

THE GEEK CORNER

By Dan Law

I would like to start with a recent news release by Daily Politics on November 21, which stated: "The innocent-sounding

Mobile Information Call Act would allow all sorts of nuisance calls to cell phones, eating into customers' costly minutes,' Sen. Chuck Schumer warned." Instead of trying to quote or copy the entire news story here, I am including the following Web page link so you can read this troubling story firsthand: <http://www.nydailynews.com/blogs/dailypolitics/2011/11/telemarketers-collectors-could-target-cells-under-mobile-information-call-act->. You have the opportunity to have your voices heard and sign a petition against H.R. 3035 by going to <http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/robocalling/>.

Another action you might take is to visit the National Do Not Call Registry at <https://www.donotcall.gov/>. Enter your contact information and the phone numbers you want to be excluded from telemarketers' calls. Your registration will not expire. Telephone numbers placed on the National Do Not Call Registry will remain on it permanently based on the Do-Not-Call Improvement Act of 2007, which became law in February 2008. To read more about it and to enter your information, just go to <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2008/04/dncfyi.shtm>.

Scammers have been making phone calls claiming to represent the National Do Not Call Registry. The calls claim to provide an opportunity to sign up for the registry. These calls are not coming from the registry or the Federal Trade Commission, and you should not respond. To add your number to the registry by phone, you can call 888-382-1222 from the phone you wish to register.

On a different note, has your PC been running slower than you think it should or behaving strangely? There are many different versions of software on today's market which promise to speed up your computer, to remove Malware and to return it to nearly new operating condition. The one I use on my PC and am very pleased with is Advanced System Care 5.0. It has both free and paid options, including advanced tools. I use the Pro version and recently updated from 4.0 to 5.0 for about \$12 per year. You can first try the free or 30-day free trial version to see if you can obtain the same great results I am enjoying before spending your money.

Also, I would like to remind all readers that the majority of PC malfunctioning issues are caused by unpatched software or software that is not properly updated. If you are using a PC that uses Microsoft software such as Windows XP, Vista or Windows 7, the software is updated by Microsoft, but there is no automatic search for updates to all the other software and drivers your PC needs to operate smoothly and correctly. To make sure all your other software is kept current and will not cause your PC to crash, I recommend downloading Secunia PSI (Personal Software Inspector), which is a free download. Once installed on your computer, it will flawlessly run in the background, verifying your PC's installed programming software and will automatically keep it updated with little or no interaction by you. To find this program, just type secuniapsi.com into your browser's search bar.

DINING OUT

Bea and Ben Sorrencified

Transitions: life is filled with them. Apparently, even restaurants are given to transitions, and so it is that Shepard's Point in Morehead City has recently become Beaufort Grocery Too, featuring a menu focused on seafood and barbeque.

In fact, both the restaurant and its menu are in transition. The evolving new menu is characterized by a blend of items from the old Shepard's Point menu, several options from the Beaufort Grocery Company menu and some new creations. Nonetheless, the restaurant promises diners that it will deliver "the same classic Carolina cuisine that everyone has grown to know and love." And that's a good thing.

We went to Beaufort Grocery Too for dinner with some friends the very day that the new name and new, but evolving, menu became official. The menu offers a nice variety in each category of traditional Crystal Coast dining, with a clear emphasis on seafood. The appetizer soups and savories are likely to tempt most palates. You may choose among soups, including a self-described "damn fine gumbo," oysters in season, a yellow-fin tuna napoleon, chicken wings and homemade pimento cheese.

An especially worthwhile appetizer is the saganakióa delicious Greek dish made of kasseri cheese, dramatically flambéed at your table. Indeed, we find that the saganaki is large enough for four.

Salads at Beaufort Grocery Too include the fairly standard dinner, spinach and Caesar salads, to which you can add chicken, scallops, shrimp or tuna. More intriguing, perhaps, is the Martha Cobb salad, which blends seasonal greens with country ham, pickled okra, egg, olives and tomatoes in a vinaigrette dressing, tossed with pimento cheese croutons. Add-ons could turn any of these salads into a substantial entrée.

As for sandwiches, the restaurant offers several interesting choices. For instance, there are two barbeque "sammiches": a prime rib sandwich made with red wine barbeque sauce, apple slaw and blue cheese crumbles, and a traditional barbeque pork selection served with slaw and your choice of sauce. Also offered are the grouper po'boy (fried grouper with a Carolina remoulade), "bubba's" fried chicken breast topped with lettuce, tomato and "promise land" ranch dressing, and the "mo' better" cheese burger, made from angus beef topped with your choice of cheese, tomato, pickle and red onion.

Entrées at Beaufort Grocery Too include beef, chicken and seafood. The majority are seafood, including shrimp, scallops and clams with julienne vegetables served over pasta in a country ham champagne cream sauce, described best, perhaps, as "Carolina meets Italy and France" in a mouth-watering combination. The choices also include a tortilla-encrusted triggerfish layered with plantains, rice and mangoes, prepared with coconut yogurt and chili and scallion oils. A further option is a blackened tuna steak served over mango coulis (a thick puree or sauce), with parsley butter, spinach, mushrooms and rice. Finally, and more traditionally, a shore dinner combo allows a choice of two items, from a shrimp-and-crab cake, fried or grilled shrimp, fried oysters and the catch of the day.

The restaurant's menu has two beef options, prime rib and ribeye steak. It also has a barbeque platter combo that gives you a choice of two meats from a selection of fried chicken breast, grilled prime rib, pork ribs and barbeque.

Beaufort Grocery Too has a very nice selection of wines, beers and mixed drinks. And, given the heritage of the new restaurant, you can expect it to be difficult to choose among the desserts offered.

Beaufort Grocery Too is located at 913 Arendell Street in downtown Morehead City. Dinner is served every day, except Tuesday, starting at 5:00 p.m. On Sunday, the restaurant serves brunch from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Reservations may be made by calling 727-0815.

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