

GET OUT THE MAP

It's the stuff of many a Hollywood movie. The hero or heroine saves the day, falls in love, and the couple calls on the captain of the ship to perform a wedding ceremony. Everyone lives happily ever after!



Mike and Darlene Jordan
Special to The Chronicle-News

Well ... maybe. We get calls all the time from people who'd like to get married on board a cruise ship, captain presiding, amid all the confetti and champagne. Reality, as they say, bites.

The truth is, only a very few weddings can be performed by sea captains. The problem is, most ship captains don't have the legal right to perform a wedding. The captain would also have to be a judge, justice of the peace, minister, or some other kind of recognized officiant, such as a notary public, and the state in which you live would have to recognize that captain's credentials.

There are exceptions, most notably Princess Cruise Lines. Princess ships are registered in Bermuda, and their captains must be licensed there. Bermudan law authorizes ship captains to perform weddings that are legally recognized, so, if a captain-officiated wedding

Getting married at sea

is the dream of a bride and groom...Princess is the line to do it on.

That is not to say that other cruise lines don't do weddings - almost all do - just not by the captain. Cruise line weddings (including those on Princess) are usually arranged by the line's independent wedding coordinator, an outside company that specializes in getting everything done for you, including arranging photographers, food, beverages, decorations, etc. Naturally,

there is a fee for their services. At Princess, the coordinator fees start at about \$1,800.

You can make arrangements on your own, if you want, but it's much more complicated unless your wedding will be very simple. We were on a Carnival cruise several years ago where our tablemates at dinner were a couple that got married on the beach during our stop in St. Thomas. The ceremony involved just the two of them, and they had

arranged the wedding on their own. They actually tapped a couple they met in a bar on the ship to be their official witnesses!

Most cruise line weddings are performed while the ship is in port. This can be either in the embarkation port or a port along the itinerary. Having a wedding at the embarkation port has its advantages, the most obvious being that your entire guest list doesn't have to actually take the cruise with you in order to attend the wedding; they just get off before the ship sails (and the cruise line will make sure that they do). We do have a number of couples, though, who have

the whole guest list stay aboard for a week-long party!

Some travel agencies (including ours) offer a Bridal Registry for the express purpose of helping pay for at least the honeymoon portion of the celebration the same way guests buy the right china pattern for the happy pair: The couple simply reserves a honeymoon cruise, registers with the service, and then their guests can contribute to the cost of the honeymoon online. This is especially nice for more seasoned couples that already have all the china, silverware, coffeemakers, and dessert trays they need.

Cruises make great wedding venues, honeymoon destinations, or, with a little extra advance planning, both. As always, your arrangements are best started with a travel agent who can steer you toward the itinerary and line that will make the perfect, memorable start for a life together.

Best wishes ... and 'til next time...Get Out the Map!

Mike and Darlene Jordan are registered agents of Cruises Inc., and are based here in Southern Colorado. You can contact them at (800) 267-7613 or by e-mail at cruisesinc@gojade.org.

Area lunch menus for week of March 1-5

TRINIDAD STATE NURSING HOME

■ SUNDAY: Roast Beef w/ Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Asparagus, Coconut Cream Pie, Bread & Beverage

■ MONDAY: Chicken Fingers, Rice, Garden Salad, Peaches, Whole Wheat Bread & Beverage

■ TUESDAY: Breaded Pork Chops, Herb Stuffing, Broccoli, Angel Food Cake w/ Cherry Topping, Bread & Beverage

■ WEDNESDAY: Fettuccini w/ Pesto & Parmesan Cheese, Garden Salad, Cheese Cake, Garlic Bread & Beverage

■ THURSDAY: Breaded Country Fried Beef Steak, Baked Potato, Spinach, Peach Cobbler, Dinner Roll & Beverage

■ FRIDAY: Chicken Picata, Rice w/ Parsley, Seasoned Cauliflower, Tapioca Pudding, Bread & Beverage

■ SATURDAY: BBQ Ribet, Potato Salad, Broccoli, Apple Pie, Bread & Beverage

SCCOG SENIOR SERVICES MENU

■ MONDAY: Scalloped Potato Casserole, Peas, Pear, WW Bread & Beverage

■ TUESDAY: Chicken Fricassee, Oven Browned Potatoes, Island Veggie Blend, Peaches, WW Bread & Beverage

■ WEDNESDAY: Beef & Bean Burrito w/ Salsa, Tossed Salad & Dressing, Pineapple & Oranges & Beverage

■ THURSDAY: American Lasagna w/ half White & half WW Noodles, Green Beans, Waldorf Salad, Italian Bread & Beverage

■ FRIDAY: Split Pea Soup, WW Crackers, Egg Salad Sandwich on WW, Sliced Tomato on Lettuce, Citrus Cup & Beverage

TRINIDAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MENU

■ MONDAY: Cheese Pizza, Green Salad, Chilled Pears & Milk

■ TUESDAY: Hamburger Stew, Mashed Potatoes, Fresh Orange, WW Hot Roll & Milk

■ WEDNESDAY: McRib Sandwich, Seasoned Corn, Pineapple Tidbits & Milk

■ THURSDAY: Chicken Patty Melt, French Fries, Chilled Fruit & Milk

■ FRIDAY: Macaroni & Cheese, Green Beans, Chilled Peaches, Hot Roll & Milk

TRINIDAD MIDDLE SCHOOL MENU

■ MONDAY: Sub Sandwich W/ Garnish, Potato Salad, Pickle Spears, Chips, Orange Wedge & Milk

■ TUESDAY: Chicken Tenders, Mashed Potatoes w/ Pepper Gravy, Fruit Cocktail Cup, Biscuit & Milk

■ WEDNESDAY: Chili Fries W/ Garnish, Buttered Corn, Fresh Fruit Choice, Hot Roll & Milk

■ THURSDAY: Pasta w/ Meat Sauce, Garden Salad, Peach Cup, Hot Roll & Milk

■ FRIDAY: Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Tomato Soup, Applesauce Cup & Milk

TRINIDAD HIGH SCHOOL MENU

■ MONDAY: Corn Dogs, BBQ Beans, Chips,

Fresh Orange & Milk

■ TUESDAY: Chicken Enchiladas w/ Garnish, Mexicali Corn, Fruit Cup, Cookie & Milk

■ WEDNESDAY: Salisbury Steak w/ Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Fresh Fruit, Hot Roll & Milk

■ THURSDAY: Beef Soft Tacos w/ Garnish, Salsa, Seasoned Pinto Beans, Fresh Fruit Choice, Cookie & Milk

■ FRIDAY: Fish & Chips, Coleslaw, Peach Cup, Hot Roll & Milk

RATON PUBLIC SCHOOLS MENU

(All breakfast entrees served with Fresh Fruit or Juice, Cereal & Milk)

■ MONDAY: (Breakfast:) Pancake on a Stick w/ Syrup & Fruit (Lunch:) Grilled Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Tater Tots, Green Beans, Fruit & Milk

■ TUESDAY: (Breakfast:) Egg & Cheese Biscuit (Lunch:) Chicken & Noodles w/ Peas & Carrots, Wheat Roll, Jello & Milk

■ WEDNESDAY: (Breakfast:) Toast w/ Peanut Butter & Yogurt (Lunch:) Chile Fries, Lettuce & Tomato, Corn, Pudding & Milk

■ THURSDAY: (Breakfast:) Breakfast Burrito & Salsa (Lunch:) Chicken Parmesan, Seasoned Noodles, Garden Salad, Fruit & Milk

■ FRIDAY: (Breakfast:) Breakfast Bar & Fruit (Lunch:) Chili Mac, Cornbread, Veggie Stix, Cookie & Milk

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Raton builds Mock Trial program

By **TIM KELLER**
The Chronicle-News

Last year's Raton High School Mock Trial team raised the bar for the fledgling program - it was the 7th-best team in New Mexico - then sent seven of its nine members off to graduation. But last year's success led to this year's unprecedented growth of the program: RHS was able to field two teams this year, and Raton Middle School established its own mock trial program which will prepare students to enter the high school team with training and experience already under their belts.

Sponsor Robin Smith was hoping all the excitement might be enough to propel either of this year's inexperienced teams to the state competition in Albuquerque next month, but at the regional competition held in the Bernalillo County Courthouse last Friday and Saturday, neither Raton team was able to make the cut: of the 33 teams competing, only the top eight proceed to state competition.

Few small districts

attempt Mock Trial. 3A Raton competed against mostly 4A and 5A high schools, led by Albuquerque Academy and Sandia Prep. Nonetheless, four RHS competitors were singled out for excellence by the judges at regionals. Receiving Honorable Mention awards as witnesses were seniors Anthony Cordova and Hannah Stolarczyk, while senior Carlos Vigil and junior Augusta Ahlm were recognized as outstanding attorneys.

Smith's varsity team, Raton Gold, consisted of attorneys Arthur Armijo, Kayln Gagliardi, and Ahlm, as well as witnesses Angelica Saenz, Corey Poe, and Stolarczyk and Cordova.

The junior varsity, Raton Black, included attorneys Chante Valdez, Katrina James, and Vigil, along with witnesses Arissa Maldonado, Chelcie Fernandez, Amy Grubelnik, Haley Gansz, and Hillary Roberts.

Throughout its four-year existence, Raton's Mock Trial program has been assisted by Raton attorney Steven McConnell and Magistrate Judge Warren Walton, both of whom have donated their services, working with the group from 8 to 9 a.m. daily before each goes to their own workplaces administering the law. This year, Walton has spent two mornings each week helping the middle school launch its new program.

As in debate, all school Mock Trial teams spend the year developing the same case. This year's case involves embezzlement by one of two partners in a restaurant, and the subsequent murder of the accused, who is found in the restaurant's industrial freezer. The killer may have been the cheated partner, or it might have been a mob financier who's owed a large sum of overdue money.

Walton praised Raton's Mock Trial program in an interview last year: "It's not rote memory," he said. "It's application. These kids have to demonstrate what they've learned and apply it in competition."

Whereas last year's team lost seven of nine members to graduation, Smith expects 11 of this year's 16 members to return, including five of his six attorneys. In addition, his teams will begin to benefit from an influx of experienced competitors from the new middle school



Photos by Tim Keller

Raton's mock trial junior varsity, Raton Black, includes, from left, Haley Gansz, Amy Grubelnik, Arissa Maldonado, Katrina James, Hillary Roberts, Chante Valdez, and Carlos Vigil.



Raton's varsity mock trial team, Raton Gold, includes, clockwise from bottom, Angelica Saenz, Anthony Cordova, Corey Poe, Kayln Gagliardi, Amanda Ahlm, Hannah Stolarczyk, and Arthur Armijo.

program. After a productive year of building the program, next year's Raton

Gold may well earn its name by following in the footsteps of the 2009 team, all the way

to the New Mexico State Championships. It's their goal.

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