



Mardi Gras

Break out your beads and grab a bite of King's Cake – Mardi Gras time is near! Mardi Gras is French for Fat Tuesday. This is a day in New Orleans that includes parties, parades, and many annual food delicacies and delights.

Resembling traditions go back thousands of years to ancient Roman times. Traditions have changed through the years, culminating into what the celebration is today.

In the past, approximately 1.4 million visitors have taken to the streets of New Orleans on February 16th to participate in the iconic Fat Tuesday parades and festivities. This year, due to COVID-19, New Orleans has officially cancelled all parades for 2021.

If you can't make it to the "Big Easy," bring a little New Orleans cuisine to your home or workplace. I have a few Mardi Gras inspired recipes for you to try. Thanks for reading.

POTATO SOUP

- 1 ½ lbs. smoked sausage, sliced
 - 1 (32 oz.) bag frozen shredded hash browns
 - 3 (15 oz.) cans chicken broth
 - 1 can Cream of Chicken Soup
 - 2 Tbsp. minced onion flakes
 - 3 Tbsp. Cajun/Creole seasoning
 - 1 tsp. pepper
 - 1 tsp. salt
 - 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese
- In a large skillet, cook sausage until brown; add to slow cooker. Add everything else, except cream cheese, to the slow cooker and cook for 8 – 10 hours on Low. About 15 minutes before serving, add cream cheese and stir until melted and thoroughly combined.

CAJUN DIRTY RICE CASSEROLE

- 1 (8 oz.) box Zatarain's Dirty Rice
- 1 lb. smoked sausage, chopped
- 2 cups cooked, chopped chicken
- 1 can Cream of Chicken Soup
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup shredded Parmesan cheese
- 1 (2.8 oz.) can French Fried onions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees; lightly spray a 9 x 13 inch baking dish with non-stick spray. In a large skillet, cook smoked sausage until it starts to brown; add dirty rice mix and the amount of water called for on the package. Prepare rice according to directions. Remove from heat and stir in cooked chicken, cream of chicken soup, sour cream, and parmesan cheese. Spread into prepared dish; top with onions and bake,

uncovered, for 30 minutes or until bubbly and heated throughout.

KING CAKE EARTHQUAKE CAKE

- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1 box yellow cake mix, plus ingredients to make cake
- 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
- ½ cup butter, softened
- 4 cups powdered sugar, divided
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- ¼ tsp. salt
- 3 – 4 Tbsp. milk
- Yellow, Purple, and Green sugar

Preheat oven to 350 degrees; lightly spray a 9 x 13 inch baking dish with cooling spray. Sprinkle chopped pecans in bottom of pan. Prepare cake mix according to package directions; pour over pecans. In a large bowl, mix cream cheese and butter; add in 2 ½ cups powdered sugar, cinnamon, vanilla, and salt and mix until smooth. Spoon this mixture over the batter; bake for 40-45 minutes. Remove from oven and cool completely. Whisk together the remaining 1 ½ cups powdered sugar with milk; pour over cooled cake and sprinkle with sugars.

NEW ORLEANS HURRICANE

- 1 ½ oz. light rum
- 1 ½ oz. dark rum
- ¼ cup Passion Fruit Juice
- 1 oz. orange juice
- 1 oz. fresh lime juice
- 2 tsp. simple syrup
- 1 tsp. Grenadine
- Ice

Pour ingredients into a cocktail shaker with ice; mix and strain into glasses. Garnish with cherries and orange slices.

**Lee Ann Fleming is a Holmes County native, food columnist and has garnered fame for her recipes featured in the film, The Help. Fleming can be reached at lafkitchen@hughes.net.*

IN AND AROUND LEXINGTON BY LEONA (LENA) FIELDS



I talked to Mary Shipp. She moved to Lexington from Thornton when she was 4 years old. She attended Ambrose School. She lived in Pecan Grove from 1949-1958. Some of her Lexington friends are Judge Shirley Neal, Mrs. Evelyn Lloyd, Carrie Lee Burt and A.W. Brown. She asked if Gladys' Restaurant was still up and running. I told her Gladys was doing good.

She wants to know is anybody remembers when Lexington had a Greyhound bus station. She said it was in a house near where Sunshine Cleaners used to be. She's

Early Bird: America's beloved Purple Martins return to Mississippi

Spotting of birds in Sandy Hook, MS marks state's first sign of spring

Press Release

In a sure sign that spring is not far behind, the first Purple Martins of the year have been spotted in Mississippi.

The birds were seen on January 27 in the small town of Sandy Hook by a Purple Martin enthusiast – one of many people throughout the eastern and central United States who track and report on the birds' annual migration on behalf of the Purple Martin Conservation Association.

"The first Purple Martin arrivals of the season are always an exciting event," said Joe Siegrist, President of the Purple Martin Conservation Association. "Tracking the migration is not only fun, it also provides us with valuable information that helps inform our research and strengthen our efforts to make sure we're doing everything possible to sustain the population of these amazing birds."

North America's largest species of swallow, Purple Martins winter in the rainforests of Brazil before making up to a 7000-mile migration north into the eastern United States and Canada.

The annual migration is a testament to the martins' resilience as well as the unwavering dedication of thousands of 'martin landlords' who maintain multi-compartment nest 'condos' that are essential for the birds'



An adult male Purple Martin.

survival. Once widespread in rural America, this species, that eats billions of flying insects annually, has been disappearing at an alarming rate, experiencing a loss of one-third of its population over the last 50 years.

"The decline seems to be the combination of a few factors: nesting habitat loss, competing invasive species, decreasing prey availability, and climate change," said Siegrist. "Over the majority of the Purple Martins' range, they are unable to nest naturally any longer. Human-provided nest boxes are the only thing keeping the species alive east of the Rocky Mountains."

Siegrist says the very survival of the species is due in large part to scores of dedicated conservationists who

invest their time, money and hearts into maintaining housing for the martins.

"The landlords provide critical shelter for the martins," Siegrist said. "In return, they are rewarded with a family-like bond with the birds who return to the same colony year after year like clockwork."

To follow along with the Purple Martins' migration and learn more about how you can help conserve this treasured bird, visit www.purplemartin.org. In addition, people interested in learning more about how to attract and care for Purple Martins can receive a free booklet by contacting the Purple Martin Conservation Association by emailing info@purplemartin.org or calling 814-833-7656.



February 11 - Cindy Winstead, Kathy Winstead, Ed Hooker, III, Clara

asking anyone that remembers the Lexington Greyhound bus station to let me know. You can contact me by phone at 662-834-1489. She says people think she doesn't know what she is talking about. I really enjoyed talking to Ms. Mary Shipp. I am going to tell her like I told her relative Ann Shipp, call again. It's good to know people in Illinois enjoy reading the *Holmes County Herald*.

Alonzo (Byd) Chalmers was in an auto accident not too long ago. His car was messed up, but thank God he survived. A lady hit him. I do not have any details on the accident.

Percy Applewhite, of the Coila Community, has been moved from a hospital in Jackson to the hospital in Lexington. He's looking forward to soon going home. A while back he fell out of a tree and was broken up.

Granderson, Virgil King, III, Jason Richmond, Christie Ray, Miles Dickerson, Heather Killebrew Tutor, Jocquel D. Scott, Virgil King, III

February 12 - Kaylee Kimble, Kelvin Jordan, Donna O'Briant, Evelyn Barrett, Lizzie Hood, Alicia Burrell

February 13 - Randi Edwards, Lacy Hathcock, Robby Robertson, Jeremy Adcock, Leo Merchant, Nebraska Webster, Cody

Garrett, Cameron Black, Shirley Wyatt

February 14 - Danielle Lawson, Brandon Mayo, Rush Melton, Eddie Ellison, Johnny Watson

February 15 - Milton Parrish, Kaitlynn Geotes, Connie Dees Cheek, Kelly Donald Henley Patterson, Toni Lawshe, John Michael Hammett, Ella Bradlee Cothran, Edward Wong

February 16 - William Gilmore, Paul Padgett, Wade Self, John Hays, Don Barrett, Mary G. Hall, Beth Adcock, Marlin Lowrey, Jan Webster, Patrick Thompson

February 17 - Joy Trehern, Maurice Benson, Shundrika Peterson, James Hughes, Jeffery Grayson, John Prince



February 11 - Franky and Jackie McCain

February 12 - Jason and Diana Tate

February 14 - Edward and Aljean Friar, Gage and Janet Hynum

February 15 - Buddy and Tina Bishop

February 17 - Bro. Jack and April Wooten

To add your birthdays and anniversaries to our list, please send your information by mail to P.O. Box 60, Lexington, MS 39095; fax 662-834-1074; email hherald@gmail.com; or stop by our office at 308 Court Square in Lexington. No phone calls, please.

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