



# LONG BEACH BREEZE

## YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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# Long Beach School District asks voters to approve bond issue for high school safety improvements

*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

With a high school that was built in the 1950s, and with construction of additional buildings and renovations that have resulted in the current school having forty-nine entrances and exits, Long Beach School District officials say it is time to make some upgrades to the Long Beach High School facility.

In an era where school security is becoming a more prominent issue, school districts are attempting to limit the number of controlled access points to campus structures in order to secure both the campus and the students and teachers who are there on a daily basis. In addition, school officials say that upgrades to the

facilities would allow money currently being spent to maintain old systems and heat and cool inefficient structures to be redirected into the classrooms and into more and better technology for students.

As such, the Long Beach School District says the existing multi-building campus needs to be consolidated and modernized. They are proposing a hybrid project that will add some new buildings and renovate some of the others.

Since the LBSD does not have sufficient cash on hand to finance the construction, 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.



*Photo special to Long Beach Breeze*

An artist's rendering of the proposed Long Beach High School renovation, for which funding approval is set to go before voters as a bond issue on August 2.

When questioned why the district would renovate rather than build a new high school, offi-

cialists explained that the school district's borrowing power is

*cont. on page 3*

# Mississippi Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo princesses visit LB

*By Fred Weller*

In recognition of the 71 years the Mississippi Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo (MDSFR) has been celebrated, Bull's Restaurant on Jeff Davis hosted seven princesses to a celebratory luncheon on Monday, July 2. Following the meal at Bull's, the group was accompanied by Shirley Valdez to Tropical Treats, where a frozen desert was provided.

Despite inclement weather, the princesses commented they were enjoying the visits to the different coastal locales and meeting the civic leaders in each community.



*Photo by Fred Weller*

*Pictured (l to r) are: Shelby Furr, Bay St. Louis; Brittney LaFontaine, Waveland; Emily LaFontaine, Long Beach; Anna Catherine Kendricks, Gulfport; Bailie Roberts, Harrison County; Brittany Todd, Ocean Springs; Karringten Perkins, Hancock County; Madison Havard, Wiggins.*

It has been reported that the MDSFR has struggled financially this year caused by low attendance

from stormy weather and the Fourth of July falling on Wednesday. The Board of Directors will

be convening after the close of this year's activities to determine the future of the MDSFR.



# LONG BEACH BREEZE

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# MDEQ awards \$295,000 for new school buses

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has awarded \$295,920 to 17 school districts to apply to the purchase of new school buses for the upcoming school year. The rebates were provided to the school districts toward the purchase of new diesel-powered buses with more stringent pollution controls to replace older buses thus reducing emissions of particulate matter, hydrocarbons, and carbon monoxide. Since 2009, the MDEQ Diesel School Bus Replacement Program has awarded over \$1.08 million to 38 school districts for the purchase of 67 school buses.

“Because thousands of Mississippi children begin and end their days with a trip on a school bus, providing for clean school buses is an ongoing priority for the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. School buses are the safest and most efficient way to transport students, but we want to ensure

that it’s a healthy trip,” said Gary Rikard, MDEQ Executive Director.

MDEQ has also encouraged school districts to adopt anti-idling policies and the implementation of such a policy is a requirement for the districts that received funds for buses this year. Stricter emissions standards for diesel engines, including school buses, were implemented by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2007.

The districts selected were:

- Cleveland School District -- \$28,640 for two buses
- Greenville Public School District -- \$28,640 for two buses
- Lawrence County School District -- \$28,640 for two buses
- Alcorn School District -- \$15,000 for one bus
- Coahoma Early College High School -- \$15,000 for one bus
- Greene County School District -- \$15,000 for one



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- bus
- Harrison County School District -- \$15,000 for one bus
- Leake County School District -- \$15,000 for one bus
- Lee County School District -- \$15,000 for one bus
- Long Beach School District -- \$15,000 for one bus
- Monroe County School District -- \$15,000 for one bus
- North Bolivar Consolidated School District -- \$15,000 for one bus
- North Pike School District -- \$15,000 for one bus
- Pontotoc City School District -- \$15,000 for one bus
- Pontotoc County School District -- \$15,000 for one bus
- Starkville Oktibbeha Consolidated School District -- \$15,000 for one bus
- West Jasper School District -- \$15,000 for one bus.

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*cont. from front page*

# LBSD asks voters to approve bond issue for high school safety improvements

limited by law, in this case, to \$20 million. The maximum that the district can ask for is not sufficient to build an entirely new structure on the property the district owns by Harper McCaughan Elementary. Officials say the plan will instead allow the district to build new structures on the current high school campus, where they are needed, as well as renovate and upgrade what can be safely kept to provide an overall safe and state-of-the-art school for students.

The district plans for the land it owns next to the elementary school to be used to ensure there is room for future growth in the elementary schools. District officials say that the existing lower elementary schools are aging and will need to be replaced in the next twenty years.

LBSD officials have been working with an architect to have renderings completed. The project is expected to add five to seven additional classrooms, a new gym, and a four-hundred-seat arts complex, which will be large enough for band, choir and theatre performances for the district. The current gym will remain and be converted into a practice facility and used for other school-related purposes. All but one hallway will receive renovations, and the school will also add new science labs.

Details of the plan and the bond issue were presented to residents at an informational public meeting on June 28.

With a maximum millage for operations set at 55 mill, officials say the district has been at this maximum for more than fifteen years. They explained that there are two types of debt limits: one is three mills, which the district is currently paying back and will have paid back in 2028; the other is a bond issue,

which is limited to fifteen percent of the assessed valuation of the properties in Long Beach

awarded, will include inspections and quality assurance checks throughout the entire



Photo special to Long Beach Breeze



Photo special to Long Beach Breeze

An artist's rendering of the proposed Long Beach High School renovation.

School District.

In addition, officials say the district has two notes currently outstanding. One will be paid off in 2020, and the other will be paid off in 2029. These notes are paid with funds received under a different borrowing authority and will not affect the proposed bond issue.

All \$20,000,000 will be used for the construction and renovation of the high school campus, said officials.

Specific details of the construction and renovation are expected to be identified as part of the bidding of the project, which cannot take place until after the bond issue is approved. The district will bid the project and award the contract to the lowest and best bidder and are currently using estimates on the cost to determine the scope of the project. During the construction phases, the proposed plans may change slightly.

The construction and renovation project, once bid and

project, and a construction manager will be responsible for approving all work before any payment is made by the LBSD. District officials remind residents that the district has an annual financial audit and is also subject to an audit at any time.

If the bond issue passes, construction is expected to commence in June of 2019. Officials say that they are discussing options for housing classes that may be disrupted by the construction project when school starts next fall. Using empty classes during teachers' off blocks is one option. In addition, they are exploring the possibility of using the rooms at Long Beach Middle School that will be vacated when the USM Autism Project moves out.

For property owners, the new taxes generated from the proposed bond issue would mean a tax increase of approximately \$250 per year on a \$200,000 home, not accounting for any exemptions for which the homeowner may be eligible.

Proponents of the bond financing hope to justify the debt financing to voters by explaining how the future of education and student safety necessitate the improvements.

When it is presented for a vote on August 2, all registered voters in the Long Beach School District can vote on the bond issue.



# Summer is library time



Special to Long Beach Breeze

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn

It is hard to believe that August's events are being put to press, and that Summer Reading is nearly over. By the time this issue is received, certificates will have been issued to the children who participated, and statistics will be tabulated for the report due each summer.

The library is always appreciative of the community support received from our patrons. Thank you, parents and grandparents who were so supportive this summer! It was a lot of fun, and I hope you enjoyed it, too. Included is a picture of the bulletin board with the names of children who participated this

summer.

Long Beach Public Library's Book Club begins meeting again in September. The Book Club will next meet on Monday, September 17, at 1 p.m. at the Long Beach Public Library. New members are welcome. If you are interested in becoming a part of the book club, contact the Long Beach Public Library for more information at 228-863-0711. The book for the month of September has been chosen and is *Miller's Valley: A Novel* by Anna Quindlen.

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

# LBSD enters third yr. of computer science program



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The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) announced the Long Beach School District has been approved to participate in the third year of the computer science pilot program (CS4MS). Over the course of the three-year pilot, 75 districts have participated in offering computer science courses and materials to their students. This summer, the MDE will provide training for over 400 teachers, bringing the total trained during the pilot period to over 800 teachers. "School districts' efforts are put-

ting Mississippi at the forefront of the national movement to offer computer science to all students, which will better prepare them for their futures. Adding computer science to our curriculum across the state ensures our students will be well-equipped for college and the ever-increasing technology influence in all careers," said Jean Massey, executive director of the Office of Secondary Education. The MDE has developed learning standards for computer science that will be available to all school districts for the 2018-19 school year.

## August Library Events

### Parents' Coffee Break

Tuesday, August 7 | 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

### Preschool Story Time

Every Tuesday and Thursday | 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

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- 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study
- 10:30 AM Worship Service (Communion on the first Sunday of the Month)

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<b>SUNDAY A.M.</b> Bible Classes: 9:00 Worship: 10:00	<b>SUNDAY P.M.</b> Life Group: 5:30	<b>TUESDAY P.M.</b> Men's Group: 6:30 – Various Locations	<b>WEDNESDAY P.M.</b> Dinner Meal: 5:15 Praise Time: 6:00 Bible Classes: 6:30
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**(All Sunday & Wednesday events are for all ages!)**

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# Walker recognized for TAPS at LBPD memorial service



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach Police Department recently honored Long Beach High School student Brandon Walker with a certificate for Volunteer Recognition. Walker volunteered to play taps for Sergeant Steve Morgan's and Detective James Northcutt's 20th anniversary memorial. Walker (center) is a member of the Long Beach High School Band and plays the trumpet. Pictured (l to r) are: Kenny Lassabe and Patrick Craig.

# Long Beach resident serves her country by reenlisting



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A reenlistment ceremony was recently held for Petty Officer Builder Second Class Susan Johnston, a Long Beach resident.

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# NASA STEM event held at Saint Vincent de Paul



All photos Special to Long Beach Breeze

By Guest Columnist Briana Carver

NASA came to our school gym to teach us about STEM. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and math. Mrs. Rogers said they chose the planetarium, the moon phases game, and the balloon rocket activities to show the different parts of STEM. Riley Cruthirds, a fifth grader in Mrs. Mink's class, said that she enjoyed learning about the moon

phase and making balloon rockets. Mrs. Rogers and the STEM team at NASA want us to know that they had a wonderful experience teaching STEM to St. Vincent's students and they hope to come back next year. They hope all the students had as great of a time learning as they did teaching.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Briana Carver is a student at St. Vincent de Paul.

# Long Beach is ranked the fifth safest city in MS

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The City of Long Beach made the list of the Safest Cities in the US and ranked No. 5 in Mississippi. City officials say they are very proud of the city.

SafeHome's study used a variety of data sources and a combination of the FBI's latest report of how many and what types of crimes occurred, crime trends and other

data points like law enforcement officer ratio, demographics, population density, unemployment rate, income and education level to come up with their scoring.

The only other Gulf Coast city in the top ten of SafeHome's list was Gautier.

For more informa-



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tion, visit: [www.safehome.org/safest-cities/MS/](http://www.safehome.org/safest-cities/MS/).

# FCC tours Seabee base



Photo by Ryan Labadens, U.S. Navy

The Honorable Ajit Pai (right), Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), converses with Capt. Bill Whitmire (left), commanding officer of Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport, Mississippi, and Mark Watson, NCBC Gulfport Director of Information Technology. Pai visited the base the U.S. Navy base as part of a week-long tour of the Gulf South states to understand how broadband impacts consumers in this region. While at NCBC Gulfport, Pai toured the Communications Instruction Building to learn how the Seabees use broadband and communications tools both stateside and while deployed worldwide in support of operations. Pai visited the Emergency Operations Center at NCBC Gulfport to learn what communications are available for emergency situations. NCBC Gulfport was the first military installation Pai visited on his tour of the Gulf South states.



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# LBB TESTIMONIALS



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- Pastor Dave Parr Grace Lutheran Church

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- Patrick Kirby, The Kirby Law Firm, PLLC.

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-Storage Choice , Charlie Owenby

10,000 papers, everybody loves it, great news that we need to hear.  
- Ms Mary, Hancock Auto Annex



## Agriculture Research Policy group now at Southern Miss



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Dr. Joseph Weinberg, assistant professor of political science at The University of Southern Mississippi, says that a grant from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture will help foster better communication and more collaborative research between agricultural economists and political scientists.

Under Weinberg's leadership, experts from both of those disciplines have been brought together to form the Agriculture Research Policy Group. He notes that it became apparent that such an exchange was necessary to improve scholarly research on agriculture policy and any subsequent policy recommendations.

"For two disciplines working on (ostensibly) the same issues, there is very little communication between and among scholars," he said. "Not surprisingly, U.S. and international agriculture policies are both inefficient and notoriously difficult to alter."

The one-year grant provided

funding for an Agriculture Policy Research Conference in New Orleans. The conference attracted more than 20 participants from nations across the globe, including Australia, Norway, Sweden, Germany and Canada.

The conference enabled attendees to share viewpoints, generate new collaborative research, and improve the scholarly contributions to U.S. agricultural policy. Weinberg notes that international trade agreements such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership and domestic legislation such as the omnibus "Farm Bill" have a tremendous, though not always clear, impact on all U.S. agricultural stakeholders.

"Policy makers can benefit from academic research in these areas, but only if the economic and political realities of policy change are adequately addressed," he said. "By bringing together scholars with similar research agendas, we hope to improve the research output of both disciplines on matters of import to U.S. agriculture interests at home and abroad."

## Little libraries sprouting up all over Long Beach streets



Photo by Mary Scott

The newest Little Library, located on Commission Road, offers users the opportunity to leave a book for someone else to enjoy, as well as take a new one to read themselves.

By Fred Weller

The Little Libraries are an international phenomenon and has found a place in Long Beach. There are reports of libraries being seen in at least three locations on North Seal Avenue, East Fourth Street and on Commission Road. The libraries are on the honor system – "Take a book, leave a book." The newest "tiny library," on Commission Road, was built by Floyd Ray and registered by Richard and Mary Scott. The library on North

Seal belongs to Philip and Jo LeBlanc. The owner of the Little Library on Fourth Street is not known.

There are over 60,000 Little Libraries around the world in over eight countries. The program was started in 2009 in Oregon. Plans and blueprints are available for construction of the library box for those who would prefer not to design their own. Charter signs establish a charter number, and the Little Library can be registered in the world map.

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# Long Beach Reeve's students perform historical play



Reeves' Elementary School students recently performed a play that told about the history of Long Beach, complete with pirates, Indians and bears.

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- Thomas J. Hill



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# USM Alumni Association hosts annual Beach Bash

By Nichole Ruhnke with permission of SMU

The Southern Miss Alumni Association, in conjunction with the Department of Athletics, has announced the date for the Annual Gulf Coast Beach Bash. All Southern Miss fans are invited to visit with Southern Miss coaches, athletes, cheerleaders and Seymour on Thursday, July 26, from 6-8 p.m. at the Biloxi Civic Center.

Admission to the Gulf Coast Beach Bash is \$15 per person (ages 12 and older). The family-friendly event will feature a live and silent auction. Ticket price includes dinner, and a cash bar will be available.



Children under 12 are admitted for free. Campus Book Mart will be on site selling Southern Miss merchandise. Tickets may be purchased online at SouthernMissAlumni.com/Beach-Bash2018.

All proceeds from the event benefit the Gulf Coast Metro Alumni Chapter Scholarship Fund for local students attending USM.

In addition to the Gulf Coast Beach Bash, the Southern Miss Alumni Association and Eagle Club will host similar events in Jackson and Hattiesburg to celebrate the upcoming football season.

# Ride and Dine is set for first Thursday of August

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach Ride and Dine, a community bike ride followed by dinner, was established several years ago to promote cycling, introduce the fun of group rides and to help make the citizens of Long Beach more bike-aware and the city more bike-friendly. The monthly pedal pushing takes place on the first Thursday of each month until October. The bike-riding get-together is free and open to everyone of all ages.

Ride and Dine will begin at the Harper McCaughan Town Green, Jeff Davis and Third Street, with a ride

start time of 6 p.m. The ride will be a five-mile loop through Long Beach and will end with an optional stop at a local restaurant for the group to enjoy dinner together.

All ride participants must bring their own bicycles and wear a bike helmet to participate in the ride. Additional protective gear, headlights and tail lights, and brightly-colored clothing are suggested for safety. Each rider is responsible for his or her own safety and the safety of anyone in their charge. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.



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# First Friday in July

By Fred Weller

Again, it was the first Friday. July was here, and the celebration with music by Magnolia Bayou, presented by Long Beach Live, surrounded with crowds of people looking and commenting on classic autos. Proponents of the new high school reached for placards to place in their lawns. Old friends met with new friends to comment on the crowd size, how the family members were doing and the weather.



All photos by Fred Weller

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# Workforce development: why it all works for us

By Speaker of the House Philip Gunn

When we first began recruiting businesses to Mississippi, incentives played a big role. Many companies wanted to know, "What will you do for us?"



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That is changing. The number one thing businesses want to know now is, "Do you have a trained, reliable, educated workforce?"

If Mississippi is to prosper, we must be able to provide a solid answer to that question. A strong, educated workforce is the backbone of Mississippi. It directly impacts our level of prosperity. If our workforce is strong, we prosper. If it is weak, we suffer.

Over the last six years, your legislature has focused on workforce development. We have passed legislation to create:

- **Mississippi Works Fund**, which provides training to unemployed people, giving

them skills to prepare them to enter the workforce.

- **Mississippi Works Dual Enrollment Option**, allowing potential or recent high school dropouts to dually enroll in their local school district and the local community college in dual credit programs.
- **MDA Job Training Grants** that authorize MDA to make grants to colleges to pay a portion of the costs associated with training or retraining employees for businesses that expand or locate their operations in Mississippi.
- **Districts of Innovation**, allowing local school districts to implement innovative ideas in their schools to increase performance and explore different ways to prepare students for either college or careers. Many of these districts have teamed up with manufacturers to ensure that they are teaching the appropriate curriculum and training the students on quality equipment.
- **Appropriations and bonding**. In 2012, we appropriated

\$38.5 million for the Workforce Education Program and Industrial Training. We have steadily increased the appropriation for the program over the last six years, and this year we appropriated \$51 million, an increase of 32%. We also appropriated \$4 million in bonds for the MDA Workforce Training Fund.

As industry changes and progresses, so must education. We want to be responsive to the needs of industry. We want to be nimble. We want to provide that skilled workforce. This is one of the motivations behind our efforts to seek

a new K-12 funding formula. Our goal is to move to a student-centered formula, one that provides funding tailored to the specific needs of the student. I have also recently appointed Sean Suggs, Vice President of Manufacturing for Toyota Mississippi, to our state board of education. He will bring a much-needed perspective to the role education plays in our workforce.

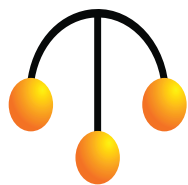
Your legislature believes a strong workforce is the backbone of Mississippi and that the prosperity of our state hinges on how well we put forth a trained and educated workforce.



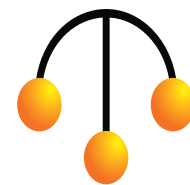
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