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Casino site gets lead-in on approval

Special to Long Beach Breeze

In November, the Mississippi Gaming Commission held their monthly meeting at Long Beach City Hall. The Long Beach Harbor Resorts site was on the agenda, and the Commission tabled the property to have more time to review the location.

At the end of last month, the Commission met for a special session to talk about the proposed gaming site in Long Beach. They approved the proposed property to be a legal gaming site. Site approval means the twelve-acre property, located on the old Kmart site north of U.S. 90 and east of Jeff Davis Avenue in Long Beach, meets state regulations and that the casino will be within 800 feet of the mean high water line.

Officials noted that this is the first step in the process, and it doesn't mean the developer, James Parrish, can break ground on the proposed casino. Before the Gaming Commission gives approval to proceed, the developers must show they not only have the financing to complete the project, but also that it meets the guidelines of at least a 40,000-square-foot casino, a 300-room hotel, a fine dining restaurant and other stipulations.

CES plans expansion, Markerspace

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Coast Episcopal School (CES) in Long Beach recently announced the school will add two grades of middle school, extending the span of grades offered to cover toddlers through eighth graders. The two new grades will be housed in an existing building on the school's twenty-four-acre campus.

CES officials also announced the construction of a new “Markerspace” facility. The area is designed to allow for small class sizes to be integrated with a fluid curriculum and thematic learning approach. Educators hope it will foster opportunities for personalized learning and exploration, allowing students to learn with their heads, hands and hearts.

cont. on page 3



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Coast Episcopal School recently announced the addition of a middle school to their campus, extending the span of grades offered to cover toddlers through eighth graders, due to increased demand for middle school options on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Presidential Scholar Candidates named

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach High School is proud to be home to five of the seventy-five Mississippi 2019 Presidential Scholar Candidates as named by the U. S. Department of Education. Seniors Gracie Bush, Michael Chan, Alexis LaRosa, Mason Mullins and Conner Thurtell recently received notice of their nominations and will now continue to the next part of the application process. Students chosen as U.S. Presidential Scholars receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, D. C. in June and are presented the U.S. Presiden-

tial Scholars medallion at a ceremony sponsored by the White House, in commemoration of their achievements.

Gracie Bush is the daughter of Dewayne and Marcie Bush. After high school, she plans to attend the University of Mississippi and major in International Studies and hopes in the future to have a job where she can help people.

“The Long Beach faculty have always encouraged me to be my best and helped me along the way,” Bush said. “I am so honored to be nominated for this award, and I hope I represent Long Beach well.”

Michael Chan is the son of Betty Chan. After high school, Michael plans to attend the Rochester Institute of Technology and major in Game Design and Development. In the future, he would like to work for a game producing company or make games independently.

“They [Long Beach faculty and staff] facilitated the education required for me to be able to enter the university I wish to attend and provided me easy access to the opportunities that heightened my record of achievements,” Chan said.

Alexis LaRosa is the daughter of

cont. on page 6



Happy Mardi Gras

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Seussie Saturday plans announced for library

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn, LBPL Children's Librarian

Love was in the air at story time during the week of Valentine's Day. Preschoolers made homemade valentines for their loved ones.

As promised, plans for Seussie Saturday have been completed, and we are hoping to see all our Dr. Seuss fans back for some family fun. It all begins at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 2, at the Long Beach Public Library. Events planned for that morning include games with themes that relate to popular titles by Dr. Seuss. For instance, as a tribute to *Fox in Socks*, we ask everyone to wear the silliest the socks they own. There will be team games like the "Hop & Pop" game, and other games which will

be played individually. All should be entertaining for all members of the family. Hope to see you there!

The Friends of the Library will have a meeting on Monday, March 4, at 1 p.m. in the meeting room of the main wing.

The Long Beach Board of Trustees will meet on Tuesday, March 12, at 2 p.m. in the meeting room of the main wing.

The Long Beach Public Library Book Club will meet on Monday, March 18, at 1 p.m. at the Long Beach Public Library. This month's novel is *The Movie Goer* by Walker Percy.

For more information about library events, call 228-863-0711.



Local preschoolers made homemade valentines for their loved ones at the Long Beach Public Library. Pictured (l to r) are: Finn, Emily, Nicoletta Hagenberger, Liberti Morin, Emma Isabel Rodriguez, Brayden Mageary, Collin Blake, Timo Johnson, Caleb Bryant and Abbie Lacure.

MARCH LIBRARY EVENTS →

Suessie Saturday
March 2, 11 a.m.- Noon

Friends of the Long Beach Public Library
March 4, 1-2 p.m.

Parent's Coffee Break
March 5, 10-11:30 a.m.

Long Beach Public Library Meeting
March 12, 2 p.m.

Long Beach Public Library Book Club Meeting
March 18, 1 p.m.

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

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- Worship 10 a.m.
- Wednesday Noon Service
- Wednesday Evening Worship / Bible Study 7 p.m.

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

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cont. from front page

Coast Episcopal School plans expansion, Markerspace

Since its displacement due to Hurricane Katrina, CES has undergone restructuring to become and remain a vibrant kindergarten through grade school. School officials say that, with the ongoing revitalization and growth that the school and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community has enjoyed over the last several years, it has become clear that the demand for a middle school has increased.

The Coast Episcopal Middle School Exploratory Committee was officially formed in 2014, tasked with exploring the possibility of adding a middle school and making a proposal to the Board of Trustees. Composed of the current and former Heads of School, current and former Trustees, parents, and Mississippi Gulf Coast community leaders, the Committee conducted field research and parent surveys, as well as site visits to several middle schools in the region. During the course of research, the Committee said they also uncovered scientific research that overwhelmingly supports the theory that students enrolled in kindergarten through eighth-grade independent school programs

tend to experience higher levels of academic achievement, higher levels of self-esteem, and a more positive attitude toward school. Students also experience more core instructional time and tend to enjoy significantly higher test scores in reading, language arts, and mathematics, and experience easier transitions and better outcomes when starting ninth grade.

CES leaders say the school has a rich history of providing rigorous academics in a nurturing, family-like environment and this will be the expectation of the middle school.

Board of Trustees Member Adam Wood stated that he was attracted to the idea of adding a middle school because "It doesn't force students to grow up too fast in

a world that's already too fast-paced."

In addition to the middle school grades the school will add, they will also begin a Makerspace facility, which officials define using



Special to Long Beach Breeze
 Coast Episcopal School will also add a Makerspace to their facility.

the words of Laura Fleming, author of *Worlds of Making*: "It is a place where young people have an opportunity to explore

their own interests; learn to use tools and materials, both physical and virtual; and develop creative projects."

School leaders say the maker movement at CES is and will be about teaching and learning that is focused on student-centered inquiry. Students will still need to use the information abundantly available to them on the Internet, but will be expected to use it to

create. CES says a clear differentiator here from other learning, however, is that the result is not a "project" done at the end of a unit of learning, but the actual vehicle and purpose of the learning. Students use prior knowledge to solve a presented problem or complete a task using a variety of resources provided and gain new knowledge from that experience.

Officials say the CES Makerspace will serve as a hub for learning and creation not only for Coast Episcopal School students but also for the greater community. Visiting artisans, craftsmen and women, engineers, carpenters, hobbyists and more will have the opportunity to teach, learn, build and work with students and the community.

The Coast Episcopal School Middle School will begin accepting applications for the seventh grade this spring for the 2019-2020 academic school year. Applications for an eighth grade will be accepted in spring of 2020 for the 2020-2021 academic school year.

For admissions questions, contact CED Admissions Director Ann Betz at 228-452-9442.



It has been an amazing labor of love for us, here at Reenie's Southern Kitchen and Parrish's Lounge. We are so pleased to finally announce our Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting to be held at 11:30 AM on February 28th at 217 E. Beach Blvd, Long Beach. The MS Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce will be facilitating this event, and we would like to invite all members of the Long Beach and Coastal communities to join us as we cut the ribbon starting our journey.

Reenie's Southern Kitchen looks forward to creating you a memorable Southern dining experience in a unique and friendly setting.

Parrish's Lounge is a true throwback lounge with Rat Pack vibes and modern mixology. We have wrapped both experiences with gorgeous views of the South and Long Beach Harbor that you won't find at any other venue.

Looking for entertainment, Parrish's Lounge has you covered! Join us March 1st from 6pm to 8pm as we proudly present Sullivan Wilson, Long Beach's very own "Young Sinatra." We hope to see you there!

217 East Beach Blvd., Long Beach, MS 39560

Tom Carpenter appointed Trustee to LB School Board

By Fred Weller

The Long Beach School District (LBSD) Board of Trustees has a new Trustee, Tom Carpenter. Mayor Bass announced the selection by the Board of Aldermen at the February 5 meeting. Carpenter has had previous experience with school districts in McComb and West Tallahatchie, Madison, Holmes and Yazoo Counties School Districts representing their legal interests. Carpenter is practicing with Carr Allison law firm in Gulfport. Carpenter received his law degree from the University of Mississippi graduating Magna Cum Laude in 1994.

Carpenter chose to live in Long Beach in 2013 upon marrying a local lady in Long Beach, and said, "I decided that it is a friendly and quiet place to live. My work is fast-paced, so it is enjoyable to live in a place which is comfortable and more at ease, and where the people are great.

Carpenter further stated, "My interests in serving with the

Long Beach School Board relate in part to the passage of the Long Beach High School Improvement Bond project. As a result, significant and expensive construction will be taking place. I have a background in interpreting contracts, including construction contracts, and in representing construction companies in public projects. I thought that I could contribute my experience in construction toward ensuring our construction is handled efficiently and without mishap. In addition, as a businessperson, I have an interest in ensuring that our students are adept and capable of handling and excelling in the modern work environment with a high school education."

"Our school district should, and does, produce students that have the basics on how the world works, which they can then apply by going directly to work, military service, or for further school to develop their skills in a trade or profession," said Carpenter. "I wanted to help the school district continue their good work on that objective."

Carpenter's five-year term will begin on March 1. He replaces Angie Johnson, whose term ends this year.



Tom Carpenter

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Make home upgrades count

By Guest Columnist Mallory Savner, Licensed realtor, Veterans Realty

The real estate market looks like it is gearing up for a strong spring. In Long Beach, home values increased roughly twenty percent year-over-year from January 2018 to January of this year, with an average list price of \$240,019 in January 2019, according to Mississippi Gulf Coast Multiple Listing Service. As spring draws near, many homeowners are considering putting their house on the market. When listing your home, you want to be sure it's in peak condition without spending money on improvements that will see little or no return. Here are some improvements to consider before listing your home that will increase its value.

The number one "improvement" you can make that won't cost you a thing is cleaning. A home can never be too clean, and a clean home sells faster than a dirty one. Decluttering is just another form of cleaning. You want potential buyers to envision themselves in your home—not you in the home—so remove any personal items or unnecessary clutter.

Secondly, assess your curb ap-

peal. First impressions are everything. Walk across the street and look at your house as if you were a potential buyer. What stands out, whether negative or positive? We all have things about our home that we love and things we don't love. The key is to accentuate the things you love about your home, drawing the eyes to that first. It's like putting on mascara to accent your long lashes (am I right, ladies?). You are not trying to hide anything—you are simply enhancing the positive.

Lastly, money spent on room upgrades is best spent in the kitchen and bathrooms. You may not have the money (or desire) to do a complete remodel, but you can do some minor things to make it more visually appealing. Improvements, such as new pulls and handles on cabinets, updating fixtures, fresh paint, or re-caulking the shower or bathtub really go a long way without costing you a fortune.

With any upgrades, regardless of whether or not you are selling, you just want to be sure you are not pricing your home out of the market. A home's value not only depends on the house itself, but the market and neighborhood in which it is located. If there is even a chance you may one day sell your home, you want to be sure your upgrades will get a good return on investment.



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Long Beach Bearcats soccer team



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Leo Maldonado, Aidan Hines, Nathaniel Mink, Joseph Burkett, Kevin Treminio, Noah Shockley, Stanley Trzaska and Joshua Bonds; second row: Coach Olsen, Coach Picchi, Will Long, Connor Clarke, Chase Dedeaux, Andrew Goforth, Danny Nguyen, Joshua Crawford, Carson Favre, Carlos Torres and Brandon Griffith; and back row: Rhybert McNab, Sebastian Mink, Justin Rolison, Gavin Sanzin, Kai VanCourt, Izaiah Morgan and Coach Wilburn.



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Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Nathalie Salvador, Tayler Smith, Julia Gertesema, Lauren Bennett, Kayla Bush, Alexa Beets, Susie Steverson, Holly Weaver and Jillian Powell; and back row: Chloe Davis, Macy Willis-Trahan, Olivia Mims, Sophia Fimiano, Kylah Cuevas, Amanda Anderson, Sydney Spataro, Ella Setnikar, Alex Segueara, Breton Charman, Kristina Dahl and Maddie Hartley.

By Andy Kanengiser

Wrapping up successful seasons, Long Beach Bearcats soccer teams reached the 5A championships, but came up a little short as runners-up.

In Class 5A boys, Long Beach lost a 2-1 heartbreaker to the Lewisburg Patriots, winners of their first state championship. On the same day, February 9, the Long Beach Lady Bearcats soccer team fell to Lafayette County by a 5-1 score. Both championship contests that Saturday were held at Brandon High. Based in Oxford, Lafayette captured their second state championship.

Lady Bearcats head soccer coach Hailey Hammons remains proud of the girls and their many accomplishments all season.

“From day one, they have been working hard to get better on and off the field, and that shows with every game they play,” she said. “Every game, we have gotten better as a team, and it shows.”

The Long Beach Lady Bearcats finished the 2018-19 season with

a 15-7-2 record, including 6-0 in league play. A 3-0 Long Beach win over West Jones on February 5 and 1-0 over South Jones on February 2 put the squad into the state championship game in Rankin County. The Lady Bearcats are South State 5A champs for the second season in a row.

And next season looks bright for Coach Hammons and her Lady Bearcats. There are twenty-two players returning, and the goal for Long Beach High’s girls soccer team is to capture the state title next year.

In the twenty-seventh minute of the first half at Brandon Bulldogs stadium, the score was tied 1-1 on a goal by Amanda Anderson of Long Beach off a pass from Julia Geertsema. It was all Lafayette Lady Commodores after that.

The Bearcats boys soccer coach is equally elated about his squad that ended the season with a mark of 13-5-2, including 6-0 in league play. The Long Beach boys soccer team have been District champs three straight years. The Bearcats are South State champs for two

consecutive years.

“We have learned to take the ‘me’ out of everything and look at the ‘we,’” said coach Andee Wilburn. “We know that together we can accomplish so much more by working together and helping each other out. So proud of the team this year and the hard work they put into our program.”

In the championship game after a scoreless first half, Long Beach boys struck first. The Bearcats scored a breakaway goal by Conner Clark. His first shot was blocked by the Lewisburg goalie. But Clark got the rebound and scored in the forty-fourth minute to give Long Beach a 1-0 lead. Lewisburg (18-1-1) tied the match at 1-1 in the sixty-fifth minute. Lewisburg scored again and grabbed a 2-1 lead with seven minutes left to play, and it held up as the final score.

The Long Beach boys defeated West Harrison 5-3 on February 5, and knocked off West Jones 2-1 on February 1 in the home playoff game to capture the South State championship.

cont. from front page

Five Presidential Scholar Candidates named from LBH

David and Susan LaRosa. After high school, she plans to major in biology and attend the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Duke University or Tulane. In the future, she would like to work for the National Institute of Health to study neurology and genetics after she completes medical school.

“Long Beach High School teachers and staff have supported me in my academic endeavors and beyond. I am so thankful to have people who want to help me succeed,” LaRosa said. “I am so honored to be nominated for this award and so grateful to everyone who has helped me achieve my goals.”

Mason Mullins is the son of Brian and Stacey Mullins. After high school, he plans to attend the University of South Alabama, where he will pursue degrees in both biomedical sciences and economics before heading to medical school. In the future, he would like to enter the diagnostic radiology field and participate in

medical research.

“Long Beach teachers and staff have undoubtedly given me an extremely beneficial foundation, which sets me up to achieve my dreams in the next level of my education and beyond,” Mullins said. “I am honored to be a candidate for the U.S. Presidential Scholar recognition.”

Conner Thurtell is the son of Daniel and Penney Thurtell. After high school, he plans to attend the University of South Alabama and pursue a degree in Health Care Administration while also following the pre-med track for entrance into medical school. His future plans include pursuing a medical degree and becoming a dermatologist, where he would like to work on methods to reduce and treat incidents of skin cancer.

“The teachers and staff of Long Beach High School have helped prepare me by encouraging me to expand beyond regular classes at the school. They pushed me to be involved in extra-cur-



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Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Gracie Bush and Alexis LaRosa; and back row: Mason Mullins, Conner Thurtell and Michael Chan.

ricular clubs, activities and programs that allowed me to refine my long-term interests,” Thurtell said. “If you really want to succeed, then I believe you have to learn what you are passionate about. Do not limit yourself by preconceived notions about careers. Go and experience pro-

grams, join clubs and volunteer to help you decide how you will spend the rest of your life.”

Additional information about the Presidential Scholar Program can be found on the U.S. Department of Education’s website at www2.ed.gov/programs/psp/index.html.



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Marty Moore honored with LB football award



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Marty Moore (right), a Long Beach High School (LBHS) senior, was recently recognized by the National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame - Gulf Coast chapter. The chapter honored a scholar-athlete from each of the twenty-five high schools along the Gulf Coast. Pictured (left) with Moore is LBHS Head Football Coach Philip Pigott.

NCBC hosts first ever Law Enforcement Day



Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy/Ryan Labadens

Ron Perry (center), Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport assistant security officer, briefs officials from several law enforcement agencies from around the Mississippi Gulf Coast during Law Enforcement day onboard NCBC Gulfport.

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-Papa D



Christmas tree lit year-round at Gulfport Dragway

By Fred Weller

An informal survey in Long Beach asked, "Is there drag strip in the Long Beach area?" The most common response was, "What drag strip, where is it?" Gulfport Dragway Operations Manager, Jeffery ("Jeff") August, intends to change the lack of identity for the business he has run for seventeen years.

"We really try hard to be a good neighbor, but maybe we have kept too low of a profile," said Jeff, explaining the apparent lack of local recognition.

Whether it's a Radio Flyer four-wheel wagon and a sloping hill, a soap box derby or a high-powered racing rail, according to Jeff his favorite slogan is "Family Fun with a Need for Speed." The year-round Christmas tree is where Jeff says, "It all starts here, the vertical series of amber [yellow], green and red lights for each driver indicate when to start the race."

The facility is located off Canal Road a mile south of the railroad tracks on Racetrack Road. Enter

Racetrack Road to the Dragway entrance gate and to the parking area. Although there is a full-service concession stand for snacking, Jeff says, "Feel comfortable with bringing your own favorites, including BBQ grills. We don't allow glass containers, that's all. Tailgaters are welcome."

Since safety is of the utmost concern, the Dragway gives the right of way to race vehicles over pedestrians. However, the pit area is open to pedestrian visitors wanting to discuss the details of a race vehicle up close. The drivers are always pleased to answer questions pertaining to the physics and chemistry of race vehicles. Any subject from aerodynamics, metallurgy, chemistry and human-machine interface are topics open for discussion. Maybe it's not often associated with racing but Science,

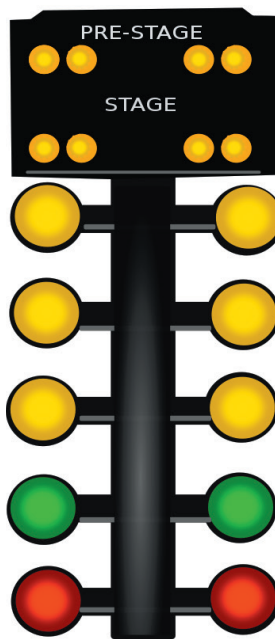
Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) are found in abundance at the Dragway.

The Dragway property and assets can be configured on non-race dates to accommodate a variety of open-air venues, including company picnics. On March 1, the Zerbini Family Circus will stage their show on the open grounds. Other special race venues are the Honda Youtube Challenge, King of the Coast, TGIF Series and Ford versus Chevy, Memorial Day Blowout, DSNPR Series, Rat Rods and IHRA Series.

Bracket racing is the most equal opportunity sport. Anyone can win with any kind of car, motorcycle or truck, since it only requires consistent driving. Drivers first run time trials and then try to predict their elapsed time (ET), from start to finish, based on the

time trials. The predicted ET or dial-in time is written on each vehicle's windshield with white shoe polish to the hundredth-of-a-second. The tower controller enters both cars' dial-in into the computer that controls the Christmas tree lights for both vehicles and gives the slower vehicle a headstart. During elimination runs, the dial-in may be changed. However, if the ET is quicker than the dial-in time, the driver is disqualified. After each run, there is a winner and a loser. Once all the cars in a bracket have raced, the losers are eliminated, and the winners pair off to race another round. Another half of the vehicles are then eliminated until only two are left for the final round to determine the winner. In case of an uneven number of vehicles, one car randomly draws a bye.

Jeff suggests, "Wednesday nights and Friday and Saturday are good times for Long Beach families to enjoy a family outing to the track." The Gulfport Dragway schedule can be found on its web site and on social media.



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Chaplains remembered

By Fred Weller

Commemoration of the seventy-six years after the sacrifices of four chaplains was conducted by the Long Beach American Legion Post 1995 at the gazebo on the Harper McCaughan Town Green on February 3. The ceremony was led by Vice Commander Russell DeStefano. The West Harrison High School Army Junior ROTC posted the colors. The National Anthem was sung by the Long Beach High School Quartet of Tatiana Clark, Melinda Golden, Abigail Golden and Megan Waters. The Invocation and Keynote Address were presented by the



Photo by Fred Weller

Doris Jones Viet Nam Army Nurse pays her respects.

For more information about the four chaplains, visit www.fourchaplains.org.

Reverend Ronald W. Durham, a retired Commander in the Navy Chaplain Corps. The wreath laying was carried out by Chaplain Durham and Vice Commander DeStefano at the War Memorial. The rendition of "Taps" was performed by Kole Carman from the Long Beach High School Band and was followed by the retiring of the colors by the West Harrison High School Army Junior ROTC. The program was well attended and at the finish drew applause from the sizeable audience.

For more information about the four chaplains, visit www.fourchaplains.org.

Mardi Gras Feb. 23rd

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The 48th Annual Carnival Association of Long Beach Mardi Gras Parade will roll through the streets of downtown Long Beach at 6 p.m. on Saturday, February 23.

The route will be the same as the last few years, beginning at the Long Beach High School football stadium parking lot and heading south on Cleveland Avenue to Railroad Street, west on Railroad Street to Jeff Davis, south on Jeff Davis to Fifth Street, east on Fifth Street to Cleveland Avenue, north on Cleveland Avenue to First Street, and west on First Street to Jeff Davis before returning on Railroad Street back to Cleveland Avenue.

Registration for the event is open,

and applications are being accepted. Organizers say they are expecting over fifty total units from across the coast, including some from Hattiesburg and other surrounding areas.

This year's royalty is King Scott, Chris Boudreaux, and Queen Rosalie, Kelly Griffin.

The Carnival Association of Long Beach is one of the only Mardi Gras Krewes in the area whose main focus is charity. Money was raised starting in August and culminates with the

Royal Coronation Ball the night before the parade. The money is given to local charities.

To participate in the parade or for additional information, contact Parade Chairman Eddie Seal at eddieseal1@cableone.net.



Photo by Fred Weller

2018 parade floats brought the carnival spirit to Long Beach.

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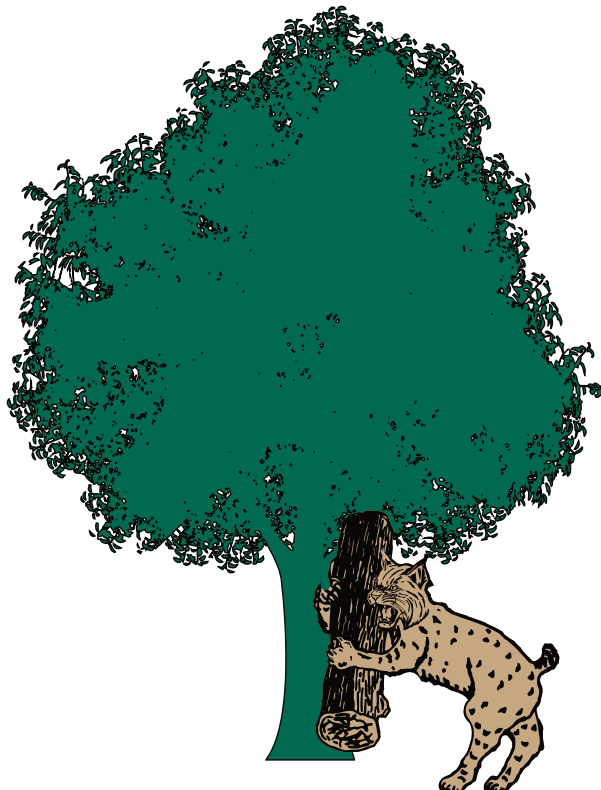
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Biancamano shines for LB cross country team

By Andy Kanengiser

Brooklyn Biancamano made history when the Gatorade Company selected the Long Beach High sensation as its Mississippi Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year.

In its 34th year honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Biancamano becomes the very first Lady Bearcats runner to gain that distinction. Announced January 28, the Gatorade award for 2018-19 also salutes student-athletes for their academic achievements and exemplary character.

The Gatorade tribute is one of many honors for Biancamano, 15, a speedy 5'3" cross country and track star from the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Long Beach supporters were proud when the freshman won eight of nine races at the MHSAA 5A State Championships last fall. Her amazing feats helped her cross country team take bronze in 5A.

Lady Bearcats cross country and track coach Erin Biancamano is thrilled about her daughter's accomplishments. She applauds her efforts to get even better.

"Brooklyn is a naturally gifted athlete with superior dedication. It is my honor to be by her side every day in a coaching capacity, but all of the credit is hers," Erin Biancamano said.

Biancamano began showing her sports talents as a four-year-old soccer player. Later, as a seventh grader, she played soccer for Long Beach Middle School. But Biancamano decided as an eighth grader to focus on running. The sky's the limit for the Long Beach High ninth grader.

Biancamano helped the Long Beach girls to a third place finish at the MHSAA 5A championships in Clinton on November 3. In one of the races, her time was one minute, fifty seconds faster than the No. 2 runner.

At the Mississippi College/Watson Quality Ford Invitational race in Clinton, Biancamano finished No. 1 among 310 runners. She clocked two minutes and eight seconds faster the No. 2 runner on October 6. She's smart, too, with a 4.0 GPA.

Biancamano remains a candidate for Gatorade's National Player of the Year in her sport (which will be announced this month).

The Long Beach teen accomplishes so much away from track and cross country fields. Biancamano is a member of the Long Beach Mayor's Youth Council and her school's Junior Civitan Club. She's conversant in American Sign Language, and she's volunteered at the Heritage Christian Academy (Picayune) Cross Country Camp. She was also named the LBHS girls cross country MVP in 2018.

Biancamano doesn't do it alone. Coach Erin Biancamano points to several other standouts on the Lady Bearcats cross country team, such as Ash Osness and Gabby Osness.

At the Pascagoula-Gautier Invitational meet, the Long Beach girls cross country team took first place among a dozen squads competing. Biancamano was No. 1, Osness finished seventh and Gabby Osness was ninth in the competition. The Long Beach boys team captured eighth place among fourteen south Mississippi high school squads at the event on October 13, 2018.

The Long Beach boys cross team is sparked by freshman Brandon Griffith. The 15-year-old is his squad's MVP. "He's a naturally gifted athlete," Coach Biancamano said. "He was our boys leader, running five races in the nineteen-minute range."

Coach Biancamano notices there are many kids lacing up their running shoes on the campus at 300 East Old Pass Road these days. It's just a short jog to Mississippi Gulf Coast beaches.



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"These kids are out there running many miles each week during the very hot cross country season," Coach Biancamano says. "But they come back every day and put in the work. I'm very proud of my team!"

The Long Beach High boys cross country team knows how to compete with the best statewide. The boys squad captured fifth place among seventeen teams at the MHSAA 5A State championships in November.

The squad's overall numbers look good and the future looks bright. The Long Beach High team boasted twenty-two runners, including one seventh grade

girl and five eighth grade boys. The Bearcats competed in eight races in fall 2018.

Add fourteen students from Long Beach Middle School, and the Long Beach district counts thirty-six cross country runners. There were twenty newcomers and sixteen student-athletes who returned from last year.

Leading top-notch teams, Erin Biancamano filled pretty big shoes. She succeeded Olan Welch, who retired in 2018 after fifteen years as Long Beach's cross country and track coach. Dr. Richard Osness Reinsvold serves Bearcats runners as an assistant coach.

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Beach Day on March 9th

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach Wheel Way will be the site of “Beach Day at the Wheel Way” on Saturday, March 9. Children with disabilities and their families are invited to participate in the free event.

In August 2018, Junior Auxiliary provided funding for handicap beach access from Highway 90 to the water for individuals constrained to wheelchairs. The Wheel Way, as it has come to be known, provides individuals with

disabilities the opportunity to access the beach in a safe and comfortable way. It is located in Long Beach between Steve’s Marina and Simpson Pier on the west side of the Long Beach Harbor.

The event, which will be held from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., will be a day filled with fun for all with games, food, and entertainment. For more information about Beach Day at the Wheel Way or to donate goods or services, email jag.beachdaywheelway@gmail.com.

Birthday set for March 2nd

By Fred Weller

For those who remember 1961 as the year they and Wanda “Long” Hogan were seniors at Long Beach High School and had birthday parties, Hogan is having another one on Saturday, March 2.

The venue is set for 11:30 a.m. at Joe’s Italian Ristorante, 229 Klondyke, Long Beach, phone 228-206-5444. Hogan will provide the cake, with individuals responsible for their choice of meal - and no

presents required.

Previous birthdays have attracted travelers from Florida; Texas; Orange Beach, Alabama; and Mendenhall, Mississippi, to mention a few places. Friends from Long Beach are especially invited, and Logan says conversations in the parking lot have lasted until late afternoon before friends even think of leaving for home.

Hogan said, “no matter where you come from, come and enjoy the cake and conversations.”

LB native named TOTY



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Jenny Crowder of Long Beach was recently named Teacher of the Year for Bay Saint Louis – Waveland Middle School. Her selection was made by her peers. She was surprised by the presence of many of her family and friends, who had been invited to the school for the announcement.

After teaching for ten years in a

parochial school in Mobile, Alabama, Crowder began teaching at Bay Middle and has been there for twenty-one years.

Though born in Germany, the daughter of military parents, Crowder grew up in Long Beach. She is a 1980 graduate of Long Beach High School and then earned both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Market vendors wanted

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach Farmers Market, a state-certified farmers market, is open every Saturday from 8:30 until noon at the corner of West 1st Street and Church Avenue. The market features local farmers and food producers selling their own USDA Certified Organic and naturally grown,

sustainable produce; dairy; meats and fresh Gulf seafood; artisan breads; jams, jellies, and honey; and other prepared foods made from local ingredients. The market is currently accepting applications for vendors who grow produce or plants or make homemade foods.

For more information, call 228-257-2496.

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