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September 2021 • Volume 5, Number 9 • “Good News You Can Use”

Gulf Coast business leaders, not the state, working to create vaccine lottery program

by Sara DiNatale, Mississippi Today

Gulf Coast business and casino leaders are doing what Mississippi government leaders have not: They are working to create a vaccine lottery-like program.

Several prominent Gulf Coast businesspeople are pooling resources in efforts to create a program that would offer vaccinated Mississippians a chance to win cash or other prizes. Mississippi, which ranks 48th for its vaccination rate in the nation, would join dozens of other states in having similar programs.

“We believe time is of the essence,” said Ashley Edwards, the president of the Gulf Coast Business Council. “So we’re quickly trying to do work that should take months and do it in weeks, days.”

Organizers say they are confident they will be able to offer prizes — likely cash — eligible only



Vickie D. King/Mississippi Today

The Pfizer vaccine is administered during a free COVID-19 vaccination event held at New Horizon Church International in partnership with the Mississippi State Department of Health, Wednesday, August 4, 2021 in Jackson. Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are available to those 12 years of age and older.

to vaccinated Mississippians. The program funds are being collected through the nonprofit Gulf Coast Community Foundation. Leaders from Hancock, Harrison and Jackson have been involved so far.

Governors across the nation have

created similar incentive programs in efforts to raise vaccination rates. Gov. Asa Hutchinson offered Arkansans a free lottery ticket or \$20 voucher from the state Game and Fish Commission to get the shot.

Missouri Gov. Mike Parson

launched a cash lottery program for vaccinations this week. Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan sponsored one earlier this year. New Jersey awarded a dinner at the governor’s mansion as a vaccine raffle prize. West Virginia awarded cash prizes as well as lifetime fishing and hunting licenses. At least a dozen states, including Louisiana, have offered seven-figure prizes.

Meanwhile, Reeves has received criticism for being too hands-off in recent weeks as health care experts plead with residents to get vaccinated.

LuAnn Pappas, the CEO of the Scarlet Pearl casino resort, is no stranger to taking COVID-19 awareness and incentives into her own hands. As of Wednesday, August 11, about 700 of 800 employees at her D’Iberville casino were vaccinated. Pappas offers cash bo-

cont. on page 14

Bass provides comments about State Auditor’s determination

By Guest Columnist Mayor George Bass

In early March 2021, I, along with City Public Works employees, inspected the area of Alexander Road, north of Railroad Street, for persistent complaints of flooding and standing water issues. It was the recommendation of the Public Works, and agreement of all involved, that placement of sand over the City right of way and privately owned property to level a low area holding standing water would cause the standing water to drain towards drainage culverts and ditches previously placed to address a long history of drainage and flooding



issues in the area.

Because City work on private property was recommended, I consulted with our City Attorney and discussed the proposed sand project. The City Attorney subsequently advised that, with the consent of the private landowner and based upon two separate Attorney General opinions, the City was authorized to perform the drainage work on the private property and right of way. The sand fill work was performed between March 10 and March 11.

In a subsequent regular Board of Aldermen meeting, the drainage project was questioned by two Aldermen who disagreed with my decision to perform the work. Shortly thereafter, I and the

City Attorney were informed of a complaint made to the State Auditor’s Office, which resulted in an investigation in which City Officials, the City Attorney and I fully cooperated, including providing supporting documentation and legal authority.

On June 15, the State Auditor determined that the Public Works Department’s use of Municipal-owned equipment and resources, performed at a cost of \$2,663.01, was without proper authority.

On July 26, the State Auditor responded to my request to provide additional information and for reconsideration of their determination. The State Auditor’s Office explained the failure to have the Mayor’s Directive spread

on the minutes before completing the work required the reimbursement of the public funds. The private property owner also cooperated in the investigation, and, after having been made aware of the Auditor’s decision, has tended the total amount of the project, including the cost of the Auditor’s investigation, to the City of Long Beach.

Therefore, all City or taxpayer funds have been completely reimbursed.

Based upon the information at hand, and the legal authority provided by the City Attorney, I respectfully disagree with the Auditor’s determination; however, I respect the authority of the State Auditor’s Office and have fully complied with the requirements of its investigation.

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Amtrak pushing for Gulf Coast passenger route

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Amtrak has gained some access to the freight-owned tracks it needs to begin a Gulf Coast passenger route, but whether Amtrak's desired January 1 start date will go on as planned is still unclear.

Despite an ongoing battle through a federal transportation board, freight operators have given Amtrak limited access to their properties on the Gulf Coast. The agreement, outlined in letters given to the board, allows Amtrak workers on freight-owned property to survey and prepare for the possible Gulf Coast route. The federal board recently denied freight rail's petition to have Amtrak's complaint thrown out.

But the parties are still far from agreeing to operate a passenger service that connects Mobile to New Orleans with four Mississippi stops. Amtrak filed a petition with the U.S. Surface Transportation Board in March, asking the board to step in after years of failed negotiations over the route.

Recently, Amtrak again pushed the board to speed up its decision making so it can begin the route in 2022.

"Amtrak respectfully renews its request for expedited treatment of its application," Amtrak wrote in a filing dated July 6.

In that filing, Amtrak gave the board an update about the access agreement. Amtrak also included copies of correspondence between itself and freight operator CSX Transportation.

Per the agreement, Amtrak now can access CSX property and personnel to survey what's needed to add a layover track in Mobile and repair stations in Bay St. Louis, Gulfport, Biloxi, Pascagoula and Mobile.

The federal board recently denied freight rail's petition to have Amtrak's complaint thrown out, a small victory in the process for Amtrak.

"The good news is, things can proceed forward now," said Amtrak spokesman Marc Magliari.

In its response to Amtrak, CSX still emphasized another study is needed about whether the route can handle the mix of passenger and freight traffic.

The necessity for more studies is one of many disputes between Amtrak



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and the freight companies that the transportation board will have to tackle in its decision. But when that decision may come is unknown.

A spokesman for the Surface Transportation Board said it does not comment on timeframes for decisions.

Amtrak and the freight rail companies have set dates for discovery, evidence rebuttals and hearings. Currently, the schedule ends in mid-December.

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Publisher/Owner

Clay Mansell

ClayMansell@LongBeachBreeze.com

Editor-in-Chief

Stephanie Tracy

Office Manager

Doris Bynum

Designer

Brad Henderson

Photographer

Dom Fimiano

Writers

Will Brown

Dom Fimiano

Taylor McKay Hathorn

Datti Jankiri

Andy Kanengiser

Lindy Sholes

Sales

Keith Clark

Keith@LongBeachBreeze.com

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Bearcats ready themselves for 2021 football season

By Datti Jankiri

Fall is just around the corner, and that means that Mississippi high school football is nearing its start. The Long Beach Bearcats football team will open their season on August 27 with a road game against Pass Christian High School. The Bearcats haven't made the playoffs since 2011 and

will be

looking to get back to the promised land.

Head Coach Ryan Ross is headed into his second season at the helm. The team finished with a 1-8 record in Ross' first year, but he's optimistic about the upcoming season.

"It's been a crazy year for everybody, because of COVID-19," Ross said. "We did get to have a spring practice, so I feel like things will be better in the future."

"Our goals are the same for every season," he added. "We want to have a winning record and make the playoffs!"

According to Ross, the Bearcats will play uptempo in a spread offense and use multiple looks on defense.

Fans can expect to see entertaining football from the team this season.

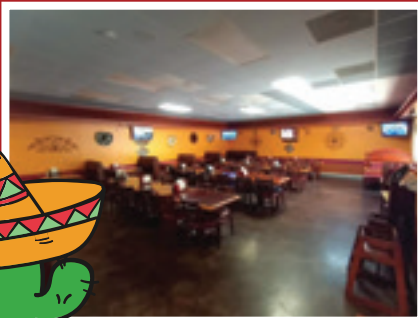
The Bearcats will return nine starters from last year. On offense,

quarterback Charlie Starita and wide receiver Amaru Jones will lead the way. On defense, linemen Josh Brown and West Bourland will be key up front. Linebacker Avery Berry and defensive back A.J. Allen will also add some experience to the defense.

Three of the team's promising young players feature on the defensive side of the ball. Cornerback Edjuan Trautman, defensive lineman Brandon Davis and linebacker Jahari Mitchell will be underclassmen to keep an eye on this season.

The Bearcats will be in Region 4-5A with East Central, Gautier, George County, Pearl River Central, Picayune, Vancleave and West Harrison.

After the Pass Christian game, Long Beach will continue non-region play with games against Bay High and St. Stanislaus. The Bearcats will begin region play with a road matchup with Vancleave on September 24.



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Bearcats games available on NFHS Network



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This year, all of the Long Beach Bearcats home football games will be streamed live on the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Network.

LBSD officials have invested in new technology to bring every game played on the Bearcats football field or in the gym to Bearcats viewers. Fans can watch the games live from home – or anywhere – via the NFHS Network.

Unlimited access to watch all Bearcats events this year is \$69.99 for an annual pass, or \$10.99 per month. Subscriptions give viewers access to all of the Long Beach Bearcats' live streaming and on-demand sports broadcasts, as well as all of the livestreaming from around the nation that is provided on the NFHS network.

To subscribe or for further information, visit www.NFHSNetwork.com, then search for "Long Beach, MS." Subscriptions and donations help support the LBSD student production program.

LBSD offers free breakfast and lunch to all students



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Long Beach School District students can again enjoy free breakfast and lunch during the entire 2021-22 school year. Students will enjoy free "healthy and happy" meals, catered by Chartwells K12.

All households are encouraged to submit the free/reduced meal application at MySchoolApps, as eligibility is tied to the P-EBT benefit, but all students will receive free breakfast and lunch, regardless of the status of an application, through the USDA's Seamless Summer Option.

Balanced nutrition through the breakfast and lunch programs contribute to student success in and out of the classroom. Studies have demonstrated that school meals play an important role in supporting obesity prevention, overall student health and academic achievement by improving children's diets and combatting hunger.

For more information, contact DeeDee Hurt, LBSD School Nutrition Director, at 228-864-1337.

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Community pep rally brings Bearcat spirit to Town Green

Special to Long Beach Breeze

On Friday, August 6, the Long Beach Community Pep Rally was held at the Town Green to kick off the Bearcats' new school year and football season.



LBHS dance team

Belinsa Hosli Tipton



Finally First Friday's Long Beach Cruisers showed up in support of the Bearcats

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Belinsa Hosli Tipton

Jayla Lagarde, tenth-grade cheerleader



Belinsa Hosli Tipton



Belinsa Hosli Tipton



Belinsa Hosli Tipton



Dom Fimiano

Pictured (l to r) are Long Beach High School cheerleaders Emma Hodges, Maci Dennison, AnnElise Elrod, Mallorie Rishel, MaKenna Currie and Caitlyn Thornton. Not pictured is Camryn Kopszywa, who also participated in the pep rally.



Utility infrastructure project beginning in Long Beach

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Harrison County Utility Authority (HCUA) recently announced an upcoming major infrastructure construction project being performed by the Harrison County Utility Authority that will begin August 2021 and take place over the following year at various locations throughout Long Beach. The project is funded by the RESTORE Act (BP Money) and local funds. The intent of the project is to replace an aging Harrison County Utility Authority sewer transmission main that serves the majority of Long Beach.

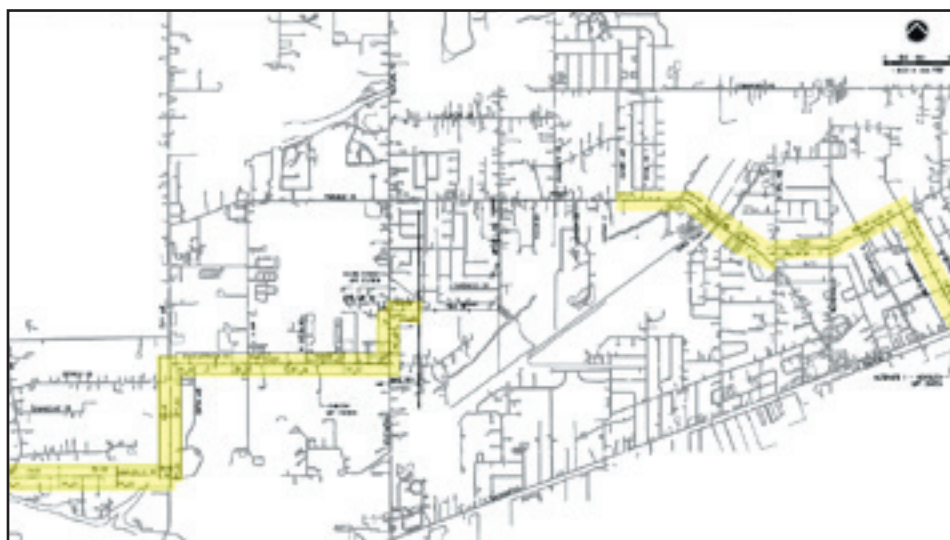
During the construction process, there will be road closures, detours, and anticipated utility outages. HCUA asks everyone to be patient with crews as this project progresses, as it is a large undertaking that requires coordination from everyone, including the public.

Starting August 15, a portion of Pineville Road has been closed to traffic from Clower Avenue to Alexander Road. Motorists are asked to follow detour signs in the area.

The time frames for all of the affected areas had not been announced at press time, but other areas that will be affected include:

- Pineville Road: between Clower Avenue and Seal Avenue
- North Seal Avenue: between Pineville Road and Willow Lane
- Willow Lane
- Klondyke Road: intersection of Willow Lane and Klondyke
- North Cleveland Avenue: intersection of North Cleveland and Allen Road
- Allen Road: between North Cleveland and Nicholson Avenue
- Nicholson Road: between Allen Road and E Railroad Street
- Plantation Drive: south side rear easement
- Beatline Road: Plantation Drive to Johnson Road
- Johnson Road: Beatline to Espy Avenue
- Espy Avenue: Johnson Road to Demourelle Road
- Derrick Road
- Demourelle Road
- Menge Avenue: Derrick Road to Demourelle Road

For additional information, email lbinfo@jlb-co.com.



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Map showing the infrastructure construction project being conducted by the Harrison County Utility Authority in Long Beach.



Dom Fimiano



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Meet Your Neighbor: Stan and Lana Andrews

By Will Brown

When Stan Andrews checked his new Facebook page in February 2019, he noticed he had a new friend request. Stan hadn't used Facebook very often, having only agreed to create a profile at the request of several of his former students. When he clicked on the notification to see who sent the request, he almost fainted.

It was his high school friend Lana, whom he had not seen in over forty years. They had both grown up in Long Beach and had gone to school together, until Lana's father had been transferred to Moss Point for work, and the family moved. Lana had gone on to attend the University of Southern Mississippi and earned her master's from William Carey University before moving back to Long Beach to become a teacher at Reeves Elementary School. She later moved to Louisiana and enjoyed a long career in teaching and professional development.

Stan had thought about Lana over the years, but he eventually left Long Beach as well, to study health administration at Mississippi State. After spending time coaching football, basketball and tennis at Moss Point High, he was offered a role on the Ole Miss women's basketball staff. Once in Oxford, he was asked to teach classes in the kinesiology department and received a doctorate in physics, which he said would make his high school friends "fall down laughing and ask how much money he spent on a website saying he had a doctorate."

Stan then went to teach at Valdosta State University for twenty-two years as the head of the Kinesiology and Sports Medicine Department. He attended Valdosta State alongside several future SEC football coaches, including Kirby Smart, Will Muschamp, and Mike Leach, who once worked for Stan. When it came time to retire, Stan finally returned to Long Beach, where he reconnected with Lana over Facebook. After arguing about who sent the original friend request, Stan and Lana agreed to go on a date together on April 5, 2019, at the Long Beach Pier. Six months later, they were married at the very same pier.

Stan and Lana now live in Long Beach, having built a new home. When they reconnected, they said it felt like they had been together for years. They can finish each other's sentences, and Stan feels like Lana can even read his mind.

Question: What is your favorite thing about Long Beach?

Stan: "The small community and the friendly people. We just feel at home here. We are back in the church that I grew at (First Baptist Church, Long Beach), and Lana grew up and moved back and joined First Baptist. We are back in our home church and know people for the most part. That helps it feel like home again."

Question: What is your favorite restaurant in Long Beach?

Stan: "Bull's. That's where we had our reception after the wedding. It's great seafood and good steaks, little bit of everything. The building used to be the Post Office. They've completely gutted and renovated it. They have a bar, and it's family owned. We like Bull's, and, before COVID, we ate there once or twice a week. We celebrate every special occasion there."

Question: What are some of your favorite hobbies?

Lana: "I sew, do puzzles, play on the computer, read Facebook. Together, we like to walk on the beach, and we used to like to walk on the pier before Hurricane Zeta blew it away."

Stan: "I love following all the SEC sports. I have no friends in Mississippi, because all the State people hate me for going to school at Ole Miss, and all the Ole Miss people hate me because I came from State. All the USM



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Stan and Lana Andrews

people hate me because I never bothered going to school there."

Question: What is a goal you have?

Stan: "I want to run in a 5K. When I was born, God made me fast. I ran track in high school and played a little football, basketball and baseball."

Question: If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would it be?

Lana: "Scotland. Stan taught there for three semesters, and I want to see it too. It's part of my heritage."

Stan: "You would love it. I will never forget flying out of the clouds. All you could see was green. It's the most beautiful agricultural landscape I think I've ever been close to."

Question: If you could win the lottery, what would you do with the money?

Lana: "I would buy a home on the beach. I like being on the water, and sometimes I wish we were closer to the beach now; but I like just being able to look at it. We have to worry about hurricanes, so we've stayed on the other side of the tracks; but, if I had a million dollars, I wouldn't worry about the hurricane coming. I would just get a new house."

Stan: "I'm going to pay the balance off this house, and then we are going to Scotland, Italy, a few other places. We will use the rest on travel and on the grandkids."

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National Library Card Sign-Up Month activities planned

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn, LBPL Youth and Technology Services

Hello, Long Beach!
September is a special month for libraries. After all, it is dedicated to a card that can take you to any place you want to go, tell you stories of great adventure, the mysteries of science and nature, and the history of universe...and all for just your signature. That's right. September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month. The library is planning lots of fun things for our patrons. Make sure to "check them out."

We will be partnering with the Gulf Coast Wildlife Rehab for "Meet Our Wildlife" on Second Saturday Story Hour every month. Each month, a special animal and their caretaker will visit, and we will read a story and learn about the animal. This family program is open to all ages and is a great way to learn more about the local wildlife in Mississippi. The next scheduled story hour will be Saturday, September 11, at 10:30 a.m. in the children's wing of the library.

Preschool Story Time will continue to be held on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. The library will be closed for the Labor Day holiday from Saturday, September 4, through Monday, September 6. We will reopen at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, September 7.

There is no meeting scheduled for the month of September for the Board of Trustees.

Although September is usually the month that the Friends of the Long Beach Public Library begin their yearly meetings, they have not scheduled a time to start meeting again as of yet. We will let you know when they have resumed regular meetings.

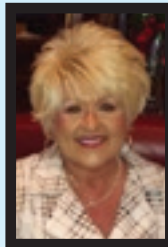
The Long Beach Book Club also has not resumed regular meetings but are looking to do so in the fall. Anyone interested in joining the book club can call the library at 228-863-0711, and the staff will redirect you to the Book Club's contact person. It is free to join.

As a reminder, the library hours have returned to regular business hours. We are now open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Please do not forget that, due to the rise in COVID variant cases, it is required to wear a mask inside the Long Beach Public Library.

Thank you for your patronage, and continue to stay safe!

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Students attend leadership conference



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Rowan Sanzin and Emma Marreel were recently selected to participate in the first-ever Pathways to Leadership conference focused on youth leaders in Mississippi.

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LBSD welcomes Reynolds to staff

Special to Long Beach Breeze

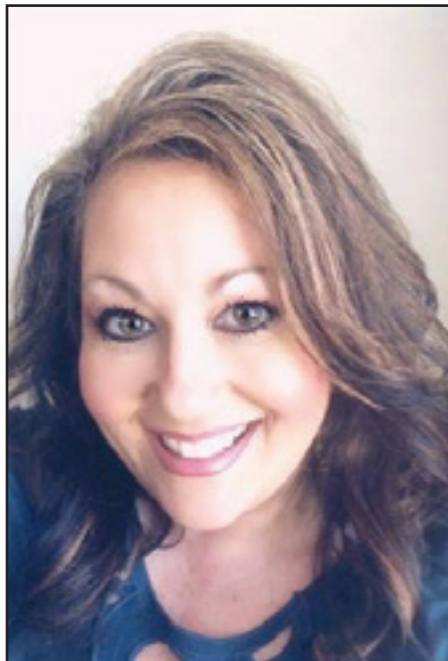
The Long Beach School District recently announced the addition of Kelleigh Reynolds as executive director of curriculum and instruction.

With eighteen years in public education, Reynolds has served in various roles. Her curriculum and instructional leadership experience includes eight years as a building-level administrator spanning grades kindergarten through eighth, and four years at the district level in a secondary curriculum and instructional leadership capacity.

Prior to coming to Long Beach, Reynolds served the Biloxi Public School District (BPSD) in a variety of positions, including launching the role of instructional coaching in 2010, serving as a district-level proofreader for numerous years, and leading a district-level consolidation of five campuses merged into one to reflect a newly-configured school with her at the helm.

She previously attained National Board Certification and has been recognized by the VFW as the Mississippi State Teacher of the Year in 2009, by the Biloxi Bay Chamber of Commerce as Administrator of the Year in 2014, and by the BPSD as Administrator of the Year in 2019. She was selected by the Mississippi Association of School Administrators in 2020 from its statewide pool to receive the Roger McDaniel Scholarship to advance her postgraduate-level pursuits.

In addition to her many honors, Reynolds has mentored administrative interns through district appointment, as well as, through the Old Miss Principal Corps. She holds a B.A. in history, M.A.T.L. specializing in TESOL, Ed. S in education specializing in instructional leadership and is currently pursuing completion of her doctorate in educational leadership.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Kelleigh Reynolds has joined the LBSD as the executive director of curriculum and instruction.

Lady Bearcats volleyball prepared for new season

By Datti Jinkiri

The Long Beach Lady Bearcats volleyball team are back on the court for another season. The perennial volleyball powerhouse finished as the finalists in the MHSAA Class 5A State Championship last year, and they will be looking to compete once again for another title this season.

The Lady Bearcats finished the 2020 season with a 12-7 record and defeated East Central and South Jones in the playoffs before falling to Lake Cormorant in the state championship game. However, the ladies added to storied history of volleyball in Long Beach and captured their second consecutive South State Championship.

Head Coach Rebecca Tillman has had a lengthy coaching resume in the sport of volleyball. She has sixteen years of experience and has coached the Lady Bearcats to multiple South State Championships.

“We’ve practiced hard this summer,” Tillman said. “We’ve played in a few scrimmage games, and I think the players have gained some confidence from those experiences. There has been steady progress.”

Tillman saw seven seniors graduate from last year's team, so this season will be a rebuilding year of sorts for the Lady Bearcats. However, she is positive about the group of players that will be stepping up this year.

“I have a couple of defensive specialists and a middle to take over the leadership of the team,” she stated. “We also have a few juniors and sophomores that will be starting on the varsity team. They are fun to watch and will do great things. They’ll just need time to build comradere.”

The Lady Bearcats' district opponents this season are Hattiesburg, West Harrison, and Picayune. They opened their season with a non-district home match against Resurrection on August 10th. (Final sentence may need to be edited for print since it will be released on the 20th. They would have played three games by the print date)

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Recyclable processing stopped due to fire



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Due to a fire at the Emerald Coast Utilities Authority recycling facility last month, the Harrison County Utility Authority (HCUA) and solid-waste partner, Waste Management, have announced that all recycled materials collected curbside in Harrison County will not be processed until the facility is repaired.

The recycling facility, which accepts and processes recyclables collected from HCUA residents, sustained damage from the fire that will cause the closure of the facility for an estimated one month. During this time, Waste Management will continue its curbside collection service with normal schedules, but the recycled materials collected will not be processed until further notice.



“Recycling is an important part of our solid-waste service,” said HCUA Solid Waste Coordinator Alan Lane. “Unfortunately, the fire at the Emerald Coast Utilities MRF will adversely impact our recycling efforts for an interim period until repairs are complete - but not our collection efforts. We look forward to getting back in full operation soon.”

HCUA is proud of the work of Harrison county residents and the growing participation rates in the recycling program across the county, and it urges the residents to continue to participate at this time. The curbside collection will continue on regular schedules.

To learn more about the Harrison County Utility Authority, visit www.hcu-ms.us or follow HCUA on Facebook.



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cont. from page 1

Gulf Coast business leaders, not the state, working to create vaccine lottery program

nuses up to \$300 and has on-site vaccine clinics.

Still, she was surprised it was local leaders — not a state-led effort — who reached out to her for help. Pappas said she donated \$50,000 to the vaccine lottery program.

“The state did lead in rolling out the vaccination,” Pappas said. “But then we just kind of stalled and we stopped.”

As of Wednesday, August 11, Mississippi’s overall vaccination rate was about 35%. But the vaccine rate for south Mississippi — the state’s tourism hub, churning out millions in economic impact every month from both gaming revenue and sales tax — has consistently been below the state average. Only a little over 33% of the three Gulf Coast counties have been fully vaccinated so far, according to data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“When I saw the rates, I thought no, no,” said Paige Roberts, the president of the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce. “The Coast leads in so many efforts in Mississippi. We can’t have this... If we can move the needle in the three coastal counties, we are then helping the state move the needle.”

When Pappas first required vaccinations of her salaried staff, she made more than 50 phone calls to employees who were against the vaccine. Out of all her supervisors, vice presidents and other professional staff members, only two have not been vaccinated yet.

Soon, she will require hourly staff to be vaccinated, as well. She said she has seen in her own employees what creativity and persistence, as well as compassion and patience, can accomplish when tackling vaccine rates.

The Gulf Coast program wouldn’t be the first time private companies offered vaccine incentives to the public during the pandemic. But private companies — such as Kroger or United Airlines — have opened their sweepstakes or freebies to all their customers, reaching across several states if

not the whole country.

The south Mississippi effort is hyper-local and seeking partnerships with state agencies, including the Mississippi State Department of Health. It’s unique compared to similar incentive programs in that it will likely be a partnership between private and public entities.

Edwards hopes other regions, or even the state, could use whatever the group comes up with as a model.

While the Gulf Coast program organizers’ chief concerns are the health of their community — the health of the local economy is at stake, too.

The Gulf Coast was a bright spot in the state’s pandemic recovery. Over the last several months, Mississippi casinos have continued to break gaming revenue records. Casinos had hit their stride in offering something to do during the pandemic in an environment that made customers feel safe, according to local operators.

Pappas said she cannot think of a single casino that wouldn’t want to participate in the program once it’s formalized.

“We are trying to sustain the economic momentum we were experiencing prior to the Delta variant outbreak,” Edwards said. “We’re taking measures today to try to ensure that we don’t find ourselves in this situation again.”

Pappas said she is tired of seeing Mississippi at the “bottom of the pack” in vaccine rates. She’s scared for the children under 12 who cannot be vaccinated and for the stressed and overworked hospital staff caring for an influx of unvaccinated patients.

“The ripple effect is devastating,” she said.

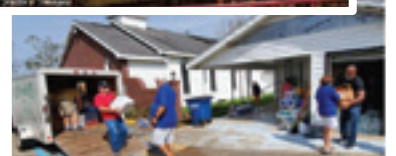
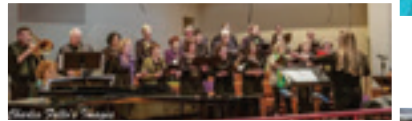
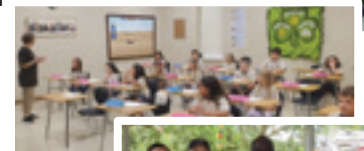
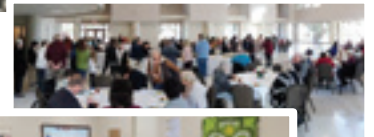
She hopes the lottery gets everyone’s attention — especially those with the means and influence, like herself, to do something to encourage vaccine use.

EDITOR’S NOTE: To locate a COVID-19 vaccination site, visit www.msdh.ms.gov.

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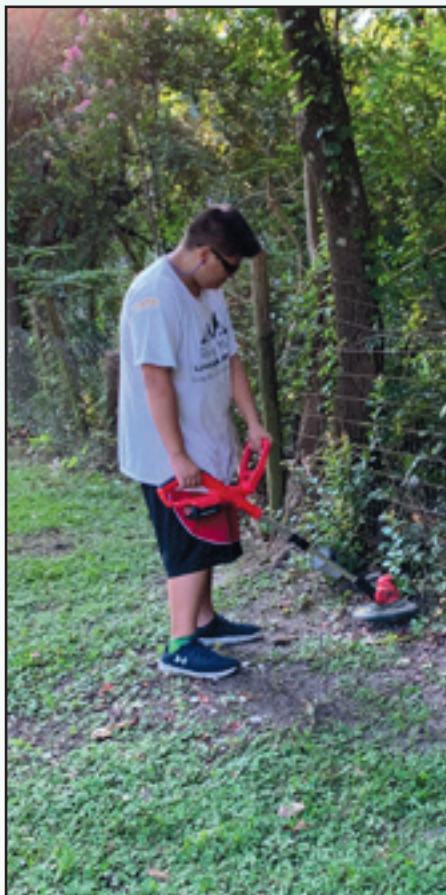
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Local youth spend summer mowing lawns for 50 Yard Challenge



All photos Special to Long Beach Breeze

Dante and Aidan Walker

By Lindy Sholes

Long Beach residents Aidan and Dante Walker spent their summer days mowing lawns, but not to earn money. The twin brothers are taking part in a challenge to give back to their community.

When their mother, Lauren Cunningham, saw a post online about the 50 Yard Challenge, she encouraged her sons to participate, and they were excited to do so. The national organization that hosts the challenge, Raising Men Lawn Care Service, sends participants t-shirts for mowing fifty lawns free for anyone in need of help, such as elderly, disabled, single parents or veterans. For every ten lawns cut, they get a new shirt. Aidan and Dante were two of fifty children participating from all over the country.

"I want my kids to learn godly characteristics and how to put them into action," said Cunningham. "They've been talking about starting a lawn mowing business for a couple of years now. I thought this would be a perfect start to that, while also teaching them how to put those godly characteristics into action."

The boys knew they could earn money for their future business by mowing lawns, but seeing the impact of mowing that first lawn sold them on the concept.

It is impossible for Long Beach resident Marie Fry to take care of her yard. She is widowed and fighting cancer; and, when her sister came across a post about the boys and their challenge, she was able to make arrangements for them to work on Fry's yard.

"I was really impressed that kids that young were willing to do something like that," she said. "They really worked hard. For as young as they are, they did a really good job."

Both boys said that it feels good to know they are helping someone in need.

"Seeing how happy the people are and their faces after I am done cutting the lawn [is the best part]," Aidan said.

Cunningham said any Long Beach resident who qualifies for help can contact her through Facebook Messenger.

"If they are reading this and are not local, they can actually go to the website and let them know they are looking for someone to mow their lawn. Then, if there is a kid in their area, they'll get them connected," she said.

The organization's website is www.WeAreRaisingMen.com.

Scouts BSA Troop 321 enjoys multiple summer adventures



Addison Carroll shows the captain the direction that the anchor line is running as the crew heaves the anchor before casting off for the morning.



Terry Togstad teaches nautical chartmanship at sunset. Chartmanship is part of the Small Boat Sailing Merit Badge that the scouts worked on while on their Sea Base Adventure. Scouts will need to use a sailboat back home to complete all the requirements for the badge to show that they can manage a small craft on their own.

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Boy Scouts of America, Scouts BSA, Troop 321 from Long Beach have had a very active summer. In addition to travelling to the Appalachian Mountains to attend Scout Camp at Woodruff Scout Reservation, they also joined Troop 97 scouts Addison Carroll and Austin Reeves, and two leaders, Terry Togstad and Tommy Carroll, from Sumrall, Mississippi, to sail in the Florida Keys. The sailing was Troop 321's first BSA High Adventure trek.

For Scout Camp, twelve scouts and four leaders traveled on their bus, "Scoutship Integrity," from Long Beach to north Georgia to attend a week-long summer camp at Woodruff Scout Reservation. Arriving a day before camp started, the scouts were able to get a good feel for the camp and the area and were able to check out the opportunities that were there for them. During camp, scouts were able to work on merit badges such as Leatherworking, Archery, Shotgun Shooting and Citizenship in the World. They worked on rank requirements for Scout and Tenderfoot ranks. During their free time, they were able to swim, water ski, repel off a 100' climbing tower and do some stand-up paddleboarding.

Scouts learned about outdoor conservation, such as the "Leave No Trace" principles while searching for Bigfoot, and they participated in an incredibly humbling flag retirement ceremony that honored veterans. While at camp, they learned how to and built a trail creating a shortcut to their campsite, completing a conservation requirement. Their final night at camp, they attended a well-scripted campfire and witnessed an awesome fireworks show.

Later in the summer, the scouts on the High Adventure Trek traveled from Mississippi to Islamorada, Florida, to participate in a sailing, snorkeling and fishing adventure that they will remember for a lifetime. At Sea Base, scouts learned how to snorkel and were checked-out on their swimming capabilities. Scouts then boarded the "Conch West" and set sail into the sunset for a five-night and six-day adventure.

The Boy Scouts of America hosts seven high adventure camps around the country that each specialize in individual areas. Sea Base adventures fulfill BSA requirements for completing the Triple-Crown and Grand Slam achievements, which are the pinnacle of Boy Scouts of America adventures.

While on their sailing cruise, scouts cooked their own meals, including steak and the fish they caught each day, and cleaned up the ship after their meals were complete. They were only afforded one good day of sailing weather with good winds, and they took advantage of those winds and learned how to sail their sloop-rigged ketch by hoisting and retrieving the jib, mainsail and mizzen sail. They snorkeled in several different locations, including Coffins Patch Reef, Bahia Honda Key and the Sombrero Reef. They fished for Mahi Mahi and Spanish Mackerel while underway and grouper while stationary over reefs.

Although they slept on the ship every night, they conducted shore calls at a Florida State Park Beach on Bahia Honda Key one evening and spent one night moored at Marathon Marina. Each night, the scouts took turns standing watch in two-hour shifts throughout the night, watching thunderstorms pass over Cuba, counting over-passing satellites, identifying constellations and enjoying the haze

of the Milky Way. The scouts and leaders slept on the deck at night to keep cool and were run into the cabin around 4 a.m. by light rain showers that rose like clockwork each morning.

In total, the scouts sailed and motored in the Florida Keys about 130 miles during their adventure.

On their last day at Sea Base, the scouts checked out stand-up paddle-boards and paddled around Veterans Key, fulfilling requirements for the BSA Stand-Up-Paddleboard patch. During their last night at Sea Base, they partied in a luau, where they competed in a limbo contest.

Scouts must be thirteen years old to participate in BSA's High Adventure Camps. Now that the core group of scouts has reached that age, in addition to their other high-adventure outings, the troop will be participating in these camps, as well. Currently, they are planning to canoe and portage the Canadian-boundary waters in Minnesota in July of 2022 at BSA's Northern Tier Camp.

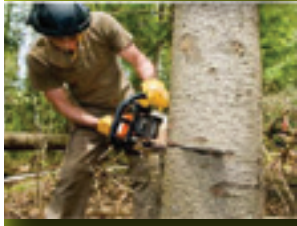
Scouts from Troop 321 hail from Bay St. Louis, Diamondhead, Poplarville, Gulfport, Biloxi, Ocean Springs and Long Beach. For all scouts involved, the adventures taught self-reliance and built confidence in their growth and maturation.



Scouts from Long Beach attended summer camp at Woodruff Scout Reservation in the Appalachian Mountains of Georgia. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Brenton Gale, Jacob Dubose, Nathan Pyron, Jayden Gerty, Owen Elliott and Dax Blanchard; and back row: Terry Togstad, Tommy Carroll, Chase Cockrell, Jonathan Potts, Nathan Hopstein, Austin Reeves, Justin Elliott, Addison Carroll, Lucas Santiago, Jason Pyron and Wordie Carroll.



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Long Beach students win Space Grant scholarships



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The College of Arts and Sciences at The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) announced twenty-four Space Grant scholarship recipients awarded through the state-wide NASA-Mississippi Space Grant Consortium program, which supports students in their pursuit of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) degrees. Two of the recipients, David Sanderson and Matthew Tarver, are from Long Beach. Both are ocean engineering majors.

The NASA Space Grant program is designed to encourage and motivate excellence in student performance and to raise awareness of NASA employment and research opportunities among students with relevant majors at USM.

“It is gratifying to be able to reward our hard-working STEM students and share with the university community some of the career-altering opportunities available at NASA,” said Dr. David Cochran, professor of geography in the School of Biological, Environmental, and Earth Sciences.

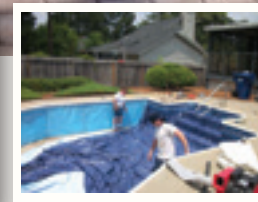
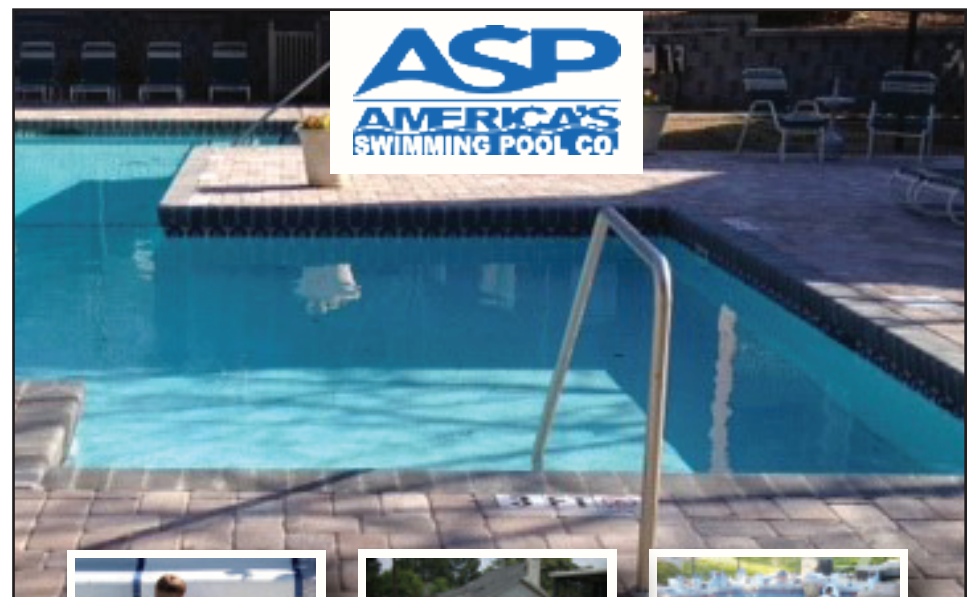
The 2021-2022 NASA-Mississippi Space Grant scholarships range from \$500 to \$1,500.

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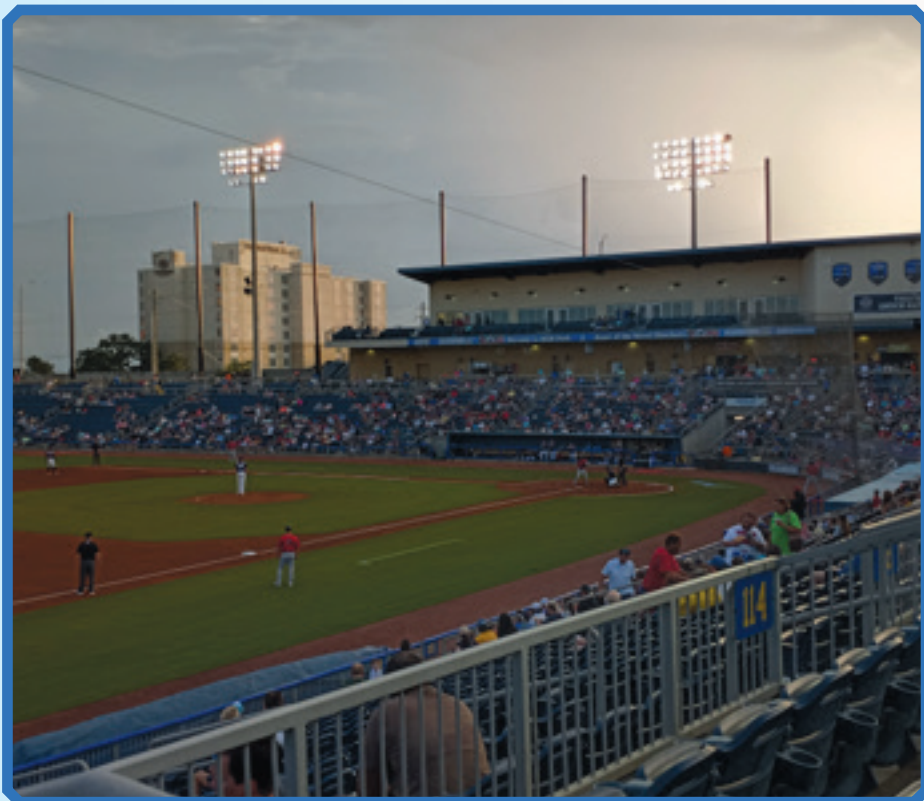
Last month, the MS Gulf Coast Buddy Sports (MGCBS) provided free tickets to the Biloxi Shuckers game, as well as food tickets, to each of their Buddy Ball players. Gameday jerseys, which had a Top Gun theme and included the MGCBS logo, were signed by the players and auctioned off, with proceeds benefitting the MGCBS organization. For more information about MGCBS, visit them on Facebook or at www.msgulfcoastbuddysports.org, or call Mike Crawford at 228-860-9055.



MGCBS volunteer Jackson Crawford and MGCBS treasurer Keith "Sparky" Clark



MGCBS founder Mike Crawford with Schooner, the Schucker's mascot



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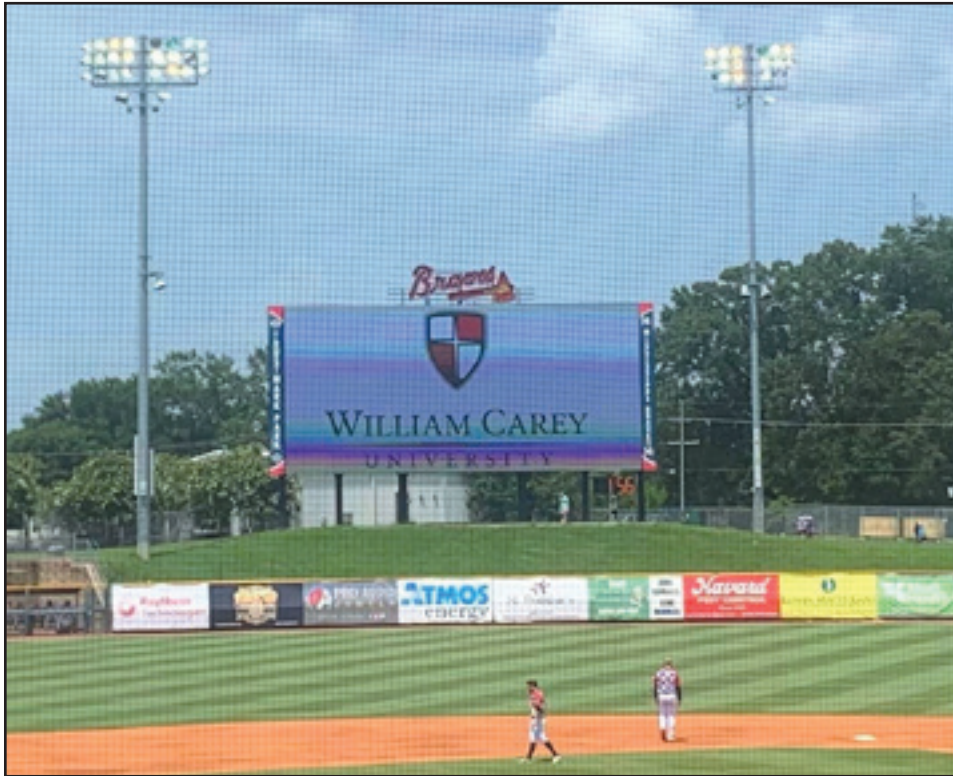
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WCU hosts Autism Awareness Day



All photos Special to Long Beach Breeze

William Carey University and the Mississippi Braves hosted Autism Awareness Day July 25 at Trustmark Park in Pearl. Special jerseys designed for the occasion were auctioned to benefit Center Ridge Outpost, a summer camp for autistic children and adults sponsored by TEAAM Autism – a non-profit, volunteer organization made up of parents, family members, educators and service providers in the field of autism. The live broadcast of the Mississippi Braves vs. Biloxi Shuckers match-up included an interview with Dr. Mark Yeager, executive director of TEAAM Autism and coordinator of special education programs at the WCU School of Education. Gabe Hauptmann threw out the first pitch at Autism Awareness Day. He is the grandson of Dr. Lynne Houston, WCU associate vice president for university enhancement. For more information about TEAAM Autism and Center Ridge Outpost, visit www.teaam.org.

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11:00 a.m. The Well service In-Person at the USM Fleming Auditorium
This service will be live streamed on Facebook.

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First-ever Golden Crayon Award given to LBSD Custodial and Maintenance staff

The Long Beach School District recently awarded its inaugural Golden Crayon Award to the LBSD Custodial and Maintenance staff. The Golden Crayon will be awarded periodically to an individual or group of people who have gone “above and beyond” for the district – someone or a group who has stood out among the other “crayons” and made the collective picture a little bit brighter. The Custodial and Maintenance staff worked tirelessly through difficult circumstances getting the schools ready for the new school year.



Custodians Coyce Blair and CL Proby



Custodians Kayla Granger, Ethel Fairly and Donna Scott



Maintenance staff Nick Holmes, Don Crawford and John Lassabe



Custodians Barry Pribyl, Jessa Fayard, Paige Koza and Kathleen Duhon



Custodians Lucy Henderson and April Ocker



Custodian Ann Mayes

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