



# LONG BEACH BREEZE

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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

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## New mayor stresses economy

By Stephen Flanagan Jackson

Long Beach Mayor George Bass emphasized shortly after taking office that his number one concern



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Mayor Bass

as top administrator and elected official for this coastal city is the “economy.” The former fire chief, having moved

up the ladder to CEO of Long Beach, Bass said in an interview with news media he aims to actively seek new developments, including retail and residential. And this includes a casino.

“I’m certainly open to looking at it (a casino),” said Bass, stressing that a new casino in Long Beach would have to fit the neighborhood and fit the zoning.

According to Bass, Long Beach is the Friendly City. He said Long Beach can be friendly all day long, but if it does not have good sidewalks, bike paths and other amenities that folks are looking for, then it is going

to be hard to sell.

Bass identifies the city’s marketing effort as tops on his agenda. He has already shifted part of his mayor’s salary to hiring a professional public relations person (Jenny Levens) for the city to aid economic development. The mayor also hopes to stay away from increasing Long Beach property taxes, which are the highest on the coast.

Bass is a lifelong resident of Long Beach, and, as the first new mayor in 12 years (he won by a landslide with 63% of the vote in five-man race), he is devoted to his hometown.

“I’m ready to move forward with Long Beach,” Bass said.

## Bearcats top Pass

By Stephen Flanagan Jackson

Coach Forrest Williams’ offense finally came to life in the second half, and his Bearcats won going away in the Classic match-up at Pass Christian, 27-14, Thursday night, Aug. 17.

In the early-season opener, the Pirates jumped to a 14-7 halftime lead behind the power running of Tionne Frost. But sophomore Bearcat quarterback Cade Crosby found his groove in the second half and spearheaded the comeback for Long Beach.

In post-game comments, Williams noted that the Bearcats “shot themselves in the foot” in the first half, running only 18 offensive plays. “We upped tempo in the second half, and the defense came on at the end,” said the veteran coach.

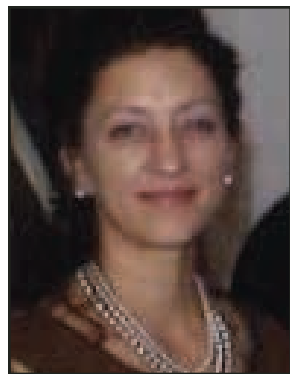
Crosby hit 11 of 14 passes for 186 yards and 3 touchdowns. He tacked on 82 rushing yards. Running back Dennis Andrews scored on a Crosby pass and a game-tying 8-yard run in the third quarter. A Crosby to Kai VanCourt 60-yard bomb vaulted the Maroon and Gray ahead for good in the third stanza. Williams’ defense, led by Eaver-son Cisco, put the game on ice after another Crosby TD aerial, a short toss to Logan Matherne.

The Bearcats now travel to Bay over the bridge on Sept. 1. Then, the LB home opener is Sept. 8 with Vancleave.

## Sheriff and FBI working cold case

By Stephen Flanagan Jackson

The mysterious and tragic murder of Kimberly Jo Holcomb Watts in her Long Beach home



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Kim Watts

nearly three years ago remains unsolved. Shortly after Watts’ brother-in-law George Bass took over as new mayor of Long Beach, the case was trans-

ferred this June from the Long Beach Police Department to the cold case files of the Harrison County Sheriff’s Office. Outgoing LB Police Chief Wayne McDowell and Sheriff Troy Peterson, along with County District attorney Joel Smith, all agreed with Bass’ request to turn the investigation over to the Sheriff’s Office, which has special cold case detectives and other resources to investigate the killing of Watts, 48, a nurse at Memorial Hospital and a divorced mother of a teenage son who was away at college at the time of the brutal slaying. Chief McDowell, who

is set to retire at the end of September, had also called in the FBI in the case. The feds are continuing their investigation, along with the Harrison County Sheriff’s Office.

A person of interest, or a suspect, has been targeted, but no arrest made. Chief McDowell pointed out that “there is no statute of limitations on a murder case.” “There has been a person of interest since day one,” says Chief McDowell.

**More football news, pages 9-10,12**

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# Meet Rotary of Long Beach



Photo by Stephen Flanagan Jackson

Pictured (l to r, front) Rotary Club leaders: Doug St. John, Karen Livingood, and Jane Goff. Standing (l to r) are Ted Molesworth and Mike Cook.

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Since 1986, the Long Beach Rotary Club has worked to serve the Long Beach community. Rotarians work to enhance education, serve the poor and needy and improve the health of citizens.

For example, late last fall, the Rotary project was to serve Thanksgiving meals to needy families in the community. School teachers/counselors provided the names of 41 needy families. The Rotary youth group, Interact, at Long Beach High School, helped in this effort. Rotary canvassed

Long Beach neighborhoods by dropping off donation bags on porches, requesting canned goods, checks or gift cards. A week later, Rotary gathered up the donations. Shortly before Thanksgiving Day, Rotary delivered the meals - offering a choice of turkey or ham plus the 'fixins'. After delivering the meals, Rotary donated the excess of over 700 pounds to the Long Beach Food Pantry.

"Service Above Self" is the Rotary motto. Those who know of a community need or wish to provide a community service, contact the Long Beach Rotary at 228-209-2564.

# Welcome back, Bearcats

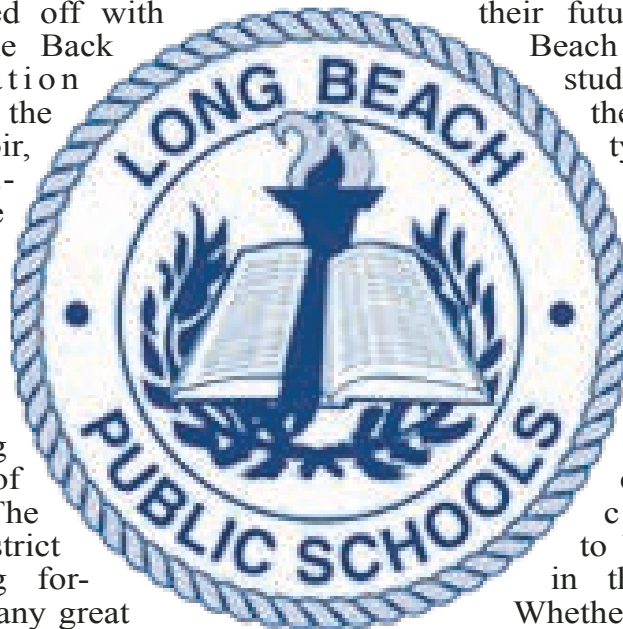
By Guest Columnist Leigh Anne Biggs, LBSD Public Relations

As August begins, so does another great year for Long Beach School District. This year kicked off with a Welcome Back Convocation including the band, choir, cheerleaders, dance team, several special guests and more than 400 employees celebrating the start of school. The school district is looking forward to many great things happening in the classrooms, on the fields of play, in competitions and in all the endeavors of our students and staff.

Long Beach has a history of excellence, and this year's school theme of "Who Has It

Better Than Us? - Nobody!" reflects just that. Long Beach students excel not only in the classroom, but in many co-curricular and extra-curricular activities that prepare them for their futures. Long Beach has great students, and the faculty and staff work hard to ensure they are achieving their best. Faculty and administrators encourage the community to be involved in the schools.

Whether it is volunteering to help tutor, reading or cheering at a sporting event, the students notice, and it makes a difference when they see a community that cares about them and their success. Long Beach is just that community, and it shows.





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# Volunteer for Long Beach Development

Special to Long Beach Breeze

## 1. What is the Long Beach Main Street or Long Beach Community Development Association (LBCDA)?

In 2012, Mayor Skellie asked Shelda Jones to be the volunteer coordinator for Long Beach Main Street. After a meeting with the Mississippi Main Street Association, Main Street arranged for specialists to meet with the volunteer group, and citizens of Long Beach were invited. Specialists worked with the new group on branding, economic studies, and basically what Long Beach could look like.

The Main Street Association Board formed in August 2014. In March of 2015, it was decided that the new group could better serve the whole city of Long Beach if it changed its name to **Long Beach Community Development Association (LBCDA)**. LBCDA is a Mississippi Main Street Association network member and a member of the National Main Street Organization. It benefits from state as well as national media exposure. LBCDA established by-laws and policies and procedures for the Long Beach Community Development Association.

## 2. Who makes up the LBCDA (an all-volunteer board.)?

- **Shelda Jones**, President (retired from the Armed Forces Retirement Home, Past Commodore of Long Beach Yacht Club and presently serves on the board and as Treasurer)

- **Jan Currie**, Vice President (owner Swipe Payment Technologies)
  - **Susan Nicholas**, Secretary (grant writer and owner Non-Profit Consulting Business)
  - **Philip LeBlanc**, Treasurer (Caldwell Banker Realtor)
  - **Christina Edwards** (degree in Recreation from University Maryland, past board member of LBHS Band Booster Club, Service Unit Manager for Long Beach/Pass Christian District for Girl Scouts of Greater Mississippi)
  - **Mary Scott** (MSN, RN at Memorial Hospital, Member of American Nurses Association, Mississippi Nurses Association, MNA Convention Planning Committee member, Treasurer MNA District 5, and Co-Owner of RWS Heating and Cooling, LLC)
  - **Sara Goretski** (Adjunct Professor of Science and Technology at USM, Gulf Coast, immediate past president of LBHS Band Booster Club, Serves on St Patrick's Church Vestry, and Assistant Girl Scout Leader)
  - **Eddie Seal** (Navy Veteran, graduate of USM in History, Service Manager of Butch Oustalet, Delegate for Ford Motor Company Parts and Services for a 10 State region, 3 year parade chairman for CALB, and a 4th Degree Member of Knights of Columbus)
- ## 3. What does the LBCDA do?

The purposes for which this corporation is organized are to stimulate the business district revitalization in Long Beach through organization (encouraging cooperation and building leadership in the business community); promotion (creating a positive image for downtown by promoting the downtown as an exciting place to live, shop and invest); design (improving the appearance of the downtown); and to receive, administer and distribute funds in connection with any activities related to the above purposes; provided, however, that the Program shall only engage in activities that are in the purview of Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or corresponding sections of any prior or future law. No part of the net earnings of the Program shall inure to the benefit of any of its members or any other individual; and the Program shall not participate in, or intervene in, any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

## 4. Who can join the LBCDA?

Annual Member

A member of Long Beach Community Development Association part of the continued growth of Long Beach, participating in the Four Point Approach that includes economic restructuring, organization, design and promotion. The LBCDA members work together to prepare for a vibrant future. Applications for membership can be printed from the LBCDA website or facebook page.

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# The Farmer's Market is now on the Town Green



Photo by Stephen Flanagan Jackson



Photo by Stephen Flanagan Jackson

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There will be a grand opening celebration on October 7 to publicize the market's move to the Town Green in Long Beach on Jeff Davis Avenue. The Town Green is the downtown park built after Katrina on land previously occupied by the local elementary school. The market was newly formed in January and began

with three local vendors. They worked with the Long Beach Community Development Association, City Hall and the Long Beach School Board to begin the process of eventually locating to the Town Green. In the meantime, the Elias family, who owns the property across the street from the park, graciously allowed the market to use their

property to meet each Saturday. The market is rapidly growing, presently boasting eleven full time or seasonal vendors. They are a Mississippi State Certified Farmers Market.

Long Beach residents are encouraged to come out for a day of food, fun and celebration. The market will have free food samples, contests, giveaways, live

music and a large array of unique market items. It will be arts and crafts day, as well, which will be held the first Saturday of every other month. The market times are Saturdays, 8 a.m to noon every week, rain or shine. Follow the market on Facebook "The Farmers Market at Long Beach." Email: TFMatLongBeach@gmail.com.



**The Farmers Market** at Long Beach is a newly formed, rapidly growing market meeting in Long Beach on the beautiful Town Green on Jeff Davis Ave. Meeting here allows for a welcoming community gathering place in a family-friendly atmosphere. Our mission is to provide an assortment of healthy, fresh, local, unique and gourmet foods. Our distinction is that our farmers only sell the foods that they raise or grow. In that way, **The Farmers Market** at Long Beach promotes and bolsters a healthy diet utilizing the market's nutritional and seasonal foods. We serve to support the sustainable agriculture and animal farming as well as the health and education of the community. Market times are Saturdays 8:00 am to 12:00 pm, weekly – year round, rain or shine. **A State Certified Farmers Market.**

## Featuring some of our vendors:

- **Poppé's Kitchen** - Free range chicken and duck eggs, jams, jellies, pickled veges, dip mixes, Cajun frozen gumbos, shrimp creole, boudin, and more.
- **A & C Cool Plants** - Veges, ornamentals, annuals, perennials, and hanging baskets.
- **Harold's Honey** - Local honey, dippers, candy and more.
- **Serious Bread** - Artisan breads, scones, cookies, muffins and more.
- **Harris Farm** - Herb plants, Fresh vegetables in season.
- **Fresh Organic Produce** - Organic vegetables in season.
- **Sunrise Farms** - Fresh vegetables in season.
- **Brickwall Farms** - Hydroponic vegetables in season.
- **Auntie Karen Seasonings** - Seasoning blends, Chicken fry, Funnel Cake Mix.
- **Lily's K-9 Cookies** - All natural Doggie treats.
- **Ken Brawner Gourds** - Decorated gourds.

**Arts and Crafts Days are the first Saturday of every other month – Upcoming dates are: Oct. 7th & Dec. 2nd**

**LIVE Musicians!**

Follow us on Facebook:  
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# City hires the community affairs director, J. Levens

*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

The City of Long Beach recently announced the hiring of Jenny Levens as the city's Community Affairs Director. This position is appointed by Mayor George Bass. This is the first administration to have a Community Affairs Director. Levens is a lifelong resident of Long Beach, graduating from Long Beach High School and continuing to the University of Southern Mississippi, graduating with a degree in business. Levens is the former Director of the Long Beach and Pass Christian Chamber of Commerce. She was with the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce for five years. Levens graduated from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for Organization



Management and received the recognition of IOM. She is a graduate of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce Leadership Gulf Coast Class of 2014 and is in the current Mississippi Economic Council's Leadership Mississippi Class. She was recognized in 2016 for the Top 10 Under 40 One Coast Awards. Levens is a current finalist for the Women of Achievement Young Careerist award. She is a member of St Thomas Catholic Church in Long Beach, Gulfport Junior Auxiliary, United Way Women's Leadership, Lynn Meadows Boogie Nights Committee Member and Make-A-Wish. She is married to Scott Brown, and they reside in Long Beach, with their daughter, Anniston.

# Desporte knows about dancing



Photo by Stephen Flanagan Jackson

*Pictured above is a group of dance students in the Dance Academy studio.*

*By Stephen Flanagan Jackson*

Whether it's classical pirouette dating back to 1700 or hip-hop circa 1980, Long Beach's Diane Desporte knows dancing. Desporte not only knows from her professional experience, but she brings the same passion to teaching dance as she did to her own internationally-acclaimed career as a dancer herself from New Orleans to New York City. "Dance is an education," proclaims Desporte from her heart and soul, while stressing to her dance students, "learn the art." Desporte is an artist who practices what she preaches. She established her Dance Academy in Long Beach some 31 years ago and taught and performed for 24 years prior to opening the well-appointed studio on Beatline Rd. in a quiet, pastoral setting among the piney woods that amplify the Gulf breezes.

Established as a professional dancer since the age of three, studying under modern masters at the American Ballet, the New York City Ballet, the Martha Graham School, and learning jazz dance under the well-known Luigi, Desporte

transitioned from performing to teaching some 55 years ago. According to Desporte, the essence of dance, which she enthusiastically imparts to her younger students at her academy, "is so many things."

"Dance is communication without words," says the expressive, lithe dance instructor who seemingly has sipped at the fountain of youth. "Dance is movement to move the mind of the audience and the heart of the dancer."

The repertoire of classes, conducted by her instructors and herself at the Dance Academy for pre-teens and teens from all over the Coast, includes Ballet, Point, Lyrical, Jazz, Tap, and Hip-Hop.

Her words as graceful as her moves on the dance floor, Desporte elaborates that dance brings the mind and body together, a certain discipline that a dancer requires and, importantly, transfers into everyday life. "Dancing really is about having fun," she says, with a twinkle in her blue eyes, not disregarding her more serious philosophical reflections.

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# Try to push the pedals and pull up to the plate

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The Long Beach Community Bicycle Ride and Dine was established several years ago to promote cycling, introduce the

pace five mile bike trail loop through Long Beach, followed by end of ride optional Dutch Treat dinner stop at a local restaurant.

Bike safety is always a priority.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

fun of group rides and to help make citizens of Long Beach more bike aware and the city more bike friendly. This once a month pedal pushing takes place on the third Thursday, March through September. This bike-riding get-together is a free, fun ride open to everyone of all ages.

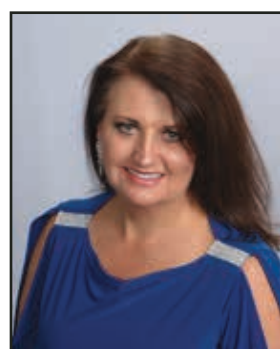
Staging for the Ride and Dine takes place at Harper McCaughan Town Green, Jeff Davis and 3rd Street, with ride start time at 6 pm. An easy-

The State of Mississippi does not require helmets. However, all ride participants are requested to wear protective head gear, have headlight and tail lights and wear brightly color clothing. Obeying rules of the road is a must. Long Beach Ride and Dine is not a club, city-sponsored or a funded ride. Each rider is responsible for his or her own safety and the safety of anyone in their charge. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

# Try these new exercises for stress reduction today

By Guest Columnist Sheryl Egan-Olaivar, OTR/L

Think again before you say “I’m so stressed, I don’t have time to exercise?” because regular exercise can decrease stress as it helps:



Special to Long Beach Breeze

**Improve hormone balance.** Chronic stress can create prolonged elevated

cortisol levels, which leads to impaired thinking, poor thyroid function, diabetes, decreased bone density, decreased muscle strength, elevated blood pressure, lowered immunity, high cholesterol, increased abdominal fat (which increases risk of stroke or heart attack), early aging and many more health concerns.

**Increase energy and happiness** with raised endorphin levels.

**Improve health and vitality**, including increased resistance to colds, illness and disease, help-

ing us to enjoy life!

**Improve behavior.** Long term stress can trigger anger; exercise can be an outlet for frustration.

**Promote relaxation** by focusing on the ‘here and now’ of exercise instead of any worries.

**Improve relationships;** the relaxation benefits help us to enjoy spending time with others at home, work or school.

**Improve confidence and strength** to tone, trim and give a healthy glow.

**Achieve and maintain a healthy weight** by increasing metabolism and reducing cravings for high carbohydrate/fattening foods and emotional eating.

Remember, we’re here for you at The Energy Club to help you find the ideal exercises to de-stress, call us today at 228-868-3539.

*EDITOR’S NOTE: Sheryl Egan-Olaivar, a resident of Long Beach has over 25 years experience as an Occupational Therapist and 18 years as a Yoga teacher and is passionate about empowering others to enjoy happiness, health and success.*

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# Coach Williams optimistic a

**Long Beach High School**  
5A Region 4  
Overall Record: 3-9 Region  
Record: 1-6

Head Coach: **Forrest Williams**  
(available 8am – noon)  
Head coaching record: 67-53  
(10 years), 8-26 (3 years at Long Beach)

- Assistants:**
- Chaz Allen LB
  - Cas Cormier OL
  - Ryan Davis OLB
  - Damon Felder DB
  - Horace Fortenberry DL
  - Cameron Olsen RB
  - Bob Reeves QB

**Offense:** Spread Gun  
**Defense:** Multiple

Preseason *All-Sun Herald*:  
**QB Cade Crosby**  
**OL JT Tripp**  
**DL Torique Bester**  
**LB Tyson Callahan**  
**DB Tim Duncan**  
**DB Derek Young**

Division MVP Offense: **Fabian Franklin, Hattiesburg**  
Division MVP Defense: **Derek Young, Long Beach**

**Predicted Order of Finish**

1. Long Beach
2. Picayune
3. Wayne County
4. Hattiesburg
5. Stone
6. Gautier
7. Pearl River Central
8. West Harrison

**Offensive Outlook:** Offense will miss the explosiveness of graduating RB Jaylen Bankston and WR Mathew Cropper but return a great core that played as underclassmen. SO Crosby and SR Evans are at QB and both started games in 2016 with some good experience. Competition will allow provide a great QB for the Bearcats. They'll be protected by the strength of the team, five returning seniors on the OL as well as Kenny McNutt who also started games for the Bearcats. JR Andrews returns at RB and is poised for a special season. WR has great experience with three returning starters but also great competition to see who will get on the field with 10 players with the ability to start.

**Defensive Outlook:** The Bearcat defense lost its leading tack-

ler in Navy signee Jarius Warren and talented DE Trevon Taylor but much like the offense, bring back a core of players who saw extensive action. Secondary has the most experience with Pham, Young and Duncan returning as starters. SR Cameron Wise saw extensive action and will fit into the back half. Linebacker is the most inexperienced spot for the Bearcats with SR Callahan the lone returning starter. He has the ability to play ILB or OLB and will be counted on to bring a great performance every Friday. The defensive line brings back a lot of experienced players led by DE King and DT Bester. The front will see a lot of players in the mix.

**Kicking Outlook:** Return game will be developed over the course of the season with Gerald Jones, Tim Duncan, and Derek Young providing a great rotation. Punting will be led by SO Crosby and Crosby and VanCourt will see time on KO and PAT.

**Overall Outlook:** Offense



took a step forward in 2016 and hopefully the returning experience can provide the boost to get the Bearcats into the playoffs. The largest senior class in the Williams era gives fans hopes for a step in the right direction. The underclassmen who have played early are

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**New Getaway Guests Share Letters About Staying With Us**

**Letter #1**

Our family came to New Getaway to see where my husband grew up and why he loved growing up here so much. We have four kids and there was something at New Getaway for all of them. It was nice to see it was such short drive to the beach which my children loved. The younger children had never seen a beach before! The rest of our visit we stayed close to our house at New Getaway. The Children, myself and my husband loved it here. This is the first place we have stayed where the owners came to greet us. That was wonderful to see! Great hospitality! We did not need to leave the resort at New Getaway. Fishing, swimming, putt-putt, canoeing. What else could you need! We will definitely be coming back!

The Mowey Family

**Letter #2**

As a family of 6, it's hard to find a comfortable, cost efficient place to vacation. But finding the Sunset House at New Getaway Resort was an absolute blessing! The kids enjoyed your pool and lounge deck, while we couldn't get enough back porch sitting! Your homes are absolutely beautiful. Your properties and facilities are so well maintained. We will definitely be coming back soon.

Thank you so much for booking us last minute!

Mrs. Shawn Moore  
Lonoke, Arkansas

**Letter #3**

What an amazing, relaxing family friendly place!

We had such a wonderful weekend, even with all the storms we had a blast. My 13-year old son and his friend really enjoyed canoeing, swimming, putt putt all evening as we grilled and relaxed breath-taking sunset from our house. We will definitely tell everyone we know about this little slice of heaven! Mr. and Mrs. Doussan are very sweet people who keep the resort grounds very nice.

Thank you.

The Larkins Family

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# About 2017 Bearcat football



Photo by Jeff Andrews

now juniors and seniors and the coaching staff needs their production. The experience at quarterback will be a big boost for the Bearcats and the daily competition for playing time will only make the team better as they compete for a playoff spot.

## LONG BEACH BEARCATS 2017 VARSITY SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Location
9/1	Bay	Away
9/8	<b>Vancleave</b>	<b>Home</b>
9/15	<b>Greene County</b>	<b>Home</b>
9/22	*Pearl River Central	Away
9/29	*Gautier	Away
10/6	<b>*Wayne County</b>	<b>Home</b>
10/13	<b>*Picayune</b>	<b>Home</b>
10/20	<b>*West Harrison (HC)</b>	<b>Home</b>
10/27	*Hattiesburg	Away
11/3	<b>*Stone (SN)</b>	<b>Home</b>

**ALL HOME GAMES IN BOLD**

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\* - DISTRICT

(HC) - HOMECOMING

(SN) - SENIOR NIGHT

**Check out page 12 quarterback photo!**

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# Come! Praise the Lord!

By Guest Columnist Guido Evangelistic Association

Come! Praise the Lord!  
There seems to be an attitude of arrogance in the world today. It is summed up in the epigram that was written above the door of the saloon on the Titanic: "Not even God can sink this ship!" Imagine the irony of those words. They are carved in a piece of wood that is still rotting after all of these years.

Unfortunately, there seems to be no fear of God in the world any longer. Today, the list of the world's fears includes a nuclear disaster, global warming, the national deficit, health care, a flu epidemic, identity theft or a stock market crash. It seems as though God has been assigned the role of being an ex-officio member of the "Board of Governors." It is a "position" with no power or influence. He is no longer recognized as one who makes any difference in the day to day operation of the universe. He's simply around to humor some people. Man is in



charge now, thank you, and will bring good things to pass now that God is out of the way!

Psalm 34 takes the opposite view of God. The author blesses the Lord for what He has done. In deep humility he recognizes the power and presence of God. His view of the world is God-centered not man-exalting. Therefore, "His praise should always be on our lips."

How different it is today. People seem to do what they do for the recognition they may receive. Glory and honor belong to the one who can score the most points, accumulate vast wealth or demonstrate great power over people. God, to them is a "thing" in the past.

Prayer: Father, may we praise You at all times and in all things for Your unending, unending, steadfast love. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today:

Psalm 34:1

I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.

Special to Long Beach Breeze

# Waiting word on dorms coming to USM Gulf Park

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach residents and city fathers are still awaiting official word on the the possibility of adding student housing or dorms to USM's Gulf Park campus in Long Beach.

An 11-member committee started in January 2016 to evaluate the feasibility of such a project. The committee's recommendations will then be distributed among the university community, as well as shared with alumni and others connected to the school.

Members of the committee are Gerald Blessey, city attorney for Biloxi and owner of Blessy Law Firm; Cheryl Johnson, president, Regions Bank of Gulfport and USM alumna;

Shane Loper, chief operating officer of Hancock Holding Company of Gulfport and USM alumnus; Ronald G. Peresich, Sr., founding partner of Page, Mannino, Peresich & McDermott in Biloxi; Billy Skellie, ex-mayor of City of Long Beach; Scott Blackwell, director of Student Housing Administration at USM; Christopher Crenshaw, associate vice president for Facilities Planning & Development, USM; Chad Driskell, vice president for External Affairs at USM; Casey Maugh Funderburk, interim associate provost for the Gulf Park Campus at USM; Steven Miller, vice president for the Gulf Park Campus at USM; and Douglas Vinzant, vice president for Finance and Administration at USM.



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# Yoga has gone mainstream



Pictured is Heather Pace in a yoga position on the beach. Special to Long Beach Breeze

By Guest Columnist Samara Bowes Whiteside

A yoga practice is a very personal discipline. It can be taken up and adapted for anyone in any shape at any time of life. Last year, I returned home to the Gulf Coast after a forty-year career in the arts in Los Angeles. My tenure on the West Coast afforded me exposure to many different yoga styles, trends and teachers. I had come to rely not only on the benefits of strength-building, mental clarity and inner calm resulting from my yoga classes but also on the community of like-minded individuals devoted to these same pursuits. I wasn't sure

if that experience could be found here or, if not, how I would go about finding it. As it happens, new yoga choices are sprouting up all along our Coast in what seems to be a fresh surge of interest. I have been exploring options and will periodically share my observations.

To begin, I was fortunate to meet a first-rate teacher here in Long Beach. Heather Pace is caring with beginners while still challenging more advanced students. She has a dedicated following and puts her unique signature on group classes and private sessions. Check her out at The Energy Club, Kelnici Spa or the Miller Whitmer Family Clinic.



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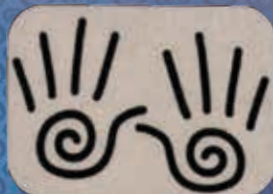
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# Bearcats' hands-on field generals



Photo by Stephen Flanagan Jackson

Long Beach Coach Forrest Williams, center, with senior quarterback Jaidon Evans, left, and sophomore quarterback Cade Crosby, right.

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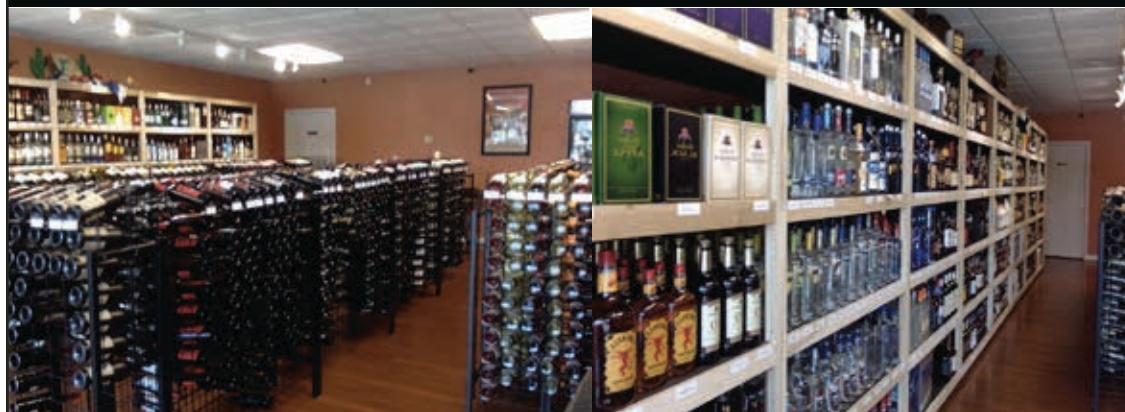
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# March into hometown history

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, the Long Beach Historical Society was founded in 1997 by Mary Ellen Alexan-

been added and files have begun to expand. It's possible to find out when Grandpa graduated from high school and how many parties he went to that month.



Photo by Stephen Flanagan Jackson

Pictured (l to r) at historical marker commemorating Katrina in front of City Hall are Historical Society members Eddie Ware, Beth Hansen, Ola Mae Dana, and Donald Dana.

der. The LB Historical Society is open to anyone interested in preserving history for future generations.

The society installs commemorative markers around the city, places small plaques on older homes, honors deserving individuals (who may or may not be members) with awards each year, and takes part in community events, such as the Veterans' parade and, most recently, the Bicentennial Celebration.

There are four meetings a year, on the third Mondays of January, April, July and October at 6 pm. Previous programs include: Live Oaks by Professor Steve Roberts of MGGCC, Dr. David Holt of USM took his students into the cemetery, and Jane Shambra, of the Local History and Genealogy Dept. in Biloxi.

In 2011, the Historical Society moved into its new home at 645 Klondyke Road, which provided a place to hang pictures and document the past. A library has

Historical Society officers: Beth Hansen, President; Allisa Beck, Secretary; Pat Skellie, Treasurer; Mike Wren, Liaison Officer; and Board Members: Iantha Hines, Bernie Parker, Gary Ponthieux and Eddie Ware invite the public to visit the Historical Society on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Board member Eddie Ware, also the Webmaster, invites anyone to visit via the website: [www.lbhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.lbhistoricalsociety.org) at any time.

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# Priest serves Long Beach Parish

By Stephen Flanagan Jackson

year.

Father James Smith is a priest of the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi now stationed in Long

Fr. James is grateful to be at St. Thomas in Long Beach, what he calls a faith-filled and caring Catholic parish. He enjoys



Photo by Stephen Flanagan Jackson

Pictured (l to r), Fr. Cuthbert "Cuddy" O'Connell welcomes Fr. James Smith in front of the St. Thomas statue and church in Long Beach.

Beach. Smith was born in 1986 in Pascagoula to Michael and Emily Smith. Fr. James ("Father") is commonly abbreviated) was home-schooled as their family moved around the West and East coasts of the U.S. in his childhood. Some time after returning to Mississippi, Fr. James decided to forgo Engineering studies to see priestly ordination. He studied in Covington and New Orleans and was ordained a priest of the diocese by Bishop Roger Morin in 2015. After being assigned to Nativity Cathedral in Biloxi, Fr. James was re-assigned to St. Thomas the Apostle in February of this

celebrating mass and the other sacraments, visiting St. Vincent DePaul School in the Pass and the sick and homebound. He has found Long Beach to be a deeply welcoming community and considers himself lucky to be assigned here. Fr. James participated in the Easter Sunrise service, an ecumenical worship service conducted Easter morning this year, as clergy. He looks forward to continuing to get to know the people of Long Beach. His hobbies include visual art and listening to music. For inquires, please contact Fr. James at St Thomas 228-863-1610, or visit the parish website,

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# Long Beach public library overflows with fall events

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn

If you didn't visit your library over the summer, there is still plenty to look forward to this fall. September is Library Card

book for September is John Steinbeck's *Cannery Row*.

We haven't forgotten the kids. Nor have we forgotten the parents and grandparents who bring them to story time.



Photo by Stephen Flanagan Jackson

Pictured (l to r) decorating Teen Room at LB Library: Ka'Shodrick Johnson; Renee Rayburn, Children's Librarian; Emmalyn Howard.

Sign-Up Month, and this year DC's Teen Titans have teamed up as the honorary chairs for libraries across America to promote "The Only Thing More Powerful Than a Teen Titan? – A Library Card!" So, if you would like to get your own card at Long Beach Public Library, this is the month to do so! Kids can get a library card at age 5 with a parent's consent. Bring in a photo ID and a piece of mail with a current address.

September is also the month when the Friends of the Long Beach Library begin their quarterly meetings.

It's never too late to become a member of the Friends of the Long Beach Library. Membership is only \$10 per year for active or inactive members, and the proceeds go to support your local library. The first meeting will be held here at the library on Tuesday, September 5, at 1 p.m.

Also, starting again in September is the monthly Long Beach Library Book Club meeting. It will be held at the library on Monday, September 18, at 1 p.m. and is free to join. The

Sponsored by Beau Vie Fitness in Long Beach and held on the first Tuesday of each month is our Parent's Coffee Break.

Started as a meet and greet for the parents and grandparents of the preschoolers who are here for story time each week, it's become a nice way for this group to get together and enjoy some "me time." Because it extends our story time that morning, we try and schedule a special visitor or some kind of group activity as an extra bonus for the preschoolers. We would like to say thank you to Starlite the clown for coming for the kids during August. She made balloon animals for the kids and was such a delight!

Preschool story time is always held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and is geared towards preschool aged children. It includes stories, a craft, song and dance, and games related to our theme. A complete list and description of upcoming story time events, as well other library related events, can be found on our webpage by going to [www.longbeach.lib.ms.us](http://www.longbeach.lib.ms.us).

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# Dr. Stephens longest-serving pastor at First Baptist

By Guest Columnist Donald Dana

When Dr. LaRue Stephens walked to the pulpit of First Baptist Church Long Beach on the first Sunday this past July and began the morning sermon, Pastor Stephens and the church reached two significant and historical milestones.

Dr. Stephens completed in July his twentieth year as church pastor, preaching his first sermon on Sunday, July 6, 1997. Historically, First Baptist Church Long Beach, was established in 1909, and Dr. Stephens has now served longer than any pastor in that 107 years!

“Brother LaRue,” as he is often called by church members, grew up on a farm in the small community of Silver Creek in Lawrence County

and graduated from New Hebron High School. After graduating from Clarke College in Newton and Mississippi College at Clinton, he began ministerial studies at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He earned a Master of Divinity degree in 1986 and his Ph.D. in 1994 from the seminary.

Since being licensed and ordained by Crooked Creek Baptist Church, he has served as Youth Minister, Education Minister, and Pastor in eight Mississippi Churches. His first pastorate was at Strong River Baptist Church in Pinola in Simpson County from 1979-1980. He was serving as Pastor of McDowell Road Baptist Church in Jackson when he was contacted in 1997

by a Pastor Search Committee from First Baptist Church Long Beach.

“After the committee heard me preach at McDowell Road and during a follow-up interview, I explained to them that if I was called by God to Long Beach,

but perhaps none more daunting than Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The storm extensively gutted and structurally weakened beyond repair the church worship center and all six buildings comprising the campus along Jeff Davis Avenue and Fifth Street.

“As if God spoke to me, I realized He had removed the walls that separated our church from the community. Our church’s mission from that time forward was to actively reach out to the people and let everyone wit-

aid through the distribution center and nearly 150 work groups helped over 575 families in the Long Beach and Gulf Coast region.

For more than two years. Dr. Stephens, along with dedicated Deacons, teachers, and volunteer church members, held Sunday morning services and Bible classes in the Long Beach Middle School gymnasium and classrooms. During this time, he and a Church Building Committee, following God’s guidance under the theme, “His Church Rising,” supervised the location and construction of new worship center and educational facilities on Cleveland Avenue. They were dedicated on Aug. 24, 2008.

Since that time, Dr. Stephens’s ministry has expanded, reaching out and witnessing about Jesus to not only residents of Long Beach and the Mississippi Gulf Coast, but also to people in other countries.

“In 2014, First Baptist Long Beach started a partnership with Bertin Baptist Church in Bertin, Haiti,” he explains. “We have sent 11 teams to Haiti, and our twelfth team will return in November.”

The church ministries include medical clinics, women’s conferences, youth camps, children’s ministries, handicap ministries, tree-planting teams, and disaster relief following Hurricane Matthew last year.”

Dr. Stephens says he is looking forward to many more years of service at Long Beach First Baptist. “I don’t know what will happen in the coming years, but I know God has a plan for Sandi and me. Whatever it is, I am excited, because God will be challenging and inspiring us to even greater service for his Kingdom.”



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Pictured (l to r) at First Baptist Pre-School are Macie Edwards, Trinity Jenkins, Dr. LaRue Stephens, and David Deschenes.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

He would be sending a team—myself and my wife Sandi! She has always been an important part of my ministry.” Sandi, his high school sweetheart, and LaRue have been married for nearly 42 years. They have two daughters, four grandsons, and one granddaughter.

Today, in addition to serving on various church committees, Sandi leads a Single Mom Ministry and teaches a weekly Bible study. More than 85 women are enrolled in her Sunday morning Bible Study class.

Dr. Stephens, since becoming pastor at First Baptist Long Beach, has faced many challenges during his 20-year tenure,

ness God’s glory.”

Under Stephens’ leadership following the storm, the church established a food and clothing distribution center operated by volunteer church members. A mobile medical clinic was set up, and church deacons and out-of-town volunteers organized and directed the work of chainsaw teams, roofing teams, sheetrock teams, and cleaning teams. It is estimated that over 22,000 people received

•••••  
• **Long Beach Chamber of Commerce Presents Breakfast with LBSD Superintendent Dr. Jay Smith, Sept. 19. Networking and Breakfast starting at 7:30 am followed by program at 8 am at the USM Gulf Park campus in the Hardy Hall Ballroom.**  
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# LB center offers seniors wide array of activities

*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

The Long Beach Senior Center offers an array of activities to help citizens maintain a healthy lifestyle. The wonderful ceramic program is supervised by an instructor with over 25 years of experience. The visitors say they always enjoy getting a fresh cup of coffee and sitting down to play a friendly game of cards or dominoes. Some may just like to sit and work on a jigsaw puzzle. Once a week, they have either a bingo or bunco game with various donated prizes.

For the more active seniors, there are treadmills, elliptical machines and stationary bikes to enjoy. Also available is an indoor, climate-con-

instructor visits two days a week for people interested in a less stressful workout.

The Senior Center strives to provide information on services that may be available to them. Each month, representatives from various agencies are invited to talk about the program which they have to offer.

Occasionally, the Center will go on field trips to join other Coast seniors. Seniors have been to Valentine's Day dances, Mardi Gras celebrations, Thanksgiving feasts and Christmas parties.

Anyone over fifty is welcome to come in for a visit and join the fun and fellowship. Complimentary

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trolled walking track in the gym. For the more adventurous, there is an outdoor walking track that is just over a mile long. A Tai Chi

bus service to and from the Center is provided for Long Beach residents that do not have their own transportation.

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