good Friends Bar, Lube Wrestling at Cafe Lafitte in Exile, Crawfish Boil at Rawhide 2010, and the 13th MASCARa Race beginning at Clover Grill, racing to Lafitte's, Rawhide, Good Friends, Bourbon Pub Parade, Oz, ending at Clover Grill.



**T**en contestants participated in the 13th annual MASCARa Race on Memorial Day in New Orleans, all raising money through sponsorships for the NOCCA Institute. Top winners included Good Friends' Nick with Fastest Time and Best Drag, Rawhide's Kevin with Most Money Raised (\$1,500), Southern Eagle's Toby with Ken Grandpre Butt Ugly Award, and Oz's Derek winning Miss MASCARa for scoring more points across the board than any other contestant. Other contestants included 700 Club's Glen, Bourbon Pride's Josh, Bourbon Pub Parade's Chris, Clover Grill's Adam, Napoleon's Itch's Tom, and Ninth Circle's Shayne.



**I**nternational circuit great DJ Joe Gauthreaux, direct from New York, brought thousands together to dance at the annual **Wave Beach Bash** hosted Memorial Day Weekend on Pensacola Beach Park East.



**S**tarr Alexander was crowned Miss Gay New Orleans America at Oz, and along with 1st Alternate Sanuria Bonet will represent New Orleans in the upcoming Miss Gay Louisiana America pageant in September.



**3**rd Pride Grand Marshal Tony Leggio, Pride Chair Chris Leonard, and Mr. Pride 2011 Adonis D'Orleans, join newly crowned Mr. Pride and Miss 2012 Mark Callahan, Jr. and Starr Alexander, along with Miss Pride 2011 Monica Synclaire-Kennedy, and 33rd Pride Grand Marshal Matthew Birkhoff following competition at JohnPaul's in New Orleans.



**W**ave Beach Fest hosts Cy Whitney and Johnny Chisholm join Ebony Sinclair for the fab **Wave Beach Bash** Saturday night bringing in an estimated 3-4,000 revelers under the big top at Pensacola Beach Park East Memorial Day weekend.



**A**bove-Both Bianca Del Rio and Leslie Jordan appeared at Emerald City Friday in downtown Pensacola Memorial Day Weekend. Del Rio went on to headline the **Wave Beach Bash** on Pensacola Beach Saturday, and Jordan starred in **Fruit Fly** at Pensacola Saenger Theatre on Sunday. Over 30,000 joined Memorial Day weekend in Pensacola and Pensacola Beach.



**L**eft-Club LAX's Toby Lefort joins Bayou Chad to host Toby's annual Crawfish Boil benefiting NO/AIDS Walk raising \$6,180 this year at Club LAX in Metairie, Louisiana.





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**Saturday, June 9th**

**La Familia**

Show Director Johnny Passion & Guests

**Saturday, June 16th 11pm**

**Gumbo Revue**

Show Director Regina Adams  
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**Fri.-Sun., June 15th-17th**

**Father's Day**

Drink Specials All Weekend

**Friday, June 22nd 11pm**

**Queens of Mardi Gras**

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**Saturday, June 23rd 11pm**

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INDOOR STAGE AT THE NEW ORLEANS NATIONAL JAZZ HISTORICAL PARK

The Jazz Park Visitor Center, in Dutch Alley near Dumaine and Decatur Streets, offers an intimate, air-conditioned setting with seating for 65. There is music for all ages, workshops, and a tented area just outside for kids with interactive crafts and activities.

Also in Dutch Alley, ice sculptor Chris Hunter, AKA "Mr. Jazzy", an ice sculptor with 35 years experience, will be carving French Market themed sculptures, including the iconic archway and a giant Creole Tomato!!!

Saturday June 9th inside the Jazz Park

10-10:45am, Jr. Park Ranger Activities & Workshops

11am-12:00pm, Paul Ferrara performs with his six-piece band. Legendary Louisiana Hall of Fame drummer performs jazz in the style of Al Hirt and Louis Prima, with whom he played.

12-12:30pm, Paul Ferrara in conversation with WWOZ 90.7FM host Sally Young. Paul Ferrara, the son of Sicilian immigrants, reminisces about growing up working in the produce market that his father owned on Orleans Avenue, and shares his memories of his uncles working in the French Market during the 40s and 50s in New Orleans.

1pm, Singer/Songwriter Johnette Downing performs songs about Louisiana and New Orleans, with book signings afterwards.

2-2:45pm, Jr. Park Ranger Activities & Workshops

3-4:15pm, MISS CLAUDIA presents "SINGALONG AMERICANA! Bringing singing back!" For kids and adults. Folk songs, patriotic tunes and Louisiana favorites- come join in the joy of singing! Featuring: Claudia Baumgarten, Vocals; Patrick Mackey, Banjo; Amasa Miller, Accordion; Jon Pult, Ukelele; Dave Maleckar, Bass; Kathy Randels, Vocals.



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Sunday June 10th inside the Jazz Park

10-10:45am, Jr. Park Ranger Activities & Workshops

12-1:30pm, NOCCA (New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts) Classical Music Ensemble.

2-3pm, Storyteller Diane de Las Casas. Join award-winning author and storyteller Dianne de Las Casas as she sizzles on stage with revved-up storytelling. Audiences sing, dance, chant, clap and roar with laughter! Dianne's books include *The Cajun Cornbread Boy*, *The Gigantic Sweet Potato*, *Blue Frog: The Legend of Chocolate*, and *Madame Poulet and Monsieur Roach*. Author signing afterwards outside Jazz Park.

3:30-4:30pm, Johnette Downing performs songs about Louisiana and New Orleans

Latrobe Park will be the site of several misting fans and hanging mist tubing, offering audiences a misting mecca in the middle of the festivities. Dutch Alley, which plays host to one indoor and one outdoor stage, will also feature several misting stations and fans, including mist at the dance pavilion.

Included in the homage to the state's favorite veggie is the second annual Creole Tomato Eating Contest, to be hosted by Nola Locavores on Sunday at noon.

Adults and children will compete in two separate contests for free tomatoes and gift certificates good at French Market District retail shops. Contestants should sign up one hour prior to contest time (11am), and will be asked to eat as many Creole tomatoes as possible within 3 minutes.

Indoors at the New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park a mix of children's performers and music for all ages will occur, including singer/songwriter/author Johnette Downing and storyteller Diane de Las Casas. Also on the Jazz Park porch and in Dutch Alley, children will have the opportunity to engage in craft-making, from secondline hanky and umbrella decorating to seed planting with New Orleans Farm & Food Network. Kids can enjoy facepainting and a balloon artist as well as circus arts workshops facilitated by KidSmART and a tomato necklace activity hosted by Ninth Ward Community HeART of Justus.

Souvenir t-shirts, tanks, and aprons will be for sale at three locations: Upper Pontalba, Dumaine Street, and the Farmers Market. Throughout the Festival, signature tomato festival fans, jar openers, and shopping bags will be offered while supplies last.

In addition to the regular Farmers Market eateries featuring local flavor, from seafood to Cajun specialties, vegetarian options, and fresh produce, there will be a dozen tented festival food booths alongside the Farmers Market selling Creole Tomato dishes.

For more information, visit [FrenchMarket.ORG](http://FrenchMarket.ORG) or "French Market New Orleans" on Facebook.

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# The PANDA BEAR

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NOGMC Celebrates Turning 30 with XXX: The Musical!

New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus celebrates turning 30 with it's June concert, **XXX: The Musical!**, a celebration of 30 years of music that NOGMC has commissioned for it's chorus. And what would a celebration be without very special guest, Varla Jean Merman, to help light the candles - or whatever else might get lit?

The concerts are in New Orleans at the Recital Hall of UNO's Performing Arts Center on Friday, June 15th at 7:30pm, and at the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge on Saturday, June 16th at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$25 in advance at [nogmc.com](http://nogmc.com) and at the door.

NOGMC will pull popular numbers from it's show of gay icons, *Diva by Diva*, one hit wonders from *Pop Musick*, and songs of love and family from *Home*. NOGMC has commissioned the composer of *Diva by Diva*, David Maddux, to write new arrangements of music from such diverse artists as Michael Jackson, Lady Gaga, Beyoncé, 'N Sync, Ricky Martin and Petula Clark. So get ready for a *Thriller* of an evening of *Livin' la Vida Loca* with a *Bad Romance* that will have you on the *Telephone* saying, "These Girls Just Wanna Have Fun, but they're nothin' but a bunch of Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves."

But after saying, "Bye, Bye, Bye," you might look at the *Man in the Mirror* and think, "I ain't no *Proud Mary*, because I Believe that, *If I Were a Boy* or a *Big Boned Gal*, I'd simply *Think Pink* and *Color My World*, rather than having this *Constant Craving* for Miss Chatelaine and Mickey."



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- **Sat., June 9th > 9pm-1am**

### Country Western Dance

- **Tues., June 12th > 6pm**

### Faubourg Marigny Association Meet & Greet

- **Sat., June 16th > 10:30pm**

### Johnny Passion & Entourage

- **Coming Sat., June 23rd >**

### Varla Jean Merman



- **Special Thanks >**

### Kevin Coakley

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## under the gaydar

by Tony Leggio  
Email: [tonymgp@hotmail.com](mailto:tonymgp@hotmail.com)  
Photo by: Larry Graham, [GrahamStudioOne.COM](http://GrahamStudioOne.COM)

### Bartender of the Month

New Orleans gay bar scene has many facets with each bar having its own personality, its own style let's say. Our next bartender of the month hails from a very popular watering hole with a much storied reputation. If anyone is interested in taking a walk on the wild side, then Rawhide is your place. There are not many places in this city that promises you an experience such as this one. And there is no better bartender in this establishment that can help you navigate Rawhide then my bartender of the month for June, Dirty Joe.



Bartender Dirty Joe, Rawhide

I mean, could he have not picked a more fitting nickname. The cool thing about the gay bars in New Orleans is that the bartenders become very colorful local characters. Dirty Joe is one of these flamboy-

antly funny and memorable people that enhance your visit. It is easy for some bartenders with venues that have a certain draw to become slack in how they deal with customers because they figure they are coming there anyway. I have seen that attitude in many places, but Dirty Joe is the exception to this rule.

He goes out of his way to make customers feel genuinely appreciated. He is able to handle a full bar of patrons, which is not an easy task in Rawhide where darkness is the norm. It takes a special person to handle particular kinds of bars and not only does Joe do this with ease, he is one of the more popular servers. Any bar that gets a late night crowd needs a bartender that is not only proficient in his job, but able to handle a rowdy patron. From what I have witnessed there is nothing this man cannot handle with ease. That is why he gets repeat clientele, at least he is one of the reasons.

So if you are looking for a little excitement in your night, stop by and say hi to Dirty Joe at Rawhide. I can guarantee you will never be the same again. Rawhide is located at 740 Burgundy Street.

### Are Your Ready for an Alien/Titanic Mashup!

The Mystic Krewe of Satyricon is presenting the opening night of another one of Running With Scissors hilarious mash-ups of two box office hits. This special opening night performance will be on Thursday, June 21 at 8pm. Travel back in time — before the internet, before television, before Americans knew words like OMG and LOL and Kardashian. Join us in this heady era,

when queens were queens and radio was king, as the Running With Scissors Radio Players present a hilarious, action-packed double-bill: **An Alien Home Companion & The Titanic Comedy Hour**.

In its characteristically camped-up style, Running With Scissors has reimagined these two cinematic blockbusters — **Alien** and **Titanic** — as radio plays, performed by a dedicated troupe of young(ish) starlets, Broadway washouts, and at least one diabolical diva. Watch as this motley mob of half-baked hacks drags listeners to the furthest reaches of the universe to fight a surprisingly civilized alien menace. Tag along on board the Titanic, as they tell a tawdry tale of class warfare, forbidden love, and Celine Dion. Will these beloved cinematic stories change in Running With Scissors' hands? Darned tootin' they will — and how.

An **Alien Home Companion & The Titanic Comedy Hour** (presented by the Running With Scissors Radio Players) stars Kyle Daigrepoint, Jack Long, Brian Peterson, and Dorian Rush. The performance will be held at the AllWays Theatre located at 2240 St. Claude Avenue, at the corner of Marigny Street. Tickets are \$20 and showtime is at 8pm. For tickets, call 504.415.6476.

### Petronius is Heating Up the Kitchen

The Krewe of Petronius is presenting Cooking with the Queens on Saturday, June 16 at the New Orleans School of Cooking. If you have never been to this event, you are in for a treat. For your \$35 ticket, you get a three course meal cooked right before your eyes by the expert staff with special help from some of our favorite ladies such as Bootsie DeVille and many more. Not only do you get to see these well-known New Orleans favorites prepared to you for scratch, but you learn the recipes and how easy it is to do this at home. You may go for the meal, but it is the floor show that makes the night. The event starts at 7pm. For tickets, call 713.444.8572 or go to [www.kreweofpetronius.org](http://www.kreweofpetronius.org). The New Orleans School of Cooking is located at 524 St. Louis.

### Amon-Ra Host Pretty In Pink: Prom 2012

The Krewe of Amon-Ra is hosting it's annual Prom night on Saturday, June 16th, 7pm, upstairs in the Parade above the Bourbon Pub, 801 Bourbon Street. This year's theme is Pretty In Pink and you have the chance to become Prom King or Queen which is done by audience participation. It's \$15 at the door. Visit [KreweOfAmonRa.COM](http://KreweOfAmonRa.COM) for more information.

### Armeinius Presents Tulane Summer Lyric Opening

The Krewe of Armeinius hosts several opening nights over the summer of Tulane Summer Lyric with the first one being Sunset Boulevard on Wednesday, June 20 at 8pm. Tickets are \$35 and the theatre is located at Dixon Hall on Tulane's Campus. For information or to buy tickets, go to [www.kreweofarmeinius.org](http://www.kreweofarmeinius.org).

### Are You Ready To Be Proud

There are so many exciting things happening with Gay Pride this year. First congratulations to Mr. and Miss Pride 2012 Mark Callahan, Jr. and Starr Alexander who did a phenomenal job at JohnPaul's for the pageant. There are seven days of events beginning June 18 through the 22 ranging from film screenings and family restaurant nights to the parade and block party. To keep up to date, go to [www.nolapride.biz](http://www.nolapride.biz) for information, or go their page on Facebook at New Orleans Pride.

### Party Down

Well if you thought last week's column was short, I have definitely made up for it in the last two weeks. Memorial Day was a blast with lots of fun adventures, parties and just a slight hint of scandal. Let's start the week prior on Tuesday when I went to the open house of Petite Bourbon located at 530 Bourbon Street. This new event venue boasts a spacious courtyard and balcony as well as a nicely decorated room to host your upcoming functions. Ralph Brennan and Pigeon's did the catering making their hospitality evening a huge success. Afterwards some friends and I went to Oz for a few more cocktails which ended in a late night in which two of my friends entered the Bad A\$\$ Booty Boy contest hosted by the fabulous Blanche DeBris. Congratulations to my friend Tal for coming in second place. Your mama would be so proud.

On Thursday, my friend Robbie Banta graduated from college with an MD behind his name now. His boyfriend Marvin hosted the party at our friend Laurene's house in Old Metairie. What an amazing night of good friends coming together to celebrate a major accomplishment. There were lots of flowing cocktails as we cheered Robbie's next major step in his life. It is always good to have a doctor in your calling circle.

On Friday, my weekend started off promising with me and several friends going to Phillip's for their Friday Gay Happy Hour. One of our group, Jobie is traveling to India to help as a missionary, build schools, feed the hungry, or some other noble nonsense like that. I am just kidding, Jobie is spending the summer working to help people in an impover-

[continued on 12]



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