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Long Beach local shines on *American Idol*

By Andy Kanengiser

Jeb Vonderbruegge is a rock star in his hometown of Long Beach. His fans seem to be everywhere in this close-knit Mississippi Gulf Coast community.

After all, Vonderbruegge landed in the top 40 on the *American Idol* show in Hollywood. The ABC broadcast aired in late March. The 18-year-old Long Beach High graduate gave it his best shot on the follow-up show in Hawaii.

As millions of viewers tuned in, a trio of all-star judges began slicing the contestant numbers to 21 to cause heartbreak for some. Looking on was Ryan Seacrest, one of the mainstays as the show’s able host.

Family and friends in Long Beach Bearcats Country rooted for Vonderbruegge to succeed. And he did super to make it so far. Talent levels in 2020 are off the charts for high school teens and college kids from across the U.S. Unfortunately, Vonderbruegge did not make the cut to the top 21 for the show, which has halted live production in light of the



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Jeb Vonderbruegge sings in Hollywood during the top 40 portion of the *American Idol* competition.

COVID-19 pandemic.

However, Vonderbruegge shined as he belted out Elton John’s classic “Rocket Man” on the Hollywood stage.

“Congrats, Jeb Vonderbruegge

– you killed it,” first cousin, Chip Vonderbruegge posted on his Facebook page on March 23. “Even a shout out from Katy Perry herself!”

A Regions Bank branch and president of the Long Beach Chamber of

Commerce, Chip was among many residents singing his cousin’s praises.

“He is extremely talented but never really found his artistry until
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Long Beach High construction making progress

By Andy Kanengiser

People in the Friendly City enthusiastically welcome the construction of a new Long Beach High.

The huge “B” on the front of the building in progress is a sure sign of pride in Long Beach Bearcats County.

There is still much work to do on the \$20 million state-of-the-art facility. It was made possible when Long Beach voters passed a bond issue about two years ago.

The academic portion of the facility comes in phase one. Phase two is construction of a new gym, a beautiful auditorium and thirty-six modern class-



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Construction continues at Long Beach High School.

rooms. The second phase should be completed in August 2021.

Long Beach High construction began in June 2019.

So far, so good, say parents, city leaders and others in this Mississippi Gulf Coast community.

“There are many benefits to updating and expanding the high school,” says Long Beach High parent Dom Fimiano. “Improvements are a wise investment in academics, fine arts, modern technology, athletics and our beautiful city.”

Fimiano’s daughter, Sophia, plays on the Long Beach Lady Bearcats soccer team. The Long Beach junior plays the

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Long Beach local shines on *American Idol*



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‘Gulf Coast Idol,’” Chip said. “He’s been extremely involved his whole life with acting and performing arts. This opened up a whole new avenue for him. I noticed the confidence in his performance growing.”

So did *American Idol* judges: singer-songwriter Katy Perry, music legend Lionel Richie and country star Luke Bryan. In the show’s 18th season, the judges are evaluators of the live performances.

Taking a semester break from Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College classes in Biloxi to focus on his music, Vonderbruegge soared with “Rocket Man” as the judges watched his every move.

“One thing the judges told him from the beginning was to find himself, and I feel like he did that during Hollywood Week,” Chip Vonderbruegge said. “This opportunity has done a lot for Jeb, his family and the Mississippi Gulf Coast.”

From City Hall to ballfields around town, loads of Long Beach folks give Vonderbruegge a thumbs up.

In the Friendly City, Vonderbruegge has many fans. From Mayor George Bass to City staffers, the Harrison County community warmly welcomes their new *American Idol* star.

“The City of Long Beach is very proud of Jeb and his incredible talent,” says Jenny Levens, the City’s community affairs director. “We look forward to hosting a Long Beach Live concert with Jeb.”

During a late March phone interview with the *Long Beach Breeze*, Jeb Vonderbruegge said he’s delighted by the reception he’s getting on his home turf.

It’s good to know, Vonderbruegge said, that “people are proud of me.”

Even during a visit to the dentist to get his wisdom teeth removed, people said they “recognized me from the show.”

Being part of Hollywood Week, then landing on the *American Idol* show in Hawaii dubbed “The Judgement,” was definitely cool, he said.

But overwhelming hometown support may be sweeter.

“It’s nice to have the support of everybody around you. I am very, very fortunate to have that.”

Vonderbruegge raves about his parents. Nicole and Bryan Vonderbruegge are educators on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

As for all three *American Idol* judges, each one is excellent, Vonderbruegge says. He enjoyed his days at Long Beach High taking parts in theater productions.

Asked why he performed Elton John’s hit “Rocket Man,” Vonderbruegge didn’t hesitate. “I grew up listening to Elton John.”

During “Hollywood Week” on *American Idol*, Vonderbruegge spoke on stage for a few moments. “My whole body is vibrating,” the Mississippi teen said. Before he exited the stage, Vonderbruegge thanked the musicians backing up his solid performance. “The band is incredible.”

What’s down the road for Jeb Vonderbruegge, in, say, five years? He plans to keep working on his music career.

For more information on ABC’s *American Idol*, visit www.AmericanIdol.com.

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Options exist for paying court fines during pandemic

By Andy Kanengiser

Although the Long Beach Municipal Court is currently closed to the public, employees are still working and answering the telephone, and defendants are still responsible for making monthly payments.

Defendants have several options by which to make payments. All payments of checks should include the defendant's full name and date of birth.

A check or money order can either be mailed to Long Beach Municipal Court, P.O. Box 929, Long Beach, MS 39560, or placed in an envelope marked "Court" and dropped into the Water Department drop box in front of City Hall.

Defendants can also pay online at www.paymyfineonline.com or at www.longbeachmstickets.com or by phone at 877-793-7925. Defendants will need their citation number and court date for these options.

For more information, contact the court at 228-865-7840.

USM tentatively reschedules graduation for August

Special to Long Beach Breeze

University of Southern Mississippi commencement ceremonies have tentatively been rescheduled, but university officials note that the plans are subject to change, pending future public health guidance as

COVID-19 circumstances continue to evolve.

Graduate students based on the Hattiesburg campus commencement is set for August 20, 2020.

Undergraduate students based on the Hattiesburg campus will have commencement on August 21, 2020.

Graduate and undergraduate students based at coastal operations will graduate on August 22, 2020.

Students who are eligible for graduation will receive specific informa-

tion from the Office of the Registrar via email in the coming weeks.

Students who previously registered to participate in May ceremonies do not need to take action at this time.

Students who did not previously register should follow instructions they receive via email to reserve a seat.

Students who complete all degree requirements during Spring 2020 or Summer 2020 semesters will have the option to participate in August or December commencement ceremonies.

Additional information will be posted on the Office of the Registrar's commencement web page at usm.edu/registrar/commencement.php as details become available. Questions may be directed to registrar@usm.edu.



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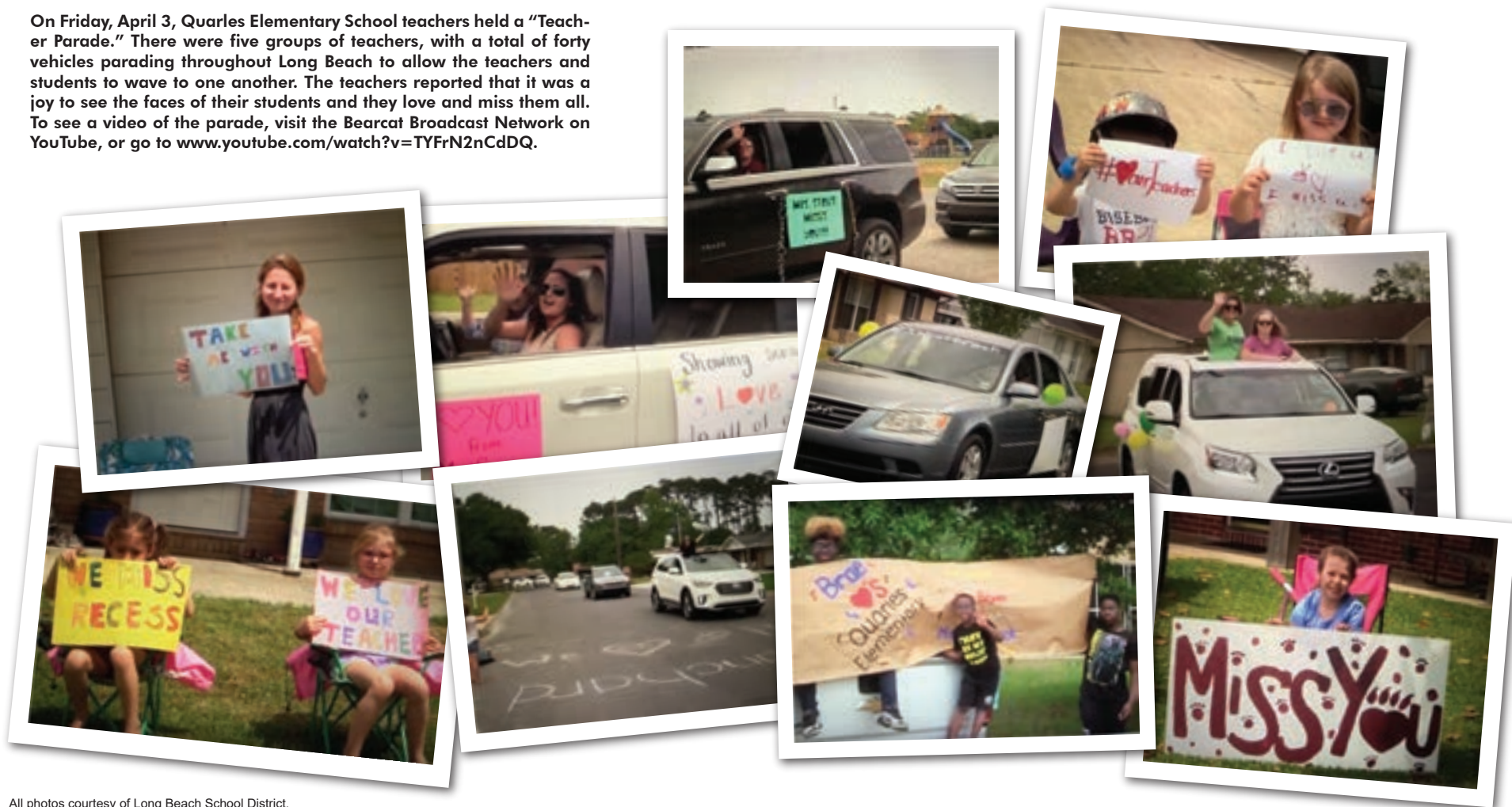
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Quarles teachers hold special "Teacher Parade"

On Friday, April 3, Quarles Elementary School teachers held a "Teacher Parade." There were five groups of teachers, with a total of forty vehicles parading throughout Long Beach to allow the teachers and students to wave to one another. The teachers reported that it was a joy to see the faces of their students and they love and miss them all. To see a video of the parade, visit the Bearcat Broadcast Network on YouTube, or go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYFrN2nCdDQ.



All photos courtesy of Long Beach School District.

With caution, the business of Buying & Selling homes goes on.



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Tree planted in honor of FETCH founder

The Long Beach Garden Club and Long Beach Tree Board recently planted a tree on Arbor Day at the FETCH Dog park. The Live Oak tree was planted in honor of Barb Reed, founder of the park. The park is located at 20257 Daugherty Road.



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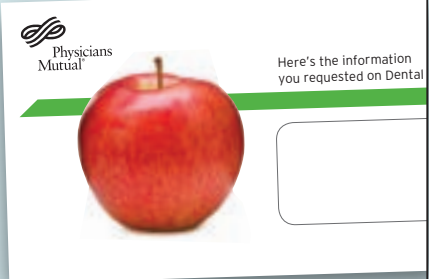
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All photos by Andy Kanengiser.

Crowds were diminished at the Farmers' Market in Long Beach on March 14, 2020, just days after the World Health Organization declared the Coronavirus to be a world pandemic. The Farmers' Market will be open each Saturday from 8 a.m. until noon.

LONG BEACH FARMERS' MARKET STILL OPEN



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach Farmers' Market remains open on Saturdays, rain or shine, from 8 a.m. until noon.

Farmers Markets were declared an essential business by Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves and are allowed to operate during the statewide stay-at-home order. Customers to the market are asked to respect personal distancing by leaving as much space as possible between customer and vendor, as well as keeping at least six feet of distance between themselves and other customers. Customers are asked to refrain from walking behind or on the sides of vendor tents. Vendors will serve customers from the front only.

Only one person is allowed at a vendor table at a time. If family members come to the market together, only one member of the family should approach the vendor table, while the rest of the family stays a safe distance away.

All customers to the market are encouraged to wear masks and use their own hand sanitizer between transactions. Having small bills handy for payment is also suggested. Residents should not attend the market if they have any symptoms of illness. Instead, contact the market vendors directly and inquire about delivery options.

The Long Beach Farmers' Market is located on the Long Beach Harper McCaughan Town Green. For more information, visit The Farmers Market At Long Beach on Facebook.

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cont. from page 1

Long Beach High construction making progress

positions of striker and defender on the squad. Her dad remains a strong booster of his daughter's team and of the new high school being built.

"Residents, students and staff are excited and thankful for the investment" in a new school, Dom Fimiano said.

The new school replaces an aging facility dating back to 1958, a time when Dwight Eisenhower was the nation's president. Back then, a gallon of gasoline cost thirty cents. The median home price across the nation was \$19,000 sixty-two years ago.

The first phase of the construction is expected to be finished in time for students returning to school for fall classes in August.

The 300 East Old Pass campus won't look the same.

Such a modern twenty-first Century facility will not only benefit current residents.

"Updating, expanding and improving campus buildings and school safety are great for attracting new families, talented students and new businesses to support growth in our great city of Long Beach," says Fimiano. "Existing businesses can have opportunities to expand and be more successful as more people move to Long Beach."

His enthusiasm for a new Long Beach High is shared at City Hall and by many people across the vibrant Harrison County community.

A big supporter of the new construction in Bearcats Country, Long Beach School District Superintendent Jay Smith sees the positives in terms of enhancing education for students. He says he's proud, too, that enrollment growth in the district has climbed to 3,100 students. That puts Long Beach public schools to levels prior to Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

At his office on 201 Jeff Davis Avenue, Mayor George Bass says he is delighted to see construction of the school in the Coastal city first incorporated in 1905.

"I know we are all excited and happy for the kids to have new facilities and amenities," says Jenny Levens, the City's community affairs director.

A new Long Beach High is the latest feather in the cap of the highly-rated school district. It boasts an "A" rating from the Mississippi Department of Education and two Blue Ribbon schools. Conveniently located, Long Beach sits four miles from the Port of Gulfport and ten miles from Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport. The city's downtown is just a short walk or jog to the beach.




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Chamber offering virtual programs

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce has introduced virtual programs to keep members informed during the Coronavirus pandemic. Despite the changes and circumstances, the Chamber wants to continue to provide a valuable program of work for their members. Chamber leadership says they are drawing on the expertise of their members as they plan and host virtual

Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, Inc.



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meetings and webinars.

To date, since the end of March, the Chamber has hosted a Facebook Live with Dr. Nicholas Conger from Memorial Hospital at Gulfport, as well as an event featuring Lauren Drummond from Coastal Consultants, who provided guidance for small business operations during COVID-19. Following that, the Chamber introduced Washington Legislative expert Moore Hallmark from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Moore dis-

cussed the CARES Act provisions in place for businesses, how to get started and shared helpful resources available. The Focus Group also hosted a webinar on "Best Practices for Your Brand During COVID-19," including management and strategy for your company's digital platforms, brand messaging, supporting customers while working remotely, brand and content strategy and ways to stay innovative for clients during COVID-19.

"In order to reach our members and provide valuable information, the Chamber has gone virtual. We plan to provide several programs and speakers each week," said Adele Lyons, CEO of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce.

Registration is complimentary and open to the public. For more information, visit the Chamber calendar of events at mscoastchamber.com. For more information, call 228-604-0014 or e-mail info@mscoastchamber.com.

LBHS choir's winter concert available for viewing



Special to Long Beach Breeze

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The Long Beach High School Concert Choir's Winter Concert is now available for viewing online. The concert can be seen on the Bearcat Broadcast Network YouTube page and the Long Beach School District Facebook

page.

The LBHS Concert Choir is under the direction of Terry Walker and associate director Brian Chancey. The students' production can be viewed online.

School district addresses seniors, outlines plans for rest of school year

Special to Long Beach Breeze

A message from Long Beach School District Superintendent Dr. Jay Smith to the Long Beach High School Class of 2020:



Smith further outlined some of the plans that are being made to provide ongoing education opportunities for LBSD students, now that Mississippi schools have been changed from an on-campus to a distance learning model for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school term.

"Please know that all of us are doing the very best we can in this difficult environment," said Smith. "I am very proud of the LBSD teachers and employees for their efforts as they strive to provide ongoing educational opportunities for our students while also ensuring to take care of themselves and their families."

Smith said that Long Beach High School principal Talia Lock is working on the specifics regarding graduation.

"A formal graduation will take place," said Smith. "More than likely, it will be conducted at the stadium. Options on the table as of now are July, Homecoming weekend in October, or later in the fall semester during the holidays. This ALL depends on when it is deemed safe to do so."

Smith said Lock is considering informal ways to distribute diplomas so that all graduates will receive a diploma on May 20. He also said high school yearbooks will be distributed on May 6, promising that more information regarding that will be coming.

With the Governor's orders allowing for exceptions for travel to and from educational institutions for the purposes of picking up and dropping off materials, Smith said "ready" instructional materials will be disbursed for elementary and middle school grades from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m. April 21

through April 24, with each grade assigned a specific day for pickup at their school.

Kindergarten, sixth grade, and eighth grade pickup is set for Tuesday, April 21. First, fifth and seventh grade pickup will be Wednesday, April 22. Second and fourth grade pickup is Thursday, April 23; and third grade pickup is Friday, April 24.

Kindergarten through eighth grade yearbooks, report cards and personal items will be available for pickup on May 21 and 22, with more information regarding those pickups to follow in the coming days. All grade level, subject area and Superintendent awards will be mailed to students.

During this time, Smith says principals and teachers can be reached via their emails. "They have been directed to check emails on a daily basis and respond to each email in a timely manner. If a teacher is not responding to your emails, please notify the school administration via email," said Smith.

Vocemails have been set up for all central office employees, should a parent need to reach any department. Leaving a voicemail will trigger an email sent to the employee the caller is trying to reach.

"Our school board, administrators, and teachers are all working hard to ensure our students are safe and that their educational needs are met to the greatest extent possible during this time," said Smith. "I realize the pressures that many of you are facing, and I pray for your health and safety. May God bless each of you, and may HIS protection be upon our children."



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Long Beach Bearcats tennis team welcomes new courts

All photos by Andy Kanengiser



By Andy Kanengiser

New tennis courts for the Long Beach High team opened with a wonderful ribbon cutting ceremony.

That March 10 event was a nice way to trumpet the new courts. But just days later, the courts were locked up and there were no Bearcats tennis players around. The new concessions stand was shut, too.

Long Beach public schools and campuses statewide were closed through at least April 17 due to the worldwide Coronavirus pandemic. The health emergency halted many spring sports in Mississippi and around the nation. New Orleans, Louisiana and New York City, among others, became hot spots for the deadly virus as March turned to April.

While COVID-19 continues to grab headlines, there are still plenty of positive things happening for communities across the U.S.

Long Beach tennis coach Andrea Breland is among those excited about the new courts near Harper McCaughan Elementary School. The new courts are a welcome sight to Bearcats players, too.

Expect Bearcats players to showcase their racket skills at the Long Beach High Tennis Complex at 19200 Pineville Road for years to come. The Coronavirus can't last forever.



Long Beach High tennis teams are typically pretty strong. Last season, the boys' varsity squad advanced the 5A South State championships, but lost at the Pass Christian Recreational Center.

This year, the Maroon & White posted a 6-1 record on the Mississippi Gulf Coast (as of early April). The Bearcats defeated teams such as Hancock, 7-0, and West Harrison, 6-1, in March before the season came to a sudden stop.

Prior to the construction of the new courts, the Long Beach student-athletes practiced at Pass Christian High courts in recent years. The team also used the Long Beach campus gym and University of Southern Mississippi tennis courts.

"Having the new courts finished and finally having a place to call home has been tremendously exciting for everyone involved," Coach Breland said. It is "a tremendous blessing."

Long Beach High now has six new courts, including Court #11, dedicated to eleven victims who died in the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The industrial disaster began on April 20, 2010, in the Gulf of Mexico.

The tennis courts come with concessions, including restrooms, and a varsity team locker room.

"Unfortunately, due to this pandemic, our season has been affected," Breland said. "We can't wait to start playing soon!"

Don't let pandemic thwart house buying and selling options

By Guest Columnist Mallory Savner,
Licensed realtor, Veterans Realty

It is officially spring, and with that comes peak time for home shopping. With the coronavirus pandemic, this home shopping season is sure to be anything but normal, but the real estate industry is nothing if not adaptable. And adapt, we must. Despite all that is going on right now, we are still buying and selling homes—the process just looks a little different.

First, real estate was deemed an essential service, so we are able to conduct business. That includes everyone involved in the real estate transaction—lenders, home inspectors, termite inspectors, appraisers, closing attorneys, etc. Many of the



steps involved in the transaction can be done virtually (even the closing in some cases!) While many people do not want to buy a home without seeing it in person, we are offering virtual showings to help narrow down the list to those houses worth visiting in person. For those willing and able to view in person, we are taking necessary precautions to ensure everyone's safety. Essentially every step of the home buying or selling process can be done online—contract negotiations, loan pre-approvals, etc.

Right now, interest rates are still low, which is attractive to home buyers. However, we are seeing interest rates rising due to the high volume of refinancing, which means if you are serious about buying a home, now is the time to lock in a low interest rate. It's more important than ever to get pre-approved and calculate your budget accurately. Regardless of your

pre-approval amount, you'll want to crunch the numbers to make sure you are comfortable with your anticipated monthly payments. You do not want to be house-poor! During this time, you will want to not only budget for your mortgage payment, taxes, insurance and closing costs, but also some cash reserves for emergencies and yearly home maintenance. If this all sounds overwhelming to you, don't fret—that's why you have an agent, and we are here to help. We can help you come up with a budget and anticipate future costs.

Prior to the coronavirus outbreak, there was already a national housing shortage. Now, many homeowners are delaying listing their home, which means supply is low, but there are still buyers actively looking. The less serious buyers have dropped off (for now), which means the current buyers are looking to buy soon. Ac-

cording to Realtor.com, there were 15.7% fewer homes on the market nationally in March than reported the same time last year. If you are considering selling your house (or maybe you need to for personal reasons), don't let the coronavirus stop you. We do not want anyone risking their health, but do understand someone may be in a situation where they need to sell their house, and we want you to know we are here to help. This is also a great time while supply and interest rates are low. We are, of course, taking necessary safety precautions and have additional measures we can implement to ensure everyone's safety.

We know these circumstances are anything but normal, but we will get through this together. We just want you to know we are here and open for business if you need us. Most importantly, stay safe and healthy, friends!

Cobb steps down as Long Beach boys basketball coach

By Andy Kanengiser

Brandon Cobb departed as the Long Beach High boys' basketball coach to take a new post at his alma mater, St. Stanislaus School in Bay, St. Louis.

Cobb, 29, coached the Maroon and White hoops team the past two seasons. Cobb joins St. Stanislaus in an administrative position on the admissions staff starting July 1.

"I'm thankful for the opportunity I was given to lead the program. I appreciate all of the support I received from the school, administration and the community," said Cobb.

"I will forever cherish the bonds created with my players and appreciate all of their hard work," Cobb said in a March 31 statement.

Founded in 1854, St. Stanislaus is a Catholic resident and day school for young men. The private school serves 386 students in grades 7-12.

During Cobb's two years as the boys head coach, the Long Beach Bearcats finished with a 33-26 record.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Brandon Cobb (far left, back row) has coached the Bearcat boys for two seasons. He is leaving LBSD to take an administrative position at St. Stanislaus.

Asked to name his top highlight, Cobb said it would be going undefeated in the rugged south Mississippi 5A district in 2018-2019. The squad advanced to the state tournament's Elite 8 in 5A.

Brandon Cobb will be a familiar

face when he joins the St. Stanislaus staff in a few months. He shined as a shooting guard under basketball coach Jay Ladner at St. Stanislaus more than a decade ago. Ladner now serves as head men's basketball coach at the University of Southern Mississippi.

As a senior at St. Stanislaus, Brandon Cobb played on a team compiling a stellar 23-4 record during the 2008-2009 season. He is a 2013 LSU graduate and served as a student assistant on the LSU Tigers basketball team.

Cobb held coaching jobs in Texas and Louisiana before returning to the Mississippi Gulf Coast to lead the Long Beach High boys' team. He will continue working at Long Beach High for the remainder of the academic year this spring.

As March turned to April, district leaders were also seeking to hire a new Long Beach High girls' soccer team coach, as well as a Lady Bearcats softball coach.

Haley Hammons moved on as the Lady Bearcats soccer coach to take a post as assistant girls' soccer coach at Gulfport High. "I am appreciative of my time at Long Beach," Hammons said. "I am going to miss the players and everybody I worked with. I am looking forward to this opportunity."

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FB: Long Beach Church of Christ - Mississippi

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All in-person worship has been suspended until we receive an "all clear" notice from the authorities. Our Congregation is worshipping together electronically via ZOOM. This limits participation to only those to whom the link and password has been provided. If anyone else wishes to participate, they can send me a request at gracepastordave1@gmail.com

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11:00 a.m. service live on The Well facebook page and Youtube
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Scenes from Self-Quarantine



JA scholarship winners named



Special to Long Beach Breeze
Three Long Beach students were recently named as winners of the Junior Auxiliary College Bound Scholarship. Pictured (l to r) are Julia Geertsema, Katie Huey and Katie Baker, who are each the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship.

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Readers encouraged to share photos and stories for National Library Week



By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn,
LBPL Youth and Technology Services

Hello, everyone! We would like you to know that we miss seeing you at the library and hope you are all doing well. We want to remind everyone that, even though we are closed, we are still hard at work planning things for you to do in the next few months.

National Library Week, which falls the week of April 19 through April 25, is an important week for libraries. The theme this year of "Find Your Place at the Library" also has a new graphic of "Find the Library at Your Place." So, with that in mind...here is what we want everyone to do.

For the week of National Library Week, post/share those new or old photos of you, your family, you and your children, your children and their pets...reading a favorite book. Share a story with the photo, too, if you wish. Why the book was your favorite...why you were reading to your dog...etc. Please share your photos and stories on the Long Beach Public Library Facebook page.

Also, we have some Summer

Reading program news...

Due to the circumstances in which we all find ourselves, programs will be geared for families this year. We have tried to make sure that the programs are something in which all members can participate, and we hope that you will enjoy what we have put together for you during this time.

Programs will be posted on the Summer Reading Calendar, along with any web links you may need to participate, and all programs will begin May 4. Registration will not be required this year. You can still participate in events without posting or sharing on our Facebook page. We understand.

A form (similar to a bingo sheet) with the events we are planning will be posted on the website (www.LongBeach.lib.ms.us) at a later date, so that you can mark off the events in which you and your family participated this summer. Likewise, a separate sheet will be there, as well, for you to write down titles of books that you and your children read or listened to over the summer.

If you have any questions, please email me at rreyburn@longbeach.lib.ms.us.

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Students place in MathCounts competition



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach Middle School students participated in a MathCounts competition in March.

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The MS Gulf Coast Chapter MathCounts Competition was held at William Carey University in Biloxi, with thirteen schools and over one hundred students participating.

Mathletes from Long Beach Middle School included Vicki Tran, Lexie Griffith, Aubrey Pingul and Grace Lefort, who placed third in the Team Round, where they were in the top forty percent of the thirteen teams.

Team members continued to soar in the Individual Round, in which Vicki Tran placed fourth, Aubrey Pingul placed fifth, Grace Lefort placed eighth, Lexie Griffith placed twelfth, and Brienna Brennan placed fifteenth. They were in the top twenty-fifth percent of the one hundred thirty individual competitors. Tran and Pingul qualified to represent Long Beach Middle School at the State Level Tournament.

Residents asked to help Animal Control

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The City of Long Beach is requesting help from the public for animal issues in the city during these uncertain times.

The Humane Society has ceased their spay/neuter program, and they are also not adopting animals out of the facility until further notice. They are only accepting animals from the local jurisdictions on an emergency basis.

Long Beach residents are asked to refrain from calling animals in to dispatch unless the animal is in obvious distress or is acting in an aggressive manner. For example, if a neighbor's dog is out, try to hold the animal for them until they get home, or at least notify them that their animal is out.

The Long Beach Police Department's Animal Control unit stresses that now is the time to band together as a community and help each other out. The City is also not picking up cats at this time. Trapping has been discontinued until

further notice, as the City has limited space for long term care of these animals. Residents are also asked to refrain from setting their own personal traps, as well, until further notice, as the City is trying to limit social interactions that endanger the community and City employees.



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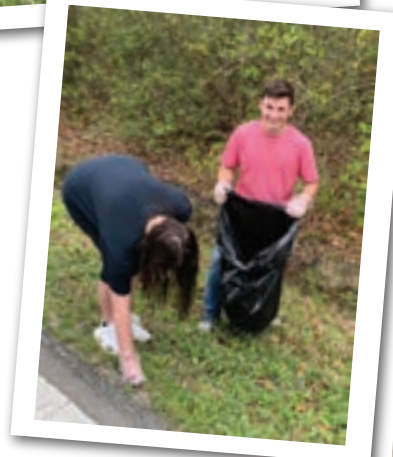
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Long Beach cleans up for spring

The Long Beach Community Clean Up was held on Saturday, March 14. Volunteers met at the Town Green and dispersed in groups to go around town to clean.

All photos Special to Long Beach Breeze



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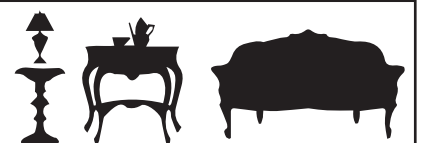
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To ensure continued compliance with evolving federal, state, and local public health guidelines, including the executive order issued by Governor Tate Reeves on April 1, 2020, the University of Southern Mississippi has implemented additional steps to further limit the presence of individuals on all campuses and sites, including the Gulf Park campus.

Currently, all course work is continuing in online or other alternative remote delivery formats. Students who have been approved to remain in on-campus housing due to extraordinary circumstances must limit their movements to dining and health services only, and public access for visitors to all USM locations remains suspended.

In addition, all vehicular and pedestrian traffic on University property

is strongly discouraged, and all University Libraries locations are closed. Physical materials will not be accessible for use or circulation, but electronic collections and resources will remain available virtually through the University Libraries website and through interlibrary loan.

As of Friday, April 3, all employees were required to refrain from traveling to any USM campus or site unless they have specifically been assigned to work on-site and received an official notice in writing. Employees who receive official notice to continue working on-site must limit their time on-site to the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, unless their assigned work shift or an emergency requires otherwise.

For more information, visit www.usm.edu/covid-19/.

Bearcat Players release original production



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Pictured are Summer Cunningham and Madison Broome of the LBHS Theatre Department.

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach High School Bearcat Players have released their original production, *Letters to a Lady*, on the Bearcat Broadcast Network YouTube page and the Long Beach School District Facebook page.

The show was the group's entry for the Mississippi Theatre Association's Dramafest 2019, which was hosted by the University of Southern Mississippi and Mississippi State University. Students had forty-five minutes to set up, perform the show, and strike from the stage.

Letters to a Lady began as a class project and as a devised theatre piece revolving around letters

written by children to First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt during the Great Depression. Students did research, found letters, and developed scenes from the content in those letters. Numerous letters can be found on the Library of Congress website, which is where students found the song, "The United States Needs Prayers Everywhere." It was recorded by Herbert Halpert in 1939 at an African American Methodist Church in Tupelo, Mississippi, and was sung by Lulu Morris and members of the congregation.

The Long Beach High School Theatre Department is under the direction of Carrie Ferguson-Bellew. The students' production can be viewed online.

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