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January 20, 2020 • Volume 4, Number 1 • “Good News You Can Use”

Long Beach Mardi Gras parade celebrates 60 yrs.

By Sinclair Rishel

The season of Mardi Gras is near, and Long Beach is again getting decked out for the occasion. This year, Fat Tuesday will fall on February 25, but Long Beach will get an early start. The Long Beach Mardi Gras parade will be on Saturday, February 15, beginning at 6 p.m.

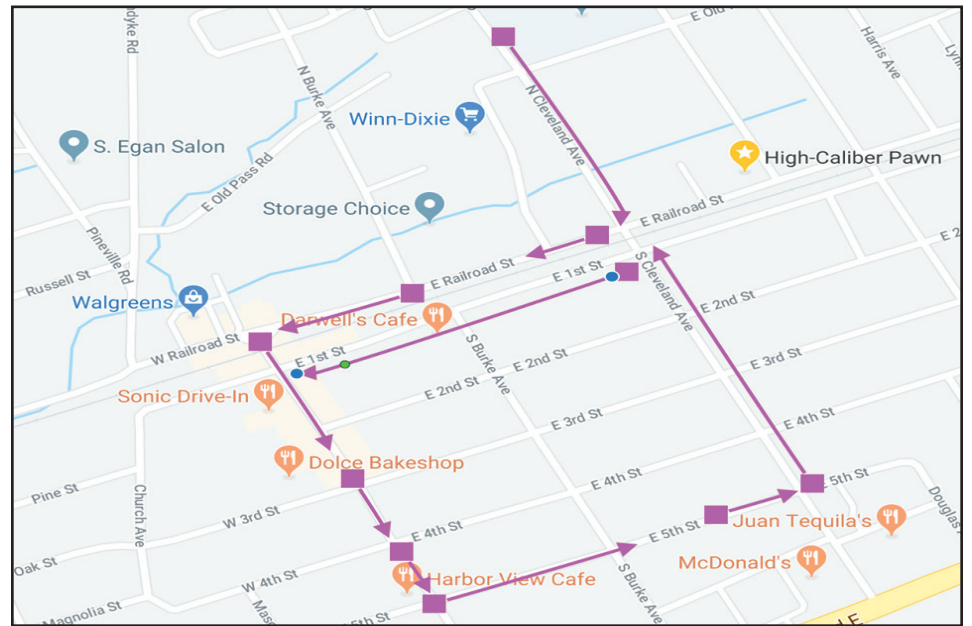
Mardi Gras is typically known as the time before Lent when Christians indulge in all the things they'll “give up” for Lent. Lent runs for forty days, not counting Sundays, after Ash Wednesday, and culminates in Easter Sunday. This year, Easter will fall on Sunday, April 12.

New Orleans is typically recog-

nized the center of Mardi Gras in the South, and that culture has spread to the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Every year, there are parades, parties and balls. The Long Beach Carnival Association will hold their Royal Coronation Ball the day before the parade, on Valentine's Day evening. The Carnival Association's website explains the Mardi Gras history as coming to the coast via Mobile Alabama.

Their website states, “Throughout the history of Europe, there is evidence of the celebration of Mardi Gras, which became permanently wedded to the three days preceding Ash Wednesday when Pope Gregory produced our pres-

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Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach Mardi Gras parade will be held on Saturday, February 15, at 6 p.m.

Long Beach service focus of Mayor's Youth Council

By Sinclair Rishel

The Mayor's Youth Council has been busy work around the city of Long Beach for a number of charity organizations. This Christmas season, they conducted a bicycle drive, working with various organizations to collect children's bicycles. They collected bikes from local businesses, families, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Long Beach schools.

“This is the second year the Youth Council has done the bike drive, and the project was all their idea,” says Jenny Levens, Community Affairs Director for



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Mayor's Youth Council collected eighty-three bicycles for the Long Beach community during their bike drive last month. The Council focuses on service projects through the year to benefit Long Beach.

the City of Long Beach. Drop off locations included the local fire and police departments, and the drive ran through December 13.

The drive was a resounding success, with eighty-three bikes collected for the community. The Mayor's Youth Council dropped off the bikes in plenty of time for them to be distributed for Christmas. The local schools and churches helped the Youth Council to get bikes sent out to families throughout the community.

But the bike drive is far from the only work the Mayor's Youth Council does. They work on service projects throughout the year

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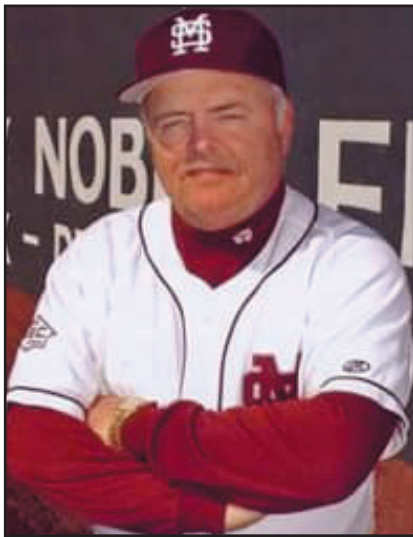
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LB baseball to host MSU Coach Polk for fundraiser

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The Long Beach Diamond Club will kick off Long Beach baseball's 2020 season by hosting long-time Mississippi State baseball coach Ron Polk on Sunday, February 17, at 6 p.m.

Known as the "Father of SEC Baseball," Polk has been a head coach for thirty-five seasons, including coaching for MSU, Georgia Southern and the University of Georgia. During his tenure, Polk's teams were 1,373 to 702-2. At Mississippi State, his teams won five SEC Tournament championships, made the NCAA Tournament twenty-three times and advanced



Special to Long Beach Breeze
MSU Coach Ron Polk will be in Long Beach on February 17.

to the College World Series eight times.


Tickets to the event are \$30, and each ticket includes admission, dinner from Murky Waters and an opportunity to hear NCAA Hall of Fame Coach Ron Polk speak. Polk will also hold a book signing afterwards.

The event will be held at St. Thomas Church Community Center, which is located at 720 East Beach Boulevard in Long Beach.

Tickets can be purchased by email to longbeachdiamondclub@gmail.com.

Tickets are also available from parents or players in the Long Beach baseball program.

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cont. from front page

Long Beach service focus of Mayor's Youth Council



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The City of Long Beach 2019 Mayor's Youth Council is made up of students from Long Beach High School and Our Lady of the Academy students in grades ten through twelve. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Cameran Savner, Marlee Schevers, Kayden Oberg and MaKenna Currie; and back row: Alexis Pouriraji, Ashlyn Elsworth, Julia Meadows, Sami Gundlach and Ashlynn Roswell. Not pictured are Kristina Dahl, Kameran Prestonbach, and Rylee McCaffrey.

to help the city of Long Beach. The group includes twelve students in tenth through twelfth grades, and they work with City officials to choose, organize and execute their service projects.

The Youth Council's 2020 project isn't decided yet.

"We'll meet in the next two weeks and talk about what we

want to do next," says Levens.

Last year, the Youth Council helped to collect Mardi Gras beads, an effort Harper McCaughan Elementary School helps with. The Youth Council set up collection centers around the city where people could drop off their unwanted beads after Mardi Gras. The beads were donated

to a center that sorts through the beads and retags the ones that are still in good shape. Those, they can bag and sell for a profit. The beads that aren't in good enough shape to be reused get repurposed, keeping lots of plastic out of the trash and waterways.

Students in tenth through twelfth grades who are interested in join-

ing the Mayor's Youth Council are encouraged to contact Levens at jenny@cityoflongbeachms.com. Residents can follow the activities of the Youth Council through the Mayor's Office Facebook page, where there will be information about how to get involved with their upcoming charity projects.



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Little Lending Library unites churches for literacy

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Once upon a time, in the town of Gulfport, there was a school in need of a library. There was also a church wanting to plant the seed of reading in young people. In 2010, 28th Street Elementary School's Library was in dire need of books, so

five of the "little libraries" in schools across Gulfport (Central, 28th Street, Pass Road, Anniston Avenue, and West - the former Gaston Point Elementary School). While that is a story in itself, it doesn't end there.

After "planting" libraries at Gulfport schools, built by members of The Nourishing Place, there was one remaining, and it needed a home. Marta Knowlton, a member

So Knowlton approached Mt. Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church in Long Beach, where she lives, and the union between The Nourishing Place and



Eileen Whittemore and Brenda Boothe, along with Bill Brazell, a Retired Seabee and builder of the mini-libraries, all from The Nourishing Place, donated and raised funds for library books. Today, the Gulfport School District has at least

of The Nourishing Place, wanted it in her front yard, but learned it was not easily accessible and potentially dangerous.



All Photos Special to Long Beach Breeze

Mt. Pilgrim was born. Recently, Mt. Pilgrim and The Nourishing Place had a formal "planting" of the little library at 306 Church Street, in Long Beach. Members of both congregations and children of all ages were present to celebrate the "planting" of the little library as a gift to the children of Long Beach

to promote reading literacy. Deacon Ronnie Moody of Mt. Pilgrim notes that kids throughout the

Long Beach community are welcome to use the little library. "They can take the book home; it's theirs to read, and then bring it back and get another," said Moody. The two churches are united in giving the free small library to the public in Long Beach, so the seeds of reading are nurtured and multiplied.

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cont. from front page

LB Mardi Gras parade celebrates 60 yrs.

ent calendar around 600 AD. On Mardi Gras Day, 1699, the French explorer Iberville camped near the mouth of the Mississippi River and named the site Point du Mardi Gras, and a few years later, the festival was later first celebrated in Mobile, Alabama in 1704.”

This year’s parade will mark the sixtieth anniversary of the Carnival Association of Long Beach.

In 1960, a small group of mothers whose children attended St. Thomas Elementary School recognized a need for a source of continuing funds to finance the betterment of the quality of education for their children, so they undertook the task of sponsoring an annual Carnival Ball to coincide with Mardi Gras Season. A contest was held to set a standard name for the King and Queen of Carnival, and Miss Mary Boggs submitted the names of Scott and Rosalie, because the Long Beach Community was first known as Scott’s Station and Rosalie.

By 1964, the small club of ladies had generated so much interest that it had become a community affair, and the name was changed from the St. Thomas Mother’s Club to Carnival Association of Long Beach. By 1979, the organization had spread coast-wide and became officially incorporated by obtaining chartered status as legitimate tax-exempt charitable organization.

This year’s King Scott LX and Queen Rosalie 2020 are Jennifer Glen and Rik Dew.

The parade will begin around 6 p.m. and will start and end on Cleveland Avenue. The parade will run down 1st Street, Jeff Davis Avenue, and East Railroad.



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Queen Rosalie 2020 Jennifer Glen and King Scott LX Rick Dew

Parade applications are available on the Carnival Association’s website. Entrance fees received before January 31 are \$125. Applications received after that date will require an entrance fee of \$150.

All parade entries must build up the sides of their float so that people viewing the parade cannot reach into the float. On-board music is allowed, provided it is family-appropriate and does not exceed or overpower other floats’ on-board music. Mobile units that are decorated to conform to the walking unit may accompany all walking units, but float entries are not allowed to have separate walking units.

The maximum height (including riders) allowed for a float is fourteen feet. The maximum length

(including towing vehicle) is sixty-five feet. Any second level riders must have adequate railings around them to protect against falling.

Riders cannot hang out of the sides of the float or stand on the rails, and all floats must have adequate skirting around the bottom of the float.

A mandatory Captain’s Meeting will be held on February 12 at 6 p.m. in the Long Beach High School parking lot for those participating in the parade. Floats will be in position on parade day no later than 4:30 p.m.

A full list of rules and the parade application is available on the Carnival Association of Long Beach website at: www.LongBeachCarnival.com.

Donald Frazer offers 2020 look ahead

By Donald Frazer, City of Long Beach Alderman at Large

As 2019 ends and 2020 starts, we have many things to look forward to.

One of the first things citizens will see is continuation of our city’s paving project. The City has completed



Donald Frazer

Special to Long Beach Breeze

part one of seven groupings of streets, with part two starting in January.

On top of paving, the City will continue to work to improve drainage and correct flooding issues. The City will work to clear debris from our canals and waterways, while continuing to apply for funding to upgrade infrastructure.

My 2020 goal is focusing on growth and development by supporting the development of the Long Beach Harbor Resort casino project on Hwy 90.

I believe this project will help jumpstart our economic development on Highway 90 and our central business development.

I would like to take this time and wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year!





Long Beach Senior Center enjoys 2019 holiday party

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach Senior Center, part of the Long Beach Parks and Recreation Department, held a

Christmas party last month. For more information about senior events, call 228-214-2271 or visit the Center at 20253 Daugherty Road.



All photos special to Long Beach Breeze



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McCormack sworn in as reserve officer for LBPD



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Darrell McCormack (left) was officially sworn in as a Reserve Police Officer with the Long Beach Police Department at the first of this year. Welcoming McCormack is Long Beach Police Chief Billy Seals (right).

Long Beach High School names Nov. Star Students



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Long Beach High School recently announced their November Star Students. Pictured (l to r) are Medelyn Trout, Jacob Deen, Aiden Jones and Johnathan Kelly.

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Long Beach Girls softball registration is still open



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Registration is currently open for the girls recreational softball season. Registration will continue on Wednesday, January 22, from 6 until 8 p.m. and Saturday, January 25, from 9 until 11 a.m. at the Long Beach Recreation Center at 20257 Daugherty Road.

The softball league is a city league for girls ages four through sixteen. Ages four through six play T-Ball, ages seven and eight enjoy coach pitch, ages nine to ten and eleven to twelve are kids fast pitch, and ages thirteen to sixteen play fast pitch in an inter-city league. Ages for each division are determined as of January 1, 2020. Registration is

\$80 per child, with a \$10 discount for additional children.

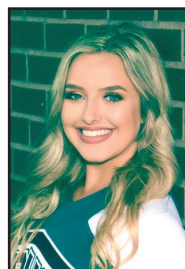
The Long Beach Girls Softball League recently announced their officers for the year. Officers include President Johnathan Malley, Vice President Jana Montgomery, Secretary Tera Reynolds Smith, Treasurer Jessica Johnson-Schmidt, Registrar Bobby Jones, Head League Commissioner Kevin Moran, 6U Commissioner Jessica Gross, 8U Commissioner Patrick Jones, 10U Commissioner Danny Davis, 12U/16U Commissioner Rebecca Vassallo and Equipment Manager Joan Moran.

For more information, call 228-679-9039 or 228-257-9146.

Heisman winners named

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Heisman Trophy Trust recently announced the 2019 Heisman High School Scholarship School Winners. From an applicant pool of thousands of high school scholar-athletes graduating with the class of 2020, more than 3,600



Cameron Hillman

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have been named school winners in the Heisman Trophy Trust's scholarship competition.

The Long Beach High School winners are Cameron Hillman and Andrew McMillan.

The Heisman High School Scholarship continues the legacy of the Wendy's High School Heisman® Scholarship, a program created in 1994 by Wendy's founder Dave Thomas in partnership with The Heisman Trophy Trust. From its inception, the program has leveraged the reputation of the Heisman Memorial Trophy as a symbol of great ability combined with dil-

igence, perseverance, and hard work.

Over the past twenty-five years, the program has honored more than 600,000 of the nation's most esteemed high school seniors and provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in college scholarships to students and more than a million dollars to high school academic and athletic programs across the country.

The Heisman High School Scholarship program honors the nation's most accomplished, communi-



Andrew McMillan

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ty-minded high school senior athletes. By inviting students from schools across the country to share their stories of leadership and impact, the program aims to inspire all students to harness their potential, push their limits, and use their talents not only to advance their own futures, but to improve the communities and world around them.

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^{**} Based on customer experience reviews shared online at www.thehartford.com/aarp as of April 2019.
[†] The gift offer is good for first time responders who provide a valid email address. Responders will be sent an email to confirm the gift. All responders in IA, IL, MA and RI who do not provide an email address are still eligible to receive the gift. The gift offer is not available in GA, ND, NM or PA, but residents may still request a quote. The gift is available only as a limited time offer. Please allow 4-7 weeks for delivery. Bottle not included.
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LBHS Students visit D.C. for leadership training



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Pictured (l to r) are Long Beach High School students who attended the LEAD conference in Washington, D.C.: Katie Baker, Anna Kate Long, Lauren Bennett, Mallorie Rishel, Stokley Sawyer, Sawyer Levenson, Samuel Shirk, Amiri Williams and Kendall Dunn.

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Long Beach High School teachers Mrs. Bradley and Ms. Babin recently attended the LEAD conference in Washington, D.C. with some of their student council and National Honor Society members.

The purpose of LEAD conference is to help build better leaders within the school community.

Advisors report that the students brought back a lot of valuable information to disseminate to the clubs in which they are involved.

In addition to the LEAD conference,

students were also able to visit the U.S. Capitol; walk on the House of Representatives' floor while the congressman were voting; visit the World War II memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Holocaust Museum, the Museum of Natural History, the Museum of American History and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial; and go to the National Archives Museum, where they saw the original Declaration of Independence, Magna Carta, Bill of Rights and Constitution.

um of Natural History, the Museum of American History and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial; and go to the National Archives Museum, where they saw the original Declaration of Independence, Magna Carta, Bill of Rights and Constitution.



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Shopping options expanded for some Veterans

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One source of frustration for Sailors who separate before completing the minimum twenty years required to be categorized as a retiree has been the loss of access to the commissary, the Naval Exchange and Morale Welfare and Recreation events and services.

A new set of guidelines that was implemented January 1 gives veterans with a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)-documented service-connected disability rating, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war, and primary family caregivers for veterans enrolled in the VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers new access to shop at military base commissaries, exchanges and enjoy certain Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) programs.

The new inclusive rules were laid out in the Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018 and included in the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019.

"We look forward to welcoming our new expanded Navy family. It will be an honor to now have

the opportunity to serve veterans who sacrificed and served this country," said Capt. Bill Whitmire, commanding officer of the Naval Construction Battalion Center.

The new access allows veterans to not only shop at the base, but to participate in MWR events that help them acclimatize back into the Navy culture. These programs include movie theaters, car washes, arts and crafts centers, auto skills, vehicle storage, community recreation (outdoor recreation equipment rentals, and tickets and travel), RV park rentals and Navy Gateway Inns & Suites (NGIS), Navy Getaways, and special events/entertainment where open to all rate categories. Unfortunately, the program does not apply to certain facilities and services like the fitness center or the child development center.

New base patrons can also take advantage of American-ForcesTravel.com, MWR's

exclusive travel-booking website," Patrons can access the website at www.american-forcestravel.com/?refclickid=navyvetarticle.

Along with some MWR activity use, the benefit expansion includes commissary shopping privileges, as well as military resale and Navy lodging reservations. Lodging can be made at www.dod-lodging.net or 1-877-NAVY-BED. The new initiative is expected to extend eligibility to about 4.1 million new patrons, comprised of nearly 1.5 million veterans who live within an hour of a military installation, of which 406,546 are U.S. Navy veterans.

To access DoD installations and obtain expanded privileges, veterans must present a Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC) from VA that displays their eligibility category: "Purple Heart, former POW or service-connected." Caregivers must present an eligibility letter from the VA Office of

Community Care that indicates they are the primary family caregiver for an eligible veteran under the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers and are eligible for these privileges, paired with an acceptable identification credential, such as a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or a U.S. passport. These credentials will need to be presented at MWR facilities and point-of-sale locations.

For more information about obtaining a VHIC or a letter from Veterans Affairs, visit a local VA medical facility or call 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

"Veterans interested in services and facilities located on NCBC should stop by the Pass and ID office located at the Pass Road Gate complex," said Whitmire.

"Exercising patience during this new expansion is paramount. The safety and security of our base and its population is our number one priority," said Ensign Will Clark, installation security officer. "We are dedicated to providing top-notch customer service to our veterans as they come to the base to process their base access."



Science Café on the Coast set for February 11, 2020

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Science Café on the Coast will present "Changing Perceptions: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Can Change Your Mind" on Tuesday, February 11, at 6 p.m. at Orange Grove Public Library.

Leslie Fitzmorris will discuss cognitive behavioral therapy and how it can challenge and change unhelpful behaviors and help develop personal coping strate-

gies. Cognitive behavioral therapy is a psycho-social intervention that works by changing a person's attitudes and behaviors by focusing on thoughts, images, beliefs and attitudes and how these processes relate to the way a person behaves as a way of dealing with emotional problems.

Fitzmorris is a licensed clinical social worker and registered play therapist with over twenty years of experience. She works with

individuals of all ages who are experiencing difficult life events, transitions, depression, anxiety, loss, and issues of self-worth.

Science Café offers those with minimal background in science the opportunity to meet and discuss issues in a relaxed social setting and is a collaboration between The University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Libraries, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Harrison County Library System,

Long Beach Public Library, and Hancock County Library System.

Science Café is free and open to the public. Long Beach residents can follow Science Café on the Coast on Facebook for upcoming events and live-streaming by visiting [Facebook.com/sciencecafeonthe coast](https://www.facebook.com/sciencecafeonthe coast).

The Orange Grove Public Library is located at 12135 Old Highway 49 in Gulfport. For more information, contact the library.

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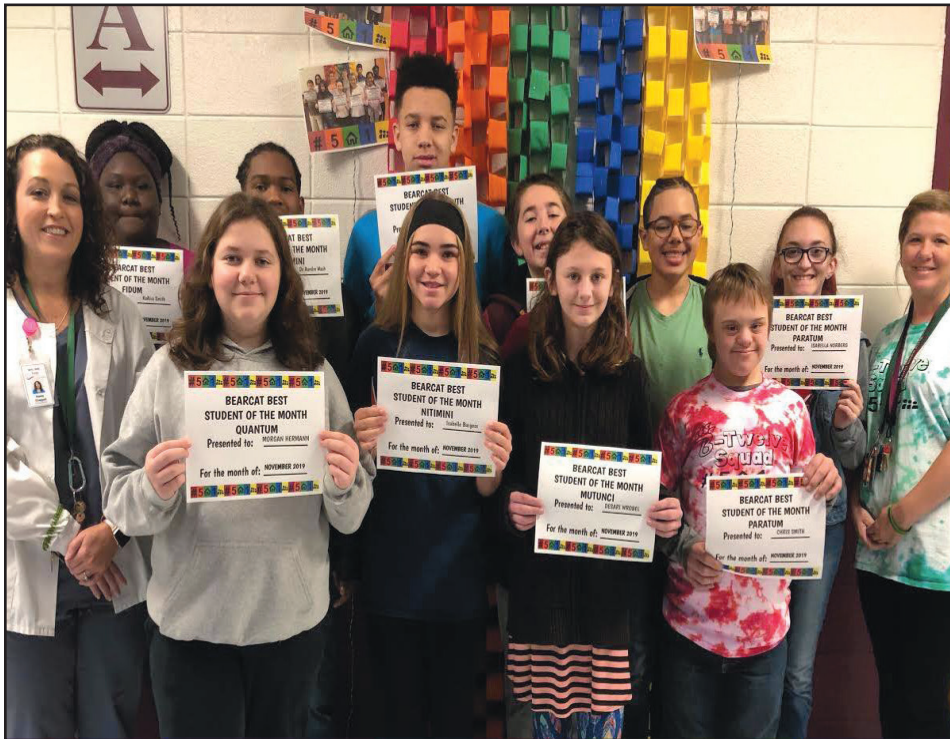
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LBMS names Students of the Month for November



Special to Long Beach Breeze


Long Beach Middle School recently announced their November Students of the Month. Students were recognized for being exceptional and meeting the school's PRIDE expectations. Winners included Chris Smith and Isabella Norberg (House Paratum); Morgan Herman and Devin Davis (House Quantum); Desari Wrobel and Jared Smith (House Mutunci); Keaira Smith and Connor Brothers (House Fidum); and DeAundre Washa and Isabella Burgess (House Nitimini). Students are pictured with LBMS staff Jessica Marshall and Kasey Chappell..

Officer Guillot joins Long Beach Police Department



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Officer Destin Guillot (left) was recently welcomed to the Long Beach Police Department by Long Beach Police Chief Billy Seals (right).




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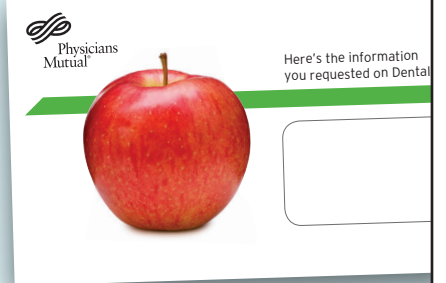
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Youngster collecting blankets for community service project



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Charleigh Ivonna McClain, the four-year-old daughter of Brandon McClain and Eboni Hicks of Long Beach, competed in the Miss Black Mississippi/Louisiana Regionals late last year. McClain won the top title for her age group and now reigns as the Miss Mississippi Jr. Princess. She has already started her community service projects by helping to serve food to the homeless on Thanksgiving Day, and she is now collecting blankets to donate to homeless shelters and nursing homes. To help McClain with her mission, contact her mother at mclaineboni@gmail.com.

Jeepin the Coast opens registration for 2020 yr.

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Registration is now open for the 2020 Jeepin the Coast, which is set for May 28-31, 2020.

Registration is \$60 ahead of the event through May 3, 2020, and includes a free shirt.

On-site registration will be \$70, with no guarantee for a free shirt.

Those who register prior to February 1 will be entered into a raffle for a \$500 Visa gift card.

Jeepin the Coast (JTC) typically includes events such as a pool party, several meet and greet opportunities, a scavenger hunt, a few beach crawl, live entertainment, a Jeep show, and a parade through downtown Long Beach. Awards are also given.



JTC unites Jeepers with its annual event on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, drawing Jeep owners to the 26-mile-long beach. Organizers set up multiple events in the coastal cities for Jeepers to either stay together or branch off into their own

adventure throughout the coast.

The JTC "Jeep Only Parade" for registered Jeeps will work a little differently this year. The first 250 Jeeps to register for JTC and pay the \$10 parade entry fee, which is donated to charity, will participate in the parade. Once the 250 parade spots fill up, parade registration will be taken off the JTC 2020 registration form.

Visit JeepinTheCoast.com to register for JTC 2020 and for more information.

CES students perform music at area facilities



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The second through seventh graders at Coast Episcopal School shared their musical talents with the residents of the Dixie White House, Boyington Health and Rehabilitation Center, and Dunbar Village. The students sang and played instruments ahead of their break to spread holiday cheer to the residents.

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Chappell selected '20 School Nurse of the Year

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach Middle School's nurse, Kasey Chappell, has been selected by the Mississippi School Nurses Association (MSNA) as South Mississippi's School Nurse of the Year.



LBMS Nurse Kasey Chappell

"We are very proud of Kasey for earning this well-deserved award," Long Beach School District Assistant Superintendent Lori Price said. "Kasey has a great work ethic and provides the utmost level of care for the students in her school. Her dedication shows not only in her clinic, but in the work she does beyond the clinic walls."

Chappell works with students throughout the school to promote healthy choices. Promoting no smoking/no drugs campaigns, working with the Mississippi Tobacco-Free Coalition of Har-

risson County, setting up a teen coalition team, arranging school presentations and helping her school earn a Platinum-level Asthma-Friendly School Award are just a few of the ways she has gone above and beyond for her school.

Long Beach Middle School Assistant Principal Johanna Hughey says she is grateful to have Chappell at their school.

"We are so fortunate to have Nurse Chappell with us here at Long Beach Middle School," Hughey said. "She goes above and beyond every day to help keep our students healthy and in school, when possible. She also goes out of her way to keep both students and staff educated on important health issues. It is no surprise to us for her to be named Nurse of the Year. We greatly appreciate all she does for us!"

Chappell says she is honored to be recognized for doing a job she loves.

"School nurses help keep kids healthy and ready to learn in the classroom. I am thankful Long Beach School District values our

students' health by employing school nurses. I have four children in our district, and I am thankful for the school nurses at each and every one of their schools," Chappell said.

Chappell and the other three

regional school nurses of the year will receive their awards at the MSNA Conference on June 4, 2020, where one of these nurses will be honored with the title of Mississippi School Nurse of the Year.

LBHS choir performs in News Orleans, LA church



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach High School choir recently performed at the Louisiana American Choral Directors Association convention. Their performance was held in the Immaculate Conception Jesuit Church in New Orleans.

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Soccer seasons nearing a close for LB Bearcats



2019-20 LBHS Bearcats

Photo courtesy of LBHS Yearbook Staff



2019-20 Lady Bearcats

Photo courtesy of LBHS Yearbook Staff

By Andy Kanengiser

Soccer seasons are winding down for the Long Beach High Bearcats. As mid-January neared, coach Andee Wilburn pointed to plenty of positives for the boys team. It was another strong season, with the Bearcats posting an 8-2-3 record to that point. The included an undefeated 3-0 in district soccer play.

Last February, the Bearcats fell short in a 2-1 nail biter to Lewisburg in the 5A boys championship match. Senior forward Conner Clarke scored the team's lone goal on a pass from junior midfielder Stanley Traska to give the Bearcats

an initial 1-0 lead at the thrilling match in Brandon.

When asked to name some of the standouts on this year's squad, Wilburn was hesitant.

"I don't really like to talk about the standout players, but our team overall. They will also tell you that it's about all the players on the field and their dedication to the team," Wilburn said. "They put in a lot of work in from the offseason workouts all through the year."

The past five years under Coach Wilburn has truly been memorable for Long Beach boys soccer.

"The five years before I got here, they had a total of nine wins for

that entire five-year period," Wilburn said. "Since I came in for the past five years, we currently have 52 wins, three District Championships and two South State Championships."

The Long Beach boys players "have really just bought in and really care about this team and their success. That has really made the difference," he added.

The 29-member Maroon & White boys squad includes seniors Joshua Bonds, Kevin Treminio, Noah Shockley, Stanley Trzaska, Dylan Stephens and Simon Nguyen. Juniors include: Justin Rolison, Johnny Pham, Nathaniel Mink,

Caleb McNab, Aidan Hines and Carlos Torres.

Early in the new year (January 7), the Bearcats boys defeated George County 2-1 on the campus at 300 East Old Pass Road. Long Beach shut out Hattiesburg High 2-0 on the road December 17.

Wilburn isn't all about soccer. A University of Mississippi graduate, he also teaches world history, personal leadership and humanities classes. He's in his nineteenth year as an instructor.

He says there are invaluable benefits to coaching boys soccer teams. "The best part is the young men

cont. on page 19

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February includes lots of events at LB library

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn, LBPL Children's Librarian

February is Library Lover's Month, so you may notice some different types of displays in the library.

Near the circulation desk, we have the "Blind Date with A Book" section, where adult or young adult books are patiently waiting for their "dates" to take them out. In the children's area, we also have a selection of books that have been even more patient in waiting for a reader to take them home as they have "Never Been Kissed" (in other words, never been read). Either way, receive a sweet treat if you do check one of these titles out during the month of February.

As a reminder, the Long Beach

Library Board of Trustees will have their next meeting that is open to the public on January 28 at 4 p.m. It will be held in the main wing of the library.

Parent's Coffee Break will be held on February 4 at 10:30 a.m. This event is sponsored by Dolce Bakeshop of Long Beach and is held on the first Tuesday of each month during story time. It gives the adults who bring the children to story time an opportunity to have a little "me" time and get to know one another.

Preschool Story time will be held every Tuesday and Thursday through the month of February from 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 p.m.

Due to the holiday on February 17, the Long Beach Library Book Club will hold its meeting on February 24 at 1 p.m. in the

meeting room of the main wing. The book for February is *The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper* by Phaedra Patrick.

We will also be having Dr. Seuss Week during the week of February 24 through February 29. Staff will be reading their favorite Dr. Seuss stories during story time that week. On Saturday, February 29, the library will be having its annual "Seussie Saturday" event that begins at 10 a.m. in the children's wing.

The Friends of the Long Beach Public Library will meet again on March 2 at 1 p.m. in the meeting

room of the main wing. They will be discussing plans for National Library Week in April, Summer Reading Events, and upcoming adult program ideas.

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

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

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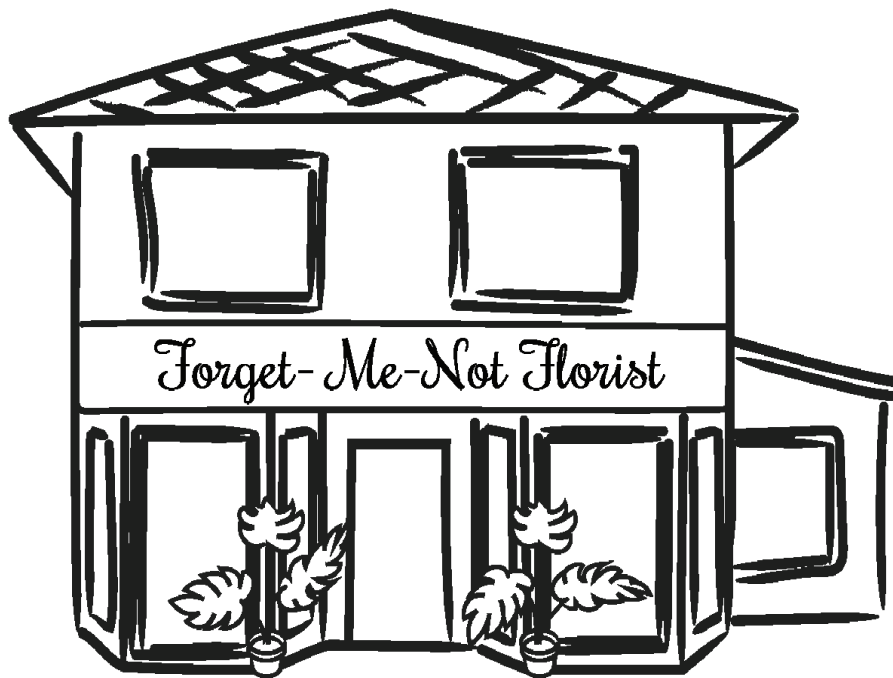
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LB Parks and Rec offers programs year round

By Sinclair Rishel

The Long Beach Parks and Recreation department serves as a resource for Coast kids to stay active and get engaged in sports in their community. The department offers youth basketball, football, cheerleading, baseball and softball programs for both boys and girls spread throughout the year. Right now, the basketball season is in full swing and will continue through March.

The basketball season begins in early December and is open to any Long Beach kids ages 5 through 12. There are four levels that kids can play at: starter, rookie, minor, and major. The program continues through March, when baseball and softball season kicks off.

“After the basketball season ends, we go into the youth softball program on Daugherty Road and the youth baseball program at the Rec Center,” said Bob Paul, head of the Parks and Rec department. The baseball program runs through the spring semester until the Long Beach schools let out.

Registration for the baseball and softball programs will open later this month or early in February, said Paul. The Parks and Rec department sends out flyers to the schools, and interested parents can sign up for their kids to begin the programs starting in March.

The Cal Ripken baseball program is open for tee ball all the way up through age 12. After that, there’s a Babe Ruth program available for baseball players up to age 15. Softball ages range from tee ball up through age 16, depending on how many kids sign up.

After school is out and baseball wraps up, kids can still stay active through the Parks and Rec Department’s summer fitness program. Kids will play basketball and volleyball, play games, and watch movies, providing an option for parents looking for ways to keep their kids busy in the summer months.

In the fall, the Parks and Rec department offers football and cheerleading programs for Long Beach kids. These programs take place on a field over by the high



Special to Long Beach Breeze

school, and registration will take place in the summer.

The Parks and Rec department also keeps the green spaces in Long Beach beautiful, as well as heads new park efforts. Last year, they worked hard to open a dog park which Long Beach residents will be able to enjoy in 2020. The dog park is three acres and features separate areas for large and small dogs, double-gated entries and exits, rinse stations, and a num-

ber of tunnels and hills for dogs to play.

There are also some other exciting projects in the works for the Parks and Rec in 2020. Long Beach residents are encouraged to look for more updates to come in the next few months.

To get in touch with the Parks and Recreation department, contact Bob Paul at recdept@cityoflongbeachms.com, or visit their website at cityoflongbeachms.com

CES searches for numbers



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Kindergarten through fifth grade math students at Coast Episcopal School recently participated in a math game under the direction of Mrs. McWilliams. Number tags were made for each student. The point of the game was for each student to find his or her equivalent number. The tags had digits, tens and ones to create a match, addition and subtraction equations, multiplication and division equations, as well two- and three-digit multiplication problems, long division and complex equations. The students had until lunchtime to find their matches, and the average group had six students.

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Students learn about park and playground safety



All photos by Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach Parks and Recreation Department recently gave a presentation at Reeves Elementary to teach the kids about park safety and playground beautification. The class is working on a new and improved playground initiative.

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Local student shares the stage with Anna Nalick

By Guest Columnist Philip Riddlebarger

Music students Elizabeth Burris and Savannah Ray are a little bit nervous.

But then, the star sitting next to them says she feels much the same.

"I'm so intimidated being on the stage with you two, because you're so good and so young," says award-winning songwriter Anna Nalick.

It is Sunday afternoon at the Trailhead Stage in Mandeville, Louisiana, and the 15-year-old Burris is onstage, performing her music before a crowd for the first time, and she is sharing the stage with the songwriting and singing star who has traveled from Los Angeles to help headline the Ozone Songwriter Festival this late-October weekend. Joining Burris onstage is 18-year-old Savannah Ray of Long Beach, also sharing her work with the festival-goers.

If the two young music students/performers are starstruck or frightened, they are handling it well, singing and playing their instru-

ments like old pros. Nalick works with Ray and Burris smoothly, as if the three have been performing together for years.

Nalick looks over the relaxed suburban crowd, the food vendors, and the dogs and kids playing in the grass near the outdoor stage.

"This is one of my favorite kind of shows," she quips, "because if you mess up, they'll still feed you later."

Both Burris and Ray, who have earned their spot on stage after years of hard work and study, are also beneficiaries of the work done by the Ozone Music Education Foundation, the non-profit organization producing the song-

writing festival with the help of many local sponsors. The foundation's goals are to further music education, get musical instruments into the hands of children, support and develop songwriters, and to boost the New Orleans and Northshore region's role as a music center.

In this second year of the Ozone Songwriter Festival, the foundation board's efforts have been rewarded by help from dozens of songwriters, including Nalick and television star and country artist John Schneider, who have headlined the festival with Mark Mackay, Gary Baker, Frank Myers, C.J. Solar, Paul Childers,

Foundation President Greg Barnhill and others.

A look at the background of the two young songwriters reveals exactly what the foundation is trying to support. Ray, who hails from Long Beach, Mississippi, and is a senior at Long Beach High School, has such a love for what she does that she jumped from playing the guitar and singing to writing music only one month later.

"I always loved to sing, but I was too shy," Ray said. "I finally asked for a guitar about two years ago. I started writing, and that's how I fell in love with it. This is how I share my feelings."

Of her early experiences stepping out onto the stage Ray says, "At first, you're a bit nervous, but then there's a connection that builds."

Ray's father, Gene Smith, decided that if his daughter began writing songs that quickly, then she had to be taken seriously. He helped her from age fifteen on, playing guitar and performing with her, and eventually moving the family to Nashville to develop her career. Later,

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18-year-old Savannah Ray of Long Beach, Mississippi, performs one of her songs as Elizabeth Burris listens in the background.



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MDE accepting applications for MS Teacher Residency

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) invites aspiring teachers to apply to be a member of the next cohort of the Mississippi Teacher Residency (MTR) program, which is a two-year commitment that combines coursework and on-the-job training to prepare prospective educators for the teaching profession. Applications for the 2020-21 school year will be accepted through February 3, 2020.

The MTR program is part of a statewide strategy to expand and diversify the teacher pipeline, so that all students have teachers who are well-prepared, appropriately licensed and can serve as role models. It is specifically designed for candidates who want to become a teacher but are not currently enrolled in an educator preparation program.

MTR applicants must have an

associate degree or at least sixty college credits from a degree program with a minimum 2.75 grade point average. Men and women of color, veterans from the Armed Forces, and junior college graduates are strongly encouraged to apply.

Teacher residents will complete a two-year undergraduate elementary education and special education program while working alongside an experienced teacher mentor in one of four participating districts.

Each MTR Resident will receive a full degree scholarship to a selected MTR-sponsored university; support in Praxis and Foundations of Reading licensure examinations; one-on-one teacher mentors; and ongoing professional development throughout MTR program.

The application can be found at mdek12.org/OTL/MTR or call 601-359-1743 for more information.



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Seeking Career Day helper

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Counseling Department at Harper McCaughan Elementary School is planning a Career Day. Organizers are looking for individuals from the community to participate and share information about their careers with the students.

Career Day will be held on

Wednesday, January 30, from 7:45 a.m. until 2 p.m., with participants making several five- to ten-minute presentations through the day as classes rotate.

Interested individuals are encouraged to contact Shaunna McCormick at shaunna.mccormick@lbsdk12.com or Amanda Desnoyers at amanda.desnoyers@lbsdk12.com.

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Soccer seasons nearing a close for LB Bearcats

these guys are becoming. It's always great to see what they go on to achieve."

In February 2019, Lady Bearcats soccer coach Haley Hammons took her team to the state 5A championship game. The Long Beach girls lost 5-1 to champion Lafayette County to finish as the state's runner-up.

Approaching mid-January, the Lady Bearcats posted a 6-7 record, including a perfect 2-0 in district play.

Seniors on the 23-member team include Julia Geertsema, Allie Dubuisson, Alex Segura, Sydney Spataro, and Maddy Morgan. Juniors are Sophia Fimiano, Lauren Bennett and Nathalie Salvador. Early in the new year (January 7), Long Beach lost to George County by a 1-0 score. Key wins for Long Beach girls this season came in December (2-0 over Hattiesburg and 3-0 over Pearl River Central). Both triumphs were on the road.

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Energy Club plans fundraiser for kids

By Andy Kanengiser

Leaders of a Long Beach fitness center are stepping up their game to help support abused and neglected children along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

On Saturday, March 7, the Energy Club, located at 2 Tower Plaza in Long Beach, will host an event featuring four hours of workouts to benefit this cause. On the schedule will be classes for all fitness levels, featuring Barre, Zumba, Yoga and Zen Yoga. The hour-long classes stretch from 8:30 a.m. through the event's final class of Zen Yoga starting at 11:30 a.m.

Participants of all ages are coming - from youth through senior citizens. Kids between the ages of 12 and 18 are welcome to take part if adults sign waivers.

"This is a fun workout for a great cause," says Energy Club owner Sheryl-Egan-Olaivar. Participants in the workouts will be admitted

by making donations. The recommended minimum amount is \$10 that Saturday. The event is dubbed the "FUNraiser for the ROCK."

Egan-Olaivar says the club's March 7 activity will generate needed dollars and promote the R.O.C.K. Foundation. Also known as the Resilience of Coastal Kids, Inc., the foundation is run by dedicated volunteers on a mission. They seek to provide assistance for abandoned, neglected and abused Gulf Coast children.

The R.O.C.K. Foundation is a non-profit on the Gulf Coast supporting children who often arrive at youth shelters with little or no possessions. Many are foster children with a great deal of uncertainty and fear regarding their new living situations. Some kids come with little more than the clothes they're wearing.



Reports from the Mississippi Department of Human Services show there were 5,243 children in state custody as of June 2018. That number includes 770 children from Harrison County and 250 from Hancock County.

Founded in 2007 by several friends, the foundation works closely with the Mississippi Department of Human Services, Child Protection Services, Court Appointed Special Advocates, the Harrison County Sheriff's Department and other law enforcement agencies. The organization's volunteers also partner with local schools, churches and other non-profits.

The R.O.C.K. Foundation is always seeking volunteers, says President Camille Peno. They can do such things as read to children, help with homework or mentor teens. People can also donate items - from new clothing to toys and furniture.

For more information on the R.O.C.K. Foundation, contact President Camille Peno at 228-596-3231.

Local student shares stage

they returned to Mississippi, but her performing continued apace. The time, and the experience performing at a variety of venues, has allowed her to develop her skills to the point that she is now forming an all-female band.

"You're very brave -- we're very brave," Nalick says to Ray and Burris.

Responding to the emotional risks shared by her fellow performers, Nalick says, "I know exactly how you feel . . . It's one thing if someone doesn't like your hair or something, but if somebody doesn't like your thoughts, it's so personal."

The combined work of the three artists draws enthusiastic applause, and they head offstage to meet with family members and fans. Nalick talks with Ray, Burris and their family members, smiling and posing for pictures, signing autographs and chatting with fans. She even takes time to answer a few questions and talk about current projects.

Stevison recognized with ECCC awards for soccer



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Susie Stevison of Long Beach was among several East Central Community College women's soccer players recently honored at the 2019 Fall Sports Awards Banquet. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: sophomore goalkeeper Emily Pitts of Pearl, Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges All-Star Team; sophomore midfielder Leah Anderson of Leyland, United Kingdom, Golden Boot Award, National Junior College Athletic Association All-Region 23 Team, MACJC All-Conference, MACJC All-Star Team, MACJC Player of the Week, and United Soccer Coaches National Player of the Week; freshman defender Susie Stevison of Long Beach, Defensive Player of the Year, MACJC All-Conference, and Team Captain; and sophomore midfielder Lia Richardson of Huntingdon, United Kingdom, MACJC All-Star Team; and back row: sophomore defender Hayden Sullivan of Florence, Scholar-Athlete Award and Team Captain; freshman forward Hannah Herren of Florence, MACJC Player of the Week; sophomore midfielder Macey Spencer of Florence, Most Valuable Player, NJCAA All-Region 23 Team, and MACJC All-Star Team; and sophomore defender Katelyn Morson of Vicksburg Warren Central, Warrior Award.

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