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Casino site proposal up for discussion in LB

By Amanda Compton-Ortiz

The Mississippi Gaming Commission wants to hear from Long Beach residents next month when they consider site approval for a proposed casino in the city.

A public hearing to determine if the site is legal for a casino will take place at Long Beach City Hall on November 15 at 9 a.m. “Commissioners want to hear from residents and find out what the temperament is in Long Beach for proposal of construction of a casino down the road,” said Jay McDaniel, deputy director of the Mississippi Gaming Commission. “They want to gauge things like what kind of amenities would the development need to bring to the area and how residents feel about the addition of gaming in the city.”

McDaniel added that while input from residents is welcomed at the

hearing, comments must be kept brief.

Project developers – Long Beach Harbor Resorts LLC, Blue Ridge Properties LLC, and other individuals – are hoping to build a 40,000-square-foot casino at the site of the old K-Mart and Sav-A-Center properties north of Highway 90 across from the Long Beach Harbor.

According to McDaniel, any decision made by commissioners at the hearing will address only the legality of the site for developers’ proposal to build a casino there. It is the first stage in a two-part process and will not grant approval for any kind of construction to take place at the site.

Commissioners will consider things like whether the site is in violation of any applicable city ordinances and if it’s located far enough away from residential



Photo by Amanda Compton-Ortiz

The Mississippi Gaming Commission will convene here at Long Beach City Hall on November 15 to consider site approval for a proposed casino in the city.

areas, local churches and schools. They will also make sure the site is compatible with state law that requires it to be within 800 feet of the shoreline, and other components.

“This is the first stage where commissioners look at the site to see if it meets certain regulations and

specifications and decide whether or not it’s even suitable for a casino project,” McDaniel said.

During the second phase of the proposal, McDaniel said commissioners would decide on whether to grant final approval of the project and allow construction to begin.

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Cruisin’ boasts fine rides



Photo by Fred Weller

Onlookers standby as Cruisin’ the Coast kicks off October 1 with a parade of vehicles beginning in front of Long Beach High School. See story and additional photos on Page 3.

Schools place in top 10

By Amanda Compton-Ortiz

The Long Beach School District has earned the highest possible academic rating for the 2017-18 school year.

This year will be the third consecutive year the school system has received an “A” rating with an overall score of 691, placing it among the top 10 school districts in the State of Mississippi.

Long Beach schools performed better than 96.3 percent of other school districts in the state, designating the district as tenth overall – up from last year’s thirteenth – among all Mississippi public

school districts.

“I would like to thank all of our dedicated employees for achieving an “A” rating once again,” said Long Beach School District Board President Tim Pierce. “This rating exemplifies not only our district’s awesome teachers and students, but also our district leadership from the top down. It is a team effort across the district.”

The Mississippi State Board of Education (SBE) on October 11 approved letter grades for schools and districts based on Mississippi’s A-F accountability system that evaluates how schools and

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cont. from front page

Schools place in top 10

districts performed in the 2017-18 school year.

According to a release from the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), accountability grades are based, in part, on how well students perform and progress from year to year on the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) tests for English language arts (ELA) and Mathematics. These tests are aligned to the Mississippi College and Career Ready Standards and are administered annually to students in grades 3-8 and in high school.

Overall, students showed statistically significant gains in both ELA and Mathematics from 2016-17 to 2017-18.

Twenty-nine districts increased their letter grades from the previous school year, and the number of schools earning an "A" rose from 114 in 2016-17 to 181 in 2017-18.

"The fact that the Long Beach School District has maintained an "A" rating for three consecutive years is a testament to the hard work of our teachers, administrators, and students," said district superintendent Dr. Jay Smith. "Being an "A" does not happen by accident. It only happens when every employee is dedicated to excellence and when parents hold their children accountable.

"Our bus drivers, cafeteria workers, maintenance department, technology department, exceptional education department, and central office all play a vital role in ensuring that our teachers and students in the classroom have what they need to be successful. But, make no mistake, our success is driven first and foremost by the teachers and assistant teachers who stand on their feet day in and day out teaching our students."

Along with the release of accountability grades, the MDE launched the new Mississippi Succeeds Report Card, an interactive online tool designed to help parents and communities more easily evaluate schools across the state. The tool includes detailed information about each school and district's academic performance and new indicators of school performance including chronic absenteeism rates and teacher qualifications.

Statewide, the number of districts earning an "A" increased from 15 in 2016-17 to 18 in 2017-18. Among those districts joining Long Beach on the Gulf Coast are Ocean Springs, Biloxi, and Pass Christian schools.

Harrison County, Hancock County and Gulfport district schools received a "B" rating. The Bay St. Louis-Waveland School District received a "C" grade.

The number of F districts increased from nine to 21 because of a change to the grading scale that went into effect for 2017-18. Under the current grading scale, 21 districts would have been rated an F in 2016-17.

The SBE will consider grades at its November 8 meeting for the Harrison County Child Development Center after learning more about the provision in the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) that requires all schools and districts receive grades.

The SBE voted in August to reset the baseline scores for establishing accountability grades for schools that have a 12th grade. The reset addressed the lack of comparability to growth scores in prior years.

In 2019, the accountability report will include grades for districts and schools for progress that English Learners (EL) made toward achieving proficiency in the English language. The grade that includes EL progress is unofficial this year.

The accountability system places an emphasis on the progress students make in ELA and Mathematics from year to year, particularly the lowest performing 25 percent of students, and factors in how well students perform on science tests in grades 5 and 8. Accountability grades for high schools and districts include the four-year graduation rate, student performance on Biology, U.S. History and ACT tests, and student participation and performance in advanced coursework such as Advanced Placement and dual credit/dual enrollment courses.

To view the complete 2017-18 accountability results for schools and districts visit www.mdek12.org/OPR/Reporting/Accountability. View the new Mississippi Succeeds Report Card at msrc.mdek12.org.

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Cruisin' the Coast boasts hundreds of fine rides

By Fred Weller

Classic cars of all makes and models and folks from one end of the globe to the other took to the streets in droves the week of October 1 in Long Beach to take part in this year's Cruisin' the Coast. The popular event was everywhere along Highway 90 and side streets. Vehicles and trailers were strategically placed along the anticipated route. Cruisers assembled in multiple long columns at the Long Beach High School parking lot hours before the event's parade that included a 600-car procession down Cleveland to Railroad Street to Jeff Davis to Highway 90 and disbanded at the Long Beach Harbor.

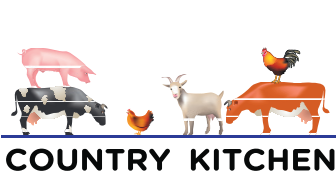
Participants felt the heat and humidity as the unshaded parking lot offered no respite from nature. Vehicle air conditioning was non-existent and overheated engines were a possibility. And though the ambiance was stifling, especially for those folks who travelled from cooler northern climates, the camaraderie was apparent. A variety of cold beverages were exchanged and consumed as hometowns were discussed and comparisons made about local conditions. Last

minute adjustments and finishing touches were made to vehicles and personal attire, even though movement wasn't expected until 5:30 p.m. There were first-time entrants and repeat Cruisers. The common thread was the commentary on the hospitality and the organizational effort that made for a fun time. The coordination by the Long Beach Parks and Recreation, police and fire departments, Long Beach Harbor, volunteers and City Hall made for an appreciated and enjoyable parade. This year, a new phenomenon appeared as several vehicles, predominately older pickup trucks, were filled with stuffed animals rather than beads and trinkets being tossed to spectators. The new activity was just for something new to excite the crowds and not all were children.

The fire engine led the parade, and approximately one hour later, two police cars finished the procession. The only complaint was the long wait under the hot sun while marshalling the vehicles. Most participants were prepared to weather the wait, and understood the day was more typical of August than October, while anticipating next year's event.



All photos by Fred Weller



HARBOR

MARKET

Thank you, Long Beach, for making the first Harbor Market Shops and Sound Stage soft-opening a huge success! In order of updates; our restaurant and lounge originally scheduled to Open in the early part of November has been pushed back just a bit. Keeping with our Country Kitchen and Parrish's lounge concept, we have engaged the services of an Executive Restaurant Consultant to assist us in our final design and implementation of what we believe will be a unique experience for everyone on the Coast. We want to make sure this is done right and release something that makes us all proud. **Thank you** to all of our Long Beach family and friends that have contributed their time and suggestions, they are truly appreciated and helpful. Stay tuned for more updates and an official **Grand Opening** announcement! See you soon in the harbor.

BarktOber & Haunted Harbor Fest Oct. 27

LBSD picks architects for high school renovation

By Fred Weller

The Machado Patano Design Group (MPDG) was named to provide architectural services for the Long Beach School District's (LBSD) \$20 million construction and renovation of the Long Beach High School campus.

MPDG was one of six competing firms for the LBSD contract. MPDG has experience with educational campus construction and recently completed the new Biloxi Junior High School in the fall of 2017. Machado Patano (MP) was named as "Largest Engineering Firms in 2018" by Mississippi Business Journal.

Bradford Jones, principal architect for MPDG, presented a slide show of the architectural renderings and said, "MP is anticipating starting the work and bringing a quality design to the LBSD." After visiting Biloxi Junior High School last week, Tim Pierce, president of the LBSD school board, commented, "The Biloxi school was very impressive. They did a good

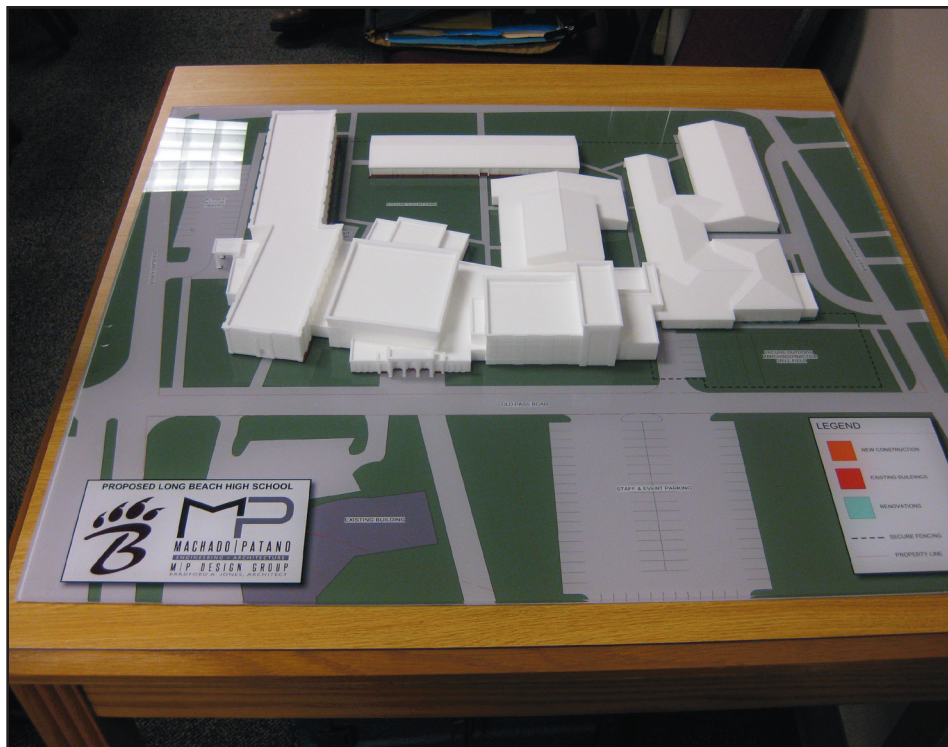


Photo by Fred Weller

Machado Patano 3-D model of Long Beach High School campus

job." Using a model from a 3-D printer, Jones was able to give viewers a real-life concept of the entire

project. The model will be on display at the LBSD offices at 19148 Commission Road. The base of the model is color coded for new

construction or renovation and helps convey the complexity of the undertaking.

Jones did not dwell on details as he said, "the artist's rendition is always the first effort to capture the essence of the project not the final product by no means."

Brad Patano assured the residents of Long Beach and the board that MPDG intended to undertake the work with "a great deal of pride and honor."

Brad Machado referred to the 3-D model as, "this is an idea of where we are going, a starting point." Machado reiterated that, "We still have a lot of work to do; there will be a lot of changes and updates."

MPDG recognizes the high school physical plant is one part of the effort that will extend into the community and must consider vehicle and pedestrian flows. The aesthetics of the campus need to fit with the community at large and the immediate neighborhood. The effort will provide a structure that will last for generations.



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Halloween

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www.LongBeachBreeze.com

LB resident featured on national TV

By Amanda Compton-Ortiz

It's been three years since Marcy Bartman won her battle with cancer.

Her secret weapons – faith in God and a determination to never give up on her dreams.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

"I remember sitting in my hospital bed and thinking to myself, when I get out of here I'm not looking back," she said.

"I think when you realize how much time you've wasted on things that don't matter or don't come from a place of passion within yourself, you realize how important it is to do what you're called to do."

On Sunday, September 2, Bartman, founder of her very own real estate agency, Beach Life Properties LLC, appeared on HGTV's *Beachfront Bargain Hunt*, a nationally televised series documenting journeys of families in search of their dream home near the beach.

Bartman, who lives in Long Beach, was cast in the show alongside homeowners Jerry and Heather Smith of Puckett, Mississippi, and their daughter Selby, to assist in the family's ultimate decision to purchase an historic home in old town Bay St. Louis, located only minutes from the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

"It was a once in a lifetime experience," said Bartman, who was initially contacted for the show last September.

"When the producers called me, I was so excited about the opportunity," she said. "I knew I was in the business of selling beautiful properties they would like to have on the show."

Bartman believes her zest for life, enthusiasm for her job and knowledge of the region and available properties in the area are other reasons why she caught the eye of the show's filmmakers.

"I think the fact I could deliver all of that on camera made me a top choice," Bartman said.

Bartman said her experience on the show "reinforced my knowledge of what people are looking for in this area... That connecting with people not only from this area but from all over the world and understanding those relationships help in marketing the Mississippi Gulf Coast and bringing people into the area."

Bartman made her entrance into selling real estate in 2016, but that seed was planted some years ago when she bought her first beachfront condo in Long Beach in 1992 at Longue Vue Condominiums, later destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

The transaction followed that of her mother, Charlotte "Sharkey" Mullins, a former real estate broker who invested several years earlier in the Longue Vue property in 1988.

The two would eventually join forces as investors in the property, owning up to ten condos there at one time and renting them out to vacationers.

"That's when I fell in love with real estate," Bartman said. "I watched my mom and observed her work ethic and the special relationships she shared with people who were moving into the area. She really enjoyed seeing people, especially children, happy. It's something that is a part of me and who I am."

Bartman touts her mother, also a former school teacher, as a "self-made" woman, but also credits her father, the late E.C. Mullins, former county Sheriff, and U.S.

marine killed in the line of duty, for giving her an edge in the success of her sales career.

"My dad was an adventurer who never met a stranger," Bartman said. "He really talked to people and got to know them. That's a distinctive part of me."

The chance to share her love for people and life on the Gulf Coast is what Bartman said she enjoys most about her work in real estate.

"I love being close to the water and the free-spirited feeling you get from Coastal living," she said. "Being able to make connections and build relationships with my clients; people moving into the area who love the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the beach life like I do, is invaluable to me."

"My clients have become my friends, and there's something omnificent about that."

Her background in investments is another attribute Bartman believes separates her from other agents in her field.

"It helps me in understanding the bottom line for investors, the true value of a home and rental potential for various properties based on numbers people have actually shown me," Bartman said.

During her first year of business, 2016-2017, Bartman was awarded Top Producer by the Gulf Coast Association of Realtors. And this year, her business has doubled.

"I represent sellers and buyers across the Gulf Coast, and if I'm not working and staying abreast of the latest developments in real estate then I feel like I'm not doing what I'm supposed to be doing for someone else," Bartman said. "My walk with God gives me the confidence I need for tomorrow and the wisdom to know the work is worth it when you set out to make life a better place, not just for yourself, but for others."


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Applications are available on the City Website
www.cityoflongbeachms.com, but must be mailed or hand delivered.

LB library upgrades offer options to patrons

By Amanda Compton-Ortiz

The Long Beach Public Library's new and improved computer software program is expected to wow patrons – offering more options and services than ever before.

On November 1, the library will switch over to its new Apollo automation system, a protected, encrypted cloud-based computer program hosted by Biblionix and designed specifically for public libraries.

"This program was designed by a librarian," said Long Beach Public Library Director Denise Saucier, citing that the library's current Destiny computer system is designed for schools and has its limitations when it comes to public library operations.

Saucier said the library has been operating on the school-based system since shortly after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

"It is just not appropriate for what we are doing here," she said.

Approximately 17,000 patrons

have been issued library cards in Long Beach.

The new system will offer patrons a chance to opt-in to receive free email and text notices and optional two-way texting with "renew" commands and more.

"For example, patrons would get a text message showing items that are due back to the library and they can text back to renew before it's overdue," Saucier said. "It's a great way to avoid overdue charges."

The system will also allow patrons to create an online account, place books on hold or use its Reserve Express to subscribe to authors from any computer or mobile device. Other system features include consortial borrowing as well as e-book and e-audio access.

"This new system is definitely more interactive," Saucier said. "Patrons will be able to personalize their accounts and access things they haven't been able to before. It's exciting."

The library will be closed on October 24 to allow library staff to perform training on the new pro-



gram. Training days for patrons will be offered in November.

Saucier first learned of the new Apollo program while attending a meeting for Mississippi Public Libraries in Jackson, in May. She said the main appeal for her was that the system was simple to use and would be compatible with the library's existing technology and standards.

This means, she said, a patron who was issued a library card ten years ago or more would have access to everything Apollo has to offer without having to change anything.

Saucier said the new system will also allow the library access again to interlibrary loans in which the library borrows a book from another library. It's something the Long Beach library has gone without

over the last few years using the old system.

Saucier added that the new system will also make it easier for staff to do inventory and update bookshelves throughout the library without having to close the library.

The new system is being paid for this year by a \$3,000 non-competitive grant. City officials approved funding of the program last month and agreed to take over the annual cost of the program beginning next year.

Monies from the grant will also be used to purchase two new receipt printers to allow patrons to print receipts listing item due dates, paid fines and more.

For more information about training days for the new system, call the Long Beach Public Library at 228-863-0711.

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Library offers training to patrons, staff

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn

November events at the Long Beach Public Library will be taking off before we know it. By now, you have already read Amanda's article about the library getting a new automation system. To prepare for the new system, the library will be closed for staff training on October 24. The library will also hold training sessions next month for patrons interested in learning more about the new system and how to use it. You must have a library card with our library, and you must be registered to attend. You may register at the front desk in the main wing. Two time slots have been chosen, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., and those sessions will take place on November 5, 7 and 9.

- **The Friends of the Long Beach Public Library** will meet on Monday, November 5, at 1 p.m. in the meeting room of the main wing.
- **Parent's Coffee Break** is

Tuesday, November 6, from 10-11:30 a.m. at the library.

- **Preschool Story Time** is held every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:30-11:30 a.m.
- **The Long Beach Board of Trustees** will meet for a work session on Tuesday, November 13, at 2 p.m. in the meeting room of the main wing. Tammy Devin has been elected as the new Chairperson for the Board.
- **The Long Beach Public Library's Book Club** will meet on Monday, November 19, at 1 p.m. at the library. October's choice is *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman.

- Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

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

NOVEMBER HOLIDAYS AT THE LIBRARY

Veteran's Day

Closed
November 10-12

Reopens
November 13, 9 a.m.

Thanksgiving

Closes at noon
November 21-25

Reopens
November 26, 9 a.m.

cont. from front page

Casino site up for discussion

Another public hearing would take place at that time, allowing residents more time to speak on the matter.

"There's a lot more that happens during the second stage," he said. "Commissioners would look at what developers are actually proposing to build at the site such as the number of hotel rooms the development would have, amenities it would offer. All of that is assessed later."

Even at that point in the process, however, McDaniel said there are no guarantees actual construction of a casino would ever begin. He recalled that outcome for at least six different sites along the Mississippi Gulf Coast located in Diamondhead, Pass Christian, Biloxi, Gulfport and D'Iberville.

"We've seen it happen before," he said. "The project gets approved and developers may start construction a month from that time or never."



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Area churches to unite

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The Long Beach community is a special place. The people have a bond, grown out of the trauma and devastation of Hurricane Katrina, and the spirit of caring for each other and working together continues 13 years later. This bond is manifested in the ecumenical worship the community shares on Easter and Thanksgiving.

The annual Easter Morning Sunrise Service on the beach and the annual Community Thanksgiving Service are led by clergy and lay leaders of local churches. Last year, the service was hosted by Long Beach Presbyterian Church. Previous host congregations include First Baptist, St. Thomas Catholic, First United Methodist, and Grace Lutheran Church. Participants included members from these congregations as well as from Christ United Methodist and St. Patrick's

Episcopal Church.

Representatives from local outreach organizations such as the Long Beach Food Pantry, Back Pack Buddies, Long Beach Outreach, and St. Vincent de Paul ministries, and Rebekah's House Shelter for the Homeless provide hymns, scriptures, ministry testimonies and updates.

The Madrigals, part of the Long Beach High School Chorus under the direction of Brian Chancey, will provide inspirational music. The service will be held at Grace Lutheran Church on Pineville Road on Sunday, November 18, at 6 p.m., followed by a time of fellowship and light refreshments. Everyone is invited to join in a time of giving thanks for the blessings of the year and the combined ministries of the community.

For more information, call Pastor Dave Parr at 423-620-1284, or Dr. LaRue Stephens at 864-2584.

Levens named a Top Influencer, One to Watch

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Jenny Levens, community affairs director for the City of Long Beach was named Top Influencer and One to Watch at this year's Women's Success Conference held at the IP Casino in Biloxi on Friday, September 21.

Success Women's Conference is a unique experience designed to inspire, empower, connect and recharge businesswomen in the Gulf Coast region. Top Influencers are recognized and honored for their contributions to and influence on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Levens is a lifelong resident of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, graduating from the University of Southern Mississippi with a degree in business. She is the first community affairs director for the City of Long Beach and was the former director of the

Long Beach and Pass Christian chambers of commerce.

Levens graduated from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for Organization Management and received the recognition of IOM. She is a graduate of Leadership Gulf Coast Class of 2014 and Leadership Mississippi Class of 2017. Levens was recognized in 2016 for the Top 10 Under 40 One Coast Awards. She is a finalist for the Women of Achievement Young Careerist award. She was also named the Mississippi Business Journal's Top 40 Under 50 for 2018.



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Levens is a member St. Thomas Catholic Church in Long Beach, Gulfport Junior Auxiliary, United Way Women's Leadership, Lynn Meadows Boogie Nights Committee, USM Gulf Park Jazz and Blues Committee, Carnival Association of Long Beach and Make-A-Wish Foundation.



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Mayor: 'Pay it forward'

By Amanda Compton-Ortiz

Long Beach Mayor George Bass remembers the devastation and crippling effects caused by Hurricane Katrina.

But more importantly, he remembers the countless individuals who reached out to the city to help in its recovery.

Now, more than 13 years after the tragedy, and in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael that hit the Florida panhandle earlier this month, he's asking Long Beach residents to "pay it forward."

"The first week after Katrina, a team came in from Florida, and representatives from at least ten cities came to our aid," Bass said. "And they didn't stop there. They continued to reach out for ten weeks or more."

"At one point, we had 50 states helping us. It was an unbelievable response. It has struck me how much we, as a community, need to put something together to help them."

On Tuesday, October 16, Har-

risson County elected officials, police and fire department personnel came together in a joint press conference at the Gulfport Central Fire Station to announce disaster relief efforts that are taking place in their individual cities and encouraging residents to participate.

Officials have been meeting and organizing to form a Harrison County Hurricane Task Force for efforts to collect and transport relief supplies to the most hard-hit areas in Florida.

In this effort, dubbed One Coast Hurricane Relief, they will be collecting items over the coming weeks and conveying them over for delivery when the time is best. During the group's initial trip to Florida on October 19, specific items needed in the disaster zones were delivered.

Local fire departments in Harrison County - Biloxi, D'Iberville, Gulfport, Long Beach and Pass Christian- are serving as drop off sites, as well as, Long Beach and Pass Christian police departments.

LBDP remembers fallen officers at Day of Prayer



Photo by Amanda Compton-Ortiz

Long Beach Police Chief Billy Seal joins Michele Ponte and her children (l to r) are: Hope, 10, Faith, 12, and Alice, 13, for See You at the Station, a global movement offering prayers for law enforcement officers everywhere. Ponte, a Long Beach resident, is the event's local organizer.




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LEGAL NOTICE

ELECTION OF SCHOOL TRUSTEE

THE CITY OF LONG BEACH, MISSISSIPPI

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Long Beach, Mississippi, at its first meeting in February to be held on Tuesday, the 5th day of February, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. at the Long Beach City Hall, 201 Jeff Davis Avenue, in said City, or at such meeting to which the same may be recessed or adjourned, will consider and act upon the election of appointment of a Trustee to the Board of Trustees of the Long Beach School District, required by Law to be elected by said Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

Any person desiring to be considered an applicant for such office of trustee, or any person or civic organization desiring to submit the name of any person as an applicant, may so do by filing a curriculum vitae or resume with the City Clerk (cityclerk@cityoflongbeachms.com) of said City at the City Hall, 201 Jeff Davis Avenue, Long Beach Mississippi, or by mail to Post Office Box 929, Long Beach, Mississippi, 39560, no later than thirty (30) days from the date of this notice, 5:00 o'clock p.m. on Friday, the 2nd day of November, 2018. The resume shall include, but is not limited to, the name, birthday and address of the applicant, his or her work history and qualifications, and the name, address, birthday, and present employment of the applicant's spouse, and any supplemental information as may be required by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

Ordered this the 2nd day of October, 2018, by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, Long Beach, Mississippi.

Rini Gonsoulin,
Deputy City Clerk



Bearcats Madness kicks off basketball season

By Andy Kanengiser

Bearcats Madness kicks off the Long Beach High basketball season with loads of fun on October 29.

The third annual event at the Long Beach High gym features hoops scrimmage games, food and door prizes. Also booked that Monday evening: shooting contests, music and appearances by Bearcats sports teams.

“Our latest edition of Bearcats Madness promises to be better than ever,” said Lady Bearcats head basketball coach Jed Kanengiser, the event organizer. “It’s a great way to promote school spirit as a new hoops season begins. Come support our Bearcats!”

Activities run from 6-8 p.m. that Monday. Admission costs are \$5. But all Long Beach students are admitted free if they bring at least one canned food item for a local charity. Long Beach elementary school children get in free if accompanied by an adult at the gym.

There will be activities appealing to people of all ages, but especially if they are Long Beach High fans.

On the evening’s schedule will be varsity scrimmages galore. It will match Maroon vs. White as the Lady Bearcats girls’ basketball team hits the hardwood. The Bearcats boys’ basketball team led by new coach Brandon Cobb will also show off their skills on the floor.

Other organizations will be well-represented, too. Long Beach High and Middle School dance and cheer teams will perform. Leslie Rigsby serves as dance coach. Directed by Terry Walker, the Long Beach choir will sing the National Anthem. Conducting the Long Beach band will be Mickey Magnum.

The Long Beach High girls’ and boys’ soccer teams will be introduced that night. So will the Lady Bearcats volleyball team. The school’s color guard will join the festivities.

Handling duties as the event announcer will be Scott Zink.



Photo by Andy Kanengiser

Players pictured at the 2017 Bearcats Madness are (l to r), front row: Anderson Dulaney, Roderick Walker (kneeling) and Jackson Dulaney; and back row: Dalton Cook, Orlasko Barnes, Danache Parker and Corey Jones.

Other notable activities on the schedule include free throw and three-point shooting contests. The Bearcats Fanatic half-court shot winner will receive a \$50 prize.

About 500 people attended last year’s program at the Bearcats gym. Representatives from William Carey University, the University of Southern Mississippi and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College tossed school T-shirts to rev up the crowd.

Mississippi Gulf Coast basketball fans should mark their calendars.

The Long Beach High boys’ basketball season opens with a November 3 game against St. Martin on the road in Ocean Springs. The Lady Bearcats will travel to Poplarville High to take on the Hornets 3 p.m. that Saturday. For the Long Beach boys, the Pass Christian Tournament November 8-10 remains a highlight of early season hoops action in 2018.

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Long Beach schools name '18 Homecoming queens

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach school students Gracie Carol Sumrall and Emma Grace Mauffray are winners of this year's 2018 Homecoming Queen title.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Gracie Carol Sumrall

Sumrall is an eighth-grader at Long Beach Middle School (LBMS), and Mauffray is a senior at Long Beach High School (LBHS).

The students were crowned by their respective school dignitaries during a pre-game Homecoming Court maids presentation that took place before the Homecoming football game against Gautier on September 28 at the high school.

Sumrall is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Sumrall and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fayard.

Sumrall has been a cheerleader for two years at LBMS and plans on trying out for the high school team. She is an active member of Kenwood Baptist Church and enjoys being a part of the youth group. Her favorite Bible verse is Proverbs 31:25, "She is clothed with strength and dignity and she laughs without fear for the future."

Sumrall enjoys volunteering, helping those in need, and plans to pursue a career in radiology after high school. Very seldom will you see her alone as she loves spending time with friends and family.

Sumrall said, "It is both a blessing and an honor," to be voted Homecoming Queen.

Mauffray is the daughter of Marla and Bobby Mauffray.

Following her crowning as Homecoming Queen, Mauffray said, "I feel crazy. I didn't expect this at all."

Throughout high school, Mauffray has been very involved. She currently serves on the Spirit Committee for Student Council.

She has been on the LBHS Swim Team for four years and is currently the captain. She also qualified for South State for swimming in the tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades.

Mauffray also serves as the Historian for Mu Alpha Theta and the Mayor's Youth Council.

Also this year, Mauffray is the Blood Drive Chairperson for the National Honor Society, and she is a member of the Mock Trial Team, the Beta Club, and she has been active with her class co-ops. Mauffray will be attending the Palazzo Youth Leadership Summit this year.

During her time at LBHS, Emma was voted Jolliest Junior, received the General Music Award, and was elected as a 2017 Junior class Homecoming Maid.

Mauffray plans to attend Mississippi State University to study Mechanical Engineering.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Emma Grace Mauffray

LBHS graduate Tuminello claims Universal Ms title



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach High School (LBHS) graduate Bethany Tuminello won the title of World's Universal Ms at the LaTorreta Resort in Montgomery, Texas, on July 21.

She competed against 136 contestants in evening gown, interview, on stage question, and sportswear.

"I had dreamed about winning this title as a small child," said Tuminello. "I was on cloud nine when this dream became a reality."

Tuminello graduated in 2012 from LBHS, where she was a cheerleader. Her squad won the state championship in 2009 and 2010. Tuminello is also a 2017 graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Park campus, where she was selected homecoming maid and Who's Who Among College Students.

Tuminello holds three local Miss America titles 2014, 2015 and 2016, and loves to volunteer. She has volunteered for various orga-

nizations including Pink Heart Funds, American Heart Association, Feed My Sheep, Relay For Life, Kaboom Playgrounds, Children's Miracle Network and Miss Mississippi.

"Volunteerism: Every Hour Counts, which is my platform, is near and dear to my heart," said Tuminello. "I learned what volunteerism really meant at a young age when Hurricane Katrina devastated my hometown."

As a teenager, she volunteered for Mfuge in Charleston, South Carolina, with First Baptist Church of Long Beach.

Tuminello has also raised money for St. Jude and the Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital in Jackson, Mississippi.

Tuminello was most recently featured in the Gulf Coast's Cruisin' the Coast annual parade event in Long Beach. She is available for local ribbon cutting events and volunteer opportunities. She can be contacted at:

bethanytuminello@gmail.com.

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LB officials present to School Safety Task Force



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach Police Department Lt. Patrick Craig and Long Beach School District Superintendent Dr. Jay Smith recently gave a presentation to the governor's School Safety Task Force in Long Beach. Pictured (l to r) are: Lt. Patrick Craig, Dr. Jay Smith, Public Safety Commissioner Marshall Fisher, State Representative Richard Bennett, and District Attorney Joel Smith.

Long Beach seniors named National Merit semifinalists



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Several Long Beach High School seniors were recently named National Merit Scholarship semifinalists. Pictured (l to r) are: Cameron Frye, Michael Chan, Gracie Bush, Mason Mullins, and Alexis LaRosa. The five were among the nearly 16,000 semifinalists named in the National Merit Scholarship Corporation's 64th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. The nationwide pool of semifinalists represents less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors. They will compete for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$31 million that will be offered in the Spring of 2019. Bush, Chan and LaRosa all earned perfect 36 ACT scores.

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