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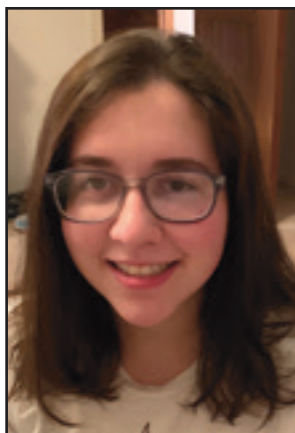
Long Beach School District leaders release reopening plans for fall

By Andy Kanengiser

Faith Hermann will soon enter her senior year at Long Beach High with worries, as the Gulf Coast school reopens in the midst of a pandemic.

“I have several at-risk family members, and so obviously safety is a huge concern to me,” Hermann said. “My dad works and coaches at the school, as well, so we need to be extra sure neither of us are exposed.”

A Long Beach High marching/symphonic band member, Hermann says the campus has good safety measures in place. But she wants school officials to do



Special to The Long Beach Breeze
Incoming Long Beach High School senior Faith Hermann

more. That includes, Hermann said, steps to make wearing masks mandatory in high school.

Hermann offers other suggestions. “Distance learning needs to be an option for everyone, not just those who

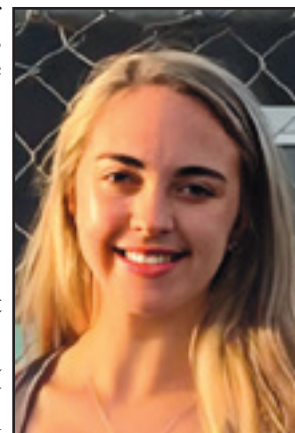


have a doctor’s permission, because people have family members who are at risk.”

Students say there are no easy answers for leaders in U.S. communities, as COVID-19 cases spike in

Florida, Arizona, Texas and more than half the nation in early July. Cases are rising in Mississippi, too.

“No one wants the state to close again. I want my senior year to be as normal as possible; and, if we close



Special to The Long Beach Breeze
Class of 2021 member Sophia Fimiano

down again, that just won’t happen.”

Rising senior Sophia Fimiano, 17, wasn’t happy when many Long Beach district activities were suddenly cancelled in Spring 2020 due to the coronavi-

rus. As classes return August 6, the Lady Bearcats soccer player wants to see her senior year return to normal, if possible.

“It will be seriously disappointing and sad if the pandemic continues or is as disastrous as Spring 2020.”

Fimiano believes Long Beach School District leaders are “doing a great job helping to assure our safety.” She hopes district officials find a safe way for students to enjoy the Beta Club, Senior Prom and Homecoming and sports.

Savannah Hicks, 17, a student council and Beta Club member, notes Long Beach High leaders will

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Long Beach resident celebrates 105 years with wisdom and humor

By Lindy Sholes

When Long Beach resident Luanne Smith had a heart attack at the age of 63, her doctor didn’t expect her to survive much longer because she refused to undergo heart surgery, what was then a new concept. She has outlived several of her doctors, though. In fact, she celebrated her 105th birthday on June 19 in typical pandemic fashion. A line of around forty-five decorated cars and smiling friends, family, her current doctor and Mayor George Bass, paraded past her house where she waved and blew kisses.

She offered some words of wisdom that she has gained from her longevity: don’t drink, don’t smoke, don’t cuss, and love people as Jesus loves people. She practices this, as she yelled, “I love you!” to every car that drove past.

Originally from Clarke County, Smith was a Gulfport resident since 1950, working at Brumfield Department Store for twenty years. Hurricane Ka-

trina flooded her home and forced her to move in with her daughter in Long Beach. It wasn’t a move Smith would have chosen, she said, as she has always considered herself to be quite independent.

Smith said some of her fondest and most impactful memories come from her childhood.

Her biggest influence in life was her grandmother, an Irish immigrant who was orphaned at a young age after a cholera epidemic and raised by her aunt.

“My grandmother would say not to slump my shoulders and to walk like a lady,” Smith said. “I still think of the things that she taught me. I miss her.”

During the Great Depression, her grandmother taught her to be kind and generous with people, as she would trade butter and eggs for sugar and flour. Smith was around fourteen years old when the stock market crashed.

“My dad lost his job as a lumber man,” she said. “I remember seeing him come up the lane and he went straight



Special to The Long Beach Breeze

into the house, fell across the bed, and that was the first time I had ever seen my dad cry.”

But they never went hungry. She said people came together and helped each other during a time of need. Her family grew their own food, planting extra to give to the neighbors. Smith said when push comes to shove, she believes that people would do the same thing today.

“I have met some lovely people in Long Beach since I’ve been here: and when it comes down to the nitty gritty, I think the community would stick together and help each other out in a crisis,” she said.

For someone with 105 years of age, Smith said she feels okay physically, though busy days, like her birthday, wear her out quicker than they used to. She joked that if she lives to see 106, she will take her money from the bank and find a “hidey-hole.”

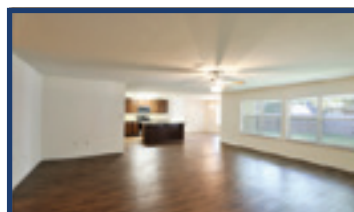
She shattered her femur at age 98, and because of her age she was not a can-

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Five ways to boost bird enjoyment in your own backyard

By Sherry Lucas

When pandemic shelter-at-home orders left many stuck at the house last spring, who was still on the move? Birds.

Migrating beauties and backyard residents were about the only ones swooping by for a visit, and folks responded accordingly. Trail use at the Clinton Community Nature Center (CCNC) was up, even during the lockdown, says Audrey Harrison, CCNC board president.

"I go out there to walk and run in that neighborhood, and I have noticed people birdwatching and walking the trails with binoculars."

Bird-watching has soared nationwide during the pandemic. Apps such as eBird, to help keep a checklist of sightings, and Merlin Bird ID, with its info-packed field guide, can be a big help supporting the newfound passion.

Anytime is a good time to look for birds. But, "Typically, the best time is in the morning or the evening," says Adam Rohnke of Clinton,

a wildlife biologist and an ornithologist by training who works with Central Mississippi Research and Extension in Raymond. Summers in Mississippi, "at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, nobody wants to be out there, including birds."

Because the watch targets are usually small and skittish, the first order of business is to make buddies with a pair of binoculars. Binocular problems are more often due to user error than faulty equipment, so when experiencing trouble, frustration or focus issues, consult a fellow birder or even a YouTube video for adjustment tips.

Rohnke suggests these five birds (not standard run-of-the-mill birds but often common backyard ones) to watch for, listen for and try to attract this summer:

Eastern Towhee — The robust, robin-sized ground-dweller, found from the coast to the hills, is often heard more than seen, Rohnke says. Listen for a two-part call note "chewink" or the three-part up-swinging whistle of "Drink your tea" as the birds rummage through leaves while foraging in thickets and bushes.

The striking male has a jet-black head, throat, wings and tail, and dark-orange sides and white belly. Females and juveniles present the same pattern, but with chestnut-brown instead of black. Their diet consists of native seeds, fruit, buds, insects and crustaceans.

Towhees prefer cover and forage under short bushes like azaleas and wax myrtles. They'll visit feeder stations where there are low platform feeders and scratch along the periphery of the feeding area.

Ruby-throated hummingbird

The little ruby and emerald migratory visitor, a mark of summer, measures about the length of an adult human thumb, Rohnke says. Adult males have a metallic green back and sides with a deep ruby throat, while females and juveniles are similarly colored but lack that ruby throat. Nectar is a primary food source, but ruby-throats also prey upon insects and spiders caught in mid-air or extracted from webs. Listen for their high-speed chipping vocalization, particularly around feeders.

A hummingbird feeder filled with one part sugar to four parts water (boil, then cool, no red dye needed) is a good way to attract them, and so is providing plants they'd love to visit, such as coral honeysuckle, salvias, red buckeyes and more.

Red-headed Woodpecker

The deep-red head, white chest and belly, and bluish-black back, tail and wings, with white wing patches, make this beauty a study in contrasts.

Appearances don't differ between males and females, and juveniles

have a mottled grayish-brown head, back and wings with a lightly streaked belly and broken white wing patches. Hear them drumming on trees, utility poles, aluminum gutters and even metal lawn art. They nest in cavities, including utility poles and dead trees, and sometimes human structures.

Maintaining any dead tree in the yard, safely away from structures or walkways, can attract them.

White-eyed Vireo — Small and constantly on the move in shrubs and trees of the mid-level canopy, the songbird's appearance is a contrast of overall washed yellow with gray atop its head and nape, white chest, charcoal grayish black wings and two creamy-white wing bars. It's aptly named for its bright-white iris, surrounded by yellow feathers often referred to as "spectacles," Rohnke says. Juvenile birds lack the white iris and are duller overall.

Shrubby hedgerows under mid-canopy hardwoods draw these birds, which prefer to forage and call from cover.

House Finch — Originally a western U.S. species, the House Finch has become a Mississippi resident since the 1980s and is well-adapted to living among humans. The sparrow-sized bird has brown feathers across the majority of its body, with broken dark brown streaks down the chest and belly. The male has a rosy red on the head and breast that slowly fades down the body — a coloration the females and juveniles lack.

They're easily enticed to hopper, window and tube-style feeders featuring black oil sunflower seeds and finch seed mixes.



Long Beach High students applaud finish of paved parking lot



Special to The Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach High School parking lot is newly paved and ready for students to return for the 2020-21 school year.

By Andy Kanengiser

Long Beach High students love their newly paved parking lot on their Gulf Coast campus.

In early summer, the parking lot's new look will be a welcome sight for Long Beach students when the 2020-21 school year opens August 6.

"Constant flooding and the faded designated parking spots in the parking lots at LBHS has been an issue for many years," says incoming senior Sarah Simpson. "Some days, it felt as if I should have kayaked to school instead of driven due to the high water line."



Sarah Simpson

The school yearbook editor and a Lady Bearcats volleyball player, Simpson sees the parking lot as symbolic of a wonderful partnership.

"I am extremely grateful and appreciative for all the things the City of Long Beach does for its residents and the Long Beach School District," Simpson added.

It's really part of a two-part improvement of facilities on the campus at 300 East Old Pass Road. A new multi-million dollar Long Beach High is under construction, as well.

Simpson thanks city voters for approving the construction of the new school that nears the finish line.

"It will provide an improved learning environment for future generations," says Simpson, 17, a member of the Class of 2021.

Classmate Sami Gundlach says she is equally excited about the high school paving project in her hometown. The new parking lot enhances a new high school to replace one built in the late 1950s.



Sami Gundlach

"I have seen how invested both the city and school district are working together to make these changes happen," Gundlach says.

She's active on her campus and in the city, serving on the Long Beach

Mayor's City Youth Council. In addition to membership in the Beta Club, the Lady Bearcats swim team and golf squad, Gundlach excels as an honors student.

"We are grateful that these changes and upgrades will benefit both present and future students in the City of Long Beach," Gundlach said.

The repaving of the Long Beach High parking lot added to a series of newly paved roads in the Harrison County community earlier this year. The total price tag of the projects was \$1 million, with funds coming from the state.

Whether it is Long Beach Superintendent Dr. Jay Smith, Mayor George L. Bass, or just folks shopping at businesses along Jeff Davis Avenue, people applaud the paving projects.

Student Body President Lauren Bennett and parents like Dom Fimiano are delighted to see the parking lot done in time for classes reopening in August.

"I think all LBHS students can agree we hated for it to rain," Bennett said. "We would have to park in huge puddles and trudge through water at our ankles, and it was just a bad way to start the day."

A Lady Bearcats soccer player, Bennett is thankful city leaders endorsed the project with the support of the school board.

The parking lot extends to the Bearcats football stadium and the school's baseball field. The LBSD is responsible for painting parking lot lines.

The new parking lot will alleviate longstanding drainage issues, Dom Fimiano says.

The Long Beach High improvements combine with new safety procedures for students and employees amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Both are a big plus, he said.

Fimiano, whose daughter Sophia, 17, is a Lady Bearcats soccer standout, commends school district leaders. "I have been pleased with LBSD officials managing the safety of the students, staff and community."



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Harrison County achieves Work Ready Community certification

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Harrison County recently achieved the ACT Work Ready Community certification designation—a two-year process completed in six months and the 55th county in Mississippi to reach certification. The county’s Work Ready Initiative was approved through a resolution in late summer of 2018 by the Harrison County Board of Supervisors (BOS) and is a collaborative effort between the BOS, Harrison County Development Commission, Port of Gulfport, Gulfport School District, and community and business leaders.

Harrison County Supervisor Kent Jones, District Four, says, “The ACT Work Ready Initiative was precisely what this county needed to advance our future economic growth. The Board of Supervisors is grateful to the Harrison County Development Commission and all those who assisted for their dedication to our workforce.”

Now that Harrison County has obtained the work ready designation, all three coastal counties are considered ACT Work Ready certified, which is critical to marketing the region to economic developers.

Brandi Hough, Harrison County Development Commission’s Director of Business Development, is emphatic about the importance of the certified

designation and said, “Certification would not have been achieved as expeditiously without the support of 106 employers who recognized or recommended the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). Everyone wins now that Harrison County is Work Ready certified—businesses, job-seekers, educators, our county and ultimately, all the Mississippi Gulf Coast.”

An essential certification requirement included ACT WorkKeys testing, which was administered to individuals who are considered emerging workforce (high, school, college, recent graduates), transitioning workforce (job-seekers, adult education, recent veterans), and the current workforce.

Currently 2,892 Harrison county residents have become ACT Work Ready certified, with seventy-two percent being at the Silver or higher level.

Being certified is significant, as it indicates “Harrison County is Workforce Ready” and establishes that the county has a skilled, quality workforce. Data will be utilized in recruiting new business and industry expansion, while educators can close the skill gap with a measuring tool for students and individuals to use when searching for a job.

According to the Port of Gulfport’s Director of Workforce Development Mel Arsenault, “Nationally recognized

credentials like the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) are even more important in these times as we work towards rebuilding our economy. Job-seekers have a verified credential to prove their actual skills to employers, and employers now have a tool to assist them in hiring the most skilled applicants to fill their current job openings.”

Furthermore, workforce development is a top priority for the state, and the philosophy extends to Governor Tate Reeves.

“I believe in Mississippi. We need to work to promote a culture of work and to enable Mississippi’s workforce to compete with anyone anywhere in the country, and in fact anyone anywhere in the world,” said Reeves.

The Harrison County Work Ready Community next steps will be to complete the next level of the certification process, which includes continuing to assist more Harrison County residents with obtaining their NCRC certification. In addition, Harrison County will collaborate with the ACT Work Ready teams in Hancock and Jackson counties to support the Mississippi “One Coast” approach.

For more information, visit the Harrison County ACT Work Ready Communities page at www.WorkReady-Communities.org/MS/047.

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Long Beach residents treasure assignments at new Mississippi Aquarium

All photos by Lindy Sholes

By Andy Kanengiser

The Mississippi Aquarium inspires learning, a passion for the sea world and research. The world-class facility is also attracting Long Beach residents to serve in key leadership roles.

The 2020 grand opening of the multi-million dollar aquarium along U.S. 90 in Gulfport is expected to be a big plus for tourism and economic development along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

The facility is drawing newcomers to Long Beach, like Meredith Horn, the aquarium's guest president of the guest experience.

Horn and her husband discovered nearby Long Beach was the perfect place to put down Gulf Coast roots.

"When we visited for the first time to tour the area, we knew immediately that we were home."

"We love the friendly vibe. People were very kind in this area. They are always willing to lend a helping hand," Horn said.

With beaches, fishing on scenic piers, outstanding public schools, quaint downtown shops along Jeff Davis Avenue, restaurants and a fam-

ily-friendly atmosphere, Long Beach offers plenty of selling points. The University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Park campus sits in the Friendly City.

Andy Horn, curator of marine mammals at the Mississippi Aquarium, agrees with Meredith. "It's a great area with a lot of spacious, friendly quiet neighborhoods," he said.

"I probably spend most of my free time on the beach walkways enjoying a walk or run. I love living right by the Gulf."

When newcomers decide to call Long Beach home, that's good news to Mayor George Bass, Long Beach Chamber of Commerce leaders, local merchants, real estate folks and many more.

The aquarium's vice president of animal care and conservation, Ric Urban is another key staffer recently settling in the Long Beach.

"Long Beach is a friendly little beach community with a great town

green," Urban said. The Harper McCaughan Town Green is home to Long Beach Live concerts and sits nearby the Farmers Market on Saturday mornings. Festive decorations illuminate the town green as the Christmas holidays near. It's pretty easy to navigate the downtown area on foot, bike, car or other modes of transportation.

"I enjoy taking my golf cart to downtown Long Beach and going to events and dining at different restaurants," Urban said.

The wait for the aquarium to open across from Jones Park won't be much longer. Aquarium officials announced new details regarding the opening on Facebook Live July 17.

Mississippi Aquarium leaders are making pitches to attract visitors as well as future volunteers. The innovative facility supports animal research and conservation, while serving as the window to the waters of Mississippi, the Gulf

Coast and beyond.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Mississippi Aquarium is a bright spot as the state reopens following spring shutdowns ignited by the spread of the virus.

The Gulf Coast facility offers so much to see for visitors – from the work of local artists at the gift shop to tanks filled with fish, big and small.

The nonprofit sits on 5.8 acres of land. The aquarium contains over 80,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor exhibits connected by landscaped walkways. There will be plants displayed from all the physiographic regions of Mississippi.

The new aquarium figures to be a popular destination point for people from Mississippi and states across America. Gulf Coast residents on staff say they will be happy to let visitors know more about the aquatic jewel situated a few miles from Long Beach.

To get involved and become a member, visit www.msaquarium.org/membership. Those interested can also connect by following the Mississippi Aquarium on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn.



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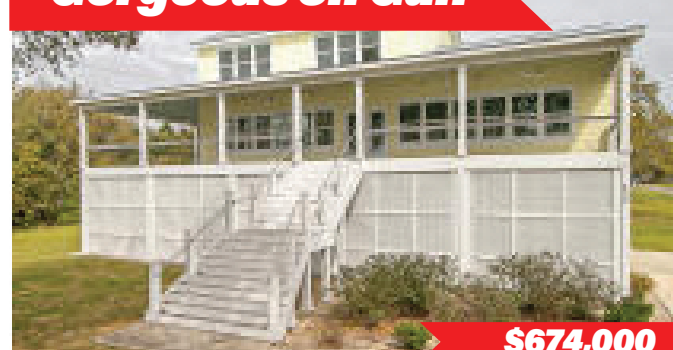
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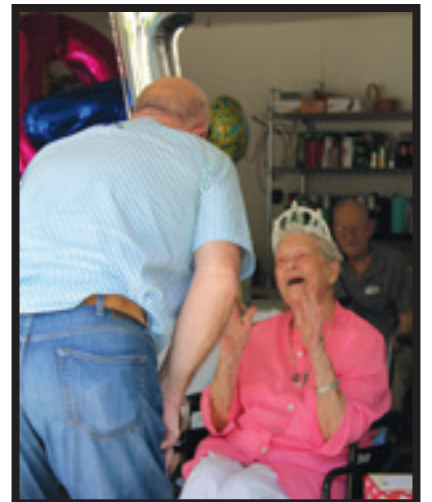
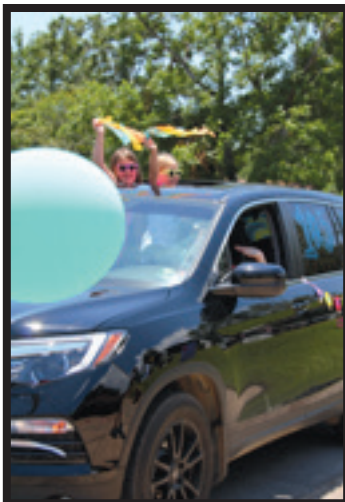
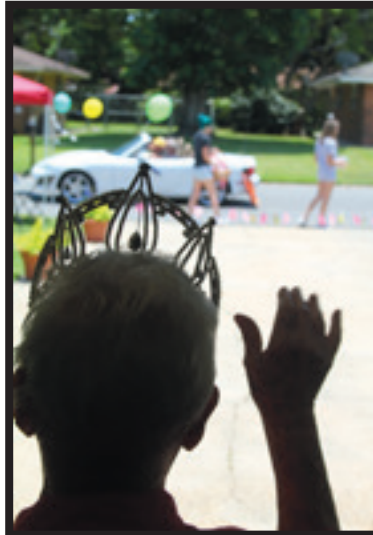
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cont. from page 1

Long Beach resident celebrates 105 years with wisdom and humor

Photos by Lindy Sholes



didate for surgery. She has since been bound to a wheelchair, and macular degeneration keeps her from reading and crocheting, some of her favorite pastimes. Smith makes the best of her situation, though, and said she thrives under the care of her family and hospice helpers.

“I told them if they thought I was going to go to sleep just to please them, they were nuts,” she laughed. “I’m not going anywhere ‘til the good Lord says to come home.”
She said she wasn’t ever really into television, but she enjoys the Steve Harvey show because, “He’s honest and

clean, and he tells it like it is.”
She tells it like it is, too.
“I told my grandson if I were a little younger, I’d make Steve Harvey his grandpa,” she said with a laugh.
She also loves listening to Frank Sinatra.
“I don’t like this bee-bop stuff today,”

she said.
She said she tries to steer clear of the internet and encourages people to pray more. And when it comes to the state of the world, she’d rather not get into that.
“My answer requires a lot of diplomacy that I can’t muster up right now,” she said.

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Sparklight extends COVID-19 relief efforts

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Sparklight recently announced it is extending many of its relief measures that were set to expire on June 30, 2020. The measures will continue through the end of the year in order to support customers and communities in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through December 31, 2020, the company will continue to offer its 15 Mbps residential internet plan for \$10 per month for the first three months of service, in order to help low income families and those most impacted from coronavirus challenges, such as seniors and college students.

Sparklight is also extending access to free public WiFi hotspots across its footprint through the end of the year in order to keep individuals and communities connected during the crisis.

Other actions being taken by the company include working with residential and small business internet and phone customers who have been harmed financially by the COVID-19

pandemic to keep them connected, including waiving late fees through July 31, 2020, and offering flexible payment plans. Also, the company will permanently boost the majority of their residential internet data plans by an additional 50 to 300 GB for free (based on plan) as of July 1, 2020.

In addition, Sparklight is partnering with communities, hospitals, medical centers and other essential institutions in addressing their unique broadband connection

needs and challenges.

“As effects from the COVID-19 pandemic continue to impact our customers and communities, a fast and reliable internet connection is essential for staying in touch with family, friends, school and work,” said Julie Laulis, President and CEO. “We remain steadfast in standing by our company promise of keeping our customers and communities connected to what matters most during these difficult times.”

For more information, call 877-692-2253.



Board of Aldermen announce drainage grant, \$4M from Legislature

By Lindy Sholes

The Long Beach Board of Aldermen met on June 16, and again on July 7.

At the June 16 meeting, the Board considered a request from the Gulf Coast Heritage Rose Society to hold its First Annual Heritage Rose Festival at the Town Green on September 19, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Based on the letter submitted to the Board, the mission of the Society is to educate the public on antique roses, and the event is expected to include horticultural vendors, concession, music, crafts and gardening lectures. The festival will be free and open to the public, and visitors will learn about the characteristics, history, and cultivation of the roses. The aim of the event will be to encourage the cultivation of these roses in private residents as well as public locations. As of now, Beauvoir is the only place that has a heritage rose garden on the Coast.

Also during the meeting, it was noted that the City received a grant to take care of drainage in Old Savannah and Red Gate within eighteen to twenty-four months. It was noted that flooding wasn't as bad in recent storms as it has been in the past.

A public hearing will be held at the

regular meeting on August 18 to approve the budget for 2021.

The City is looking at purchasing three seven hundred dollar ozone machines to sanitize buildings and vehicles. Ozone machines can help ensure citizens coming to use City properties that every step to ensure cleanliness and health has been taken.

At the July 7 meeting, the Board approved a request to waive fees for the Kiwanis Club of Long Beach, along with other Kiwanis Clubs in Harrison County, to use the Long Beach Community Center for a pancake breakfast and pizza lunch in appreciation for Harrison County healthcare workers, first responders and grocery workers. The event will be Saturday, September 19, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Long Beach School District budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year was approved at \$6,176,062.65. Last year's budget was \$6,088,770.

There was discussion of making masks mandatory for businesses in Long Beach, but no action was taken.

The Mayor announced that Representative Richard Bennett secured \$2 million for downtown revitalization and \$2 million in funding for the Quarles House renovation.

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cont. from page 1

Long Beach School District leaders release reopening plans for fall

navigate two major issues. That's the coronavirus spread and the opening of a newly constructed Long Beach High in 2020.

"I worry that the Class of 2021 will not get the same class bonding opportunities, such as Homecoming, the senior run, or even football games, as other senior classes have had," Hicks said. The LBH senior hopes students strictly follow safety procedures.

Student body president Lauren Bennett, 17, looks forward to making new memories with teammates and classmates no matter what comes.

"Every upcoming senior athlete and student will be faced with adversity, but I believe it will truly make us stronger and better people," says the Lady Bearcats soccer team captain and tennis player. "I can't change the situation we are in. But I can control my attitude and how I approach the new challenges ahead."

Staying positive, Bennett says she is thankful to reunite with friends on campus in early August "regardless of our predicament. I love my school and love the people within it even more!"

Opening a new school year amid a pandemic poses major challenges at schools nationwide. It's no different for Long Beach School District leaders, who voted unanimously to approve the LBSD Re-Opening Plan on July 2.

Classes in Long Beach public schools begin August 6. As a measure to prevent virus spread, protective face masks are strongly recommended for students and staff. Each student will have his/her temperature checked daily by school staff. Distance learning options by semester will be provided to students unable to attend classes due to documented health concerns, but distance learners will not be allowed to participate in athletic or other extracurricular activities.

Among other steps, students in grades K-6 will be self-contained, while Long Beach students in grades 7-12 will have traditional schedules. Class changes in middle school and high school will be staggered to minimize crowding. Officials will also ensure that hallway movement is the same direction whenever possible.

In addition, staff will ensure that all classrooms, bathrooms, cafeterias, and all high traffic areas on campus are routinely cleaned and sanitized during the school day.

Other measures to reduce crowd size is to ban all large gatherings, including assemblies and back-to-back

school nights. Athletic and activity events such as choir will follow policies of the Mississippi High School Activities Association. Field trips are prohibited.

Parent/teacher conferences will be held by phone or video conference.

In designing the reopening plan, the Long Beach School Board looked into guidance from the Department of Education, the Mississippi Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control.

Long Beach Schools Superintendent Dr. Jay Smith noted any re-start plan is "subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances, executive orders, and local ordinances" tied to the pandemic.

Dr. Smith points out it is "an impossibility" to produce a plan answering questions to every situation.

The plan also regulates campus visits by Long Beach parents and others. They must wear face coverings while in the front office and will not be allowed to proceed beyond the front office area.

Classrooms, playgrounds and cafeterias are off limits for anyone other than school personnel and students.

Another key component deals with transportation. LBSD officials encourage parents to transport their children to and from school. Social distancing will be the norm on school buses, as is mask-wearing for students and bus drivers. The district will not provide transportation to or from any daycare facility or military base outside the school district limits or for any student who resides one mile or less from the school the child is attending.

Among other key aspects: students testing positive for COVID-19 must not attend school for fourteen days following a positive test result, and may not attend classes while waiting for a test result, and the same holds true for employees testing positive.

While, at the time the district's re-opening of school statement was published, face masks are recommended but not required inside the school buildings, the district strongly recommend that all parents provide and be prepared for students to wear a mask or appropriate face covering while at school.

Gov. Tate Reeves and other state leaders say it's important for Mississippi students to return to school in August, but they must adhere to safety plans.

For more information about the Long Beach School District and to read their reopening plan, visit www.lbsdk12.com.



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Lauren Bennett



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Some facilities open, others remain closed during pandemic

Special to Long Beach Breeze

During the pandemic, City buildings are in various states of accessibility for area residents.

Long Beach City Hall is open, but visitors must wear a mask to enter the building and follow the recommended CDC guidelines. Visitors are asked to pay attention to posted signs on the doors when entering City Hall for directions.

The lobby of the Long Beach Police Department is closed. Those who need to reach the police department are asked to call the station at 228-863-7292 and refrain from using call dispatch for information. Call dispatch is a 911 emergency line.

Long Beach Fire Department lobbies are closed. To get a burn permit or for an appointment, residents can call the station at 228.864-8451.

The Public Works office is closed to the public, but residents can call the Public Works office at 228-863-0440 to report any problems or requests. Public Works' office hours are 7 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., but someone will be on call after hours, in case an emergency arises.

The Long Beach Senior Activity Center is open following CDC guidelines, including conducting temperature checks for patrons and contingent on patrons wearing face masks.

City parks, the dog park and the splash pad are all open, although residents are reminded that outdoor facilities are shared and cannot be sanitized in between use.

Long Beach Municipal Court will still be holding court as usual. No court dates have been postponed or canceled at this time, but procedures have changed to accommodate the pandemic.

Upon arriving for a scheduled court docket, defendants will check in with one of the clerks outside the North entrance to the courtroom. Only people with immediate and direct business with the court will be allowed into the courtroom. Friends and family members will not be admitted into the courtroom. Defendants must wear a mask that covers mouth and nose while in the courtroom.

In order to comply with social distancing and to maintain a six-foot distance between individuals, defendants will form a line outside the courtroom on north side of City Hall on marked spaces. Individuals will be called in one at a time to see the judge.

Those needing to file a Petition for Domestic Abuse Protection Order can contact the court at 228-865-7840, ext. 6959.

Options to make payments include

sending the payment using the drop box, paying online, or paying by phone.

To drop off payment, put the check or money order in an envelope marked "Court," then place it in the Water Department's drop box that is located in

Defendants making online or phone payments will need to have their citation number and court date information.

Anyone with any symptoms that may be related to COVID-19, such as a temperature of 100.4 or higher, experiencing a cough, shortness of breath or sore throat, should contact the court for further instructions. The court can be reached at 228-865-7840, ext. 6959.

The Library is again closed to the public to help reduce the number of COVID-19 cases in the area. However, the staff is still working and available for curb-side services. Patrons may call the library to request up to five items. There will be no late fines charged for the foreseeable future.

Residents are asked to call the library for more information or to make their requests, and items on hold can still be picked up. Patrons can simply call the library upon arrival at 228-863-0711, and items will be brought out. Items to be returned can be put in the outside book drop. Patrons may also come by to drop off or pick up Summer Reading information or packets.

Residents are encouraged to stay up to date on City services and lobby status by visiting the City's website at www.CityOfLongBeachMS.info.

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Local BSA Scout Troop backpacks across Continental Divide on Colorado Trail



Special to The Long Beach Breeze

Local scouts who participated in a backpacking trek across the Continental Divide on the Colorado Trail included (l to r): Lucas Santiago, Seth Santiago, Tristyn Capps, Jake Smagur, Brayden Dominick, Dax Blanchard, Addison Carroll, Camden Torgesen, Jonathan Potts, Justin Elliott, Chase Cockrell, Isaiah Strehle, Ty Green, Austin Barker, Breton Guice, Hayden Sonnier, Colin Christensen, Ephraim Mills, Landyn Lansdale, Bailey Morgan and Christopher Spicer. Leaders included Doug Capps, Chris Dominick, Wordie Carroll, Terry Togstad and Marcia Rogers. Leaders not pictured include Jamie and Tommy Carroll, James Saul, Perry Strehle and Donnie Carroll.

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Boy Scouts of America Troop 321 from Long Beach, along with friends and family from Troop 211 of Ocean Springs and Troop 97 of Sumrall, recently completed a high adventure backpacking trek across the Continental Divide on the Colorado Trail. The scouts were joined on the trail by Michael Roytek, a photographer of Boys' Life, the national magazine for Boy Scouts of America.

The young men have been training together before and after quarantine - and on their own during quarantine - in order to be prepared for their memorable hike. The participating scouts hailed from Long Beach, Diamondhead, Gulfport, Biloxi, Ocean Springs, Poplarville and San Antonio, Texas, and range in age from eleven to seventeen.

To be well prepared and physically conditioned for the demanding task, the scouts backpacked in parking garages, in nearby parks, on the sea wall in Bay St. Louis and on trails such as the Tuxachanie Trail and Black Creek Trails. Techniques and gear needed for the trek were developed over the last year-and-a-half of the troop's existence and included backpacking, meal preparation and water filtration for getting water while hiking on the trail.

While hiking across the Continental Divide, scouts melted snow to supplement their water supply, camped under the Milky Way, and chased away a bear that wan-

dered into their camp during one of the nights on the trail. Each day on the trail brought new surprises, from grand vistas to tunnels through what looked like tropical foliage. The scouts hiked across snowdrifts and explored creeks and ponds created by beavers.

Roytek documented the journey, often capturing scouts doing things that they would be naturally doing, such as exploring a beaver site or melting snow. Occasionally during portions of the trek and during breaks, Roytek would have the scouts re-do a certain segment of the hike or would have them pose in a certain position in order to capture a specific thing that would best emulate "what scouts do." In addition to the still photography and video that were captured, he also set up in a few settings to do interviews with leaders and scouts. In addition, he had a drone that he flew in a few settings to capture the scouts as they did certain things, including crossing a creek and hiking up the summit to the Divide.

Scouts completed a forty-one-mile hike through the Rocky Mountains of the Colorado wilderness, including climbing an 1,800' summit for a maximum elevation of 11,876' as they crossed the Divide.

A separate adventure was created for the younger scouts and scouts not able to tackle the Divide, allowing scouts to participate at the beginning and end of the trail but also to do some cave exploring and local hiking. For all scouts involved, the adventure taught self-reliance and built confidence in their growth and maturation.



Special to The Long Beach Breeze

Scouts from Troops 321, 211 and 97 hiking through snow drifts crossing the trail as they hike Segment 6 of the Colorado Trail.



Special to The Long Beach Breeze

Michael Roytek, a photographer of Boys' Life, the national magazine for the Boy Scouts of America, traveled with Scouts BSA troops as they backpacked across the Continental Divide on the Colorado Trail, capturing their adventure and daily activities.



Special to The Long Beach Breeze

Eagle Scout Seth Santiago is pictured preparing to capture mountain vistas with photographs, while his cousin, First Class Scout Addison Carroll, takes a break as the scouts backpack through Jefferson Valley on the Colorado Trail. Scouts from three different troops from South Mississippi hiked across the Continental Divide on Segment 6 of the Colorado Trail.



Special to The Long Beach Breeze

Scouts not yet ready to travel the full forty-one miles and climb the 1,800' elevation under heavy load were given the opportunity to have their own adventure going cave exploring and doing local hikes in the Colorado Springs area, as well as participate on a portion of the big trek with the other scouts. Pictured exploring in Cave of the Winds in Colorado Springs are the scouts who hiked the Jefferson Valley portion of the trek, where they carried their own camping and sleeping gear. Pictured (l to r) are Terry Togstad, Landyn Lansdale, Brayden Dominick, Chris Dominick, Christopher Spicer and Marcia Rogers.

USM cancels commencement ceremonies

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The University of Southern Mississippi recently announced that USM will not be able to host Commencement ceremonies that were tentatively rescheduled for August, citing public health officials' significant concern for spikes in cases of COVID-19 across the state and strongly advising against large gatherings.

In an official statement, the university said, "We understand that Commencement is among the most treasured traditions for our graduating students and their families, and we remain committed to welcoming all Class of 2020 graduates as participants in the next Commencement ceremonies we are able to host in person. Specific information regarding next steps has been sent to graduates via email and may be accessed

online."

"We extend our sincere apologies to our Class of 2020, and we share in the disappointment of this difficult decision, but we are concerned about the elevated risk associated with the size of our graduating class and guests gathering in one location."

The university said that the difficulty in predicting the status of evolving public health guidelines may result in changes to plans for Commencement ceremonies currently scheduled for December,



as well. University officials are continuing to monitor all applicable public health guidance and will communicate a final decision regarding December ceremonies by September 15.

The USM Fall 2020 academic calendar has been condensed to minimize student travel to help prevent the potential spread of COVID-19.

The new calendar calls for classes to begin on Monday, August 17. The two days formerly scheduled as fall break will be regular class

meeting days.

The last day of instruction for the semester will be Monday, November 23, followed by a reading day on Tuesday, November 24.

Final exams will be held online the week of November 30 for the majority of classes.

The modified fall calendar is one part of a comprehensive strategy the University is developing and implementing to help ensure a successful academic year for students, faculty and staff. Additional health protocols and procedures will be implemented in the fall, following ongoing consultation with public health officials and forthcoming guidance from the IHL Safe Start Task Force.

The USM Fall 2020 academic calendar can be viewed online at <https://bit.ly/30t0gOR>. Commencement information can be found at <https://bit.ly/2B3FbjX>.

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8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship In-Person (reservation required @ 228-863-9619). live-streamed on Facebook.
11:00 a.m. The Well service In-Person in the Christian Life Center (reservation is required @ 228-863-9619). live-streamed on Facebook.
6:30 p.m. Worship Under the Oaks in Front of Moore Hall.
Masks are required at all services. We will have masks available.

Seeking to Love, Live, and Serve Like Jesus in Our Community

Long Beach once again lauded for patriotism

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach is the winner of the Most Patriotic City of Mississippi Award for the second year in a row. Insurify recently recognized the communities that

members.

“Every day, military personnel put their lives and safety at risk for the protection of our country” said Snejina Zacharia,



are home to the most veterans and active service members in each state. The company’s data science and research team analyzed their database of over two million insurance applications to determine where in each state has the highest percentage of current and former service

CEO of Insurify. “This award is about recognizing the love and sacrifice of the once and current service members who bring pride to these communities.”

For a full list of 2020 Award winners, go to insurify.com/insights/2020-most-patriotic-cities-award.

Long Beach businesses receive grants

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, Inc. recently announced the recipients of the Gulfport, Biloxi, Long Beach and Pass Christian Chambers of Commerce small business grant awards, which total \$35,225. Small busi-

ness grants are a membership benefit offered by each city Chamber division. development and expansion. This year, divisions are providing more than ever to help boost these businesses during such unprecedented times.

Long Beach businesses who were awarded grants include Beach Dawgs, RE/MAX Along the Way, Southern Earth Sciences, Inc., Southern Living

Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, Inc.



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ness grants are a membership benefit offered by each city Chamber division.

More than eighty percent of Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, Inc. members are comprised of small businesses. The small business grant program was instituted to aid these businesses with fifty or fewer employees in

Assistance Services, Twisted Canvas and What’s Your Stitch.

Grants are awarded to those who meet the specific criteria and provide adequate documentation supporting their grant request.

For more information, call the Chamber at 228-604-0014.

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Locals support Long Beach police department

All photos special to The Long Beach Breeze



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Local businesses and residents have been delivering meals to Long Beach police officers. The LBPD says they are overwhelmed by the magnitude of residents' generosity, and the outpouring of love and support has shown the officers how much the community cares about them.

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LBHS construction work continues

All photos by Dom Fimiano



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Construction work continued earlier this month on the Long Beach High School campus. The \$20 million project began in June 2019 and includes upgrading the high school, which was built in 1958. The work was made possible when Long Beach voters passed a bond issue about two years ago. The academic portion of the facility comes in phase one. Phase two is construction of a new gym, an auditorium and thirty-six modern classrooms. The second phase should be completed in August 2021. Pictured are the exterior, the administration building and classrooms.



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****Fast Pace Health recommends that patients who suspect they have COVID-19 (coronavirus) follow CDC guidance and call our nearest clinic for additional advice. Visit online for a full list of clinic locations. If you are experiencing a medical emergency, please dial 9-1-1.**

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Coach Coln leads Long Beach High boys' basketball team

By Andy Kanengiser

When Brandon Cobb stepped away as the Long Beach boys' basketball coach, he left his successor with a pretty solid foundation.

"I think the program is in good hands with Coach Nick Coln," Cobb said.

Departing to take a staff position at his alma mater, St. Stanislaus in Bay St. Louis, Cobb left his Long Beach Bearcats hoops coaching job after two years.

"Coach Coln's got a great group of young men, and I'm sure he will do well," Cobb said. "I wish them the best of luck next season."

Coln brings to the Gulf Coast a dozen years of coaching experience in north Mississippi.

During his twelve years, Coln guided Smithville, Olive Branch and Alcorn Central hoops teams. He served as an assistant basketball coach at Northeast Mississippi Community College.

The former University of Louisiana-Monroe basketball player brings

a 124-153 coaching record to the Gulf Coast from North Mississippi. Last season, Coach Coln was 23-7 with state 1A Smithville and landed a spot in the playoffs.

Brandon Cobb took the Bearcats to a 5A district championship in 2018-19 with an impressive 24-7 record.

Long Beach Superintendent Jay Smith says he is thrilled to bring Coach Coln aboard.

"It is with excitement that the Long Beach School District hires Coach Coln to lead our varsity boys' basketball team."

Coln served the past six years at Smithville.

During his two years at Long Beach, Cobb, a former St. Stanislaus hoops standout, was 33-26 at Long Beach High.

In 5A Region 7, fans of the Maroon & White closed out the 2019-20 regular season February 7 on a positive note. Long Beach defeated Coast rival Bay High 70-53, while hosting Senior Night.



Special to The Long Beach Breeze
Coach Coln

Anderson graduates from West Point

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Cadet Brandon Anderson, son of Michael and Alicia Anderson of Long Beach, graduated from the U.S. Military Academy on Saturday, June 13.

Anderson graduated from Long Beach High School in 2016. While at West Point, he concentrated his studies in Chemical Engineering. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army within the Infantry branch and will report to Fort Benning, Georgia, for his first assignment.



Special to The Long Beach Breeze
Brandon Anderson

The mission of the U.S. Military Academy is to educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the values of duty, honor, country and prepared for a career of professional excellence and service to the nation as an officer in the United States Army.

The U. S. Military Academy at West Point is a four-year, co-educational, federal, liberal arts college located fifty miles north of New York City. It was founded in 1802 as America's first college of engineering.

Special election set for August 4

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The City of Long Beach will be conducting a special election on August 4, 2020, for the Mississippi Power Franchise Renewal.

In-person absentee voting will be available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Municipal City Clerk's office, located in City Hall, at 201 Jeff Davis Avenue. The

Municipal Clerk's office will also be open on Saturday, July 25, as well as Saturday, August 1, from 8 a.m. until noon for absentee voting. The deadline for voting absentee is Saturday, August 1, at noon.

Requests for absentee voting by mail can be made by calling 228-863-1556. All ballots submitted by mail must be received by Monday, August 3, 2020, at 5 p.m.

Library again closed to the public due to COVID-19



Special to Long Beach Breeze

By Guest Columnist Denise L. Saucier

The Long Beach Public Library is again closed to the public to help reduce the number of COVID-19 cases in our area.

However, our dedicated staff is still working and available for curb-side services. Patrons may call the library to request up to five items.

In addition, there will be no late fines charged for the foreseeable future, and items on hold can still be picked up.

Please call the library when you arrive, and items will be brought out to you. Items to be returned can be put in the outside book drop. You may also come by to drop off or pick up Summer Reading information or packets.

Please call the library to make your requests and when you arrive.

Also, with your library patron number, you can log into your account and see what you have checked out, put items on reserve, and renew your items that are able to be renewed. To do this, visit <https://longbeach.biblionix.com/catalog/>.

At the top right, where it says "Log into your account," put your patron number that is on the back of your library card (exclude the "P"), then put in the phone number that we have on file for you.

If you have any questions, or to make a curb-side request, please call us at 228-863-0711. Questions can also be e-mailed to us at LongBeachLibrary@cableone.net.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Denise L. Saucier is the director of the Long Beach Public Library.

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CARES Act includes fishery business assistance

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council met virtually June 15 through 18. During the meeting, the Department of Commerce provided an update on the Federal Fisheries Assistance Package, which is part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Funding for Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas will be administered through the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, while funding for Florida will be administered through the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Commercial, recreational, and for-hire fishery businesses are eligible for assistance if they experienced at least a 35% loss in revenue. Each state is responsible for determining the amount of revenue loss for businesses and for determining spending plans.

The Council heard a summary of comments detailing how COVID-19 has impacted fishing around the Gulf of Mexico. NOAA Fisheries presented the Council with landings data showing a slight decrease in the commercial landings and the price of red snapper, gag, and red grouper since the pandemic started. The decrease in commercial harvest and price are not significantly different from trends from previous years.

Recreational data collection pro-

grams were interrupted by the pandemic in mid-March, April and May in most of the Gulf states; thus, landings estimates are not yet available. The Council decided to wait until its next meeting before providing recommendations on whether to modify management to mitigate impacts from COVID-19.

Also during the meeting, the Council decided to allow a temporary exception to the Council Chairman and Vice Chairman's two-year term limit for the upcoming year, allowing them to serve a third term. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Council business has not been conducted in its normal manner or at its usual pace. The Council said that it would be difficult for a new Chairman and Vice Chairman to take those positions during these irregular circumstances and decided to allow the temporary exception. Election of Council Chairman and Vice Chairman will occur at the August meeting.

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional Fishery Management Councils established by the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. The Council prepares fishery management plans, which are designed to manage fishery resources within the 200-mile limit of the Gulf of Mexico.

For more information about the Council, its programs and the relief efforts, visit www.GulfCouncil.org.

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