



LONG BEACH BREEZE

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Local Postal Customer

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LONG BEACH, MS
PERMIT NO. 60
ECRWSS

Long Beach Breeze
P.O. Box 144, Long Beach, MS 39560

December 21, 2020 • Volume 4, Number 12 • “Good News You Can Use”

Long Beach to modernize harbor

By Dom Fimiano

The City of Long Beach is in good hands with Harbor Master Bill Angley's years of harbor management experience and Navy career. Angley's commitment to improving safety, harbor accessibility and public service are combining to promote the smart modernization of the Long Beach Small Craft Harbor, which was destroyed during Hurricane Zeta earlier this year.

In addition to destroying the harbor, Hurricane Zeta sank three boats, washed ashore eight and damaged the channel. Dive teams have been excavating the harbor to identify safety hazards and infra-



Dom Fimiano

Harbor piers and boat slips were destroyed by Hurricane Zeta.

structure damage.

“The harbor modernization is long past due and should have been completed at least ten years ago,” said Angley.

Angley says the annual maintenance expense and rebuilding 5,000 linear feet of wooden docks after storms justifies upgrading to concrete and fiberglass composite decking.

Officials say harbor modernization has multiple benefits. Building smarter improves service, strengthens docks, decreases expense and greatly reduces the length of time the harbor is closed. Smart modernization improves services to the

cont. on page 12

Sail-a-bration cancelled, but Santa rolls on

By Lindy Sholes

Though many favorite holiday events are being cancelled due to COVID-19, the Christmas spirit of the Long Beach community kept the Sea Santa Sail-a-bration waterless boat parade afloat on December 5.

It was announced on the Mayor's Facebook page on December 3 that the parade and the annual Jingle Bell 5k would be cancelled, and, by the next day, residents had worked together to organize a parade, including Santa Claus on the Swamp Sleigh, through several of Long Beach's biggest neighborhoods.

Lifelong resident Ashley McGill LeBlanc was at the head of the ef-



Lindy Sholes

fort. She said that she and her family had spent a lot of time decorating their boat, knowing they would be carrying the holly jolly star of the show, so she was very disappointed to learn of the cancellation. She went to social media and suggested bringing the boats to the people.

“It didn't take many replies for me to realize that my frustration could be a motivator, and I should give my best effort to my community,” she said.

The parade started at Mockingbird Drive, traveled down Pineville Road to Pecan Park, then headed to Castine Point, and finally to Green Acres. Though the original parade usually has many boats participating, there were three in this parade.

cont. on page 2



VETERANS
REALTY



(228)864-3444

www.VeteransRealty.us

Like us on Facebook!

fb.com/veteransrealtyinc



cont. from page 1

Sail-a-bration cancelled, but Santa rolls on

LeBlanc said she suspects the reason there weren't very many boats was because of how quickly the parade was thrown together and time constraints on the boat owners, but there was a great turnout of spectators.

"The biggest surprise was seeing Pineville Road lined with cars and people all the way down," she said. "Pineville was only meant to be the crossing from one neighborhood to the other, but it was packed! Definitely cried during the parade seeing so many kids (and adults) beaming with joy as Santa finally got to them. It really was magical!"

LeBlanc, her son, Landon, and her boyfriend, Chet Landry, rode on the boat with Santa. The elves behind Santa were her nephews, Brooks and Jax. She said it was fun riding with Santa, as he kept them laughing the entire time. In a live video posted to Facebook, Santa can be heard saying, "Ho, ho ho! Merry Christmas! Welcome to the Long Beach Parade! We hope that everybody sticks their head out the door and waves at us, cause we're freezing to death!"

Long Beach resident Lori Fennell Tucker said that, as a grandmother, she was devastated to hear the news that the parade had been cancelled but was excited to later learn that the little ones would have something to be excited over.

"The kids need some normalcy," she said, adding that she has fond memories of watching the Christmas parade roll through town as a child. She said back then word of

a parade was spread by mouth and by the Christmas music that was played as the parade approached, which left parents scurrying to get their kids outside to join the festivities.

"They would drive through different neighborhoods during the week or two before Christmas. They would stop, and the kids could get on [the float] and tell Santa what they wanted, and they would give out candy canes," she said. Tucker has enjoyed watching the parade grow through the years and said she hopes it can return as normal next year, but it might be fun to also incorporate a town-traveling parade like this one in the future.

LeBlanc said the event organizers are discussing making this a tradition, in addition to the parade that rolls through downtown.

She said she understands the pressure that local government is under to make difficult decisions, but community support is important.

"I know so many of us are feeling discouraged from so many missed milestones,

special occasions, cancelled events, lack of family gatherings, etc., so I hope the message I spread is that we must think outside of the box now more than ever," she said.

"The purpose of community is to support one another, so I would like to remind our

leaders that your community is behind you and willing to get creative to remain diligent in protecting one another, but also allowing life to still happen. Fellowship is just as important as hand sanitizer."



Lindy Sholes

Pictured (l to r) are Brooks McGill, Chet Landry, Ashley LeBlanc, Landon Carden, Lauren Riley, J. Kevin Riley and Jax McCraw.



Lindy Sholes

Ashley LeBlanc and Chet Landry, along with Landon Carden, Brooks McGill and Jax McCraw, escorted Santa around town when the Sea Santa Sail-a-bration had to be cancelled because of COVID-19 concerns.

Shoreline CNC Plasma Cutting and Welding

Elevate Your Lifestyle
Quality and Affordable Residential Electric Lifts
Designed & manufactured in Long Beach, MS



Shoreline CNC Plasma Cutting and Welding, Billy R. Deaton, Owner,
678.524.4268, 523 Klondyke, Unit E, Long Beach, MS



MANSELL MEDIA

**EXPAND YOUR BUSINESS
WITH EMAIL MARKETING!**

\$44

ROI for every
\$1 spent

3x

Conversion rate
as social media

91%

of people check
their email daily

\$ Drive revenue and profit

📢 Create & increase awareness

📈 Boost repeat business

Call (601) 339-2040

GET STARTED WITH A FREE 60-DAY TRIAL

[HTTPS://CONTA.CC/2WOFZ2Y](https://conta.cc/2wofz2y)

NCBC celebrates Thanksgiving

LONG BEACH BREEZE
YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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

Volume 4, Number 12

Circulation 5,000

Publisher/Owner

Clay Mansell

ClayMansell@LongBeachBreeze.com

Editor-in-Chief

Stephanie Tracy

Office Manager

Doris Bynum

Designer

Brad Henderson

Photographer

Dom Fimiano

Writers

Andy Kanengiser

Lindy Sholes

Dom Fimiano

Shaun Szkolnik

Sales

Keith Clark

Keith@LongBeachBreeze.com

Fred Weller

Fred@LongBeachBreeze.com

The Long Beach Breeze is published on the 20th of every month in Long Beach, Mississippi.

For submission information, email News@LongBeachBreeze.com

Copyright © 2020. All rights reserved. Materials may not be reproduced in whole or in part without the written permission of the publisher. For reprints of any article, please contact your editor.

www.LongBeachBreeze.com



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Active-duty service members onboard Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport were served a Thanksgiving meal by members of NCBC Gulfport Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Colmer Dining Facility and other volunteers in a tent outside the U.S. Navy base's Liberty Center. Military members were served a Thanksgiving meal of turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, corn, green beans, as well as desserts and treats, such as pecan and pumpkin pie.

Parrish's

RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

*Established January 2019
Parrish's combines southern
tradition and coastal
culinary style.*

Thank you!

Thank you everyone for your support and kind words !

We will be closed till further notice due to Zeta storm damage.

We will be back better than ever !!!

Please check our Facebook page for updates.

**Lee Parrish
General Manager**

**Happy Holidays
from our family to yours**



217 East Beach Blvd., Long Beach, MS 39560

228-265-7086

Long Beach community responds to Christmas tree theft

By Andy Kanengiser

Porch pirates and many other thieves are staying busy nationwide as Christmas holidays near.

Gift packages left on doorsteps, delightful holiday decorations, bikes, lawn mowers, and other valuables are snatched at record levels across the U.S.

Americans lost \$5.4 billion in stolen packages in 2020, reports show. So, when a Christmas tree was swiped at a small Long Beach business, the community stepped up in a big way to help the victims.

That was the case after the Christmas tree was taken outside the Mommy & Me retail store in Long Beach. Just a few short hours after the tree and its decorations were put up to spread holiday cheer, it disappeared into the night on the Gulf Coast.

Ashley Brooke Perez and her mom, Kimberly Steele, are the store's co-owners. To put it mildly, they were pretty upset after the incident occurred. Perez jumped on local social media to report what happened outside her new business.

"The response was overwhelming," Perez said. She noted more



Dom Fimiano

Pictured (l to r) outside their Mommy & Me store with a new Christmas tree donated by a community member are Maka, Kimberly Steele, Ashley Perez, Nolen Perez and Landen Perez.

than two hundred positive posts on social media websites. In addition, a woman from Long Beach donated a beautiful Christmas tree that's now standing outside the store.

In business the past four months, her store, she said, "sells anything

and everything." That includes furniture, antiques, vintage collectibles, clothing and much more. The COVID-19 pandemic hasn't helped businesses the past few months, like so many others nationwide.

The small business is located at

608 A West Railroad Street. After several people offered her a Christmas tree and expressed their disappointment at what happened, the Mommy & Me owners felt they needed to show their gratitude.


On December 12, the retail store offered special discounts (fifteen percent off) and served refreshments, along with baked goods. Perez called it Community Appreciation Day. The event began when the first customer walked in at 10 a.m. that Saturday and kept going until the doors closed seven hours later.

"I wanted to give something back," said Perez.

The former Pearl River County resident lives near Long Beach High with her two young sons.

These days, it is becoming more common for Christmas trees to get hauled off by thieves. Last year, it happened to Anne Marie Grille, co-owner of the Southern Bagel Company in Long Beach.

"We had ours stolen, and the community reached out to us," says the businesswoman. "We got lucky though, and our tree was recovered, and other decorations, too. I hope they find out who did it [at Mommy & Me]."




**SOUTHERN
TREE AND TURF**
MAKING LIFE GREENER

- Tree Trimming
- Tree Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Bucket Truck
- Gravel Driveways
- Bush Hogging/
Brush Cutting
- Dirt Work
- Debris Removal

All Major Credit Cards Accepted

Patrick Blake
228-760-5296




**AMY WOOD
PROPERTIES**
125 DAVIS AVE SUITE F PASS CHRISTIAN, MS

**WE are a NAME you KNOW.
SERVICE you TRUST.**

AmyWoodProperties.com
OFFICE 228.452.5408 AMY 228.216.7649 CHUCK 228.216.5171



Thank You!
TO PAST CLIENTS & FRIENDS FOR YOUR FAITH IN US.



At Amy Wood Properties, we have built our business around the philosophy that you deserve an outstanding real estate experience! We want to be your first choice as sellers and buyers who value our deep knowledge with a thoughtful, responsive approach to the ever-changing real estate market.

Whether you are buying or selling, we are here to handle all of the details. We are professional, trustworthy, accessible, and we love what we do!

Amy & Chuck

Thinking of Buying or Selling in 2021? We are Here to Help!



Library staff wishes happy holidays to Long Beach

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn,
LBPL Youth and Technology Services

Hello, Long Beach! Again, we hope this issue will find you all safe and well during this time. We love seeing our patrons, but want to remind you that curbside pick up is still available.

As you can see, our staff has gathered for a group picture to wish all of our readers a happy holidays.

There are no meetings in January for the Friends of the Long Beach Public Library. We will keep you posted on when their next meeting will be.

However, the Long Beach Board of Trustees will meet on Tuesday, January 12, at 2 p.m.

Also meeting in January, the Long Beach Library Book Club will hold a meeting at the Long Beach Senior Citizens Center at 9 a.m. on Thursday, January 21, to begin discussing *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver.

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.

Holidays in December and coming up in January will include the following:



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Pictured (l to r) are library staff members, front row: Becky Sanzin (Asst. Director), Rebecca Scott (Circulation), and Renee Rayburn (Youth and Technology Services); and back row: Jennifer Bone, Denise Saucier (Director), Shannon Bennett (Reference Librarian and Interlibrary Loans) and Kristina Dahl.

- The library will be closed Thursday, December 24, 2020, for Christmas Eve, and Friday, December 25, 2020, for Christmas Day. We will reopen at 9 a.m. on Monday, December 28, 2020.

- The library will be closing at noon on Wednesday, December 31, 2020, for New Year's Eve, and will remain closed through Saturday, January 2, 2021, for the New Year's holidays. We will reopen at 9 a.m. on Monday, January 4, 2021.

- The library will be closed Monday, January 18, 2021, for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. We will reopen at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

Stay safe, and have happy holidays!

USM announces updated plans for spring 2021 semester

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The University of Southern Mississippi has announced updated plans for the spring 2021 semester, including expanded opportunities for in-person and synchronous course components and student activities, which will be implemented in accordance with COVID-19 health and safety protocols.

Academic leaders have worked with faculty to identify more opportunities for face-to-face classes and synchronous online course delivery in key academic areas. With synchronous online delivery, instructors present course material to students at scheduled times via Zoom, WebEx, or other live streaming platforms to increase the opportunity for real-time dialogue between students and instructors.

"Based on course data and feedback from students and instructors this fall, we were able to identify strategic areas to expand our options for in-person and synchronous online courses," said Dr. Amy Chasteen, Executive Vice Provost for Academic Affairs. "Our dual focus has been on student success



Special to Long Beach Breeze

and on-campus safety, and what we learned during fall 2020 allows us to grow the opportunities for real-time interactions between faculty and students in ways that can make a difference for students in spring 2021."

Additional on-campus student

activities and programming will also be available in the spring, including housing and residence life programs. The Division of Student Affairs is offering new options for student organizations who want to host in-person events in line with established protocols, under the di-

rection of the Office of Leadership and Student Involvement.

"This fall we worked hard to identify ways we can have more activities on campus in a safe manner," said Dr. Dee Dee Anderson, Vice President for Student Affairs. "We want to make sure our students can stay connected and continue to learn while they are staying healthy, and we hope offering additional options for in-person activities will make a big difference in enhancing the student experience while we continue to navigate this pandemic."

Student Health Services at Moffitt Health Center will continue to offer multiple COVID-19 testing methods, including PCR swab tests, rapid swab tests and antibody blood tests. Moffitt Health Center medical staff will also continue to advise on updates to university health protocols in accordance with evolving CDC recommendations.

On-campus dining locations will remain open during the spring, with modified safety protocols still in place.

Spring classes are set to begin January 20. Ongoing updates regarding USM's spring 2021 plans can be found at usm.edu/flightpath.

Lady Bearcats open hoops season



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Pictured (l to r) is the 2020-21 Lady Bearcats basketball team: Bree Troup, Caiya Brown, Sanaa Stough-Lacking, Waneisha Windham, Marlana Moore, Kiley Valentine, Kenyah Lacour, Aalyriah Cameron and Abigail Worrell. Not pictured are Trinity White (#3) and Kyleigh Williams (#5).

By Andy Kanengiser

Long Beach Lady Bearcats basketball players are young, but playing hard as a new season begins. During the 2019-20 campaign, the girls advanced to the playoffs for the second straight year, but fell to Laurel in the first round.

Despite a slow start, the Lady Bearcats hoopsters expect to progress as 2020 turns to 2021.

In early December, the Lady Bearcats were booked for appearances in the Vancleave Tournament. Between games on December 4, head coach Chris Odom sized up what the girls bring to the table on the hardwood.

“This great group of student-athletes will provide entertainment by putting everything they have into each possession offensively and defensively.”

The Lady Bearcats began the new season with a 1-6 record. That includes a 72-42 road triumph on November 17 against Forrest County Agricultural School in Brooklyn. That was followed by a close 39 to 33 loss to St. Patrick the following day. The Lady Bearcats lost to Gulfport 63-29 in a November 20 non-conference road game.

Just being able to schedule games amid the COVID-19 pandemic has proved challenging for so many schools nationwide, and that includes Long Beach High on the Gulf Coast. With the high school transitioning back to virtual learning ahead of the Christmas holiday break, upcoming game schedules are always subject to change.

But the pandemic uncertainty hasn't dampened the players' excitement and vigor for the season. Players to watch early in the season included Bree Troup, Marlana Moore, Sanaa Stough-Lacking and Kenyah Lacour. Wearing No. 1, Troup was an early season standout her junior year, averaging 11.2 points and two steals per game before making her exit last year. The senior recently signed a letter of intent to play high division college softball.

Wearing No. 11, Moore is a junior coming into her second year as a starter.

“Last season, she was very active on the defensive end of the floor with

many deflections, steals and rebounds,” Odom said. She averaged four points per game last season.

No. 14 for the Lady Bearcats, senior Stough-Lacking was a strong rebounder, shot blocker and sharp ball handler. Lacour is a talented sophomore who started several games last year as a freshman. No. 22, she tallied three points per game as a freshman.

New players include Abigail Worrell, a sophomore transfer from Kansas. No. 25, Coach Odom said, “adds size to the program and has shown promise.”

Freshman members of the squad are Kyleigh Williams, Trinity White and DaeRyiana Williams.

“We are excited about this group,” he said.

Sophomores adding depth to the team are Caiya Brown, Waneisha Windham, Kiley Valentine and Aalyriah Cameron.

Odom also gave a shout out to the support from returning team manager AJ Allen and newcomer Jordyn Reeves.

Fans of the Lady Bearcats will remember standouts from last season are showing off their skills in new places. Americus Knight is now a freshman with the track and field team at Alcorn State University. Zymond Frazier is in the process of serving her country in the military.

Both Long Beach High products are “showing that they have a foundation to be successful in life,” Odom said.

While the two former basketball players have moved on, Odom is optimistic about the potential of the 2020-21 squad.

“Returning this year, we will use the experience garnered last season to be successful this season.”

Upcoming winter contests for the Lady Bearcats at press time include a December 29 home tournament with St. Martin of Ocean Springs the opponent. The game is currently scheduled to begin that Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. The girls are expected to be home again on January 5 versus Gautier. The tipoff that Tuesday is set for 6 p.m. The Lady Bearcats face the Hattiesburg Tigers in Bearcats Country on January 8 at 6 p.m. and St. Martin on January 12 in a 6 p.m. in Long Beach.



Forget-Me-Not Florist has an unforgettable Christmas

By Taylor McKay Hathorn

All photos Special to Long Beach Breeze

The owner of the Forget-Me-Not Florist in Long Beach took a chance earlier this year, filling out her first application to help decorate the White House for Christmas. Theresa Cuevas's first attempt was a successful one, and she was informed that she and her daughter, Courtney, were eligible to travel to the nation's capital for the 2020 holiday season.

"The application process was actually pretty standard," Cuevas recalled. "There were essay questions that asked what you do for a living, what makes you a good candidate and what you can bring to the White House."

Hopefuls across the country have answered questions like these since Jackie Kennedy began the tradition of allowing the public to have a hand in decorating the President's mansion, but the occasion still brought a great deal of excitement to Cuevas and her daughter.

"We were ecstatic and over-the-moon excited," the Long Beach resident said.

This year, the White House brought in two crews to assist with the decorations, and the Cuevases were part of the first crew.

"We helped prepare ornaments, and we handcrafted a few," Cuevas said. "Since we were the first crew [that went in], we unboxed things and put hangers on things."

Their primary job, though, was stringing lights on a number of the sixty-eight Christmas trees spread throughout the one hundred-thirty-two-room structure.



Theresa and Courtney Cuevas of Long Beach contributed to this tree at the White House by making sure that all the old snowflakes were unbroken and had good hangers on them.

"The White House has six floors, and we worked on two different floors. It was a lot of lights," Cuevas said, with a laugh.

Although a non-disclosure agreement prevented Cuevas from sharing many of the details about the White House's Christmas festoons, she did note that having a behind-the-scenes look at the White House had its perks.

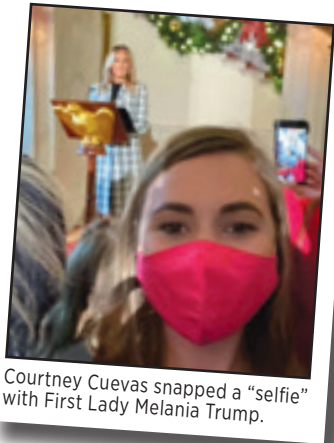
"It was special, being in the house and being able to go where the general public isn't able to go. It was neat to touch the ornaments they've used over the years and to make some of them new."

Even this exclusive look at the executive mansion paled in comparison to one feature of the trip that Cuevas dubbed her favorite without hesitation.

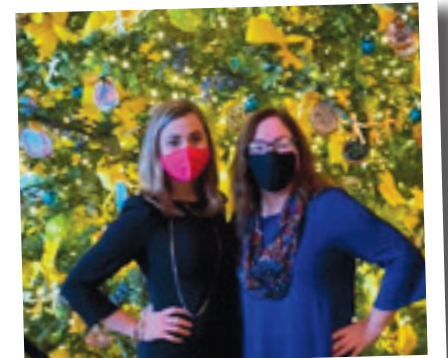
"The best part was being able to do it with my daughter," Cuevas said. "We got to spend a lot of quality time together."

Cuevas hopes that other creative hopefuls will share in the holiday joy that she and her daughter discovered by applying for next year's decorating team.

"I did it for the honor of being able to help decorate the people's house," she stated. "It was a wonderful experience, and everyone should take the chance of filling out the application."



Courtney Cuevas snapped a "selfie" with First Lady Melania Trump.

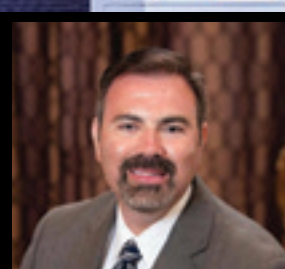


Theresa and Courtney Cuevas



EXIT Prestige Luxury Realty

SETTING THE STANDARD IN LUXURY REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Dom Fimiano
REALTOR-ASSOCIATE®
Licensed Real Estate Professional

office 228-388-5888 direct 228-323-5812
dominick@exitbiloxi.com exitbiloxi.com

NOW ENROLLING
TODDLER-8TH GRADE

COAST EPISCOPAL SCHOOL
Fostering a Lifelong Love of Learning Since 1950

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

- Thematic, multi-disciplinary curriculum
- Problem-solving, collaborative project-based learning
- Small teacher-to-student ratios

INSPIRING IMAGINATION THROUGH ARTS & SCIENCE


- Interactive hands-on Makerspace and Science Lab
- Extensive visual arts and music programs
- On-campus regional art gallery

DEVELOPING THE WHOLE CHILD

- Joyful and caring Judeo-Christian school community
- 25-acre school campus for outdoor learning and playing!


See It For Yourself

Call or email for a tour today!



5065 Espy Avenue, Long Beach
228.452.9442
admissions@myces.org

www.CoastEpiscopalSchool.org



COAST EPISCOPAL SCHOOL
SCHOOL ARSHP
SINCE 1950

Quarles students hold Candy Bar Election

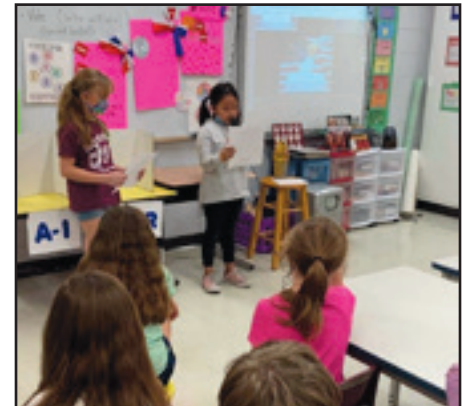
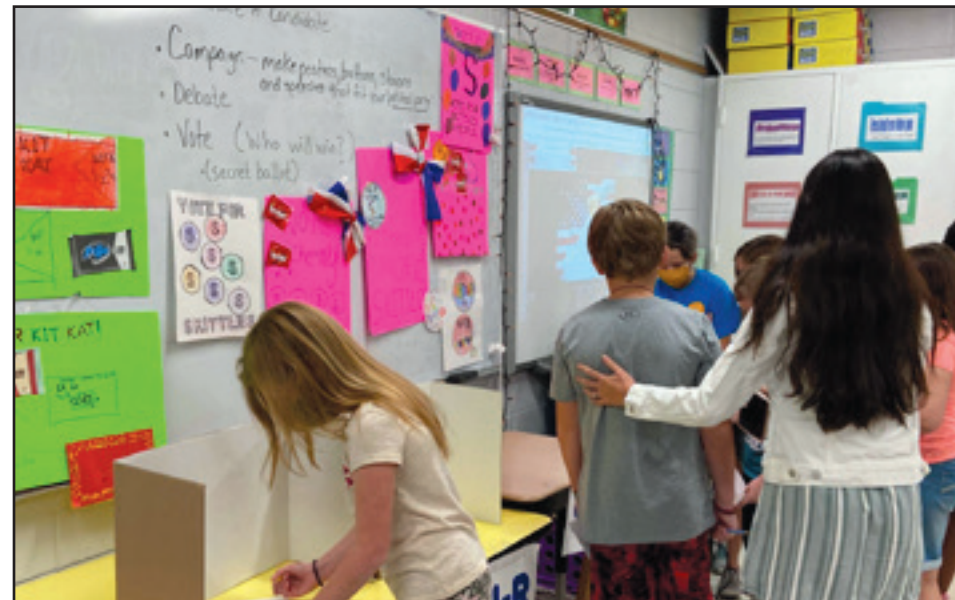


Last month, Mrs. Wedgeworth's third grade Discovery students at Quarles Elementary School held a Candy Bar Election to simulate the voting process. The students discussed the two candy parties, the Chocolate Party and the Chewy Party, and nominated three candidates for each party.

The Chocolate Party nominee was "Kit-Kat," and the Chewy Party nominee was "Skittles."

Students looked at Presidential campaigns that succeeded and failed and then began working on the campaign for their nominee. The students wrote a campaign slogan and persuasive speech, as well as made posters and buttons. Then, all the students got to vote.

All photos Special to Long Beach Breeze/Courtesy of LBSD



Grand Opening

Commission Road Mart

where convenience meets quality

COMING SOON

Kitchen & Deli
Open 8am to 4pm

- Breakfast
- Burgers
- Corndogs
- Chicken Nuggets & Tenders
- Specials: BLT's, Grilled Cheese, Eggrolls

New Gas Pumps
Open Monday to Friday 6am to 11pm
Saturday & Sunday 6am to Midnight
Kitchen & Deli Open 8am to 4pm

228.868.7050
19191 Commission Road, Long Beach, MS

ASP AMERICA'S SWIMMING POOL CO.

- design/build
- weekly maintenance
- equipment repairs
- renovations

ASP AMERICA'S SWIMMING POOL CO.

ASP of Gulfport
228-343-0774
www.aspgulfport.com

FATHERLESS & WIDOWS

Volunteers Needed



Becky Ritch, Charles, Shadow & Deb Cummings



FATHERLESS & WIDOWS
Pray, Listen, Respond in Love

[PART II. of II.] James 1:27 "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction" is a Bible verse that stayed on the founders heart for over 15 years. On his 6th or 7th trip to volunteer farm/grapes & olives in the West Bank (Samaria), Israel, while on the Mt. of Blessing (harvest 2012), the founder felt a release to get this ministry started. After incorporating Dec. 2012, Fatherless and Widows (F&W) became a 501(c)(3) on Nov 30, 2013. It celebrates its 7th & 8th year now. This ministry has served Long Beach, Harrison County, other areas of S. MS & U.S. + 6 orphanages around the world. F&W has zero payroll. We thank our

board members and all volunteers, especially Becky Ritch, Mike Matson, Eric Martin, Victor Schultz, Jacob Davis, Deb Cummings, Janie Kilgore & Larry Strohm. We are thankful for such a supportive community. We try to serve around 200 local fatherless and widows, need more volunteers and want to apologize for wherever we fall short.

To Donate: WWW.FatherlessAndWidows.ORG. Two pages to follow on Facebook: 1. Fatherless & Widows, 2. God's Will Thrift. The store is next to our post office across from our VFW & has a donation canister. The last pre-Christmas days to shop are Mon & Wed, Dec 21 & 23. For check donations: P.O. box 77, Long Beach.



Deb Cummings

P.O BOX 77, Long Beach, 39560 228-234-4567 www.FatherlessAndWidows.org

May the new year days be as bright as the sunshine and as calm as the moonlight.
Have a wonderful year ahead!

KATHY BURNS
Realtor, GRI, MRP
228.239.5336
228.220.4351

The REAL ESTATE MarketPlace®

LONG BEACH BREEZE
YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Bring the news to your mailbox!
Support your hometown paper and subscribe today.

Only \$12/year for Coastal residents, or \$24/year for non-Coastal residents
To subscribe:

- Visit our website to subscribe: www.LongBeachBreeze.com OR
- Call 228-265-9276, extension 5 OR
- Fill out the form below.

Subscription Form

Name

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Phone Number

Mail To: Long Beach Breeze P.O. Box 144, Long Beach, MS 39560



CSL Plasma

Good for You. Great for Life.

9245 Hwy 49 Gulfport, MS 39503
(228) 236-3305



OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Earn Christmas money TODAY!!

We need plasma donations!

What do you need to donate?

- Valid, unexpired photo ID
- Social Security Card or W2 with full social
- Letter or Bill dated within 60 days
- Be well hydrated and have eaten a healthy meal
- Donors must have suitable veins, pass a medical history questionnaire, and brief physical assessment



Take this page of your paper to the front desk after your donation for a \$25 bonus. Limit one per donor.

New donors receive \$60 each donation for the first five donations.

Have you, or someone you know, recovered from COVID-19?



We practice enhanced cleaning procedures to keep you healthy and safe!



Masks are provided!

COVID-Recovered donors get \$100 EVERY DONATION

CSL Plasma Gulfport is closed Christmas Day and New Years Day.



Plasma Donation

Want to know more about plasma donations? Open your camera, hover over these codes, and follow the links!

<https://www.thefightisinus.org>



COVID Recovered

Bearcat Players win awards with performance, design



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Last month, the Bearcat Players advanced to the Mississippi Theatre Association with their production of *Desdemona in the Afterlife* by Nelley E. Cuellar-Garcia. Emily Lyons, Emma Marreel and Ameliah Sturm received All-Star cast for their performances, and Ally Hatten received special recognition for her mask design.

PLACES OF WORSHIP

Include your church in this section!

Keith Clark - Long Beach Breeze - 228-265-9276 ext. 3

LONG BEACH COMMUNITY CHURCH
Online Service Time:
Sunday at 11:00 at [Facebook.com/LongBeachCommunityChurch](https://www.facebook.com/LongBeachCommunityChurch)

Traditional Service Times:
Sunday Bible Study 9:30 AM
Sunday Worship 10:45 AM & 5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00 PM

PH: 228-224-6500 - 186 East Old Pass Road, Long Beach, Mississippi 39560 - Behind Post Office

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
— connecting people with Jesus —

Weekly Worship Services:
Thursdays 6:30PM & Sundays 9AM
Register for a Worship Service at fbclb.com

300 North Cleveland Ave
Long Beach, MS 39560
228-864-2584

LONG BEACH CHURCH OF CHRIST
200 North Cleveland Avenue, Long Beach, MS 39560

COME AND BE OUR GUEST!

Continue To Be Safe From The Coronavirus
We are praying for all of you in our Long Beach Community!

228-863-0471
www.LBCoC.com
LongBeachCofC@gmail.com

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

 **Grace Lutheran Church** 
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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

 **We Welcome You To** 
First United Methodist Church of Long Beach
208 Pine Street, Long Beach, MS 39560

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

Masks are required at all services. We will have masks available for you if you don't have one

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

cont. from page 1

Long Beach to modernize harbor

public and harbor tenants.

“The current extended delays for boat owners returning home to the harbor after storms is unacceptable,” said Angley.

Long Beach Mayor George Bass shared some possibilities being considered to improve the Long Beach Harbor, including straightening the west wall to increase slips, creating a dedicated charter

boat dock on the west wall that can possibly coordinate food preparation with restaurants in the harbor, building a barrier wall around the harbor to help slow water during storms, improving slip depth to accommodate more vessels, and replacing wooden docks with sturdy alternatives.

Successful smart reconstruction depends on receiving necessary

funding and approval. All improvements and repairs require a coordinated effort between multiple local, state and federal authorities.

“We have a team working to rebuild properly, coordinating efforts to gain support in Jackson and Washington, D.C.,” said Bass. “Rebuilding our Long Beach Harbor will not be rushed or taken lightly.”

Bass said the time frame depends on appropriate funding while receiving approval from local, state and federal authorities.

Officials say a modernized Long Beach small craft harbor will be an amazing accomplishment for the City of Long Beach and will provide added benefits for tourists, visitors, residents and harbor tenants.

All photos by Dom Fimiano



Stringer Pier at Long Beach Harbor after the storm



Harbor Master Bill Angley is looking to rebuild the Long Beach Harbor in a stronger and smarter way.



Stringer Pier fiberglass composite decking proved to be a strong successful alternative to wood. Only two sheets detached during the storm. One was located nearby and will be reattached.



Harbor parking lots and docks also had damage from Hurricane Zeta.



Three boats sank in Long Beach Harbor during Hurricane Zeta.



The Harbor fencing sustained significant wind and water damage.

State FarmTM

Elvis Gates, Agent
(228) 864-6323


THE PEOPLES BANK
MEMBER FDIC

Where PEOPLE come first!

LONG BEACH BRANCH
Lorraine Miller, Branch Manager
298 Jeff Davis Ave. (228) 897-8712

LETS MAKE A DEAL 

QUALITY USED FURNITURE

THE FAMILY ATTIC

JEWELRY POTTERY FENTON GLASS LINNENS	Klondyke Plaza UNITS FOR LEASE 528 Klondyke Road Unit B 228-206-2595	SEAMSTRESS AVAILABLE Tuesday-Saturday 10 am - 5 pm
---	--	---



ADVERTISE WITH YOUR HOMETOWN PAPER, LONG BEACH BREEZE!



Keith Clark recognizing Angelica Robles & Juan Ibarra, Owners Fiesta Mexicana Bar & Grill as Business of the Month



Contact Keith for more information on how you can grow your business with local advertising!
Keith Clark 402.203.2644 keith@longbeachbreeze.com

Senior Center recreation side remains closed



Special to Long Beach Breeze/Courtesy of LBSD

Due to the spike in COVID-19 cases, the City of Long Beach will keep the Long Beach Activity and Senior Center-Recreation Side closed until further notice. For more information, call 228-868-7517.



Harbor View Cafe
where the coast meets & eats

Seafood. Steaks. Burgers. Poboy's. Salads. Pastas

Winner of 18 People's Choice awards

Mon-Tues: 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Wed-Fri: 11:00 am – 9:00 pm
Sat: 8:00 am – 9:00 pm with Breakfast until 11:00 am
Sun: 8:00 am – 3:00 pm with Breakfast until 11:00 am

504 Jeff Davis Ave, Long Beach Mississippi, 39560 228-867-8949

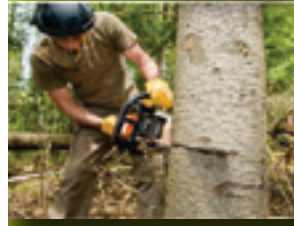
Long Beach students named state tennis champs



Special to Long Beach Breeze/Courtesy of LBSD

Several Long Beach School District students won the state tennis championship in the eighteen and under division. Pictured (l to r) are Jackson Dulaney, Annabelle Lawson (Biloxi), Ashlyn Harbison (Biloxi), Liza Richoux (OLA), Mallorie Rishel, Stokley Sawyer, Caleb Solangi, Anderson Dulaney and Coach Mark Scafile.

**Bucket Truck • Professional Climbing
Storm Specialist • Dangerous Tree Removal
Stump Grinding • Debris Removal**



Tree Removal Specialist
Are there diseased or damaged trees in your neighborhood?
Are there diseased or damaged trees near your business or home?
We specialize in removing trees of all sizes.



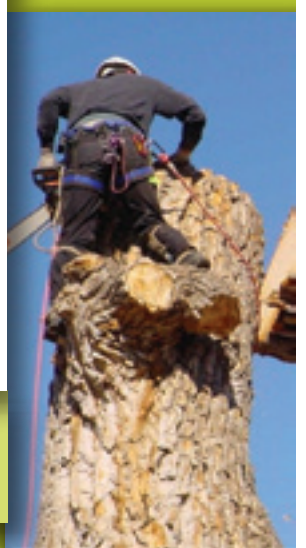
Tree Trimming Specialist
Tree trimming helps prevent disease, preserves the health of your trees, helps maintain their appearance, and helps prevent damage from high winds.



Joey Wilson, Owner
(228) 806-8063
INSURED LICENSED BONDED
S.L. #39639

TREE REMOVAL TREE TRIMMING

25 Years Experience
Licensed • Bonded • Insured
bobcattreework@gmail.com
www.bobcattreework.com



Kathy Elias Realtor,
Coldwell Banker Alfonso Realty
Top selling agent in Long Beach ever!



228-287-1000 office | 228-209-4905 | KathyElias.com | Kathy@KathyElias.com
Global Luxury Specialist.



GORGEOUS GULF ACREAGE



Gorgeous and cleared beachfront acreage in prime location in Pass Christian. Would make beautiful estate property or could be developed into separate cul de sac lots.

BEAUTIFUL UPDATES



You will love this beautifully updated home with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths, large fenced back yard, laminate wood flooring, cozy corner fireplace, smooth ceilings, pretty sunroom that would also make a great playroom or study, and stainless appliances in the spacious kitchen. A Great Find!



**WISHES YOU & YOUR FAMILY
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**



Fiesta Mexicana 15% OFF

WITH THE PURCHASE OF \$25 OR MORE
Regular menu prices.
Can not be combined with special offers or discounts



To phone your order, please call 228.867.2879

RED FISH PLAZA | 6190 BEATLINE RD. LONG BEACH MS



SANTA'S SECRET MISSION: OPERATION WARP SPEED

By Katherine R. Dougan

On a recent evening I'm sitting at my desk in front my computer, all snug in the house with a lovely fire crackling away. Our four adopted shelter dogs are sprawled about in various positions of repose around me. I'm enjoying a cup of hot cocoa and wearing flannel pajamas while I wait for Santa to join me for our online ZOOM call. It's a tradition he and I have had for over a decade; I get to interview him every year for a special Christmas story.

His bearded, red-cheeked face suddenly pops up on my computer monitor, and I hear the familiar "Ho! Ho! Ho!" which, as we all know, is pretty much Santa's standard greeting. Then I do a double-take at the screen; Santa is actually wearing a Santa face mask. What a goofball! It makes me giggle, because in honor of our special online visit, I'm also wearing a Santa face mask.

He sees my face, then scrunches up his face, tilts his head, and quips, "You look ridiculous!"

Puh-lease. Really? Geez. It seems that everybody, including Santa, thinks they are a comedian. However, I'm not going to sass him back, because I like presents. Lots of presents. The old adage of don't bite the hand that feeds you, or, in this case, don't sass the man that brings you presents, comes to mind. After all, I am not crazy. And since I generally tip the Good-Bad scale that Santa uses to measure gift worthiness more in the "Bad" direction, I can't afford to annoy the giant, red-suited Christmas dude.

Real cool-like, I respond: "Yo, wazzup, Big Red?"

He raises his bushy, white eyebrows in disdain at my lame attempt to be cool, then reveals there is indeed a lot "up" with him. In addition to his usual Christmas duties, he is neck-deep in a secret mission. Of course, I absolutely must know more about this.

"I will tell you, but you can't tell anyone," Santa admonishes, shaking his finger at me. Of course, I tell him I won't (wink-wink). That's what I meant when I said I kind of tip the Good-Bad meter more toward the Bad; of course, I'm going to tell you all about Santa's secret mission - right here, right now.

Santa told me he was recently approached by the World Health Organization, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and the U.S. Government for his special mission. After chatting with them, Santa agreed to join "Operation Warp Speed Strategy for Distributing a COVID-19 Vaccine," which is the plan the U.S. Health and Human Services presented to Congress for COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

Think about it. Tapping Santa to spearhead a mobilization mission like this is perfect, since he accomplishes worldwide distribution of gifts in one night every year. This year, once a vaccine is approved and authorized by the FDA, Santa will distribute vaccine and supplies to organizations that partner with state, local and tribal health departments, territories, Tribes and federal entities.

Additionally, Santa plays a key role in providing cold storage for large quantities of the vaccine at his South Pole storage facility. Yes, I said South Pole. We all know that Santa, Mrs. Claus and his elves live at the North Pole. However, North Pole temperatures, which range from minus 45 to minus 15 degrees Fahrenheit, are almost balmy in comparison to temperatures at the South Pole, where the average winter temperature is minus 79 degrees Fahrenheit. Brrrrr. That's way too cold for people; however, it's perfect for storing a vaccine that needs to be kept at an extremely cold temperature.

Santa's high-tech computer technology and detailed distribution records of everyone in the world also comes in handy for the secret mission, as he has the names and ages of everyone in the world on his list.

Not only is Santa playing a key role in storing and distributing vaccines, but, also, he's on the front lines to deliver pediatric and adult vaccine kits, which contain needles, syringes, alcohol pads, vaccination cards, and PPE equipment for those doing the vaccinations.

So, 2020 will definitely be Santa's busiest year ever.

Even though he is really busy, he asked me to assure everyone that nobody will be forgotten. He also said that if you don't get everything you wished for, it is simply because Santa is so busy with COVID-19 relief that he might just have been short of space in his sleigh.

Although you can't visit him like normal this year to sit on his lap and chat, he reminds you that Santa sees everything and knows everything. To be extra sure, as always, tell your parents what you want, just in case Santa has questions.

While I was talking with Santa, I put in a good word for everybody in Long Beach: I told him you all have been good this year. So, you know this means that everyone absolutely MUST be good.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, and remind you again to be good, be kind to everyone, and, most importantly, stay safe.

Penny Lane shines bright with Christmas lights

All photos by Lindy Sholes



Penny Lane light show organizer and benefactor Valerie Mueller



Mueller's house at night

By Andy Kanengiser

A festive Long Beach neighborhood lights up the Gulf Coast just in time to celebrate Christmas.

The Estates of Penny Lane is the place to be for folks of all ages as they embrace the holiday season.

With countless lights and piped in yuletide music, the half-mile of Christmas cheer is one of the most anticipated events each December for Coast residents.

Valerie Mueller's family business, RPM Pizza, pays for the awesome displays of lights and innovative decorations each year. It's a glorious Christmas gift stretching for blocks. Shooting stars and glowing trees that look like they are snowing make for one splendid show. So are signs telling visitors to tune to 88.3 FM on their car radios to take it all in.

Mueller's fan club gets pretty big as the holidays near on Penny Lane. Families in the neighborhood pulled together to decorate different themes from the Mueller's North Pole and "The Grinch Who Tried to Steal Christmas" in Whoville to Glass's Galatica and Star Wars Adventure.

The Elias family does their thing to rev up spirits, coordinating "Twas the Night Before Christmas" with magical Disney characters. The Tyres offer a South Pole adventure, while the Roths feature a "Golden Red Candy Castle," with a "Santa Sighting" at the Kolbs house.

While the deadly COVID-19 virus has caused heartache for the world much of the year, this is one event that will give families a chance to make merry for an hour in Long Beach. Last year, Dominos sponsored a Santa Second Line

celebrating the birth of Jesus and welcoming the newest families in the neighborhood. This December, there will be no Santa Second Line, but families are still working hard to make the 2020 event special.

The Estates of Penny Lane has become the fun holiday haven in Harrison County where Gulf Coast people can shoot plenty of cell phone photos to show friends and loved ones.

Anne Marie Guille faithfully attends the amazing hometown event every year, and the Long Beach businesswoman won't skip the newest edition this year.

"It's a wonderful light show, with a radio station that plays with the light show in sync," says Guille, co-owner of Southern Bagel Company. "For many years, they had a Santa you could take photos with, and they would give out candy to the kids."

This year's festivities should be scaled back a bit due to COVID-19 health protocols across Mississippi and around the nation, but that won't stop fans from driving by.

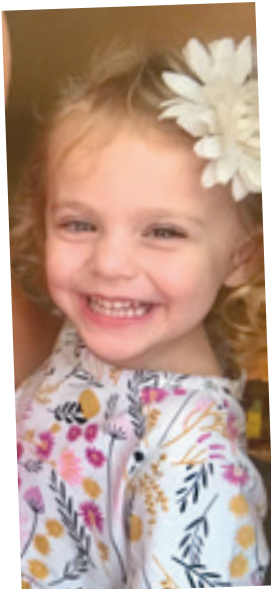
"No doubt, it will be amazing," says Guille. "We love it," she says of the unforgettable show.

Over the years, the Penny Lane Christmas Show glittered up the neighborhood from dusk til 10 p.m. through Christmas Eve. Whether people cherish the music of "Mississippi Girl" Faith Hill, jazzy tunes of New Orleans or traditional holiday tunes like "Jingle Bells," the Long Beach light show is a family-friendly event worth every minute. Bring the hot chocolate, the cameras, the smiles - and don't forget the kids!

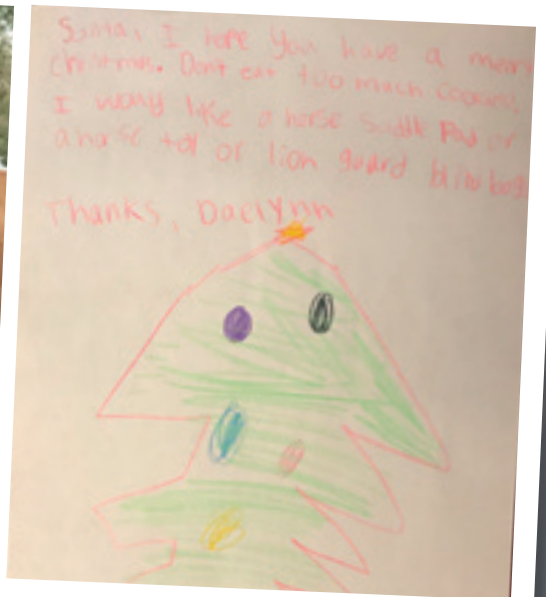


For more photos, visit us online at www.LongBeachBreeze.com.

Long Beach Letters to Santa



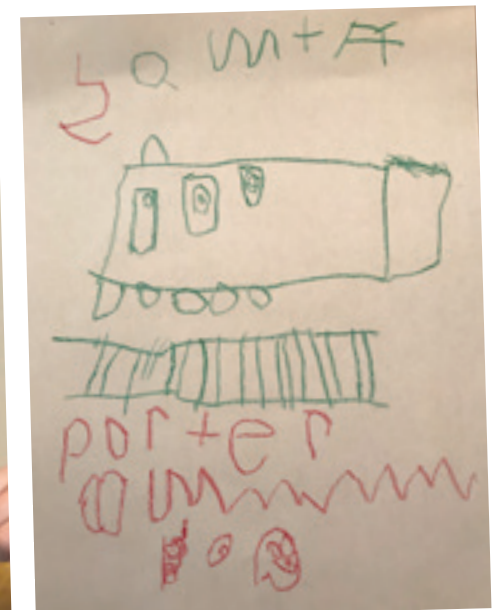
Dear Santa,
Please get a present for me. I've been a good, funny girl this year. I want the blue present...ummm...and purple present. And chocolate chips. I'm gonna say "Trick-or-treat" to Santa. I want a blue present. Blue.
Ada, age 3



Santa,
I hope you have a merry Christmas. Don't eat too much cookies! I would like a horse saddle pad or a horse toy or lion guard blind bags.
Thanks,
Daelynn, age 10



Dear Santa,
For Christmas I have a big wish. This year please can I have a real life Kitten? Last year my bunny ran away, and I promise I will do anything for a baby Kitten.
Love,
Elliot, age 8

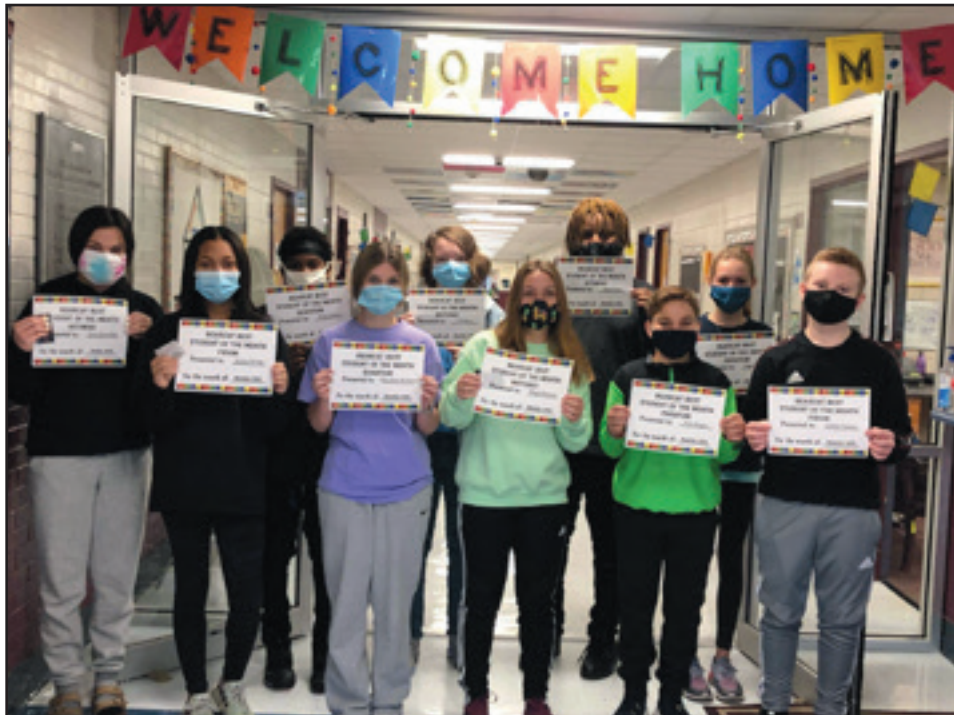


Dear Santa,
I hope you make good presents for me, and I hope you can t down the chimney. I want a model train that makes noise. Merry Christmas!
What do you want for Christmas?
Love,
Porter, age 5

LBMS honors Students of the Month

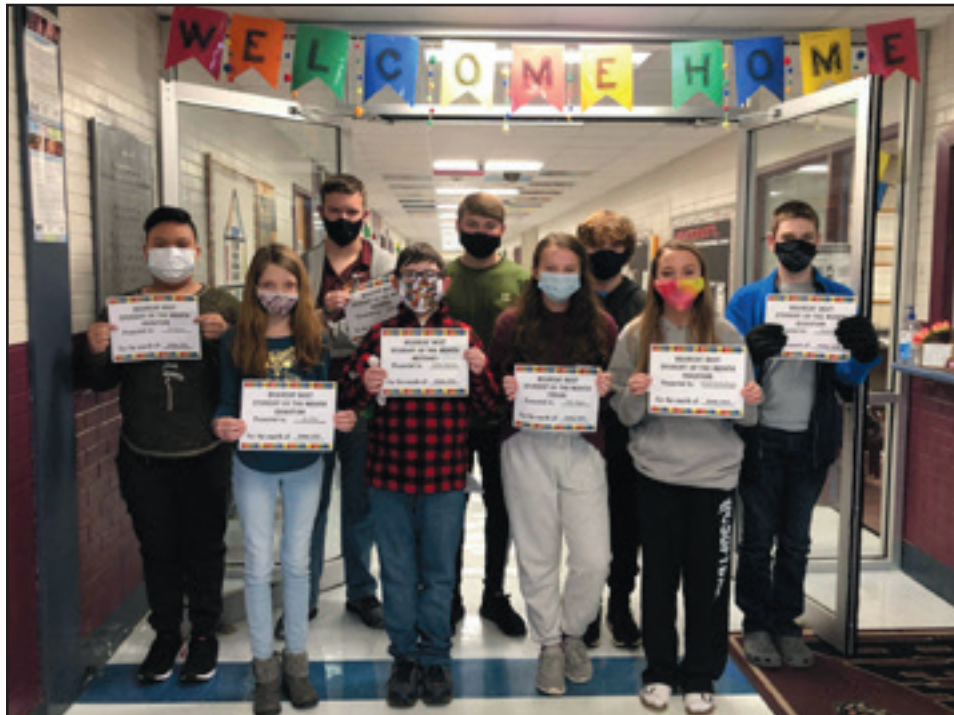
Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach Middle School (LBMS) recently announced their September, October and November Students of the Month. For September, the school recognized EVERY LBMS student. School officials said that their student body worked so hard during the Maroon and White weeks of hybrid learning, going above and beyond to follow new procedures, and their positive attitudes were contagious.



Special to Long Beach Breeze/Courtesy of LBSD

Pictured (l to r) are LBMS Students of the Month Emma Butterfield, Yazmine Eldridge, Keveun Smyers, Lillian Grace Strickland, Erika Manus, Morgan Eleuterius, ReAnte Brown, Gavin Burgess, Pepper Newman and Jackson Foreman. Not pictured is Ella Bourland.



Special to Long Beach Breeze/Courtesy of LBSD

Pictured (l to r) are LBMS Students of the Month Phi Nguyen, Ava Kline, Mathew Bradfield, Caiden Johnston, Alan Long, Rylie Pepper, Flynn James, Kindall Stullenburger and Gannon Hall.

LONG BEACH FRESH PRODUCE & BBQ

TAKE OUT BBQ

FAMILY MEALS INCLUDE
2LBS OF MEAT, 2 FAMILY SIZE SIDES, 6 BUNS, 1 FAMILY SIZE SAUCE.

DELICIOUS & CONVENIENT PRE-PREPARED OVEN READY PIZZA, STUFFED PEPPERS, JALAPENO POPPERS, CABBAGE ROLLS, AND STUFFED MUSHROOMS

228-284-4000

FREE TREAT COUPON
BRING OR MENTION THIS COUPON TO RECEIVE A FREE 16 OZ SIDE WITH A FAMILY MEAL OR A FREE COOKIE WITH A SINGLE MEAL. Long Beach Fresh Produce & BBQ
Expires Jan. 19th 2021

19219 PINEVILLE RD LONG BEACH, MS 39560

Winter **i9SPORTS**
i9sports.com

REGISTER NOW

AGE APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTION THAT'S FUN FOR KIDS & CONVENIENT FOR PARENTS!

ONLINE AT: **i9sports.com**
OR CALL: 601-533-8166

• Age-appropriate programs, ages 3-14.
• Flag Football, Soccer & T-Ball
• All skill levels welcome. No try outs!
• One day per week! Saturday's ONLY
• Practice held before game.
• Trained coaches at every game
• Emphasis on good sportsmanship

ACT EARLY & SAVE \$20
DEADLINE: 12.25.2020

WINTER SEASON STARTS
01.23.2021

Long Beach - Espy Avenue
Soccer Fields

No smoking, vaping, alcoholic beverages, or pets allowed at the venues.
facebook.com/i9Sports403
Each location independently owned and operated.

Spring **SPRING INTO ACTION 04.03.2021**

Save the date! Or Sign Up Now!
Following our Return to Play Safely Protocols.

HELPING KIDS SUCCEED IN LIFE THROUGH SPORTS

Sparklight advises increased protection this holiday season

Special to Long Beach Breeze

With shoppers continuing to navigate COVID-19 concerns, online buying is expected to hit record levels this holiday season, and Sparklight encourages consumers to be increasingly vigilant about their online safety.

“The ongoing health and safety issues in the United States have driven more and more people to do even their everyday shopping online – including groceries and meal delivery,” said Ken Johnson, Senior Vice President of Technology Services for Sparklight. “This increased activity gives cyber criminals more opportunity to access our personal information. Caution is always key when sharing personal information online, but in our current situation, it becomes even more critical.”

Think before you click

Scammers and hackers often send “phishing” emails, “smishing” instant messages or “vishing” voice calls that appear to be from a trusted source in order to collect confidential account information. No legitimate service will ask you to provide your username and password – they will only ask that you visit their official website and log in. Warning signs of phishing or smishing can include a suspicious address from the sender, or misspellings or grammatical errors in the text of the message. These clues, paired with requests for personal information or requests to click on a link, are signs that the message is not legitimate. Never click the links or open attachments in a suspicious email and be skeptical of offers that seem too good to be true.

“No matter the method in which they try to reach you, the bottom line is that criminals are trying to trick you into giving them your personal information,” said Johnson. “Think twice before sharing personal information with unsolicited email, text messages or voice calls.”

Use strong passwords

Many people use apps and websites that require passwords, and there can be a temptation to use the same password for multiple log-ins. But if a hacker gets your

password, this practice enables access to several of your accounts. Be diligent about using strong passwords. The test of a strong password is length, randomness and uniqueness. Aim for 16-24 characters that are completely random, and use every character type – uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers and symbols – or use four unrelated words strung together. There are several reputable password manager apps that can help.

Look for the HTTPS

Before completing an online purchase, make sure the website is security enabled by looking for URLs with https:// at the beginning. The “s” stands for secure and means the website is using encryption to help keep your information protected. There will also be a padlock icon to the left of the URL in the address bar. If you are using an unsecure server (HTTP) or using a public wireless network, do not share personal information, such as a credit card number.

Shopping via Mobile App

Criminals are very good at creating phony retail apps with logos that look like legitimate businesses. Scammers use these apps to steal your identity or infect your device with malware. Verify an app’s authenticity by downloading it from the company’s official website. If downloading from an app store, check to see how long it’s been around, keep an eye out for misspellings in the app description, and look at the ratings and reviews – avoid being the first to download a new shopping app.

Be Vigilant

Keep your receipts, shipping and tracking information, and be sure to monitor your credit card activity even more frequently during the holidays, so you can spot any suspicious activity right away. Don’t use a debit card online, because, if it is compromised, hackers have immediate access to your bank accounts and can empty them quickly. Many credit cards have theft protection in case of unauthorized use.

Get more tech tips at support.sparklight.com and one2one.sparklight.com.



Shaggy Chic Pet Salon

Grooming • Boarding • Barkery

We offer grooming and boarding for large and small dogs & cats
Call now to book an appointment



228-206-3275

7198 Beatline Rd, Suite E, Long Beach, MS



SMOKE
WORLD

NOW OPEN

Tobacco - Vapes - CBD and More

The Best Prices & The Largest Selection of Vapes, Juices & Disposable Vapes
We WILL Order Product for you Upon Request

Hours: 10 AM to 10 PM (Subject to change)

PHONE: 228.224.5407 19094 Pineville Road, Long Beach, MS 39560

Long Beach planning how to use \$2 million downtown revitalization funds

By Shaun Szkolnik

The City of Long Beach held a work session on December 8 to discuss funds for the revitalization of the downtown area. Thanks, in part, to the efforts of State Rep. Richard Bennett, the City currently has \$2 million to spend on the project.

“We’ve got this \$2 million that has been given for downtown revitalization,” said Ward 6 Alderwoman Patricia Bennet. “We need to get on the same page and [the same] ideas on how to spend it, where, and what people think; what people are thinking on their ideas on how to distribute the money.”

The Board heard a presentation from urban architect Christian Preus of Christian Preus Landscape Architecture.

“We have been working on this project,” said Preus. “For two, three years ... love this town and think there is a good opportunity to revitalize not only the gateway corridor, which is the front door for Long Beach, and I do think we can build some synergy for anything that could happen for Jeff Davis or the downtown.”

As envisioned, the entire project would cost \$4 million. However, with the money that the City currently has, phase one could be embarked upon.

“I will just kind of give it a quick recap,” said Preus. “Show you how we got to this point for our analysis; some of the programming exercises and things that came out of working with some folks on the steering committee, some of them I believe are in this room, that kind of helped us with the preliminary development of this plan; and then talk about the big picture ... the \$4 million dollar vision and where we are today with phase one.”

Preus went on to describe some of the issues that revitalization could solve as well as some of the broader points of the project.

“There is a lack of definition once you enter in Long Beach from either direction,” said Preus. “There is no real sense of entry ... there is a disconnect between the harbor and the town.”

The project that Preus has developed would seek to correct that disconnect by creating a seamless flow between the harbor and the downtown area.

Another benefit of revitalization, as proposed by Preus, would be slowing down traffic along the corridor and bringing motorists into the city.

“Traffic calming is something that we would all love for Highway 90, for Beach Boulevard to have people slowing down as they come through Long Beach,” said Preus. “The fact of the matter is, they’re trying to get from Cleveland through the Jeff Davis light, and on, as fast as they can. So we do want to try and calm them down; calling more attention to the cross-walks, pedestrian crossings across the highway, and then really establish the beach as a destination for the city.”

“[We would like to] establish the beach as a destination for the city,” said Preus, “...hopefully using this project to have the aesthetic of the harbor on a slightly higher level, I mentioned the disconnect between Jeff Davis and the harbor; establishing that visual connection and a destination, having potential opportunities for vendors down there.”

Phase one would achieve the goal of bringing the harbor and the downtown areas of Long Beach together through a number of methods. According to Preus, the means could include several structures including beach towers, entry pylons, pylons to designate the downtown area and other forms of landscaping the area.

The Board took all of the information under advisement and will continue to develop a plan of revitalization for the harbor and downtown area.



**BOXERS ARE MEASURED BY THEIR REACH AND PUNCHING POWER.
SO, WHO WANTS TO BE JOE LOUIS?**

JEFF HANSEN // OWNER

BUY. SELL. TRADE. PAWN.

hcguns.com // (228) 206-1384 // Long Beach, MS



HIGH CALIBER GUNS