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November 20, 2019 • Volume 3, Number 11 • “Good News You Can Use”

Sail-A-Bration set to kick off holidays on Sat., Dec. 7

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach holiday season will once again kick off with the Sea Santa Sail-A-Bration on Saturday, December 7.

The highlight of the event, which is hosted by the Long Beach Community Development Foundation, will be the annual “waterless” boat parade, a unique event that draws boat owners not only from the local area, but also from other states. Led by the Long Beach High School Band, boats, decorated with holiday themes, will be pulled through the city in a Mardi Gras-style type parade.

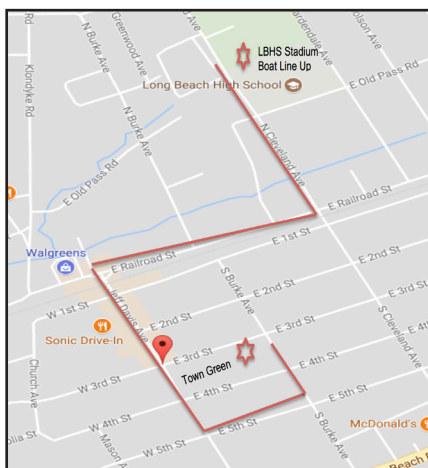
Historically, City officials, the Harrison County Sheriff’s Department and many others have “float-ed” through the streets. Boats will include private vessels and maybe

even the Coast Guard. Santa will bring up the rear and conclude the parade at the Harper McCaughan Town Green.

Awards will be given to boat owners at the Town Green during the mer-riment. Awards will include Best of Fleet (first, second and third place), Best Display of Lights and Best Costumes.

The parade will begin at 5:45 from the Long Beach High School parking lot.

The parade will travel from the LBHS parking lot and turn south on N. Cleveland Avenue, right on E. Railroad Street, left on Jeff Davis Avenue, left on E. 5th Street, left on S. Burke Avenue and end at the Town Green.



The 2019 Sail-A-Bration will begin at the Long Beach High School parking lot and end at the Town Green. It is set for Saturday, December 7.

Advance registration is required to participate in the parade. The deadline for applications, along with the \$25 registration fee, is November 26. Applications received after this date will be accepted at the sole discretion of the

parade committee and will have a \$50 registration fee.

Props must be covered or removed during the parade for safety reasons. Boats are allowed (and encouraged) to play Christmas music, but on-board music must be adjusted in volume so as not to overpower the music of other parade participants.

The maximum height, including riders, for a boat in the parade is fourteen feet, and the maximum length (including the tow vehicle) is sixty-five feet. Any second level riders must have adequate railings around them to protect against falling.

Beads may be thrown, but the City has requested that candy not be tossed from floats.

Family activities at the Town

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Wreaths Across America sponsorships sought

Special to Long Beach Breeze

In December 1992, wreath maker Monill Worcester found himself with a surplus of 5,000 wreaths during the holiday season. Worcester saw the surplus as an opportunity to pay tribute to the country’s veterans and, with the help of Maine Senator Olympia Snowe, arranged for the wreaths to be placed at Arlington National Cemetery. The now annual tribute to veterans has continued ever since, touching the lives of millions of veterans’ families and volunteers and growing in scope

through the years.

In 2007, the Worcester family, along with veterans and volunteers, formed the non-profit organization Wreaths Across America to continue and expand their efforts at Arlington National Cemetery and to support those around the country who wished to do the same.

Wreaths Across America’s mis-

sion is simple: remember the fallen, honor those who serve, and teach the next generation about the value of freedom. In 2018, Wreaths Across America and its national network of volunteers placed nearly two million veterans’ wreaths at more than 1,600 locations in all fifty U.S. states, at sea, and abroad. This year, National Wreaths



Across America day will be held on Saturday, December 14.

Locally, a joint Veterans of Foreign Wars/American Legion ceremony will begin at 1 p.m. at the Long Beach City Cemetery, where at least 216 veterans are laid to rest, followed by distribution and placement of wreaths. The ceremony is open to anyone who would like to attend.

In 2018, there were ten wreaths placed at the cemetery, leaving over 200 gravesites without a wreath. This year, with the financial support of businesses, orga-

cont. on page 9

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Happy Thanksgiving



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LBMS recognizes 2019 Students of the Month



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach Middle School recently announced their Students of the Month. The following students were recognized: for House Paratum, Elijah Griffin (not pictured) and Jayla Bonney; for House Quantum, Marlie Rath and Joshua Norra; for House Mutunci, Jett Zink and Lexi Drace; for House Fidum, Ella Bishop and Jaden Lacour; and for House Nitimini, Isaac Spalding and Alex Mastin Ward.

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SUNDAY A.M.
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SUNDAY P.M.
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TUESDAY P.M.
Men's Group: 6:30 - Various Locations

WEDNESDAY P.M.
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Bible Classes: 6:15

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Christmas on the Avenue

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Children and adults alike can enjoy some holiday festivities and help out the Long Beach Concert Choir simultaneously on Saturday, December 14.

From 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., the Harper McCaughan Town Green will be the site of "Christmas on the Avenue," a holiday event with free admission that promises attendees a large dose of holiday cheer. The event will be complete with arts and crafts, food, performers and demonstrations. Organizers expect a variety of vendors with handmade crafts to participate.

Also that morning, the choir will host a Breakfast with Santa at First United Methodist Church of Long

Beach from 8 until 11 a.m. Children are invited to enjoy breakfast and take photos with Santa. There will also be a "reindeer feeding" booth. Attendees who would like to enjoy the pancake breakfast can purchase a ticket onsite to eat. Tickets for adults will be \$5, and children's plates will be \$3.

The event is a fundraiser for the choir, which has won countless regional, state and national awards in its more than thirty-five-year-long existence. The choir is under the direction of Terry Walker and has performed at such world-renowned venues as St. Mark's in Venice and St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

For more information, visit www.longbeachconcertchoir.org.

Bike donations sought

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach Mayor's Youth Council recently kicked off their second annual Community Bike Drive. Donations of bicycles and helmets are encouraged.

Donated bicycles will be given to

children in need for Christmas.

Bikes and helmets can be dropped off at the Long Beach City Hall, the Long Beach Police Department or any of the three Long Beach Fire Department locations.

Donations will be accepted until December 13.

cont. from front page

Sail-A-Bration set to kick off holidays on Sat., Dec. 7



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Green will begin after the parade and will include the lighting of the Long Beach Christmas tree. In addition, families can enjoy a human snow globe, live music, a game trailer, a "snow stop," a Cajun Christmas story, parade award presentations and more. Pictures with Santa will also be available.

Music will fill the air during and after the parade, provided by Jason Rhodes.

The holiday event has become a family tradition for children and adults of all ages. For more information or to register for the parade, visit www.LongBeachCDA.com or call 228-380-6851.



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Holiday season offers opportunities to help others

By Sinclair Rishel

The holiday season is a wonderful time of year, filled with food, gifts, and precious times with loved ones. It's also a time to reach out and help those who may not have an abundance of those wonderful things in their lives. For those wanting to volunteer or donate to charity this holiday season, there are many organizations around Long Beach that would welcome help and support.

The Food Pantry – The Long Beach Food Pantry serves more than 3,000 families a year and is entirely volunteer operated. Each Monday, Wednesday and Friday, two shifts of workers pass out food bought with grants and donations to families in need. To volunteer with or donate to the food pantry, call Sidney Wedgeworth at 228-861-1291.

Single Moms Ministry – First Baptist Church, Long Beach has a ministry that reaches out to single moms at Christmas. Many of these women can't afford to provide a lavish Christmas for their

children, so teams of volunteers shop for gifts for children in these families using funds donated by the community. To donate to this ministry, call the Baptist church.

KiDs Beach Club – Every week at Harper McCaughn Elementary

accepts donations of money to help pay for activities and snacks for the kids. For more information, call First Baptist Church, Long Beach.

Backpack Buddies – The Backpack Buddies program provides

odist Church, Christ United Methodist Church, St. Thomas Catholic Church, First Baptist Church, and Grace Lutheran Church are all involved with the program. To volunteer to pack bags for the kids or donate money to help purchase food, contact any of those churches.

Long Beach Outreach – The Long Beach Outreach program brings together five churches throughout the community to help people in need all over Long Beach. The program has a fund that helps people pay for eyeglasses and dental care. To donate to this fund, just get in touch with any of the churches listed in the sidebar.

Christmas Eve Luncheon – Every year, the First United Methodist Church of Long Beach hosts a community luncheon on Christmas Eve. This provides an opportunity for people in the community to gather and fellowship during the height of the holiday season. To volunteer to cook for the luncheon, call the First United Methodist Church.

To help out with these or many other charitable organizations, contact any of the following six local churches:

Christ United Methodist Church – 228-863-4320

First Baptist Church, Long Beach – 228-864-2584

First Methodist Church Long Beach – 228-863-9619

Grace Lutheran Church – 228-864-4248

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church – 228-863-7882

St. Thomas Catholic Church – 228-863-1610

School, the KiDs Beach Club provides a place for fourth- through sixth-grade kids to foster positive relationships and get connected with local churches. The club

more than one hundred children in the Long Beach School District with food during the weekend when they don't have access to free school lunches. First United Meth-

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www.LongBeachBreeze.com

Bearcats wrap up stellar XC season

By Andy Kanengiser

Honors keep coming for Brooklyn Biancamano. A speedy Long Beach High cross country and track star, Biancamano turned 16 in mid-November and just gets better with age. The Long Beach sophomore finished No. 1 among girls in 5A schools in the Mississippi High School Activities Association's 5K championship run.

The Lady Bearcats standout recorded an average mile time of 5:58 minutes. Biancamano's time was 18:33.2 for the race on November 4 at Choctaw Trails in Jackson. The talented Maroon & White student-athlete beat the second-place finisher by 59 seconds.

Last year, Biancamano won two Gatorade Player of the Year awards in Mississippi for cross country and track as a ninth grader at Long Beach High. The Harrison County resident was also awarded two *Clarion-Ledger* awards for both sports.

But it's obviously not all Biancamano on the fleet-footed Lady Bearcats cross country team. The Gulf Coast teen has awesome teammates. At the 5K race, teammate Abigail Osness finished in 12th place with an average mile time of 7:07.9. It took her a little more than 22 minutes to finish. Biancamano and "Gabby," an eighth grader, were both named to Mississippi's All-State Team.

Long Beach's Julia Geertsema finished No. 22 at the event in



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Jackson with an average mile of 7:26.4 minutes in a time of slightly more than 23 minutes.

Erin Biancamano, the Long Beach Lady Bearcats cross country coach, praises the entire squad. Long Beach girls were 5A Region 4 cross country champs this past season. That was achieved at October 24 competition hosted by George County High in Lucedale. The region includes East Central, Gautier, Hattiesburg, Pascagoula, Pearl River Central, Picayune and Long Beach. The Lady Bearcats finished an impressive 4th statewide at Choctaw Trails in early November.

The Long Beach boys cross country team shined as the 5A regional champ and ended the season 5th statewide at the Choctaw Trails finale. The course was a little muddy, but that didn't slow down the Bearcats.

Brooklyn's mom, Coach Biancamano, hands out superlatives to all the students on the two Long Beach cross country squads.

It helps to have an excellent coaching staff committed to the

team's success each season. There were more than forty runners competing for the Maroon & White in 2019. Christopher Odom served as the boys coach.

"Our coaching staff is dedicated to guiding the runners in all aspects of their life, not just running," says Erin Biancamano. "The sport takes patience, it's not instant gratification. There are personal goals as well as team goals," she said. "We have a great group of kids in Long Beach. I don't know what keeps them coming back, but I'm proud to be a small part of it."

At the regional, the leading Long Beach boys were sophomore Brandon Griffith, eighth grader Olin Doris and senior Carter Hudson. The fastest Long Beach boy at the statewide meet was Brandon Griffith with a final time of 18 minutes, 23 seconds.

"I am hopeful that many runners will return to continue their cross country journey," Biancamano said. "We had several promising young athletes on the team this year. Some are planning to try track in the spring."



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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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December 1 - Hanging of the Green - 9 am
December 11 - This Hope (Free Admission) - 6 pm
December 24 - Christmas Eve Service - 5:30 pm

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LB Buddy Sports holds offshore fishing event

By Fred Weller

The sun hadn't broken the horizon enough to identify the individuals gathered in the shadows that emanated from the structures at the Long Beach Harbor Fishing Pier. When they were queried as to "Where are the Buddy Balls?" they responded, "Today, we are all Buddy Balls." Eventually, their efforts indicated this was to be the staging area for the Buddy Sports Offshore Fishing Event. The term "Buddy Balls" was previously used when the group engaged in softball games.

Buddy Sports provided the charter boats, Captains and equipment for every "special needs" participant and a "Buddy." Participants and fishing buddies arrived at the Long Beach Harbor under Reenie's Southern Kitchen restaurant by the harbor, the big tall building closest to the boat launch. Sea Tow provided life vests, and all other equipment, including rods and reels, were distributed by Buddy Sports from donations. The fishing hole was located between the

Long Beach and Gulfport Harbors. The twelve boats and twenty-five participants spent two hours catching forty fish that were released, unless the fisherman elected to keep their catch and clean them to eat later at home. Domino's provided pizza for lunch, and commemorative t-shirts were given out for attendees.

Captains and boats included: Scott Simpson, Impulsive Charters; Barry Deschamp, 9 Ball Charters; Chris Allenbau, Dailey Charters; Micah Sanders, Fishing Frenzy Charters; Jeremy McHugh, Still Water Charters; Conner Knight, Spot Hunter Fishing; Jarrett Wiltbank, Southern Shores Guide Service; Bill Hancock, Reel Outlaw Char-

ters; Mark Taylor, personal boat; and Nathan Boddie, personal boat.



Photos by Fred Weller

Participants and Buddies included: Tyler and Terry Price, Nic and Rick Chaffee, Stephen and Scot Jones, Ken and Kenneth Frye, Damien Kiker (Dae Dae) and Walter Crapps, Dakota Hanson and Buddy Aiden Lock, William and Michel and Jay Scully, Wyatt and Jeffrey Frye, Trae and Cary Henderson, Drake Parker and Mike Taylor, Caiden Johnson and David

Lee, Ethan McGee and William Burrell, Tucker and Matt Ward, Brennan Davis and Grace Darrow, Caleb and Richard Gonzalez, Matt Gill and Jeramie Kelly, Greg and Greg Lefort Sr., Kennedi Flowers and Ceara Ladner, Chance and Crystal Blissett, Colton Blissett and Lee Pierich, Kyle Lewis and Nathan Boddie, and Jeremiah Pace and George Boddie.

MS Gulf Coast Buddy Sports is a 501(c)(3) non-profit public charity organization that provides recreational sports and leisure opportunities for youths and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. A freshwater pond fishing event is planned later in November. An additional saltwater pier/harbor fishing event will be offered in the spring and all are called "Fishing with Buddies."

For more information about MS Gulf Coast Buddy Sports, call Mike Crawford at 228-860-9055, Charlie Smith at 228- 861-3280, Mike Taylor at 228-596-1214 or Keith Clark at 402-203-2644.



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Fatherless & Widows ministry serves Long Beach

By Brenda Wilder

In recent years, a man in Long Beach named Charles Wambolt read a Bible verse that spurred him to action. It read, "Pure religion and undefiled before God is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction," James 1:27. Wambolt founded The Fatherless and Widows non-profit organization, which is in its seventh year as part of the Long Beach community.

With a vision that includes awareness of the biblical importance of caring for fatherless and widows, as well as creating alliances to effectively care for their needs, the organization's motto also encourages honor for elders.

An extension of The Fatherless and Widows is God's Will Thrift Store, which opened last year next to the city post office on Klondyke Road. It was created with the purpose of helping support the vision and mission of The Fatherless and Widows.

Statistics state one in four children under 18 currently live in a

fatherless situation, creating a fifty percent poverty level, four times the rate of father situations. Girls without a father figure are four times more likely to become pregnant under the age of fourteen. Psychiatric and behavior problems and suicide rates are increased. Boys are three times more likely to carry guns, traffic drugs, and display negative behavior. Widowhood is the fastest growing demographic in the world.

Wambolt states over one hundred Bible verses are written about fatherless and widows. The name and ministry remained on his heart for over fifteen years until the grape harvest of 2012, while living on the Mountain of Blessing in Israel, he felt led to organize the ministry.

Even though he has a few unrelated degrees from local schools, he feels led to foster this ministry, donating seventy-plus hours per week. Wambolt also mentions the contributions of Don Wambolt, Brittany Klause, Luke Hanna, Becky Ritch, Deb Cummings and Dennis Bogert to the ministry.

Services provided by the organization for the fatherless include mentoring, educational classes, a running group, boating, fishing, kite flying, free bicycles and other special events. The organization has provided for six orphanages in five countries.

Free fatherless instructional PDF downloads can be obtained from their website, www.FatherlessAndWidows.org.

In addition to educational activi-

ties and regular fellowship meetings, widows' services have included numerous phone calls, visits to bring flowers, connections to needed services, delivery of beds and refrigerators, transportation, plumbing, roofing, yard work, annual retreats, financial management classes, beach fires, hay rides, and much more. Being advocates with contractors helps prevent the vulnerable from being preyed upon.

The ministry wants to be good stewards and needs quality volunteers, as well as storage space and/or a storefront.

For information about the ministry and/or to book a presentation for the community, visit the organization's Facebook pages: Fatherless and Widows and God's Will Thrift, email Charles@FatherlessAndWidows.ORG, or call 228-234-4567. Donations and grants to expand the ministry are accepted. Fatherless and Widows ministry operates as an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, making donations one hundred percent tax deductible.



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Holiday events on tap for Long Beach library

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn,
LBPL Children's Librarian

As of this writing, there are no regular monthly meetings scheduled for the Friends of the Long Beach Public Library, the Long Beach Library Book Club, or the Long Beach Library Board. However, members of these groups are planning holiday parties for the month of December. If you are a member of any of these organizations, you will be notified by a member of that group about

the holiday party, date, time, and location.

The Friends of the Library will host a public Trim-the-Tree party at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, December 3. Come help decorate the tree; and, if you bring an ornament, you can join the Friend's group for the discounted rate of \$8. Refreshments will be served.

Also, on December 3, at 10:30 a.m., is our monthly Parent's Coffee Break. This is held on the first Tuesday of each month during story time and gives the adults who

bring the children to story time an opportunity to have a little "me" time and get to know one another.

Preschool Story time will be held every Tuesday and Thursday through the month of December from 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. with the exception of December 24, when the library will be closed for Christmas Eve.

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) will be having a Q and A session on Thursday, December 12, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Plans are being made to have a

holiday party for children on Saturday, December 21, that will start at 10am.

Always keep in mind you can keep track of our current events by checking the calendar on our webpage at www.longbeach.lib.ms.us or by following us on Facebook.

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

DECEMBER LIBRARY EVENTS

Christmas Eve / Christmas Day

New Years Eve / New Years Day

Closed December 23, Noon - Dec. 25

Reopens December 26, 9 a.m.

Closed December 31, Noon - Jan. 1

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-Papa D

Garden Club takes honors

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The Long Beach Garden Club came home with three honors given at the Garden Clubs of Mississippi Spanish Trail District Meeting in Diamond-head. District Director, Joy Burke, recognized the Long Beach Garden Club

for its outstanding horticulture work.

The Long Beach Garden Club is a member of National Garden Clubs, Inc., Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc. and Spanish Trail District. For more information about the Long Beach Garden Club, visit their Facebook page.



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Pictured (l to r) are Long Beach Garden Club officers Debbie Cox, Gayle Nolan and Kathy Ward-law.

cont. from front page

Wreaths Across America sponsorships sought

nizations, and veterans' families and friends, the local Long Beach goal is to ensure that no veteran is forgotten.

Each hand made, fresh, live wreath costs \$15 to sponsor and is made in the USA with Maine balsam. Although the Long Beach City Cemetery will be the site of the ceremony, wreaths for veterans interred at other Long Beach and neighboring cemeteries can be sponsored and picked up at the ceremony.

Long Beach residents are asked to help remember and honor the country's local deceased veterans by funding a sponsorship or making donations. Sponsorships and donations can be mailed or delivered to VFW Post 3937, 213 Klondyke Road, Long Beach MS 39560 or to American Legion Post 1995, PO Box 550, Long Beach MS 39560.

The program's point of contact is Charles Martinek, who can be reached at 228-236-4200.

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The REAL ESTATE MarketPlace 

LB student performs in Alabama Million Dollar Band

By Andy Kanengiser

Jon Olaivar shines as a talented member of the University of Alabama Million Dollar Band.



Jon Olaivar

The eighteen-year-old UA freshman from Long Beach says he loves living the dream with the largest student organization on the Tuscaloosa campus. Olaivar plays the baritone (bass clef).

“Pinch me, can you believe, I’m playing with the Million Dollar Band,” Olaivar recently told family members. A day earlier, the Mississippian joined three hundred ninety-nine other UA band members performing as the Crimson Tide opened the 2019 football stadium at Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

Olaivar polished his musical skills with the Long Beach High Bearcats Band. In Tuscaloosa, the mechanical engineering major finds time to play in the university’s concert

band as well as participate in UA’s Crimson Racing Team. It’s the squad where students conceive, design and compete with small formula-style racing cars.

As for his career plans, Olaivar wants to serve as an engineer for the automotive or aviation industry and get a pilot’s license.

But this fall, Olaivar is keeping his feet firmly planted on the ground with one of America’s greatest college bands. The Million Dollar Band built a large fan base as a Crimson Tide tradition for one hundred six years. The band opens doors for students to earn scholarships, as well.

After touring several colleges, Alabama became Olaivar’s top choice due to its tremendous engineering programs, opportunities with the Crimson Racing Team and the Million Dollar Band, plus its friendly atmosphere.

“I found a home at Alabama almost immediately,” Olaivar said. “Not only is the campus absolutely gorgeous, but everyone is friendly and genuinely wants to get to know you.”

The transition from Long Beach

High Band to the Million Dollar Band went smoothly, he said. Olaivar says he learned valuable lessons as a Long Beach band member. Those include “teamwork, discipline, commitment, self-confidence, responsibility, resilience, time management, appreciation for hard work and

camaraderie,” said his mom, Sheryl Egan-Olaivar.

Egan-Olaivar has seen both bands perform. “We love watching the Long Beach High Band and know they are amazing,” she said. “But the first time we heard the Million Dollar Band, we were absolutely blown away. They are incredible!”

Exchange Club members



Special to Long Beach Breeze

John Blake (far right) recently inducted (pictured l to r) Mag Holland, Steve Hill and Cindy Hill into the Long Beach Exchange Club. The new members were presented with a National Exchange Club pin and a certificate. The Exchange Club has been committed to the prevention of child abuse since 1979. Promoting pride in country, respect for the flag, and appreciation of freedoms are the primary purposes of the Exchange Club’s Americanism programs. Community service projects consist of “The Book of Golden Deeds Award,” honoring the quiet unsung heroes, crime prevention, fire prevention and service to seniors. The Exchange Club meets the first and third Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at the Long Beach Methodist Church. For more information or to become a member, call Exchange Club President Jimmy Johnson at 228-297-1257.

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NCBC rates highly effective after participating in evaluation

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Months of preparation paid off for the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC), which earned an overall installation score of 89 percent for the Final Evaluation Problem (FEP) it participated in last month.

The FEP is designed to inspect the command, control, communications and Navy security departments and emergency operations response on all U.S. Navy installations. Installations are slated to undergo a FEP assessment once every three years.

The FEP is the final phase in a three-step evaluation process, which includes the command assessment of readiness and training (CART), regional assessment (RAS) and the final evaluation problem (FEP).

The FEP is essentially a rigorous three-day assessment that includes evaluating administration and record-keeping, the emergency operation center (EOC), and the capabilities of

the security and fire departments onboard the installation. The assessment can involve situations such as recovering from natural disasters like tornados or flooding, to handling improvised explosive devices or active-shooter training scenarios.

Inspectors from U.S. Fleet Forces Command, Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) and Navy Region Southeast all came onboard NCBC Gulfport to evaluate the installation on its security and emergency operations readiness.

Chris Bobrowski, CNIC emergency management program specialist and one of the inspec-

tors for the FEP, commended NCBC Gulfport for its performance during the assessment.

"This ensures that the installation is ready to respond and recover from both natural and man-made disasters that could happen here," said Bobrowski. "The CBC Gulfport team should be proud of the effort that they put in to get to this point."

Ensign William Clark, NCBC Gulfport security officer, noted the team effort that came into play to help make the FEP a success for NCBC.

"Everyone just worked together very well," said Clark. "The

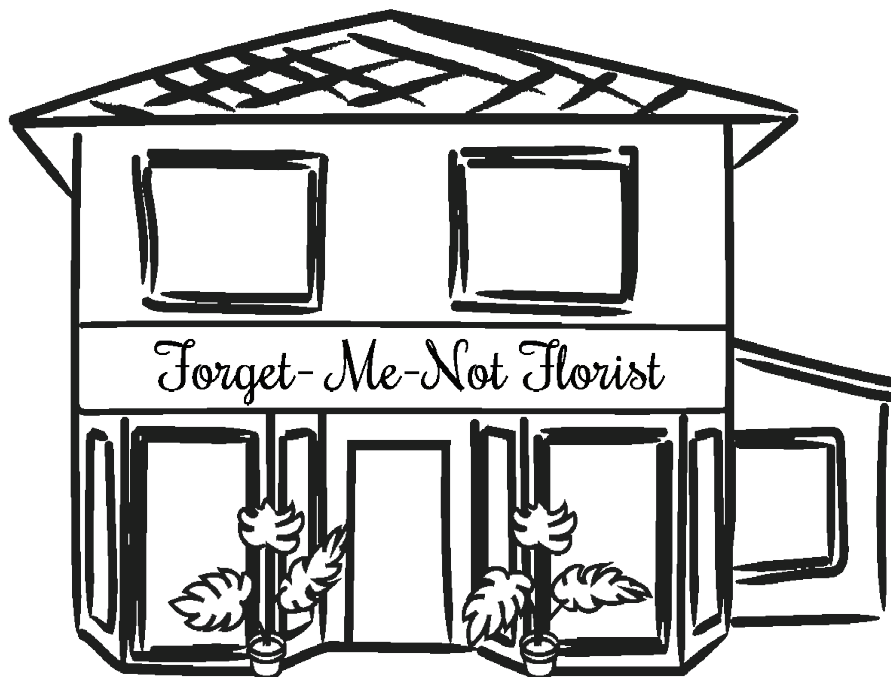
support we've been given by all the participating departments and tenant units was incredible. We appreciate them allowing us to use their facilities and working along with us to help get us through this. The overall cooperation and support we received was outstanding."

Capt. William Whitmire, NCBC Gulfport commanding officer, praised all the units and personnel that participated in the FEP, as well as the NCBC Gulfport community, for a job well done.

"We scored above the overall fleet average, and while it was a very challenging week, Team Gulfport did an amazing job," said Whitmire. "I'm super proud of the team and immensely grateful to our base community for the support they've provided us throughout all the preparations and training we had to do for this. It's a huge win, and the Gulfport community showed once again that when we pull together, there's nothing we can't accomplish."



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FETCH dog park holds ribbon cutting, grand opening

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The ribbon cutting for FETCH Park (Friendly city Exercise and Training for Canines and Humans) was held last month, and the grand opening followed

earlier in November. The park project has been two years in the making, and has been a community-driven and executed project, with over 2,500 volunteer hours from community volunteers, military trainees from the Naval

Construction Training Center, local Girl Scouts, and local Garden Clubs. Donations of time and materials from local businesses and experts, construction expertise and time, culverts, fire hydrants, sandblasting and paint-

ing, and gravel were among some of the in-kind donations. FETCH Park is located at 20257 Daugherty Road, next to the City Of Long Beach Seniors' Center. The park includes separate areas for large and small dogs.



Frank Burquett and his dog, Nico



Gail Misek and Kelly, her Australian Sheperd



Sarah and Biscuit



Anne Guille and her dog, Fizzy



All photos by Patrick Castleberry.



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