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February 22, 2021 • Volume 5, Number 2 • “Good News You Can Use”

Keith's Superstore coming to Long Beach

By Andy Kanengiser

Fans of Keith's Superstores are all over the map in South Mississippi. Convenience store employees serve customers daily in Bay Springs, Hattiesburg, Collins, Mt. Olive, Ellisville, Moss Point, Bay St. Louis and other communities.

They are popular spots for hungry travelers filling up with gas, visiting the deli area, and shopping for gifts. Keith's homemade biscuit eggs, cheesy mac dishes and Hunt Brothers Pizza are a hit with visitors. Mississippi-made products – from jellies, syrups,

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Dom Fimiano

Keith's Superstore is being built at the northwest corner of 28th Street and Klondyke Road.

Long Beach Board of Aldermen hear suggestions for \$2M grant

By Taylor McKay Hathorn

During its February 2 meeting, the Long Beach Board of Aldermen heard suggestions from City Engineer David Ball regarding possible revitalization efforts, which have emerged as a direct result of the \$2 million grant the City received late last year—with the funds specifically allocated for the refurbishment of the downtown area.

Ball, an employee of Overstreet and Associates who is contracted to perform such work for the city of Long Beach, proposed six separate projects, with five of the six projects totaling between \$50,000 and \$200,000.

The first of these proposals, coming in at the higher end of that spectrum with a present estimate of \$200,000, would be funded in part by the Mississippi Department of Transportation, as it would connect N. Jeff Davis Avenue to Old Pass Road, creating a one-way street. This would fulfill the Board's earlier vision of a more visible Long Beach by eliminating the disconnect between the harbor and the downtown area, which would in turn slow down tourists who pass through the coastal corridor.

Other, less expensive projects

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Bearcats bring home 5A State Soccer Championship



Special to Long Beach Breeze

By Dom Fimiano

The Long Beach High School Bearcats (11-2-1) defeated Center Hill 3-1 in Madison, Mississippi, winning the 5A State Soccer Championship. Long Beach dominated the match, allowing

Center Hill few opportunities.

Coach Andee Wilburn says he is proud of the team's commitment and overall success.

“The championship is a great achievement for our seniors, who have competed four years

for this title,” said Wilburn.

Long Beach seniors Aidan Hines, Carlos Torres, Justin Rolison and Nathaniel Mink agree there is great talent on the team, and every match is

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Bearcats bring home 5A State Soccer Championship

a team effort. Hines quickly pointed out, "Not many people can say they've been to the state title game all four years of high school, and to finally win it all our senior year feels amazing!"

Long Beach started strong, with senior Carlos Torres scoring early and Ethan Myers scoring later in the first half. Torres scored another goal late in the second half to secure the victory.

"Man, for four years, all we have done is put hard work into this soccer program," said Torres. "It feels good to end my high school career as state champs."

Center Hill's dependence on the long pass was unsuccessful. Most attempts were either shut down by Long Beach's defenders or stopped short at midfield. Keeper Justin Rolison's solid

performance kept the Mustangs scoreless until the last few minutes of the match.

"I thought the team played great," said Rolison. "To go there four years in a row and come home with the trophy really caps off our senior year. Watch out next year, the boys are coming back for sure."

Nathaniel Mink's statement sums up this championship team's attitude. "It has been too long for this program not to have a state championship. For us to be the team that brings it back is an amazing honor. We weren't just playing for us. We were playing for every player who has gone through the program."

The Bearcats finished strong, passing the ball at midfield while fans counted down to victory.



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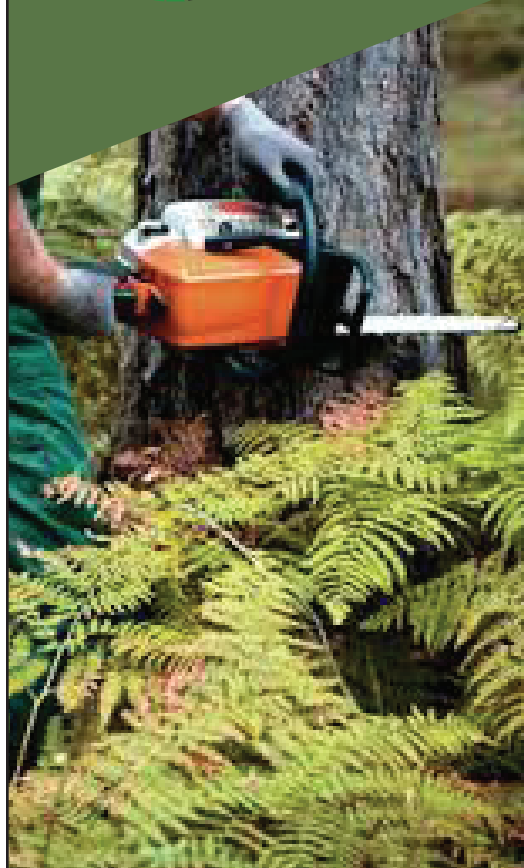
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Keith's Superstore coming to Long Beach

quilts and bags - are big favorites as well for shoppers.

Long Beach residents say they are thrilled to welcome a Keith's Superstore in the Friendly City. It's not nearly the size of a Buc-ees in Texas or Alabama - but the store has much to offer. The Long Beach Keith's Superstore is located at the corner of 28th Street and Klondyke.

Construction is under way at its new store in this Mississippi Gulf Coast community. Reached on February 7, a City official predicted the new store would be completed within ninety days.

People are familiar with what Keith's Superstore offers. The company has been in business for thirty-five years. Other store locations include Columbia, Mount Olive, Sumrall, Petal, Kiln, Pass Christian, Waveland and Wilmer, Alabama. It's a filling station and country store, with friendly workers providing

service with a smile.

Long Beach Alderman-at-Large Donald Frazer says he often stops at the Keith's Superstore in Hattiesburg, off U.S. 49, on road trips to metro Jackson. He's glad to see one opening in his hometown in Harrison County.

"I want to personally thank Keith's Superstore for choosing Long Beach and look forward to working with them in the future," Frazer said.

Bringing Keith's Superstore to Long Beach didn't happen overnight.

"This project has been in the works for the past couple of years," Frazer said. "The main hold-up was FEMA identifying the drainage canal. We need to make sure when we are developing, we are doing it with vision and not creating future flood issues for the citizens of Long Beach."

This property, he said, "has been friendly annexed into the

City of Long Beach. This means the jobs created and the tax generated go directly to the City of Long Beach."

The location is at a convenient spot with plenty of traffic at a busy intersection.

The new store is being built near a large subdivision being developed across the street. The closest convenience store or gas station is more than two miles away. One of the businesses in the area is a Dollar General. There's a beignet donut shop situated on the corner of Klondyke and Commission, three-quarters of a mile south of the future Keith's Superstore.

Long Beach resident Jeanne Whelan has visited Keith's Superstores in other towns. She sees the benefits of having a new one doing business in her Gulf Coast community.

"It's not really in downtown Long Beach, and it may draw some traffic to the town."

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LIBRARY PLANS MARCH ACTIVITIES

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn, LBPL Youth and Technology Services

Hello, Long Beach!

If you haven't noticed, we have been adding "Booklists" to our card catalog feature. Located on the right-hand side next to the "What's Popular" and "What's New" is another tab called "Booklists." Click on this, and it will show you the different lists we will be featuring. Some will just be temporary; others will be featured here for longer.

We will be kicking off March with Read Across America in celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday. Our challenge will include a survey that we will have posted on our website in which patrons can take part. We encourage you to be familiar with all things Dr. Seuss!

On Wednesday, March 17, you might need everything from x-ray vision to the luck of the Irish to find the four-leaf clover we have hidden in the library. Find it, and you could win a pot of gold - or maybe just a box of Lucky Charms. Leprechauns have known to be tricky, you know. While you're in the library, check out a green book to make sure you're "pinch proof!"

For all the kids, on March 30 and March 31, we are celebrating National Pencil Day and National Crayon Day (respectively). Make sure they come by on either of those days and pick up a tote bag that they can color!

The Long Beach Library Book Club will hold its next meet-

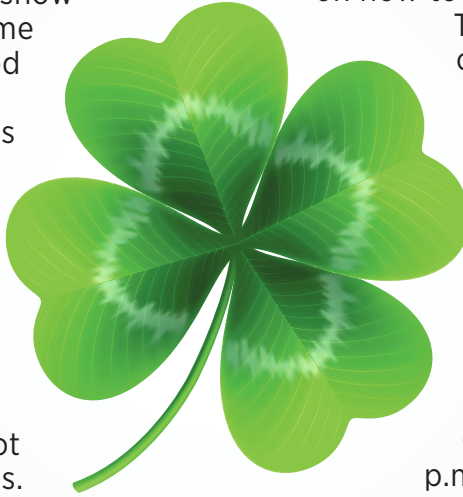
ing via Zoom at 9 a.m. on Thursday, March 18. They will be discussing *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins. To participate in the meeting, contact Sue Caldarelli by email at dcaldarelli@hotmail.com. She will give you further instructions on how to participate.

There are no meetings in March for the Friends of the Long Beach Public Library or the Long Beach Board of Trustees. We will keep you posted on when these groups will next meet.

Due to the rise in cases in our area, the library is still not able to schedule Preschool Story time, Parent's Coffee, or any type of group meetings at the library due to social distancing restrictions. Our meeting rooms are being used for quarantine purposes.

To make our computers more easily accessible, reservations are no longer required. Computers will be available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in both the main wing and the children's wing. However, patrons must still have a regular library card or temporary computer card with us to use them, and the fifty minutes per visit is still in affect, due to the limited number of computers we have to offer in each area. As a reminder, log out of personal accounts, and let a staff member know when you have logged off, so that the area can be cleaned for the next user.

Thank you for your patronage, and stay safe!




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Long Beach voters heading to polls for municipal elections

By Andy Kanengiser

Every four years, Long Beach voters go to the polls to decide key municipal elections. Round one, the Republican primary, is set for April 6.

The February 5 deadline for candidates to file has passed. It's left Long Beach residents with several options for some of the Republican incumbents in City Hall.

Long Beach Mayor George L. Bass is seeking re-election for another four-year term. He faces opponent John M. Ruth in the Republican primary.

Other important dates worth noting in Mississippi's 2021 municipal election cycle: runoff elections are set for April 27. The general election is scheduled for Tuesday, June 8.

In other city contests, incumbent Alderman-At-Large Donald Frazier will face GOP opponent Allen D. Holder, Jr.

There are three Long Beach residents in the hunt to be the City alderman in Ward 1. They are: incumbent Ronald Robertson and challengers John W. Shupe and Patrick Bennett.

There's a two-man battle for City alderman in Long Beach's Ward 2.

Challenger Shane Walker faces incumbent Bernie D. Parker.

In Ward 6, Junior Husband, Peter L. McGoey and Owen McNally are the three candidates seeking the post.

Elsewhere, incumbent Aldermen Angela "Angie" Johnson (of Ward 3), and Timothy McCaffrey Jr. (of Ward 4) are running unopposed. In Ward 5, Mayor Pro Tempore Mark Lishen didn't seek re-election. He's served on the board for over sixteen years. Candidate Mike Brown is without opposition for the Ward 5 post.

In addition, eight Long Beach residents filed qualifying statements to

serve on the city's Republican Executive Committee. They are: Frankie Castiglia, Barbara Ellerman, Phillip Kies, R.D. "Bobby" Ladner, Susan Molesworth, Tommy Moulton, Charles "Chuck" Williams and Kay Dywana Sawyer.

There were no names filed for the Democrat Executive Committee in Long Beach.

Voter registration cards issued by the Harrison County Circuit Clerk's Office will help voters determine their correct precincts to cast ballots in the upcoming elections.

Long Beach hosts Olan Welch Track Meet



Special to The Clinton Courier

By Andy Kanengiser

Plenty of pole vaulters, speedy runners and high hurdlers on the Gulf Coast will show off their talents at a track meet March 4. Student-athletes tossing the shot put will be there, too.

That's the date when Long Beach High hosts the 3rd annual Olan Welch Invitational Track Meet. The event is named in honor of the retired Long Beach Bearcats track coach.

The Bearcats track team is among nineteen squads registered for the competition at Lance Lumpkin Stadium.

During Welch's tenure as the Bearcats track and field coach, he was delighted to have then-fourteen-year-old middle schooler Brooklyn Biancamano on the squad in 2018. At an early age, Biancamano established a couple of state records and was rated among the best top young runners in the USA.

In 2020-21, Biancamano keeps making headlines for the Bearcats as a fabulous cross country runner and track standout. For nine years, she played soccer, until she switched to cross country as a seventh grader and has excelled ever since. Among her many honors, Biancamano was named Mississippi's 2019-20 Gatorade Player of the Year award winner for girls track and field. She won

the award the previous year, too.

Her mom, assistant Bearcats track coach Erin Biancamano, says she is proud of her daughter at Long Beach High. But she's just as positive about the performances of the entire team.

It's a strong Bearcats track squad that keeps growing in February.

"We are waiting on other sports to complete our roster," Coach Biancamano said. "We just added soccer players and will still need basketball to finish their season. Our numbers look great so far. There's lots of interest from new athletes this year."

Newcomers to the Long Beach track team this spring include Lauren Bennett, Gabriella Setnikar, Natalie Crapps and Hannah Hartley from the Lady Bearcats soccer squad. Dylan Kippas joins from the Bearcats boys soccer team.

"These athletes are a welcome addition to our program," Biancamano said. "We are hoping for more athletes to commit, as well, and can't wait to see how they can contribute."

There are other big events happening for the Bearcats track teams this spring. The 14th annual Bearcat Classic Track meet is set for March 18 at Lance Lumpkin Stadium.

Mississippi Power grants \$80,000 to Coast Chamber Foundation for Minority Small Business Program

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce Foundation has received an \$80,000 grant from Mississippi Power. The grant will be used to establish the Shine A Light Minority Small Business Grant program and funds will be distributed over a five-year period as part of the program of work of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber Diversity Council.

"These grants will boost economic development in our community and support the small businesses that drive our economy. They're a true win-win," Mississippi Power Vice President of External Affairs Billy Thornton said. "We're proud to partner with the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber and their Diversity Council to assist entrepreneurs who've taken the leap and opened their own business."

The grant application process will open on March 23, 2021, with grants awarded up to \$1,000 for minority owned small businesses that are Mississippi Power customers and are a member in good standing with the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce. The deadline to apply is May 5, 2021.

"Adding minority small business grants to the Chamber's program of work is truly an exciting next step in the growth of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber's Diversity Council," said Gulf Coast Woman Magazine owner and 2020 President of the Board of Directors of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber Dorothy Wilson. "As I wrap up my term as President, I am proud of the doors the Chamber has opened with its diversity and inclusion efforts."

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce currently awards small business grants from seven divisions, including a Women Owned business grant, a Veteran owned business grant, numerous grants for Biloxi, Gulfport, Pass Christian and Long Beach small businesses. In 2020, a total of \$42,975 has been awarded.

Mississippi Power recently was a recipient of the Community Partner Impact Award from the Center for Energy Workforce Development for its innovative and ongoing efforts to build a diverse workforce. The company, in partnership with the Southern Company Charitable Foundation, announced last month the awarding of \$825,000 in technology grants to four historically black colleges and universities in Mississippi – Jackson State, Mississippi Valley State, Rust College and Tougaloo College.

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber's Diversity Council was formed in 2010 as part of the Biloxi Chamber of Commerce. The mission is to connect, inform, and develop diverse businesses while advocating for their success through innovative programming curated by the council while increasing membership by communicating chamber benefits to minority owned businesses. The Council's activities include a Breakfast of Business Champions that highlighted successful minority business owners and their best practices, and the presentation of a three-part virtual series sponsored by Mississippi Power, titled "Transforming Your Organization's Culture: Building Blocks of a Belonging Workplace," with over 365 hours of training delivered to the community.

Mink named Defensive MVP in Coast All-Star soccer game



Dom Fimiano

Long Beach High School senior defender Nathaniel Mink was awarded Defensive MVP in the Coast soccer all-star match. Mink played for the West team. His defensive performance preventing and saving goals helped secure a 3-1 win over the East team just two days after the Long Beach High School boys won the 5A State Championship. Mink credits his success to his soccer family, talented teammates and outstanding coaches.

Local teachers receive grants

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce recently announced their Long Beach Teacher Grant recipients.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Pictured are Adele Lyons with Christy Peterson at St Vincent De Paul Catholic School.



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Pictured is Vicky Wright (right) of WJ Quarles Elementary School with Elvis Gates with the grant that was sponsored by Elvis Gates State Farm.



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Pictured is Trish Suter (second from right) of Harper-McCaughan Elementary School, recipient of the grant sponsored by Keesler Federal Credit Union.



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Long Beach Board of Aldermen hear suggestions for \$2M grant

involve largely cosmetic improvements to the downtown area. One such suggested facelift is the installation of sidewalks along 2nd and 3rd Streets, as these roads intersect Jefferson Davis Avenue and are in close proximity to the University of Southern Mississippi's Long Beach campus. Ball also proposed the addition of safety-related signage at the meridian between Pineville and Klondyke roads and event-related displays at a nearby location, with both proposals including beautification projects and costing a combined \$60,000, less than 3% of the total grant.

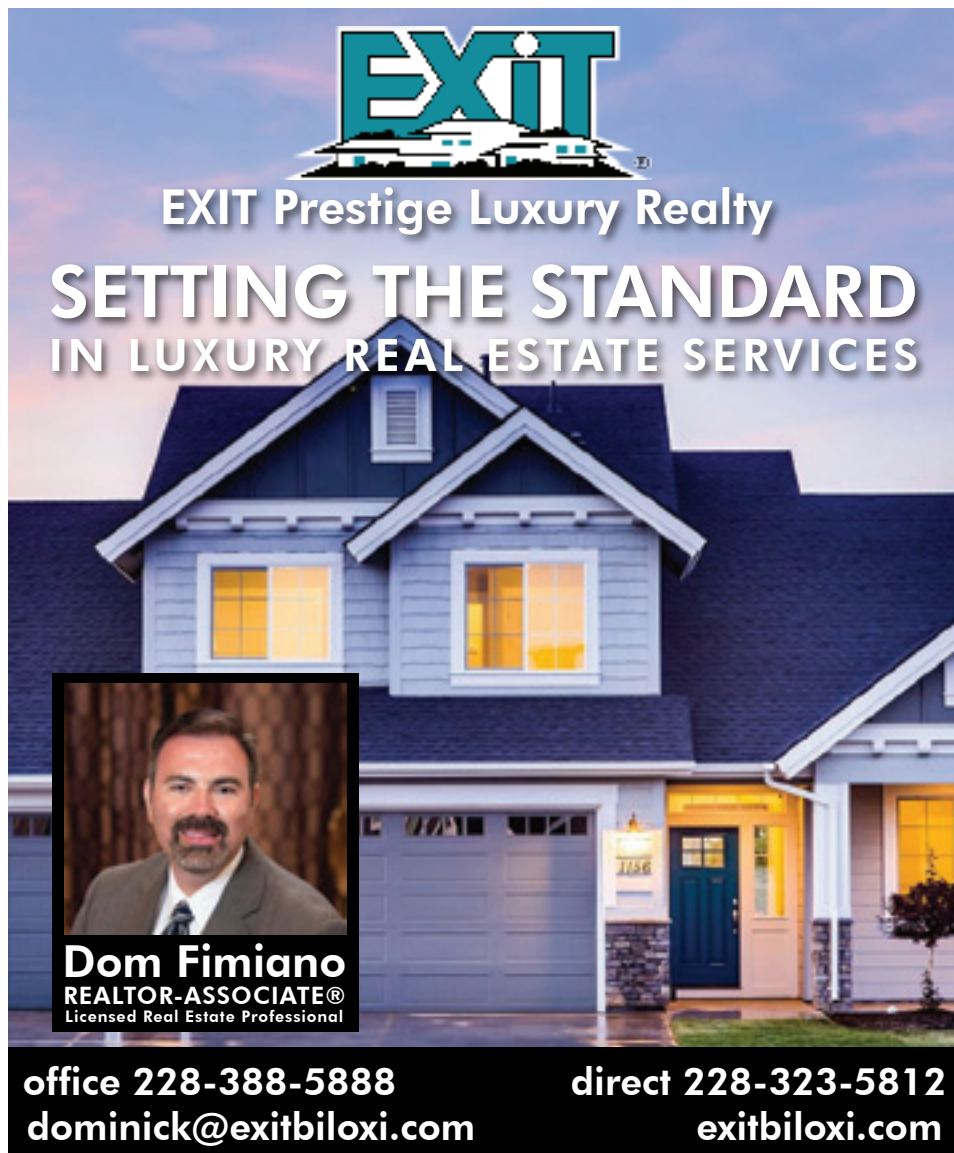
The most expensive option presented by Ball was a "Gateway" that would answer the city's question of visibility on a grand scale. The \$1.4 million project would feature the addition of a light-house that would be accented by pylons and signage, alerting tourists that they had entered the town of Long Beach. The proposal,

which Overstreet and Associates dubbed the "Jeff Davis/Highway 90 Gateway," would also include landscaping.

Even if this largest project were undertaken, thirty percent of the overall grant would remain, leaving more than enough funding to cover the replacement costs of the HVAC system at City Hall, which were said to "function poorly" in a report presented to the Board of Aldermen.

Ball opened the floor to hear other suggestions, but, after continued discussion, no action was taken. The Board is expected to move forward with specific plans in the near future, at which time more thorough cost estimates will be provided in order to help the City and its leaders maximize both the grant funding and the possibility for local improvements.


Calls to City Engineer David Ball for more details were not returned.



EXIT

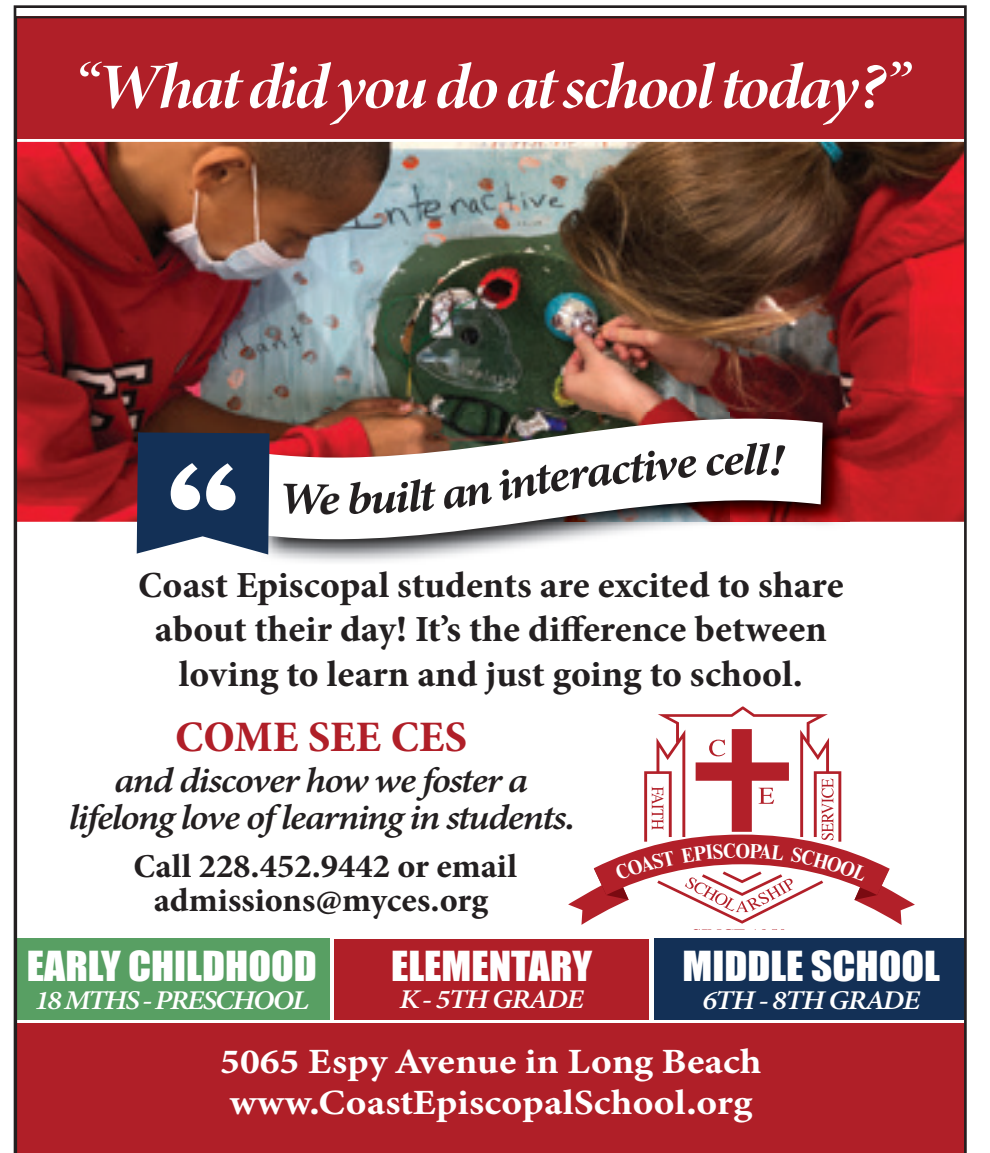
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Sailors return to care packages

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Members of the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB)133 Family Readiness Group assembled one hundred seventy restriction of movement (ROM) packages at the Seabee Memorial Chapel onboard Naval Construction

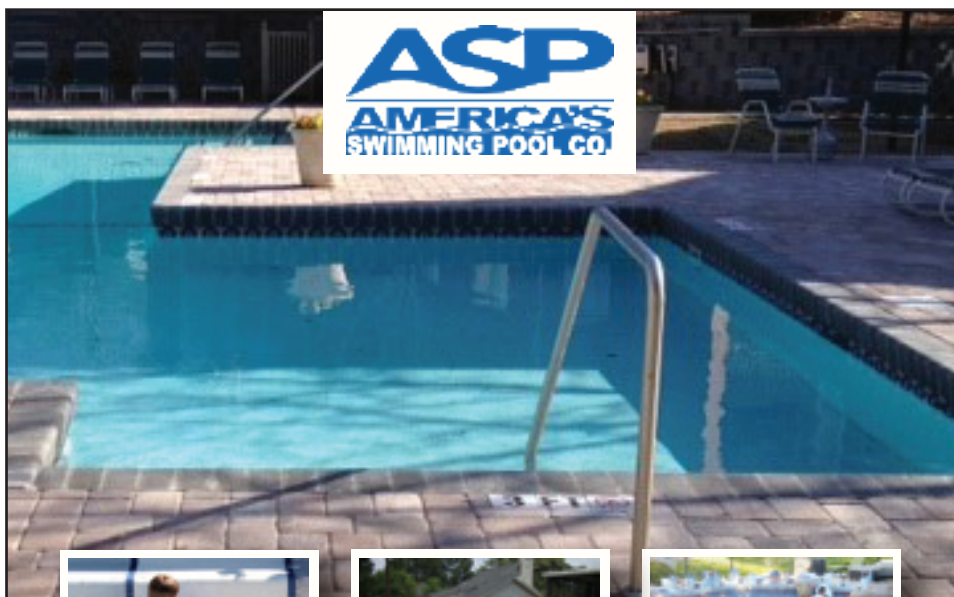
Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport for returning Sailors. Families from NMCB 133 and various organizations and local businesses donated supplies for the single Sailors returning from deployment overseas, since the service members needed to quarantine for at least fourteen days upon their return to the states.



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Fimiano signs with Southwest Community College



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Long Beach high school senior Sophia Fimiano recently signed an athletic soccer scholarship with Southwest Community College. Fimiano says she looks forward to this new opportunity and thanks her coaches, teammates and family. She plans to study business marketing and advertising. Fimiano was joined by several current and former coaches, teammates and family members on signing day. Pictured (l to r) are LBHS Coach Ashley Harvey, South Mississippi Soccer Club All-Star Coach Colin Bryant, Sophia Fimiano, LBHS Coach Greg Lamier and Gulf Coast United Coach Todd Moniz.



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Quarles House appraised, restoration planned

By Lindy Sholes

Last year, the City of Long Beach was gifted one of Mississippi's most endangered historic landmarks, the Quarles House.

The home was owned by William James (Jim) Quarles, a farmer and school teacher from Tennessee, who moved to Long Beach with his family in 1884. According to the book *Rosalie and Radishes: A History of Long Beach, Mississippi*, provided by Long Beach Historical Society president Beth Hansen, the family built the home, known as Greenvale, in 1892. The home has been moved from its previous location on Railroad Street. The book was written by Mary Ellen Alexander, the daughter of Geoffrey Steele Watrous and May Quarles Watrous, who was the daughter of William James Quarles.

Hurricanes and time have not been kind to the oldest building in the city, but, with some work, the City hopes to preserve and restore the home. Measures to do so have begun with an appraisal of the property, valued at \$200,000, which will add the home to the City's insurance policy. City spokesperson Jenny Levens said the building could be used as a welcome center for visitors, a venue for community events and educational opportunities. She said it could also be used to display local art work and memorabilia celebrating the history of the city.

"Interest in the history of the Quarles House and its preservation has been evident in the community," Levens said, adding that a group of fifth graders started an initiative in 2005 called "Project Citizen," in which students volunteer to clean the grounds surrounding the home.

"While maintaining the historical integrity of the home is important, the planned use of the building and grounds will require extensive electrical and plumbing upgrades, and installation of a HVAC system," Levens said. "Additionally, ADA accessibility and fire code requirements must be met. Parking areas will need to be designated and paved, and secu-

rity measures to include wrought iron fencing and video surveillance will be put in place. Landscaping of the grounds and adjacent cemetery will be designed and executed."

Rosalie and Radishes describes, "The 127-year-old, two-story home is two rooms deep with five bays across the front. The entrance door has a

glass transom, and the home contains an interior chimney. The outer walls are covered in clapboard. Two large porches originally stretched across the entire width of the home on the upper and lower levels. The structure was quite festive with gingerbread trim on the posts and sawn wood balusters adorning the upper level."

The home was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 and named a Mississippi landmark in 2012.

To view additional photos of the Quarles House, inside and out, visit www.apps.mdah.ms.gov/Public/prop.aspx?id=10793&view=facts&y=738.



Dom Firmiano

William James Quarles' home is a historical landmark constructed in 1892. Quarles, a retired Tennessee educator, moved to Long Beach in 1884 and began teaching eleven Long Beach children on the lawn of his cottage in 1884. Later, Quarles donated land to the Long Beach School District for an elementary school. W.J. Quarles Elementary School was developed and named in his honor. The Quarles House, which was donated to the City last year, has recently been appraised, as a step to preservation and restoration of the home.



Photo courtesy of the Alexander family

The W.J. Quarles family, pictured in front of the Quarles House.

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Long Beach reopens Senior Activity Center

By Andy Kanengiser

Long Beach residents are enjoying good news in the new year: the Long Beach Activity and Senior Center recently reopened.

Run by the City's Parks and Recreation Department, the popular center opened its doors again February 16 on the senior side. But there are strict health protocols in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. People cannot just walk in the door, no questions asked.

Don't expect to see big crowds at the Long Beach facility - social distancing must be maintained. Participants must show proof they've received two COVID-19 vaccines. Temperature checks are required, too, at the door. It's all in an effort to keep staff and seniors safe. CDC guidelines will be strictly followed in 2021.

Wearing masks, washing hands, and hand sanitizer stations are part of the 2021 landscape across America - from



Special to The Clinton Courier

schools to businesses to healthcare and recreation facilities.

With older populations being more vulnerable to get the coronavirus, extra safeguards are typically installed at senior facilities to mitigate the spread of the deadly disease.

Seniors interested in activities at the Long Beach center, can stop by their headquarters at 20257 Daugherty Road. The facility operates Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m.

For years, the center has been the go-to hub for seniors to take part in activities such as ceramics, oil/paint classes, quilting, card games, Bingo, and puzzles. There's also a wellness room with treadmills, bicycles, and a walking track.

The facility is also a popular rental property for a variety of events year-round.

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

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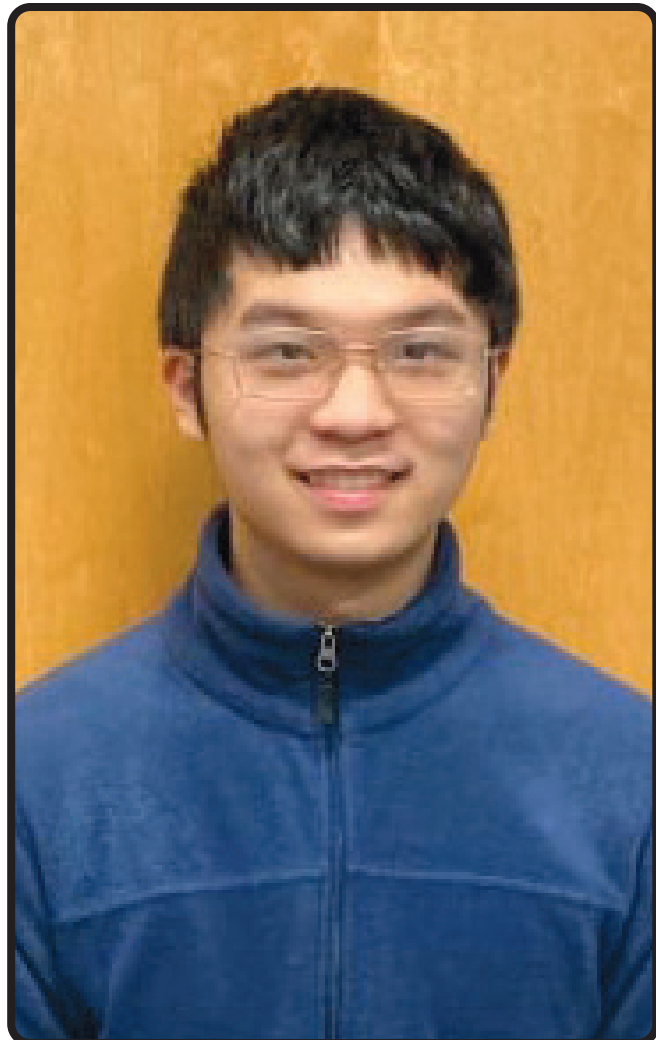
8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship In-Person in the sanctuary (reservation is required @ 228-863-9619).
This service will be live streamed on Facebook.

11:00 a.m. The Well service In-Person in the Christian Life Center (reservation is required @ 228-863-9619).
This service will be live streamed on Facebook.

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Lam chosen as candidate for U.S. Presidential Scholar



Special to Long Beach Breeze/Courtesy LBSD

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The 2021 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program recently selected Austin V. Lam of Long Beach as a candidate for the national award. Lam was one of eighty-six Mississippi students chosen as a candidate.

Students who have been selected as candidates have an opportunity to become a U.S. Presidential Scholar. The scholars represent excellence in education and the promise of greatness in young people.

All students who have made it to the candidacy level were mailed the necessary materials from the U.S. Department of Education to continue the next phase of the application process. The application process is a distinguished honor and by invitation only.

A national review committee of qualified individuals experienced in secondary and post-secondary education evaluates candidates on their academic achievement, personal characteristics, leader-

ship and service activities, and the quality and content of their essays. Semifinalists will be announced in April, and the final scholars list will be announced in May. Scholars will be invited to Washington, D.C., pending COVID-19 guidelines, to receive the Presidential Scholars Medallion at a recognition ceremony and to participate in events and activities.

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964 by Executive Order of the President to recognize and honor some of the nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. In 1979, the program was extended to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, creative and performing arts. In 2015, the program was again extended to recognize students who demonstrate ability and accomplishment in career and technical education fields.

To view the complete list of candidates for Mississippi, or to find more information on the program, visit www.ed.gov/psp.



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The REAL ESTATE Marketplace

Lady Bearcats set for future soccer success

By Dom Fimiano

The Long Beach High School girls soccer program looks to be in good hands with first-year coach Andrew Lamier. Bearcats supporters say they Coach Lamier will be around for many years, as coaching stability is what the Bearcat soccer program needs the most.

The Lady Bearcats are a talented and confident team who were surprisingly eliminated in the second round of playoffs by West Jones 0-1. The game was a defensive match that remained 0-0 at the end of regulation, two overtime periods and one sudden death period.

West Jones attacked hard in the last two minutes of the second sudden death. Long Beach's defense and keeper Ashton Rupert stood strong. West Jones scored in the last minute of sudden death on a couple of quick shots scoring off of a deflection.

The second round overtime playoff loss to West Jones was shocking. The Bearcats had every expectation to advance and compete for the South State Championship like the three previous seasons. Winning South State could have been challenging, but the players were up to making it happen.

The Bearcats' season record is 10-4-2, with one league loss and one playoff loss. The other two losses were early in the season to Pass Christian and Biloxi.

The Bearcat success should continue for many years. Long Beach has a talented team returning, graduating only two seniors. Lauren Bennett and Sophia Fimiano have accepted athletic scholarships to continue their soccer careers. The younger talent on the team have been playing for at least ten years, and should be able to step up, and fans say they are looking forward to watching Long Beach's success continue for years to come.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Pictured (l to r) are Long Beach Lady Bearcats soccer team members, front row: Camdyn Biancamano, Macy Willis-Trahan, Amy Treminio, Jillian Powell, Kylah Cuevas, Morgan Elutarius (visiting LBMS player), Skylar MacMann and Lauren Bennett; and back row: Chrisjenn Dominick, Rachel Crapps, Natalie Crapps, Presley Carothers, Hannah Hartley, Karly Lafontaine, Lola Charman, Riley Rollison, Ella Setnikar, Maddie Hartley, Sophia Fimiano, Allie Cruz, Kylie Best and Ashton Rupert.

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Band boosters planning Easter Egg hunt

By Andy Kanengiser

It's never too early to start thinking of Easter Weekend 2021 activities along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The COVID-19 pandemic cancelled many of these family-oriented events across the nation in 2020.

But 2021 is a new year. And there's hope the Easter Bunny will return to the scene in Long Beach, along with Easter Egg hunts for area children. Candy, obviously a chocolate bunny and chocolate eggs, come to mind. Backyard egg hunts, coloring books, Easter basket fillers and much more are all possibilities.

In the Friendly City, the Long Beach High Band Boosters plan to host an Easter Egg hunt on the town green on Jeff Davis Avenue March 28. The downtown event runs from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m. that Sunday morning. No doubt, it will be fun for all at the Harper McCaughan Town Green.

The Easter egg hunt will feature the Easter bunny, along with plenty of games and a delicious breakfast. Pancakes, bacon, coffee and orange juice will be served. A cake walk is

included, too.

The annual event to benefit the Long Beach High Band was cancelled last year due to the COVID-19 health emergency. The last one was held in 2019 and proved to be a success.

Organizers gathered for a planning meeting in early February to discuss the 2021 edition. Long Beach band supporters including director Mickey Mangum, band boosters president Summer Veillon, and organization leader Jeanne Whelan are teaming up with parents to make this a fabulous event.

All steps will be taken to ensure the activity stays as safe for participants. Masks must be worn, and social distancing will be followed. There should be hand sanitizer stations around, too.

"We are thankfully still able to practice daily in school," band director Mickey Mangum said. "We have to wear masks unless we are actually playing and separate as best we can in the band hall," he said. "We are hoping to attend a festival of some kind later in the spring, if we can."

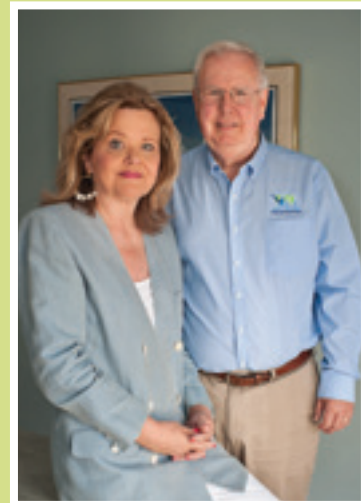


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Middle schoolers elect student government officers



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Coast Episcopal School recently elected middle school student government officers. Pictured (l to r) are: CES Head of School Jake Winter; Mitchell Thompson, seventh grade representative; Reese Miller, eighth grade representative; Emerson Mayfield, sixth grade representative; and Isa Barvie, president.

JEEPIN THE COAST REGISTRATION OPENS

By Andy Kanengiser

Registration is now open for the 2021 Jeepin the Coast, which is set for June 3-6, 2021.

Registration is \$65 ahead of the event and includes a free shirt.

Jeepin the Coast (JTC) typically includes events such as a pool party, several meet and greet opportunities, a scavenger hunt, a few beach crawl, live entertainment, a Jeep show, and a parade through downtown Long Beach. Awards are also given. Organizers, who had to cancel the 2020 event, are monitoring the pandemic situation, and more event information will be announced soon.

JTC unites Jeepers with its annual



event on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, drawing Jeep owners to the 26-mile-

long beach. Organizers set up multiple events in the coastal cities for Jeepers to either stay together or branch off into their own adventure throughout the coast.

Those who registered to participate in the event in 2020 but who did not request a refund when

the event had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 will have their registration automatically rolled over to JTC2021. To verify a registration was rolled over, email jeepinthe coast@gmail.com.

Visit JeepinTheCoast.com to register for JTC 2021 and for more information.

Community walking trail to be enhanced by local Eagle Scout

By Lindy Sholes

When Long Beach resident Caleb Solangi noticed that the community walking trail did not have a wooden trail guide, he knew exactly what to do for an upcoming Eagle Scout project.

"Every professional trail I've seen has one of those, and, after I had been on this trail, I wanted to improve it so it will look more professional," Solangi said.

Solangi, a tenth grader at Long Beach High School, presented his plan to the Long Beach Board of Aldermen last month, who enthusiastically approved. He will be spearheading the effort, starting with the fundraising. He anticipates that the project will cost around \$770, and he hopes to raise the funds at a spaghetti sale hosted by the Eagle Scouts Troop.

Solangi encourages those who

want to contribute to his efforts to pick up a plate at First United Methodist Church of Long Beach on March 14, starting at 11.

"I've been in Scouts ever since I was five, and I've learned so much," Solangi said. "Some of the Scouts are young, and I can show them what a good leader looks like, and they can use that on other Scouts."

Solangi hopes that a local woodworker will be willing to help with the project. To volunteer for the project to improve the Long Beach Walking Trail, contact the Eagle Scouts Troop at smtroop205@gmail.com.

Solangi designed the marker to look like those commonly seen to map out and provide information for using the trail. As soon as funds are raised, work will begin on the project.



Home buyers can increase their offer acceptance with simple tips

By Guest Columnist Mallory Savner, Licensed Realtor®, Veterans Realty

If you have been home shopping lately, you probably know by now that the market is booming. Inventory is low, interest rates are low, which means demand is high, and all of this adds up to create a highly competitive marketplace. According to MLS data, in January 2020 there were ninety-one active listings for single family homes in Long Beach, with an average of ninety-four days on the market. Fast forward to January 2021, there were only seventy active listings for single family homes in Long Beach and an average of twenty-nine days on the market.



Not only are there less homes on the market as compared to the same month last year, but also homes are selling much quicker. The good news—with interest rates being much lower than they have been in quite some time, affordability is high.

Now, you may be reading all this as a potential home shopper wondering how you can compete. Let's talk about a few ways to increase your odds of getting your offer accepted.

Have your pre-approval ready! I cannot stress this enough. If you are submitting an offer, your pre-approval should be attached with it. Many homes are getting multiple offers the first day on the market. If you submit an offer, and Jane Doe submits an offer, and they are very similar - except Jane Doe submitted a pre-approval and you didn't - chances are high that Jane Doe's offer will get accepted. If you are paying cash, submit a proof of funds with your offer. Sellers want to be sure you can qualify before accepting your offer and possibly

missing out on other great offers.

Eliminate as many contingencies as possible. Of course, you want a clear termite report, it will need to appraise at or above sales price, and so on; however, there is a little leg work you can do beforehand to make your offer as simple and straightforward as possible. Check on taxes and insurance to see what those costs may be, so you feel confident in the home's affordability for your situation. You want to feel comfortable in your purchase, so I am certainly not recommending that you eliminate any and every contingency. My suggestion if you really love a house is merely to make eliminations, where possible, that will not affect your confidence level in your purchase—the nice-to-haves, not must-haves.

Think about the seller's bottom line. You may have just reread that and are wondering why you would care about the seller's bottom line. At the end of the day, that is likely a big determining factor in the seller's decision. The purchase price offered, minus any expenses you've asked them to pay, plus real estate commission and pro-rated taxes will determine their estimated net proceeds. Many sellers have an idea of the amount with which they would like to walk away. Your real estate agent can help you determine the best way to go about this, but certainly something to keep in mind.

I may have a few more tips of the trade, and, as an agent, I am happy to discuss all options/suggestions with my clients. If you have been considering buying a home, don't let this competitive market deter you. Stay safe, my friends!

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Extraordianry Educator honor awarded to Ulrich of LBSD



Dom Fimiano

Wayne Ulrich, a coach for the Long Beach School District, was recently named an Extraordinary Educator by Curriculum Associates. Ulrich was one of forty-four teachers selected from twenty-six states and Washington D.C. for this national honor

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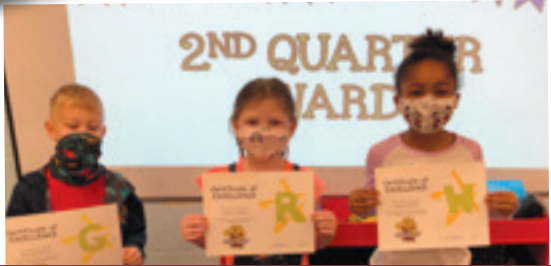
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Quarles students celebrated with GROW program

All photos Special to Long Beach Breeze



Ms. Bloom's kindergarten class recognized Michael Bateman, Julianne Nabors, Aleana Sullivan and Jaxten Alexander (not pictured).



Ms. Bryan's first grade class recognized Brody Tipton, Ethan Bass and Owen Magee and Jackson Still (not pictured)



Ms. Hill's kindergarten class recognized Johnny Helton, Diannah Ball, Dakota Field and Madisym Harvey (not pictured).

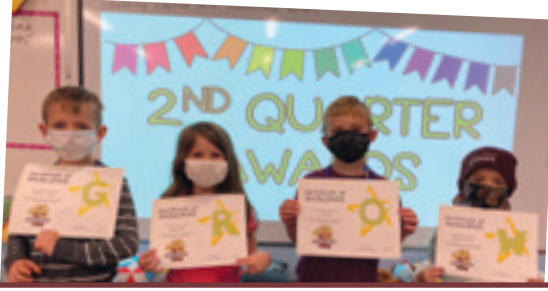


Ms. Wilson's first grade class recognized Tiffany Barnett, Nolan Rood, Christian Mink and Ellie Macdonald.

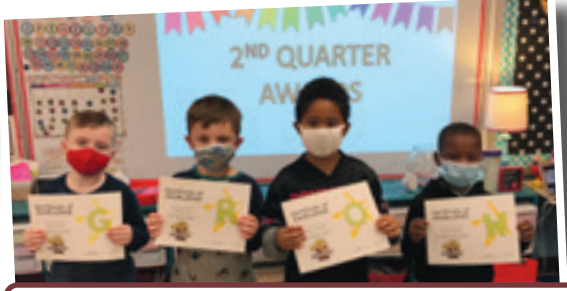
Students at Quarles Elementary are on a mission to **GROW**, **G**iving their best effort, **R**especting others, **O**wning their actions, and having a **W**inning attitude. Each nine weeks, teachers select a student who exemplifies each of the four expectations: **G**, best effort; **R**, most respectful; **O**, most responsible; and **W**, best attitude. This month, Long Beach Breeze will feature the kindergarten and first grade Cubs who were selected. Next month, the second and third grade Cubs will be featured.



Ms. Johnson's kindergarten class recognized Gabriel Vazquez, KyLyni Smyers, Colin Smith and Mia Powers.



Ms. McCummins' kindergarten class recognized Bentley Wright, Jelea Allen, CJ McGill and Wesley Mitchell.



Ms. Pope's kindergarten class recognized Tyler Howard, Bubba Smith, Gabriel Cockrell and Cayden Moffett.



Ms. Stout's first grade class recognized Bentley Hayes, Wynn McDonald, Ava Trehem and Addison Schonewitz (not pictured).



Ms. Walley's first grade class recognized Caleb Baklarz, Ja'Whuan Trautman, Connor Silvey (not pictured) and Charlotte Cantrell.



Ms. Westbrook's first grade class recognized Peyton Rosner, William Evans, Samaria Rowlett and Brayleigh Young (not pictured).



Ms. White's first grade class recognized Mary Lightfoot, Tatum Cook, Liam McMahon and Reagan Choiniere.



Ms. Wright's first grade class recognized Taylor Brinson, Millie Reeves, Sonia Fisher and James Savarese (not pictured).



Ms. Wittman's first grade class recognized Josie Hanlon, Aaron Lin, Alyssa McCloud and Kason Aldridge.

Wawrek commmits to PRCC

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Our Lady Academy (OLA) senior Aubrey Wawrek of Long Beach recently signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer for Pearl River Community College (PRCC). Wawrek, a four-year letterman and captain of the OLA Soccer team, was selected to the 2020 Mississippi Coast All-Star Soccer team and has played for the Gulf Coast United Futbol Club for ten years.

“Aubrey is a very versatile player. She can and has played as a forward, midfielder, and also center back,” said head coach Nick Middleton. “What will help Aubrey most at the college level is her toughness. She has wonderful ability and skill but you will not find a kid tougher than Aubrey. I look forward to seeing her progress as a person and soccer player.”

Wawrek, an honors student, is a member of the National Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society. She serves as president of the Crescent Athletic Club and is a member of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) and Campus Ministry. In her spare time, Wawrek introduced soccer to young children as a coach for the Mini Kicks club in Gulfport.

“We are proud of Aubrey and wish her the very best in her college career,” said OLA Principal Marilyn Pigott. “She is an outstanding student and athlete. Her dedication and commitment have paved her way to a bright and successful future at PRCC.”



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Pictured are (l to r), front row: Kelly, Aubrey and Jon Wawrek; and back row: OLA head coach Nick Middleton, principal Marilyn Pigott, grandmother Kathleen Traux Graham, coach Cherie Griffith and athletic director Emily Corley.

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