

SOMETHING TO DO: ARENA



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Lindsay Holmes greets customers at the new Arena The Next Level at The Wharf in Orange Beach.

Wharf welcomes friendly battle ground

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The Wharf in Orange Beach just became a blast — literally.

Recently, the Canal Road destination added Arena: The Next Level, a 10,000 square-foot adventure zone featuring laser tag and bazooka ball, and the Mission Possible room. The Wharf location makes the second for David Peck Jr., one of the owners of Arena: The Next Level, with a similar family center in Panama City. Similar to that location, Arena: The Next Level is something The Wharf needed.

"We really wanted to create a place at this location that would create family memories," Peck said. "That's what we're all about. Here, you can throw a party or bring a church group, and have safe, family fun."

Recently we caught up with Ronnie Lane, a Mississippi boy

who was blasting bazooka balls off his friend in the bazooka ball room.

"This is just such a blast," the 13-year-old Ronnie said between firing the modified paintball gun. "We don't have anything like this at home. When we come to Orange Beach, we always visit The Wharf. Now I can do this every time we come."

At the Mission Possible room, Katie Windsor, 9, was trying to bend her body over laser beams, smoke and through the dark with music going on in the background. After 40 seconds, Windsor tripped a laser and the game was up.

"I'll do it before we leave here!" Windsor said, emerging from the room. In the urban adventure laser tag room, Kyle Brandt, 14, was darting about, firing at other competitors, the walls lit up in glow-in-the-dark murals. In

all, Arena: The Next Level is a sophisticated, high-tech family fun center where you'll have a blast.

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