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April 20, 2021 • Volume 5, Number 4 • “Good News You Can Use”

Library to receive much-needed building repairs

By Lindy Sholes

Summer plans are underway for the Long Beach Library, including some much-needed building repairs and an activity schedule for children on their summer break.

Library director Denise Saucier said the Board of Aldermen will accept bids to replace the entire air conditioning unit, just in time for warmer weather.

“[The air conditioner] has been going out for the last few years since I’ve been here,” Saucier said. “It was replaced after Katrina, but you can’t get the parts for it anymore. It’s outdated, and, if it keeps breaking down, we won’t be able to repair it.”

Roof damage from Hurricane Zeta that has caused leaking in the children’s wing will also be fixed. A faulty power connection that has contributed to the HVAC problems will also be replaced.

Saucier said the Board of Trustees will discuss resuming regular programming and hours since going virtual due to COVID-19, but, in the meantime, the proximity to the Town Green will be of benefit.

“We will be having preschool story time through our summer reading program, which starts in June, once a week in the pavilion. So that will be happening, whether or not we get to have it in the building,” Saucier said. It will start in June and will be every Tuesday.

Story time will start in June and will be held every Tuesday. A specific time will be announced once it is decided upon. Programs for older children and families are also in the works for June and July.



Photo by Lindy Sholes

The library’s ceiling in the children’s wing has sustained damage from leaking caused by Hurricane Zeta.

Local Scout Troop featured in national magazine

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach’s very own Boy Scouts of America Troop 321 is currently featured on the cover of the national magazine *Scout Life*. The article covers where scouts from Long Beach, Mississippi, along with friends and family from Troop 211 of Ocean Springs and Troop 97 of Sumrall, completed a high adventure backpacking trek across the Continental Divide on the Colorado Trail last summer.

The scouts were joined on the trail by a photographer of the national magazine for Boy Scouts of America. These young men were training together before quarantine and then on their own during quarantine in



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Scouts from Long Beach BSA Troop 321 participated in a backpacking trek last summer across the Continental Divide on the Colorado Trail and are now featured in the national magazine *Scout Life*. Pictured last summer (l to r) are 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 (l to r) include 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.

order to be prepared for the memorable hike. Scouts hailed from Long Beach, Diamondhead, Gulfport, Biloxi, Ocean Springs, Poplarville and San Antonio, Texas, and ranged in age from eleven to seventeen.

To be well prepared and physically conditioned for the demanding task, scouts were backpacking 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 since the troop began in November 2018. Scouts applied skills such as backpack packing, meal preparation and water filtration for getting water while hiking on the trail.

cont. on page 6



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Lisa Lee Albritton Band to play at Finally First Friday



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach Live will host their first concert of the 2021 season on Friday, May 7, at 7 p.m. at the Harper McCaughan Town Green on Jeff Davis Avenue, after a COVID-19-induced hiatus. The Lisa Lee Albritton Band will play from 7 until 10 p.m.

Future Long Beach Live concerts will include Starz on June 4, Category 6 on June 5 after the Jeepin' the Coast parade, the All Nighters on July 7, and Sons of Uh Beach on August 6. There will also be

concerts on September 10 and October 1, with musical acts to be announced at a later date.

Long Beach families are encouraged to come out for Finally First Friday, which will feature live music starting at 7 p.m. Organizers say the evening is a good opportunity for residents to take it easy and relax and spend some time just enjoying the outdoors and the music.

For more information, call the City of Long Beach at 228-863-1556 or follow Long Beach Live on Facebook.

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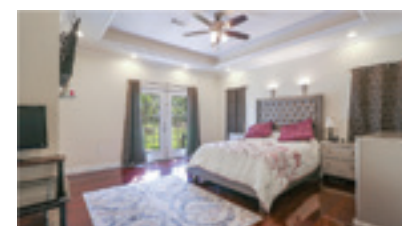
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Library offers Ebooks to patrons

The Long Beach Public Library is now offering Ebooks through Axis360. Those wishing to explore Ebooks must have a library card with Long Beach Public Library to create an account.

Currently, the database includes a robust choice of books from the Highlights for Kids series (early readers), but they expect to add titles for juvenile, young adult, and adult soon. Patrons can create and personalize their account by visiting the Long Beach Public Library's website (<http://longbeach.lib.ms.us>) and selecting "Axis360." Once a user selects that button, the following instructions apply:

TO CREATE ACCOUNT

Click on LOGIN at top right.
Enter your Long Beach Public Library card where it says LIBRARY CARD ID.
Example = p 1234
Enter your phone number where it says PIN. If your area code does not begin with 228, you will need to enter the area code as well.
Example = 123-4567
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TO PERSONALIZE YOUR ACCOUNT

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Email address, Security question, Security answer (PLEASE, add an email address in case you ever need assistance with your account from a library staff member.)
History (Check this PRIOR to checking out items so that it can better assist you in keeping track of your history.)
Display Settings - High Contrast (Checking this will turn the background from white to a dark gray.)

For more information, patrons can read the "Using the Menu Options in Axis360" and "Checkout Rules with Axis360." Beginning in June, the library will again be open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The next meeting for the Long Beach Board of Trustees will be at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, July 13. Meetings for the Long Beach Library Book Club and the Friends of the Long Beach Public Library have ended for the year. Both groups hope to start back regular meetings in the fall of 2021. The library will be closed on Monday, May 31, for Memorial Day, but will reopen on Tuesday, June 1, at 9 a.m.

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New stop signs installed on South Lang and Magnolia

By Dom Fimiano

Stop signs have been added to create a three-way intersection on South Lang Avenue at Magnolia Street.

Concerned residents had approached the City requesting stop sign installation at Magnolia Street to deter reckless or speeding drivers on South Lang. City officials agreed, with the goal being to slow traffic between Beach Boulevard and West Railroad, making the street safer for everyone. South Lang Avenue is the last street intersecting Magnolia connecting West Railroad and Beach Boulevard to receive stop signs.

Resident Andy White said they are looking forward to the unveiling of the new stop signs. The City has the signs covered for a brief period to give drivers notice that new stop signs will soon be in effect. The City also installed north- and south-bound signs informing drivers they are approaching new stop signs.

When residents request stop signs, the Board of Alderman discusses if installing a stop is beneficial and



Photo by Dom Fimiano

The City of Long Beach recently added stop signs at the intersection of South Lang Avenue and Magnolia Street. Currently, the signs have been installed but are covered and not yet in effect, as City officials want to give residents time to get accustomed to the new signs.

requests the opinion of the police chief. If necessary, the Board of Alderman will order a traffic study to determine if a stop sign should be installed. To possibly help avoid performing traffic studies, it is recommended that residents promptly notify authorities when speeding and reckless driving occur.

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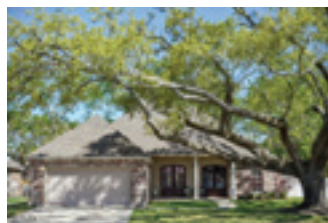
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Long Beach voters make choices, one runoff set for April 27

By Andy Kanengiser

Long Beach Mayor George Bass cruised to victory on April 6 to keep his post in City Hall for another four years. He defeated challenger John Ruth by a 1,755 to 458 vote tally.

The Republican incumbent mayor racked up 79 percent of the vote, compared to 21 percent for his GOP rival. Bass served for more than three decades as fire chief in the city. With the April 6 primary, he earned his second term as mayor. He has no opponents in the general election.

The mayor's race in the Friendly City was among many municipal elections across the Magnolia State.

There were several more contests on the ballot for Long Beach voters in this Mississippi Gulf Coast community.

Election day drama will continue in Harrison County, with Long Beach voters returning to precincts in an April 27 runoff in the city's Ward 6. The upcoming contest will match Peter McGoey with opponent Owen McNally. On April 6, McGoey finished on top with 160 votes (38 percent), or just seven more than McNally's 153 votes (36 percent). Junior Husband tallied 112 votes to finish third. When one candidate fails to receive more than fifty percent of the votes, the top two vote-getters square off in

runoffs.

One incumbent Long Beach alderman lost his seat on April 6. Long Beach educator Patrick Bennett received 196 votes (56 percent) to win the Ward 1 race. He defeated incumbent Ronald Robertson, who got 140 votes (40 percent) in the Republican primary. John Shupe picked up 13 votes, or 4 percent.

In the alderman-at-large contest, Republican incumbent Donald Frazer edged his rival, former alderman Allen D. Holder. Frazer picked up 1,176 votes to 1,043 votes for Holder. That's a winning margin of 133 votes.

In Ward 2, incumbent Bernie Parker got 266 votes, or 68 percent,

while Shane Walker received 124 votes, or 32 percent.

There were three uncontested races for incumbents: Angela "Angie" Johnson in Ward 3, Timothy McCaffrey Jr. in Ward 4 and Mike Brown in Ward 5. Johnson got 197 votes. McCaffrey received 274 votes, and Brown garnered 499 votes.

As none of the Republican candidates have opponents in the general election, the results of the Republican primary (and the necessary runoff in Ward 6) will determine who the slate of newly-elected Long Beach officials at City Hall will be. New officials will be sworn in for four-year terms in July 2021.

Bearcats tennis team captures regional championship

By Andy Kanengiser

Coach Andrea Breland couldn't be prouder of the Long Beach High tennis team.

After all, the Bearcats stepped up their game this spring to capture the MHSAA District 5A Region 8 championship.

With effective lobs, stellar net play and potent serves, Long Beach student-athletes shined on tennis courts all season. LBHS finished the 2021 season with an overall record of 9-2.

The Bearcats "worked extremely hard to get to where they are, and their success is my number one priority," Breland said. "We have an incredibly strong bonded team and a huge support system off the courts. I think that makes a world of difference in their success and in their performance."

The Long Beach team went undefeated in the district. The team competed in the individual district tennis tournament in Pascagoula on March 31, with six of seven teams (a total of ten out of twelve varsity players) earning spots in the state tournament.

Breland says her players are seeing that their hard work is paying off.

"It has motivated them to keep working hard and set the goal of state champs."

Coach Breland works hard herself. She's committed to coaching and excelling in the education profession. The honors biology instructor also teaches earth and space science.

Her standout tennis players, including team captain Reagan Picchi, say they are thrilled with how the 2021 season wrapped up.

"This season has been one of the best seasons I've ever had out of the past five years of playing," said Picchi.

"The girls and boys on this team are not only terrific players, but they



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Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Emily Lyons, Reagan Picchi and Coach Breland; middle row: Rachel Crapps, Alexa Nanatovich, Mallorie Rishel, Luke Salisbury and Ada Shirk; and back row: Stokley Sawyer, Samuel Shirk, Caleb Solangi, Alex Hailes and Tim Stanley.

are terrific people, too," says Picchi, a Bearcats senior. "I could not imagine a better senior year watching everyone improve on and off the court."

The Bearcats captain gives Andrea Breland much of the credit for the team's awesome play all year. "This could not be possible without a great

leader like Coach Breland."

Shutting down sports teams nationwide in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic suddenly halted Long Beach tennis competition in mid-season. But with millions of COVID vaccines getting in the arms of Americans daily, and health protocols staying in place,

schools fielded sports teams and resumed other activities again.

Bearcats tennis "came back stronger than ever as a team," said Long Beach senior Alexa Nanatovich, as she pointed to the squad's season record and winning performances in district matches. "We've been successful, because not only are we focused on getting better each practice, but we have a strong support system and team bond."

Maroon and White tennis teams compete in various categories. Girls and boys battle for points in singles matches. There are two girls doubles teams and two boys doubles teams, and the Bearcats play on a mixed doubles team.

Competing at the Harper McCaughan courts on March 8, Long Beach opened district play with a 6-1 triumph over the East Central Hornets. Singles winners that day included players Alexa Nanatovich, sophomore Caleb Solangi and Makenzie Morgan. Lynne Alexander serves as the assistant tennis coach for the Bearcats.



cont. from page 1

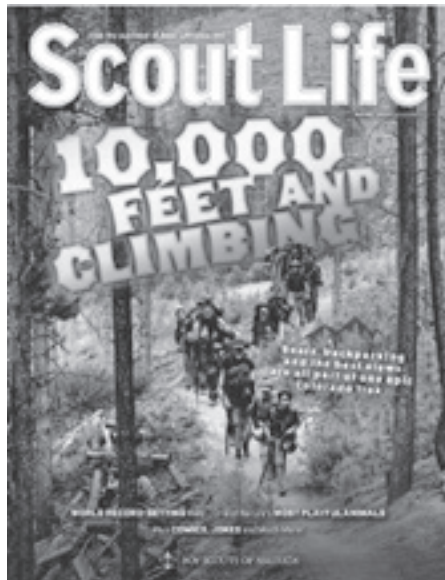
Local Scout Troop featured in national scout magazine

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 wandered 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 snow drifts and explored creeks and ponds created by beavers.

For younger scouts and scouts not able to tackle the Divide, a separate adventure was created for the 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.

Scout Life magazine has a circulation of 700,000 with 2,900,000 readers. They receive roughly 10,000 notifications each year for contacts, and, of those 10,000, they cull down to ten stories.

For spring break, the troop hiked into the Grand Canyon. In order to prepare, the troop started conditioning by backpacking and hiking on the steps of the sea wall in



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Long Beach BSA Troop 321 is featured in the April 2020 Scout Life magazine.

Bay St. Louis. The trip was originally scheduled for spring break of 2020 but got postponed due to COVID-19. The troop said they were excited to finally get to execute that trip this year.

The article featuring the scouts, titled "At 10,000 Feet, Scouts Adjust to Backpacking in the Mountains," can be read online at ScoutLife.org.



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Pink Heart Fund Ribbon Walk and Fun Run set for May 22

By Dom Fimiano

The Pink Heart Fund is hosting a Ribbon Walk Fun Run on May 22 from 7 a.m. until 10 a.m. to benefit the Memorial Foundation Oncology Funds and the Pink Heart Fund.

The walk/run will start on Jeff Davis Avenue at the Long Beach Town Green.

The Memorial Hospital Foundation is a non-profit organization managing funds supporting healthcare programs, services, patients and employees of Memorial Hospital. The oncology fund provides financial assistance to help Memorial Hospital cancer patients with medication and necessary services for their cancer treatments.

The Pink Heart Fund is a non-profit charity assisting children and adults with hair loss disorders and patients receiving

cancer treatments.

For more information about the charities that are benefitting from the walk, www.MemorialHospitalFoundation.com and www.PinkHeartFunds.org.

Participants will have an assortment of freebies, and vendors will be present at the Pink Heart 5K Ribbon Walk passing out hand sanitizer and face masks to promote a COVID-19 safe environment.

For information on registration and sponsorships, visit www.pink-heartfunds.org and then visit the "Ribbon Walk" tab. Organizers say the event is designed to be a fun, COVID-19-safe-as-possible enjoyable activity.

Interested runners/walkers are encouraged to register online or mail a registration form to Pink Heart Funds at 5095 Beatline Road, Long Beach, MS 39560.



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Inn at Long Beach, asserting independence, is being transformed

By Andy Kanengiser

Motorists driving along U.S. 90 on the Mississippi Gulf Coast may pause for a moment and notice The Inn at Long Beach.

General manager Elizabeth Staples hopes that people make it a habit to check out the attractive Inn and spend the night at the 76-room hotel. The property is conveniently located directly across the street from the beach in Harrison County.

What used to be the Holiday Inn Express for years was transformed into The Inn at Long Beach as of February 5, 2021.

A Long Beach resident and 2007 Bay High graduate, Staples certainly knows the hotel property at 300 Beach Boulevard quite well.

The Waveland native began working as the Holiday Inn Express front desk clerk in August 2015. By July 2018, Staples got promoted to serve as the hotel's general manager. The hotel features a daily hot breakfast, fitness center and outdoor pool.

While being part of the internationally known Holiday Inn brand was a great experience, "we are building towards becoming a better property, and independence allows us to do so," Staples said. "We are currently renovating the hotel. We have updated about eighty percent of the rooms, with more improvements to come."

On the drawing board are plans to renovate the hotel's exterior towards the end of 2021. And renovations to the lobby and breakfast area should happen in 2022.

The Inn at Long Beach is sticking with the majority of its team members as renovations proceed. In the transition, there's been a tremendous amount of work involved, and Staples is happy to see so many familiar faces aboard to make it happen.



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"We hope to gain some new team members in the future, as well."

So far, so good, as the renovations stay on track and make the property a cozy home away from home for guests.

"Many guests that visit with us find us to be a hidden gem away from all the hustle and bustle," Staples says. "It really is going to be a beautiful place upon competition, but it will take time."

Staples, who earned her bachelor's degree online in 2017 at Virginia College, seems like she's found her life's calling in the region's hotel and hospitality business.

"The best thing about the hotel industry is being able to meet people from all around the world,"



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Long Beach Inn manager Elizabeth Staples

Staples said. It's all about building relationships with hotel guests year-round. "It definitely has its moments, but being able to meet the needs of my guests or put a smile on their face after traveling for hours is rewarding to me."

The Inn at Long Beach is cen-

trally located close to Mississippi Gulf Coast beaches, shopping, dining and entertainment, including the area's casinos.

When she's not working at the hotel, Staples is a busy single mom with a little girl that she says is her pride and joy.


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Education

- ✓ Long Beach High School: 2006
- ✓ Spring Hill College: 2010
- ✓ Ole Miss Law: 2014
- ✓ Admitted to MS Bar: 2014

Invested in Long Beach

- ✓ McNally Law, PLLC: 2018
- ✓ Beatline Road Mini-Storage, LLC: 1985

Legal Experience

- ✓ Five years in practice on the MS Gulf Coast
- ✓ Representation before Planning and Zoning, Board of Supervisors, Youth Court, City Court, Justice Court, Chancery Court, County Court, Circuit Court, & Bankruptcy Court

Faith & Family

- ✓ Lifelong resident of Long Beach
- ✓ Married to Lindsay Hieser McNally for seven years
- ✓ Blessed with three children
- ✓ Member of the Church of the Good Shepherd

Athletics & Support of Youth Sports

- ✓ Four-year full scholarship Spring Hill College: 2006-2010
- ✓ Professional Basketball player in Ireland, Malta, UK: 2012-2013
- ✓ Saint Vincent de Paul Volunteer Basketball Coach

Old enough to know,
 young enough to grow.

Questions? Contact Me at

[f Owen.McNally.Ward.6](#)

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Keith's Superstore opens for business



Dom Fimiano



Dom Fimiano

Keith's Superstore in Long Beach recently opened for business. Located on the corner of 28th Street and Klondyke, the location is currently hiring employees.

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Do we have a housing shortage?

By Guest Columnist Mallory Savner,
Licensed realtor, Veterans Realty

It is no surprise to anyone that the housing market is still fiercely competitive. This is a nationwide occurrence. There simply are not enough homes for sale on the market nor being built to keep up with the demand.



According to the National Association of Realtors (NAR), there were four offers, on average, per home sold in the month of February. I would say that is pretty on par with what we are seeing locally, as well. Current-

ly, homes are on the market sixteen to thirty days before going under contract. Locally, we've seen many homes going under contract in a matter of hours.

According to NAR, "a balanced housing market is one that requires the inventory of homes for sale to be equivalent to about six months of the monthly pace of demand." In January of this year, there was around 1.7 months' worth of inventory on the market nationally. In short, we have a major housing shortage.

Mortgage rates have started to inch up recently, but still remain relatively low. The Fed has maintained that they will keep rates low in coming years,

and economists expect rates to remain around 3.3% for the remainder of the year. The low interest rates offer more affordability and allow consumers to more easily purchase a home, but it increases demand in an already competitive market. Other factors contributing to housing demand are a strong economy and a decreasing unemployment rate. This all contributes to increasing home prices.

NAR, along with other housing advocates, are working towards solutions and strategies to help alleviate the pressures of the housing shortage. The first step is awareness. You can't solve a problem you don't know exists.

By addressing and recognizing

the housing shortage, local agencies can work together to find a solution that works for their community. Solutions include looking at current constraints on new construction that hinder the building process and re-evaluation of land use and zoning requirements in local governments.

At the end of the day, housing markets are hyper local. What works in one area of the country won't necessarily work in another, but we can begin by starting the conversation.

So, what do you think? Do you think we have a housing shortage, and what could be done in our community to address this issue?

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Girl Scouts support local food pantry



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach Girl Scout Troop 3603 recently chose to make a monetary donation of \$100 to the Grace Lutheran Church of Long Beach food pantry. Pictured (l to r) are: Auna Powell, Coraline Kahle, Caroline Ruoss, Candis Raif, Isabella Franciosa and Mia Highton.



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Library makes plans for Summer Reading program

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn, LBPL Youth and Technology Services

Hello, Long Beach!

Summer Reading is just around the corner, and this is the article you will want to read to find out everything you need to know about what Long Beach Public Library is offering you and your family this summer! Let's get started!

First of all, our theme this year is "Tails and Tales;" so, whether your favorite animals are found in your home, in the sky, on a farm, in the woods, in the water, or even something mythical, we have you covered. Secondly, we will have something for all ages.

The library is still limited on how many people we can have in the building at one time. That could change, but, as of now, we are planning things day to day. So, most of our programs will be done virtually. However, we have a great theme this year and an even greater lineup of programs, thanks to some wonderful local guests, patrons, businesses, other libraries, and websites for their generosity.

That said, there will be a few changes that I think everyone will like. Registration will be required for all age groups / participants. This includes preschool story time, as well (more on that later). Forms must be filled out at the library in the children's wing. Registration begins Monday, May 3, at 9 a.m. and ends Friday, June 11. Do not fret. It is not a long form.

Another change is in how children will record their reading records.

This year, each child will be given a reading record and a set of stickers. Children will place a sticker in a designated spot on the reading record after following their goal, such as reading a book or reading for a set number of minutes. The choice is really up to them.

Preschool Story Time will begin on Tuesday, June 1, at its normal time of 10:30 a.m. We will be meeting at the Harper McCaughan Town Green across from the Library in the pavilion. There, we will share a story, a song or two, and the kids will be given a take-home craft kit. However, this year I am asking parents/caretakers to register for story time - for a few reasons. In case of bad weather, I will need to notify you of any change in plans to reschedule. It will also help me know how many take-home craft kits to prepare. For the time being, there will not be a Thursday morning story time. We will let you know when that will resume.

For children entering kindergarten through fifth grade, programs begin on Wednesday, June 2, and will be done virtually, unless otherwise specified. Times may vary for the programs, but we will have a schedule posted soon.

Teen programs and programs for families are still being finalized and will be held on Thursdays and/or Fridays. They also will be done virtually, unless otherwise specified.



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Steubing places in powerlifting competition



Special to Long Beach Breeze/Courtesy LBSD

Long Beach High School's Alex Steubing recently placed second in the 5A South State Championships for powerlifting. Steubing advanced to compete for the State Championship, where he placed fifth in his weight class and set personal records for squat, bench press and deadlift.

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Jones selected for Mississippi INBRE Research Scholars Program

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Corbin D. Jones, a Collegiate Academy student at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College's (MGCCC) Harrison County Campus, has been selected to take part in the Mississippi IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) Research Scholars Program for the summer of 2021. Jones' selection marks the first time a Collegiate Academy student will represent MGCCC in the research scholars' program.

The Mississippi INBRE Research Scholars Program is an eleven-week summer research internship for undergraduate students. Jones will be working with Dr. Justin Thornton of Mississippi

State University. Dr. Thornton's research focuses on both sides of the host-pathogen interaction by characterizing how the innate immune response functions to limit progression of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (pneumococcus) infections and also how virulence mechanisms of the pneumococcus enable it to cause disease. The overall goal of his research is to identify new targets for intervention which will help to decrease the morbidity and mortality associated with this pathogen.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Corbin Jones

"I am super excited to be given the opportunity to work with Dr. Justin Thornton this summer," Jones said.

"I can't wait to see the opportunities it will present and how it will help me prepare for my future in science."

Jones is a Long Beach High School student who is concurrently enrolled in the Collegiate Academy Program on the Harrison County Campus of MGCCC. The Collegiate Academy Program

allows high school and homeschooled juniors and seniors to simultaneously earn a high school

diploma and an associate degree. The program is available for students enrolled at certain district high schools and homeschooled students. Classes are taught at the high school (up to 29 credit hours), at an MGCCC campus, and online.

INBRE is a network of colleges and universities, designed to build a biomedical research infrastructure in Mississippi. Its mission is to reach out to Mississippians in order to improve health throughout the state and to engage talented researchers and students in biomedical research projects that will increase the state's research competitiveness as well as positively impact the health of the citizens of Mississippi.

LBHS teachers celebrated by police and fire departments

All photos Special to Long Beach Breeze/Courtesy LBSD.

The Long Beach Fire and Police Departments showed their support of the Long Beach School District's Teacher Appreciation week by bringing a cookout to the Long Beach High School teachers.



Board meets April 7, designates April as Child Abuse Prevention Month

By Dom Firmiano

In the April 7 meeting of the Long Beach Board of Alderman, Mayor George Bass and the Board of Alderman presented representatives from Canopy Children's Solutions of South Mississippi with a certificate honoring their work and designating the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Canopy, which has been serving Mississippi families and children for over one hundred years, began as an adoption agency in 1912 and now provides Mississippi's children with educational, behavioral health and social service solutions, assisting them through extraordinarily difficult situations. Bass applauded Canopy for assisting more than 2,000 children since January 2020 in South Mississippi.

Unfinished business by the Board addressed property clean up fees and two properties requiring owners to clean up their properties. City attorney James Simpson advised the Board to accept approximately \$79,500 from MEMA or risk losing the funds due to delays by MEMA. The Board of Alderman approved acceptance of the funds. Attorney



Dom Firmiano

Long Beach Mayor George Bass and the Long Beach Board of Alderman designated April as Child Abuse Prevention Month during their April 7 meeting. Pictured with Mayor Bass (center) are representatives of Canopy Children's Solutions of South Mississippi. Canopy has assisted more than 2,000 children in the past year in South Mississippi.

Simpson says he plans to continue working with MEMA to have approximately another \$9,000 returned to the City.

The Sparklight franchise agreement was approved by the Board.

The Board chose to not vote on the request to rezone the Daughtery Road property location of the temporary St. Thomas Church and elementary school after Hurricane

Katrina.

New business approved includes the Pink Heart Fund Ribbon 5K Walk on May 22 beginning in the Town Green, funding for Cruisin' the Coast, banner placement for the First Baptist Church Spring Festival, and ratifying the Beatline Parkway funding.

The Long Beach police department has one new hire and received approval to retire a K-9 and purchase

another K-9.

The fire department has one promotion.

Can't Be Beat Fence Company was awarded the bid for the Long Beach cemetery fence work totaling \$18,950. Funding was also approved for purchasing new work trailers.

The next meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen will be Tuesday, April 20, at 5 p.m.

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Taylor named Jack Kent Cooke scholarship semifinalist

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Carlin Taylor of Long Beach has been named a semifinalist for the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. Taylor is one of five Mississippi community college students who could win up to \$40,000 annually to attend a four-year college or university of their choice. This year's 406 semifinalists were chosen from a pool of more than 1,500 applicants attending 398 community colleges in 44 states and the District of Columbia.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Carlin Taylor

"The Cooke scholarship is an incredible opportunity for me, and I look forward to finding out whether or not I receive it in April," he said. "It is exciting, as this scholarship would allow me to truly go anywhere I choose."

Taylor, a multimedia art and animation major at the Harrison County Campus, is active in Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, serving as the presi-

dent of the PTK Mississippi/Louisiana region and as vice president of Leadership for the Omicron Alpha Chapter at the Harrison County Campus. He has received the Golden Key Award, Distinguished Chapter Officer Award and Distinguished Regional Officer Award, and was named to the college's Who's Who Among Community College Students.

The Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship is a highly selective scholarship for the nation's top community college students seeking to complete their bachelor's degrees at four-year colleges or universities. Each Cooke Scholar has access to generous financial support for two to three years, college planning support, ongoing advising, and the opportunity to connect with the thriving community of fellow scholars.

The 2021 Cooke College Scholarship recipients will be announced later this month.

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Long Beach High bands book concert for April 29

By Andy Kanengiser

Gulf Coast music fans are in for a treat. Long Beach High School (LBHS) bands are booked for their spring 2021 concert on April 29.

Bands director Mickey Mangum says he is thrilled to announce the news after the COVID-19 pandemic cancelled many musical performances worldwide over the past year. Long Beach band members are eager to perform live once again.

The program is set for the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College campus in Gulfport in a splendid new concert hall. The Thursday evening program on the iMPAC campus in Harrison County begins at 6 p.m., and the public is invited to attend.

The new concert venue seats 1,200 people. Given the COVID-19 protocols to limit crowd sizes, up to six hundred people are expected to attend.

Mangum is delighted that audiences will see the talented student musicians perform at the community college along Debuys Road.

“It is an amazing facility, and I think you will be happy with it,” Mangum said in a message to LBHS Band Boosters on their Facebook page. Practice sessions will be stepped up as the concert date nears.

Call it a case of pent-up concert demand.

“Please make plans to attend,” Mangum encouraged band supporters, noting the student musicians haven’t performed on stage for more than a year.

Long Beach High band musicians are certainly a talented bunch. In October 2020, several Long Beach trumpet players were selected to perform at

Bugles Across America activities.

Across the U.S., students named to the elite group sound Taps at local events and perform at funerals for fallen soldiers and veterans. Long Beach senior Dyllon Hadaway was among those chosen for the honor. Hadaway is a trumpet section leader with the Bearcats band.

Band supporters like Kesha Burnett say they are excited about the upcoming show.

“I am too excited, and we will be there,” Burnett said.

Band boosters like her are sounding the trumpets to let the Long Beach community know about the April 29 concert.

Burnett is proud of her son, Jarren Burnett, 17, a Long Beach High junior who plays the trombone. She says he can’t wait to play his favorite instrument in the new concert hall.

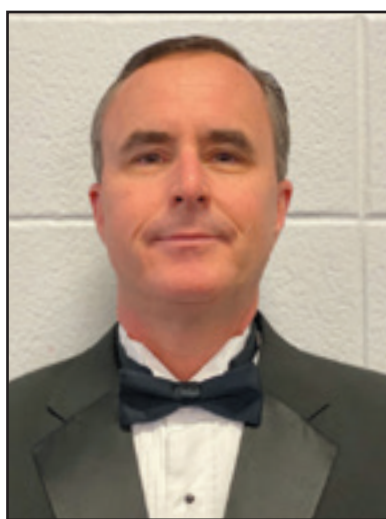
“He is looking forward to a grand time,” Kesha Burnett said.

In addition, Jarren suits up (No. 72) during the fall to play on the Bearcats football team.

Working with Band Director Mickey Mangum are a trio of assistants – Zac Cannon, Adrienne Cocco and Chancey Parker. All four Mississippians invest time with students to make the Long Beach High School bands shine bright from one year to the next.

The job as band director never gets old for Mickey Mangum. In remarks published in the Long Beach Bearcats football program, he expressed his gratitude to school administrators, teachers, community members and parents for their generous support of the LBHS band program.

“It is such a joy to work in a location where there is a genuine emphasis placed on fine arts in our schools.”



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LBHS Band Director Mickey Mangum

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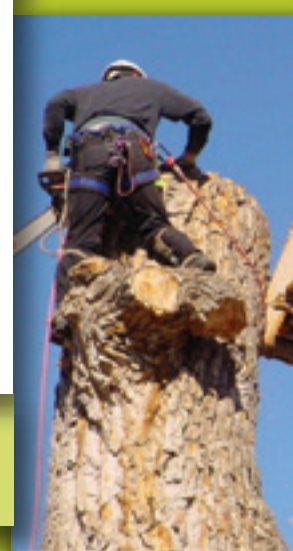
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Band Boosters host egg hunt

All photos Special to Long Beach Breeze.

The Long Beach High School Band Boosters hosted a community Easter Egg hunt on the Town Green last month. The hunt featured the Easter bunny, lots of eggs, games and breakfast, as well as a friendly tug of war.



LBSD Director of Bands Mickey Mangum



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Project Update

On behalf of the Parrish family and Staff, we appreciate your continued support and patience.

Parrish's restaurant is in hopes to have all renovations completed with an opening in the month of May. There was extensive architectural and structural damage exceeding \$900,000.00.

We have engaged the services of Dale Partners Architects for an exciting new outside elevated dining deck overlooking the marina as part of our renovation, and for your enjoyment. They are the same firm partnering in the architectural design of the Southern Sands Casino.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the City of Long Beach candidates for alderman: Donald Frazer, Junior Husband, and Patrick Bennett, for their guidance and assistance in the reopening of Parrish's Restaurant.

Lee Parrish, General Manager



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Long Beach High concert choir shines

By Andy Kanengiser

Long Beach High concert choirs have excelled with superb performances for over four decades. And 2021 was no different, with the talented student singers recently receiving all Superior ratings in statewide competition.

Choir director Terry Walker says he is thrilled to see the stellar ranking at the virtual 2021 State Performance Assessment. The Grade A honor for the Long Beach students this spring comes during a challenging year for so many people worldwide impacted by the pandemic.

“In the face of COVID-19 and all its uncertainty, they battled our membership reduction, cancelled performances, student absences, personal issues and even missed days due to inclement weather,” Walker said.

“Through it all, they maintained the excellent tradition of the choral

program at Long Beach High,” the said Walker. The energetic choir director says he is proud of their “per-

severance and the demands they put on themselves” to achieve success at the highest level.

Alana Rowe says she is delighted to be among the school’s celebrated singers on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. “Being part of the group has given me a home, a second

family, and a way to express myself with music,” she says. The LBHS junior is in her third year as part of the choir.

Her favorite piece of music with the group? It’s titled “A Prayer Before Singing,” a Dan Forrest choral selection the concert choir is practicing in April. The students are preparing for a limited attendance concert on May 6. Recordings of the concert will be posted on the school website.

Rowe is ecstatic at how the group fared so well in 2021.

“As we all know, this past year has been pretty crazy, but we have made it work.”

Macy Barkum Robinson serves as the choir’s chief of staff. The Long Beach senior strives to sing her best with every performance or practice.

“What I love about being in choir is building friendships with other choir members.”

One of her favorite songs is the religious work “Canticle of the Sun,” composed by Saint Francis of Assisi in 1225.

Blessed to lead an extraordinary group of students, Walker always loses singers to graduation each year. He must keep searching for replacements. Choir is offered beginning in the sixth grade, and the director encourages students to join as middle schoolers. The benefits are enormous.

“Through the years, countless students have benefited from being part of this program through colle-

giate scholarship, traveling, building friendships, and sharing of the gift of music,” Walker said. “I am

proud to lead such an amazing group of students.”

The group’s history spanning more than forty years is astounding. In 1997, the Long Beach Concert Choir became the first from a South Mississippi high school to perform at New York City’s famed Carnegie Hall as well as sing at St. Patrick’s

Cathedral. In the summer of 2014, the Long Beach High choir made a concert tour to Austria and Switzerland. Under the direction of Walker, the group completed a summer performance tour of outstanding venues in Italy. Each year, the Long Beach High Concert Choir is recognized among the top five in the Magnolia State. Brian Chancey serves as the associate director of the choir.

For more information about the Long Beach High Concert Choir, visit www.LongBeachConcertChoir.org.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Terry Walker



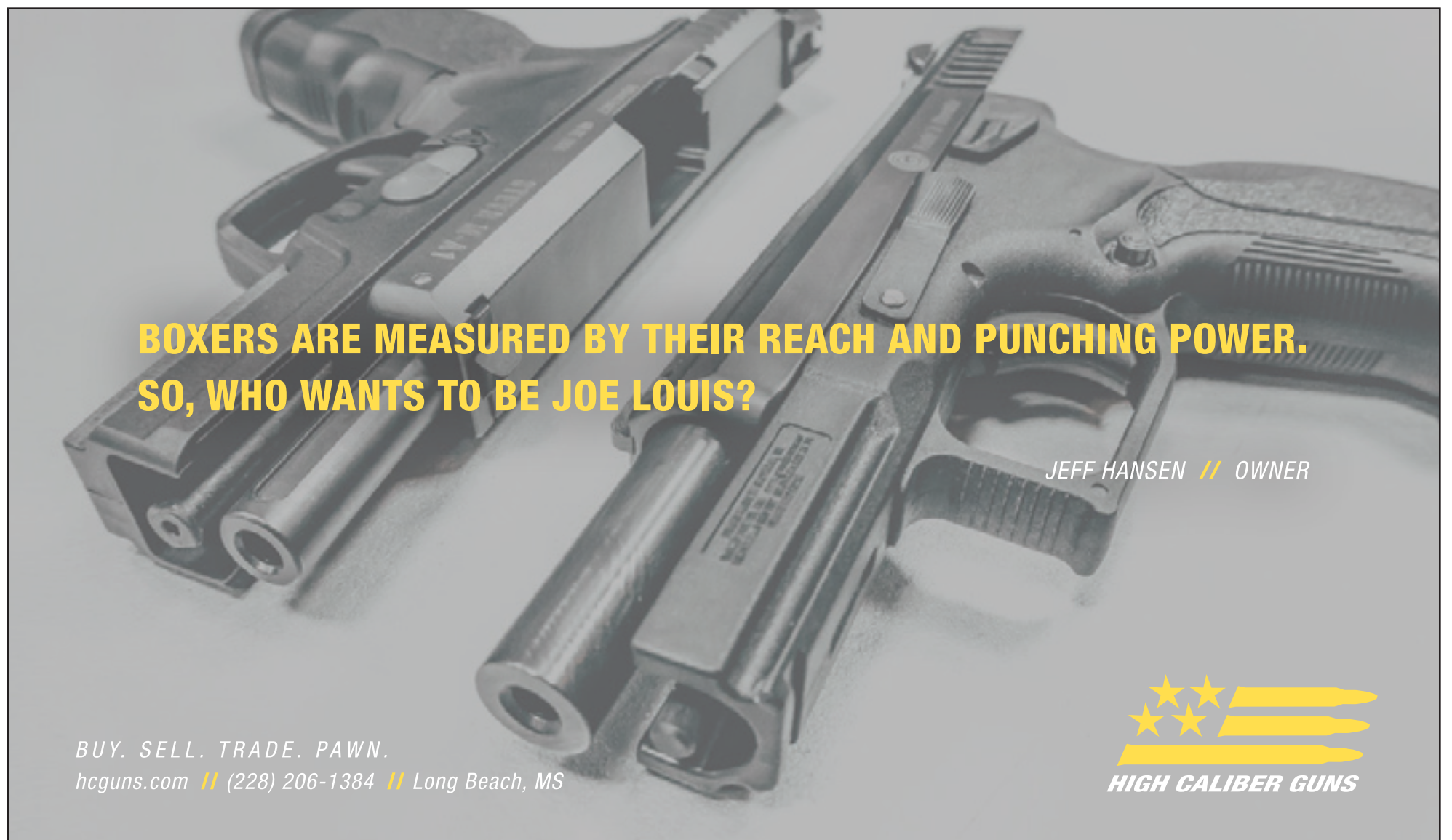
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