



Marco Island Charity Beach Music Festival

Post-Event Coverage



November 22, 2010

Good weather enhances Marco beach music festival

QUENTIN ROUX • Q@MISUNTIMES.COM • NOVEMBER 22, 2010

Balmy weather ensured the smooth running of the first Marco Island beach music festival held on Saturday in front of the Marco Island Marriott Resort.

The day's assorted events attracted hundreds of people, but it was the music that ruled the attendance roost, with thousands turning out to listen to country singer Casey Weston and also the headlining LandSharks band.

The LandSharks had the beach rocking with a selection of covers such as "It's Five O'clock Somewhere," "American Pie" and other stadium-type sing-alongs.

First up in the morning was a skimboarding contest held in small shorebreak waves that tested the creative riding of the competitors. Most opted for tricks like shove-its and 360s in shallow water, occasionally producing whoops from the spectators.

Toward lunchtime, chefs from various Marco Island restaurants knuckled down to the task of producing the best burgers.

Before the contest, each chef promised they would bring home the bacon, citing burgers with bacon pepperjack cheese and a special barbecue sauce; others with caramelized onion and jalapenos with a "cool" red-pepper mayo, and also the tempting-sounding burger with ground Angus chuck, foie gras butter topped with a fig and cherry compote on a brioche bun.

As the music acts swung into action around 4 p.m., Marroitt general manager Rick Medwedeff said the festival had been five months in the planning.

"This is what we were hoping we would achieve," Medwedeff said with a sweep of his hands over the beach. "We wanted to get the community involved."



Part of the big crowd that turned out to hear performances by country singer Casey Weston, and also the Buffett-style band, The Landsharks. (Quentin Roux/marcoislandflorida.com)



Skimboarder Connor Bowden does a 360 in small surf on Marco beach during the Marco Island beach music festival held Saturday on the beach at the Marriott Marco Island Resort. (Quentin Roux/marcoislandflorida.com)



Chef Luis Morales of Crazy Flamingo restaurant flames burgers in the quest for the best burger of the day. The restaurant was one among a number of category winners. (Quentin Roux/marcoislandflorida.com)



Darryl Adams, hotel manager at the Ritz Carlton in Naples, takes some liquid after sampling close to a dozen burgers as a judge. He said all the burgers were tasty and unique. (Quentin Roux/ marcoislandflorida.com)

Pick up the Thursday, Nov. 25, print edition of the Marco Island Sun Times for more photos.

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Jordyn Early, 7, Maryland, far left, encourages Jack Gordon, 8, Georgia, to do some upside down flips on his bungee experience at the Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival on Saturday. Visitors enjoyed a food competition, live music, raffles, fireworks with its proceeds given to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News



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Casey Weston, Naples, performs at the Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival on Saturday evening. Visitors enjoyed a food competition, live music, raffles, fireworks with its proceeds given to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News



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Victoria Zelner, 13, Marco Island, left gets her hair braided with color by Heidi Wright, owner of Knot Head in Marco Island at the Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival on Saturday. It was a day filled with a food competition, live music, raffles, fireworks and the event gave its proceeds to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News

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Dwight Stiehl, 64, Chicago, left, and Jim Vandenberg, 61, Chicago both taste a burger in the Best Burger in Paradise competition at the Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival on Saturday. "The fusion of the fruit and the meat was the best," said Stiehl. Visitors enjoyed a food competition, live music, raffles, fireworks with its proceeds given to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News



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Guests staying in the Presidential suite at the Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort watch the fireworks on Saturday night. The Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival offered a day of Best Burger in Paradise competition, live music and fireworks and the event gave its proceeds to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News

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Beachgoers dance to the reggae sounds of The Sheffield Crew who were performing live at the Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival on Saturday. Visitors enjoyed a food competition, live music, raffles, fireworks with its proceeds given to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News

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John Lanni, Marco Island, left, and Maria Harizanoba, Bulgaria, decorate a booth for Cafe de Marco on Saturday morning at the Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival. Visitors enjoyed a food competition, live music, raffles, fireworks and the event gave its proceeds to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News



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It was estimated that 3500 people attended the Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival on Saturday evening. Visitors enjoyed a food competition, live music, raffles, fireworks with its proceeds given to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News

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Will Kindorf, 2, Chicago, right, receives a Landshark fins hat at the Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival on Saturday. Visitors enjoyed a food competition, live music, raffles, fireworks and the event gave its proceeds to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News

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Watching bubbles was a bit of entertainment for Garrett Smith, 3, center, with his parents Shane Smith, left and Marian Smith of Cocoa Beach, FL. On Saturday they attended the Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival. Visitors enjoyed a food competition, live music, raffles, fireworks and the event gave its proceeds to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News

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Thousands of visitors listen to live music at the Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival on Saturday evening. It was a day filled with a food competition, live music, raffles, fireworks and the event gave its proceeds to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News



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A loving family listens to a live band among the estimated 3500 people in attendance at the Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival on Saturday. It was a day filled with a food competition, live music, raffles, fireworks and the event gave its proceeds to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News



November 22, 2010



Rob Wallach, Senior Chef for 25 years at the Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort cooks up some glorious foods at the Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival on Saturday. Visitors enjoyed a food competition, live music, raffles, fireworks and the event gave its proceeds to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News



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Holly Setterquist, 9, Naples, left, flings her blowup shark in the air while listening to the sounds of Landshark at the Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival on Saturday. It was a day filled with a food competition, live music, raffles, fireworks and the event gave its proceeds to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News



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Guests staying in the Presidential suite at the Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort watch the fireworks on Saturday night. The Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival offered a day of Best Burger in Paradise competition, live music and fireworks and the event gave its proceeds to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News

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First place winners of Best Burger in Paradise competition at the Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival on Saturday. The Crazy Flamingo won for their burger titled, "The Required Burger," that had an 8oz patty, secret steak sauce, cheese, lettuce, tomato, pickle on garlic bread. From left, Luis Morales, Rose Kriberscheck and owner Danny Dawber. Visitors enjoyed a food competition, live music, raffles, fireworks and the event gave its proceeds to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News



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Can you say, tasty? Debi Dibenedeto, Marco Island, bites into a burger at the Best Burger in Paradise competition on Saturday at the Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival. Visitors enjoyed a food competition, live music, raffles, fireworks and the event gave its proceeds to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News

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The Landsharks band performs for 3500 people at the Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival on Saturday. Visitors enjoyed a food competition, live music, raffles, fireworks and the event gave its proceeds to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News

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Snowbirds, locals, travelers talk with friends on the beach at the Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival on Saturday. The event gave its proceeds to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News

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Families walk around at the Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival on Saturday. It was a day filled with a food competition, live music, raffles, fireworks and the event gave its proceeds to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News



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Casey Weston, Naples, performs at the Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival on Saturday evening. Visitors enjoyed a food competition, live music, raffles, fireworks with its proceeds given to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News

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Chris Jacobs, Naples, lead singer of The Sheffield Crew band performs at the Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival on Saturday. Visitors enjoyed a food competition, live music, raffles, fireworks and the event gave its proceeds to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News

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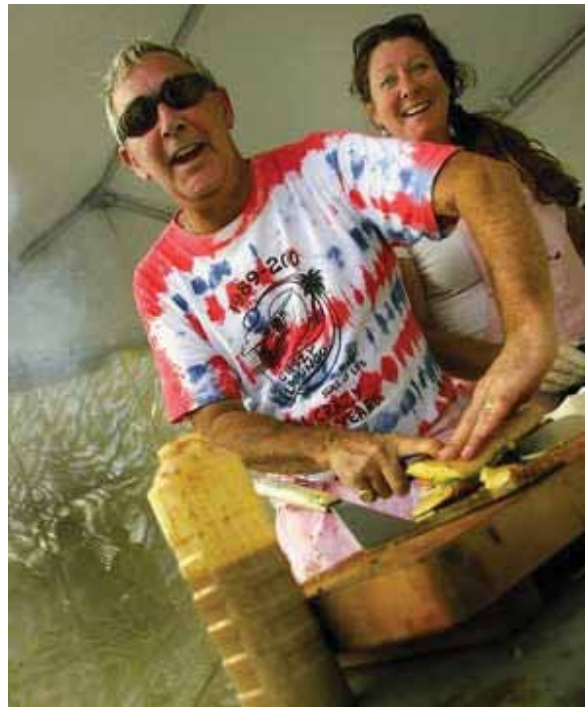
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Rafael Martinez, Marco Island, left, Filigerto Zarade, Marco Island, right and owner Santo Spina of Capt. Brien's restaurant cook up hundreds of burgers in their attempt to place first in the Best Burger in Paradise competition at the Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival on Saturday. Visitors enjoyed a food competition, live music, raffles, fireworks with its proceeds given to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News



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Danny Dawbert, left, owner of The Crazy Flamingo, Marco Island and Rose Kriberscheck happily send out their official entry in the Best Burger in Paradise competition at the Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival. Visitors enjoyed a food competition, live music, raffles, fireworks and the event gave its proceeds to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News

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Darryll Adams, left, and Frank Recker begin the process of judging which burger they will choose in the Best Burger in Paradise competition at the Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival on Saturday evening. Visitors enjoyed a food competition, live music, raffles, fireworks with its proceeds given to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News



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Judges for the Best Burger in Paradise wait for the competition to commence at the Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival. Judges from left, Darryll Adams, Frank Recker, Debi Dibenedeto, Mac Chaudry, Janine Ouillette, Vince Rodriguez. Visitors enjoyed a food competition, live music, raffles, fireworks and the event gave its proceeds to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News

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Judging commences at the Best Burger in Paradise competition at the Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival on Saturday. First prize went to The Crazy Flamingo for their burger titled, "The Required Burger," that had an 8oz patty, secret steak sauce, cheese, lettuce, tomato, pickle on garlic bread. It was a day filled with a food competition, live music, raffles, fireworks and the event gave its proceeds to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News



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Twins, Caitlin Carlson, 11, left and Cassidy Carlson, 11, Marco Island, go forward into the unknown and taste a burger entered in the Best Burger in Paradise competition at the Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival on Saturday. Visitors enjoyed a food competition, live music, raffles, fireworks with its proceeds given to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News

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Ariel Torres, 16, Marco Island, center, helps her friend Kristi West, 15, Marco Island, taste a burger entered in the Best Burger in Paradise competition at the Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival on Saturday. It was a day filled with a food competition, live music, raffles, fireworks and the event gave its proceeds to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News

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An up close view of the Surf and Turf burger created by Brian Monahan for Quinn's on the Beach restaurant at Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort Hotel. Ingredients are Kobe beef, grilled pineapple, baby Arugula, diced red pepper and rock shrimp slaw. This burger was entered in the Best Burger in Paradise at the Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival on Saturday. It was a day filled with a food competition, live music, raffles, fireworks and the event gave its proceeds to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News



November 23, 2010

Goals coming true with music festival a success



PHOTO BY MICHELE ANNELOUISE COHEN // BUY THIS PHOTO

Darryll Adams, left, and Frank Recker begin the process of judging which burger they will choose in the Best Burger in Paradise competition at the Marco Island 1st Annual Beach Music Festival on Saturday evening. Visitors enjoyed a food competition, live music, raffles, fireworks with its proceeds given to Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay. Michele AnneLouise Cohen/Special to the Daily News

The Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort set out to have a music festival that could become an annual event for local recognition, while also focusing on getting the word out locally and nationally that Marco's beaches remain pristine.

It certainly accomplished the first part and will do a lot for the second part.

It also accomplished its expectation to raise funds for local charities.

Action during the day featured a Best Burger in Paradise Contest that drew a huge crowd. It swelled even more for the night's musical entertainment and fireworks.

Bob Pfeffer, Marriott's director of sales and marketing, estimated the evening gathering at 3,000.

They enjoyed entertainers Casey Weston of Naples and the Landsharks, a Jimmy Buffet tribute band. At one point a large throng created a conga line that merrily went across the stage in front of the performers.

The Best Burger in Paradise was provided by the Crazy Flamingo. The most unique burger, was claimed by 400 Pazzi's of the Marriott, with a bison burger. Cafe de Marco took two awards, the best non-meat burger and the People's Choice Award.

Any anticipation of parking problems did not develop as parking at the Marco River Marina, with overflow at Veterans Community Park took care of those who didn't take advantage of the reduced parking fee at the Marriott.

"A lot of people apparently carpoled, as cars came with four and five people per car," Pfeffer said.

Pfeffer, who created the event, said the funds raised were still being counted on Tuesday. The money will go to the Marco Island YMCA, Friends of Rookery Bay and the Children's Miracle Network.

"The event took an incredible effort by resort staff and more than 100 volunteers," Pfeffer said.

He also feels good about the effort made to bring awareness locally and eventually nationally "that are beaches are pristine and free of any oil. We've gotten off to a good start."



December 18, 2010

Marriott awards \$40,000 from music festival to local charities

DON MANLEY • DON@MISUNTIMES.COM • DECEMBER 18, 2010

The first-ever Marco Island Beach Music Festival benefit generated \$40,000 for four local organizations.

The Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort, the festival sponsor, presented checks for \$10,000 each to three of the organizations on Friday.

The resort presented checks to representatives of the Marco Island Family YMCA and the Friends of Rookery Bay.

The hotel also presented a check to representatives of the American Cancer Society.

The Marriott also will award money to the Children's Miracle Network.



Dr. Loan Lam, left, and Vanessa Warner of the American Cancer Society on Marco Island receive a check for \$10,000 from Rick Medwedeff general manager of the Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort on Friday. (Don Manley/MarcoIslandFlorida.com)

