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Pensacola News Journal

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Gulf Coast Kid's House offers Halloween tips

The very things we warn our kids about all year long, such as roaming around after dark or knocking on strange doors, become the norm on Halloween night. "We want kids to have fun, but safety still has to be at the forefront," said Gulf Coast Kid's House executive director Vickie Horton. "Plan ahead and talk about safety well in advance. Make measures like flashlights and safe costumes part of the fun."

Help keep your kids safe this Halloween by following some simple guidelines:

■ **REMINDE KIDS OF THE BASICS:** No talking to strangers. No going into a stranger's house. No getting into strange cars.

■ **STICK TOGETHER.** Older children who want to go out in groups without an adult should be reminded to stick together in a large group. Don't leave anyone alone or behind.

■ **RUN FROM STRANGERS:** Remind kids that it is OK to yell and run if they are approached by a stranger.

■ **CELL PHONES:** Does your child have a cell phone? Have them carry it with them, even if you are accompanying them. If you get separated, you'll be glad they have it.

■ **STREET SMARTS:** Don't allow children to cross major streets — set the boundaries in one neighborhood.

■ **GO WHERE YOU KNOW:** Stick to the homes of people you know.

■ **COSTUMES:** Choose costumes that are flame-resistant and include safety features such as reflective tape and light colors to make kids more visible to cars. Make sure masks, hoods and hats don't obstruct your child's vision. Choose age-appropriate costumes. Avoid overly adult costumes for children that may draw the wrong kind of attention.

■ **BE VISIBLE:** Carry a flashlight and wear a glow stick necklace to increase visibility.

■ **PUMPKIN SAFETY:** Use battery-powered lights in pumpkins and luminaries to eliminate fire hazards.

■ **GET TOGETHER:** Consider organizing Halloween night activities with people you know and trust in your neighborhood to make the night safer and healthier for kids.

For more kid's safety tips, contact the Gulf Coast Kid's House at 595-5800, or visit site at www.gulfcoastkidshouse.org.

Source: Gulf Coast Kids House

Belk makeup team to visit Pumps for event

Put your best face forward this fall with the new holiday-collection cosmetics by Laura Mercier.

These Hollywood-tested products aren't available in Northwest Florida, but a Belk makeup team is coming from Spanish Fort, Ala., for two days of makeovers.

Appointments are available from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Nov. 7 and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 8 at the shoe boutique Pumps.

The event is free, and guests can enjoy hors d'oeuvres and wine and shop the latest shoes, lingerie and accessories for fall.

Space is limited, and reservations are required.

Details and reservations: 438-5152.

— Sloane Stephens Cox/
scox@pnj.com

MTV seeks young couples for documentary

Ah, young love. Really, really, young love.

Gettin' hitched? If you are engaged and between the ages of 18-22, MTV wants to hear from you.

The entertainment channel is seeking future bride and grooms from across the country, especially those getting married in 2008 or January 2009,

to appear on its popular documentary series, Engaged & Underage.

Want to share your special love story? Download a casting questionnaire at www.mtv.com/ontv/castingcall/index.jhtml?castingId=1509138 or e-mail to obtain one at engagedandunderage@mtvstaff.com.

Rebecca Ross/
ross@pnj.com

Birthdays



Rosssdale

Singer **Grace Slick** is 69. Actor **Ed Lauter** is 68. Singer **Otis Williams** (The Temptations) is 67. Actor **Henry Winkler** is 63. Actor **Harry Hamlin** is 57. Actor **Kevin Pollak** is 51. Actor **Michael Beach** is 45. Singer-guitarist

Gavin Rossdale is 41. Actress **Nia Long** is 38. Country singer **Kassidy Osborn** (SHeDAISY) is 32. Actor **Tequan Richmond** is 16.

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The BEST of the BAY

WHEELIN' AND DEALIN'

READERS' PICKS

Best Used Car Dealer: Frontier Motors

For the past 13 years, Frontier Motors has been putting Pensacolians behind the wheel of the area's best used cars, and that is why it drives away with the Best of the Bay's Best Used Car Dealer title. While they don't specialize in any particular make or model, they do specialize in something more important, says Iven Streckel, owner of Frontier Motors. "We pride ourselves on making sure the customer is happy before and after a used car sale," Streckel said. "And we've never had one customer complaint." Streckel says his dealership moves about 150 cars per month. And with a steady inventory of about 280 cars on the lot, Frontier can accommodate any budget and taste. **Runners Up:** Sandy Sansing and Vince Whibbs.

Best New Car Dealer: Sandy Sansing Chevrolet

Buying a new car is a big investment, and in Pensacola, one of the most popular auto dealerships is Sandy Sansing. With six dealerships in the Pensacola area, Sandy Sansing can put anyone behind the wheel. At their Chevrolet dealership, customers can kick the tires of about 150 Chevys — primarily trucks — under a low sales pressure, explains Red Calvert, sales manager. "We approach the sale with honesty, and a lot of cars, too." **Runners up:** Vince Whibbs and Bob Tyler Toyota.



Best Real Estate Agent: Al Ingram LLC

We all know the real-estate market isn't exactly booming of late, but that hasn't stopped real estate agent superstar Al Ingram. And this is why he takes The Best of the Bay Best Real Estate Agent title. Ingram, 57, has been on the Pensacola real estate scene for more than two decades, and is an agent with Connell and Manziak Realty Inc. "I'm surprised and humbled to have won," Ingram said. The recipe for Ingram's continued success in robust and down times has to do with his cell phone. "Two things you have to do to be successful in this business is, first, answer the phone every time it rings, and second is keep up with your clients. That's key."

Runners Up: Bob Hanley and Ron Westlake.

Best Real Estate Agency: Connell & Manziak Realty Inc.

With about 50 real estate agents, Connell and Manziak Inc. can claim Best Real Estate Agency. They've been providing homes to people in Pensacola and beyond since 1982. Marketing director Christine Baehr attributes their success to several elements. "I would say you have to do all the right things to represent the listing," Baehr said. "Also having total knowledge of the market, as well as the needs of the client. And, as far as Al (Ingram), winning, we are happy for him. We all love him here." **Runners Up:** Approved Properties and Coldwell Banker.

Best Motorcycle Dealer: Harley Davidson of Pensacola

Pensacola is hog wild about motorcycles, and when it comes time for cruising down the road, folks around here head to Harley Davidson of Pensacola. Touted as a top-25 Harley dealership in America, H.D. of Pensacola has more than 25 employees, a service center and parts center. Oh yeah, and then there's the showroom. "We're all about the customer, and informing our customers of the product," said employee Danny Fleemer. "The other thing is that we have a great service center, and that sets us apart." **RUNNERS UP:** Pensacola Motorsports and Stokes Victory Polaris.

Best Home Builder: Gooden Homes Inc.

Pensacola's landscape is dotted with some lovely homes, many courtesy of Gooden Homes Inc. For more than a quarter of a century, owner Bill Gooden has been helping folks live under very nice roofs. "It's an absolute honor to win best home builder," said Lydia Edwards, marketing director with Gooden Homes Inc. "I think what makes us different is that we pay attention to detail, and we're totally customer-oriented. Quite simply: we take pride in building the perfect home for our customers." With some 300 homes built annually, Gooden Homes has built a company worthy of best home builder in Pensacola. **Runners Up:** Adams Homes and Hinson Builders Inc.



Inside/
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List of locations and phone numbers.

Illustration by Andy Marlette/amarlette@pnj.com

