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March 20, 2021 • Volume 5, Number 3 • “Good News You Can Use”

Long Beach leaders discuss proposed food truck ordinance

By Andy Kanengiser

Food trucks are increasingly becoming a growing part of the way people across the U.S. satisfy their taste buds.

People attending community festivals, concerts and other outdoor attractions are seeing more food trucks show up. Such vehicles, well-stocked with a variety of food, drinks and delicious snacks, can be found across the Magnolia State. Operators of these small businesses are located in cities including Hattiesburg and Jackson, as well as Gulf Coast communities like Waveland, Biloxi and Gulfport.

At a workshop on April 13, Long Beach Mayor George Bass and the Board of Aldermen will hear from City planners to begin talks to study the idea of a proposed truck ordinance for the Friendly City. The work session event at City Hall on Jeff Davis Avenue begins at 5 p.m., and the public is invited.

It's just a first step in what could be a lengthy approval process. Like any issue, there are pros and cons.

Should food trucks become a thing in Long Beach? An ordinance would address a host of items, such as permit fees,

cont. on page 11



Beach Dawgs owner Anthony Kunh

Photo by Dom Fimiano

Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce showcases Long Beach Police and Fire Chiefs

By Andy Kanengiser

Long Beach Fire Chief Griff Skellie and Police Chief Billy Seal face incredible challenges year-round, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

It's a job both Long Beach leaders take on with determination and hard work as they serve citizens in the Friendly City.

A Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce forum gave local citizens a better idea of the priorities on the agenda for both department chiefs in 2021. The vehicle was a live Zoom broadcast the pro-business organization sponsored on

March 4.

“Thanks for all you do for our community,” Gabrielle Rose of the Chamber told the leaders early in the live one-hour program on social media.

Dollars going to police and fire departments are never enough to meet all the needs of communities spanning the U.S. That's the case on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

The Long Beach Fire Department budget is \$2.5 million annually, with the bulk of it going for personnel. The Long Beach Police Department

budget sits in the neighborhood of \$3 million per year.

No matter what's the bottom line,

or the day of the week, the City departments do the best they can under difficult circumstances. Officials were up against Hurricane Zeta, icy roads during a February winter cold snap and COVID-19 for more than a year. The latter slammed the economy, put millions of people out of work, and cut critical community services.

Speaking about the impact of COVID-19, Skellie says cutting services “is not something we want to do.” Amid the global health emergency, Long Beach citizens “are very understanding – they are very supportive of us.”

That attitude, he said, makes it eas-

ier for Long Beach firefighters to do their jobs.

COVID-19 has impacted firefighters in many ways, including training. That's obvious when they engage in training maneuvers outdoors.

“We are just trying to stay distanced,” the chief said. “It's not fun.”

With three different COVID-19 vaccines now getting into millions of arms across the country, officials desire a return to normalcy.

“We'd love to be back to normal, but I don't know when,” Chief

Skellie said.

The pandemic has required fire-

cont. on page 2



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cont. from page 1

Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce showcases Long Beach Police and Fire Chiefs

fighters to spray their fire engines, vehicles and equipment at every shift to keep everything disinfected.

Chief Billy Seal and his officers address issues like animal control, as well as trying to curb illegal drugs in South Mississippi. Drugs pour into the region from other countries and states.

Law enforcement officers are seeing more heroin and bad Pentothal enter the area. "It is scary," Seal said. It drives up drug overdoses and threatens lives.

Chief Skellie was asked about one problem that firefighters nationwide are often asked to solve.

Do Long Beach firefighters still rescue cats lodged in trees?

"We don't have the resources for it," Skellie said. He believes most cats will eventually hop down once the animals get hungry.

Long Beach police officers, meanwhile, do what they can when they receive reports of missing pets.

On another topic, both Skellie and Seal are seeking to hire good people to beef up their City departments.

"We are constantly trying to hire," Seal said. In early March, there were three applications turned in for four vacancies. "It is hard to hire right now."

The Fire Department will soon have an opening this spring, with more expected as firefighters retire.

One of the Long Beach Fire Department's priorities includes improving the city's fire rating. Another is to obtain a new fire engine. The last model purchased was a 2013 pumper.

Alderman-at-large Donald Frazer said he believes the Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce forum is an excellent way to inform citizens.

"It is always a good tale for the community to see what is going on behind the scenes," he said. "I think our chief of police and fire chief do a great job."

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Reading books encouraged for month of April

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn, LBPL Youth and Technology Services

Hello, Long Beach!

As a reminder, check out the “Booklists” tab on our card catalog. It is located on the right-hand side next to “What’s Popular” and “What’s New.” Each month, our staff puts together new lists for our patrons and features them under the “Booklists” tab. So, if you have binge watched everything you can possibly take and are ready to pick up a good book and relax, well, April is the month for you to do just that. After all, International Children’s Book Day is April 2, National Library Week is April 4-10, and, even better, National Drop Everything and Read Day is on April 12!

The Long Beach Board of Trustees will meet again at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13.

The Long Beach Library Book Club will hold its next

meeting via Zoom at 9 a.m. on Thursday, April 22.

They will be discussing *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin. To participate in the meeting, contact Sue Caldarelli by email at dcaldarelli@hotmail.com. She will give you further instructions on how to participate.

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

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

The library will be closed on Monday, April 26, for a state holiday but will reopen on Tuesday, April 27, at 9 a.m.

Thank you for your patronage, and stay safe!



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Project Update

On behalf of the Parrish family and Staff, we appreciate your continued support and patience.

Parrish's restaurant is in hopes to have all renovations completed with an opening in the month of May. There was extensive architectural and structural damage exceeding \$900,000.00.

We have engaged the services of Dale Partners Architects for an exciting new outside elevated dining deck overlooking the marina as part of our renovation, and for your enjoyment. They are the same firm partnering in the architectural design of the Southern Sands Casino.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the City of Long Beach candidates for alderman: Donald Frazer, Junior Husband, and Patrick Bennett, for their guidance and assistance in the reopening of Parrish's Restaurant.

Lee Parrish, General Manager



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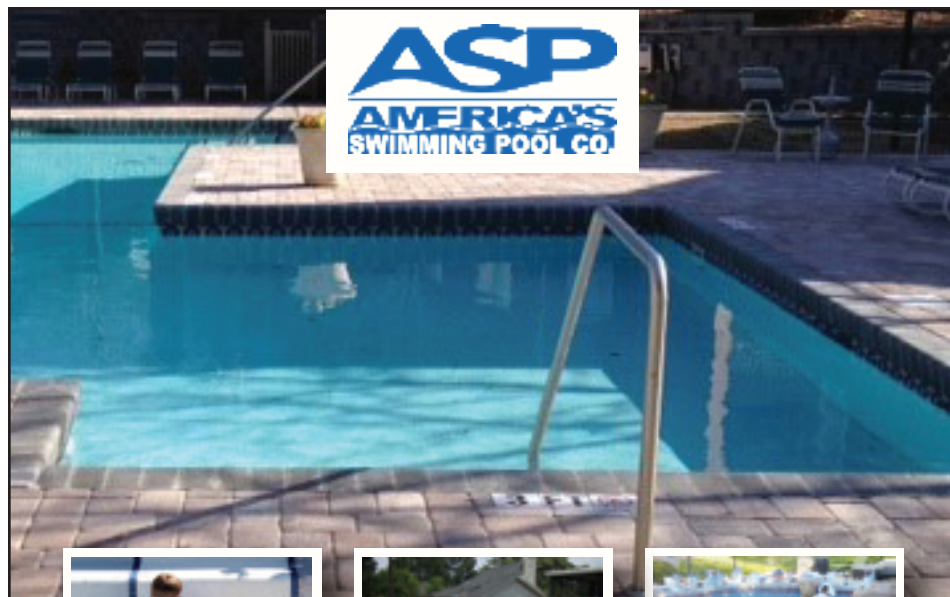
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Author visits with Coast Episcopal School students



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Recently, Coast Episcopal School students were excited to hear from visiting author Stephanie Anne Box. Box is the author of a new book about robotics engineer Ayanna Howard, part of Rourke Educational Media's series on women in science and technology. She spoke to CES's first- through eighth-grade classes and answered many questions from curious students.



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Long Beach boys and girls track teams shine during 2021 season



Photo by Dom Fimiano



Photo by Dom Fimiano

By Andy Kanengiser

Long Beach High track teams never seem to rest very long or take leisurely vacations.

It just seems to be part of the DNA of the 2021 Long Beach track and field team led by head coach Charles Allen. The goal for the new season isn't too complicated, but it is succeeding.

"Student-athletes are expected to compete to their best ability," Coach Allen says.

The Bearcats typically experience March as their busiest track month. That included the 3:30 p.m. meet on March 11 at the West Harrison High Hurricanes track in Gulfport. That's followed by the March 20 all-state relays at Ocean Springs High. The Biloxi High "Sabbatini Relays" is booked for March 25.

It doesn't slow down in April for the Maroon and White. During spring break, Long Beach athletes run their fastest at the Mobile Challenge of Champions April 2. Spectators will be limited at the Alabama event presented by the Mobile Sports Authority.

"There are no vacations for track team members," says assistant track coach Erin Biancamano.

Later in the month, the Bearcats will seek first-place finishes at the 5A district meet in Hattiesburg April 8, and regionals on April 15 also in the Forrest County city. The South State competition is set for April 24 at a site to be announced. The MHSAA state championships will be Saturday, May 1, at Pearl High.

Biancamano knows the Long Beach High track teams very well, especially daughters Brooklyn Biancamano (Class of 2022) and Camdyn Biancamano (Class of 2023). Camdyn is also a Lady Bearcats soccer player.

Both girls and boys track teams shined at the Rock-A-Chaw Relays on February 27 at the St. Stanislaus School in Bay St. Louis.

During that winter meet on a Saturday, several Bearcats recorded

their season bests at Rock-A-Chaw Stadium.

Season bests for the Long Beach boys at Bay St. Louis included senior Arnage Caston with the high jump and triple jump; junior A.J. Allen with the long jump; seniors Johnny Pham on pole vault, along with Julien Taylor tossing the shot put. Junior Richard Bourland excelled with the discus.



Photo by Dom Fimiano

Recording season bests for the girls team were Natalie Crapps of the Class of 2024 on the triple jump, junior Marlanna Moore on the long jump and high jump, along with senior Jakiyah Holland on the shot put and discus.

At the March 6 meet at Pass Christian, the Bearcats also stepped up their game. There's a long list of first place runners, including Muonie Pickens and Amaru Jones in the 100; Muonie Pickens and Arnage Caston in the 200; Brooklyn Biancamano in the 1600 and 3200 meter races, along with Nathaniel Mink in the 800. Other first-place winners were Johnnie Pham in the pole vault, Arnage Caston competing in the long jump and Jakiyah Holland tossing the shot put.

The Long Beach boys and girls achieved first-place finish-

es in relays, too.

Besides the COVID-19 pandemic that's facing so many people across the globe, it's been a season of challenges for Long Beach track teams.

The Long Beach High track on the East Pass Road campus is unusable in 2021. The problem resulted from a water pipe leak under the track.

"The pipe is broken because of the winter freeze," Coach Allen said. That required workers to dig up a section of the track to get to the leak. As a result, Long Beach school officials cancelled all three home meets this season. That included the Olan Welch Invitational in the Friendly City. Across Mississippi, many cities were hard hit by the February ice, sleet and snow.



Lam and McDonald named National Merit Finalists

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Two Long Beach High School Bearcats, seniors Austin Lam and Jack McDonald, have been selected as National Merit Finalists. The National Merit Scholarship Corpora-



Special to Long Beach Breeze/Courtesy LBSD

Austin Lam

tion recently announced 15,000 high school students as Finalists, selected based on their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for



Special to Long Beach Breeze/Courtesy LBSD

Jack McDonald

some 7,000 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$30 million that will be offered this spring.

To be considered for a National Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition.

Over ninety percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and more than half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

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With a graduation rate of 94.2%, Long Beach School District ranks #9 in the state in graduation rates and is the only school district on the Gulf Coast to rank in the Top 10.

The district is also in the Top 5 school districts statewide with an average ACT score of 20.4.

Congratulations to all of the Bearcats -- especially to the students, teachers, teachers' assistants and staff!



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Garden Club beautifies Long Beach

By Taylor McKay Hathorn

After a date change due to the freezing temperatures that swept across the state in mid-February, the Long Beach Garden Club hosted its Arbor Day commemoration at F.E.T.C.H. Park, the town's dog park. Two members of the Long Beach Tree Board were on hand during the festivities to present the Club with a flag and a plaque from the Arbor Day Foundation acknowledging the group's thirty-year commitment to planting trees in the coastal community.

"It was really a surprise," Long Beach Garden Club President Debbie Cox says of the recognition. "It was an honor."

After the presentation, the Club presented an honor of their own: a live oak tree planted in honor of Officer Kerry Hall, an animal control officer with the City of Long Beach. Wendy Wagner, the founder of Batman Animal Rescue Foundation, spoke during the tree-planting ceremony, sharing her memories of Hall's work with her own cat, Batman, who was a rescue animal that Hall rehabilitated.

Hall is not the first person to be honored in this way, as the Long Beach Garden Club has planted two trees in memory of coastal residents, and just last year, the Club planted a tree in a different area of the dog park in honor of Barbara Reed, the park's founder. While Cox says that the Club "hasn't decided yet" if the tree dedications will be a yearly

event for the horticulture enthusiasts, the Club has plenty of other events to keep them busy throughout the year.

"Our organization is committed to doing projects in the city itself," Cox says of the group she's spearheaded for the last six years. One such project is the garden that the Club maintains near Long Beach's children's library, where they also host events during the summer reading program for area youth. Last year, the reading program was a drive-through due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the Club was undeterred, providing children with bags of sunflower seeds to plant, along with a plethora of sunflower-themed crafts.

Cox notes that Club members also try to educate themselves, as the group holds monthly educational meetings on different phases of gardening, such as herbs, vegetables and florals. Sessions on floral design have been a favorite amongst Club members, with the group donating their creations to area nursing homes at the end of such sessions.


"Some people say, 'We don't know enough!' when they talk about joining, but that's the reason to be in the garden club," Cox concludes.

Long Beach residents interested in joining the Garden Club can message the group on Facebook at "Long Beach (Miss.) Garden Club." The group's next meeting will feature a beekeeper, who is scheduled to discuss planting tips for gardeners hoping to attract honeybees.

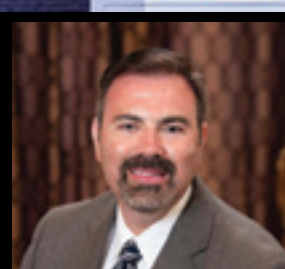


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Long Beach Garden Club members recently planted a tree at F.E.T.C.H. Dog Park in honor of Long Beach animal control officer Kerry Hall.




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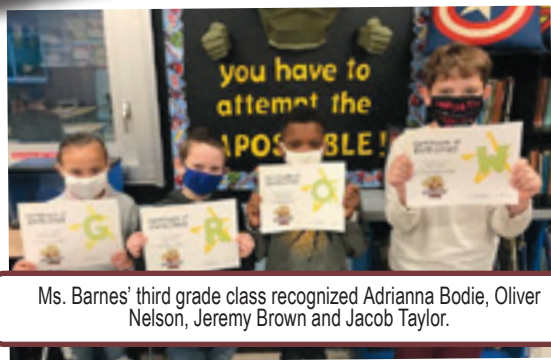


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Quarles students celebrated with GROW program

All photos Special to Long Beach Breeze



Ms. Barnes' third grade class recognized Adrianna Bodie, Oliver Nelson, Jeremy Brown and Jacob Taylor.



Ms. Bond's second grade class recognized Daisy Gaskin, Harmony Moore, Isabella Bentz and Reese Walker.



Ms. Case's third grade class recognized Nyke Chapman, Jesse Guzman, Ava Parks and Erica Magee.



Ms. de los Santos' third grade class recognized Aubrey Shaw, Presley Cook, Bentley Rosner and Auden Boudreaux.

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



Ms. Dickerson's third grade class recognized Rowan Glascoe, Makayla Wayne, Alexiyah Dedeaux and Isabella Franciosa (not pictured)



Ms. Frederick's third grade class recognized Alana Stephens, Bristol Madigan, Caleb Childress and Randall Most.



Ms. Heggins' second grade class recognized Zachary Hoffman, Brendon Wood, Allie Satterfield and Kylee Thompson.



Ms. Nabors' second grade class recognized Davlia Gaskin, Aiden LeMieux, Rylan Lacap and Levi Mitchell (not pictured).



Ms. Spence's second grade class recognized Kayleigh Barnes, Olivia Mitchell, Sofia Smith and Morgan Muesall.



Ms. Torgesen's second grade class recognized Benjamin Bogner, Violet Kozlowski, Luca Gaziano and Carsyn Louviere.

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- Resolving zoning issues throughout the Ward and city
- Improving traffic flow at major intersections
- Maintaining drainage canals to prevent flooding
- Growing tax revenue streams through responsible growth
- Completing a safe path for students between Harper McCaughan and Quarles schools
- Holding quarterly Town Hall meetings with the residents of Ward 6

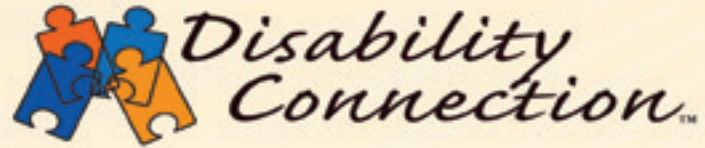
As a multi-generational, lifelong resident of Long Beach, I am committed to continuing the growth and success of our city. My experiences in both the professional and personal fields include:

- A 9-year marriage to Kali Sea Tide Husband, also a multi-generational, lifelong Long Beach resident
- Proud father of Lily B, and Kacie, 7 months
- Graduate of LBHS Class of 2006
- 2nd Generation Long Beach business owner
- Licensed General Contractor
- Current Ward 6 Planning and Development Commissioner
- Former Vice President of Long Beach Port Commission
- 4 years served in communications at Gulfport Police Department
- Current, AI&T Services Technician of 10 years focusing on servicing the infrastructure of the city
- Member of Long Beach Carnival Association
- Sponsor of Long Beach Athlettes
- Active Parishioner of St. Thomas Catholic Church



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Information is available to plan your travels: 3 Film Documentaries, 41 Mini-films, and over 160 pages of information on the places and people who are part of our heritage including the places to visit that are barrier-free and have special accommodations for travelers with disabilities.

Films have been produced by Disability Connection in partnership with Walt Grayson, featured state-wide host of *Looking Around and Mississippi Roads*.

MS Coast Heritage Information Center is developed to preserve and promote the heritage areas of South Mississippi through educating and connecting the public to the cultural, historical, recreational, and scenic resources. It hosts the stories of the people: their cultural and ethnic heritages, their industries, churches, traditions, foods, festivals, and events that are still present to enjoy today. The Center connects people to their roots and celebrates diversity. It features the Native American, French, Irish, Spanish, Danish, Croatian, Greek, Italian, African-American, Indian, Jewish, Vietnamese, German, Lebanese, and more.

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44 Film Documentaries



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Mississippi



Mississippi Coast National Heritage Area

The MS Coast Heritage Information Center has been made possible by a grant to Disability Connection from the MS Coast National Heritage Area.

For information on the

Mississippi Coast National Heritage Area visit <http://msgulfcoastheritage.ms.gov/>

cont. from page 1

Long Beach leaders discuss proposed food truck ordinance

a business license and health inspections. The document would spell out everything from A to Z regarding how food trucks can operate.

Some members of the City's Board of Aldermen say they will need more information before they can tackle the subject in early March. Other City officials note that whatever proposed ordinance is brought forward at the April work session would be subject to change.

Across the country, there were more than 24,600 active food trucks in January 2021, with reports showing that about 30,000 people work in the industry nationwide. The industry's average annual growth before the COVID-19 pandemic was 7.5

percent. The food truck market business in 2020 exceeded \$1.2 billion in market worth. Officials in 2021 predict a yearly growth of 2.4 percent.

Kathy Kuhn and her husband, Anthony, are the co-owners of Beach Dawgs in Harrison County. It is a moveable food cart, not a truck, that operates on the parking lot near Dollar General in Long Beach every other Saturday. The cart moves around to do business at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi and the Seabees Base on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Their Mom and Pop business sells hot dogs, smoked sausages, quarter-pound burgers and more to Gulf Coast customers. "Food trucks would not hurt

our business," says Kathy Kuhn, a Long Beach resident. "We are not a food truck, but I would be totally for it. Everybody wants them."

Well, not everybody. "Some restaurants would say absolutely not," adds Kuhn, a native New Yorker.

Typically, the special menus at food trucks feature tasty items that are more affordable to make and cheaper for customers to buy compared to restaurants.

Food trucks, Kathy said, would be a "great option" to have for Long Beach at future events attracting crowds, such as concerts and downtown parades.

The COVID-19 pandemic took its toll on America's food

truck development in 2020, with crowd sizes reduced to meet health protocols and many community festivals cancelled. But the global health emergency won't last forever. Millions of Americans are weekly receiving COVID-19 vaccines to diminish the number of new coronavirus cases.

Food truck supporters estimate an investment of less than \$100,000 is needed to get the business off the ground, including equipment. Keeping costs low, food trucks usually operate with very few employees, with the owners usually on site to do the cooking and serving. People between the ages of 18 and 34 are most likely to grab a meal from a food truck.

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

Long Beach Bearcats baseball team hits the home stretch

By Andy Kanengiser

Nearing the home stretch of the 2021 season, Coach Garrett LaRosa's Long Beach High School baseball team is loaded with young talent.

As the Bearcats head into the latter part of their spring schedule, Adam Krol and Brent Garner are listed as the two seniors on the Bearcats baseball roster.

Wearing No. 18, Krol is a pitcher and first baseman. Number 4, Garner is a versatile short-stop and pitcher.

On the highlight reel this season, the Bearcats defeated Hancock 8-4 on home turf on March 5. Other memorable moments: Bearcat Ashton Schepens hit a walk off single against Gulf Coast rival Pass Christian to knock in two runs in a thrilling 5-4 road win on February 26. A sophomore who wears No. 12, Schepens plays outfield and pitches.

Making a short trip along U.S. 90, Long Beach belted Pass Christian by a score of 15-2 on February 23. Both were non-district games. A heartbreaking 12-11 loss at home against non-conference foe Stone County of Wiggins followed on March 6.

Bearcats fans should easily recognize No. 5 Charlie Starita. He's a utility infielder and pitcher for the Long Beach baseball team. Starita is a junior, so the starting signal caller will again suit up for the football team as a senior next year.

Long Beach High fans will have more opportunities to cheer on the Maroon & White during upcoming home games in late March and April.

On Saturday, March 20, the Bearcats host Gulfport on the campus at 300 East Old Pass Road. The JV game starts at 11 a.m., with the varsity contest at 1 p.m.

Saturday March 27, Long Beach will be at home to face St. Martin High of Ocean Springs. The JV game is at 11 a.m., and the varsity plays at 1 p.m.

There's more to come in April. On Saturday, April 3, Long Beach tangles with Vanleave



Special to Long Beach Breeze

LBHS baseball Coach LaRosa

on the road in Jackson County. The Bearcats return home to host the Hattiesburg Tigers on Tuesday, April 6. The JV game begins at 5 p.m., and the varsity is set for 7 p.m.

On Friday, April 16, the Bearcats are home to face Picayune with the JV game at 5 p.m., and the varsity at 7 p.m. Pascagoula will be in the Friendly City on April 17 to battle Long Beach. JV plays at 11 a.m., and the varsity at 1 p.m. The Hattiesburg Tigers travel on U.S. 49 to Bearcats Country on Tuesday, April 20. JV boys play at 5 p.m., and varsity squads meet at 7 p.m.

A final home game of the 2021 season sees Long Beach and Biloxi High play ball on Monday, April 26. Game times are 5 p.m. for the JV squad and 7 p.m. for the varsity.

The first round of the MHSAA high school playoffs is set for April 29 through May 1. Following round three, the South State games run from May 20 through 22. The MHSAA baseball championships will be May 25 through 29.



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Robotics team headed to championship



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach Middle School First Lego League (FLL) Robotics Team #909 is advancing to the Remote Mississippi RePlay Championship later this month. Team members include Ethan Bulot, Angelic Del Duco, Ava Kline, Madalyn Nguyen, and Melody Wittmann.



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Seabee Memorial Chapel partners with Long Beach food pantry

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Helping those in need, physically, emotionally and spiritually, is one of the goals of the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps and the staff at the Seabee Memorial Chapel onboard the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC).

One of the ways the chapel staff helps to minister to Sailors, Marines and their families is through food donations they can take through the Feds Feed Families program.

According to the Feds Feed Families website, this program is an annual government-wide campaign that encourages employees from all federal departments and agencies to give in-kind contributions – food, service and time – to food banks and pantries.

Chapel staff initially kept donated food in one of the storage rooms in the base chapel, using it as a makeshift food pantry. One issue the staff ran across was that the room was not really equipped with the proper facilities to store food over long periods of time. Rather than let food go to waste, the chapel staff decided to start providing donated food to a local food bank, namely the Long Beach Community Food Pantry, through the Feds Feed Families program.

“The way the Feds Feed Families program works is that you can basically pick any local food bank in your area and donate food to it, and then you can go back to the Feds Feed Families Hub online and record how much food was actually donated... and you could even note that this is being done on behalf of the Navy, and even mention what base and unit you are a part of,” said Religious Program Specialist 2nd Class Tyler Tharp, one of the staff members at the Seabee Memorial Chapel. “We wanted to make sure we were doing the right thing, so we said, ‘Hey, why not donate it to an actual food bank,’ and, through the Feds Feed Families Program, we’re able to do that.”

The chapel began participating in the Feds Feed Family food drive campaign several years ago; the campaign usually takes place within a certain time frame each year, depending on the dates set for that year. Tharp noted that after doing a little research, he discovered that donations could still be made to local food banks year-round (not just during the timeframe for the annual food drive) and still be counted as donations made through the Feds Feed Families program. As such, the chapel staff continued to bring donated food items to the Long Beach Community Food Pantry throughout the year in support of this program.

Tharp noted that many of the people who volunteer at the Long Beach Community Food Bank are prior military and were happy to receive donations from the Seabee base. The president of the food pantry, Sidney Wedgeworth, is himself an Air Force veteran who served down the road at Keesler Air Force Base (AFB) in Biloxi,

Mississippi, from 1955 to 1959. He welcomed the relationship the food pantry has with the chapel and the Seabee community, as well as the greater community along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

“All of the community together have helped to make this a great effort and a great organization,” said Wedgeworth. “We really do appreciate all the help and all the donations we get. We have a very good relationship with the chapel, and we welcome that anytime.”

Wedgeworth mentioned that the food pantry can sometimes feed up to twenty-five families a day with the donations it receives, and on average it feeds around 3,500 families a year. The pantry is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Command Chaplain Mark Torres noted two ways that NCBC personnel can provide donations to chapel staff to contribute to the Long Beach Community Food Pantry.

“One way is that people can buy food pantry donation bags at the Commissary on base and give it to the Commissary staff, who will hold on to the donations there and then call us to come pick them up so we can take them to the food pantry [bags are located at the Commissary entrance and cost about \$10],” said Torres. “The other way is that people can just bring food directly to the chapel so that we can take it to the



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach pantry.”

Tharp mentioned that chapel staff usually try to bring donated food to the Long Beach Community Food Pantry every Friday. He noted that people wanting to donate should contribute non-perishable food items (can and dry goods, etc.) for chapel staff to bring to the food pantry.

“If people do have frozen meats or any other perishable items they would like to donate, I would recommend they take it directly to the food bank itself, since we don’t have the means to store that properly here at the chapel,” said Tharp.

Of course, Sailors, Marines, their families or anyone else who may be going through hard times and find themselves in need of a few extra items are welcome to visit the Long Beach Community Food Pantry and request food they may need.

Torres noted the overall benefits of donating food to the Long Beach Community Food Pantry through the Feds Feed Families program.

“This still allows us to fulfill the intent of meeting people’s needs by partnering with the Long Beach food pantry, and I think we’re doing that better now by creating this collaborative effort; because, in doing so, it’s creating a win-win for everybody involved, both on the Seabee base and in the local community,” said Torres.

The food pantry is located at 21081 Johnson Road, and volunteer staff can be reached at 228-861-1291. Further questions about food donations can be made to Seabee Memorial Chapel staff at 228-871-2454.

Long Beach girls softball attracts more than 200 players

By Andy Kanengiser

Team names like the Red Barons and the Mermaids are among the squads signed up for girls softball games in Long Beach this spring.

It's been an athletic tradition for Long Beach girls on the diamond for more than thirty years in the Friendly City. And the new spring season is set to begin with opening ceremonies on April 24. Practices have begun, and the players, as usual, are excited.

Like just about every organization these days, it never hurts to have extra cash on hand. During the first weekend in March, 23 softball travel teams from Mississippi towns and communities across state lines participated in a Long Beach tournament. Money raised will help the Long Beach Girls Softball League (LBGSL) develop better facilities for their favorite sport.

It's a league that's fueled by enthusiastic fans – from parents to grandparents, aunts and uncles. Tryouts began in late February for five-year-old girls on T-Ball squads through teens up to age sixteen. Typically, about 200 to 225 girls sign up for spring softball teams, league officials say.

It's a popular Mississippi Gulf Coast league that was forced to fold its tent in spring 2020 after a few practices, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

But with three COVID-19 vaccines now going to millions of Americans and the nation starting to see encouraging news that coronavirus case numbers will diminish, softball league supporters are hopeful in 2021.

Parents in this vibrant Harrison County community believe girls

softball is a solid investment. The fee is \$85 for the first child to register for ages 5 through 16. The fee is \$80 for the second child.

Once opening day happens on a Saturday in late April, the season will last six weeks. Game days are Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Make-up games are played on Wednesdays and Fridays, if necessary. The first games begin at 6 p.m.

League President Johnathan Malley and other leaders at headquarters at the Long Beach Recreation Center on Daugherty Road say they are excited as the new season nears. Facilities are being upgraded, and that difference will be noticeable to parents and other fans this spring.

"The fields will look fabulous this year," Malley says. The tournaments hosted in Long Beach, like the one in early March, will bring in money for facilities to make for the best possible experience for the girls, says the Long Beach firefighter.

Malley and other LBGSL officials are proud of the fact that some of these young softball players got their start in the league. Many of them go on to play in high school or in college. It's also a place where softball coaches develop their instructional and leadership skills on the diamond.

City alderman-at-large Donald Frazer is familiar with the league and its success stories spanning more than three decades.

"The softball league is very popular here, and we have tons of girls that go on to play in high school and in travel ball after learning in our league."

Coaches, parents, and fans keep tabs on developments in their league on the league's Facebook pages. For more information, visit <http://LBGSL.com/>, or call 228-679-9039.

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All photos by Lindy Sholes

The Long Beach Farmers' Market is open on Saturdays, rain or shine, from 8 a.m. until noon. The Long Beach Farmers' Market is located on the Long Beach Harper McCaughan Town Green. For more information, visit The Farmers Market at Long Beach on Facebook. For vendor inquiries, email tfmatlongbeach@gmail.com for an application packet. All arts and crafts must be handmade.



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Library gets new copy machine



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Friends of the Long Beach Public Library recently presented the library with a new copy machine. Pictured is Denise Saucier, library director, with the new machine. For more information about the Long Beach Public Library, call 228-863-0711.



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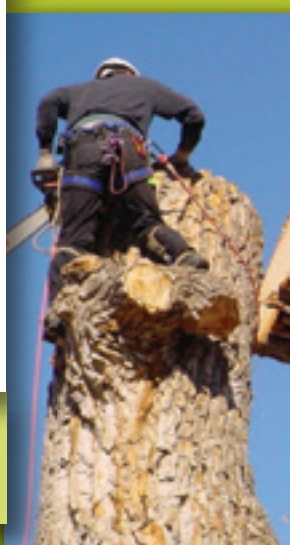
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Dinosaur experts share knowledge with classmates



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Coast Episcopal School second graders have been studying dinosaurs. Each student researched one dinosaur to become the class expert on it and created a Keynote presentation on an iPad about their dinosaur. They then spoke and presented in front of their classmates and families about their dinosaur. They also sculpted ceramic dinosaurs in art class and learned about paleontology in science lab as part of the school's integrative learning program.

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Leadership Gulf Coast accepting applications for Board of Trustees

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce is accepting nomination applications to serve as a member of the Leadership Gulf Coast (LGC) of Trustees for the term beginning July 1, 2021.

Board of Trustee members serve a minimum of one three-year term on the Board, attending board and related meetings on a regular basis. Most meetings last an hour. Board members also much commit to actively participate in (LGC) committee work, volunteer for assignments, and participate in the numerous activities that are involved in the organization, including recruitment and fund raising.

All applicants must be a member in good standing with the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce in order to be considered and must also be a graduate of Leadership Gulf Coast.

Complete applications will be accepted until Monday, March 29, at noon. All applicants will be notified of the outcome no later than May 3.

Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, Inc.



Completed nomination applications should be sent to info@ms-coastchamber.com or mailed or dropped off to the MS Gulf Coast

Chamber, 11975 Seaway Road, Suite B-120, Gulfport, MS 39503. Space is limited to what is provided on the application. No late applications can be accepted.

For more information, call 228-604-0014.

Finally First Friday set to resume May 7



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach Live will host their first concert of the 2021 season on Friday, May 7, at 7 p.m. at the Harper McCaughan Town Green on Jeff Davis Avenue, after a COVID-19-induced hiatus. The Lisa Lee Albritton Band will play from 7 until 10 p.m.

Future Long Beach Live concerts will include Starz on June 4, Category 6 on June 5 after the Jeepin' the Coast parade, the All Nighters on July 7, and Sons of Uh Beach on August 6. There will also be concerts on September 10 and October 1, with musical acts to be announced at a later date.

Long Beach families are encouraged to come out for Finally First Friday, which will feature live music starting at 7 p.m. Organizers say the evening is a good opportunity for residents to take it easy and relax and spend some time just enjoying the outdoors and the music.

For more information, call the City of Long Beach at 228-863-1556 or follow Long Beach Live on Facebook.

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