



LONG BEACH BREEZE

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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Long Beach Breeze
P.O. Box 144, Long Beach, MS 39560

August 20, 2018 • Volume 2, Number 8 • “Good News You Can Use”

Long Beach residents make election history

By Amanda Compton-Ortiz

Long Beach residents headed out to the polls in droves earlier this month to enact passage of what has become one of the most controversial topics of its time in the city, a bond issue to fund upgrades to the Long Beach High School campus.

City Election Commissioner Joe Fleming said the election that passed a \$20 million bond issue to renovate Long Beach High School had a record number of absentee ballots with a total of 142.

Absentee voting is provided to residents who will be absent from their voting jurisdiction on election day.

“We’ve never had that many in the history of Long Beach,” said

Fleming, who was reappointed last July to his second four-year term.

At 8:10 p.m., Fleming was the last resident to cast his vote in the election that took place on August 2 inside the library at LBHS.

Polls opened at 7 a.m. and closed at 7 p.m. Residents already standing in line at 7 p.m. were able to cast their vote. No one was turned away.

“The lines remained full for the entire twelve hours,” said Fleming. “We had people waiting outside to vote before the polls even opened, and there was never anyone not standing at the poll book table.”

By 10:10 a.m. that day, 500 ballots had already been turned in.

Residents followed suit as each



Photo by Amanda Compton-Ortiz

Long Beach resident Betty Lee accepts her voting sticker from City Election Commissioner Joe Fleming on Election Day for the Long Beach School District’s Bond Issue held at the Long Beach High School library on August 2.

took to their individual voting stall to mark their ballots and then proceed to the ballot box to drop it off.

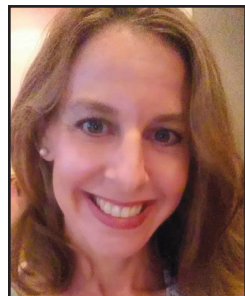
Fleming manned the drop off station for ballots throughout the day, helping those who needed

cont. on page 2

LBB welcomes new editor

Special to the Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach Breeze recently hired Amanda Compton-Ortiz to serve as its new editor.



Compton-Ortiz, who holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Journalism from the University of Mississippi, relocated from North Mississippi to Long Beach in October 2016.

She is excited about being a part of the community and taking on

her new role at the monthly publication.

“I truly believe that newspapers are the backbone of any close-knit community like Long Beach,” said Compton-Ortiz. “They provide sustainability and a sense of pride for residents and serve the community by providing citizens with reliable information about the places and people that make them proud to live here. I’m so excited to be a part of that.”

Compton-Ortiz has worked more than fifteen years in journalism. Her experience includes time as a staff reporter at various communi-

cont. on page 13

Town rallies at Town Green



Photo by Amanda Compton-Ortiz

Long Beach High School Varsity Cheerleaders show off their school spirit during the city’s first-ever Community Pep Rally on August 9 at the Harper McCaughan Town Green on Jeff Davis Ave. See more photos from the event on Page 6.

LET ME HELP YOU

SEARCH FOR YOUR

DREAM HOME!

FIND MORE ON PAGE 3.



MARCY BARTMAN, BROKER



cont. from front page

Long Beach residents make election history

it and handing out patriotic red, white and blue voting stickers as patrons exited the polls.

Just over 2,500 voters turned out for the event – 1,575 voting yes and 944 voting no.

“We did not have capacity to exceed that,” Fleming said.

Betty Lee, a resident of Long Beach for thirty-five years, thirty-three years of which she worked as a teacher for the school district, said she was excited to be a part of such an important and historical event.

“I think our modern generation will be our leaders, and we need to make sure they have the right educational tools and a good facility to grow and progress,” she said. “This is definitely a big day for the city and our school system.”

The last time Long Beach voted on funds for a new high school was April 2005. The effort failed

by 30 votes, and then Hurricane Katrina hit in August that same year. Recovery from storm damages and loss of student population made funding the project a moot point until this year.

According to Long Beach School Board President Tim Pierce, district officials were then asking for a bond of approximately \$12-\$13 million to pay for facility updates, proving that over time the facility has continued to age poorly resulting in increased maintenance costs and safety concerns.

“Pass Christian, West Harrison, Gulfport, Biloxi, Ocean Springs, Pascagoula – these cities all have new facilities,” Pierce said. “We are planning to keep up with them, but we can’t match offering our students the latest in technology without an upgrade.”

Fleming said the election was

VFW Post golf tourney registration underway

By Amanda Compton-Ortiz

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3937 in Long Beach is holding its Second Annual Vietnam Veterans Commemorative 3 Club Golf Tournament on Saturday, September 15.

The event raises funds for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Registration is now open. The first eighteen teams to sign up will compete on the greens at the Bayou Vista Golf Club located at 13756 Washington Ave. in Gulfport.

The group supports various community causes throughout the year, including a children’s bike and toy collection for Christmas with vetting and distribution through local churches, the Long Beach Food Pantry, Humane Society, West Harrison High School’s ROTC program, the Long Beach Fire Department’s “Fire Pups” program, and more.

Some of the fundraisers for these programs include an annual Fish Fry, silent auction, and community steak nights and breakfasts. Steak

nights are held from 5 to 8 p.m. on Fridays, and breakfast is served from 7 to 10 a.m. on Saturdays at the post located at 213 Klondyke Road in Long Beach. Plates are \$15. Proceeds benefit veterans and active duty troops and their dependents.

Last year, the post’s golf tournament raised \$2,000 for the national memorial, whose black granite walls cover a two-acre site in Washington, D.C., bearing the inscriptions of more than 58,000 men and women who died in the Vietnam War or remain missing.

Each team consists of four players who will choose three clubs from their own bag, with a shotgun start at 8 a.m.

The event will feature prizes and raffles, and a homemade Italian lunch at the Trax Bar & Grill at 830 E. Railroad St. in Long Beach.

The cost is \$45 per player or \$180 per team and includes a golf cart. All monies must be received by September 1. Call John Francis at 850-303-1795 to register.



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Beach Life Properties

MARCY BARTMAN, BROKER
228-452-1186



Featured Property



421 E 4th St. Long Beach, MS



421 E 4th St. Long Beach, MS



UNDER CONSTRUCTION & UNDER CONTRACT



Lot 8, River's Edge D'Iberville, MS



Lot 61, Landon Green Gulfport, MS



1899 Beach Blvd. #706
Seabreeze Condominiums
Biloxi, MS



2252 Beach Drive #2206
The Villas at Legacy
Gulfport, MS



210 Oak Gardens Ave
Long Beach, MS



234 Lantana Blvd.
Long Beach, MS



Elite Representation and One-of-a-Kind Service

Beach Life Properties, LLC, Broker, Marcy Bartman, reached one of the Top Producer Awards in 2017, first year of business and this year business has doubled! The firm's motto 'Love making a difference in people's lives and that passion will never go out of style' makes people come back to purchase more properties. Marcy says, "My clients know my dedication and work ethic is in my commitment to help them reach their goal."

Marcy lives and resides in Long Beach with her son, Zane. Their interest includes music, being outdoors and enjoying life.

RECENTLY SOLD



123 Trautman Ave.
Long Beach, MS



418 E. Third St.
Long Beach, MS



846 Reunion Place
Biloxi, MS



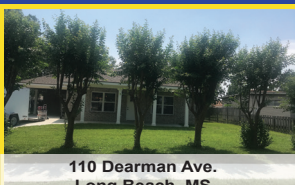
136 Youngwood Loop
Pass Christian, MS



18031 Allen Rd.
Long Beach, MS



104 Barkley Dr.
Pass Christian, MS



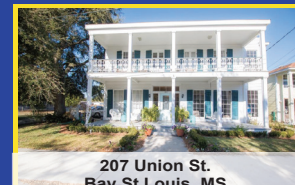
110 Dearman Ave.
Long Beach, MS



623 Royal Oak
Pass Christian, MS



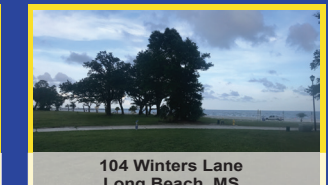
1550 E Second St. #S-112
Pass Christian, MS



207 Union St.
Bay St Louis, MS



807 Dove Blvd.
Bay St. Louis, MS



104 Winters Lane
Long Beach, MS



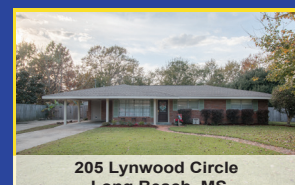
1162 John Evans Rd.
Gulfport, MS



515 E. Marigold
Long Beach, MS



35 Pembroke Circle
Gulfport, MS



205 Lynwood Circle
Long Beach, MS



First Friday entertains a record crowd for August

By Amanda Compton-Ortiz

An estimated 800 people gathered in downtown Long Beach earlier this month to enjoy the sights and sounds offered by Long Beach Live's Finally First Friday.

The event, featuring live music and classic cars, is held on the first Friday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Harper McCaughan Town Green on Jeff Davis Ave.

The August 3 event entertained a record crowd of all ages with a live concert performance by Bruce Smelley and The Southern Classics. In addition, nearly 120 cruisers participated.

"This is a good thing for the city," said Long Beach Fire Chief Mike Brown. "We had more people and cars come out than ever before. It was a great night."

Long Beach resident Archae Laubmeier said she attends the event regularly.

"I really enjoy it," she said. "It's great to sit outside and relax and listen to music. It's also nice to visit with friends and catch up with people you haven't seen in a while."

The next event will be held Friday, September 7, from 7 until 10 p.m. and feature performances by the Kelsey Moran Band.

The event was started seven years ago by Long Beach Live, a group of seven individuals who wanted to provide residents with a fun, family-friendly night out to relax and enjoy the hometown

feel of the city.

Its live concert series is sponsored by the Island View Casino Resort in Gulfport with bands being booked locally anywhere from New Orleans, Louisiana, to Mobile, Alabama.

During the event, patrons are also invited to visit the local businesses in the area as they are open late and offer special deals and discounts.

"Business owners say they get two-thirds more business on that night than what they typically get on a Friday night," Brown said.

According to Jenny Levens, community affairs director for the City of Long Beach and a member of Long Beach Live, about 75 people attended its debut.

The event was formerly held on a Thursday and initially started as a cruise-in, inviting classic car owners to cruise the city's main downtown strip. And while it attracted a fair amount of people, Levens said the numbers skyrocketed when live music was added and the event was moved to Friday.

"We revamped it this year in the spring," Levens said. "It has really taken off, and we are thinking about expanding it."

The event typically attracts between 300 and 750 people and is held annually from April to October. But with its continued growth, organizers have plans to extend it to the first Friday in November.

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- 9:00 AM Interdenominational Special Needs Sunday School at 208 South Burke Ave
- 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study
- 10:30 AM Worship Service (Communion on the first Sunday of the Month)

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- Wednesday Evening Worship / Bible Study 7 p.m.

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(All Sunday & Wednesday events are for all ages!)

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Volume 2, Issue 8
Circulation 10,000
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The Long Beach Breeze is published on the third Thursday of each month in Long Beach, Mississippi.

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www.LongBeachBreeze.com

Wheel Way gives access to everyone

By Amanda Compton-Ortiz

For Jenny Levens, community affairs director for the City of Long Beach, nothing should stand between man and the ocean.

That's why she, along with other members of the Junior Auxiliary (JA) of Gulfport, decided to close the gap.

On Friday, August 17, the chapter cut the ribbon on a \$20,000 legacy project that provides handicap beach access.

"We are very passionate about allowing everyone the chance to have access to the beach," Levens said. "We want to see families enjoying the beach together without anyone having to sit on the sidelines."

"You just see too much of that here on the Coast, and we decided that had to change."

The event was attended by local officials, including Long Beach Mayor George Bass, and members of the city's Board of Aldermen, Pass Christian Mayor Chipper McDermott, and former mayor of Long Beach, Billy Skellie.

Employees of the Long Beach Public Works Department, along with the department's director Joe Culpepper, were recognized at the event for their work in fully erecting the project in time for its official opening.

The project, dubbed the Long Beach Wheel Way, is the first of its kind on the Gulf Coast. The nearest handicap beach access is located in Orange Beach, Alabama.

The idea for the project was submitted by JA Gulfport members about a year ago and received widespread approval from the chapter and the Long Beach community.

"It has been an honor and privilege to work on this project," said Anila Goldin, president of JA Gulfport. "To think this will enable someone to touch the sand for the first time and to enjoy all of the beauty the Gulf Coast has to offer is a remarkable experience. It's truly a blessing to be a part of it."

Harrison County Sheriff Department's Beth Victoriano, founder of Ainsley's Angels of South Mississippi, said she feels a special connection to the Wheel Way because it aligns with the



Photo by Amanda Compton-Ortiz

Members of the Junior Auxiliary of Gulfport (left to right) Selena Rogers, Brennan Montella, Edirne McVay, Austin Coomer, Jenny Levens, Alina Goldin, Ellen Taylor, Brittany Barton, and Nicole Allen, officially open the Gulf Coast's first-ever handicap beach access, the Long Beach Wheel Way, during a ribbon cutting ceremony on August 17.

group's mission to promote the inclusion of elderly and disabled citizens in everyday life.

"This is a great addition to the community," Victoriano said. "It gives people an opportunity to bring all of their friends and family members out to the beach including those who are disabled or have limited mobility. They don't have to leave them at home or leave them behind."

Victoriano also said the Wheel Way is a great service to others, including children with autism who, for example, may suffer with sensory issues such as increased sensitivity to touch and different textures like sand.

"Now, they too can walk across the beach down to the water," she said. "This is for everyone."

Everyone also includes those who may not be so steady on their feet, wheelchair users, and even parents pushing strollers.

The Wheel Way starts on the west side of the parking lot between Steve's Marina Restaurant and the Jim Simpson, Sr. Memorial Fishing Pier in Long Beach.

It consists of a portable pathway made of a durable plastic mesh material specifically designed to filter sand. Levens said you could compare it to something like that of plastic woven placemats.

The surface material was also specifically chosen with flexibility in mind to make it easy to roll

up and store during inclement weather, according to Levens.

The Wheel Way is nearly 200 feet in length. It stretches 90 feet from the parking lot to where the sand meets the water and another 106 feet along the water's edge.

Two sunshade huts are located along the Wheel Way to provide a place for patrons to rest and relax. The huts were specially built by Long Beach Custom Boats. The 12x12 structures are equipped with roofing made of wind sails and bear the longest aluminum poles the business has ever made at a height of 18 feet.

Signage and all other materials for the Wheel Way was donated by JA Gulfport, a part of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries, Inc.

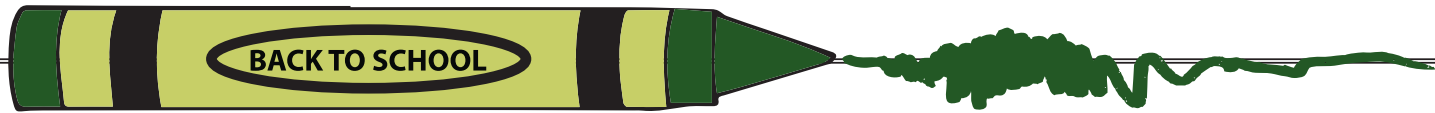
Junior Auxiliary chapters are represented by women who endeavor to be active, constructive community participants. It was founded on the principles of helping children and making a difference in people's lives.

Levens said residents have overwhelmingly accepted the area's need for something like the Wheel Way.

"I feel like people have lived here their whole lives and have missed out on nature's gift to the Coast," she said. "Now they will get to watch their children and grandchildren play in the water and explore and discover together everything the beach has to offer."

Long Beach community Pep rally, Go Bearcats!





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228-867-1775

Director of Maintenance Don Crawford

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228-867-3156

Director of Athletics Terry D'Angelo

terry.dangelo@lbsdk12.com

228-863-6945

Open House Dates:

Long Beach High School

Thursday, Aug. 23, 6–7 p.m.

Long Beach Middle School

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 6 –7 p.m.

Harper McCaughan Elementary School

Tuesday, Aug. 28, 6–7 p.m.

W.J. Quarles Elementary School

Monday, Aug. 20, 6–7 p.m.

Thomas L. Reeves Elementary School

Monday, Aug. 27, 6 –6:30 p.m.

New school app allows parents to track buses

Special to Long Beach Breeze

This year, Long Beach School District is announcing the launch of "Spot My Bus." The smart app will allow parents to track their child's school bus in real time and help eliminate some of the waiting in hot, cold or inclement weather. Parents will be able to download the app, set up their account and

then have it set to ring when the bus nears their stop and when it arrives.

Each year, the routes must be calibrated for a week or so at the beginning of school before parents will be able to use the app. It will be announced on the district's Web site and district social media when the app is ready to be used.



Library kicks new school year off with full agenda

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn

School is back in session in Long Beach, and, as the children begin a new year at school, many organizations involved with the Long Beach Public Library are beginning their new year, as well.

The Friends of the Long Beach Public Library will have their first meeting in September. It will be held on Monday, September 10, at 1 p.m. at the Long Beach Public Library. Those who wish to join the Friends can choose to be an active or inactive member for only \$10 a year. The Friends of the Library help to sponsor such events as Summer Reading, Pre-School Story Time, and our recent Harry Potter Birthday Party.

Many Harry Potter fans realize the character's birthday is July 31. On July 27, the library had a birthday party in his honor, and it was attended by 127 Harry Potter fans. Complete with a Vanishing Cabinet, a reading by Professor Severus Snape, three cakes, a hunt for twelve golden snitches, pizza, and much more, dare I say it...? Even Professor

Umbridge might have had fun. Thanks to all who provided and gave of their time to celebrate this beloved children's book character and to our director, Denise, for the wonderful idea.

The Long Beach Public Library's Book Club also begins meeting next month. They will meet at the library on Monday, September 17, at 1 p.m., and the book for the month is *Miller's Valley: a Novel* by Anna Quindlen. New members are welcome. Contact the Long Beach Public Library for more information at 228-863-0711 if you are interested.

Did you know that September is National Library Card Sign Up Month? Children who are five years of age and older can get their very own library card as long as they have a parent cosign their card. Call the library for more details on how to get a library card for your child.

Hope to see you at the library soon!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Renee Rayburn is the Director of Youth and Technology Services for the Long Beach Public Library.

Long Beach student to perform at Disney World

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Kennedy Kuntz of Long Beach is one of more than five hundred elementary, junior high and high school cheerleaders and dancers from across the country who will represent Varsity Spirit in the 2018 Thanksgiving Tour at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida.

All-Americans are selected via tryout based on superior dance skills at Varsity Spirit camps. Only the top ten percent of the dancers from Varsity Spirit camps earn the chance to march in a holiday

parade of this caliber.

Kennedy Kuntz will perform with the Varsity Spirit All-Americans in a one-of-a-kind pre-parade performance through Disney's Magic Kingdom Park on Thanksgiving Day. Kuntz is excited about the honor and dancing in this performance because it is a new experience for her. She's also looking forward to the Disney trip itself. Besides enjoying a sunny trip to Orlando, All-Americans will have the opportunity to meet cheerleaders and dancers from across the nation and enjoy a magical holiday season at Walt Disney World Resort parks.

The Varsity All-American program is celebrating more than thirty years of choosing camp standouts. For more information, visit www.varsity.com or contact Ian Betti at 800-238-0286.



Special to Long Beach Breeze



LBSD calendar 2018-19

Sept. 3 Labor Day (Holiday)

Sept. 6 Progress Reports

Oct. 1 Professional Development

Oct. 8 Columbus Day (Holiday)

Oct. 10-11 Exams

Oct. 12 Quarter Begins

Oct. 18 Report Cards

Nov. 13 Progress Reports

Nov. 19-23 Thanksgiving (Holiday)

Dec. 20-21 Exams

Dec. 24-Jan. 4 Christmas and New Year's (Holiday)

Jan. 7 Parent Conference

Jan. 8 Quarter Begins

Jan. 14 Exams

Jan. 21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday (Holiday)

Feb. 7 Progress Reports

March 4-5 Mardi Gras (Holiday)

March 12-13 Exams

March 14 Quarter Begins

March 20 Report Cards

April 12 Progress Reports

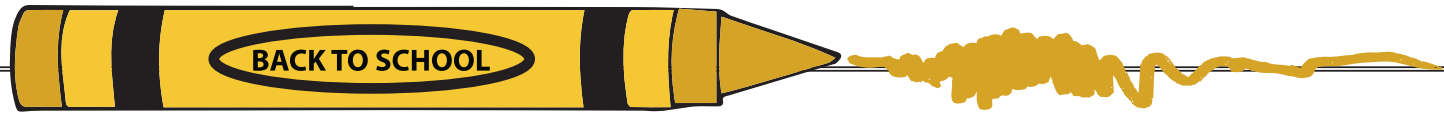
April 19 Good Friday (Holiday)

April 22-26 Easter (Holiday)

May 21-22 Exams

May 23-24 Professional Development

May 27 Memorial Day (Holiday)



NCBC, colleges explore civil engineering program

2018 Football Schedules

Special to the Long Beach Breeze

Representatives from three Mississippi universities – Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC), Mississippi State University (MSU) and the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) – recently visited the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport, Mississippi, to explore possible avenues for bringing a fully-accredited four-year civil engineering degree program to the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

The main purpose of their visit was for NCBC Gulfport leadership and university representatives to discuss possible ways of partnering together for this initiative by seeing if the Seabee base might be able to assist in providing training facilities and classrooms for use by students and university faculty.

While here, the representatives toured the Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) to view firsthand the classrooms and equipment available for teaching U.S. Navy Seabees the construction and civil engineering skills necessary for them to build and maintain facilities throughout the world in support of U.S. Department of Defense operations. This tour gave them the opportunity to discuss various ways they might be able to make use of the facilities for teaching classes geared toward a civil engineering degree.

NCBC Gulfport leadership and staff have already been working with these universities to see if the community colleges could align courses they already offer on the coast to the degree requirements of four-year accredited universities so that students could easily transfer credits from community colleges to the four-year universities.

If successful, this partnership could bring a fully-accredited civil engineering degree program to the Mississippi Gulf Coast so that Sailors, and even non-military-affiliated students, could pursue a civil

engineering degree without having to leave the coastal area. Three of the main issues they addressed were ensuring there were adequate facilities available for teaching civil engineering-related courses, determining whether a sufficient number of students were interested in enrolling, and making sure there were enough professors available to teach the coursework.

“We have an excellent opportunity here to showcase the types of facilities and training at NCBC Gulfport, and to exchange ideas about the possibility of forging partnerships with these coastal, in-state universities to make it easier for our Sailors and other students to pursue a degree in engineering,” said Capt. William Whitmire, NCBC Gulfport commanding officer.

Currently, MSU has ABET-EAC engineering programs available for mechanical and electrical engineering degrees at the MGCCC campus in Gautier, but no schools on the Mississippi Gulf Coast have a program set up for students who want to pursue a civil engineering degree, said Whitmire.

While this venture is still in the exploration stage, Whitmire said he believes that bringing a civil engineering degree program to the coast would be a win-win situation both for the Mississippi coastal community and the U.S. Navy.

“Not only would having a local, fully-accredited four-year engineering degree program make it easier for Sailors to achieve their higher education goals while they’re at NCBC Gulfport, but this would also be an added incentive for Mississippi students to stay on the coast so they can pursue a civil engineering degree, and it would be a great benefit to the economic development of the Mississippi Gulf Coast since this also aligns with the economic-development goals in the local area,” said Whitmire.

LBHS Varsity Football

All games start at 7 p.m.

**** District Game**

HC – Homecoming

SN – Senior Night

Aug. 31 Bay St. Louis

Sept. 7 @ Vancleave

Sept. 14 @ Greene County

Sept. 21 Pearl River Central**

Sept. 28 Gautier (HC)**

Oct. 5 @ Wayne County**

Oct. 12 @ Picayune**

Oct. 19 @ West Harrison**

Oct. 26 Hattiesburg (SN)**

Nov. 2 @ Stone**

LBHS JV Football

Games start at 6:30 p.m.

Aug. 20 @ Hancock

Aug. 27 Gulfport

Sept. 4 St. Martin

Sept. 10 @ Biloxi

Sept. 17 Harrison Central

Sept. 24 @ Picayune

Oct. 1 @ West Harrison

Oct. 8 @ Pass Christian

Long Beach Middle School Football

B-Team / A-Team

Aug. 30 Ocean Springs 5:00 / 6:30

Sept. 6 Central Gulfport 5:00 / 6:30

Sept. 13 Bayou View 5:00 / 6:30

Sept. 20 @ Biloxi 5:00 / 6:30

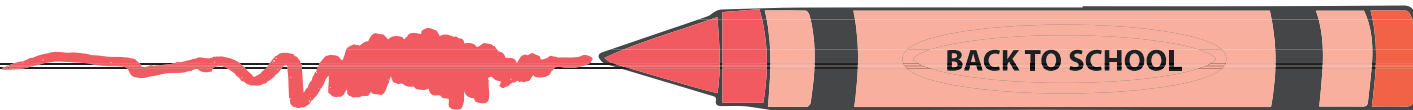
Sept. 27 @ Hancock 5:00 / 6:30

Oct. 4 North Gulfport 5:00 / 6:30

Oct. 11 @ Picayune 5:00 / 6:30

Oct. 18 Playoff Game TBA

Oct. 25 Championship Game TBA



New year paves way for student opportunities

By Carey M. Wright, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Education

Back-to-school season is an exciting time for students because it is filled with new challenges and opportunities to learn.

Mississippi students excel when they are challenged. Not only have our students risen to higher academic expectations in recent years, they have shown faster gains than the nation in reading, math and science. These achievements are the result of the state's focus on improving teaching and learning and they are earning Mississippi national recognition. Public education in Mississippi is on the rise as student achievement continues to climb in every grade, from pre-K through the twelfth grade.

This year we are building upon the unprecedented gains in student achievement with initiatives in the elementary, middle and high school levels. These efforts will further help students prepare for college, the workforce and life.

Elementary School

The Literacy-Based Promotion Act helps ensure that every student meets grade-level reading standards by the end of third grade. Since the law went into effect in 2014, the percentage of third graders passing the initial reading test that is required for promotion has increased from 85 percent to 93.2 percent.

It is important that we don't let up on our statewide effort to improve literacy. Starting this year, third-grade students will need to reach a higher bar to demonstrate they are ready for fourth-grade reading instruction. Up until this past school year, the law required third graders to score "above the lowest achievement level" to qualify for promotion, which is at the minimal level. Starting this year, third graders will need to score "above the lowest two achievement levels." This is Level 3 on the reading portion of the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program English Language Arts test. Level 3, or passing, is one step closer to proficient, which is Level 4.

Middle School

Before the end of seventh grade, all students will now complete an Individual Success Plan (ISP), which is a five-year career exploration plan that students complete with the help of a teacher or school counselor. The ISP helps students identify their career interests and plan a program of study that aligns with their career goals and leads to graduation. The ISP will be revisited annually by the student, parent and educator and evolve along with students' interests and goals. The ISP provides an opportunity for students to connect school to interests and explore career pathways in a supportive environment.

High School

This year Mississippi will start offering new opportunities for high school students to make their high school diploma more valuable. Incoming ninth graders get to choose whether they want to work towards a traditional high school diploma, or take additional classes to earn an academic, distinguished academic or career and technical education endorsement.

The options give students the chance to get the most out of their high school experience. Each diploma endorsement option will prepare them to be successful after graduation, whether that be in college, the workforce, or a career and technical training program.

I'm excited that Mississippi high schools offer different opportunities to make sure all students graduate prepared for the future, and Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning join me in that excitement. This year's incoming 9th graders who earn an academic or distinguished academic diploma endorsement from our public high schools will automatically qualify for admission into any of the state's public universities. Once enrolled, students will be placed in credit-bearing courses and will not be required to take remedial courses that don't earn college credit.

Also, starting in the fall of 2019, all public universities in Mississippi will award three hours of college credit for an Advanced Placement (AP)

score of 3 or higher on an AP exam. The universities may provide up to six credit hours, per exam, depending on the subject and AP exam for students scoring a 4 or 5. That means students who take AP courses this school year have the potential to earn valuable college credits from the state's public universities.

These initiatives and others that will be rolled out as the school year progresses are all designed to equip students to be successful in achieving their goals, whether that be the next grade, course, college or work. As educators, it is our job to support them, and to continue to give them opportunities to reach their greatest potential.

Contacts and hours for district schools

Long Beach High School

300 East Old Pass Road, 228-863-6945

Facebook: Long Beach High School Long Beach, Mississippi

School hours 8 a.m.–3:15 p.m.

Principal Dr. Talia Lock talia.lock@lbsdk12.com

Assistant Principals Patrick Bennett patrick.bennett@lbsdk12.com

Rebecca Ladner rebecca.ladner@lbsdk12.com

Long Beach Middle School

204 N. Cleveland Avenue, 228-864-3370

Facebook: Long Beach Middle School Long Beach, Mississippi

School Hours 8 a.m.–3:20 p.m.

Earliest Drop Off 7:30 a.m.

Latest Pick-up 3:45 p.m.

Principal Dr. Timothy Holland tim.holland@lbsdk12.com

Assistant Principal Johanna Hughey johanna.hughey@lbsdk12.com

Harper McCaughan Elementary

19200 Pineville Road, 228-863-0478

Twitter @HarperLBSD

Facebook: Harper McCaughan Elementary School Long Beach, Mississippi

School Hours 7:30 a.m.–2:15 p.m.

Earliest Drop Off 7 a.m.

Latest Pick-up 2:35 p.m.

Principal Kathryn Standish kathryn.standish@lbsdk12.com

Assistant Principal Forrest Williams forrest.williams@lbsdk12.com

W.J. Quarles Elementary

111 Quarles Street, 228-864-3946

Twitter @quarles_strong

Facebook: W. J. Quarles Elementary School Long Beach, Mississippi

School Hours 7:55 a.m. - 2:25 p.m.

Earliest Drop Off 7:15 a.m.

Latest Pick-up 2:45 p.m.

Principal Dr. Jan Hansen jan.hansen@lbsdk12.com

Thomas L. Reeves Elementary

214 St. Augustine Drive, 228-864-9764

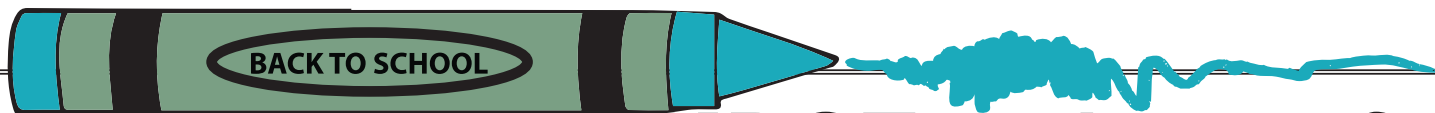
Facebook: Thomas L. Reeves Elementary School Long Beach, Mississippi

School Hours 7:55 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Earliest Drop Off 7:15 a.m.

Latest Pick-up 2:45 p.m.

Principal Rhonda Powell rhonda.powell@lbsdk12.com



LBSD teachers to keep focus on all students

By Amanda Compton-Ortiz

“Be the person you needed when you were younger” is the theme for teachers heading into the new 2018-2019 school year, according to Long Beach High School (LBHS) Principal Talia Lock.

“We must keep in mind that we are teaching the child and not the test,” Lock said. “None of us signed up when, we were in college and thought, I can’t wait for my kids to be proficient in advanced placement.”

“We know where improvements need to be made and we have a plan in place, but in the middle of all of that, we have to remember we went into teaching to inspire and motivate.”

Lock and other faculty and staff throughout the Long Beach School District kicked off their first week back to school with a special luncheon at the high school’s gymnasium on August 2. Teachers began work on August 1.

The event featured hamburgers and hot dogs served by Long Beach police and fire departments, each of whose representatives spoke about the importance of emergency “lock downs” and other multi-hazard safety measures school faculty and staff should be aware of in the event of natural disasters or crisis situations.

Lock said the event was also a way to educate teachers about this year’s theme, which is all about enforcing good practices such as being nonjudgmental, and inspiring and motivating each other and their students both inside and outside the classroom.

“Throughout the year, we are going to stop and do activities to remind teachers to continue to make an impact on schools,” she said, “because sometimes we forget.”

Among other keynote speakers were LBSD Board President Tim Pierce and State Representative and Chairman of Education Richard Bennett, both touting the school district for ongoing academic success and its ranking among the top three

school districts in the state.

“I always set me expectations high for the Long Beach School District, and they never let me down,” said Pierce, citing the district’s “A” rating from the Mississippi Department of Education.

Pierce graduated from LBHS in 1978.

According to Bennett, a great number of students who graduate from district schools come back to the area to start their careers. It’s been an ongoing trend in the district for years.

Bennett’s son is an LBHS graduate and now serves as assistant principal there.

“It’s just a testament to how good this school system is and what great, dedicated staff and teachers there are here...It makes me proud.”

LBHS art teacher and yearbook advisor Angela Crawford said she and other teachers throughout the district spent their first week back to school setting up their rooms, preparing lesson plans, going over curriculum and technology changes, getting familiar with the district Web site, handbook policies and gradebook changes, and more.

“This ensures we are all on the same page and are prepared for students when they come back,” she said.

Crawford, who has spent fourteen of her nineteen years with the district teaching at LBHS, said she hopes to be a positive influence for her students in the new year.

“I want to create an environment that my students look forward to each day,” she said. “I’m looking forward to it.”

Dan Pepper, who is in his fifth year teaching U.S. History and Advanced Placement U.S. History at LBHS, echoed Crawford’s sentiments.

“I’m looking forward to getting kids back in the classroom,” he said. “This year, I want to encourage students to push harder and realize they have goals and dreams and that they don’t have to settle.

“It’s not only about subject content, it’s about living life.”

MDOT makes safety a priority in school zones

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Drivers can keep themselves and others safe by taking proper precautions, leaving earlier and avoiding distractions.

“Be alert in school zones and near school buses to keep Mississippi students safe,” said Melinda McGrath, P.E., MDOT executive director. “An accident can occur quickly if drivers are not cautious.”

During drop off and pick up times, schools can be busy with traffic. If possible, carpool to reduce the number of vehicles at the school. Use designated areas to avoid loading or unloading children across the street from their school.

Buses help move a great number of students. If the yellow or red lights are flashing and the stop paddle is extended, traffic must stop to allow children to safely cross the street. The area ten feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children because visibility can be reduced. Stop far enough back to allow them space to safely enter and exit the bus.

“Never pass a bus from behind or from either direction if you’re on a two-lane road. Traffic should be completely stopped so children can safely cross the street,”

McGrath said.

Motorists should also remember to share the road with pedestrians and bikers. Always yield to pedestrians at crosswalks and intersections, especially when flashers are blinking in a school zone. For bikers, motorists should only allow at least three feet of space when passing.

Pedestrians and bikers can do their part to safely arrive at school by being predictable and not making sudden movements around traffic. Pedestrians should use sidewalks and pay attention to traffic signs. Bikers should always ride in the same direction as traffic and wear appropriate safety gear.

“There are many ways to get to school,” McGrath said. “When people travel with caution and care, everyone can reach their destinations safely.”

Children learn from their parents and peers. Setting a good example and practicing safety can help create a positive transportation environment.

For more information about school zone safety and to download a free coloring book for children, visit www.GoMDOT.com/safetyeducation. Follow and like @MississippiDOT on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook for more back to school safety tips.

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Bond issue passes, Long Beach residents respond

By Amanda Compton-Ortiz

Some Long Beach residents have mixed emotions after a \$20 million bond issue to fund renovations to Long Beach High School (LBHS) was passed earlier this month.

Sheeleh McGrew, whose son graduated from LBHS in 2010, said while she agrees improvements to the school are needed she can't see how residents are going to foot the bill.

"I would like to see a new school, but many people like myself just can't afford it," she said. "I think it's going to place a huge burden on the community."

The bond issue was officially passed on August 2 by 62.5 percent, with 1,575 voting in favor of the bond and 944 opposed.

According to Long Beach School District officials, since the school system doesn't have sufficient cash on hand to finance the construction project, the State Bond Commission authorizes an election be held to allow residents to determine if a tax can be levied to pay for the bonds.

The exact amount of the tax will be different for each individual homeowner, since it is based on the city's assessed home values.

For example, a home valued at \$200,000 would mean a tax increase of approximately \$250 per year, not accounting for any exemptions for which homeowners may be eligible.

Krista Hammond, who voted in support of the bond, said she believed the school needed repairs when she attended classes there in the 1980s.

Her daughter is an LBHS graduate who begins her first year of teaching this year as the school's head coach for the girls' soccer team.

"This is a top-rated school district, and our teachers and students work hard," Hammond said. "They deserve to have the tools and infrastructure they need to continue to produce excellent students."

LBSD Board President Tim Pierce, who graduated from the school in 1978, said having a safer, more quality-built school would be a better reflection of Long Beach and its school sys-

tem's ranking as the third best in the state.

"Long Beach is the fifth safest city in Mississippi," he said. "The four cities above us all have great schools and facilities."

"We have one of the top school systems in the state and by far the best students and staff, but when people come to look for a new city and school, the current facility gives the wrong impression of our community."

Pierce added that creating a more secure environment for students and being able to offer them a facility that will pave the way for the latest in technology will also have a trickle-down effect on economic growth in the city.

"It's a proven fact that if you invest in education and educating your society crime goes down," he said. "...You have a good school system and the right people, then business will follow."

Gracyn Taylor, 18, who graduated from LBHS this year, voted for her first time in the election.

Taylor cited leaky ceilings and flooding in classrooms as her main reasons for supporting the bond issue.

"I just want students to be able to get from class to class without having to trudge through water like I had to," she said.

Angela Crawford, art teacher and yearbook advisor at LBHS, confirmed the ongoing issue with flooding at the school.

"It happens at least twice a year," she said. "I'm glad it's going to get fixed."

The high school was built in 1958. Construction of additional buildings and renovations to its aging infrastructure over the years have resulted in the current school having 49 entrances and exits, posing safety concerns that prompted discussions among school officials in March to consolidate and modernize the existing campus.

Patsy Whitfield, Prom Queen for LBHS' Class of 1960, said she's glad students will now get to experience the comforts of having new, updated classrooms.

"I've always wanted the children to have a good school," she said. "I attended the school when it was still new, so I think,

AMOUNT OF TAX INCREASE FOR HOMES ASSESSED CHART

Amount of tax increase for homes assessed at 50 K 100 K and 200 K For over and under 65

Home Value	Current w/ No Homestead				After Bond w/ No Homestead				INCREASE
	County	City	School	TOTAL	County	City	School	TOTAL	
\$ 50,000	\$ 195	\$ 245	\$ 276	\$ 716	\$ 195	\$ 245	\$ 339	\$ 778	\$ 62
\$ 100,000	\$ 389	\$ 490	\$ 553	\$ 1,432	\$ 389	\$ 490	\$ 677	\$ 1,556	\$ 125
\$ 150,000	\$ 584	\$ 735	\$ 829	\$ 2,147	\$ 584	\$ 735	\$ 1,016	\$ 2,334	\$ 187
\$ 200,000	\$ 778	\$ 980	\$ 1,105	\$ 2,863	\$ 778	\$ 980	\$ 1,354	\$ 3,112	\$ 249

Home Value	Current Age 65+ or Disabled				After Bond Current Age 65+ or Disabled				INCREASE
	County	City	School	TOTAL	County	City	School	TOTAL	
\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
\$ 100,000	\$ 97	\$ 122	\$ 138	\$ 358	\$ 97	\$ 122	\$ 169	\$ 389	\$ 31
\$ 150,000	\$ 292	\$ 367	\$ 414	\$ 1,074	\$ 292	\$ 367	\$ 508	\$ 1,167	\$ 93
\$ 200,000	\$ 487	\$ 612	\$ 691	\$ 1,790	\$ 487	\$ 612	\$ 847	\$ 1,945	\$ 156

Home Value	Current w/ Homestead				After Bond w/ Homestead				INCREASE
	County	City	School	TOTAL	County	City	School	TOTAL	
\$ 50,000	\$ 93	\$ 245	\$ 174	\$ 512	\$ 93	\$ 245	\$ 237	\$ 574	\$ 62
\$ 100,000	\$ 239	\$ 490	\$ 403	\$ 1,132	\$ 239	\$ 490	\$ 527	\$ 1,256	\$ 125
\$ 150,000	\$ 434	\$ 735	\$ 679	\$ 1,847	\$ 434	\$ 735	\$ 866	\$ 2,034	\$ 187
\$ 200,000	\$ 628	\$ 980	\$ 955	\$ 2,563	\$ 628	\$ 980	\$ 1,204	\$ 2,812	\$ 249

what's a little more money on your taxes if you get to give these children that same great experience."

Thomas Ferrell graduated from LBHS two years ago and said he thinks building an entirely new school would be a better option.

"I feel like this is just putting a Band-Aid on the problems at the school," he said. "I feel like if anything needs to be done, then the entire building needs to go, otherwise it's just a big waste of time and money."

Pierce explained the district has borrowed the maximum amount allowed by law, in this case, \$20 million. That amount, he said, is insufficient to build an entirely new structure. It will instead allow the district to

build new structures on the current campus where needed and make upgrades and improvements to provide an overall safe and state-of-the-art school for students.

Construction plans include reducing the total number of entrances to the school to four, a new auditorium and a new gym.

Details of the plan were presented to residents at a public meeting in June. The district will soon begin accepting construction bids on the project and award the contract to the lowest and best bidder.

Construction will begin in phases in June 2019, with a completion date expected sometime in 2021.

Oak Village to open Sept. 8

Special to the Long Beach Breeze

Friendship Oak Village, the first private housing facility for students attending the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Park campus, will hold a grand opening on Saturday, September 8, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The event is open to the public and offers a chance for college faculty, local businesses, students and the community to tour the completed facility.

The facility, housed in the former Triton Systems building

at 522 E. Railroad St. in Long Beach, has had a \$4.6 million makeover that has the capacity for 122 students.

It will provide amenities to students including study lounges, Wi-Fi, Cable TV, a gated swimming pool, outdoor grill, basketball court, laundry, and controlled access parking with a gated parking lot.

The event will include a poolside party, complete with live entertainment, food, drinks and prizes.

For more information, call 228-609-0045.

cont. from front page

LBB welcomes new editor

ty newspapers in Mississippi such as the *DeSoto County Tribune*, *DeSoto Times-Tribune*, and the *DeSoto Appeal*, a branch of the *Commercial Appeal* in Memphis, Tennessee.

Her entrance into the field began in 2003 at the *Southaven Press* in Southaven, Mississippi, where she started as a full-time staff writer and was later promoted to editor of the weekly newspaper.

She has also held positions such as page designer and editor of the *Enterprise Mountaineer* in Waynesville, North Carolina, and advertising sales representative at *The South Reporter* in Holly Springs, Mississippi.

Her most recent employment included working as a freelance writer for the *DeSoto County Newsroom*, an online publication based in Southaven, Mississippi.

Keeping in line with the Long Beach Breeze's positive image and hyper-local coverage, Compton-Ortiz encourages residents to reach out to her concerning upcoming events and happenings in the community.

"I'm looking for comments and suggestions on anything from localized breaking news like the Long Beach High School's Bond Issue, for example, to planned community and group fundraisers or maybe even a resident or business owner who has a unique story to tell," she said.

Compton-Ortiz has also written

and photographed for North Mississippi's *DeSoto Women Magazine*, *Click Magazine*, and *Olive Branch City Magazine*.

She was awarded for her editorial contributions by the *Mississippi Press Association* in the organization's Better Newspaper Contest in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

In 2002, Compton-Ortiz also won Second Place in a Magazine Contest in the Individual Magazine Start-Up category among 224 universities competing across the United States and Canada for Reach, a personally created and designed magazine for women.

Internships and undergraduate work for Compton-Ortiz comprises of her work as a staff reporter at *The Democrat* in Senatobia, Mississippi, in the summer of 2001, and on Northwest Community College's *Ranger Rocket* in Senatobia, Mississippi, and the University of Mississippi's *The Daily Mississippian* in Oxford, Mississippi, from 1999-2001.

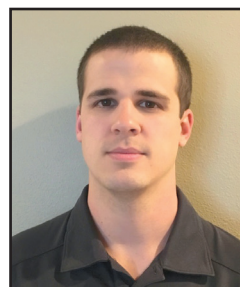
Compton-Ortiz is also the creator of PetBratt.com, an informative online resource for Mississippi Gulf Coast residents to help and support their local animal shelters, groups and organizations. The site, which is currently under construction, is planned to officially launch in 2020.

Compton-Ortiz can be contacted via email at: news@longbeachbreeze.com or by calling 228-265-9276.

Cobb chosen to lead the LBHS boys basketball

By Andy Kanengiser

Brandon Cobb shined as a stand-out shooting guard under basketball coach Jay Ladner at St. Stanislaus High nearly a decade ago.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

After coaching stints in Texas and Louisiana, Cobb, 27, returns to his native Mississippi Gulf Coast as the new leader of the boys' basketball team at Long Beach High.

Former Bearcats boys head coach Joel Boone, "did a good job and I will build upon what he started here," Cobb said in a phone interview in June. "We have a good group of young guys and will be very competitive."

A head coach for decades at Mississippi high schools, Boone guided the Long Beach boys' hoops teams the past two years. The boys on the 15-member Long Beach Bearcats roster compete in the state's rugged 5A classification. The Bearcats finished with a 10-21 record last season.

A Pass Christian native, Cobb enjoyed playing hoops under Ladner, one of the state's big names in basketball coaching circles.

As a senior at St. Stanislaus in

Bay St. Louis, Cobb was on a team compiling a stellar 23-4 record during the 2008-2009 season. The Rockachaws finished No. 9 in the state in 4-A that year. Back then, St. Stanislaus faced the Long Beach basketball team.

Since 2014, Jay Ladner has served as head coach for the men's hoops team at Southeastern Louisiana University. The squad in the Bayou State sported an impressive 22-12 record last season. Ladner coached at St. Stanislaus High from 1992 through 2011.

A 2013 LSU graduate, Cobb served as head basketball coach at Sam Houston High in Lake Charles, Louisiana. The Broncos boys squad compiled a 13-17 record last season. He previously worked four years as an assistant basketball coach at Cypress Falls High, a 6A school in Houston, Texas.

Earlier, Cobb picked up valuable experience on the Baton Rouge campus as a student assistant for the LSU basketball team. He worked under former Tigers coach Trent Johnson.

Coming back to his home turf along the Mississippi Gulf Coast beaches, he said, will be a great opportunity. "I want to bring excitement to Long Beach boys' basketball." His wife, Kelsey Cobb, serves as a nurse practitioner. The couple has two children.



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Players go to Mississippi College girls basketball camp



Photo by Andy Kanengiser

The Long Beach High Lady Bearcats stepped up their game at Mississippi College's girls' hoops camp. Pictured (l to r) are: Head Coach Jed Kanengiser and his Lady Bearcats players, who traveled from the Gulf Coast to upgrade their skills on the hardwood at the MC campus June 7-9. Kanengiser is a former Pearl High basketball player.

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Golf carts take to city streets in Long Beach

By Fred Weller

Ron Robertson, Ward One Alderman, championed the use of golf carts and “low speed vehicles” (LSV) on city streets before the election a year ago.

Neighbors and friends had asked, “Why not take advantage of the laid-back beach and resort ambiance in Long Beach like other coast cities are doing? “Besides, we already see people riding them like motorcycles.”

Since Mississippi is one of four states without a state law regulating the use of LSVs on public roads, the City attorney advised to petition the State legislature asking permission for the City to provide regulations. The permission was granted by House Bill No. 1662 in February 2018.

The next step was to craft a set of workable regulations into a City ordinance. After many discussions among the aldermen and City attorney, Long Beach Ordinance 636 was drawn up and passed July 23, 2018, making it legal to

operate LSVs on designated city streets. The ordinance can be obtained in hard copy at the Long Beach City Clerk’s office in City Hall or electronically from the City’s web page.

A recent unscientific survey of merchants along Jeff Davis Avenue supported the presence of LSVs as a mean to increase public awareness to the area and draw attention to the businesses. While all opinions were favorable, safety concerns were expressed regarding the low-profile vehicles and their visibility in moving traffic.

Robertson reminds owners and operators of LSVs, “This Long Beach ordinance addresses some of these concerns. The City can now require safety items to be installed on any golf cart driven on city streets. The ordinance also requires that the person has at least a learner’s permit and a minimum amount of insurance coverage. The local police department now has some guidance and an ordinance they can refer to for enforcing certain safety equip-

ment and other things required for the use of golf carts.

Robertson continues, “If you desire to use a golf cart in the City of Long Beach on certain streets, you must have your golf cart inspected and an official sticker on the left rear fender. The police department will inspect your golf cart and issue the sticker for a one-time fee of \$50. This decal is good for the life of the vehicle if the same owner owns the vehicle.”

The authorized streets are south of the railroad and north of Highway 90, between Lang Avenue on the west and Beach View on the east.

“If you violate the terms of the ordinance, you will be subject to being ticketed and fined,” Robertson said.

Citizens can use golf carts to go downtown, visit City Hall, restaurants, and other stores located within the allowable use zone described in the ordinance.

“Golf carts are an economical means of transportation,” said Robertson.

Things to remember:

- Have your golf cart inspected and a decal on the left rear fender before driving on city streets.
- No driving of LSVs will be permitted on Railroad Street or Highway 90.
- LSVs are prohibited on any street with a speed limit above 35 mph except in the authorized areas.
- LSVs are permitted only on city streets approved by City ordinances.
- An LSV is considered a motor vehicle, and all traffic laws and fines apply, including offenses such as DUI and reckless driving.
- Be considerate of vehicles around you and allow faster vehicles to pass, keeping as far to the right as possible.
- No riding on sidewalks.
- All safety equipment must be properly maintained at all times, or traffic tickets/fines may apply.
- When operating an LSV, you must have your driver’s license and vehicle insurance information with you at all times.

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AMENDMENT
TAX
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SALE**
**AUG 31
THRU SEPT 2**



**AMERICAN
TACTICAL 1911**
45ACP 5" G.I.
7+1 CAPACITY **\$375** GREAT BUY!



**TAURUS G2C
9MM**
COMPACT CARRY
TWO 12RD
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5 SHOT .38SPL **\$219⁹⁵** HOT DEAL!



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COMPACT 9MM
PICK ANY
COLOR **\$199** NICE SAVINGS



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SHOTGUN**
18" BARREL
5+1 CAPACITY
12GA **\$175** SWEET DEAL!



**RUGER
EC9S**
SLIM CARRY
7+1 CAPACITY
9MM **\$225** SUPER SALE!



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92D**
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