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December 20, 2019 • Volume 3, Number 12 • “Good News You Can Use”

New Long Beach sign highlights town offerings

By Sinclair Rishel

Those who have driven by the corner of Jeff Davis and Highway 90 recently have probably noticed that Long Beach has a new welcome sign. The sign, emblazoned with the Long Beach city logo, advertises the various shops and attractions that the city has to offer.

From children’s and women’s boutiques to a comic shop and a florist to restaurants, bakeries, and a coffee shop, the sign shows passersby the businesses they can find by turning down Jeff Davis Avenue. The more practical services are addressed, too – automotive shops, a chiropractor, a dry cleaner, and barber shops and salons are

featured on the sign.

The new sign was put up by Mississippi Prison Industries Corporation, a non-profit prison that aims to lead offenders to a brighter future through job training and realistic work experiences. Jobs like making the new sign for Long Beach help offenders pay off their debt to society and reap the benefits of helping out their community.

City leaders feel the new sign will be a wonderful feature for tourist season and

events like Cruisin’ the Coast. As visitors roll down Highway 90, they’ll be drawn in by all the wonderful attractions in Long Beach, and current residents may discover some businesses they never knew about before, as well.

Commenters on the Long Beach Mayor’s Office Facebook page were thrilled about the sign, calling it “impressive,” “informative,” and “amazing.” One commenter said, “I love it! Money well spent! So

excited about this new sign!”

The sign replaces an older version that was put up after Katrina and was beginning to wear out. It was also unable to keep up with the growth the city has seen since the storm. From a downtown that was completely wiped out by the hurricane, Long Beach’s downtown has grown and is now home to more than a dozen small businesses, including restaurants, boutiques, souvenir shops, bars, and coffee shops.

Although the sign currently covers a wide range of businesses, it also leaves room for the future. There are blank spots at the bottom to accommodate new businesses that come to the city.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

LB businesses eligible for high-speed internet

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Small and medium-sized businesses in Long Beach can now enjoy internet speeds up to 1 gigabit per second with the launch of Sparklight Business’ new 1 Gig high-speed internet plans.

“Gigabit internet service provides enhanced operational speed for companies involved with server hosting, constant cloud computing, integrated call centers/customer service management systems and much more,” said Chris Boone, Vice President of Business Services for Sparklight. “Teams can stream, share and collaborate via video conference in ultra HD. They can connect each and every device and employee simultane-

ously – without straining network quality. And they can directly access cloud-based software and virtual desktops with no lag or buffering.”

Gigabit internet service is available throughout the Sparklight

fiber-coaxial network in order to bring the latest technology and fastest speeds to its customers. The 1 Gig plan includes download speeds up to 1,000 Mbps and upload speeds up to 50 Mbps. It completes a high-speed internet

access is a productivity-enhancing factor,” Boone said. “We are excited to add this option for our business customers, which allows for increased collaboration, the option to send and share larger files more quickly, and the ability to take advantage of more cloud-based applications – which in turn helps businesses achieve operational efficiencies, greater productivity and growth.”

Sparklight Business offers high-speed internet plans with “no contract” options – along with savings opportunities under 1-year, 2-year and 3-year service agreements. Contract or not, business customers also enjoy no data limits with any high-speed internet plan for which they sign up.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Business footprint. Sparklight officials say the company has invested millions of dollars upgrading to an ultra-reliable and fast hybrid

portfolio of plans that also feature 25x3; 50x5; 150x15; 300x30 and 500x50 plans in most markets.

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LBHS Theatre Department performs for Dramafest



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The Long Beach High School Theatre Department, under the direction of Carrie Ferguson-Bellew, recently performed *Letters to a Lady for the Mississippi Theatre Association's Dramafest*, hosted by the University of Southern Mississippi and Mississippi State University. Pictured are Summer Cunningham and Madison Broome. The LBHS Theatre Department typically produces up to eight shows a year. For more information on their upcoming shows, following LBHS Theatre Department on Facebook or Instagram or on Twitter at lbhs_theatre_department.

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Think ahead about goals instead of resolutions

By Guest Columnist Mallory Savner,
Licensed realtor, Veterans Realty

The holiday season brings lot of good cheer and festive spirits. Then the holidays simmer down, and people start to think about the new year, and maybe for some, a fresh start.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Mallory Savner

Inevitably come the resolutions, half of which are never kept.

One year, my resolution was to stop making resolutions. Sounds pretty crabby, right? But stay with me for a minute. I highly value self-development and love when people make an effort to better themselves with resolutions, but what if we made goals instead of resolutions? We've all been taught the importance of setting goals, but so often people don't know where to start.

Let's start from the beginning.

According to Wikipedia, a goal is "an idea of the future or desired result that a person or a group of people envision, plan and commit to achieve." In school, we learned the acronym, SMART. A goal must be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound. A goal is an action plan that can be measured and evaluated, which helps you stay motivated to reach your goal. Whether your goal is to practice gratitude or save for retirement, you have to go further with it. Think SMART here. Be specific in a way that can be measured, make sure it is achievable, and set a timeline.

I'd like to suggest a few goals.

1. **Save for a down payment.** Gone are the days of 20% down payments. That's not to say we never see them, but they are not as typical as they once were. People often shy away from the home-buying process, because they don't have 20% to put as a down payment. Talk to your bank or lender and see what type of loan fits you, and you'll be in

a better position to know what you need to save for a down payment.

2. **Work on your credit score.** So maybe you're not to the stage of saving for a down payment yet, and that's okay. Make a plan to improve your credit score. There are great programs available to help with that, as well. There is a lot of misinformation out there on how to improve your credit score, and talking to a professional that specializes in credit repair can help significantly.

3. **Get pre-approved.** If your credit score is where you want it to be, you have saved for a down payment, and you are ready to take the next step, get pre-approved with your bank or lender. A pre-approval gives you a clearer picture of how much you can afford to borrow. It helps set realistic expectations and avoid disappointment later down the road. It also helps you be more competitive, because it assures the seller you are serious and have taken the neces-

sary steps to secure financing. A seller wants the most solid offer they can get, and having a pre-approval can help with that. Pre-approval can also alert you to any potential issues sooner rather than later, so that you can take care of them and be ready to buy when you find the perfect home.

4. **Avoid any large purchases.** Maybe you haven't reached any of the above-mentioned stages. Maybe you're still working on saving and thinking about next steps. One step you can take to getting serious about buying a home in the meantime is avoiding any large purchases. Making large purchases do not necessarily have a negative impact on your credit score; however, if you are in the process of saving and your credit score is not where you would like it, this most likely applies to you.

I hope that you've found this information useful! Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and let's crush some goals in 2020!



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As new owners since August 2019, we like business challenges. Since we own other businesses in the area, we wanted to provide a friendly atmosphere for friends and family to enjoy wonderful Mexican food. In addition, we want to be able to give back to the community that has blessed us.

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WHAT ARE CUSTOMERS SAYING?

From Tyrone, Pass Christian, MS

The burrito macho is my favorite. I like the one with steak in it. The way it's prepared is deep fried on top of vegetables on a hot plate. Mexican food is my favorite, and I try to eat at any Mexican restaurant I can. Fiesta Mexicana is by far the best one I've tried. The food is excellent and plentiful. Price is very reasonable. Restaurant and bathrooms are very clean, and an extremely friendly staff. Oh, and the chips are always fresh. And can't forget the cheese dip. Perfect. If you go there, you won't be disappointed.

From Waylon, Long Beach, MS

I love everything about it. Good margaritas, good food, and very nice waiters. And it's not expensive either. Very clean. I eat there at least 3 to 4 times a week I would recommend it to anyone.

Catered Quinceañera for 200 family and friends - Long Beach, MS

What I can say about the food is that it was delicious. It didn't have a reheated taste. The waiters were very attentive. The service was great and greatly companioned with just nice tasting food. The dish was at its finest on looks and taste.

From Erica, Long Beach, MS

I love the carne asada tacos; that's my favorite with the horchata Mexican drink. The tortillas are fresh, and the meat is so tender and authentic. The quality and freshness are experienced when eating this platter. This is not a Tex Mex style restaurant, this is the real deal. Authentic, friendly, excellent service. Always fresh and a good price.

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P.O. Box 144
Long Beach, MS 39560
228-265-9276

Volume 3, Issue 12
Circulation 10,000
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The Long Beach Breeze is published on the 20th of each month in Long Beach, Mississippi.

For submission information, email news@LongBeachBreeze.com

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www.LongBeachBreeze.com

Shopping local brings benefits to LB

By Sinclair Rishel

This Christmas, when doing their holiday shopping, Long Beach residents are encouraged to try looking for great gifts at home before driving a long distance or ordering online. Local shopping is a great way to boost the local economy, support small business owners, and find unique gifts for loved ones.

Gabrielle Rose with the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce says, “Long Beach is a wonderful community full of many unique businesses and restaurants. It is so important to support your local businesses all year round.”

There are several benefits to shopping local:

- **Boost the Long Beach economy** – “According to data from American Express’s Shop Small movement, for every dollar you spend at these businesses, approximately 67 cents stays in your community. Just by shopping small, you can make a huge impact on your friends

and neighbors,” says Rose. That 67 cents goes towards improving Long Beach schools, roads, police, fire departments, and other City services.

- **Support small business owners** – When you buy from a big box retailer, there’s no personal connection. But when you shop locally, you’re buying from your friends and neighbors, the person who sits in the pew behind you in church. This can help you be more connected to people around you in the Long Beach community.

- **Get better customer service** – One of the great things about small businesses is that they thrive on great customer service. Each and every customer matters to them, and they want to make sure you have the best experience possible. Your local Long Beach merchants will do their best to make sure your holiday shopping experience is fun and stress-free.

- **Keep Long Beach unique** – Our local businesses in Long

Beach are part of what make it such a fun place to live. From the shops and restaurants on Jeff Davis Avenue to the businesses up and down Beatline and Pineville, these storefronts are what make us stand out from any other town on the Gulf Coast. When you shop local, you contribute to making Long Beach a special place to live.

- **Find unique gifts** – Every time you buy something from a big box store, you have to worry about whether someone else will get your loved one that same gift for Christmas. But when you buy local, that worry disappears. Not only will you avoid your gift winding up on the regifting pile, your loved one will also appreciate the thoughtfulness of your present.

Buying local is a great option not only for the Long Beach community, but also for individual’s Christmas shopping. Everyone will wind up with better gifts, a better community, and a less stressful holiday experience.

Student Council wins conference award



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach Middle School Student Council members recently attended the annual Southern Association of Student Councils conference in Sulphur, Louisiana. They were among eight hundred teenagers from nine states, one of four middle schools from the Southeast, and one of only two schools representing Mississippi. The students placed first overall in the Junior High/ Middle Level category for Outstanding Project. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Jason Yarbrough, Henry Sawyer, Presley Ragon, Lexie Griffith, Emma Kate Desnoyers and Dannie Sterner; and back row: Hannah Dulin (advisor), Ava Graham, Wayne Ulrich, Angela Mastin-Ward, Jared Smith, Amelia Lipski, Vicki Tran, Savannah Madigan and Michelle Seal (advisor).

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December 11 - This Hope (Free Admission) - 6 pm
December 24 - Christmas Eve Service - 5:30 pm

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Long Beach High teams launch new BB seasons

By Andy Kanengiser

For the Long Beach High boys basketball team, the good times will roll in New Orleans during the 2019-20 hoops season.

That's because head coach Brandon Cobb will bring his talented Long Beach Bearcats team to the Smoothie Center in NOLA for a game on January 6.

Long Beach battles rival West Harrison in a Monday game prior to the NBA's Pelicans contest with the Utah Jazz. The NBA game is set for a 7 p.m. tip-off in the 16,500-seat arena in the Big Easy. The Pels' roster features standouts like Lonzo Ball, JJ Reddick, rookie Zion Williamson (of Duke fame) and Jrue Holliday.

But Coach Cobb's got a few stars of his own. His Maroon & White squad reigned as the district champs last season. This year, the Bearcats are led by junior guards Anthony Robinson and Khaleb Marks. They were both starters on last year's successful squad.

Long Beach competes in a new South Mississippi district this year,

facing teams like Hattiesburg, Picayune and Pearl River Central. And the school on the Gulf Coast competes against tough non-conference foes this season. The Long Beach boys dropped the season opener to Pascagoula High on the road 67 to 49 on November 5.

This season, the Bearcats boys team played in the Allstate Sugar Bowl CYO tournament in New Orleans (December 5-6) and will play in the Gulfport Classic on December 26.

"Goals for this year are to win the district championship and advance to the playoffs," Coach Cobb said. "Ultimately, we want to compete for the state championship."

On the Long Beach campus at 300 East Old Pass Road, a new hoops season also recently started for the Lady Bearcats.

In early November, the Lady Bearcats dropped the first two games of the year on the road (32 to 27 vs St. Patrick and 49-46 vs Pascagoula).

The Lady Bearcats are booked for the VanCleave Christmas Shootout December 21 and the Biloxi Christ-



Special to Long Beach Breeze

mas Tournament December 27. Twelve girls and a dozen boys

comprise the Long Beach hoops rosters in 2019-2020.

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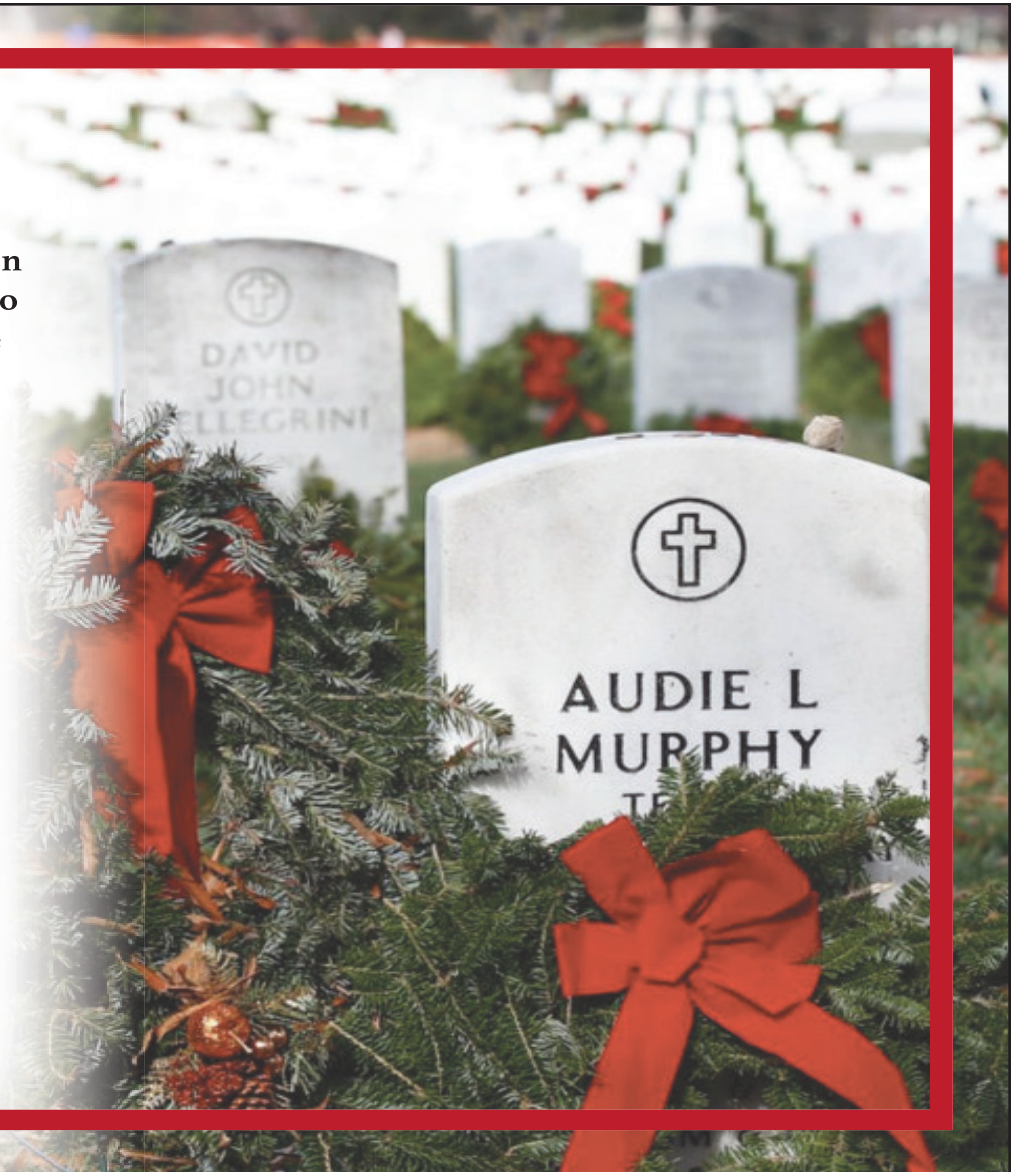
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Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3937 and American Legion Post 1995 wish to thank the following for contributing to a successful Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Long Beach City Cemetery on December 14th

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And the many family members and friends who sponsored individual wreaths.





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LB Library already planning events for January

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn,
LBPL Children's Librarian

With the holidays almost over, meetings for groups involved with the Long Beach Public Library will begin again in January. The next monthly meeting scheduled for the Friends of the Long Beach Public Library will be held on January 6 at 1 p.m. in the meeting room of the main

wing.

Parent's Coffee Break will be held on January 7 at 10:30 a.m. This event is sponsored by Dolce Bakeshop of Long Beach and is held on the first Tuesday of each month during story time. It gives the adults who bring the children to story time an opportunity to have a little "me" time and get to know one another.

Due to the holiday on the 20, the

Long Beach Library Book Club will hold its meeting on January 27 at 1 p.m. in the meeting room of the main wing. The book for January is *Every Note Played* by Lisa Genova.

The Long Beach Library Board will have their next open session meeting on January 28 at 4 p.m.

Preschool Story time will be held every Tuesday and Thursday through the month of January

from 10:30 until 11:30 a.m.

Always keep in mind you can keep track of our current events by checking the calendar on our webpage at www.longbeach.lib.ms.us or by following us on Facebook.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Renee Rayburn is the Director of Youth and Technology Services for the Long Beach Public Library.

HOLIDAY LIBRARY EVENTS

Christmas Eve / Christmas Day

Closed December 23, Noon - Dec. 25

Reopens December 26, 9 a.m.

New Years Eve / New Years Day

Closed December 31, Noon - Jan. 1

Reopens January 2, 9 a.m.

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Closed January 17, 5 p.m. - Jan. 20

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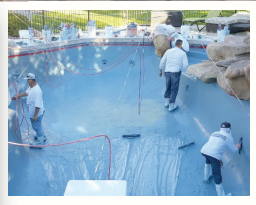
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"LONG BEACH - THE PLACE TO VISIT, THE PLACE TO LIVE, THE PLACE TO BE"

-Papa D



Church plans holiday meal

Special to Long Beach Breeze

For the last nine years on Christmas Eve, First United Methodist Church of Long Beach has opened its doors to all in need of a hot meal and fellowship.

The church has a long history of feeding those in the community. In 2011, ministry coordinator Lori Cripple began the Back Pack Buddy Program for students in the Long Beach school district. This program provides non-perishable meals over the weekends for students, when food may not be as readily available. The church's newest ministry, Open Table, led by Terry and Glenda Hull, serves seventy to one hundred meals every second Saturday at 19th Street Park in Gulfport to the homeless community and those in need. Church leaders say these ministries are tangible ways for the church to show the love of Christ by feeding the hungry and serving those in need.

The community Christmas Eve lunch does just that, offering a place for those to be fed phys-

ically and spiritually. From its humble beginnings, the lunch has grown from serving only seventy people the first year to serving over four hundred people the last few years.

Church leaders say that, thanks to the generosity of local businesses and congregation members, the church is able to welcome all, at no cost, to enjoy a traditional holiday meal and to be able to deliver hot meals to local service men and women and those who may be homebound.

This year's lunch will take place in the Christian Life Center at First United Methodist Church of Long Beach from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Christmas Eve, December 24. Following the lunch, the church will offer two candle-light Christmas Eve services. The first service will be at the University of Southern Mississippi's Fleming Auditorium at 4 p.m. The second service will be at First United Methodist Church at 6 p.m., 208 Pine Street, Long Beach. Both services are open to the public.



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Happy New Year



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USM partners with Air Force program to offer degrees

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) has partnered with the Community College of the Air Force General Education Mobile Program to help airmen complete their academic requirements for an Associate of Applied Science degree.

Participation in the program enables airmen to complete up to fifteen credit hours of their general

education requirements in a single block of five online courses at USM that may be applied directly to a student's Associate in Applied Science degree at the Community College of the Air Force, or ultimately an undergraduate degree at USM.

By earning the general education requirements in a single block of courses from one institution, Air Force military students benefit from greater continuity and are able to thus rapidly earn their degrees. Through this online

program, students can continue their education without interruption, regardless of deployment, travel or family commitments.

"We are excited about the prospects of encouraging and supporting our Air Force service members in their pursuit of a

higher education degree. We are avid supporters of the Keesler Air Force community and look forward to engaging with all

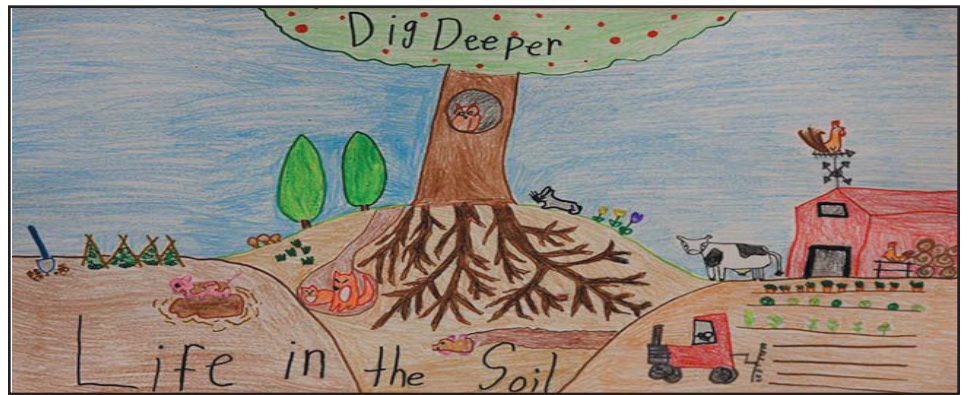
our Air Force service members along with their families," said Michael McGee, Outreach Coordinator for Veteran and Military Affairs at USM.

Air Force service members interested in completing their Community College of the Air Force academic requirements via online USM coursework should contact the USM Center for Military Veterans, Service Members and Families at www.usm.edu/military-veterans, or call 601-264-4620.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Student wins contest

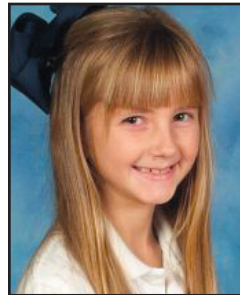


Special to Long Beach Breeze

Quinn Burns' poster won the statewide Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts Poster Contest. It will compete at the national level in 2020.

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Recently, Quinn Burns, a student at St. Vincent dePaul Catholic School in Long Beach, was named the statewide grade level winner in the Mississippi Association of Conservation Districts Poster Contest. Last spring,



Quinn Burns

Special to Long Beach Breeze

when she was in third grade, she entered the Harrison County Conservation District's poster contest. The theme of the contest was "Life in the Soil - Dig Deeper." Burns' poster progressed through two additional levels of competition before being named the statewide winner.

Burns won a cash prize for every level. She is invited to attend an awards reception in Jackson in January, where she will collect another prize before her poster goes on to compete at the national level.

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QUALITY USED FURNITURE

THE FAMILY ATTIC

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SEAMSTRESS AVAILABLE

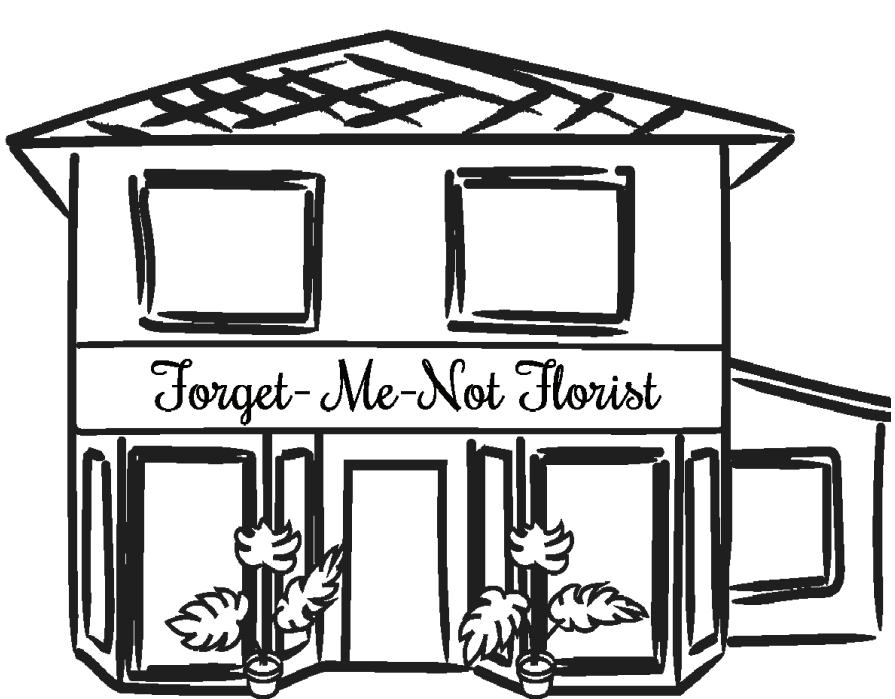

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TESTIMONIES

We were cold & need help with our heating

Wouldn't you know it, on one of the coldest days, our heater went out at our Long Beach dry cleaner business. Sam with Able AC & Heating came the same day, diagnosed the problem & they were able to replace the entire old unit in one day! And, because they do such great work at our business, I have them service my home with an AC & heater maintenance plan. Their scheduled appointments are prompt, and they clearly explain the status of my unit's condition. What do I like about Able AC & Heating? Excellent service, they're local & I like doing business local since we're a small local business.

-Julie Holley, Exclusive Cleaners, Long Beach, MS

Cornerstone Baptist Church, Pass Christian, MS

This summer our church, Cornerstone Baptist church of Pass Christian hired Able AC & Heating to install a new air conditioning system in the main building. We have had trouble with our units for a long time and have had 4 different companies work on them. The work that Able AC & Heating did was perfect. Our power bill each month is now half of what it had been running, and the building cools much faster. The price was more than fair, and the employees were very good at their jobs. Not only was work impeccable, the integrity of the whole transaction was refreshing. We truly recommend Able AC & Heating to everyone. Thank you Sam and everyone involved. Yours in Christ,

Pastor Don Bearden, Cornerstone Baptist Church

First United Methodist Church, Long Beach, MS

Sam and his crew at Able AC did a great job with our central HVAC replacement in our church home. They were professional and efficient in their work. They even laid a protective covering over our flooring to ensure nothing got damaged. They were prompt and reasonably priced. I am extremely pleased with their service and highly recommend them for your HVAC maintenance, repair, and installation.

-Ben Barlow Associate Pastor of First United Methodist Church.

Why use Able A/C? Sam at Able A/C saved me from getting scammed out of \$3,600+.

A/C was shutting off and coming back on during they heat of the day. I called an A/C company to check it out.

With minimal diagnostics the tech said my compressor was bad. He said he could install another one with a one year warranty (over \$1500 total cost) or I could buy a new outside unit 10 year warranty for \$3800.

Something was fishy. I called Able A/C for a second opinion. After a detailed analysis Sam found that my coolant was pounds overcharged. After he reclaimed it, everything works normally.

Moral to the story: Sam at Able A/C in Long Beach is an honest man and you can count on getting great service at a great price. I am very glad I called them for a second opinion. Before you spend big bucks call them for the second opinion. You will thank me later.

R. Burton, Long Beach, MS

-FINANCING AVAILABLE

-SERVICE ALL BRANDS

-FAMILY OWNED

-ON GOING TRAINING

-DRUG TESTED TECHS

-BACKGROUND CHECKED

-UPFRONT PRICING

-MODERN TOOLS

AND PROCEDURES

Children in the Arts Contest and Workshop held by CES



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Coast Episcopal School recently announced the 2019 winners of Children in the Arts Contest and Workshop, held each year for fourth through sixth graders enrolled in public, private, and parochial schools on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. This year, over seventy students from ten schools participated.

Long Beach Police Dept. welcomes new officers



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach Police Department recently added four new officers to their staff. Pictured (l to r) listening to remarks by Chief Billy Seal are officers Kori Stewart, Eddie Gossett, Haley Breaux and Michael Bateman.

**THE PERFECTLY EXECUTED DOUBLE-TAP.
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