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Long Beach Harbor damaged by Tropical Storm Cristobal

By Andy Kanengiser

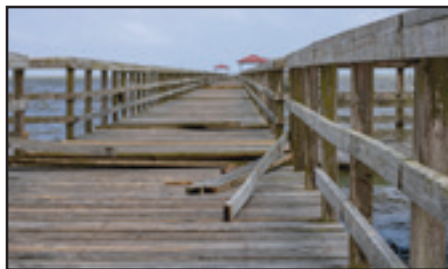
The Long Beach Harbor received extensive damage from Tropical Storm Cristobal.

Long Beach was among the hardest hit in Harrison County during the weekend ending June 7, officials say. That included damage to Long Beach Harbor restaurants. Nearby piers, including Jim Simpson, Hancock and the Stringer Pier, took hits from the storm pounding Mississippi and Louisiana.

Long Beach Mayor George Bass assessed the damage.

“We have significant damage to our harbor,” Bass said. “We began the task of cleaning debris, so our restaurants in the harbor can reopen. The harbor from the boat launches south will remain closed for cleanup and damage assessments.”

Boat owners, Bass said, will be allowed to check their boats when it is safe.



James McClure



Dominick Firmiano



Dominick Firmiano

Long Beach's Stringer and James Simpson piers both sustained damage during the recent Tropical Storm Cristobal, which came ashore the weekend of June 7.

“All piers are closed due to damage.”

In an interview with Fox TV station WXXV25, Harbor Master William Angley reported damages to hand railings, decks and electrical systems at the piers. All items were new after being destroyed by Hurricane Nate's 85-mph winds in October 2017.

On June 10, MEMA executive director Greg Michel announced there was more than \$5 million in damages alone to Harrison and Hancock counties due to the tropical storm. Damage totals

from Jackson County will add to it.

Gov. Tate Reeves says the state sent a disaster declaration to FEMA due to extensive damage to Gulf Coast beach areas from Tropical Storm Cristobal.

All of the Long Beach Harbor boats were afloat after the storm, harbor officials noted.

Clean-up work began immediately.

“We are cleaning up in-house with [City] public works and the harbor master,” said Jenny Levens, communi-

ty affairs director for the City of Long Beach.

Due to Tropical Storm Cristobal, water rose to the sea walls along U.S. 90 throughout much of Long Beach.

After first slamming the Louisiana coast near Grand Isle and Mississippi Gulf Coast communities, Cristobal dropped heavy rain all the way north to states including Wisconsin. There were problems reported at the time for dozens of motorists trying to drive through flooded Gulf Coast roads.

Jeep owners headed to Mississippi Gulf Coast

By Andy Kanengiser

Inviting Jeep owners in Mississippi and beyond to join the fun, Jeepin' the Coast organizers are welcoming a sea of visitors July 16-19.

Twenty-six miles of Mississippi Gulf Coast beaches will be destination points for Jeep fans for the annual event, which will include a heavy lineup of Jeep Cherokees and Jeep Wranglers owned by Long Beach residents.

The date is July 18 for the Jeep beach crawl to shine in Long Beach. A parade of Jeeps will also be showcased in downtown Long Beach that Saturday.

“Long Beach Jeepers definitely support the event,” says JTC founder Jennifer Moran. Folks in Long Beach are more like family, adds Moran, a Saucier resident.

A Lyman Elementary School teacher,



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Jeepin the Coast brings crowds. The 2020 event starts July 16.

Moran is the proud owner of two Jeeps. It's a family affair. Her Dad, brother and sister each own a Jeep. She believes Jeep owners are wonderful.

“Some of the greatest people on Earth

are Jeepers!” Moran said.

Jeep fans bring history to JTC as they motor their favorite vehicles to Coast beaches next month. Jeeps have remained popular with consumers, dating

back to models used by American soldiers during World War II.

There were at least 1,500 Jeeps signed up for the 2019 event, and more than 5,000 people attended to rev up the area's economy.

“The beach crawl is where Jeeps can drive on the beach sand just feet away from the Gulf of Mexico,” says Peyton Pope, an event volunteer. “There is also a Jeep parade, where hundreds of Jeeps cruise through downtown Long Beach for all the locals to enjoy.”

Every night, Jeepers flock to Gulf Coast casinos to enjoy food and live music from local artists.

Volunteering is a labor of love for Peyton Pope, a 2020 Mississippi College graduate from Gulfport.

“Every summer, I help prepare the gift bags that are handed out to ev-

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VETERANS REALTY

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Library now open for patrons Monday through Friday

By Guest Columnist Denise L. Saucier

Hello, all! If you haven't already heard, the library is now open! We have appreciated your patience as we worked to make the library as safe as possible and help keep everyone healthy as we all adjust to our new normal. In this column, we thought we'd list a few things that may have changed since you last visited the library.

Library hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The hour between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. will be used for staff to clean and sanitize the library. Saturday hours will resume at a later date as we adjust to the new normal. There is a limit of twenty visitors allowed into the building. This may be adjusted as we examine the flow.

As per City Hall and CDC recommendations, masks must be worn to enter the building. The main entrance on Jeff Davis will be our only entrance door, and patrons will exit through the south door on 3rd Street. Social distancing will be required throughout the library. Please pay attention to the directional signage, especially on the floors.

Curb-side service is now available. Patrons may call ahead to request up to five items per patron. Staff will pull the items and check them out to you prior to pick up. Please have your li-



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Children picked up gardening/craft bags donated by members of the Long Beach Garden Club at the library as part of the Summer Reading Program. Pictured are Rorie Carmody, Jill Ian, Terri Oehmichen, Debbie Cox, and Gayle Nolan.

brary card ready when you call, and be prepared to show either your library card or ID at pick up. When you arrive at the library, please call the library to let us know you are here. Pick up will be done at the main entrance on Jeff Davis. Our phone number is 228-863-0711.

Returning items inside the library will be done at the "touch free" check in station that is set up near the NEW books shelf. You will see it as you



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Mattias Vargas, Antonella Vargas, Gayle Nolan, and Debbie Cox

enter the building. The outside book return is open, as well. However, all returned items will be quarantined for fourteen days before they can be circulated.

We are in the process of setting up our new computers, so they are not yet accessible. Once they are ready, computer time will be limited to one hour, with the option to extend if no one is waiting for access. A limited number of computers will be avail-

able to provide for social distancing.

Faxes and copies will be available; however, our public copier is currently down. Please ask at the circulation desk for getting staff to help you with copies.

All items that have been on hold prior to closing will be available for pick up. Returning items that have holds will be quarantined before being available for check out by the next patron. We are not doing inter-library loans at this time.

The meeting room and the teen room will remain closed as a quarantine room for returning items. No groups will be meeting for the time being, and the book sale is closed.

During this uncertain time, children aged sixteen years and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Children will not be allowed to be dropped off at the library. Story time is temporarily cancelled. We will have Craft Bags available on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Check out our Virtual Summer Reading Program for activities and links to online story times and other sites. More links are provided on our library Facebook and web page.

Again, thank you all for your patience. We look forward to seeing you all soon. Stay safe and healthy.

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



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Wishing you and your family a 4th of July filled with pride, warmth and togetherness.

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Long Beach High bowler Matthew Norra gains statewide honor

By Andy Kanengiser

Honors keep coming for Long Beach High star bowler Matthew Norra. On May 24, *The Clarion-Ledger* named the Gulf Coast resident to its All-State bowling team.

Norra was among five student-athletes the Jackson-based newspaper selected for the boys first team in 2020.

Clarion-Ledger sports reporter Rashad Milligan listed some of the reasons: “Norra finished with a state championship series score of 696, which was the second-highest in Class II.” During the past season, he knocked down an average of 185 pins per game.

Joining Norra on the first team are Josh Pleasant of Ridgeland, Blade Williams of St. Martin, Anoine Nyguen of D’Iberville and Jakob Robertson of Lafayette High in Oxford.

Long Beach High bowling coach Melanie Hymel says the *The Clarion-Ledger* honor for Matthew Norra is well-deserved for the team’s top athlete.

On track to graduate from Long Beach High in late June, Norra led the Bearcats at the state tournament in Jackson to a second-place finish earlier this year. Bowling a three-game series of 696, that translate into an amazing average of 232 pins



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Matthew Norra

joining the squad, the productive Long Beach High senior racked up plenty of strikes and spares along the way.

“Matthew has been one of our best bowlers these last four years and will surely be missed,” Coach Hymel said.

Matthew Norra, 19, is the son of Kerri and Ron Norra. The teen’s love of the fast-paced sport began years ago. He started bowling with the Youth League in Diamondhead at Park Ten Lanes before entering Long Beach High.

He’s logged long hours to improve his game. He continued bowling with the Youth League while also polishing his game as a member of the Long Beach Bearcats squad.

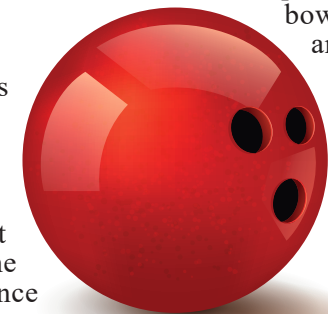
The Long Beach resident plans to attend Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College this fall. Expect him to keep competing at bowling alleys, Hymel said. Norra plans to

keep sharp by playing in bowling tournaments around the South.

As for next season for the stellar Long Beach High team, the Bearcats expect to return to action on the bowling lanes in October.

per game that day.

Named to the tournament’s All State Boys Bowling Team, Norra successfully wrapped up his fourth and final season with the Bearcats. He received team awards for the highest average (185) and the top game bowled (an incredible 257). Since



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Cruisin' the Coast, roundabout discussed by Aldermen

By Lindy Sholes

The Long Beach Board of Aldermen resumed their regular, in-person meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 2020, after having conducted their meetings virtually in keeping with social distancing restrictions due to COVID-19. After exchanging hellos and shared relief to be gathered in person again, it was back to business as usual.

Several actions were taken at the meeting. First, the Board voted unanimously to invest \$8,500 in support of Cruisin' the Coast 2020. One very popular attraction at Cruisin' the Coast is the parade of cars, which takes place in Long Beach and draws spectators from all over. The funding provided by the City will be used for advertising and for "bringing into favorable notice the opportunities, possibilities and resources of the municipality, and will further help advance the moral, financial and other interests of the municipality."

The Board also voted to reconsider the intersection at Commission and Klondyke Roads; and, instead of going forward with a roundabout, as had been approved at the previous meeting, they decided after some discussion to go forward with plans for additional

turn lanes and signalization improvements, as this solution is far more cost effective.

It was noted that Long Beach saw a \$40,000 increase in sales tax in March this year compared to March of 2019, even though there was hardly any movement in the city.

"Right now, we're on a horse, but we don't know where we're riding it to," said Mayor George Bass. "I remember, in the last two weeks of March, it was like a ghost town around here, no cars, nobody, nothing going on; and we still had an increase, so we're hoping we continue to move up on that."

Deputy City Clerk Kini Gonsoulin said the increase could have been due to citizens stocking up on supplies in anticipation of staying home for a while to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

In other action, Ron Gross was re-instated to the Civil Service Commission for a term ending in 2026, and Mary Westmoreland was appointed to the Library Board for a term ending in 2025.

For more information on what is discussed and decided in the government meetings, agendas and meeting minutes are posted on the City of Long Beach Web site, and as of now the meetings are streamed and posted on the Mayor's Facebook page.

Home ownership builds wealth, net worth

By Guest Columnist Mallory Savner, Licensed realtor, Veterans Realty

June is National Home Ownership Month—a time to celebrate home ownership and the benefits it provides individuals and communities across our country. The Secretary of U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Ben Carson, said housing represents more than 15% of our nation's GDP (Gross Domestic Product). It is a critical part of our economy.

For many, owning a home is the "American dream." We recognize that, for many, homeownership may pose a challenge in our current environment, with many Americans without jobs and tighter (albeit, temporary) credit restrictions for financing. Yet, many Americans still agree that owning a home is one of the best ways to build wealth. According to the Federal Reserve, a homeowner's net worth is thirty-six times greater than that of a renter.

I could go on about the many benefits of home ownership, but I think many people know the benefits and agree that it is beneficial. What we

don't talk about often enough is responsible home ownership. Home ownership is so rewarding—it provides individuals with a greater sense of satisfaction and pride and has a positive impact on our communities—but it also comes with great responsibility.

This year's theme, "Dare to Own the Dream," speaks to the housing industry's commitment to ensuring the dream of home ownership is accessible, sustainable and affordable. Over the years, programs have been developed to help make this dream a reality for many Americans—from down payment assistance programs, to first-time homebuyer grants, to housing counseling assistance.

The Coast has four housing counseling agencies, which provide individuals with the tools to make responsible decisions, the education to become a responsible homeowner, and aid in creating budgets and setting goals to make the dream of homeownership a sustainable reality. Responsible and successful homeownership is not only getting individuals into a home, but also ensuring they keep their homes.

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cont. from page 1

Jeep owners headed to Mississippi Gulf Coast



JEEPIN THE COAST EVENTS

<p>THURSDAY, JULY 16</p> <p>3-8 p.m. Registration, Harrah's Pool</p> <p>6-10 p.m. Kick-off pool party, Harrah's Casino</p> <p>FRIDAY, JULY 17</p> <p>8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. Registration, Long Beach Town Green</p> <p>10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Day in the Bay Beach Crawl</p> <p>11 a.m. Vendor Village opens, Long Beach</p> <p>3-4:30 p.m. Meet and Greet, Tripletails, Bay St. Louis</p> <p>6-9 p.m. Beach BBQ Bash, Silver Slipper Beach Bar</p> <p>9 p.m. After party with live entertainment, Tripletails, Bay St. Louis</p>	<p>SATURDAY, JULY 18</p> <p>8:30 a.m. - noon Registration, Long Beach Town Green</p> <p>9 a.m. Group Jeep Cruise and Harbor Jeep Picture</p> <p>10 a.m. Vendor Village opens, Long Beach</p> <p>10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Beach Crawl, Long Beach</p> <p>3 p.m. JTC Block Party, Long Beach</p> <p>3-5 p.m. Show & Shine Jeep Show, Long Beach</p> <p>5 p.m. lineup Jeep-Only Parade, Long Beach Followed by awards and a block party with live entertainment on the Long Beach Town Green</p> <p>SUNDAY, JULY 19</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Final Group Cruise, Long Beach</p> <p>10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. "See Ya Later Sunday" and live music, The Blind Tiger, Biloxi</p>
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ery Jeeper. I also help check in every Jeeper and make sure they get their T-shirts."

Gulf Coast friends Kim Favre, Jennifer Moran and Julie Bradley got the family-friendly event launched. They love Jeeps, are passionate about the Gulf Coast and stay on fire supporting charitable causes. Years earlier, the three women founded Costumes for a Cause (C4AC), a nonprofit raising money for

families impacted by cancer. Proceeds from Jeepin' the Coast are donated to C4AC.

Diehard Jeep fans experienced their first four-day JTC in the summer of 2018 and keep returning. Visitors in July are expected from Mississippi and other Southern states as well as distant points like Illinois and Canada, Moran says.

The 2020 Jeepin' the Coast was

postponed by the coronavirus pandemic. With Mississippi and the rest of the U.S. reopening in recent weeks, Moran expects that Jeep lovers will be thrilled to drive their vehicles to the Coast. A pool party, scavenger hunt, live music and up to forty vendors will spice things up.

Moran's friends share her passion. "I bought a Jeep just to do JTC," people tell her.

Jeepers are putting another Gulf Coast activity on their calendars. It's a Christmas event called Jeepin' with Claus Toys for a Cause.

Jeep owners have big hearts year-round. Moran says "Jeepers are so involved with so many giving events along our Coast."

For more information, visit the Jeepin' the Coast Facebook page or www.JeePinTheCoast.com.

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Coach Greg Lamier leads Lady Bearcats soccer team



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach High Lady Bearcats soccer coach Andrew "Greg" Lamier

By Andy Kanengiser

After a successful stint at Vanleave High, new Coach Andrew "Greg" Lamier brings his winning ways to the Long Beach Lady Bearcats soccer team.

During the 2019-2020 season, Lamier led the Vanleave girls soccer team to their first South State Championship appearance. The previous year, the Lady Bulldogs achieved the program's first undefeated district record and punched their ticket to the second round of the playoffs.

Coach Lamier's vision for the Long Beach girls soccer program in 2020-2021 and beyond is "lofty, but absolutely achievable." He's shooting for a 5A State Soccer Championship, a title eluding the Lady Bearcats in recent years.

This summer, Lamier succeeds head coach Haley Hammons, who led the Maroon & White girls to an 11-8-1 record last season, including a 6-0 mark in district soccer competition. Hammons departed to become an assistant soccer coach at Gulfport High.

Coach Lamier inherits a relatively young 27-member squad. The Lady Bearcats include incoming juniors, such as Madeline Hartley, Olivia Mims, Ashton Rupert, Ella Setnikar, as well as rising senior Sophia Fimiano.

Year-round, he stays focused on player development. Lamier believes "positivity and passion can help bring a team to the utmost reaches of success. Character development also

plays a crucial part of player success."

The Bay St. Louis native won't do it alone. The Gulf Coast resident is thrilled to work with assistant coach Ashley Harvey. A former Long Beach High soccer standout, Harvey played the sport at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. Harvey serves as a physical education teacher at Long Beach Middle School.

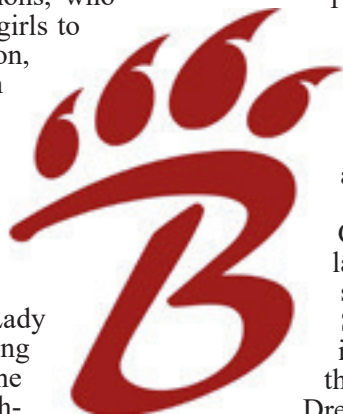
Lamier starred on soccer fields at Bay High from 2002 to 2005 and excelled on the track team. He was a member of the Pearl River Community College soccer team winning the MACJC South State Championship in 2005.

A 2010 University of Southern Mississippi history graduate, Lamier brings a sterling record as he fills the Long Beach High post. His overall record as a high school assistant and head coach is solid at 50-17-4.

Family is a big priority for the new Lady Bearcats soccer coach. He married fellow Bay High graduate and Pearl River CC soccer alumna Holland McCandless in 2014. Holland teaches seventh grade science at Bay Middle School. The Bay St. Louis couple eagerly awaits the birth of their first child, Drew, in July.

While Greg and Holland will be busy with a new baby, he will also stay involved coaching a South Mississippi Soccer Club girls squad.

Lamier mentions other goals on his to-do list. He seeks to promote the development of soccer players to achieve success on college teams.



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Five ways to spruce up your summer salads

By Sherry Lucas

As the weather warms, thermostats inch toward cooler settings. Appetites do, too. Something refreshing, those taste buds seem to say. Something light, those bathroom scales seem to say. Something that doesn't heat up the kitchen, folks in the house definitely say.

Salad, it is. The basic lettuce and dressing of choice fills the bill, but branching out can take full advantage of all the produce that summer sun is helping grow.

The weekly market Fresh at Five on Tuesdays, June 2 through August 18 in Olde Towne Clinton, offers a seasonal bounty that can make home salads sing.

A couple of Fresh at Five vendors shared tips on different avenues to explore.

"For summer, you kind of have to think beyond greens, because summer is not really greens season," says Peyton Johnson of Clinton, also known as The High Heeled Hippie. She predicted she'd run out of lettuce in the next week or two, since she doesn't grow it hydroponically and it's a cool season vegetable. "Things like cucumbers and tomatoes make great salads, too.... So, just shift gears."

Bold and colorful — What screams summer louder than a ripe tomato? Johnson likes to marinate cherry tomatoes or chunks of big heirloom tomatoes in a basic vinaigrette with balsamic vinegar, good quality olive oil and fresh herbs.

"A basic vinaigrette, a little salt and pepper, green onions and fresh thyme or basil, let it sit, stir occasionally, and they're delicious! You can serve it with fresh mozzarella," from T&R Dairy Farm at the market.

Share the veggie spotlight — Give other vegetables a shot at salad stardom. Pole beans, for instance. Blanch three minutes, dress with balsamic vinaigrette and sprinkle with toasted pecans and blue cheese. "That's awesome," she promises.

For a simple vinaigrette, she uses a 2:1 oil to vinegar ratio, sometimes a squeeze of mustard (often Dijon) to help emulsify the dressing, salt and pepper. Add fresh garlic, if you like. She shakes hers up in a Mason jar.

Thai one on — Another favorite of Johnson's is a Thai-inspired cucumber salad.

"I grow Thai basil every year, so I

can have that salad." This is an easy one, too, with sliced cucumbers and chopped peanuts, dressed with lime juice, fish sauce, chopped basil, and

East with tabbouleh. Chopped parsley, tomatoes, mint, onion and bulgur, olive oil and lemon juice is a real refresher.

For Johnson, it brings back memories of her Delta childhood, and her dad's love of food and the diverse families who called the Delta home. Friends of Lebanese descent would bring tabbouleh to potlucks. "Weird salad" was her dad's affectionate nickname for it.

"I was grown before I knew it was tabbouleh," she says, laughing. "It's a great salad for summer. I still occasionally have to make some," to answer cravings and access those fond memories.

Keep up with seasonal produce selection and message orders through The High Heeled Hippie Facebook page.

Go super healthy — A super food salad from Cindy Ayers at Foot Print Farms highlights her array of fresh-picked goodies that are also good for you.

"We have two types of kale — curly and Dinosaur kale — along with rainbow Swiss chard, parsley, cucumber, fresh onions and yellow squash thin slices, with a light dressing of your choice," Ayers says. "My choice is rosemary olive oil."

mint, if you have it, served over rice noodles or simply rice. Tomatoes and green onions are good on it, too.

"It is cold, and it's great after it has sat and marinated a little bit."

Broaden those horizons — As long as your taste buds are on an international tour, wrap in the Middle





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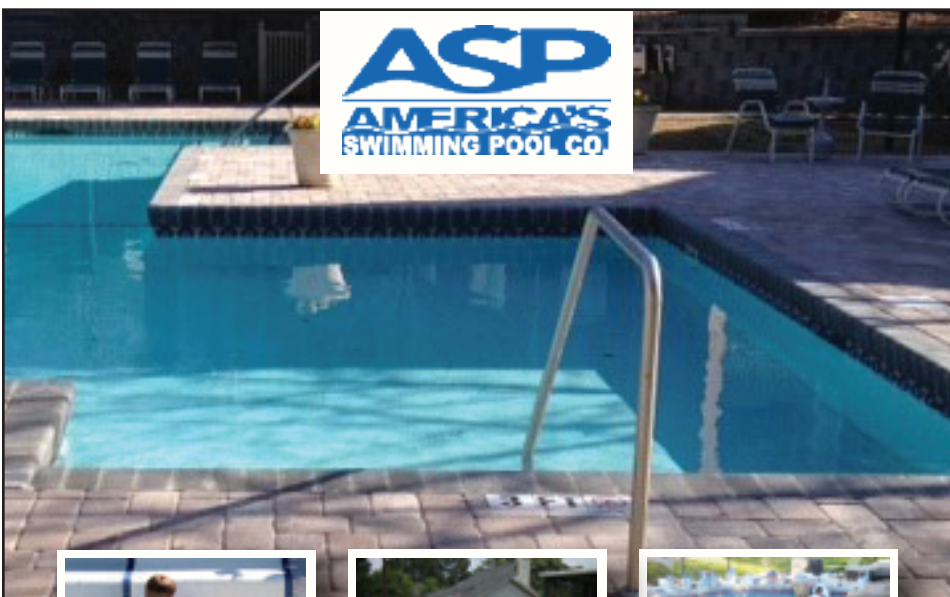
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SCOUTS HELP PREPARE FOR CRISTOBAL

All photos special to Long Beach Breeze.

Boy Scout Troop 205 from Long Beach helped out their community ahead of Tropical Storm Cristobal. Fifteen Scouts, along with six adult leaders and family helped bag sand bags at the Long Beach Girls Softball Field. They bagged and loaded over five hundred sandbags in two hours.



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USM graduate school extending admissions test waiver to spring 2020

Special to Long Beach Breeze

As most academic testing centers across the country remain closed due to concerns about the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and at-home testing is prohibitive for many individuals, the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) Graduate School will extend its waiver on standardized admission exams (GRE/GMAT) for applications to the university's graduate programs to include spring 2021 admissions.

The waiver does not apply to programs whose accrediting bodies require a standardized exam as a part of the admissions application. Previously, USM suspended these exams for the summer and fall 2020 semesters.

"With so many testing centers still closed, securing a standardized test score for admission into graduate programs becomes more challeng-

ing," said Dr. Karen Coats, dean of the USM Graduate School. "This creates an unnecessary impediment to achieving one's goal of earning an advanced degree, often an important step toward career advancement. By extending our admissions testing waiver, we continue our commitment to removing barriers to personal success."

An English proficiency exam is still required for international applicants; however, USM International Admissions will continue to accept the International Test of English Proficiency (iTEP), which currently offers at-home testing. Scores of 4.0 will be accepted to meet USM's English proficiency requirement.

For more information about USM graduate programs and admissions requirements, contact the USM Graduate School at 601-266-4369, or visit www.usm.edu/graduate-school/.



City buildings, services remain modified

Special to Long Beach Breeze

City Hall reopened on Monday, June 8, by appointment only. Patrons must wear a mask to enter the building and follow the recommended CDC guidelines. Residents can call 228-863-1556 to make an appointment.

The Long Beach Fire Department's and Police Department's lobbies will remain closed. Residents can call the stations to make an appointment.

The Water Department is closed until further notice, payments can be mailed to P.O. Box 630, deposited in the drop box located on the front of the building, or paid by phone at N COURT 1-800-701-8560 or by website at www.longbeachmswater.com. For more information, call 228-864-8531.

For residents needing to request a permit, applications can be found on the City's website (cityoflongbeachms.info) under the "Services" tab and on the Long Beach Building Department's page. Permits may be printed, and a scanned copy emailed to mgundlach@cityoflongbeachms.com.

A box is set up outside the front

doors of City Hall to drop off any applications or plans for review. Residents are asked to not place any payments in this box. If a resident needs to submit a payment (checks or money orders only) for the Building Office, they should place it in an envelope

and clearly write "Building Office" and their name

on the envelope, then place it in the drop box to the left of the front doors of City Hall. Residents are asked to not put any paperwork with their payment. All paperwork should be put in the cardboard box on the right of the City Hall doors.

If a resident drops off any paperwork or needs other assistance from the Building Office at this time, they are asked to call 228-863-1554.

To ensure the safety of Long Beach seniors, the Long Beach Senior Activity Center is remaining closed until further notice.

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



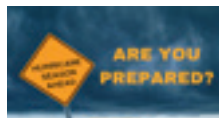
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USM modifies fall semester calendar

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) has announced plans to condense its fall 2020 semester calendar in an effort to limit student travel into and out of the region and help prevent the potential spread of COVID-19.

USM will begin the semester on Monday, August 17, and end regular instruction on Monday, November 23—prior to the student Thanksgiving holidays, which are set for Wednesday, November 25, through Friday, November 27. Semester exams will be conducted online, beginning on Monday, November 30, and concluding on Thursday, December 3. Previously, the schedule called for classes to begin on Monday, August 24. The modified schedule also eliminates the traditional Fall Break for students in mid-October.

Given ongoing public health restrictions on large event gatherings,

University officials are continuing to evaluate possible impacts to commencement ceremonies currently scheduled for late August for spring graduates and December for fall graduates. Updates regarding commencement exercises will be communicated as soon as additional decisions are made.

“As we prepare for resuming on-campus operations, the safety and health of our USM community remains our top priority,” said University President Rodney D. Bennett. “The condensed fall calendar will present new challenges, but the fall semester will undoubtedly be another opportunity for USM to demonstrate our proven ability to meet any challenge with innovation and determination.”

The modified fall calendar is one part of a comprehensive strategy the University is developing and imple-

menting to help ensure a successful academic year for students, faculty and staff. Additional health protocols and procedures will be implemented in the fall, following ongoing consultation with public health officials and forthcoming guidance from the IHL Safe Start Task Force. Faculty are developing all course formats to be

events. Changes to student life programming and housing policies will be implemented in accordance with current health guidance. USM is implementing plans for faculty and staff to begin returning to campuses in a phased approach, beginning in early June and continuing into mid-July in preparation.

The complete fall 2020 academic calendar will be posted on the Office of the Registrar’s website by June 1.

Admitted students should register for a required orientation session at usm.edu/orientation. Prospective students are encouraged to visit usm.edu/admissions for more information about academic programs, scholarships, and financial aid opportunities.

For ongoing updates to the University’s response to COVID-19, visit usm.edu/covid-19.



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highly adaptable, should public health concerns necessitate significant modifications.

Public health guidelines will also determine future plans for large gatherings, including athletic

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10:00 a.m. service live on The Well facebook page and Youtube
youtube.com/user/TheWellLongBeach

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

COUPLE'S LIFELONG LOVE NOT THWARTED BY COVID-19

By Lindy Sholes

"I don't think Hollywood could have written a better ending to their life," said Richard Clark at the funeral of Long Beach couple Jerry and Frances Williamson, both 72. "They lived their life together, and they entered into the next life together."

Jerry and Frances, who had been married for fifty years, passed away of COVID-19 on April 1, hand in hand, several days after returning home from a cruise.

Clark, pastor of North Long Beach Baptist Church, where the couple attended, said they would frequently go on cruises and often came home having caught some kind of sickness, so he didn't give it much thought when he heard they were ill. However, he could tell something wasn't right when Jerry called to tell him Frances had been put on a ventilator.

"You could hear the tears in his eyes as he was talking to me," Clark said in the service, which was posted on Facebook due to social distancing restrictions. "He was scared to death. They were separated in the hospital; and, from what I knew about them, they rarely were separated. Everywhere they went, when you saw one, you saw the other; so I know he was heartbroken over it."

Shortly after that conversation, Clark got a call that Jerry had also been placed on a ventilator, and shortly thereafter that they had both passed.

Frances's cousin, Billie Scully of Slidell, Louisiana, was with them on the Disney cruise to the Panama Canal, where they may have contracted the virus. She said when they decided to go, they had heard of the virus, but they weren't too concerned, as it hadn't begun to spread much. When they were about four days into their cruise, Disney announced they would not be doing any of their port stops and began diligently sanitizing surfaces and monitoring the temperatures of the crew. A nurse on the cruise told Scully that there were no reported cases of illness or fever on the cruise. It wasn't until they disembarked in San Diego that they realized how serious the situation had become.

"We went to a hotel for one night, and it was only us and five other families in the hotel," Scully said. "What made us really realize how severe it was: we were on a flight from San Diego to Houston that holds 177 passengers, and there were only 77 passengers, including crew. When we got to Houston, there were only fifteen passengers, including the crew."

She said Frances, whom Scully considers as close as a sister, had begun to feel bad before they got home, but she had not had any symptoms or fever, just a sore tooth from a loose crown. They returned home on a Saturday, and the following Monday, she got a call from Jerry that they were going to the hospital after a trip to an urgent care clinic where it was found that Frances had double pneumonia. Scully was shocked. Her daughter-in-law, who had shared a cabin on the cruise with the Williamsons, also came down with COVID-19 but was never hospitalized. She quarantined and fought the virus at home for thirty-one days.

Scully said that it was comforting to know that Frances and Jerry spent their last hours together, even though they were not conscious. She said their granddaughter works in the ICU where they were cared for, and made sure they were able to be together, holding hands when it was clear they were unlikely to make it. Frances passed around 11 a.m.; Jerry passed four hours later.

It is frustrating for the family, Scully said, when people say the virus was not real or was blown out of proportion. Losing them both at the same time has



been very difficult.

"I still find myself getting up and wondering why she hasn't called me, then I remember that she's not going to be calling," she said. "None of their kids had seen them since March 5, before they left for the cruise. To know that they lost both parents within a matter of hours is devastating to them. We should always be prepared, because we don't know the last time we might see someone."

She said that losing loved ones and worrying about herself or her children being exposed has forced her to take the virus very seriously, but it will not keep her from cruising again in the future. She doesn't think the Williamsons would have, either. She said they had gone on six cruises together since 2017 and had enjoyed their last one.

They spent a lot of time at the coffee shop on board, drinking frappuccinos, reading novels by Christian authors, and people watching. She said Jerry, nicknamed "Snappy Pappy" by one of his grandchildren, loved to take pictures; and, when they passed through the Panama Canal, he was on the top deck taking lots of pictures. He also enjoyed getting a laugh out of strangers. An avid Alabama football fan, he would call out "Roll Tide" to anyone he met, even the foreign crew members who had no idea what he was talking about. He knew he had gone too far when Frances would scold him simply by saying his name in a certain tone.

"She was a little spit fire," Scully said. "We used to say, 'You better be careful, or she's gonna give you a beating with her tongue.'"

Scully said one of Jerry's favorite things to do was spoil his wife. She said he would make her fresh coffee every morning, and even went as far on one trip to walk several blocks at 9 p.m. in Vancouver, Canada, to hunt her down some ice cream when she had a late night craving. Scully had teased Frances for letting Jerry take care of all their finances.

"I told her, you better learn how to do all that stuff in case he goes before you," Scully said. "[Frances] told him, 'Don't you go off and leave me here by myself.' It's good that they went at the same time, because I think they would have been very lost without each other."

The couple met in 1969 when Jerry was working for his father's construction company and she worked at a nearby café. They were married a few months later.

"It was an excellent match," Scully said. "They had a lot of ups and downs, but they stayed true and loved each other very dearly. Every day, the last thing they did at night was kiss each other goodnight and say I love you, and the first thing they did in the morning was kiss each other good morning and say I love you."

The couple had lost a son. Jerry had been diagnosed with lung cancer shortly after his retirement in 2007 and had to have a lung removed. For several months, Frances had struggled with shortness of breath for unknown reasons and had back pain that interfered with her ability to raise her arms.

According to the couple's obituary, Jerry was born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, served in the Navy, and worked as a public works supervisor at the U.S. Naval Home until his retirement. Frances was born in Wiggins and was a retired phlebotomist. They loved their family, their neighbors and their church, where Jerry served as a deacon and Frances was on the flower committee.

They are survived by their children, Delora Ingerson and Jerry Williamson, II, along with eight grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren; siblings Joseph Williamson, Ramona Chapman, Marselle Waldrop (Jerry), and Jimmy Bond, Emma Strickland, Betty Jones (Frances).

LBSD releases 2020-21 online registration information

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Families enrolling children in Long Beach's public schools must register online. Registration is available for both returning and new students. Registration links are available on the school district's web page.

All students enrolling in kindergarten must have reached his/her fifth birthday on or before September 1, 2020.

New students registering in Long Beach Schools must provide the MS 121 Immunization form, original birth certificate, the student's Social Security Card and two proofs of residence.

Returning students must also provide proof of residence. The proof documentation will be requested for upload during the on-line registration process.

For all students, the two proofs of residency must match the student's primary residence. A post office box will not be accepted. The documents accepted as proof must have the name and address of the student's parent/legal guardian, and all applicants must submit at least one document from each of the following groups:

Group 1:

- **Filed Homestead Exemption Application form or Homestead Exemption Renewal Card**
- **Mortgage documents or property deed**
- **Apartment or home lease - must list all tenants**

Group 2:

- **Current automobile registration**
- **A utility bill showing the service address and dated within the last 60 days**
 - **Gas bill**
 - **Water bill**
 - **Electric bill**

ACT prep opportunity offered for LBHS Class of 2021



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach High School is offering a summer learning opportunity to current LBHS juniors/rising seniors to help prepare them for the ACT.

The current plan for 2020-21 school year, according to the Mississippi Department of Education, is to administer an ACT in the fall for the Class of 2021, who did not get to take the school-administered ACT during their junior year.

Spaces for the learning opportunity are limited. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis, and participants must bring and wear a mask to participate in the session.

Students who are interested are asked to email Mr. Pepper at daniel.pepper@lbsdk12.com to secure their desired date and time for the session, as well as indicate on which academic area(s) they feel they need to focus (reading, English, math, and/or science). Registrants will receive an email confirmation if their requested time slot is available. Those interested are reminded that space is limited, and registrants must be able to commit to attending the full session (example: June 8-11, from 12 p.m. until 3 pm).

Spaces for the learning opportunity are limited. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis, and participants must bring and wear a mask to participate in the session.

Sessions offered are:

June 8-12, from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m.

June 8-12, from 12 p.m. until 3 p.m.

June 15-19, from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m.

June 15-19, from 12 p.m. until 3 p.m.

July 13-17, from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m.

July 13-17, from 12 p.m. until 3 p.m.

July 20-24, from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m.

July 20-24, from 12 p.m. until 3 p.m.

Students are also encouraged to download the Remind app for ease of viewing messages for the Senior Class of 2021. Students and parents without cell phones are encouraged to enter an email address in order to get the messages. Those interested in joining the Remind group can text their applicable code to 81010:

Students with last names A-L, enter code: @b867g4b
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\$674,000

Long Beach High School names Class of 2020 top honors

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach School District and Long Beach High School (LBHS) recently announced the Class of 2020 top honors.

Katie Lynn Baker was named the LBHS 2020 Valedictorian, and Cameron Delaney "Lainey" Hillman was named Salutatorian.

Baker, in addition to her valedictorian honors, earned a Superintendent's Academic Award, Hall of Fame Award and was named a STAR Student for LBHS. She plans to attend Stanford University in California upon graduation from Long Beach and has accepted more than \$280,000 in scholarships.

Hillman, in addition to her salutatorian honors, earned a Superintendent's Academic Award, Hall of Fame Award and the Overall Four-Year Academic Award for English. Hillman has been awarded \$71,000 in scholarships and plans to attend the University of Mississippi, where she will study biomedical engineering and then go to medical school to become a dermatologist.

"We are all so proud of Katie Baker and Lainey Hillman," said Dr. Talia Lock, Long Beach High School principal.

"They have displayed hard work, persistence and tenacity throughout their entire educational careers. Long Beach School District has no doubt they will continue to succeed in all



LBHS Valedictorian Katie Lynn Baker

future endeavors, and we are so excited to see what their futures hold for them."

In addition to valedictorian and salutatorian honors, LBHS named the Class Orator for 2020, Kathleen "Katie" Ca-



LBHS Salutatorian Cameron Delaney "Lainey" Hillman

mille Huey. Huey is a Superintendent's Academic Award honoree and a member of the Class of 2020 Hall of Fame. After graduation, she plans to attend The University of Southern Mississippi to major in biological sciences, with

a minor in music. Huey has accepted \$73,000 in scholarships.

The Long Beach High School Class of 2020 will hold their graduation ceremony on Tuesday, June 23, at 6 p.m. in the Mississippi Gulf Coast Coliseum.

Teaching scholarship opens for high school seniors

By Andy Kanengiser

Voyager Sopris Learning, a division of Cambium Learning Group, Inc., recently announced the launch of the 2020 Aspiring Teacher Scholarship contest for graduating high school seniors in Mississippi and Alabama who will be pursuing a bachelor's degree in

education. As part of the essay submission, students are asked to include information about a teacher who helped them advance to where they are today, as well as a letter of recommendation from a teacher or guidance counselor. Originality and creativity are among the review criteria the judging panel will use to base their decisions.



education.

To be eligible, students this fall must plan to attend a college or university in the same state where they graduated from high school.

The graduating seniors are asked to submit a 500-word essay on why they want to become a teacher. Two winners will be selected, one from each state, and they will each earn a \$1,000 scholarship. The contest is open now and closes July 21, with the winners to be announced August 3.

The 2020 Aspiring Teacher Scholarship is sponsored by LETRS® (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling), Voyager Sopris Learning's landmark professional learning series on the science of reading. Both Mississippi and Alabama use LETRS® as a key part of their state-wide literacy initiatives.

For more information and the application, eligible students in Mississippi should visit www.VoyagerSopris.com/info/ms-scholarship.

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Long Beach Live hosts The All Nighters July 10

By Andy Kanengiser

Long Beach Live fans are invited to enjoy their first monthly concert in 2020, when The All Nighters perform on July 10.

The place to be in downtown Long Beach that Friday evening is the Harper McCaughan Town Green along Jeff Davis Avenue. The free concert begins at 7 p.m.

It's another sign of life returning to normal along the Mississippi Gulf Coast during the COVID-19 pandemic. Restaurants, casinos, fitness centers, barber shops and other businesses reopened on the Coast in recent weeks. Beaches, parks, fishing piers, and shopping centers are open, too.

Jenny Levens, the City's director of community affairs, welcomes back Long Beach Live fans to what should be an entertaining summer evening.

Live music, plus cars, return, but social distancing should be practiced to mitigate the spread of the virus. As of June 3, there

were more than 109,000 coronavirus deaths across the U.S. and over 1.89 million cases.

Long Beach Live concerts give Gulf Coast folks an entertaining diversion from the global health emergency.

The All Nighters is a Mississippi Gulf Coast band consisting of guitar players Chase Thoms and Matt Bounds, with Ronald Gardner on bass and Stephen Thoms on drums. Local crowd favorites, the group can play almost every type of music, from rock to reggae, country to pop. The guys blend oldies with today's hits.

The All Nighters perform at weddings, parties, special events and other venues.

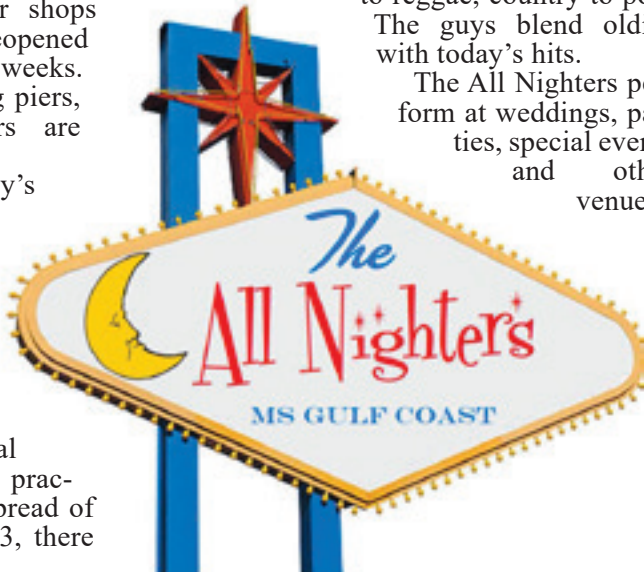
Band members say they are excited to take their act to downtown Long Beach.

"Line the streets with your classic cars for a cruise in, or join in and slow roll Jeff Davis like the good 'ole days," Levens said. "Take it easy and relax, and spend some time just enjoying the crowds and the music."

Local businesses and restaurants will stay open late and offer nice deals for families and friends turning out.

"Come on down to enjoy the sights and sounds of the Friendly City," said Levens.

For more information on Long Beach events, contact Jenny Levens at jenny@cityoflongbeachms.com. More information can also be found on the City's website at <http://www.cityoflongbeachms.info/>.



The All Nighters

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Lady Bearcats soccer announces tryout plans

By Andy Kanengiser

The Long Beach School District recently announced the tryout and summer session information for the Long Beach High School girls soccer team.

Those who want to participate must complete a Dragonfly Account and information (physicals, releases, etc.), as well as the LBHS Girls Soccer Tryout Form found on the LBSD website. Registrants must also sign up for the LBHS Girls Soccer Remind Account by texting "@bearcatlb" to "81010."

Voluntary summer requirements for team applicants including attending pre-tryout information sessions on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from June 8 through June 19. The sessions will be held at the LBHS football/soccer field from 6 a.m. until 7 a.m.

Applicants are also asked to attend voluntary tryouts on June 22 from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. at the LBHS football/soccer field, as well as complete personal workouts.

Applicants are asked to plan to attend the LBHS Lady Bearcats Day Camp with William Carey coaches all day on June 30 and July 1, as well as attend practice sessions from 6 a.m. until 7:30 a.m. at the soccer field or as announced.

For more information, visit the Long Beach School District's athletic pages at www.lbsdk12.com.

Long Beach again lauded for patriotism

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach is the winner of the Most Patriotic City of Mississippi Award for the second year in a row. Insurify recently recognized the communities that are home to the most veterans and active service members in each state. The company's data science and research team analyzed their database of over two million insurance applications to determine where in each state has the highest percentage of



current and former service members.

"Every day, military personnel put their lives and safety at risk for the protection of our country" said Snejina Zacharia, CEO of Insurify. "This award is about recognizing the love and sacrifice of the once and current service members who bring pride to these communities."

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

Celebrate your Graduate 2020 Ivy Van Alstyne



Ivy we are so proud of you. Good luck in nursing school. We know you'll do great!
Love, Mama, Parker and Dad

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