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P.O. Box 144, Long Beach, MS 39560

November 23, 2017 • Volume 1, Number 4 • “Good News You Can Use”

# Long Beach School District earns “A” rating

*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

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

According to results released by the Mississippi Department of Education, the Long Beach School District is an “A” rated school district with an overall score of 669.

It was with great excitement that Superintendent Dr. Jay R. Smith announced in a letter to the faculty and staff that all the hard work and dedication to excellence throughout the district had resulted in the district once again earning an “A” rating from the Mississippi Department of Education.

“This year, fifteen school districts statewide received an ‘A’ accreditation level,” said Smith. “Only three districts along the Coast and among the coastal counties received this distinction: Long Beach, Ocean Springs and Biloxi. We congratulate our neighbors for their outstanding performance.”



*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

The A-F grading system is set by state law, and is designed to inform parents and communities how well their schools are educating students. LBSD’s score places the district thirteenth overall among all Mississippi public school districts.

The grading system considers several indicators, including how well students perform on state tests, whether students are showing improvement on those tests from year to year and whether students are graduating on time. The

system also factors in how well schools are helping their lowest achieving students make progress toward proficiency.

In his letter to the district employees, Smith highlighted their strengths:

- High percentage of students scoring Level 4 or Level 5 in both 7th and 8th grade math
- High School ACT scores are the highest in five years
- High School College and Career Readiness points are the second highest in the state

- Grades 3-8 ranked second among the coast in the percentage of students scoring Level 4 or Level 5

- Both the Middle and the High School continue to rank among the top schools in the state

- Percentage of students scoring Level 4 or Level 5 at Quarles, Reeves and McCaughan increased in all subject areas from 2016-2017

- High school “growth” in the areas of English II and Algebra I was strongly evident

- Percentage of students scoring proficient and advanced in Biology I increased

While acknowledging the district is diligently striving together to improve identified weaknesses, Smith is confident the district will maintain their strengths and continue to build on those.

**Related guest column:**

**“Understanding recent elementary school ratings” on page 9.**

# Sail-A-Bratton kicks off holidays on Sat., Dec. 2

*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

The Long Beach Community Development Association (LBC-DA), a division of Main Street, will host the Sea Santa Sail-A-Bratton on Saturday, December 2, to help kick off the holiday season.

The highlight of the event will be the annual “waterless” boat parade, a unique event that draws boat owners not only from the

local area, but also from other states. Led by the Long Beach High School Band, boats, decorated with holiday themes, will be pulled through the city in a Mardi Gras-style type parade.

City officials, the Harrison County Sheriff’s Department and many others will “float” through the streets. Boats will include private vessels and even the Coast Guard. Santa, on a red tug boat, will bring up the rear and conclude the

parade at the Harper McCaughan Town Green.

Awards for several categories will be given to boat owners at the Town Green during the merriment.

The parade will begin at 5:30 from the Long Beach High stadium. Parade captains will be notified by the Boat Parade Chair the week of the parade regarding what time they and their crew need to report.

Advance registration is required to participate in the parade. The deadline for applications, along with the \$25 registration fee, is November 24. Applications received after this date will be accepted at the sole discretion of the parade committee and will have a \$50 registration fee.

Family activities at the Town Green will begin at 4:30 and will include snow, face painting and

*cont. on page 2*



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# Christmas on the Ave, Santa breakfast Dec. 9

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Children and adults alike can enjoy some holiday festivities and help out the Long Beach Concert Choir simultaneously on Saturday, December 9.

From 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., the Harper McCaughan Town Green will be the site of "Christmas on the Avenue," a holiday event with free admission that promises attendees a large dose of holiday cheer. The event will be complete with arts and crafts, food, performers and demonstrations. Organizers expect between eighty and one hundred vendors with handmade crafts to participate. Food trucks will also be on hand offering barbecue and local food options.

Also that morning, the choir will host a Breakfast with Santa at First United Methodist Church of Long Beach from 8 until 11 a.m. Children are invited to wear their pajamas and take photos with Santa. There will also be a "reindeer feeding" booth. Admission is free, and attendees who would

like to enjoy the pancake breakfast can purchase a ticket onsite to eat. Tickets for adults will be \$5, and children's plates will be \$3.

Local school choirs, including the Long Beach Concert Choir, will be performing during the morning for entertainment at the events.

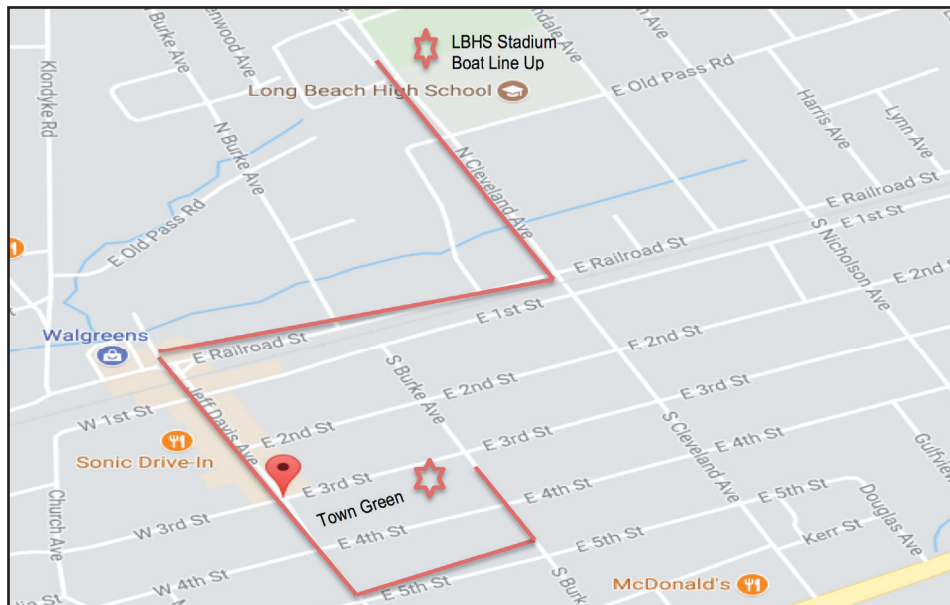
Applications are being accepted for booth space for the annual arts and crafts fair. A 10' x 10' booth space is \$50, with set up taking place from 7 until 9 a.m. that morning, and tear down from 4 until 6 p.m. Booths must be staffed at all times during the event.

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

For more information, visit [www.longbeachconcertchoir.org](http://www.longbeachconcertchoir.org).

cont. from front page

# Sail-A-Bration kicks off holidays on Sat., Dec. 2



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The 2017 Sail-A-Bration will begin at the Long Beach High School stadium and end at the Town Green. It is set for Saturday, December 2.

craft stations. Pictures with Santa and reindeer and the lighting of the Christmas tree will also be held at the Town Green.

Music will fill the air during and after the parade, provided by The Well, the Long Beach Methodist Church Children's Choir,

and the St. Vincent DePaul Elementary School choir.

The holiday event has become a family tradition for children and adults of all ages. For more information, visit: [www.longbeachcda.com](http://www.longbeachcda.com) or call 228-806-7979.

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**Volume 1, Issue 4**  
**Circulation 10,000**

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The Long Beach Breeze is published on the third Thursday of each month in Long Beach, Mississippi.

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# Behind the Wheel “Safe Driving for Life”

By Traci Bonney

“Safe Driving for Life” is more than a tagline on a brochure for Sylvanus and Karen Weathersby; it’s the mission that motivated them to open Behind the Wheel Driving School.

Sylvanus, the school’s driving instructor, said that while living and working in Alpharetta, Georgia, he was seeking what he was supposed to be doing. One day, while driving on Georgia State Route 400, a multilane freeway known to drivers in that area as the Alpharetta Autobahn, Sylvanus found that purpose.

“I was doing about seventy miles per hour,” he said, “when a Maserati and a Porsche blew past me like I was on the side of the road changing a flat tire. They were weaving in and out of traffic, racing each other.

“That’s when I heard God say, ‘Look to your right.’ I did, and I saw a driving school just off the highway. I knew that was it.” Sylvanus became a certified driving instructor and started teaching driving in Alpharetta.

Meanwhile, he and Karen had been vacationing on the Mississippi Gulf Coast; so, when they decided to leave the big city, they moved to Pass Christian. Planning only to rent, they felt instead they were meant to put down roots, so they bought a house and started thinking about what to do next. Sylvanus proposed starting a driving school, and Behind the Wheel was born.

A native of D’lo, Mississippi, with family ties to the Piney Woods School, Sylvanus has lived and worked in larger cities for much of his life, serving in ministry and law enforcement as well as working with troubled youth. His experience serves him well at Behind the Wheel, where he teaches both new and seasoned drivers.

The school offers in-class and

on-the-road driving instruction for both permitted and licensed drivers.

“We work with teen drivers who have just received their permit, older adults who have never driven, and student drivers with special needs, such as ADD and mild autism,” Sylvanus said. “We teach about the importance of self-con-

of the school, said newly permitted drivers spend thirty hours in the Behind the Wheel classroom before setting foot in the school’s instruction vehicle. In-car training time starts at six hours, divided into three sessions. However, if additional time is needed, it is available both as a ten-hour extended session and in hourly increments.

“In Mississippi, the number one method for driver instruction is virtual training,” Sylvanus said. “We don’t operate that way. The best way to learn how to handle a car on the road is to get behind the wheel.”

Unlicensed drivers are not the only students Behind the Wheel serves. The school also offers defensive driving instruction for older drivers who want to sharpen their skills and become eligible for the insurance discounts many carriers offer to drivers of all ages who complete a course.

“Those classes are not just in-room either,” Sylvanus said. “We get each driver behind the wheel, observe and go through a checklist, then offer individualized instruction.”

Classes are offered during

school holidays and in the summer. The next session will start December 27, during the Christmas break for local schools.

Sylvanus and Karen are working on expanding their offerings into partnerships with local public and private schools. He said it is their desire that anyone from Waveland to Biloxi who is in need of driving instruction will contact the school. He added that he and Karen are available to give presentations to schools, civic groups and other organizations.

Behind the Wheel is located in the C.C. Lynch Building on 300 Davis Avenue in Pass Christian. To contact the school, visit the website at [www.BehindTheWheelDrivingSchool.com](http://www.BehindTheWheelDrivingSchool.com) or call toll-free at 833-374-8258.



All photos Special to Long Beach Breeze

ontrol, the legal and financial concerns involved in driving, and the effects of alcohol and other drugs on motorists.”

Humor is one of his teaching tools.

“I have had to stop lessons, not because the student wasn’t listening and obeying instructions, but because the student was frozen with fear. Fear can paralyze you and potentially lead to a life-ending accident. Humor relaxes people and calms them. If you’re laughing, you can’t be mad or scared.”

However, although he uses laughter to relax his pupils, Sylvanus doesn’t lose sight of the importance of the services he and Karen are offering. “This is a life-or-death business,” he stated.

Karen, who runs the business side



## Bicentennial time capsule to be opened on December 10

*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

The Long Beach Class of 1981 is eagerly anticipating the December 10 opening of their Bicentennial time capsule buried on the Long Beach Middle School (formerly Long Beach Junior High) campus in December of 1976.

During the 1976-77 school year, students in Mr. Comeaux's eighth grade Advanced History class worked diligently on the time capsule. He was "big into history," according to his former

years.

"What I think is neat," said Johnson, "is to look at Mr. Reeves' quotes on the future. He was really forward thinking."

Some of Reeves' predictions were sighted in an article for the Gulfport Star Journal on Thursday, December 23, 1976:

- "I do believe, however, that in forty-one years, education as we know it today will be totally restructured. Programs that are unknown today to children of your age will be common."

**The 41-year-old time capsule will be opened on December 10 at 2 p.m. at Long Beach Middle School, located at 204 North Cleveland Avenue.**

students, and the odd number of years set for opening date were chosen in order to coincide with Mississippi's Bicentennial.

"We are excited to open the time capsule and reveal the contents," said class member Angie Johnson. "There is a secret item, too."

All members of the class know what the secret item is, but have kept that secret for forty-one years as part of their attempt to have the largest number of people holding a secret, according to one class member. In addition to the items the class of 1981 put in the time capsule, the classes of 1980 and 1982 were also invited to include items.

The time capsule was dedicated in honor of then-Superintendent Thomas L. "Joe" Reeves for what, at the time, was his twenty-five years of service as the Long Beach School District Superintendent. It includes some notes by Reeves on dreams and expectations for the coming

- "Teachers will be taught whole new methods of instruction. I believe that we will deal more and more with machines – time and knowledge will demand that we depend more on computers to impart knowledge."

- "As we put away the time capsule, we wonder what Long Beach and the Gulf Coast will be like in forty-one years. I believe that it will be a tremendous day for you when the capsule is opened."

Johnson, currently a Long Beach School Board member, and her fellow classmates are working hard to spread the word about the opening of the time capsule on December 10 at 2 p.m. The opening will be followed by a small reception in the school cafeteria.

The public is invited to attend the event. For more information, contact Johnson through the school district's administrative office at 228-864-1146.

## Bearcats basketball supports Long Beach Food Pantry

*By Andy Kanengiser*

Long Beach's Community Food Pantry received a helping hand from Bearcats basketball players, coaches and fans.

Late last month, Long Beach High boys and girls basketball players were delighted to drop off

tian, Kiln and Delisle on the Gulf Coast. The mission of the pantry is to provide food to needy and homeless families in the area.

Richard Fairchild of the Long Beach Community Food Pantry said he was delighted to accept the food donations. He thanked



*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

Long Beach High hoops players and coaches recently donated food items to the Long Beach Community Food Pantry. Pictured (l to r) are Rebecca Nielson, Aniya Gray, Kenyah Lacour, Lady Bearcats basketball coach Jed Kanengiser, Long Beach School Board member Andrea Cook, Lakisha Lacour, Dalton Cook and Richard Fairchild of the Long Beach Community Food Pantry.

hundreds of items at the pantry on Johnson Road. The food resulted from the October 23 Bearcat Madness scrimmages, shooting contests, music and other fun activities at the school gym to launch the Long Beach High hoops season.

With Thanksgiving nearing, the outpouring of food baskets is much-needed at a pantry serving up to thirty families per day, says Lady Bearcats head basketball coach Jed Kanengiser.

"We hope to do this again next year to help the less fortunate in our community," said Kanengiser.

Last year, an estimated 6,700 to 7,000 people enjoyed meals served by pantry volunteers. Many of the recipients are senior citizens living in Long Beach, Pass Chris-

the basketball players, coaches and administration from Long Beach High for their strong support.

Food is frequently donated at drives at Long Beach schools, local churches, the Boy Scouts and other organizations in the Harrison County community. The Long Beach Community Food Pantry remains open Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 21255 Johnson Road.

Sid Wedgeworth, the pantry's president, always welcomes support from volunteers and financial assistance to the non-profit in Long Beach.

For more information on the Long Beach Community Food Pantry, call 228-547-6941.

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# Barktober Fest brings out furry friends

The Long Beach Town Green was recently the site of Barktober Fest, a family-friendly event that had activities for both two- and four-legged participants, including a Howl-O-Ween Pet Parade and Costume Contest.



Remy the peacock and pet parent Greg Childers were among the many Long Beach families who attended Barktober Fest last month at the city's Town Green



Roscoe the Barker doing time in the City Jail near the F.E.T.C.H. Park booth.



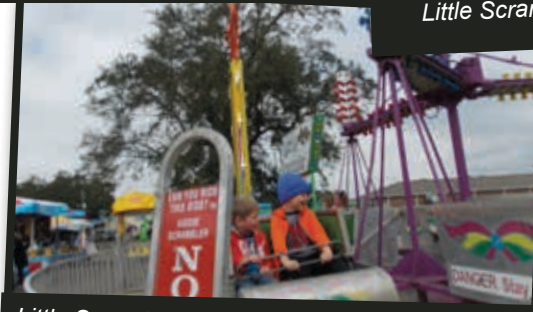
Hurricane Creek Fiber Arts owner and artist Adrienne Powers prepares her loom to weave a six-foot scarf during the Barktober Fest fair.



Little Scramblers riders Avlyne (left) and Lily



The Malone family - Elizabeth, Vivi, Joey, Storm, Jerry and Teresa - swept the Barktober Fest costume contest with their depictions of a family of Victorian vampires. Vivi, Storm and Jerry each won their age divisions.



Little Scramblers riders Kaisen (left) and Atarius



Pony rides were among the attractions for children attending.

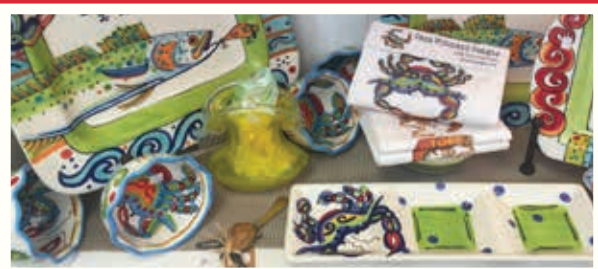
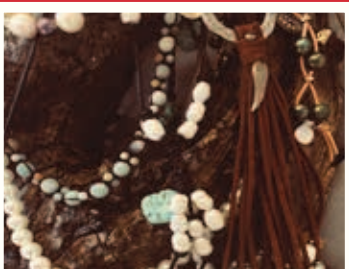
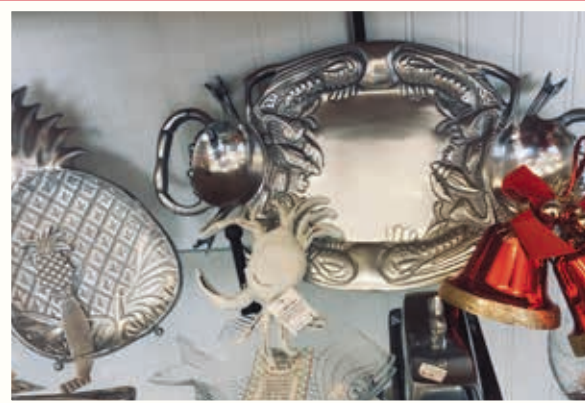
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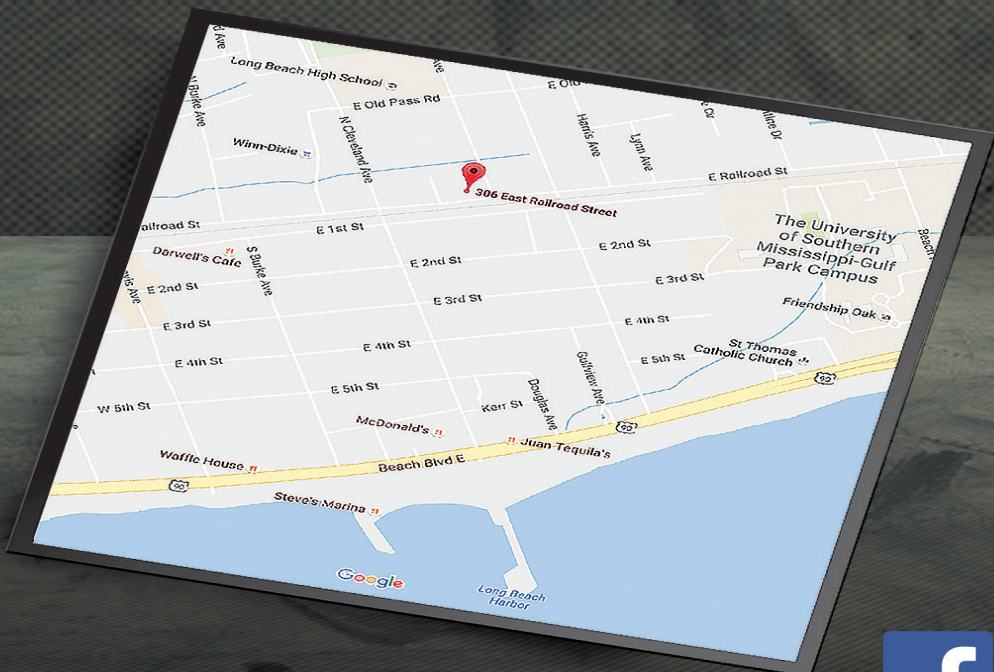


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# Long Beach High celebrates HC, crowns Queen



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach High School 2017 Homecoming Court included (l to r): Belle Carter, Allie Dubuisson, Janiya McDonald, Jessica Besnard, Jillian Johnson, Rachel Williams, Danielle (Dani) Nash, Ebonee Dawson, Emma Mauffray, Jolee Johnson and Macy Barkum-Robinson.

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach schools celebrated Homecoming this year with the theme "Under the Harvest Moon," honoring the classes of 1977, '87, '97 and '07 on their floats. Students celebrated throughout the week with daily themes of Monday Movie Day; Tie Dye Tuesday; Athletes vs. Mathletes; Throwback Thurs-

day and Friday Spirit Day.

This year's annual Homecoming parade was celebrated at night for the first time, and culminated in a community pep rally on the town green led by the Long Beach High School (LBHS) award-winning band, dance team and cheerleaders.

Homecoming festivities continued on Friday night with the presentation of the court



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Homecoming Queen Rachel Williams (center) pictured with Superintendent Dr. Jay Smith, her father Chip Williams, her mother Vicki Williams and LBHS Principal Larry Ramsey.

and crowning of the 2017 Homecoming Queen, Rachel Williams. Maids for 2017 were freshmen Belle Carter and Macy Barkum-Robinson; sophomores Allie Dubuisson and Jolee Johnson; juniors Emma Mauffray and Janiya McDonald and seniors Jessica Besnard, Ebonee Dawson, Jillian Johnson and Danielle (Dani) Nash.

Following the court presentation and crowning, the Bearcats took on West Harrison for their Homecoming game, handily defeating the Hurricanes 56-28. Homecoming Week festivities culminated on Saturday evening as Long Beach High School students celebrated with their annual Homecoming dance at the LBHS gym.



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# Long Beach salutes veterans with parade, celebration

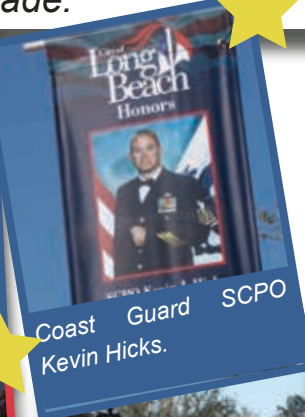
The City of Long Beach and the Carnival Association of Long Beach recognized Long Beach residents and family members who are serving and area veterans who have served or gave their life for the country in the United States Armed Forces. In addition to displaying banners honoring the veterans, they also held a parade and a celebration on the town green. Attendees were invited to decorate and sign cards for troops, and a concert was held following the parade.



Air Force veteran Col. Bernard Podlin, with his grandchildren, Gabriel and Annaliese.



SeaBees float.



Coast Guard SCPO Kevin Hicks.



The Long Beach Middle School choir sang at the event.



All photos by Traci Bonney

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# Understanding the recent elementary school ratings

By The Parents' Campaign Executive Director Nancy Loomer

If your lower elementary school's rating is not what you think it should be, I might have an explanation for you: its rating is based on test scores from another school.

from fourth graders - two or three years after those students have left the lower elementary school. This causes serious heartburn for lower elementary educators who find their schools rated based on teaching over which they have no control.

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The feds require that all schools be rated. Mississippi's state accountability testing begins in grade three. That creates a challenge when it comes to rating lower elementary schools that have no tested grades (i.e., K-1 or K-2 schools).

Mississippi's accountability model assigns ratings for lower elementary schools without a tested grade using the test scores of the students in the next highest tested grade who attended the lower elementary school and are still in the district. Put more simply, they get their scores from the performance of their students after those students go on to the next school and are tested in grades three and four.

Elementary schools are graded on two primary factors:

1. Proficiency (how much students know, or how well they score on the test), and
2. Academic growth (how much students have learned from one year to the next as measured by state tests).

Proficiency scores for K-1 and K-2 schools come from third-graders in the next school, and academic growth scores come

It's worth noting that the teacher incentive bonuses that were passed by the Legislature are based on school ratings.

Of particular concern is the fact that academic growth from grade three to grade four in English Language Arts is especially low statewide this year. Academic growth counts for 400 of the total possible 700 points for elementary schools, putting K-2 schools at a serious disadvantage. Certainly, the quality of the teaching in kindergarten, first, and second grades has an impact on proficiency in grade three. It's harder to make the argument that the quality of teaching that occurred several years back affects academic growth from grade three to grade four.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The Parents' Campaign was founded by public school parents in 2006 to provide parents information about legislative initiatives concerning their children's education and to give parents, educators, community and business leaders and other public school supporters a way to participate in decisions that affect public schools.*

# City Council appoints new new Library Board Member

By Traci Bonney

At its November 7 regular meeting, the Long Beach City Council approved the appointment of Jessica Herr to the Library Board to fill the expired term of Mary Freeman.



Photo by Traci Bonney

Jessica Herr was recently appointed to the Long Beach Library Board.

For Herr, the position is a coming home of sorts. "My first job was with the Long Beach Library," she said after the Council meeting.

Herr's appointment came after the City spent several months soliciting potential candidates for the volunteer position. The Mayor and Aldermen had been reaching out since July to local residents they thought might be interested in serving on the Board, but were not receiving the response they had hoped to garner. When the City published a social media post requesting help in filling the position, Herr responded.

Her appointment allows the Library Board to continue to function, which is required by state law in order for the City to hire a replacement for library director Jeannie Ripoll, whose retirement is effective November 30.

Currently, Herr is History Office Coordinator at Stennis Space Center. As coordinator, she collects historically significant documents and artifacts, responds to research requests, conducts oral histo-

ry interviews, and performs a number of other tasks and processes that support the History Office.

Prior to her current position, Herr worked at city and county libraries in other parts of Mississippi, including Pass Christian, taught computer applications at a learning center in Biloxi, interned at the library of the New Orleans Museum of Art, wrote grants and created lesson plans for Lynn Meadows Discovery Center, and handled campus to campus book loans for the Long Beach campus of the University of Southern Mississippi. She also wrote freelance articles for *The Sun Herald*.

But for Herr, the road to the Library Board started in the very facility the Board governs. For two years, while attending USM, she worked as a reference assistant and technology assistant at the Long Beach Public Library, assisting patrons with use of the public computers, answering their reference questions and advising readers concerning other library matters.

"I am excited to be appointed to the Library Board," Herr stated. "I have almost twenty years in public libraries and have done pretty much every job there is to do in a library, so I know how libraries work on both sides of the desk. I look forward to working with the library staff, the city, the other board members and the citizens of Long Beach to help make the library the best it can be. With the search and eventual hiring of a new director, I know there are exciting times ahead."

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longbeachbreeze

# Bearcat Madness kicks off basketball season

By Andy Kanengiser

Bearcat Madness attracted big crowds to launch the 2017-18 basketball season at Long Beach High.

The school's gym was packed with fans on October 23 for a series of spirited hoops scrimmages. Door prizes, lively music from the pep band, dance squad performances and shooting contests made it an event-filled Monday evening for all attendees.

Lasting two hours, the second annual event also raised hundreds of dollars for the Long Beach High boys' and girls' basketball teams. In addition, fans dropped off hundreds of canned food items to supply the Long Beach food pantry.

Putting players in front of hundreds of fans as seconds ticked away on the game clock, "it gave insight to what our teams will look like this year," said Lady Bearcats head basketball coach Jed Kanengiser.

Organizers say Bearcat Mad-

ness was simply a good way to fire up the fan base and spark momentum for Maroon and White hoops programs as a new season begins. Head football coach and Long Beach High Athletic Director Forrest Williams got things started with remarks to the crowd.

"It was another successful event," Coach Kanengiser said. "It was a great pep rally to build excitement heading into our winter sports season."

Many door prizes were handed out to fans, while the silent auction outside the gym generated money for both teams.

Staffers from the University of Southern Mississippi, William Carey University and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College took turns tossing T-shirts to the crowd. Fans showcased their basketball skills in a three-point Bearcat Madness shooting contest. Adding to the night's excitement on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, a ninth grader drilled a half-court shot to win \$50.



All photos by Andy Kanengiser

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# Retiring librarian leaves her mark on Long Beach

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn,  
Long Beach Public Library

November is a month in which we all pause to reflect the things for which we are truly thankful. In this column, the staff would like to take this opportunity to do just that. At the end of this month, a woman who has helped shape the Long Beach Public Library into the friendly environment that you walk into each time you visit will be retiring after thirty-six years.

She is no stereotypical librarian. She has been known to break into song at the mention of a phrase that reminds her of that song. She has worked

behind the front desk, upstairs in reference, in the back office, and in every nook and cranny over the years. She started out as a volunteer and was hired permanently in 1981, when she worked as a clerk at the front desk. However, she has also been the children's librarian when the children's department was just a crowded corner of the library and when songs were played on records. She was the reference librarian before the birth of search engines, and she became our director when the former director retired. She has seen patrons move, grow up, get married, give birth, go through tough times, and pass on.

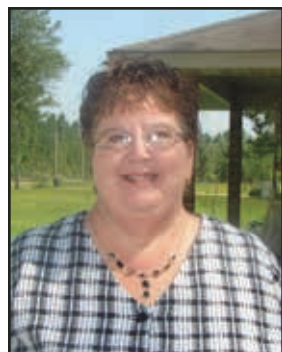
When Hurricane Katrina powered through and did her damage to our area and our library, she was here to help us regroup, restock and rebuild. It was a dark time for many of our patrons and staff, some who had lost loved ones and everything they owned all in

one blow, and she cried for and with each one of them as they told their tales because they were and are a part of the library's family. Because of that determination, Long Beach Public Library was able to get back to working order just so that they could have some kind of normalcy back to their lives.

In 1981, when Jeannie Ripoll came on board as a staff member at the library, there were no computers in the library. There was no Internet, email, Wi-Fi, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or other social media. There were no cell phones, DVDs, CDs or MP3s. There was no fax machine, no copy machine and no printer. However, there were BOOKS, and she memorized the collections like one would their favorite baseball cards. This was back when patrons would call the local library to help settle a friendly bet amongst friends, because one could not "just Google it." This is a lady who could

find something in a book faster than Google could predict your text in a search bar. She still can. She can also remember titles of children's books published twenty years ago just by describing the cover or a character in the book.

As we look around the library, we see her insight into how this library has been shaped to better serve our patrons. Times change, and a library is an ever-changing facility. However, thanks to her, our staff has learned to appreciate the value of their patrons and worked harder to fulfill their needs. So, this November, we will be thankful to have worked alongside such an amazing person. We will miss her presence at the library. On a personal note, I am thankful that several years ago, she felt I would be able to fill her shoes as the children's librarian. The card read, "I know you can do it!" Well, Jeannie, you have earned this. I know you can do it, too.



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Jeannie Ripoll, retiring Long Beach librarian

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9am BARRE-FIT	8:45am AQUA AEROBICS	9am ALL AROUND FITNESS	8:45 AQUA AEROBICS	9am ZUMBA
10am ARTHRITIS AQUA	9am PILATES	10am ARTHRITIS AQUA	9am PILATES	10am RESTORATIVE YOGA
10:15am SILVERSNEAKERS	10am ARTHRITIS AQUA	10:15 SILVERSNEAKERS	10am ARTHRITIS AQUA	10AM ARTHRITIS AQUA
5:15pm YOGA FLOW	5:15pm RESTORATIVE YOGA	5:15pm YOGA	5:30pm SPIN	
6:15pm ZUMBA	5:30pm SPIN	6:15pm ZUMBA	6:15pm BOOTCAMP & ABS	
	6:15pm BOOTCAMP & ABS			
				SATURDAY
				8:30am BARRE-FIT

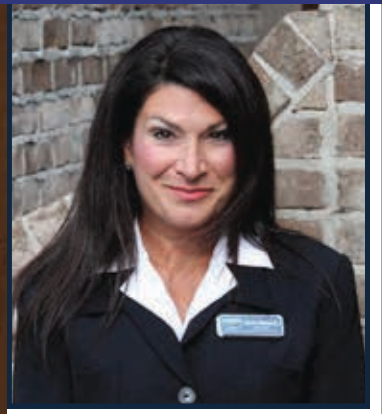
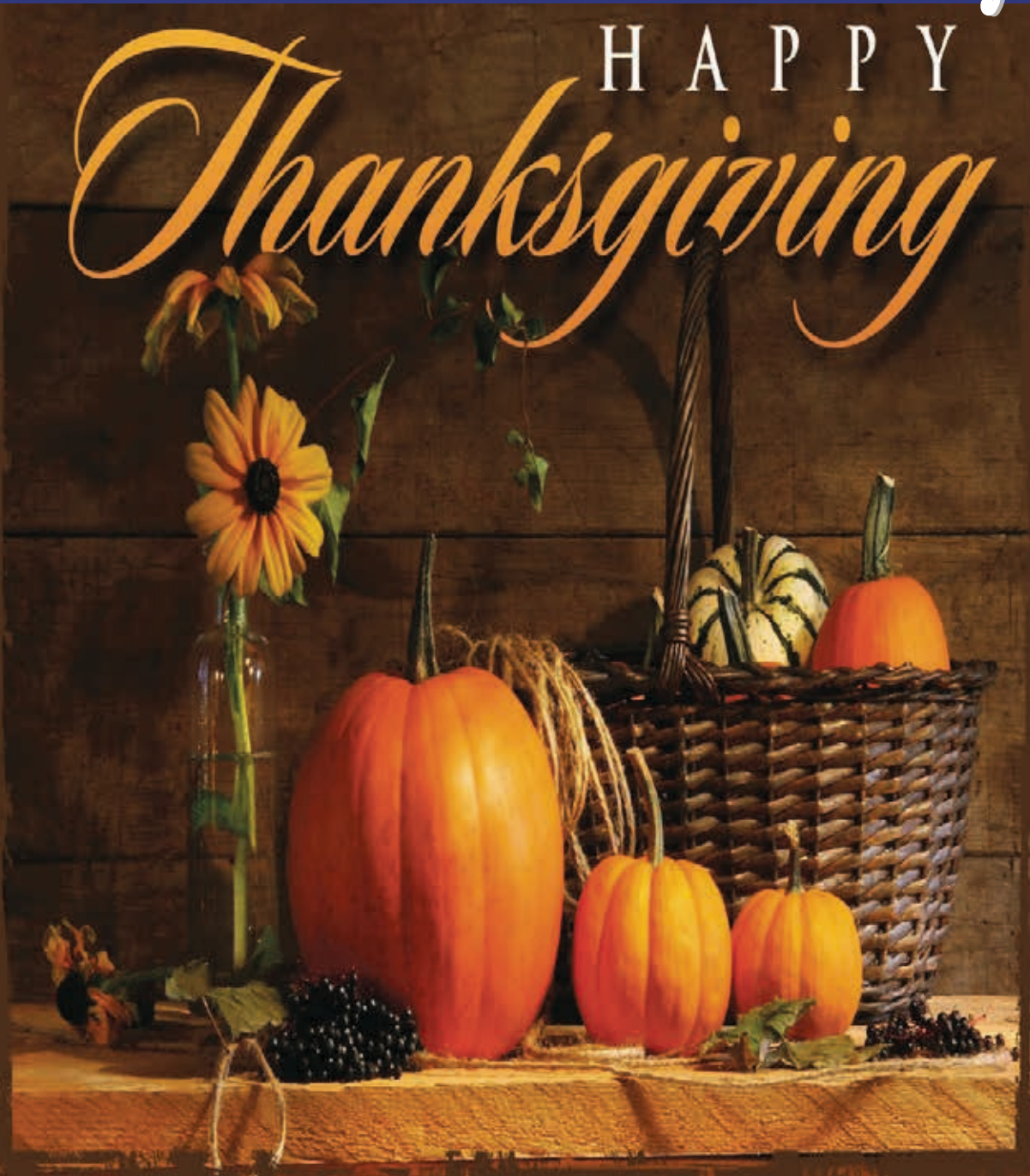
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# Small Business Saturday encourages shopping local

Special to Long Beach Breeze

For communities to thrive, small businesses have to thrive. In 2010, American Express founded Small Business Saturday to encourage communities to shop locally and support small businesses. Organizers see it as a way to help small businesses get more customers through their doors, and it takes place each year on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

“Small Business Saturday is about more than just shopping at local stores,” said Long Beach Community Affairs Director Jenny Levens. “It’s about celebrating and sharing the small businesses that are part of our everyday lives, from the corner stores to restaurants to our local boutiques. They’re the place we call our own and can’t

imagine living without them.”

“It’s these businesses - and the people behind them - that make our communities unique. When our small businesses succeed, we all do.”

Small Business Saturday Event Kits have been passed out to local businesses throughout Long Beach. Residents are encouraged to Shop Small, Shop Local, Shop Long Beach on November 25, as well as throughout the holiday season.

Residents are asked to share their Small Business Saturday pictures on Facebook by tagging City of Long Beach Mayor’s Office, #39560 #locallylongbeach.



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## Library thankful for patrons

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn

With Thanksgiving just a knock on the door away, it is a time to reach out to those who are so supportive of us during the year and show our gratitude. Our staff has been blessed this year with the encouragement of a wonderful community, our Friends group, and so many wonderful parents and grandparents who help out



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Dozens of local preschoolers enjoyed trick-or-treating around the city with the library's annual event.

in any way they can. If we don't thank you enough, we want to do so now. It means more than you know. You are why we are here.

We also want to say "Thanks!" to those who participated in the preschool trick-or-treating this year. Our route was the longest journey on which we have ever been, and I would like to thank the owners and staff of all of the participating businesses as well as the City departments for their support this year during our yearly preschool trick-or-treating. The kids had so much fun this year. You are all amazing!

The Barnes and Noble Book Drive was a huge success! Thanks to all who donated to the libraries. We have already seen some of the

book donations coming in. Yay!

The Long Beach Garden Club has a new display in the display case. The theme is "Create Your Own Fairy Garden," and it is centered on succulent plants. They also generously donated a few plants that are on display at the library, as well. Please stop by and see them.

Congratulations to Gloria McCaleb, who won the gift basket from the Friends of the Long Beach

Public Library! Thank you for being such a great friend to your library!

On December 5 at 10 a.m., during the next Preschool Parent's Coffee Break, our special visitor is someone who likes candy canes, and reindeer and the North Pole, and...have you figured it out yet?

Don't forget that preschool story time is always held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. and is geared towards preschool-aged children. A complete list and description of upcoming story time events, as well other library related events, can be found on our webpage at [www.longbeach.lib.ms.us](http://www.longbeach.lib.ms.us).

Hope to see you at your library soon!

## Long Beach XC teams take home wins this school year

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach High School Lady Bearcats varsity cross-country team won the 2017 MHSAA Regional Class 5A Cross-Country team championship last month at George County High School.

The Lady Bearcats were led in scoring by Brooklyn Biancamano, as she captured the overall girls Regional 5K run individual champion title. Other Lady Bearcats scoring points in the victory were Ash Osness, Kyla Cuevas, Katie Osness, Julia Geertsema, Alexa Nanatovich and senior girls team captain

Lauren Parkinson.

The Long Beach High School boys cross-country team captured the MHSAA Class 5A Regional runner-up team trophy.

The LBHS boys were led in scoring by senior team co-captains Elijah Paige and James Dickerson. Other Long Beach boys scoring points were Garret Touchet, Luke Thomas, Devin Carter, Jake Thomas and Brennan Sheard.

Several Long Beach team members were named to the All-Region

Cross Country Team. They included Brooklyn Biancamano, Elijah Paige, Ash Osness, James Dickerson and Kyla Cuevas.



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## December Library Events

**Preschool Story Time**  
December 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, and 28  
10:30-11:30 a.m.

**Parents' Coffee Break**  
Tuesday, December 5  
10-11:30 a.m.

**Closed for Christmas Holidays**  
Saturday, December 23 - Tuesday, December 26

**Closed for New Year's Holidays**  
Saturday, December 30 - Monday, January 1

# Northwood Church enters fourth year in Long Beach

by Traci Bonney

When you ask Pastor Micah Butterfield what the mission of Northwood Church in Long Beach is, his answer is direct and to the point: "To help people know God, that's what we're about here."

Northwood Church in Mississippi started in 1989 in Gulfport, when Pastor Van Ducote, his wife Jan and their three children arrived with a mission to start a church that modeled unity, practical Christianity and family values. The enthusiasm the Ducotes brought to the fledgling church was met with equal enthusiasm by the first members, a group of some thirty adults.

What began as a single location in Gulfport spread north to Wiggins, then south to Long Beach. Recently, several members of the pastoral staff have begun talking in Sunday services about new locations, as yet unnamed.

Butterfield, who has served at the Long Beach campus since its opening in the fall of 2014, said, "One church in multiple locations – that's a big part of who we are and how we continue to reach out. Our goal is to infuse life and God's love into

people and families through engaging, powerful worship services that offer biblical truth in relevant and practical ways."

The church offers a number of programs and activities for people of all ages: NC Kids for children ages 0 to 12, Impact ministries for students in grades 7 through 12, First Wednesday evening sessions and Sunday morning services, and spring and fall small groups for adult congregation members.

Northwood is heavily involved in service activities throughout the year, giving its members opportunities to minister to the communities where the campuses are located. Work days, participation in community

events, and missions projects in both local and international locations are all part of the church's purpose.

One of the ongoing projects at Northwood is its partnership with Buddy Bags, a local nonprofit organization that provides duffel bags filled with hygiene essentials, comfort blankets, activities and stuffed animals to children who are removed from their

homes and placed into foster care. Each week, for every Connect card (a contact card filled out by visitors and new members) the church receives, it donates a Buddy Bag.

Butterfield said, "Typically, these children are given a trash bag to put their belongings in as they are removed from their homes. We want to communicate value to them, let them know someone cares about them during a difficult time."

To learn more about Northwood Church, its mission, service times and offerings, visit [www.northwood.tv](http://www.northwood.tv).



All Special to Long Beach Breeze

## Northwood Church brings *Light Has Come* to coast

By Traci Bonney

A timeless story, beautifully danced – that is what audience members can expect to experience when Northwood Church hosts Ballet Magnificat's new production, *Light Has Come*, on Friday, December 7, at the church's Gulfport campus located at 14281 Oneal Road.

*Light Has Come* is the newest offering from international-

ly-renowned Ballet Magnificat, a Christian dance company based in Jackson, Mississippi. It tells the story of God's plan for humanity from the perspective of the angels who witness the unfolding of history on earth.

The Gulfport performance is at 7 p.m. on December 7, with the doors opening at 6 p.m. Limited tickets are available online at [www.northwood.tv/ballet](http://www.northwood.tv/ballet).

## Children in the Arts winners announced at Coast Episcopal

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Coast Episcopal School recently held their "Children in the Arts" event to highlight the talents of fourth, fifth and sixth grade students in public, private and parochial schools along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Organizers say the inspiration behind the Children in the Arts Contest is to stimulate the creative potential in young children and to bring to the public an awareness of the importance of involving children in the arts.

The event included a gala, "Toast to the Coast," and the theme for the student show was "The Roaring Twenties: Age of Innovation." Three student grand prize winners each received \$100. After its premier at Toast to the Coast, the show has moved indoors to Coast Episcopal School's Gail Keenan Art

Center. All children selected to participate in the Children in the Arts exhibit were invited to an art workshop conducted by local art-

ists and a reception at Coast Episcopal School. Schools participating in Children in the Arts 2017 included



All Special to Long Beach Breeze

Daren Houck, Head of School of Coast Episcopal School, is pictured with the recent Children in the Arts workshop participants.

ists and a reception at Coast Episcopal School.

Schools participating in Children in the Arts 2017 included

Bel-Aire Elementary, Harrison County; Biloxi Upper Elementary, Biloxi; Coast Episcopal School, Long Beach; Gorenflo

Pass Christian Elementary, Pass Christian; Pass Road Elementary, Gulfport; Sacred Heart Elementary, D'Iberville; St. Vincent de Paul, Long Beach; and Woolmarket Elementary, Harrison County.

Winners included: first place, Athan Oblepias, sixth grade, Lyman Elementary School; second place, Lillianna "Lilli" Johnson, sixth grade, Bel-Aire Elementary School; third place, Angelica Rivera, fifth grade, Bel-Aire Elementary School; Coast Episcopal School, Thomas Henry Mueller, fifth grade, Biloxi Upper Elementary School, Caroline Lagasse fifth grade, North Bay Elementary School, Annabelle Singer fifth grade, Biloxi Upper Elementary School, and Henry Williams, sixth grade, Coast Episcopal School, Emmy Bosarge, fifth grade, and honorable mentions.

# Farmers Market to hold grand opening on Dec. 2

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Farmers Market of Long Beach will have a grand opening celebration on Saturday, December 2, to publicize the market's move to the Town Green on Jeff Davis Avenue. Market organizers say they are thankful to the Long Beach Community Development Association, City Hall and the Long Beach School Board, who helped them in the process of eventually locating to the Town Green.

The market is rapidly growing, presently boasting fourteen full time or seasonal vendors, with more new vendors expected soon. The market is a Mississippi State Certified Farmers Mar-



ket. The Grand Opening celebration will feature food, fun and celebration, including free food samples, contests, giveaways, live music and a large array of unique market items.

The day will also showcase arts and crafts, as well, which the market includes on the first Saturday of every other month.

Market times are Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon, every week, rain or shine. Follow the market on Facebook "The Farmers Market at Long Beach." For more information, email [TFMatLongBeach@gmail.com](mailto:TFMatLongBeach@gmail.com).



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More photos are on the web at: [friendsofthepoorwalk.weebly.com](http://friendsofthepoorwalk.weebly.com) and on our Facebook page, [facebook.com/SVdPLB](https://facebook.com/SVdPLB).

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# Art on display at Southern Miss Gulf Coast Library

*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

Long Beach residents are invited to visit two art exhibits at the Southern Miss Gulf Coast Library.

On the first and second floors, the varied mediums by artist Shauntelle Duncan, also known as Korican, are featured. The third floor of the library houses a watercolor exhibit by the late Finnish artist Osmo Visuri. Both exhibits are on display through November 30.

Korican, whose art history instructor encouraged her to take painting classes, had her talent and love for painting uncovered by art instructor Cecily Cummings at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) Jefferson Davis Campus. Korican's art reflects a love of learning about painting by experimenting with different media, and her exhibit includes a wide range of techniques, from small pencil drawings to paintings on glass to a large scale oil painting of the moon.

A student at MGCCC, she plans to become a wildlife scientist, fulfilling a love of learning and a passion for animals and caring for them. Her interests range from research, animal rescue and studying endangered species, both

plant and animal.

Growing up in California, she moved to Mississippi five years ago after a stop in Louisiana. She lives on the coast with her five-year-old son, Ezequiel, as well as eight cats, two dogs, birds, snakes, frogs, spiders and more.



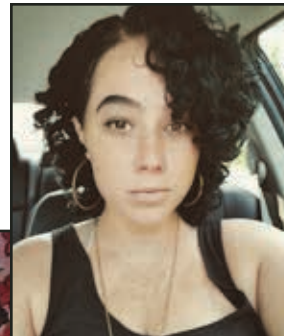
*Osmo Visuri*  
 Watercolor Landscapes of Finland

All Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Visuri collection is on loan from Mary Pyle of Gulfport, who met Visuri during his tenure as a professor at the University of Helsinki in 1988. Pyle was visiting Finland as a presidentially

appointed member of the National Council on Vocational Education.

Visuri would later visit Pyle and her husband, Jack, at their



Mary O'Keefe Cultural Center in Ocean Springs.

A painter, photographer, filmmaker, author, professor and world traveler, Visuri travelled extensively in the Middle East and published several books on Israel when the state was being established after WWII. He is recognized as a television pioneer in Finland, serving as Head of Documentary Programs for Finnish National Television and as the Head of the Department of Television and Film at the University of Helsinki.

Visuri was also known in Italy, where he operated a watercolor studio, and in Israel, where he authored several books about the Biblical Parables. After retirement, Visuri continued teaching at his studio until his death in 2013. A respected citizen of Finland, Visuri received the Knight of the Order of the White Rose of Finland and the distinguished Kalevala cultural medal.

The Southern Miss Gulf Coast Library is open from 7:30 a.m. until 11 p.m., Monday through Thursday, from 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Friday, and from noon until 9 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

For more information about the exhibits, contact Betty Shaw the Gulf Coast Library at 228-214-3456.

*The art of local resident Korican (above) a student at MGCCC, and OSMO Visuri will be on display at the Southern Miss Gulf Coast Library through Nov. 30.*

home in Mississippi. During his visit, the artist and the couple attempted to find a place to exhibit his paintings. After an unsuccessful effort during his month-long stay, Visuri left his paintings with Pyle, where they remained until 2017. The pieces have been previously been displayed at William Carey College's Tradition Campus and the



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## Nativity in Clay workshop to be held at Episcopal School

*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

Coast Episcopal School will offer a "Sculptural Nativity in Clay" class for area residents on



*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

Saturday, December 2, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. The class, led by instructor Stacey Johnson, is open to interested individuals ages 15 and up. It will feature a day of creating nativity scenes out of clay and is suitable for beginners as

well as advanced sculptors.

Each student will receive sufficient terra cotta clay to create a sculptural narrative, and attendees may sculpt as many figures as they wish during class time.

The materials fee of \$125 includes all glazes, firing and instruction, and sculptures will be fired and ready for pickup within ten days.

Class attendees are encouraged to bring their favorite holiday cookies or cheer to share as they gather together for a special day of creativity in the studio.

Registration is available through November 30 at <https://squaresup.com/store/coast-episcopal-school/>.

The class will be held at the Gail Keenan Art Center at Coast Episcopal School, located at 5065 Espy Avenue in Long Beach.

All proceeds will benefit the Gail Keenan Art Center community programs.

For more information, call 228-452-9442.

## New home being raffled to support local charity group

*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

Long Beach residents are being asked to support the St. Vincent de Paul Societies along the Mississippi Gulf Coast this holiday season by purchasing a chance to win a brand new home.

Foxhole Promises, LLC has partnered with the Societies to offer a new home located in St. Martin for raffle. The home is 2,110 square feet and valued at \$250,000. The grand prize will include the house plus \$50,000 to go towards taxes. Additional gifts of varying value up to \$10,000 will be included in the drawing, which will take place on November 24 at

D'Iberville Convention center.

All money raised will be used to help the poor served by St. Vincent de Paul Societies along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and all proceeds will stay in South Mississippi. Pro-



ceeds will help provide things such as meals and financial assistance for families, the elderly and single parents in need, and medical care for

children.

Drawdown tickets, which will include a chance to win the grand prize and all other prizes, are now available. Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased at St. Thomas Church Office or online at [svdphomegiveaway.com](http://svdphomegiveaway.com)

## Rose named new Chamber director

*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, Inc. has hired Gabrielle Rose as the new Director for the Long Beach and Pass Christian Chambers of Commerce.



*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

Gabrielle Rose, Director of the Long Beach and Pass Christian Chambers of Commerce

"The Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber is excited to welcome Gabrielle Rose to our team," said Adele

Lyons, Chief Executive Officer of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, Inc. "She brings experience and enthusiasm to the organization. Gabrielle has already hit the ground running in Long Beach and Pass Christian."

Rose received her Bachelor of Arts in Journalism in May of 2012 from the University of Mississippi. Rose worked for

Vowell, Inc., where she held the role of Account Executive and Social Media, Online, and Circulation Manager. She aided in companywide decision-making, social media and website management, as well as circulation promotions with the magazine. Subsequently, Rose served as the Public Relations



Assistant for The University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy. Rose managed social media accounts and distributed press releases and feature stories to be sent to the media. She also assisted in school-wide event planning and contributed articles to the Ole Miss Alumni Review and the School of Pharmacy's publication, Pharmacy

Matters. Most recently, Rose continued her Public Relations Assistant role at Georgia Southwestern State University. Along with managing the website and social media accounts, she conducted interviews, assisted in event planning, wrote press releases and feature stories to be distributed to media, as well

as served as editor of the university's online newsletter.

Rose was a member of the Junior League of Little Rock and publicity assistant for the Junior League's Holiday House. She also served on the Executive Board of the Public Relations Association of Mississippi's Oxford-Ole Miss chapter.

## Legislators have briefing

*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce will host a 2018 Pre-Legislative Briefing on Tuesday, December 5, at the Golden Nugget in Biloxi. Local Legislators will answer questions in a panel discussion regarding the upcoming 2018 Legislative Session. Representative Scott Delano, Representative Charles Busby, Representative Sonya Williams-Barnes, Representative Greg Haney and Senator Brice Wiggins are confirmed legislators for this event.

Doors to the event will open at 7:30 a.m., and the event will begin at 8 a.m. It is expected to conclude at 9:30 a.m.

Admission is \$20 for Chamber members and \$35 for general admission. Questions for the legislators are now being accepted and can be emailed to Programming Coordinator Ashley Butsch at [ashley@mscoastchamber.com](mailto:ashley@mscoastchamber.com). For event information or sponsorship inquiries, contact Butsch at 228-604-0014.

# Rosalie Station

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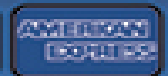
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**\*7 Locations on the Coast\***