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

November 20, 2018 • Volume 2, Number 11 • “Good News You Can Use”

Progress takes war guns back to native post

By Fred Weller

Construction on the Gateway entrance to Jeff Davis from Highway 90 cleared a hurdle when the two naval guns at the Long Beach Harbor were relocated back to War Memorial Park. The work was performed by the Long Beach Parks and Recreation Department.

The Historical Society plaque at the site near Pine and Church streets captures a major portion of the guns' history.

“Fifteen Long Beach mothers organized into the Long Beach War Memorial Association in 1945 and in 1950 developed it into a park. The memorial shaft (obelisk) were added in 1951. The park was donated to the city in 1952 “...as a memorial to the 10 young men who gave their lives in service to their country during World War

cont. on page 2



One of two Naval guns located in Long Beach's War Memorial Park.

Photo by Fred Weller

Casino topic tabled by Gaming Commission

By Amanda Compton-Ortiz

An age-old discussion to bring a casino to Long Beach has been tabled by the state's Gaming Commission.

On Thursday, November 15, before a packed house at Long Beach City Hall, Commissioners voted unanimously to table consideration of legality of the proposed site at the old K-Mart and Sav-A-Center properties north of Highway 90 across from the Long Beach Harbor, where developers are proposing to build a casino.

It is the first stage in a two-part process and would not grant

approval for any kind of construction to take place at the site.

Board members were presented with detailed reports on the specifics of the proposed site including information on property zoning, surrounding commercial and residential areas, and results of a waterline survey that shows the site is compatible with state law that requires it to be within 800 feet of the shoreline – all things that must be considered before the issue moves forward.

Commissioners also welcomed comments from residents who stand on either side of the casino proposal – those in favor and those

opposed.

Long Beach Mayor George Bass was the first to take his stance on the matter. His comments, he said, represent a majority of citizens who have favored a casino operation in the city since the idea was first presented in 2006 following Hurricane Katrina.

“The City of Long Beach needs this,” said Bass, citing the devastating economic impact Katrina had on the city and its local businesses - one it's still grappling with today. “...We are excited this could be a possibility for Long Beach.”

Residents in favor of a casino argue the city would benefit great-

ly from increased foot traffic an operation of its kind would attract, increasing interest in the city from outside businesses and tourists, bringing more business to local retailers, creating new jobs and generating additional tax revenue to help fund local and state government projects as well as city upgrades and improvements that are long overdue.

Opposers fear increases in crime and costs associated with crime prevention and public safety, consumption of public services like sewer, water and road maintenance, diminishing property values, the

cont. on page 12



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cont. from front page

Progress takes war guns back to their native post

II.” The Long Beach Rotary Club in 1996 adopted the park and began extensive renovation. A flag pole was erected there in 1998 by Eddy Blake VFW Post 3937. A plaque was erected in 1998 by the Long Beach Historical Society and Long Beach Rotary Club in honor of the Association’s first board of directors, Mrs. May Quarles Watrous, president.

The memorial obelisk states, “Dedicated to the memory of our sons who made the supreme sacrifice in World War II. The names of the fallen veterans are, Nathan Y. Conn, Edwin B. Davis, Harold W. Ervin, Thomas J. Gotliboski, David F. Hayes, O’ Nick Nazaretain, O. Bernard Reeves, Harry F. Rishel, James E. Simmons, and N. Karlson Thomas.” Jack McIntosh was inadvertently omitted from the original list on the obelisk.

Memorial plaques listing all veterans serving in World War II are located at the Harper McCaughan

Town Green.

Another informational sign states, “On March 11, 2008, over 1000 Great American Cleanup volunteers from across America joined together to help restore and beautify this site that was damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Led by Keep America Beautiful, Inc., Keep Mississippi Beautiful/PAL and Harrison County Beautification Commission in partnership with the City of Long Beach, the volunteers worked together all day to clean up, green-up and fix-up this area for all to enjoy. The project was made possible by the generous support and participation from various state and local sponsors and partners.”

The current location of the guns at the South end of the War Memorial Park, bordering on Oak and Church Streets, is shared with a monument honoring Harrison County Beautification Commissioner, Joanna Hudson, (1989 – 2009).



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Seabee base hosts annual Bells Across America

Special to the Breeze

U.S. Marine Staff Sgt. Donnie Levens was just age 25 when his helicopter crashed while on a training mission in Africa. The decorated pilot was killed in the accident on February 17, 2006, but will never be forgotten for his service and sacrifice.

Levens was born to Margaret Levens of Long Beach. He was one of 79 fallen service members from all military branches whose names were read aloud during the third annual Bells Across America for Fallen Service Members ceremony held September 27 at the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) in Gulfport.

The event is held to honor those military members who died while serving their country.

"This was so nice and touching," Margaret Levens said of the ceremony. "I'm thankful these military men and women are still remembered today..."

"I just know Donnie is up there right now flying. He's just flying with a different set of wings."

Each name was read aloud by Long Beach Police Chief Billy Seal and Gulfport Police Chief Leonard Papania. A bell tolled as

each fallen soldier's name was called.

According to Commander Capt. Bill Whitmire, over 100 area churches were asked to participate in the event in some way or by ringing their bells and "every one of them said yes," he said.

Maj. Gen. Timothy J. Leahy, 2nd Air Force commander, served as the guest speaker for the ceremony, which was coordinated by the Navy Gold Star Program, the Navy's official program for providing long-term support to surviving families of military members who die while serving their country. Gold Star family members from the local area were asked to attend the event, names were requested by the NCBC Gulfport Gold Star Program to be recognized during the ceremony. There are many Gold Star families who live in Mississippi.

After all the names were read, four additional bell tolls were rung in remembrance of those not listed. For these ceremonies, the bells rung do not signal anyone's presence, but instead ring in their absence.

Builder 3rd Class Brianah Weston from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133, a Gold

Star family member whose husband, Petty Officer 1st Class Brandon Wilkie, passed away earlier this year, said she was grateful for the support that programs like the Navy Gold Star offers to the families of service members who have passed on.

"For me, it's nice to have a community I can come to who understands — because my peers don't. They may have had similar circumstances, but it's nice to just have a community you can go to where everyone has similar experiences so you don't feel so alone," said Weston.

Emily Kolenda, NCBC Gulfport Navy Gold Star Program coordinator, noted how proud she was to be able to help provide that support and to honor the memory of these fallen service members.

"It is an honor and a privilege to work with Gold Star families from



Photo by Amanda Compton-Ortiz
 CM 2nd Class Stefanie Jantz tolls the bell in each soldier's honor.

all branches of our armed forces, and it is days like today...that I truly feel like I can give back to these families by publicly honoring and paying tribute to their beloved Fallen Hero," said Kolenda. "Our Navy Gold Star program strives to ensure that the Navy's commitment is made true on their promise to honor, remember and respect, and again I am grateful to be a part of that pledge."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ryan Labadens, NCBC Gulfport Public Affairs, contributed to this story.



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Welcome Roderick Jones

Chef Roderick is a native of Buffalo, New York, now a resident of Long Beach, MS. He is an accomplished chef that graduated high school in 1996 from Biloxi High. He lived in Germany briefly while playing professional basketball in his early 20s. Our new Chef has a Culinary Degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and specializes in many cuisines and fusions. Chef Roderick has a passion for all foods and a goal of executing and maintaining high standards in hospitality and guest services.

Welcome Marianne Gieger

Our new General Manager and we are excited to have her on board! Marianne is born and raised in NOLA, on the North Shore of Lake Ponchartrain. Marianne has been involved deeply in the restaurant industry for 28 years. Having just moved to the Coast this past Spring, Marianne has managed some of NOLA's most iconic restaurants and clubs from standard fair to Farm to Table concepts and on into entertainment district stand-outs. Marianne holds degrees in Management, Marketing and Economics. Marianne also held an F&B Directorship in St. Thomas. Marianne is a resident of Long Beach, MS

Taste of Long Beach caters to a crowd of hundreds



Photo by Fred Weller

Residents line up to fill their plates during Taste of Long Beach held November 8 at the Senior and Recreation Center.

By Fred Weller

Hundreds turned out to sample the delicacies of over 30 local vendors participating in this year's Taste of Long Beach.

Darwell Yeager Jr., owner of Darwell's Café in Long Beach, served up Shrimp Creole during the event he has attended for years.

"I think any event that brings the town people together is great," he said. "It makes us stronger as a community, and I enjoy being a part of it."

With rain a distinct possibility and Long Beach Chamber of Commerce officials not wanting to risk an outdoor extravaganza, the venue for the November 8 event was moved from the Harper McCaughan Town Green to the Senior and Recreation Center. Although the threatening weather never materialized, as the day before, the change was fortuitous

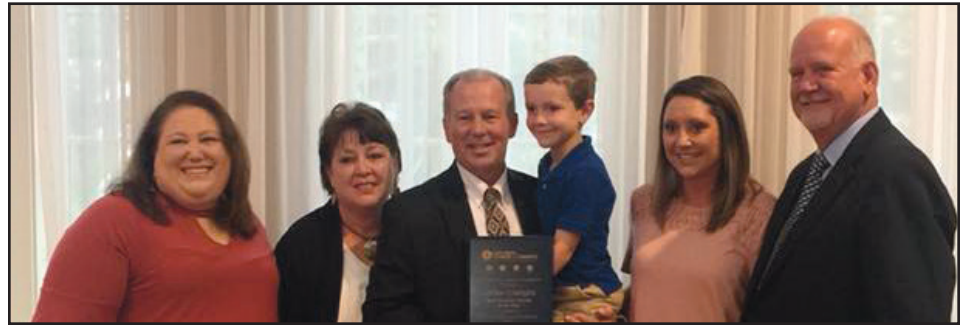
and only parking for over 300 people was a handicap.

The covered, air-conditioned, indoor facilities were appreciated by the crowd of attendees. The rows of vendor tables were perfectly spaced to allow for foot-traffic and grazing at the same time. The shoulder to shoulder movement allowed for personal space and greeting to acquaintances, while event-goers filled their plates.

Live music was played from the stage in the auditorium and caught overflow from the remade gymnasium. The hallways demonstrated the items being sold for the silent auction.

Long Beach Chamber of Commerce delegates gave a shout of thanks to Robert Paul and his Parks and Recreation crew for transforming the center to accommodate the change of venue on short notice.

Long Beach citizens are awarded for contributions



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Mississippi Power's Frankie Castiglia and grandson accept the "Aline Doherty Citizen of the Year" award.

By Fred Weller

An awards ceremony to recognize outstanding individual efforts contributing to a better life for all citizens of Long Beach took place following Mayor George Bass' recent breakfast presentation.

Frankie Castiglia from Mississippi Power was presented the "Aline Doherty Citizen of the Year" award. The award is presented annually to a resident or business owner of Long Beach, who through commitment to the community and the spirit of volunteerism has improved the quality of life in Long Beach and the Gulf Coast. Castiglia said, "Everything that I've done was for my grandson."

The Public Works "Employee of the Year" award was presented to Mike Glass from Utility Partners by Joe Culpepper, director of

Long Beach Public Works.

Police Chief Billy Seal acknowledged Officer Jason Case as "Police Officer of the Year." "Firefighter of the Year" was named as the entire Long Beach 911 Dispatchers by Assistant Fire Chief Grif Skelly for Fire Chief Mike Brown.

American Medical Response (AMR) recognized "Personnel Member of the Year," Ivan Lockert, EMT, by James Carver, EMS operations manager for AMR.

The Long Beach Chamber of Commerce presented a teacher grant of \$500 to Amaris Evans, Long Beach Alternative School. A teacher grant of \$500 was presented by the Long Beach High School Class of 1988 to Treana Attipoe, Long Beach Middle School, and a \$250 teacher grant to Lindsey Bell, Long Beach High School.

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www.LongBeachBreeze.com

Mayor's breakfast day serves up 'meat and potatoes' on significant city projects

By Fred Weller

Early morning windblown raindrops beating on the windowpanes did not dampen the excitement in the Hardy Hall Ballroom at the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Park Campus, when Long Beach Mayor George Bass addressed a capacity crowd.

Following an introduction by the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce Chair Angela Bowell, Mayor Bass began his discussion on the weather and the importance of drainage in Long Beach during the breakfast event on October 25. The Mayor revealed engineering studies performed recently indicated a price tag of \$38 million to correct the deficiencies in the four drainage basins in Long Beach. He said in view of the current weather, "I can joke about it today, but it's no joking matter and something we take very seriously. We have an ongoing contract with Pickering Engineering and have upgraded it, but we need to secure financing to move ahead."

The first of the Mayor's planned topics was the Beatline Road Parkway, a major project designed to connect US Highway 90 with Interstate Highway 10. The Mayor approached the Gulf Regional Planning Commission before starting his term and stated the need for a North-South connector on the western side of Harrison County. The roadway would provide an evacuation route and a means to bring needed materials to the area should another hurricane hit. The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) chose Beatline as the best choice after examining several alternatives as part of the MDOT 2040 Plan. Funding has been secured for a two-year study. The plan for the study should be available late November or December.

Another aspect of the Mayor's message was the importance given to beautification of the Jeff Davis and Cleveland entrances to Long Beach from Highway 90. Funding has been secured to hire a landscape architect to begin work in January. These two intersections are the unofficial limits for the land side of the Long Beach Harbor, which has a \$48 million-dollar Master Plan. The requisite US Army Corps of Engineers permits are in hand, and funding is being



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach teachers Trena Attipoe, Amaris Evans and Lindsey Bell were awarded grants by the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce during an awards ceremony following a special breakfast event with city Mayor George Bass. The event was held at the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Park Campus on October 25.

explored at both state and national levels.

The Mayor gave credit to the Board of Aldermen for their "can do" attitude and lack of acrimony when developing programs that benefit the citizens of Long Beach. Top of the Mayor's list was increased use of the Town Green for events including "Jeepin' the Coast" that brought an estimated 700 vehicles through Long Beach. The ever popular "Finally First Friday" with its cadre of classic vehicles and live music saw upwards of 1,500 attendees. Other celebratory events included "Taste of Long Beach," featuring the epicurean delights of local restaurants and the upcoming "Sea Santa Sail-a-bration," a dry land waterless boat parade, and the local Mardi Gras parade sponsored by the Carnival Association of Long Beach (CALB).

The Mayor's emotional tie to the beach access work promoted and directed by Jenny Levens, the city's director of community affairs, was apparent and put Long Beach in a unique position to offer people with limited mobility the possibility to participate in waterside activities with friends and family.

A dog park, F.E.T.C.H., "second to none in the Southeast," is underway and the physical area is being prepared next to the Senior and Recreation Center thanks to the work of volunteers to organize, plan and solicit funds.

The Mayor made a request to find

a way to have a public swimming pool, "Long Beach really needs a pool," he said. No substantive actions have been taken, but the need is felt.

According to Levens, the city is currently "checking around to see where funding is available" for a pool. The city is hoping to have the pool built on a piece of city-owned property near the senior center.

"It's a known need," Levens said, "especially for our students who travel to the Marsha Barbour Center near Kiln for swim meets and practice since we don't have a facility."

The most controversial subject currently in Long Beach is the Mississippi Gaming Commission's evaluation of a proposed site for its suitability as a casino. The Mayor cautioned this is a preliminary step and there are many hurdles to overcome before there is a possibility of a casino in Long Beach.

The increasing traffic at the intersection of Commission and Klondyke from nearly 300 new homes in the area being planned and under construction will require a turning lane and widening of the roadway. This project calls for an estimated \$300,000 and is in the planning stages.

The Mayor is proud of the use people are giving to the new sidewalks on Pineville from Beatline to Harper McCaughan school. The extension of the sidewalk is planned to reach from the school to the five points intersection.

LB teacher nabs grant

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Carly Parker, a teacher at Harper McCaughan Elementary School in Long Beach, has received a \$2,000 grant as part of a 2018 Voya Unsung Heroes awards competition. Through the Voya Unsung Heroes program, Voya Financial, Inc., awards grants to K-12 educators nationwide to honor their innovative teaching methods, creative educational projects, and ability to positively influence their students. For more than 20 years, the program has awarded over \$5 million in grants to more than 2,000 educators across the United States.

Parker's innovative teaching idea, "STEM Up!" focuses on creating a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) closet for the students at Harper McCaughan Elementary School.

This resource will further engage students to create resources or supplies to introduce key concepts of STEM in a new and innovative way. With an eye on expanding student engagement, the project will utilize peer learning in which students will teach each other a STEM lesson through interactive videos on various topics. Through the project, funded by the Voya grant, students will participate in a period of STEM exploration using new technologies to keep notes, conduct field research and create tutorial videos. Ultimately, Parker will challenge her students to become teachers to their own peers as a way to generate creativity and leadership in the classroom.

Selected from a group of more than 1,200 applicants, Parker is one of only 100 winners across the country who will receive this award to help fund and bring her program to life. In addition, she will now compete with other finalists for one of the top three prizes - an additional \$5,000, \$10,000 or \$25,000 from Voya Financial.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Meleones receives award

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Tara Meleones, a teacher at St. Vincent dePaul Catholic School in Long Beach, has been named among winners of the 2018 John Morton Excellence in Teaching of Economics Award.

Meleones accepted the award that honors teachers for excellence in economic education at the Council for Economic Education's (CEE) 57th Annual Financial Literacy and Economic Education Conference on October 5 in Atlanta,

Georgia. Selected by an expert panel of judges, Meleones is one of three distinguished teachers named this year's winners who stood out for their innovative approaches and classroom results on an important subject. They also encouraged their students to use economics and financial literacy as a means to acquire the skills necessary to succeed in their education and future careers.

Meleones is an art teacher who provides students with lessons on entrepreneurship. She teaches personal finance and entrepreneurship to fifth graders, and the Stock Market Game and International Economic Summit to sixth graders.



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New library system takes off in Long Beach

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn,
LBPL Children's Librarian

'Tis the season...to be jolly. Fa, la, la, la, la, la, la, la. That's right, patrons. It's that time of year. When the calendar month makes us all believe it should feel like one season, we walk outside, and it feels like another. However, no matter the weather...it can always change, and, at your library, we are welcoming change.

Apollo, our new automation system, is "up and running," and so far...so good. We have had a few training sessions for our patrons this past week, and one of the features that has impressed them the most is the control that they now have over their accounts. Being able to renew items, reserve items, and control how they are notified when something will be available to them or may be overdue is extremely popular.

We hope to have more days available for training sessions in the future. If you are interested in taking part, email me at:

rreyburn@longbeach.lib.ms.us with the subject line APOLLO FOR PATRONS. Remember, you must have a library card with Long Beach Public Library.

The Friends of the Long Beach Public Library will not meet in December. However, they will be having a book sale on December 8 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the meeting room of the main wing of the library.

The Long Beach Board of Trustees will meet for a training session on December 11 at 2 p.m. in the meeting room of the main wing.

Except for their luncheon, the Long Beach Public Library Book Club will not meet for December. They will meet again on January 28 at 1 p.m. at the Long Beach Public Library. January's choice is *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee.

If you know how to play the card game Hand & Foot or Canasta and would be interested in being a substitute, contact the library at 228-863-0711. The Hand & Foot Card Players meet every Thursday at 11 a.m.

DECEMBER LIBRARY EVENTS

Parent's Coffee Break

December 4, 10-11:30 a.m.

Friends of the Long Beach Public Library Book Sale

December 8, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Hand and Foot Card Players

Every Thursday 11 a.m.

Preschool Story Time

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

Christmas Holidays

Closed Dec. 22 - 25 & Reopens Dec. 26, 9 a.m.

New Year's Holidays

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Community journalism matters because people matter

By Guest Columnist Matt Geiger

“Everything in this newspaper is important to someone.”

It’s become something of a mantra for me, in recent years.

Weekly community newspapers are eclectic, to say the least. We publish photos of ribbons being cut at bakeries, and donations being dropped off at local food pantries. We print the school honor roll, the court report, and in-depth stories on decisions made by planning commissions and town boards. Sometimes we cover murders, abuse, and horrific car crashes, and when we do our community journalists often experience these tragedies as both reporters and neighbors — as both professionals and human beings. We cover the referendum that will determine whether a new school is built and our readers’ taxes will rise. We publish birth announcements, obituaries, and the various things that, when wedged between those two bookends, make up the lives that make up our communities.

I’ve learned more than I ever wanted to know about sewage, in order to cover the approval and construction of a new treatment plant. I interviewed a survivor of the Iran hostage crisis about what it’s like to be held prisoner in a foreign land while the world looks on. I’ve interviewed grandmothers about their favorite holiday recipes. Perhaps most importantly, I’ve interviewed little kids about what they want to be when they grow up, and what type of world they hope to inhabit.

I’ve even eaten *lutefisk* — a type of gelatinous Scandinavian fish that is usually only consumed as part of a dare — in the warm hum of a local church’s kitchen. (I even liked it, which I think qualifies as a kind of small-town gonzo journalism.)

People sometimes ask me why community newspapers are

important. My reply is always the same. It’s because *everything* in those pages is important to someone. Maybe the ribbon cutting isn’t flashy enough to go viral, and the Thanksgiving turkey recipe is not going to change culinary trends across the nation. But these things, these small things in communities across the county and across

the world, are what give meaning and purpose to all of our lives.

The ribbon cutting is the culmination of a childhood dream. The donations at the food pantry will allow a family to gather around their table without worrying if there is enough to fill each plate. The honor roll goes on the fridge, of course, because it’s a reminder to a young student that she can flourish when she applies herself. The birth announcement marks the proudest, greatest moment of a mother

and father’s life together. The face looking out from the obituary is one that a wife, and children, and grandchildren, will never kiss again. The new school being paid for with the referendum is where a young student might develop an interest in science, growing up and developing a treatment for cancer or Alzheimer’s, allowing millions of people to live a little longer, and have their faces kissed by those who love them a few more times.

Journalism matters, now more than ever, because people matter. Community journalism matters, now more than ever, because roughly half the world’s population lives in small communities, and in the pages of their newspapers, they see themselves and the ones they love.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Matt Geiger is the executive editor of News Publishing Co. in Black Earth, Wisconsin. His editorial is published in recognition of National Newspaper Week, October 7-13, 2018.

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Long Beach celebrates Veterans with parade



All photos by Susan Weller



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Long Beach Live's Finally First Friday finale

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach Live's monthly concert series came to a close earlier this month, but not without a bang.

The series, which typically runs from April to October, ended its 2018 season with an additional concert on November 2 with performances by Bruce Smelley and the Southern Classics.

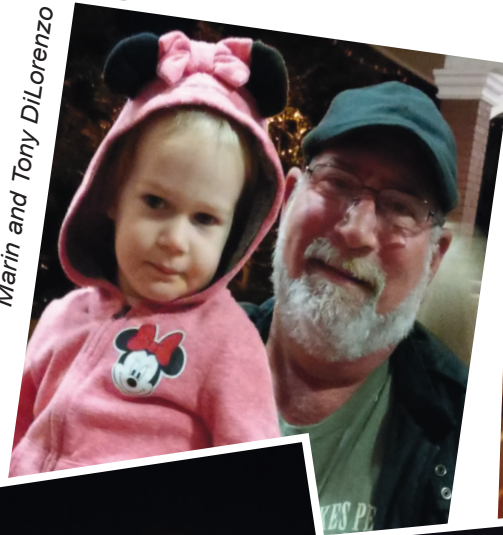
The event took place at the Harper McCaughan Town Green in downtown Long Beach on Jeff Da-

vis Avenue.

The popularity of the event and growing participation in the city's Finally First Friday event, during which local businesses stay open late and offer specials and deals to customers, warranted this year's extension of the concert series, according to Long Beach Community Development Director Jenny Levens.

Next year's season for Long Beach Live will start back in April 2019.

Marin and Tony DiLorenzo



Chelsea and Lennox Toney, Julie Paul



Amy Green, Archae Laubmeier, Nathan White, Jake Simmons, and Jenna Laubmeier



Amanda Taylor, Addison and Leigh Seal, Katie Williams, and Blakeley Hammond



Keith and Wendie Forge, Doug and Kennie Walker

All photos by Amanda Compton-Ortiz

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LBPD remembers fallen officers at Day of Prayer

By Amanda Compton-Ortiz

Long Beach Police Chief Billy Seal remembers it like it was yesterday; a domestic violence call that resulted in the death of two department officers – Sgt. Steve Morgan and Det. Jim Northcutt.

The tragedy happened on May 6, 1998, at the intersection of Seal and Oakmont in Long Beach. Shots were fired as officers approached the scene. Monuments honoring the two fallen officers have been placed at the site and every year, Seal said, on that fateful day, department staff and officers visit the intersection and unite in prayer.

Long Beach police officers showed that same support on September 26 when they attended the city’s third annual See You at the Station. The event is a global movement that invites the community and local law enforcement to meet at the Long Beach Police Department and pray for police officers everywhere, including those who have died in the line of duty and those who are currently



Photo by Amanda Compton-Ortiz

Pictured (l to r) are: Officer Jolee Knight, Lt. Ken Lassabe, Officers Jeremy Bammert and Jason Case, Sgt. Eddie Hilliard, and Commander Damien McRight.

serving. Prayers for protection, wisdom, integrity and kindness.

“We want to show our men and women in blue that we support them,” said Long Beach resident Michele Ponte, event organizer.

The movement that started in Texas is in its fourth year nationwide, with more than 36 states and thousands of people having participated.

In Long Beach, the effort is growing as well. According to

Seal, the crowd for the event has continued to grow, attracting the support of everyone from youth to senior citizens.

“I’m very proud our community supports us,” Seal said. “Our officers deal with so many negative experiences every day, so getting to attend something like this and hear from citizens who support them really makes a difference.”

“It makes the boots on the ground feel appreciated.”

Since the first recorded police death in the U.S. in 1791, there have been over 21,000 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Currently, there are 21,541 names engraved on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

A total of 1,511 law enforcement officers have died in the line of duty in the last 10 years, an average of one death every 58 hours or 151 per year. Officers killed in the line of duty in 2017 totaled 129, 37 of which were in Mississippi.

In Long Beach, only those two police officers – Sgt. Morgan and Det. Northcutt - have died in the line of duty, since 1998, according to Seal.

Fr. James of St. Thomas Church led the crowd in prayer. Guest speakers at the event included Seal, Ponte and Long Beach City Alderman-At-Large Donald Frazer. Other city officials in attendance were Long Beach Aldermen Bernie Parker, Ward 2, Timothy McCaffrey, Ward 4, and Community Development Director Jenny Levens.

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Long Beach Mayor, police chief commend officers



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach Police Department officers were recently recognized for their response to an elderly resident suffering with dementia and who was suicidal. Each officer was presented with a Letter of Commendation issued by the department and the City of Long Beach. Pictured (l to r) are: (front row) Officers Courtney Favre, Chris Cuevas and Daniel Marks, (back row) Assistant Chief Bruce Carver, Mayor George Bass and Chief Billy Seal.

Long Beach Rotarians to deliver new dictionaries



Photo by Amanda Compton-Ortiz

Long Beach Rotary Club member Rayna Brewer helps personalize dictionaries that will be delivered this year to third-graders throughout the Long Beach School District. The project is an annual one the club has made a priority for many years.

cont. from front page

Casino topic is tabled

fueling of gambling addictions, socioeconomic costs and an overall reduction in the quality of life.

Lifelong Mississippi Gulf Coast resident Terry Gautier, who recently moved to Long Beach, said she would like to see city leaders come up with a different solution for its economic woes.

“A casino is like putting up a billboard-sized classified ad for crime and prostitution,” she said. “My message to Long Beach leaders is: Bring on innovative, creative thought and ideas to solve the financial problems rather than focusing on a quick-fix, shortcut road to revenue with a casino.”

“Isn’t there an optional approach? ...Isn’t there problem solving that may benefit all, that may bring to light a uniquely crafted town that succeeds in attaining needed revenues, and therefore improvements, which takes Long Beach to the next level?”

At the meeting, developers also presented preliminary plans and illustrations that depict a 40,000-square-foot, seven-story

casino with 300 hotel rooms with anywhere from 1,200 to 2,000 parking spaces – all covering a total of about 120,000-130,000 square feet.

Allen Godfrey, executive director of the Mississippi Gaming Commission, a non-voting participant of the board, said Commissioners decided to table the issue to gather additional information about the site as pertains to its legal requirements for gaming.

“I applaud them for not jumping the gun on anything,” Godfrey said of board members. “...All of the residents have valid concerns, and those will also be taken into consideration.”

Godfrey added that while there was not an exact date set for when Commissioners will address the topic again, he said, “I would imagine it would be in the near future.”

For details on upcoming meetings and a list of gaming site requirements, visit www.msgaming-commission.com and click MGC Regulations, MGC Regs Part 2: Licensing, Rule 1.4.

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LB Lady Bearcats achieve volleyball success

By Andy Kanengiser

Along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, one of the state's premier volleyball teams is enjoying a pretty successful season at Long Beach High. The Lady Bearcats have racked up plenty of wins at home and on the road, during the season from August to October.

"The Lady Bearcats team is young, but this doesn't stop them from being competitive," says head coach Rebecca Tillman. "This team has an immense amount of talent. In the coming years, they will learn to trust one another as teammates and play with grit."

While they are high achievers as they spike volleyballs and play awesome defense, the Lady Bearcats should be even sharper in Fall 2019. "I have high expectations of these girls and firmly believe we are going to be a force to be reckoned with as they advance through the next several years," Tillman says.

This isn't just coach-speak. In late September, the Lady Bear-



Photo by Andy Kanengiser

Long Beach High Lady Bearcats volleyball players pictured (l to r) are: (front row) Maddy Morgan, Kyonna Levens, Jillian Powell, Jayden Hughes, Hailey Dixon, Lexie Desnoyers, Natellie Salvador, Ashton Rupert, (middle row) Marissa Allen, Kathryn Boettner, Jordan Tillman, Paige Myers, (back row) Allie Dubuisson, Abby Dubuisson, Katelyn Schroeder, Alyssa Tinsley, Abbi Grissom, Laurel "Toot" Ladner, Dayna Jordan, Sarah Simpson, Veada Hobbs, Blair Powell, Adalyn Bernard. Not pictured: Americus Knight and Sanaa Stough-Lacking.

cats were rated a lofty 7th in the Mississippi high school class II volleyball rankings. The Lady Bearcats season got off to a great start, recording a 9-0 record in district play and 15-4 mark overall. Recently, the Lady Bearcats tallied a 3-1 win over Bay St. Louis on the road September 25. State high school playoffs follow after the season ended October 11.

On the Lady Bearcats schedule were notable volleyball triumphs, including 3-1 over Hattiesburg High on the road September 11. Wins over Biloxi 2-0, and Gulfport 2-1 at the Pass Christian Tournament in August were signs of good things to come. The Lady Bearcats notched a 3-0 shutout over nearby Coast rival West Harrison on September 8.

The team is led by co-captains Danya Jordon (No. 24), a senior, and Allie Dubuisson.

From 2007 through 2011, the Lady Bearcats volleyball team posted a solid record of 72-16 under former coach Courtney Pollock. That's a healthy .711 winning percentage during that five-year run on the campus at 300 East Old Pass Road.



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LBHS athlete lives dream at All-American games

By Andy Kanengiser

Cade Crosby fulfilled one of his biggest baseball dreams at the



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travel to San Diego to play on the diamond before college coaches and MLB scouts.

Just getting the invitation on July 7 to the Perfect Game 2020 Upper-classman All-American Games proved to be an unforgettable day.

“To be one of only 82 players selected throughout the nation is a great honor,” said the 17-year-old Long Beach junior. “I felt blessed and humbled to be included to play and compete with some of the best players in the country.”

Perfect Game remains the industry leader to showcase baseball and its amateur players. The event

provides players with scouting reports, grades and video clips. The information gets displayed on the players’ individual profiles. The data gets analyzed by college coaches or pro scouts viewing a popular website.

There’s reason for Cade, his family and friends to get pumped. Since 2003, more than 10,000 Perfect Game alumni were selected in the MLB Draft, including more than 1,000 players making MLB debuts. MLB stars like Mike Trout, Bryce Harper, Clayton Kershaw, and Stephen Strasburg are among the grads. Simply put, national exposure to all 30 MLB team scouting departments and over 1,500 USA colleges is tremendous.

But the big question for Cade Crosby was how to pay for the trip to California and back home.

Cade’s parents made phone calls, texted people and emailed businesses. “We received a lot of donations, and we were lucky to do a fundraiser at Bull’s Restaurant,” said the Gulf Coast teen. A special thanks went to restaurant owners John and Lisa Bull.

In addition, Cade met Long

Beach Mayor George Bass, Long Beach Community Affairs Director Jenny Levens and did TV and newspaper interviews. His West Coast visit was fabulous. Stops at the San Diego Zoo, Coronado Beach, La Jolla Beach and Hodad’s Restaurant were packed in before going to PetCo Park, home of MLB’s San Diego Padres. It was the site of the Perfect Game All-American Game airing on the MLB Network.

After that, the Underclass All-American games were on at Fowler Park and Cunningham Field at the University of San Diego Aug. 13 -14. The Long Beach infielder scooped up ground balls, took batting practice, met coaches, and played in four scrimmage games. Videotapes captured his performance.

“The two days of competing with and against the best players in the country was very special,” Crosby said. “My experience playing in San Diego was something I will never forget.”

He’s more than a terrific baseball player. Cade excels for the Long Beach Bearcats football team. In late August, the Gulf Coast res-

ident received his first football offer from the University of Tennessee-Martin. It’s likely the first of many. Other football offers are expected from colleges after he finishes his Long Beach junior year. The same is anticipated with baseball teams showing interest at universities across the South. His summer baseball team is the East Coast Sox 2020 Select.

Cade “gets downright excited” when facing talented pitchers, said Long Beach coach Shane Rutledge. He brings it to the plate when the competition is on, the Bearcats coach said.

While many teens dream of playing in the MLB or National Football League, few make the giant leap to pro sports. It’s always wise to have a backup plan, says his dad, Matt Crosby.

“Cade plans to go to college, graduate and just be successful in whatever he plans to do,” says Matt Crosby.

Cade, a Memphis native, began at any early age on the ballfields, first in Tennessee, then Hattiesburg, and finally the Gulf Coast. Cade moved to Long Beach schools as a sixth grader.



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Season kicks off for Lady Bearcats soccer team

By Andy Kanengiser

Fans of the Long Beach High Lady Bearcats soccer team had much to cheer about early in the season.

A 3-0 Long Beach triumph over Gulf Coast rival Vancleave at the Gulfport Classic pleased coach Haley Hammons and her squad.

On November 3, sophomore Nathalie Salvador ended up scoring two goals for the Maroon and White. She scored quickly early on to give the Lady Bearcats a 1-0 edge at half-time. Nathalie recorded her 2nd goal after receiving a break away pass. Macy Willis-Trahan completed the scoring for the Lady Bearcats.

On the defensive side of the ball, midfielders like Sophia Fimiano and Sydney Spataro did a good job in their area of the field. They combined to provide solid defense and delivered sharp passes to their Long Beach teammates on offense.

It was a nice bounce back win for the Lady Bearcats on that Fall Saturday after opening the season with a 4-0 loss on the road to Our Lady Academy of Bay St. Louis.

"The season is going well," Hammons said day after the victory. "We are figuring out how to work together as a team. I am looking forward to a successful season."

Key upcoming matchups include road games with Biloxi on November 30 and against Stone County at



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Matthew Levens, general manager at Rosalie Car Wash & Detail in Long Beach, presents Long Beach High Lady Bearcats soccer team players with a check to support the team in purchasing equipment and assist with additional expenses during the season. The funds were raised during a car wash event on October 13. Pictured (l to r) are: (front row) Sophia Fimiano, Amanda Anderson, Kyla Cuevas, Kristinia Dahl, Breton Charman, Alexa Beets, Julia Gertesema, Sydney Spataro, Nathalia Salvador, Macy Willis-Trahan, Tayler Smith, (back row) Olivia Mims, Robyn Niezgoda, Kayla Bush, Alex Segura, Susie Stevenson, Holly Weaver, Reagan Picchi, Ashton Rupert, Alexis Pouriraji, Lauren Bennett, Jullian Powell, Ella Setnikar.

Wiggins on December 7.

Long Beach High Lady Bearcats fans should circle a trio of home matches on their calendars in December. The Lady Bearcats will face visiting Gautier on December 11, St. Martin on December 14 and West Harrison on December 18.

It never hurts the Lady Bearcats to have an enthusiastic crowd of hometown fans in the stands when the weather turns a little chilly on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

For the 26 girls on the roster, their fans and Coach Hammons, three home wins would be a wonderful way to close out 2018 as the Christmas holidays draw near. Following the break, the Long

Beach girls return for their first soccer game of 2019 with a road contest vs Gautier on January 15.

It is always a positive to have successful fundraisers to benefit high school sports teams. That was the case this Fall when owners and employees of the Rosalie Station Car Wash & Detail Center helped the Lady Bearcats soccer team raise \$651.

Dominick Fimiano, president of the Long Beach Lady Bearcats Booster Club, approached general manager Matt Levens about the company sponsoring the team. But Levens took things a step further and talks led to a car wash event on October 13.

The Long Beach Lady Bearcats soccer players worked in two shifts starting at 9 a.m. and four parents volunteered as chaperones. Rosalie employees pitched in, too. The final vehicles got washed and vacuumed at 3 p.m. that Saturday.

"The plan is to use the funds to assist paying for warm-ups for each player," Fimiano said. Lady Bearcats players would receive warm-ups with jackets.

Call it good, clean fun, and a spirited drive to boost Long Beach High girls soccer. Rosalie Car Wash donated 50 percent of their sales to help the Long Beach High squad that day.

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Applications are available on the City Website
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USM celebrates \$12.2 million Marine Research Center

Special to the Long Beach Breeze

The University of Southern Mississippi's (USM) new \$12.2-million Marine Research Center (MRC) is the centerpiece for a new maritime blue economy in South Mississippi.

The university celebrated the opening of the facility on September 21 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Port of Gulfport.

Located on Highway 90 at the Port's entrance, the MRC provides shoreside support to USM's 135-foot oceanographic research vessel, the R/V Point Sur, and to a number of academic programs.

Governor Phil Bryant, U.S. Congressman Steven Palazzo, Mayor of Gulfport Billy Hewes, Mississippi House of Representatives and Senate members, Port of Gulfport Executive Director and CEO Jonathan Daniels, university officials and representatives from the Port of Gulfport were in attendance.

"The University of Southern Mississippi is proud to partner with the Port of Gulfport as we create new initiatives that will not only



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Local and state dignitaries cut the ribbon on the University of Southern Mississippi's new Marine Research Center.

enhance the university's research efforts along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, but also impact communities across our state and beyond," said University President Rodney D. Bennett. "I look forward to the opportunities this new facility will allow our scientists to harness as we continue our work in ocean science and engineering in support of academia, industry, and Governor Phil Bryant's Blue Economy."

The building is operated by the university's School of Ocean Science and Engineering, which offers marine and coastal sciences degrees, including the only ocean engineering program in Missis-

issippi and the only certificate in Unmanned Maritime Systems in the nation.

"Thirteen years ago, a casino sat right here after Hurricane Katrina made landfall," said USM School of Ocean Science and Engineering Director Monty Graham. "Today shows the resiliency of South Mississippi. Resiliency isn't about bouncing back; it's about bouncing forward."

Encompassing nearly 18,000 square feet, this unique building serves as the principal marine operations and support facility for the university's oceanographic research efforts.

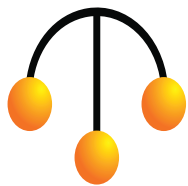
A partnership between USM, the

Mississippi State Port Authority, and the Mississippi Development Authority, this new facility includes classrooms, laboratories, an 8-foot-deep in-ground testing tank, administrative offices and storage areas.

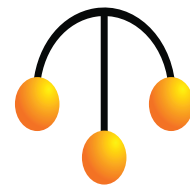
"We know more about the surface of the moon than our oceans," said Gov. Bryant. "USM's new facility is a step toward changing that."

The project was funded through the Port of Gulfport's Restoration Program, which has allowed the Port to increase capacity and diversify its tenant mix. Construction began in November 2016 with completion of the building in June 2018.

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