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Library names new Director

By Traci Bonney

Mix a passion for books with an interest in cultural anthropology and a love of fantasy, and what is the result? Or rather, who is the result?



Photo by Traci Bonney

Meet Denise Saucier, the new Director of the Long Beach Public Library. With a background in both library sciences and anthropology, and an abiding love of mystery and fantasy books, Saucier brings both professional experience and the enthusiasm of a lifelong reader to her new role in the local library.

Her first day on the job was January 2, 2018, so she is still in the process of becoming acclimated to her new work environment. “There’s a lot of paperwork to be done,” she said with a laugh. “But I hope to spend more time outside my office and in the library in the coming days. One of my top priorities is to get familiar with the library’s patrons, the services we offer, and the community.”

Having grown up in Long Beach, Saucier is no stranger to The Friendly City. However, after graduating from USM with a bachelor’s degree in Parks and Recreation Services, she spent some time away from the Gulf Coast before returning and taking a job with the Harrison County Library System.

“I spent several months as an intern with the Air Force in Arizona,” she said. “While I finally decided it was not quite the right fit for me and my family, my time interning with the Air Force included work as a librarian. That experience was what helped me get the job with the Harrison County Library System.”

Saucier spent seven years in the Harrison County system and

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Mardi Gras fever hits early this year

By Fred Weller

“Here it comes!” and “Throw me something Mister” are shouts heard from young and old as they await the lights and revelry of passing Mardi Gras floats. The “throws” are everywhere, sailing from the float rider’s hands to the outstretched arms of the waiting bystanders. Long Beach residents are invited to flock to the downtown area as Mardi Gras kicks off with the Carnival Association of Long Beach’s annual parade.

The Long Beach parade will be held on Saturday, February 3, after dark (about 6 p.m.). The parade route starts at the Lance Lumpkin (Long Beach High School) Stadium, travels south along Cleveland Avenue, turns right along Railroad Street, then turns left onto Jeff Davis Avenue and left onto Fifth Street, followed by another left

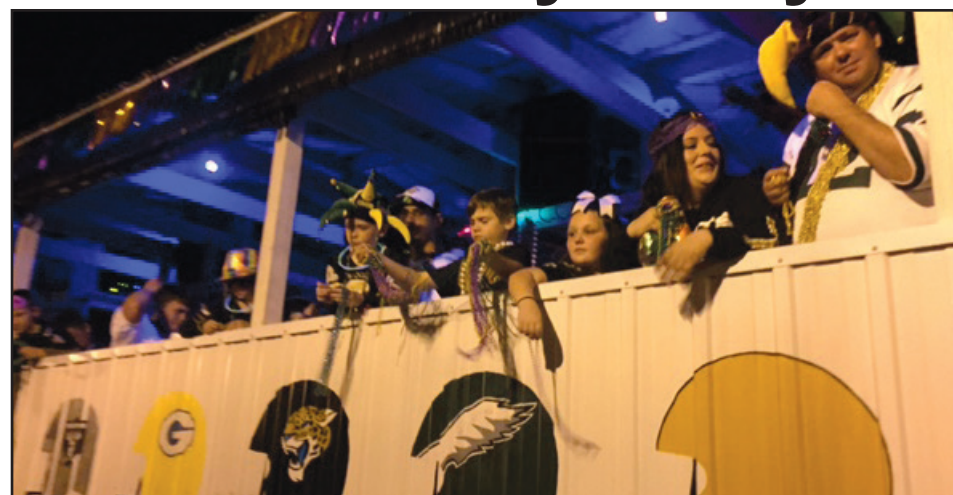


Photo by Callie Weller

turn onto Cleveland and north to the end at Railroad Street.

In years past, the most popular spots for watchers were along Jeff Davis, where parking is available in several open lots with convenient exits to Highway 90, and parade viewing is available on both sides of the street. Drivers

are cautioned about driving on Jeff Davis Avenue before and after parade times, as it is typically full of pedestrians, and the traffic has been known to slow to a standstill. The open space at the Town Green is also available for parade watchers.

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Bennett named Education Chairman

By Kayleigh Skinner

Speaker Philip Gunn answered one of the biggest questions of the new legislative session by tapping the next leader of the House Education Committee.

Rep. Richard Bennett, R-Long Beach, will replace former Rep. John Moore to lead one of the highest profile legislative committees at a critical time for education policy making in the state. Moore resigned in December, leaving the post open.

Bennett, who has served in the Legislature for ten years, formerly was chairman of the House Gaming Committee. Bennett, among Gunn’s inner circle of top advisers, last year led a task force to look at the effects a lottery might have on the state if enacted.

“Rep. Bennett is a seasoned legislator and a former school board member,” Gunn told reporters. “He demonstrated great knowledge and interest in education. Furthermore, he had the endorsement of numerous House members.”



Photo by Rogelio V. Solis, AP

As House Gaming Committee Chairman, Richard Bennett, R-Long Beach, speaks to members of the Mississippi House Lottery Study Working Group.

Rep. Casey Eure, R-Saucier, will take Bennett’s place on the Gaming Committee.

Bennett attended Gulf Coast Junior College and the University of Southern Mississippi, according to his official legislative bio page. He is retired from DuPont, which operates a plant in DeLisle.

Legislative leaders have said education will again be a big issue this session. Both Gunn and his counterpart, Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves, have suggested a possible rewrite of the Mississippi Adequate Education Formula, which is how public schools are funded.

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Levens graduates from Leadership Mississippi

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Jenny Levens, City of Long Beach Community Affairs Director, recently graduated from the Mississippi Economic Council's Leadership Mississippi. Leadership Mississippi is the second oldest statewide leadership program in the nation and is conducted by the M.B. Swayze Foundation. Since its inception in 1974, Leadership Mississippi has graduated more than 1,300 alumni active in Mississippi business and politics. Mississippi's top business executives have participated in Leadership Mississippi as a way to expand their networks. Many elected leaders, including a former governor, are graduates and



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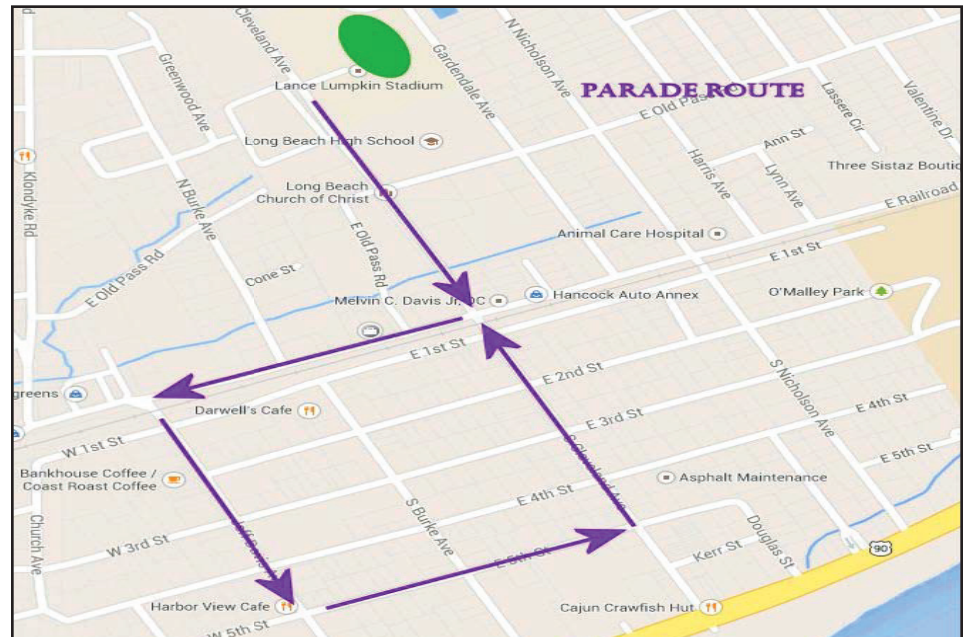
recognize the value of the Leadership Mississippi experience.

Levens and fifty of her classmates from all over the state of Mississippi, celebrated their completion of the program at a graduation ceremony early this month at the Old Capitol Inn in Jackson. Participants completed five sessions in locations across Mississippi: Jackson, Camp Shelby, the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Brookhaven and Greenville.

Participants, selected by a committee of MEC's Leadership Mississippi Alumni, work together in a training program that combines individual study, group sessions and project experience in using leadership skills. Leadership Mississippi is endowed through a contribution by the late J.C. and Annie Redd. J.C. Redd was Chairman of the Mississippi Economic Council in 1973-74, when the program began.

cont. from front page

Mardi Gras arrives early to warm a cold coast



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Attendees are reminded to wear appropriate clothing for a nighttime event. Children may want to shed their coats and not realize how cold and windy it is, especially given the early date of Mardi Gras this year. Layering of clothes will allow them to be protected and comfortable.

Children are encouraged to bring bags to store the beads and goodies that will be tossed off to parade-goers by the participants.

Public safety officials advise residents to respect the traffic barriers and do not "rush" the floats, as the drivers don't always have a full view of parade-goers.

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The Christmas lights of Penny Lane

By Fred Weller

“When do you suppose they will turn the lights on?”

In Long Beach, that question brings out a variety of responses, usually as accurate as last week’s lottery numbers. The only way to know for sure is to be there when it happens. Even with all the mystery, “what lights?” is never in doubt.

After all, the lights of Penny Lane, or Copper Court, as some call the locale, has been a featured holiday event for the last ten years. Yes, there hasn’t been a year without the lights since 2007, two years after Hurricane Katrina.

The name “Estates of Penny Lane” was given to the thirty lots of a subdivision by Glenn and Val Mueller when they started to develop the former rural acreage as a community for growing families like theirs. The development remains active, with a new house under construction and lots for sale. The street is one half mile long and ends in a cul de sac, where visitors retrace their route to exit. This is an essential part of the traffic flow for visitors and offers an unobstructed view of both sides of the mile-long show.

To lessen the dismal aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and with the idea of a marketing tool for the subdivision, Val proposed to Glenn the idea of expanding their traditional holiday house lights to include neighbors’ houses and open property. Thus, a holiday tradition began.

Every year, there is a main theme and several subthemes for each display but the salutation of “Merry Christmas” predominates for visitors. Each resident family can choose their theme, and every member of a family has their choice of a subject.

Val explains the reason the

destroying the sound system, it was abandoned as impractical and expensive to replace.

Available labor is another determining factor. Val stays personally involved with the placement of all items and supplements with whatever labor is available.

Labor is provided by neighbors, youth on school breaks or may be volunteers from Michigan. Labor costs reduce the ability to purchase new supplies and replacement parts.

Glenn and Val Mueller, whose family owns Domino’s Pizza franchises, have utilized their relationship with Domino’s Pizza to sustain a level of funding as a basis for the light display. Val has visions

to expand the light show in the future to start before Thanksgiving. Most people coming home for the holidays either choose

All Photos by Susan Weller

Thanksgiving or Christmas; few people have the luxury of both. If they come for Thanksgiving, they miss the light display. Val could see the effort start at Halloween and continue through Mardi Gras or beyond - maybe year-round to include all holidays is a thought.

Rumors have always existed because of the varied start dates, but the lights were not stolen preventing the display. Yes, there was a minor theft one year, but it was resolved. No, the lights did not move to the Railroad Museum in Gulfport. Val did install the lights for their display. No, the lights were not sold to a casino. Val did bid on a light show, but did not win.

Val dreams about using each of their stores as a neighborhood with potential for a light show to develop community. They own 187 Domino Pizza stores in Louisiana and Mississippi. Val asks, “What do you say, Long Beach? The Friendly City with lights on all the time? An opportunity to participate?”



start of the viewing varies depends on several uncontrolled variables. At a minimum, the lights are displayed

for Christmas Eve for the open house party. Hot cocoa, bread sticks and/or pizza are provided for all visitors. The lights are on every night until the twelfth day of Christmas, which this year was January 5. Val acknowledges the electric bill is significant, but new technology keeps it within reason.

Weather is a main factor when the lights are started. Not only is it difficult to work in the rain, it can be unsafe. The warm winters are usually welcomed in south Mississippi, but the following cold fronts bring lightning. The electrical discharges are hazardous to humans and damage sensitive electronics especially the sound system. After sustaining several bouts with lightning and

cont. from front page

Saucier named library's new director

another fourteen with the Harrison County School District before accepting her current position in Long Beach. While with the school district, she was the librarian at D'Iberville Middle School and then Lyman Elementary School.

While working with the school libraries, she decided it was time to go back to school herself and earn her master's degree. What started as a quest to earn a Master of Science in Library and Information Services (MLIS) became a journey toward a dual degree, the MLIS and a Master of Arts in Anthropology.

"I had been interested in cultural anthropology since I was a child," she explained, "so when I found out about the dual degree program, I jumped at the opportunity."

She is finishing the dual degree program by writing a thesis on the Italian community in New Orleans during the 1905 yellow fever epidemic.

Saucier said, "My grandparents were Sicilian immigrants, and my grandmother was in an orphanage in New Orleans during the epidemic. Working on my thesis has allowed me to expand my personal family knowledge while meeting

the requirements for the dual degree program. The research methods satisfy the library sciences component, while the history I'm learning deals with the anthropology side."

Saucier also holds a graduate certificate in Archives and Special Collections, which was another reason she chose anthropology as an area of study. "I thought I was going to be an archivist, so I thought learning about anthropology would be useful because I would be able to look at artifacts and understand the way an anthropologist would view them and interpret their significance."

Now, as Library Director in Long Beach, she sees her anthropology studies as an asset in other ways. "I'd like to work with the Historical Society, setting up displays at the library and hosting programs about the history of Long Beach," she said.

When she isn't at the library or working on her master's thesis, Saucier spends time with her family, which includes a newborn granddaughter. She also plans to start other writing projects once she finishes her thesis.

"I want to write a children's series of stories about ghosts and the history of the Mississippi Coast. I also have an

idea for a fantasy story that may turn into a series, based on a set of poems I've already written," she said.

Much like two of her favorite authors, Terry Brooks and Anne McCaffrey, Saucier has epic plans for her fantasy writing. She also has big plans for the Long Beach Library, including expanding its offerings to embrace current technology, platforms. She said she doesn't know all the particulars but she intends to research how electronic checkouts work in other libraries and develop a plan to make e-books and other digital media available for patrons who prefer to read on their e-readers, laptops or smartphones.

However, she doesn't see digital literature replacing the printed page.

"I don't see libraries going away," she affirmed. "People like their books. They like to pick them up, they like the feel of them, the smell of them."

People and their books; Saucier plans to be available to help them decide which ones to read. She smiled and said, "I'm enjoying my new position in the Long Beach Library, and I'm looking forward to being around for a long time to come."

Golf carts on city streets are now proposed



Special to Long Beach Breeze

By Fred Weller

Alderman Robertson has proposed that the Board of Alderman approve a new ordinance to allow golf carts and low speed vehicles (LSV) to be operated on designated streets. The parameters are being developed to be presented to the State Legislature for approval.

The ordinance follows the actions of several Gulf Coast communities. Diamond Head, Bay St. Louis and Pass Christian have all adopted similar regulations. The regulations are promulgated by federal law and put in place according to local regulations. Mississippi is one of four states that does not have a state statute controlling the use of LSVs on public roads.

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St. Vincent de Paul at International Economic Summit

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St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School captured the top middle school honor at the 2017 International Economic Summit (IES) at Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi. Representing the country Ghana, the five middle school students emerged from a field of over 100 teams to bring home the title of 2017 Middle School Summit Champions. The team also achieved a perfect score on the geography test, which is one portion of the event. The winning team was coached by St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School teacher, Tara Meleones.

Prior to the Summit, students spent ten weeks in class preparing for the events of the day. IES provided an opportunity for middle and high school students to flex their knowledge of the global economy. Through the simulation of an international assembly, teams of students represented their designated countries, complete with native garb, in a global



Photo Special to Long Beach Breeze

Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Anamaria Perez, Jaden Tran, Kaelyn Welch, Alexander Mink, and Ella Nguyen, 2017 Middle School Summit Champions, Ghana; and back row: Shan Montgomery (MCEE Board Member), Gloria Johnson (MCEE Board Chair), Ricki Garrett (MCEE Board Member), David Johnson (MCEE Board Member), and Tara Meleones (Teacher).

economic competition. The brainchild of Boise State University and hosted by the local Mississippi Council on Economic Education (MCEE), the purpose of the IES is to provide students with a practical, hands-on learning experience in globalization, international relations, and economics.

“During the competition, student teams were evaluated on practical skills like planning, problem solving, critical thinking, adapting to change, teamwork, budgeting, investing and negotiating. Through the IES experience, students develop attitudes of integrity, responsibility, professionalism and accountability,” stated Selena Swartzfager, President of MCEE. Students learn about economics, finance, technology, math, marketing, writing, public speaking and video production. Their goal is to raise the standard of living by scoring points in twenty objectively measured Summit skill challenges and academic exams.

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Probate process can take time, but well worth it

By Guest Columnist Patrick W. Kirby, Esq.

If you ask how long a typical probate process take, the answer is "it depends." Every probate varies. The timeline is influenced by many factors. Individual cases vary depending on how well the decedent prepared; the size, value and complexity of the estate; the number of heirs/beneficiaries; and the relationship between the heirs/beneficiaries.

Probate is the legal term for the court-supervised administration of a person's estate. A person can pass away either testate or intestate. Testate means that the person has a valid will at the time of death. If the person passes away testate, the property will be transferred to the beneficiaries named in the will. If the person passes away without a valid will, the property will be distributed according to the state's intestate succession laws. In Mississippi, a spouse is entitled to a "child's share" of the dead spouse's estate. Either testate or

intestate, the probate court will be in charge of supervising, distributing, and administering the decedent's property. The court will also be in charge of settling any legal disputes regarding the estate or the validity of a will. In a will, a person usually names a specific person as executor, who will be responsible for managing the decedent's affairs. If the decedent fails to name an executor or dies intestate, the probate court will appoint a personal representative to fulfill the executor duties.

The probate process begins when the executor files a petition to admit a will to probate in the Chancery Court of the county in which the decedent lived or owned property or, in the alternative, if there is no will, petitions the Court to open an intestate estate and appoint an Administrator. The court will first determine the validity of the will, appoint the executor or administrator, and determine how much bond the executor or administrator must post before being granted

authority to act. The Executor/Administrator must then collect all of the decedent's property and determine what debts are owed by the estate. Then, the estate must pay any and all debts, claims and taxes that are outstanding. After necessary papers are filed and approved, any remaining property may be distributed to the appropriate heirs.

The length of time for probate depends on several factors, such as the size of the estate, the type of assets in the estate, the location of the assets, the amount of taxes and debts to pay, tax issues, the number of heirs and any contested issues of a will. A typical probate process will take up to 24 months from the date of the decedent's death. However, in cases of contested issues or claims; lawsuits and the necessity to sell difficult to market assets, the process may take up to several years, or even decades, to settle the issues and conclude probate.

The probate process involves certain fees and expenses, such as attorney's fees, the executor

or personal representative fees, publication expenses for notice to creditors and determination of heirs and court costs. Mississippi law requires that you hire an attorney to navigate the probate process. Because attorneys get paid by the hour, the more difficult or complex the estate becomes, the more expensive it will be. These fees typically come out of the estate itself, which makes the heirs to get a smaller portion of the estate. Because probate can be costly and time-consuming, people tend to look for alternative estate planning strategies.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Patrick W. Kirby has been practicing law on the Mississippi Gulf Coast for fifteen years and has worked for some of the top law firms in the State of Mississippi. Prior to law school, he was a Registered Nurse. In addition, he is a Colonel in the Mississippi Air National Guard and is currently the Commander of the 172nd Medical Group in Jackson, Mississippi.

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Fred Walker 5K run was dedicated to a true man

By Fred Weller

On a recent Saturday, several hundred people were lining up on Fourth Street in Long Beach as a prelude to the day's activities in the downtown Town Green. The crowd was congregating around the food display from the service group CLIMB/CDC. The biscuits and bananas were rapidly being consumed in preparation for the coming race. There would be sufficient left over for those who preferred to replace the energy after the exertion of running from one mile to 5K, collectively known as the Jingle Bells Race. The starter began to give his instructions with a portable megaphone, and those ready for the Fred Walker 5K portion of the race lined up.

But who was Fred Walker, and why is his memory celebrated by the Gulf Coast Running Club?

Fred Walker, the son of a Methodist minister, graduated from Oak Grove High School and the University of Southern Mississippi. He became a State Farm agent in Long Beach in 1980. He was a multi-time member of the State Farm Millionaire Club and earned the Legion of Honor in 1982 through 1992. In 1993, Walker was selected as the Gulf Coast Associations' Agent of the Year in 2013 and received the

Select Agent Legion of Honor from State Farm.

Walker viewed his job was to give back to other people, but he was grateful that it afforded him the opportunity to also give



All photos by Fred Weller

back to his community. He held numerous positions of leadership, including service in the City of Long Beach Board of Alderman from 1985-1989 and as a trustee on the Long Beach School District Board from 1996 to 2001.

Walker was always on the lookout for ways to help his community grow and meet the challenges it faced. Whether he was announcing the Long Beach Bearcat sporting events or showing up at homes of those in need, he worked for others or joined groups that made it their mission.

He was a member of the Optimist Club, the Long Beach Jaycees,

and the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce, of which he served as president in 1997. In 2004, Walker was selected as the recipient of the Aline Doherty Citizen of the Year by the Chamber and was an active member of the

Grove High School friends made a surprise visit. His goal was always to leave his corner of the world better because he had been there.

Walker received awards from the community, but those he was most proud of were his selection for Leadership Mississippi in 1998, and the Long Beach School District Parent of the Year in 2005.

Those who knew Fred Walker knew that he was a man of integrity who loved to laugh. He was often called a true Southern gentleman who was recognized for his strong faith. Friends say he lived it every day, and that he found delight in serving his

Chamber at the time of his death. He coached little league baseball teams in Long Beach after he left Harrison Central High School as the head baseball coach to become an agent.

Whenever Walker saw a need, he wanted to meet it. Noting a number of deaths in Long Beach by drug overdose in 2004, he pulled leaders together and incorporated the Gulf Coast Substance Abuse Task Force. In 2014, he spearheaded a committee that established the Long Beach Live Concert Series and attended the May concert, where his Oak

ing back to his roots in the Methodist church, Walker served in the Long Beach Church of Christ as an elder and active member. As a member of the First United Methodist Church of Gulfport, he served with the Methodist Men's Group and led the Stewardship Committee on Finance.

Michael Seignious took home the male 5K win in the race that day, and Brooklyn Biancamano was the female winner for the 5K event honoring the man whose friends and acquaintances agree "never met a stranger" and was loved by many.

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Long Beach Chamber announces Directors

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach Chamber of Commerce recently announced its 2018 Board of Directors. The directors include: Angela Bowell, Chair, Quality Engineering Services, Inc; Philip LeBlanc, Past Chair, Coldwell Banker Alfonso, Inc.; Leigh Anne Biggs, Ex-Officio, Long Beach School District; Shelda Jones, Ex-Officio, Long Beach Community Development Association; Mike Cook, Coast Community Bank; Fran- nie Favre, Jerry's Lawn Mower Sales & Service, Inc.; Jennifer Glenn, The First, ANBA; Kelly Griffin, Harrison County; Angie Hendershot, The University of Southern Mississippi; Michelle Kinsey, Mississippi Power; Donna Lishen, Coldwell Banker Alfonso, Inc.; Nacol Palmer, Keesler Federal Credit Union; Pam Sand-

ers, Bacchus Wine & Liquor; Rhonda Schultz, Hancock Bank; and Chip Vonder Bruege, The First, ANBA.

The Long Beach Chamber of Commerce (LBCC) provides services and programs to members of the Long Beach business community. The LBCC promotes a positive business environment by hosting events and programs that support its members in the areas of community and economic development, education and workforce development, military affairs, government affairs, and small business development. The LBCC is a division of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, Inc., whose mission is to connect, inform, advocate and develop. For more information about the Chamber, contact Director Gabrielle Rose at 228-604-0014.

cont. from front page

Bennett named House Education Chairman

A wide variety of education bills await deliberation in the House and Senate.

Other new House committee chairmanships include: Interstate Cooperation: Rep. Tracy Arnold, R-Booneville; Marine Resources: Rep. Timmy Ladner, R-Poplarville; Ports, Harbors and Airports: Rep. Jeffrey Guice, R-Ocean Springs; and State Library: Rep. Greg Haney, R-Gulfport.

Gunn also named Rep. Ran-

dy Boyd, R- Mantachie, Rep. Steve Massengill, R- Hickory Flat, and Rep. Manly Barton, R-Moss Point, to the House Appropriations Committee.

Rep. Gregory Holloway, D-Hazelhurst, and Rep. Rob Rober- son, R-Starkville, were named to the Ways and Means Commit- tee.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Reprinted with permission from Mississippi Today.

Representative Bennett congratulates Senator



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Photo by Long Beach Breeze

Representative Richard Bennett congratulated Senator Tommy Gollott on breaking the record of longest-serving state legislator at a ceremony honoring Gollott in late 2017. Gollott

broke the record in September of 2017, when he officially passed his fifty year mark with the Mississippi Legislature. Bennett and Gollott both serve Harrison county in the Mississippi Legis- lature.

Where is your estate?

Hi, I'm Patrick Kirby and I am an Estate Planning attorney.

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- Stephen B. Hand

"I would simply like to say a heartfelt thank you to Mr. Patrick Kirby. Like others, we were leery of having his assistance, however, he delivered on his promises. I recommend him for anyone who is thinking of making these kinds of preparations for their families."
- Thomas J. Hill



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Holistic clinic focuses on balance and health

Special to Long Beach Breeze

“Where does it hurt?” Dr. Steve Miller finds pain that brings people to tears or causes one to reach for manufactured relief is an indicator that the human body relies on balance. He says that, when a body is out of balance, pain is the result, and continues explaining that flexibility is the mechanism that optimizes balance and results in a healthy body free of musculoskeletal pain.

As an eighth grader in Long Beach, Dr. Miller was fascinated by the ability of a chiropractic doctor who said he could treat pain without surgery and/or medication. Sometime later, Dr. Miller and a friend were on a trip and noticed an area of large homes. The boys were impressed when they learned the homes were owned by chiropractors. The stage was set for a lifetime quest to alleviate pain. Not only was it fascinating science, but it could be well compensated.

Following his formal studies



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Pictured (l to r) are Dr. Mina Whitmer and Dr. Steven Miller.

and graduation from Parker College of Chiropractic in Dallas, Texas, Dr. Miller returned to Long Beach to begin his practice in 2002. After several years, his office on Pineville Road could not accommodate his growing clientele. Following several attempts to locate property for a new location in Long Beach, Dr. Miller found

the opportunity in his current location.

Dr. Miller’s practice was growing in all areas, and he came to realize that preventative care was as valuable as corrective to provide his patients with a balanced,

pain-free life. Yoga and massage therapy became part of the program, and deep tissue laser therapy has been added. A major goal is to have every citizen of Long Beach who has a need for deep tissue laser therapy be able to experience it once, free of charge.

In addition to managing his practice, Dr. Miller serves as a sports physician to many of the local athletic teams. His practice includes referrals with the medical community both to and from them.

Dr. Miller envisions the clinic as being a catalyst for business in downtown along Jeff Davis. He hopes the location will draw citizens and encourage them to visit other shops as they come and go.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Make plans to enjoy Long Beach Library this Feb.

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn

If you have been to the library recently, then you may have noticed that there is a new face among our staff here at the library. Well, *Long Beach Breeze* readers, meet your new Director, Denise Saucier. Like any librarian, she loves books. (By the way, that is a requirement to be a librarian.) As a child, visiting her library was one of her favorite things to do. She would specifically choose books with the word “secret” or “mystery” in the title. Other favorite authors include Anne McCaffrey and Terry Brooks.

Saucier comes to Long Beach Public Library with seven years’ experience with the Harrison County Library System and fourteen years’ experience with the Harrison County School District. She will complete the dual Master’s program in Library and Informaion Science (MLIS) and Anthropology (MA) from the University of Southern Mississippi in May. She also holds a Graduate Certificate in Archives and Special

Collections, as well as a Bachelor’s degree in Recreation and Parks Management from the University of Southern Mississippi.

On a personal note, she is married with children and one grandchild and has lived on the Gulf Coast most of her life. She is not only looking forward to getting to know the local community but also to continuing the wonderful services that Long Beach Public Library has always offered its patrons.

The Friends of the Long Beach Library will not be meeting in February. However, the next meeting for the Long Beach Public Library Board will be held on Tuesday, February 13, at 2 p.m. in the meeting room of the main wing.

The Long Beach Library Book Club will also hold their next meeting in February. It will be on Monday, February 26, at 1 p.m. in the meeting room of the main wing.

Don’t forget that preschool story time is always held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and is geared towards preschool aged children.

A complete list and description of upcoming story time events, as well other library related events, can be found on our webpage at www.longbeach.lib.ms.us.

Hope to see you at your library

soon!

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

EVENTS FOR LONG BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR FEBRUARY

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

Saturday, Feb. 17- Monday, Feb. 19
President’s Day

EVENTS:

Feb. 1, 6, 8, 13, 15,
20, 22 & 27
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Preschool Story Time

Tuesday, Feb. 6, 10 – 11:30 a.m.
Parent’s Coffee Break

Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2 - 3 p.m.
Long Beach Library Board Meeting

Monday, Feb. 26, 1 – 2 p.m.
Long Beach Library Book Club Meeting



HAPPY

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Super fan Annie Lyons cheers LB Bearcats

By Andy Kanengiser

Annie Lyons didn't have to be in the stands cheering the Long Beach Lady Bearcats basketball team.

After all, her five children graduated from the Gulf Coast high school decades ago. It was a chilly and overcast December afternoon.

That didn't stop Lyons from showing up in the gymnasium with plenty of spirit. Proudly wearing her Long Beach sweatshirt, Lyons encouraged Lady Bearcats players to do their best from the opening tip until the final buzzer sounded.

"That's my hobby – going to ball-games for all sports," Lyons said as she watched Long Beach and Greene County girls score points on the hardwood. "I still support my kids."

During the hoops tournament at Vancleave High, the Long Beach grandmother proved again why she's among the leading fans of the Bearcats. She's been making a strong case for that distinction home or away for many years.

"She goes to everything," says longtime friend Eric Catchings, an assistant coach for the Long Beach Middle School girls basketball team.



Photo by Andy Kanengiser

Annie Lyons (back row, center) of Long Beach joins members of the Long Beach High Lady Bearcats team at a post-Christmas tournament at Vancleave High on the Gulf Coast.

Asked if Lyons ranks as the number one super fan of Long Beach sports teams, Catchings didn't hesitate. "She's got it."

Catchings first got involved as an assistant with the Long Beach Middle School Bearcats team because his daughter plays on the squad.

Lyons first got connected to Long Beach school sports starting in the 1970s because of her kids on Bearcats teams.

She was delighted to share the

details. Her oldest, Jimmy Carlisle, played football and baseball and is a 1980 Long Beach High graduate.

Then, there's Melissa Carlisle, who played softball at Long Beach and graduated in 1983. Leslie Carlisle was a Lady Bearcats basketball and softball player. She graduated from Long Beach High in 1984. Eddie Lyons, Jr. played football and baseball for the Bearcats. He received his Long Beach High diploma in May 1990. Final-

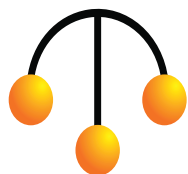
ly, there's Donald M. Lyons. The Clinton, Mississippi, resident played football, basketball and baseball at the Coast school. He graduated from Long Beach High in May 1991. Donald now works at the Nissan plant in Canton.

Besides keeping up with her grown children in cities in Georgia, Tennessee and Mississippi, Lyons makes it her business to faithfully attend Long Beach games. It's not just football and basketball (plus other sports) at the high school level.

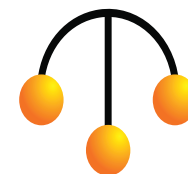
Until the season's final whistle, Coach K expects Lyons to return to the stands for more hoops action. He welcomes her support along with parents and other family members rooting for the Bearcats.

Retirement for Lyons doesn't just revolve around Long Beach games. Lyons worked at a Gulf Coast nursing home until it was blown away by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The Long Beach resident loves her hometown and serving her vibrant community. She enjoys volunteering to help senior citizens on the Gulf Coast.

HIGH = CALIBER



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