

**Business Pulse**

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Brett says wings are unquestionably his No. 1 seller. Pitchers of beer are also a friend to many. Mud Bums has a wide selection, from craft beer to the ever-popular Coors Light.

Steaks are on the menu every night of the week and the Mud Bum Burger is gaining a reputation as the best burger this side of the Mississippi.

Starting this week, Mud Bums will be open on Mondays. The following Monday, trivia night will begin and become a regular feature before NFL games.

If you're a football fan, Mud Bums will always have the big college games on Saturdays and NFL Season Ticket on Sundays. That means no matter your pro team, you will be able to see them in action at Mud Bums.

"Taking over was a risk, but I've always wanted to be my own boss and so far it's working out," said Brett, who added he's not about to quit his day job as office manager at Namaste. However, Brett didn't rule out a run for McMinnville Mayor.

Mud Bums has already held a wing eating contest under Brett's ownership and more contests

and special events are likely in store. To keep in touch with all the action, visit the Mud Bums page on Facebook.

Hours are Monday thru Thursday from 3 to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Be sure to visit Mud Bums, your place for fun.

**GET READY TO CRUISE**

If you've dreamed of a fabulous vacation aboard a cruise ship, Jackie Ware Powers is living your dream. Jackie has been on more than 35 cruises and taken countless other vacations since 1992.

If you'd like to enjoy a cruise ship experience, Jackie is now a certified travel agent and she's opened The Savvy Traveler. Her motto is she offers champagne vacations on a beer budget.

"If you want to go somewhere, let me handle all the hassle," said Jackie. "I'll do it. I know all the discounts and advantages that are out there so why not use them?"

Jackie recently passed the Travel Agent Proficiency Test. She says for travel agents, this is equivalent to passing the bar for attorneys. Jackie has graduated with hon-



**Jackie Ware Powers has passed her test to become a certified travel agent and has opened The Savvy Traveler. She specializes in booking cruises and says she can save you money. Jackie can be reached at (931) 212-4176.**

ors from Ashworth College in Atlanta, Ga., with a travel agent degree.

"This all started years and years ago when I began booking trips and cruises for the Rusty Wallace Fan Club," said Jackie, who is a big

NASCAR fan. "Everybody kept telling me, 'You're getting these trips so cheap. Could you get one for me?' I'm doing it anyway for myself so I don't mind doing it for other people too. It started as a hobby and I'm still going to keep it as a side business."

Jackie said if you want to experience a cruise on a budget, there are four-day cruises starting at \$350 that leave from Mobile, Ala. She says she can book most cruises for an average of \$75 a day per person and that includes all your food.

"Cruises are great because you can be as busy as you want or as lazy as you want," said Jackie.

She can make reservations for cruises, airfare, hotels, and bed and breakfast inns. She says she's determined to get the lowest price every time.

"It's like playing a game," said Jackie. "I'm competitive and I want to win. I want to see how cheap I can get it."

Jackie says she has no plans to get a storefront. She said travel agents with a storefront are required to join the Cruise Line International Association and that comes with annual membership dues of \$15,000.

Jackie says she can book all your vacations from her home and do it for a much better price without the expense of an office. You can call or text her at (931) 212-4176 or email: [crusty22003@yahoo.com](mailto:crusty22003@yahoo.com).



**During one of her exotic adventures to the Bahamas, Jackie Powers was treated to a face-to-face visit with a dolphin.**

**RAFAEL'S GETTING NEW PATIO**

Rafael's Italian Restaurant has been at its new location at 1111 Sparta Street since April. Now owners Martin and Claudia Macias are looking to enhance the dining experience and are working to install a patio in front of the building.

"Customers have asked about eating outside so we're putting in a patio with a roof," said Claudia. She said her long-range plans involve removing the large awning in her front parking lot that used to provide shelter for the gas pumps when the store was a service station decades ago.

Claudia says she likes the new location, but it's been an adjustment after

17 years at Cumberland Plaza at the spot that's now an Aspen Dental office.

"For 17 years I was there and I paid rent every month," said Claudia. "I like this much better."

Martin and Claudia bought the property on Sparta Street so Claudia says she doesn't have to worry a landlord may suddenly approach her one day and say she needs to leave. Rafael's still has its great 2-for-1 pizza deals and can be reached at 474-3301.

**THAT'S ALL FOLKS**

In case I don't get a chance to say this before Friday night, "Go Tigers!" Beat them Tigers in Smithville on Friday night.



**Rafael's Italian Restaurant remains open at 1111 Sparta Street as it expands to add a new patio. Owner Claudia Macias says her long-term plans include having the awning structure in her front parking lot removed. The awning used to provide shelter over gas pumps years ago.**

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