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Beach notes

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Spring opening for new beach eatery

The Grand Marlin on Pensacola Beach hired about 70-staff members in January in preparation for a mid to late March opening.

The \$8-million restaurant at 400 Pensacola Beach Boulevard is named for the grand prize of marlin tournaments, the catch and release "Grander" --a blue or black marlin in excess of 1,000 pounds.

Once opened, the restaurant will feature a main dining area with an oyster bar, the North Drop Bar and private meeting rooms.

Cuisine will include fresh seafood, island cocktails and local fun in an island-casual atmosphere with a view of Santa Rosa Sound.

Fishing for businesses(Gulf Breeze Area Chamber of Commerce is revving up its efforts to attract businesses to the Gulf Breeze area.

It's partnering with TEAM Santa Rosa, creating a economic development program and developing a business resource guide to help businesses navigate the bureaucratic red tape of opening or relocating a business, Chamber President Meg Peltier said.

The goal is to try to fill up all the empty store fronts along U.S. 98 that closed during last year's recession.

"We want to roll out the red carpet to business owners," Peltier said. "And have a real economic development program."
