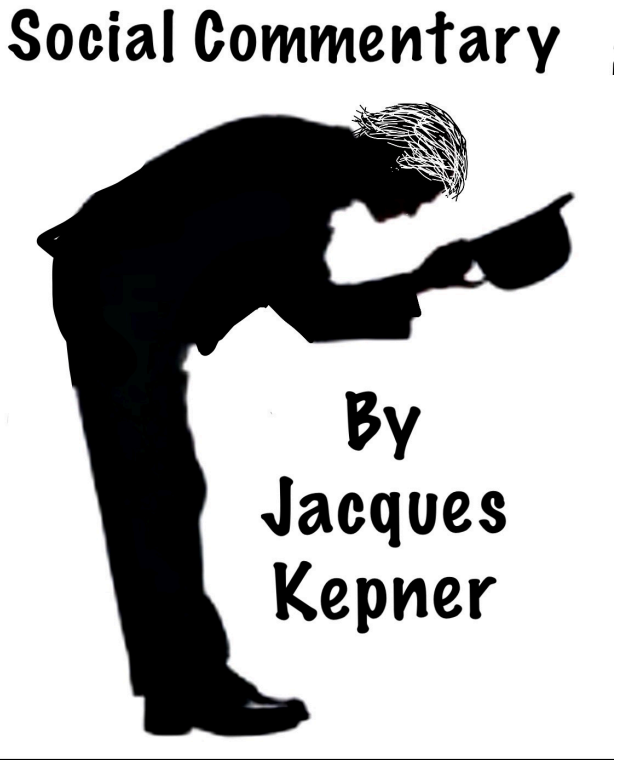
Del Norte Triplicate

COMMUNITY

# Down at Crescent City's Flavorful Harbor District

Social Pollination

**By Jacques Kepner** September 3, 2026




Down at Crescent City’s flavorful Harbor District- two venerable restaurants- operated by sweet owners- serve up quality food! “Jambalaya”, reminds me of a seaside San Fran hip bungalow house where Mike and Jennifer Schmidt serve-up Louisiana inspired spice infused dishes with a Cali-coast accent! Jennifer’s smile is as reliable as Mike’s firm handshake and his ability to create distinct dishes. And yes, on occasion, he has been known to serve up Cajun alligator! Oh my-my!

Just a frisbee toss away from Jambalaya is the long established “Chart Room“ restaurant- a perennial harbor favorite that usually has a contention of noisy, snoring Harbor Seals parked outside on the dilapidated pier!

While you are at these two fine restaurants keep an eye out for a smiling good-looking gal with a camera strapped around her neck, taking pictures of people and animals and things – oh my!

It’s bound to be no one else but “Birdy Finch“ everyone’s favorite, chronicler of Crescent City’s social events, and music venues!

If you see her- give her a “caw-caw”, for me!

Speaking of artists of the musical kind…. I have to give a shout out to “David Sedgwick”- who is one of so many talented musicians in our lovely coastal area! You might find David blowing trumpet with “Robert Tiernan and Friends” at “Port-O-Pints” one night- and the next playing piano with “The Way Outs“ at “Enoteca” or playing solo at “High Note Winery”, (Del Norte’s only winery and tasting room), in downtown Crescent City.

I should mention that you can also find David jazzing it up and leading the choir every Sunday morning at the old historic Methodist Church on 7th and H. While praying, make sure you say hello to a great lady preacher, “Dana Gill”.

“Dr. Gigi Reed” and I keep running into “Frank John Colli“ hanging out at the beach in Brookings. Frank is just part of the equation of one of our regions most prolific and long lasting bands, “The Mighty Steelheads”. Originally formed by lead guitarist, “Vern Monnett”, in the Mesozoic Era, its talented crew features super friendly “Rob Jacobs”, and coolcat “Nicholas Sandoval”.

Has anyone heard from “Samala Zion”, these days? How about her drumming brother, “Turtle”? Is “Alias” still around? My next-door neighbor in our new digs in Brookings, is Dr Joe Vogl- who happens to be a retired “Nuclear Astrophysicist“. You have to be smart just to pronounce those two words… or is it three? Also read all about Lighthouses in this very newspaper by John Zimmerman, President of the St George Reef Lighthouse Preservation Society! Good Job, Zim!

Peekaboo to Dog Park Mondays,

Ross Morgan, Jamie Wheeldon, Kirsten Lane, Kathleen Kennedy Hunter, Dean Kristen Lima and Jayden!

I would be remiss without mentioning Nina Scripoch, who is always out on the dance floor living life fully with friendly Richard Miner!

Stay tuned next week when I will be catching up with all sorts of famous friends in Crescent City, Brookings, and beyond!

Lastly, THANKS to so many amazing folks who put on the 4th annual “Wild Rivers Film Festival”, in early August! Bravo!

That’s it for this week! Stay tuned for more fun and wildly interesting folks coming your way!

Cheers!

Jacques Kepner, Social-Pollinator