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August 2021 • Volume 5, Number 7 • “Good News You Can Use”

Gateway Project proposal presented



All photos by Dom Fimiano.

By Dom Fimiano

Christian Preus Landscape Architecture presented proposed plans for the Long Beach Gateway

Project to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen earlier this month.

Development phases for the city entrance between Cleveland Avenue and Jefferson Davis Avenue

include a proposal that adds 111 parking spaces in the harbor area, a sitting area, city signage and “The Tower,” designed to be a downtown attraction for visitors and for

photos.

The Mayor and alderman said they liked what they saw and asked questions about durability and maintenance.

Monthly charity quilting benefits children

By Lindy Sholes

When Rachel Bishop took her first quilting class, she knew she wanted to turn it into a career. She now owns What’s Your Stitch, a quilting shop in Long Beach, and hosts charity quilting events.

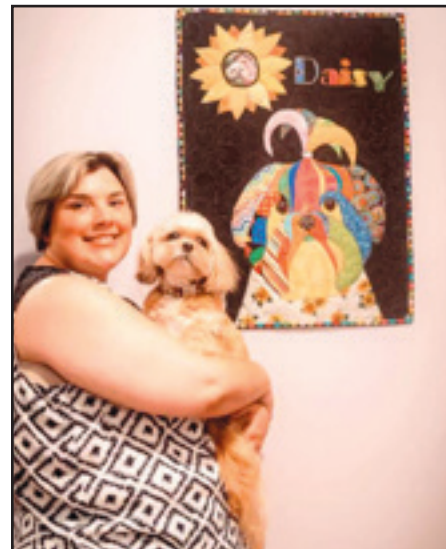
“When I decided I wanted to open my own quilt shop, I always knew I wanted to have a charity aspect to it,” she said. “I decided making quilts for children was what I wanted to do. I opened in October of 2019.”

Last year, Bishop received a grant from the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce, which she used to buy fabric and supplies such as cutting mats, rulers, scissors, pins and seam rippers. She also shared her cause with fabric companies, some



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Participant Victoria Burkett shows off her first straight cut during a charity sewing event at What’s Your Stitch.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Rachel Bishop, owner of What’s Your Stitch

of which donated fabric or gave her highly discounted offers. COVID-19 brought the world, and her business, to a halt shortly after she opened.

“So, I have had a closet of fabric just waiting for the day we could be together to sew,” she said.

In April of this year, Bishop hosted her first charity quilting event, which included two seasoned quilters and one beginner who is learning to quilt.

“The ladies who have been attending are having a blast digging through the scrap fabric that has been donated to make the quilts and then using the yardage for borders and backings,” she said. “Every month, we seem to gain a sewer. Everyone enjoys the conversation and sewing tips provided. Plus, it is always nice

cont. on page 6



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Long Beach police officers return to duty

By Dom Fimiano

Police Chief Billy Seal welcomed the return of four officers from temporary administrative leave on July 6. The police department has been operating with some officers working overtime. The department has been working to hire four additional officers before a staff shortage was created by two officers resigning to relocate. They left prior to four officers being placed on mandatory administrative leave after an officer-involved shooting.

On June 12, the Long Beach police were in pursuit of a domestic disturbance suspect when he fled to Gulfport. The chase ended at 37th Avenue and West Railroad Street in Gulfport with assistance from Gulfport police. The suspect attempted to flee and opened fire on police, injuring no one. The suspect was stopped and arrested. There were no officer-related injuries, and the suspect was taken to Memorial Hospital for medical treatment.

Mayor Bass stated the dispatcher, Amy Johnson, performed excellent work and remained calm throughout the stressful call at the time of

the June 12 high speed chase when shots were fired at officers. Chief Seal agreed and thanked the Long Beach Police Force for their dedication and excellent work.

The department's officer shortage was compounded when two officers left the department, and then four additional officers were placed on administrative leave for several weeks after the officer-involved shooting if the shooting, which injured the suspect, was proper procedure and justified action.

Seal said investigating officer-involved shootings with no officers injured, multiple police departments participating and no casualties with witnesses takes less time for officers to return.

The department has been in search of additional officers for months, but Seal unfortunately had to report to Mayor Bass and the Board of Alderman that there were no qualified applicants in the spring. In July, the department made progress, and Chief Seal was able to inform the Mayor and Board of Alderman that he has some new potential officers being evaluated.



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Finally First Friday set for August 6



By Dom Fimiano

Sons Of Uh Beech will play at the August Long Beach Live. The monthly concert will take place on Friday, August 6, from 7 until 10 p.m. at the Harper McCaughan Town Green on Jeff Davis Avenue. The concerts resumed in May after a COVID-19-induced hiatus.



Future concerts include Little Jimmy on September 10, and Starz on October 1.

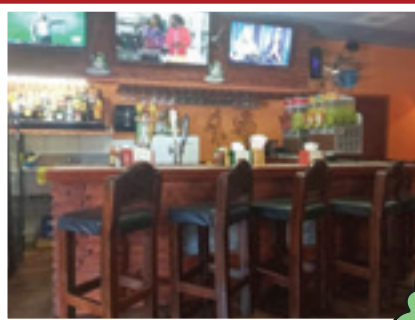
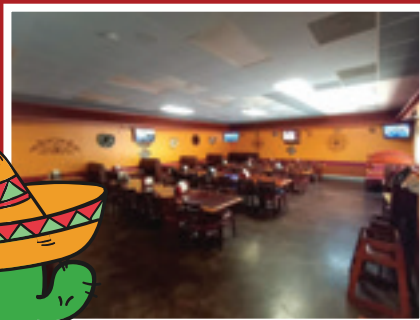
Long Beach families are encouraged

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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Cecil receives grant to pursue higher education

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Samantha Cecil was recently awarded a Philanthropic Education Organization (P.E.O.) Program for Continuing Education Grant from the P.E.O. Sisterhood. She was sponsored by P.E.O., Chapter B of Long Beach.

P.E.O. has been celebrating women helping women reach for the stars for more than one hundred fifty years. The P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education was established in 1973 to provide need-based grants to women in the U.S. and Canada whose education has been interrupted and who find it necessary to return to school to support themselves and/or their families.

Cecil is pursuing a masters degree in curriculum and instruction. She is a teacher in Harrison County and is dedicated to the pursuit of education. Cecil's dedication made her stand out amongst hundreds of applicants nationwide.

The P.E.O. Sisterhood is a U.S.-based international women's organization of about 230,000 members, with a primary focus on providing educational opportunities for female

students worldwide. The Sisterhood is headquartered in Des Moines, Iowa, with close to 6,000 chapters throughout the United States and Canada.

Since its inception in 1869, the non-profit organization has helped more than 116,000 women pursue edu-

cational goals by providing over \$383 million in grants, scholarships, awards and loans.

The Sisterhood also owns and supports Cottey College in Nevada, Missouri. Through

membership, the P.E.O. Sisterhood has brought together more than half a million women in the United States and Canada who are passionate about helping women advance through education, while supporting and motivating them. In addition to the educational philanthropies, the P.E.O. Sisterhood provides a framework of support and community for all members.

Chapter B of Long Beach has been a part of the Mississippi Gulf Coast community since it was organized in 1930. It is the second oldest chapter in Mississippi.



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Bearcats cheerleaders log practice hours

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Although this marks the second summer the LBHS Bearcat cheerleaders stayed home instead of attending an overnight cheer camp, the squad still managed to have a camp experience, starting with fifteen spring/summer practices, many of which were at the beloved "track" at the Lumpkin Magee Stadium. Camp started off with an overnight stay at the Inn at Long Beach. Two staff members from Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) led the three-day camp, where the team learned new sidelines, cheers, dances and a camp routine. In addition, many cheerleaders were recognized by UCA for their talents. The cheerleaders will be at the Community Pep Rally on August 6.

All photos Special to Long Beach Breeze.



Flyers Karly LaFontaine and Kyleigh Allen putting in work during stunt class.



Pictured (l to r) are All American Cheerleaders MaKenna Currie, Camryn Kopszywa, Caitlyn Thornton, Mallorie Rishel, Karly LaFontaine, Emma Hodges, Maci Dennison, AnnElise Elrod, Karlee Prestenbach, Sarah Wilson, Alivia Brady and Reagan Stalling.



UCA recognized Jayla LaGarde and Rylie Pepper as "Dancing Divas."



Ava Levens, Makenzie Cross and Stella Jackson received awards for their stunting successes.



The squad is ready to start the camp showcase.



Emma Hodges and Mallorie Rishel (not pictured) were named as winners of the Jump Off.



Karlee Prestenbach, Jaden LaCour, Yazmine Eldridge and Madison Richards were recognized for their work ethic and overall attitude.



Senior cheerleaders show off their Class of '22 cheer rings.



Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Reagan Stalling, Camryn Kopszywa, Maci Dennison, Caitlyn Thornton, MaKenna Currie, Mallorie Rishel, AnnElise Elrod, Emma Hodges, Karlee Prestenbach and Alivia Brady; middle row: Payton Hudson, Karly LaFontaine, Emma Lykins, Ava Graham, Jaidin Wahl, Sarah Wilson, Ava Levens, Madison Richards and Jayla LaGarde; and back row: Jaden LaCour, Makenzie Cross, Stella Jackson, Brooke Daniels, Rylie Pepper, Yazmine Eldridge, Kara Oberg and Kyleigh Allen.

cont. from page 1

Monthly charity quilting benefits children

to sit and sew with people, because usually it is just you and your sewing machine.”

Gulfport resident Victoria Burkett took an interest in sewing during the onset of COVID-19, when she learned to sew face masks and scrunchies, but she is learning to quilt at the charity events and expects to finish her first one in September or October. She said most participants volunteer about an hour a month until they have a complete quilt.

“I’m learning this from the ground up,” she said. “[Rachel] said, ‘I’ll give you the materials and teach you to do everything.’...She is really amazing.”

The cause is important to Burkett, because she has a family member who was once in the foster system, and she loves that her finished quilt will help a child in need.

“You can tell everyone involved likes doing this, the charity aspect of it and creativity aspect of it,” she said. “It’s really beautiful, as if a giant room full of fabric isn’t beautiful enough.”

Since the first charity event, six quilts have been made. Finished quilts are donated to Court Appointed Spe-



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Burkett works on a quilt during one of the monthly charity sewing events.

cial Advocates for Children (CASA) of Harrison and Stone Counties, an organization that advocates for neglected or abused children, where Bishop also serves as a volunteer.

Bishop has applied for more grants,

in hopes that she can buy a couple of sewing machines for people who may not have their own to use. She wants the art of quilting to be available to anyone who is interested. At the charity events, there is no cost to

attend, but participants do need to provide their own sewing machine and should expect their quilt to be donated to CASA. Bishop also provides quilting classes for those who are interested in learning the skill.

“I believe it is so important to teach all age groups this art, so it can continue for generations to come,” she said. “Also, who does not love a quilt to snuggle with?”

She said Long Beach has been a great community for her family and her business.

“When I opened, I wanted What’s Your Stitch to feel like a place you could just drop in to chat while shopping, or just drop in to chat,” she said. “Through the shop, I now have a group of people I consider friends and who I have been able to share life experiences with.”

What’s Your Stitch is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is located at 112 East 2nd Street. Upcoming charity quilting days include August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10 and December 8. For more information, visit www.what-syourstitch.com or the store’s Facebook page.



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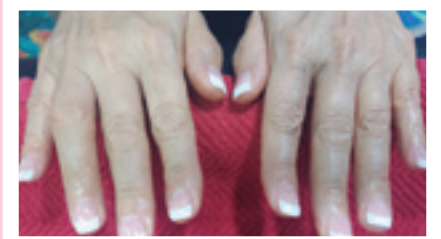
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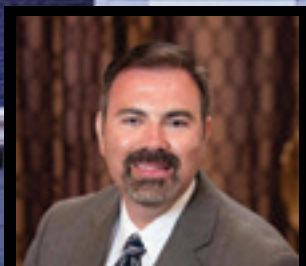
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Buddy Sports fills summertime with fun

Special to Long Beach Breeze

MS Gulf Coast Buddy Sports, sometimes referred to as Buddy Ball or Buddy Sports, has had a busy schedule this summer. The organization has been working to fulfill the leisure side of their mission - to provide recreational sports and leisure opportunities for youths and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and other special needs.

Among other activities, the organization offered seven Painting with Buddies sessions and hosted multiple Walking with Buddies evenings.

The final Walking with Buddies for July will be on Thursday evening, July 22, at

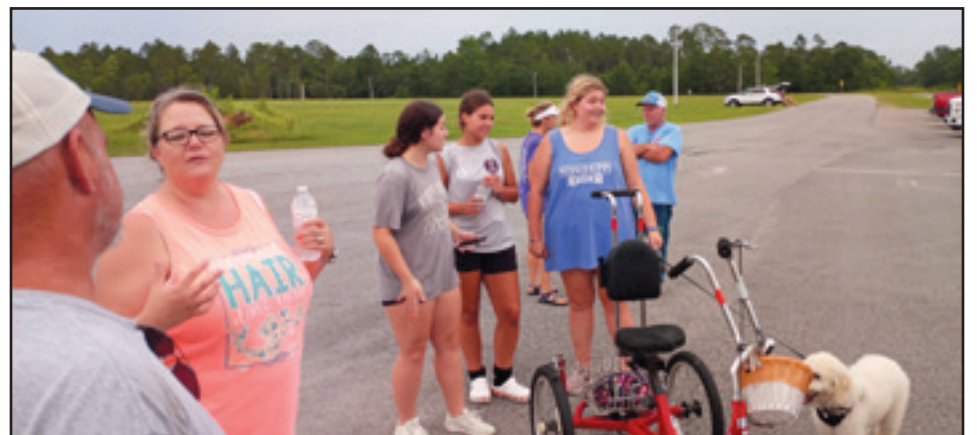
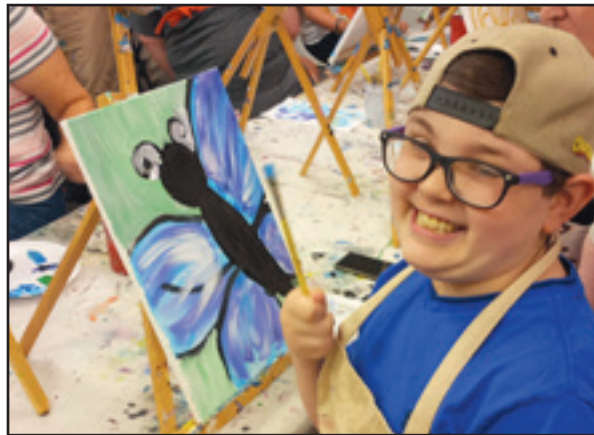
6 p.m. This is a relaxed, fun time for participants in Buddy Sports and their families to get out and walk/exercise together. This event takes place at the Long Beach Youth Baseball Fields, located off Daugherty Road behind the Senior Citizen Center. Participants may walk around the outside of the fields, the paved walking track or both. Participants may choose to ride a bicycle during this event or walk with their people-friendly family pets. Healthy drinks and snacks are provided.

All activities of Buddy Sports are provided free of charge to attendees.

For more information about Buddy Sports offerings, future events, donations or to volunteer, visit www.msgulfcoastbuddysports.org.



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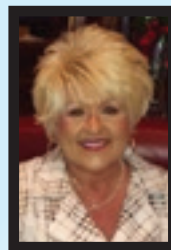
LBPD dispatcher Johnson retires



Photo by Dom Fimiano

Amy Johnson recently retired from the Long Beach Police Department, where she has been a dispatcher since 2005.

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Garden Club hosts herb garden tea party

As part of the Long Beach Library's Summer Reading Program, the Long Beach Garden Club held an herb garden tea party for children at the library.



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St. Thomas Catholic Church offers adult program

By Dom Fimiano

Traditionally, each September, the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) program begins at St. Thomas Church in Long Beach. This is an educational program open to adults interested in learning about Catholicism or becoming Catholic in a relaxed pressure-free spiritual environment. Participants have opportunities to grow spiritually while learning more about their faith through witnessing and experiencing Christian life.

RCIA is Christian educational opportunity; it is not a program seeking to recruit or convert anyone. The opportunity is for adults desiring to learn more scripture-based information concerning what the Catholic Church teaches and practices. RCIA is for Christians and Catholics seeking more from their faith or feeling drawn by the Holy Spirit. The Rite of Christian Initiation is also the process for adults desiring to become catholic and for catholic members to receive the sacraments.

Diocese of Biloxi's Bishop Kihneman recently stated an RCIA program should be less curriculum-driven and rather tailored to the individual seekers in ways that help form a long-lasting personal relationship with Christ and His Church. St. Thomas Parish is updating the RCIA program beginning this year to fulfill these goals. St. Thomas's Deacon, Buddy Vancourt, said the new format will likely provide flexibility for RCIA participants to join at any point. Leaders say the sole purpose of the RCIA program is to bring members closer to God.

Nancy Howard and Sarah Murphy are participants who shared how impressed they are with the RCIA program. They mentioned how they never felt pressure to attend the classes or to join the church, they felt the classes were welcoming, and they always looked forward to attending. Howard said the leaders' excellent knowledge of scripture helped create a spiritual journey that nourished her desire to participate. Bible verses were referenced to explain and clarify information. Murphy said that the RCIA content is so rich, she thinks everyone should participate, going on to describe her RCIA experience as the most wonderful spiritual awakening and philosophical understanding of any religious education she's had.

St. Thomas RCIA program leaders are Sue Hoffman, Dave Gauthier and Steven Mink. Gauthier said that updates are being made to the RCIA program to have sponsors work more closely with participants, so the sponsors will be more involved in assisting with spiritual development. The RCIA participants will have fewer classroom-related activities and will be given the opportunity to experience spiritual growth by participating in parish-led activities offered at flexible times. Organizers hope the changes will help eliminate schedule conflicts and provide opportunities for greater participation, as spiritual reflections, Bible studies and sponsor-led involvement are important for a successful RCIA experience.

Those interested in more information are encouraged to attend an introductory meeting on Saturday, August 28, at 9 a.m. in the St Thomas Parish Community Center at 720 East Beach Boulevard in Long Beach. Coffee and donuts will be served.

For questions, contact Dave Gauthier at 228-596-8835, or by email at religiouseducation@saintthomaslb.org.

Community pep rally planned for August 6

Special to Long Beach Breeze

On Friday, August 6, the public is invited to a Long Beach Community Pep Rally, to help kick off the new school year and football season.

Set for the Harper McCaughan Town Green at 6 pm., the event will include the Bearcats football players, cheerleaders, band and dance team.

The event is free.

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Drainage on St. Charles to be addressed by city



Photo by Dom Fimiano

The Long Beach Mayor and Board of Aldermen have committed to correcting drainage issues on St. Charles Avenue after studying the problems and hearing resident Burt Juneau's pleas to fix ongoing drainage problems.

Have you never been baptized, but feel the pull of Holy Spirit?
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For more information, join us for coffee and donuts in the **St Thomas the Apostle Parish Community Center** at 720 East Beach Blvd in Long Beach on **Saturday, Aug 28th, at 9:00 am.**

Contact Dave Gauthier at (228) 596-8835 or at religiouseducation@saintthomaslb.org.



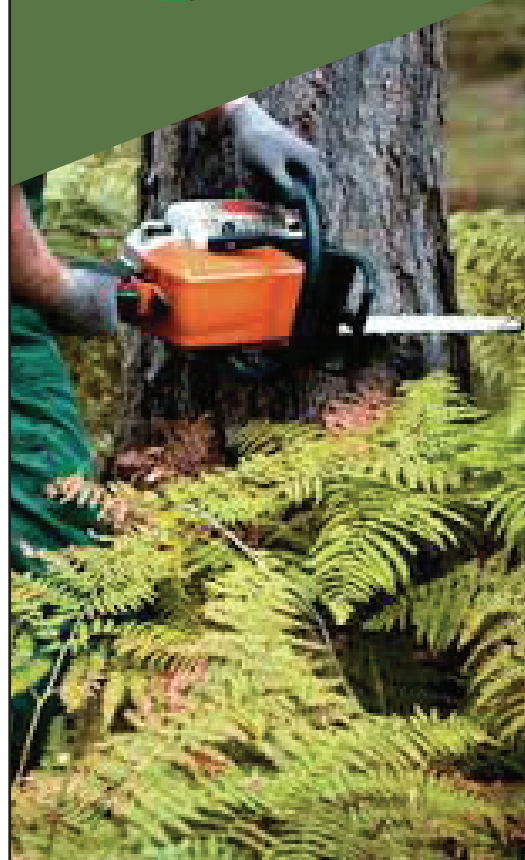
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LBSD opens 2021-22 online registration

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Online registration is now open for families enrolling children in Long Beach's public schools. 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, 2021.

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. Once registration has been completed and submitted electronically, the parent or legal guardian must take in two proofs of residency for verification of their address.

Proofs of residence for all schools will be accepted at Harper McCaughan Elementary at 19200 Pineville Road on July 26, from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m. and on July 27 from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m.

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

For more information, call 228-864-1146. For the registration link and information, visit www.lbsdk12.com.

The first day of school for students will be August 5.

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Summer fun continues, Book Lovers Day set



Photo by Dom Fimiano

Pictured (l to r) working on the American Eagle craft are: Renee Rayburn (standing), Daniel Albert, Charlotte Creel, Abbey Cassibry, Charlotte Stirrat (not seen), Mason Stirrat, Rochel Bothe, Evallyn Ensz, Chelsea Ensz, Timothy Ensz, Barrett Hanson, Katie Rogers, Jalene Collins and Mark Collins II (standing and holding Mark Collins III).

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn, LBPL Youth and Technology Services

Hello, Long Beach!

It is hard to believe the kids will be headed back to school in less than a month. The summer months have just come and gone so quickly. Fall will be here soon, and, before you know it, we will be decorating with autumn colors and sipping/eating pumpkin spice everything.

Summer Reading has been a success for us this year. It is hard to believe that by the time this issue is out, we will be holding our last week of summer reading fun. We would like to expressly thank all the support we have had this summer in making our programs fun for everyone. Between the guests, their donations and gifts for the kids, take home bags, snacks, videos, projects, appearances, and all-around fun, we were pleased with the results! Thank you so very much!

Included with this edition is a picture of the kids making the American Eagle craft during Feathered Tails week. These project kits were donated by Home Depot. Children completed the wooden craft and earned a certificate of completion and a pin.

We will be celebrating Book Lovers Day on Monday, August 9, and we want you to celebrate with us! Anyone visiting the library wearing their favorite tee shirt with a book quote (Yes, "So many books, so little time" counts as a favorite quote.) or character from a book on August 9 will receive a gift bag with some book lover "freebies" that will make their day!

Story time will continue to be held on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

There are no meetings scheduled for the month of August for the Board of Trustees, the Book Club, or the Friends of the Library.

As a reminder, the library hours have returned to regular business hours. We are now open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Thank you for your patronage, and continue to stay safe!

Kids enjoy Catholic Kids Summer Camp

All photos Special to Long Beach Breeze.

St. Thomas Parish in Long Beach recently held a Catholic Kids Summer Camp, with the theme "The Vatican Express." Each day, children from kindergarten through sixth grade learned the meaning of forgiveness and perseverance from the story of St. Jerome and lessons based on sacred scripture and Catholic tradition.



Celebrating the Lord's Supper are Dakota Caswell, Charlie Cole, Harper Cole, Nathan Kirby, Kate Ladner, Anna Ladner, Mary Lightfoot, Claire Lizana, Rosslyn Matheny, Liam McMahon, Elliot Nugent, Victor Vorrath, an Kiley Caswell and Branson Sumrall.



First and second graders show off St. Jerome and the lion crafts.



Anna Ladner shows off her Fig Newton Bibles.



Any questions for the Pope? Caleb Nikels, Antonella Orozco and Daniel Lightfoot.



Any questions for the Pope? Caleb Nikels, Antonella Orozco and Daniel Lightfoot.



Jesus said to Peter: "Feed my sheep." Charlie Cole in his sheep mask.



Daniel Lightfoot and Tristan Lizana with their versions of St. Jerome and the lion.



Eirwen Matheny practices to sing the Responsorial Psalm for the closing Mass.



Fr. Vincent Ajayi visits Alice Necaie and her arts and crafts class.



Jackson Gamboa, Bayleigh Sumrall and Sarah Blosser paint like Michelangelo – on his back and over his head.



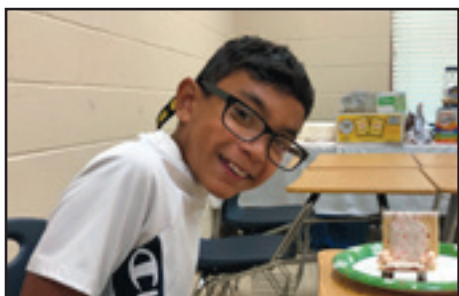
Members of the kindergarten class wave their Vatican flags for Pope Francis.



Chicken nugget artist Lily Lizana



Nathan Kirby fishes for a snack in the Sea of Galilee.



Tristan Lizana and his version of the Chair of St. Peter made from Pop Tarts and Tootsie Rolls



Livie Sullivan fishes in the Sea of Galilee for a snack.




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Troop 205 enjoys summer camp

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Boy Scouts of America Troop 205 from Long Beach recently attended summer camp at Camp Tiak in Wiggins. Troop 205 has been part of the Boy Scouts of America since 1939 and offers boys between the ages of ten and eighteen the opportunity for adventure, friendship, learning, excitement, leadership, and fun. The troop is boy-run and boy-led, allowing scouts to plan and organize events, meals, and earn achievements while being leaders. For more information about Troop 205, visit them on Facebook or at www.LBMSScouts.org.

portunity for adventure, friendship, learning, excitement, leadership, and fun. The troop is boy-run and boy-led, allowing scouts to plan and organize events, meals, and earn achievements while being leaders. For more information about Troop 205, visit them on Facebook or at www.LBMSScouts.org.




All photos Special to Long Beach Breeze.



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Town Green area gets a makeover



Photo by Dom Firiano

The shoefly in the Town Green was rotting, so the City took the elevated part out. Now there are benches around the cement. City officials say it is safer and will be able to withstand the weather. All the work was done in-house by Public Works and the Parks and Recreation Department.

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MEETING SCHEDULE

Sunday A.M.
Bible Classes: 9:00
Worship: 10:00
Wednesday P.M.
Bible Classes 6:30



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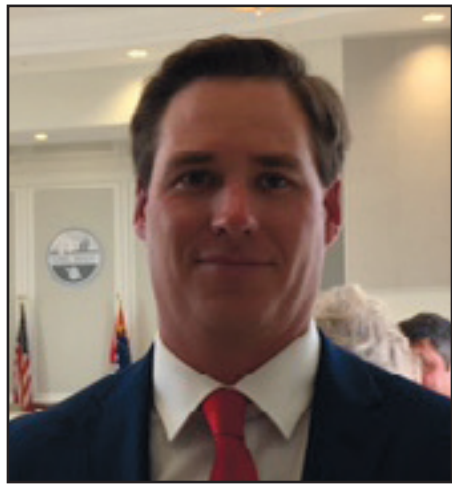
8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship In-Person in the sanctuary
This service will be live streamed on Facebook.

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship In-Person in the sanctuary
11:00 a.m. The Well service In-Person at the USM Flemming Auditorium
This service will be live streamed on Facebook.

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



City officials take office for next four years



Ward 1 Alderman Patrick Bennett



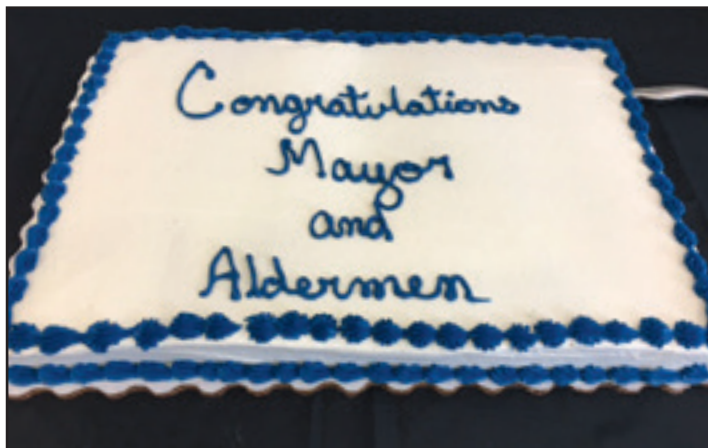
City of Long Beach Mayor George Bass

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Mayor George Bass and the Board of Alderman began their new four-year term with a swearing-in ceremony earlier this month. Regular meetings of the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen are held at 5 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at City Hall and are open to the public.



Ward 5 Alderman Mike Brown, Mayor George Bass, Deputy City Clerk Kini Gonsoulin and Alderman-at-Large Donald Frazer



All photos by Dom Fimiano.

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