

FRIDAY FOLLIES

• • • --- • • • July 20, 2007 • • • --- • • •

Hey! July 20, 2007 (a couple of days late!)

Can you believe this plant! It has been in all the newspapers and magazines in the surrounding area. It is an Agave Americana and just bloomed in the last ten days! It is thirty feet tall and is seven years old. They usually do not bloom until they are ten to sixty years old! And right after they bloom, they die! Very beautiful, and very sad!

This one is one block from the oceanfront, and I pass it on the way to work everyday. It takes about a month for the blossoms to develop and then the whole thing dies. You can already see her leaves drooping underneath her, but she has sprouted two sister plants, so they should develop in the next ten to sixty years! Man... Just amazing!

There have literally been traffic jams in the morning on the way to work from folks stopping to take photos. (I parked... don't worry...) I will try to take another as it gets closer to full bloom - - later in the month. Just depends on what time I drive by and how late I am for work... Ha!

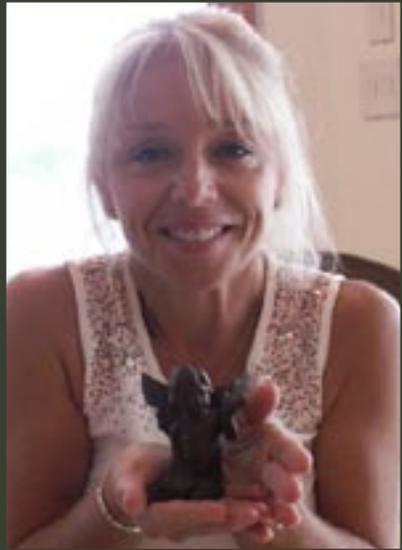




And I wanted to include this shot of our new 40,000 square foot Science and Technology Center where I work. Folks have started moving in, but some of the office spaces and classrooms are still being finished. Truly, truly spectacular!

I noticed in one of the photos I took in the morning light that some of the trim on the top seemed to be buckling and not smooth like it should be. Just a fluke photograph. It has now been passed on to the architects. That would be you, John. (Smile...)

And my very dear friend, Wendy, had a nice birthday this week. I found two of the sweetest little iron angels holding tiny little birds at an antique shop. (I wish there had been three so I could have kept one... will continue to look) Anyway, I gave one to Kaigler for her retirement party last week and one to Wendy for her birthday. They are the only two friends I know who love birds as much as I do. The Cherubs are meant to be "Guardian Angels" watching over my sweet friends!



A Bumper Crop this year, folks! The garden has and continues to EXPLODE!



I ran the squirrels and rabbits and snakes off with inflatable owls, inflatable snakes, rank smells from the "Liquid Fence," and lots and lots of bug spray! Man! That is the hardest I have ever had to work after putting in a garden. It is paying off, though.

I made some really cool stuff this week, too. Along with the usual pasta sauces, I made Plum Conserve, Plum Sauce, and my favorite - Oh My - - was Banana Pepper Mustard that I am thinking of marketing. I am serious! It is awesome! I just stumbled on the recipe and luckily took notes while I was making it. Wow! I went to the Farmer's Market and got lots more to continue to experiment. Some hot and some sweet. The first batch I made has a real ZIP to it, and if you don't like it hot, you can just spread it on a sandwich and tone it down with mayo. I gave some to Jess and Ricky and to several of the neighbors and they all loved it! Said they would definitely buy it. Heck, I went through three jars of it already, myself. It is good on EVERYTHING!

I will continue to experiment and let you know what I come up with. It is pretty, isn't it?

The Plum Sauce and Plum Conserve turned out pretty, too. They taste great, but the first time you make something, there is always room for improvement.

Still working on the cook book, and on re-vamping the website,



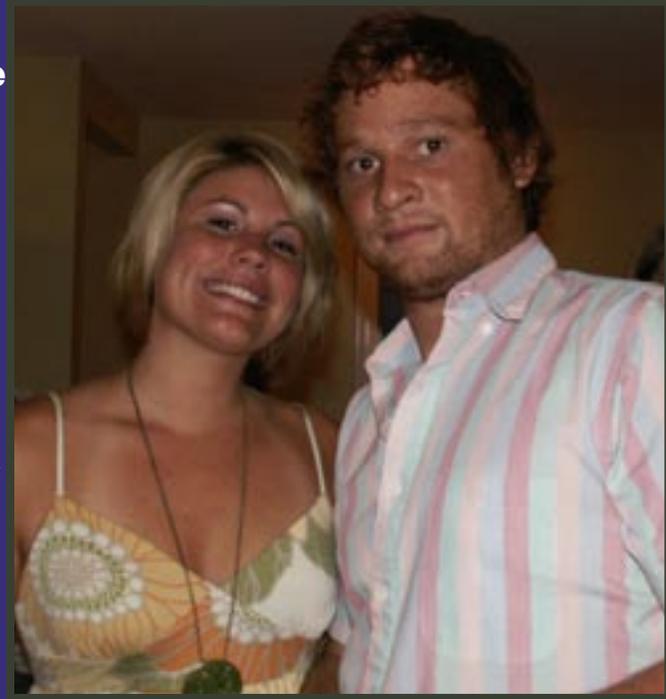
but they have taken a back seat to this wedding in three weeks. Things are getting pretty darn exciting around here!

It is going to be a very, very casual wedding, which I like... and Very Polynesian in style. I will not give it away until after the event, when I tell you all about it. Very cool, though. I am happy it is turning out so cute and the way they wanted it.

Ricky not only runs the family restaurant/club, but he is a representative for a body boarding company. He was a professional body boarder for four years or so, and now travels four months out of the year working for the company. He is a very hard worker. Love him to death.

I always knew Jess had nice friends, many of them grew up with her since they went to the same school together from kindergarten through graduation. They continued to stay very close even though they went to different colleges, but there are many new friends in their circle now. Ricky's friends are awesome,

too. Just very, very nice young adults. I am very pleased.



One of their friends gave them a "Stock the Bar" party this week. It was just a fun cocktail-type party where everyone brought something to help them stock their bar for their new home and future parties.

I gave her six of my silver mint julep cups from when her father and I were married. Many of them are engraved. I have six for Jeremy someday, too. I love them and always have used them for everything - not just for mint juleps - but then I love using my silver all the time.





That was Thursday evening. Then on Saturday evening, her "new family" had a Luau for them. It was supposed to be a male/female thing and at the last minute, I decided to ask a date. Good thing he could not make it because we got there and it was females only! They had changed it and Jess forgot to tell me! Man! Can you imagine how embarrassed my date would have been! - Well, actually, he probably would have liked being the only male there besides the bar tender! Ha!



I have never seen so many beautiful children running around in grass skirts and leis. At one point, the music stopped and changed to hoola music and one of the itty bitties did a hoola dance for us. Really pretty. It was fun and Jess got tons of incredible gifts. They were so very good to her. Their house is going to be pretty well set up by the wedding!



They gave my baby everything from pots and pans to lingerie! Speaking of which, there is a lingerie shower this next week... I think I have come up with something suitable to give her now... Thanks for the suggestions.



Please remember to pray for our boys and girls overseas!

To all of you on my Friday Follies List, whether you are in Manila, Singapore, Kuwait, Bermuda, Virginia Beach, Mississippi, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Minnesota, Indiana, Colorado, Lake Tahoe, Philadelphia, Key West, New Jersey, North Carolina, Indonesia, Washington D.C., Iraq, Costa Rica, Poland, Maryland, West (By-God) Virginia, Nashville, Florida, Saudi Arabia, Chattanooga, France, Phoenix, New York, Oregon, Russia, Maine, Australia, Bangkok, or Yuma, have a wonderful, wonderful week!



*God bless.
Remember, life is short!
We need to make it a good one.
Grow in peace and wisdom.
Your Friday Friend,*

Judi Godsey

PS. NOTE OF CAUTION... 20 employees were fired from The New York Times here in Norfolk for sending lewd and indecent emails. (To my knowledge, none of the 20 were on our joke list - even though some of the attorneys who represent the company were!) I have asked each and every one of you on this list to tell me if the jokes that accompany these "Follies" place you in jeopardy, or even if they offend you. Please understand that they are intended to be light-hearted and are not mean-spirited in any way. If you are ever offended, do not hesitate to ask to be taken off the Friday Follies Joke List. PSS. If you send a joke and I don't use it, it is because it has been used before, and I try not to repeat. Remember, I have been sending these since August of 1997. One tends to go through huge numbers of jokes that way. Disclaimer: When anyone asks if I type all of these jokes, the answer is, "No!" I cut and paste one evening during the week (30 minutes, TOPS). Obviously I don't have time to sit, read, and retype jokes all day!