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May 20, 2020 • Volume 4, Number 5 • “Good News You Can Use”

## Long Beach High seniors vote for traditional graduation

By Andy Kanengiser

The vote wasn't close at all. Nearly seventy-eight percent of Long Beach High seniors voted to have a traditional graduation ceremony.

That recent decision moves the graduation ceremonies for Long Beach Bearcats to June 26. There were 21.1 percent of the seniors wishing to go with a non-traditional ceremony on May 20.

The graduation event for Long Beach High remains booked for June 26 unless the COVID-19 crisis causes officials to go to a non-traditional ceremony. Officials will have another look at the date on June 15. If there is a change, students and parents will be contacted via email.

Among the vast majority voting

for a traditional graduation was Long Beach senior James McClure. He believes a “virtual” graduation just wouldn't be a good choice.

“It doesn't provide the same feeling of accomplishment as a traditional graduation would,” said McClure.

The seventeen-year-old resident wants his graduation to be a memorable experience before making plans to pursue a Navy career. He wants to be a pilot while studying aerospace engineering.

McClure will soon leave behind many life-long friends once he gets his diploma in hand. With them, “I share some of the best memories of my life.”



Special to Long Beach Breeze

cont. on page 4

## Road paving projects proceed in Long Beach

By Andy Kanengiser

Motorists love driving along paved roads in their communities, and Long Beach is no exception.

A series of road re-paving projects began in February. The bulk of the work is done, officials say. At this stage, the last major project left is the paving of a Long Beach High parking lot. That work is expected to begin in June.

The blitz of projects costs \$1 million. A parking lot at Long Beach High “is the last phase in all this paving,” says community affairs director Jenny Levens of the City of Long Beach.

Whether it is Mayor George Bass, people working in downtown businesses or parents playing with their children on Gulf Coast beaches, folks like to see paved roads in their communities.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Motorists in Long Beach are seeing dozens of roads getting paved in 2020.

For more than two months, work crews with Land Shapers labored on road jobs in Long Beach.

Roads like Jamaica Street, Windsor Place, Hanover Drive and North Lang

(from the railroad tracks to Old Pass Road) are among thirty-seven city road projects listed. From the Old Pass/Harris intersection to Catherine Street and Reinike Road, the list goes on.

The bulk of the paving was accomplished during statewide shelter-in-place orders in the midst of the world's COVID-19 health emergency.

At this point in early May, an estimated \$915,000 of the \$1 million was spent so far on the projects on city streets, Levens said.

It was several years ago, City officials say, since so many Long Beach streets were paved.

For those wondering if there will be additional roads paved in the future, the answer is yes.

“We will pave more roads as funds come in,” Levens said. “We have a list that is in need of paving or repair,” she added at City Hall offices along Jeff Davis Avenue.

Road work funds came from the Mississippi Legislature, she said.

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# Jeepin' the Coast postponed until July

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The much-anticipated annual Jeepin' the Coast (JTC) event has been postponed until July 16-19. The event typically draws hundreds of Jeep owners to the Mississippi Gulf Coast for a weekend of activities.

Organizers said that they the postponement was a tough decision, but "we felt that the original date would be too soon to be gathering with large crowds, although we can't wait to see y'all! We are beyond excited to have secured a date, and the feedback from our sponsors and vendors has been all positive."

The event is expected to include a pool party, several meet and greet opportunities, a scavenger hunt, a few beach crawl, live entertainment, a Jeep show, and a parade.



Awards will also be given.

Registrations that have already been made will be carried forward to the new dates. Organizers say cancellations will be accepted, if the new dates don't work for someone who has already registered.

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.

Events begin at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 30. Specific Long Beach events start on

For a complete listing of events and more information, visit [www.JeePinTheCoast.com](http://www.JeePinTheCoast.com) or email [jeepinthecoast.com](mailto:jeepinthecoast.com).

# Court reopens May 20, payments still due

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach Municipal Court has postponed several court sessions since March 19 due to the coronavirus threat. The Court will slowly begin to resume hearing cases on Wednesday, May 20, at 1 p.m.

In staying within the guidelines set by the State and local government, the following procedures will be implemented:

- Defendants will wear a mask that covers their mouth and nose while in the courtroom.

- Only people with immediate and direct business with the court will be allowed into the courtroom.

- In order to comply with social distancing and to maintain a six-foot distance between individuals, defendants will form a line outside the courtroom on north side of City Hall on marked spaces.

- Only those whose name appears on the docket, or those making a payment or filing a Petition Domestic Abuse Protective Order will be allowed to enter. Friends or family members will not be admitted into the courtroom.

- Anyone with any symptoms that may be related to COVID-19, such as a temperature of 100.4 or higher, experiencing a cough, shortness of

breath or sore throat, should contact the court for further instructions.

Even though the Court has been closed to the public, employees are still working and answering the telephone, and defendants are still responsible for making monthly payments.

Options to make payments include sending the payment by mail, using the drop box, paying online, or paying by phone.

To pay by mail, send a check or money order to Long Beach Municipal Court, P.O. Box 929, Long Beach, MS 39560. Mailed payments need to include the defendant's full name and date of birth.

To drop off payment, put the check or money order in an envelope marked "Court," then place it in the Water Department's drop box that is located in front of City Hall. Payments that are dropped off also need to include the defendant's full name and date of birth.

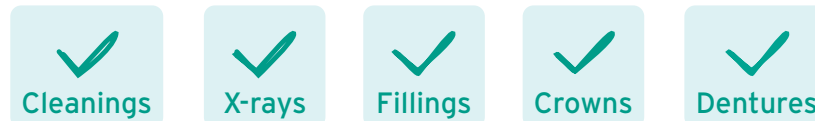
To pay online, visit [www.paymyfineonline.com](http://www.paymyfineonline.com) or [www.longbeachmstickets.com](http://www.longbeachmstickets.com).

To pay by phone, call 877-793-7925. Defendants making online or phone payments will need to have their citation number and court date information.

For more information, call the Court at 228-865-7840.

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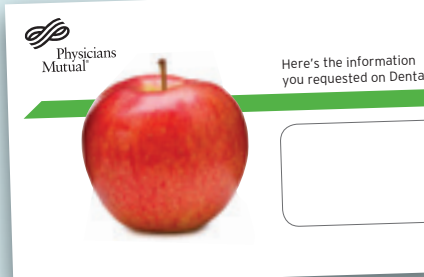


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**Volume 8, Number 5**  
**Circulation 5,000**

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

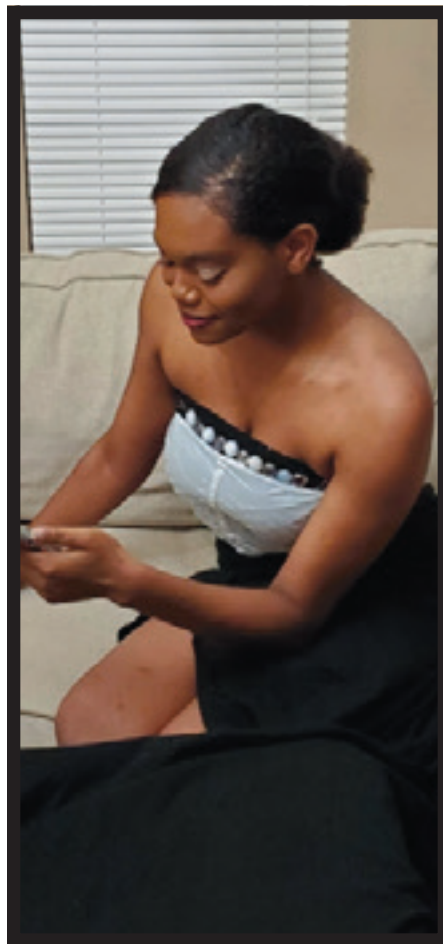
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# LBHS Theatre Department holds "MASKarade"

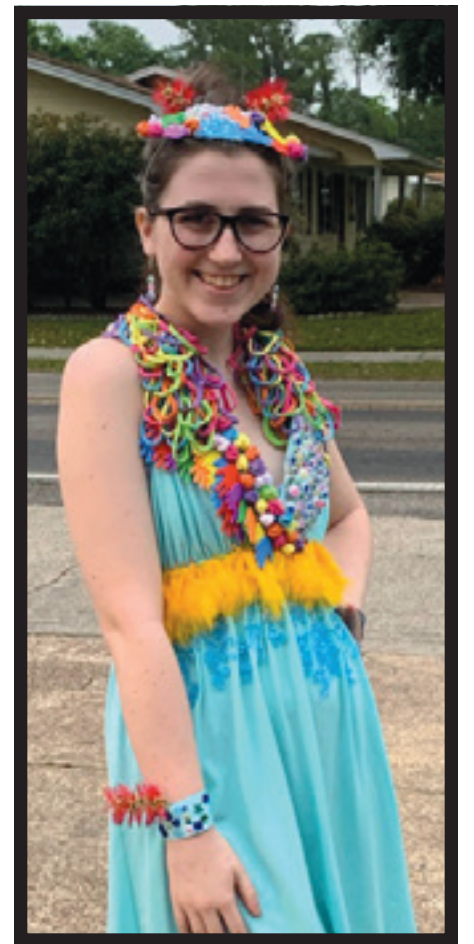
Last month, the Long Beach High School Theatre Department had an online "MASKarade" to celebrate the seniors and what would have been prom. Dresses had to be made from items found at home. In addition, the group held a mask contest and enjoyed some karaoke.



Alaysha Allen



Emma Holston



Emma Marreel

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cont. from page 1

# Long Beach High seniors vote for traditional graduation

Just a stone's throw from the Long Beach city limits, seniors at Pass Christian High prefer to go the same route as their neighbors.

After consulting with seniors and parents, Pass Christian school officials say their graduation will take the traditional route on June 19.

The Long Beach High graduation is always special to students, family members, friends and more. It's been an important occasion in Long Beach public schools that date back to September 1884. That's when W.J. Quarles, a former Tennessee teacher, began instructing eleven school-age children in front of his home on the Gulf Coast. Dr. Talia Lock currently serves as the Long Beach High principal, and Dr. Jay Smith is the district superintendent.

Parents and the community are going all out to give the 2020 Long Beach seniors a memorable experience.

A Long Beach resident, Tristan Nations wants to showcase Bearcats seniors who joined students nationwide dealing with the global health emergency. For the past two months, students have taken online classes at their homes. Spring sports were suddenly cancelled in mid-season and so were many major events on campus.

Seniors especially would be miss-



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Gypsy Kees is offering garden flags to honor LBHS seniors.

ing out and never would get the chance to experience signature moments.

Nations reflected back on her se-

nior year at Long Beach High and all the exciting events she experienced.

At the same time, "I felt terrible

for these seniors, not just LBHS seniors, but all high school and college seniors that lost half of their last year in school," Nations said.

After talking things over with her mom, Nations decided to produce garden flags to recognize Long Beach High seniors. She posted designs on her Facebook page called Gypsy Kees.

Nations soon began receiving orders daily. "I am so proud and excited to be helping my community in honoring the Senior Class of 2020."

The school district premiered their LBHS 2020 Senior Send Off on the Bearcat Broadcast Network YouTube page on April 28. Every senior was recognized by photo, and the video include other tidbits about each senior, such as their favorite high school memory and their plans for the future. Some scholarships were announced, as well. The video can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/L9ZTuC0LvdM>.

In addition, among several other unique recognitions, the 240 soon-to-be-graduates were also honored with twenty days of the football stadium lights being on. The recognition began on April 20 at 8:20 p.m. (20:20 military time), and lasted for twenty minutes and twenty seconds for twenty days.

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# Levens honored as NAVOCEANO Civilian of the Year

*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

The Naval Oceanographic Office, based at Stennis Space Center, recently named Long Beach's Michael Levens Civilian of the Year.

Levens has worked at NAVOCEANO as an engineering technician for the last twelve years and is primarily responsible for facilities maintenance management, project management, energy management and project development, in addition to several collateral duties.

He is awarded this honor for going above and beyond the call of duty, most recently having overseen the completion of a \$700,000 construction project he's managed from cradle to grave over the last two years. He also served as the lead engineering technician in coordinating the execution of over eighty service requests in 2019, totaling nearly \$255,000 and resulting in campus beautification, employee satisfaction, mission support and safety hazard mitigation.

Levens was nominated for the award by his supervisor, Facilities Manager

Steve Fitzgerald, who says, "Michael has greatly exceeded his performance requirements. He has worked with stakeholders to develop, design and execute multiple mission critical and quality-of-life-enhancing projects, ranging from several thousand to several million dollars."

A 2004 graduate of Long Beach High School, Levens attended the University of Southern Mississippi and began interning with NAVOCEANO in 2008 while working toward his degree. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in construction engineering technologies in 2009 and began his career as a full-time employee upon graduation.

An active member of the Long Beach community, Levens coaches tee-ball and soccer, and is a member of the Carnival Association of Long Beach.

NAVOCEANO, comprised of approximately 700 military, civilian and contractor personnel, uses a variety of platforms including ships, aircraft, satellite sensors, buoys and unmanned underwater vehicles

to collect oceanographic and hydrographic data from the world's oceans.



*Special to Long Beach Breeze*  
Engineering Technician Michael Levens of Long Beach was recently named Civilian of the Year by the Naval Oceanographic Office at Stennis Space Center.

# Long Beach Bearcats baseball team welcomes new coach

*By Andy Kanengiser*

Long Beach High baseball players didn't realize their 2020 season would come to an early end this spring. The Bearcats reeled off wins against teams like Pass Christian, West Harrison, Hancock and Warren Central as games wrapped up in March due to the COVID-19 health crisis.

When the Bearcats return to the diamond for the 2021 season, the Maroon & White squad will be led by a new head coach, Garrett LaRosa. A former Bearcats baseball standout, LaRosa says he is excited to return to his alma mater as the team's new skipper.

LaRosa takes over a Long Beach High squad sporting a 9-3 record during a shortened 2020 season. He succeeds Connor Douglas, who was named in May 2019 to lead the Long Beach team. Douglas arrived in the Long Beach district post after seven seasons as varsity head coach at Warren Central High in Vicksburg. Douglas left Long Beach to serve as an assistant coach/ assistant athletic director in another district.

LaRosa brings proven experience as an assistant varsity baseball coach at Hancock County High. This season, he served as a varsity assistant baseball coach for the Long Beach Bear-

cats.

Long Beach sports fans always have high expectations for the Bearcats baseball team. And the 2021 season should be no different on the 300 East Old Pass Road campus. The new baseball coach is expected to be a nice fit at a newly-constructed Long Beach High this year.

Garrett LaRosa is certainly a familiar face around Harrison County, especially in his Gulf Coast hometown of Long Beach. He was the cleanup hitter on the Long Beach High state championship baseball team in 2010. LaRosa was a solid hitter, as well, with the Bearcats 2011 and 2011 Bearcat squads.

The Long Beach High alumnus played baseball at Meridian Community College and McNeese State University in Louisiana.

Long Beach School District Superintendent Jay Smith is convinced LaRosa will do a wonderful job leading the Bearcats as the varsity's new head coach.

"We are confident in his abilities to lead this program, and we are equally confident that his long term commitment to our players is rooted in sound character," said Smith. No doubt, the Mississippian brings a record of success as well as dedication to the Long Beach district family, school supporters say.



*Special to Long Beach Breeze*  
Garrett LaRosa



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## Parks and Rec working around town

All photos special to Long Beach Breeze



The City's Parks and Recreation Department has spent some time sprucing up around town. The splash pad is ready for summer, and the crew completed a bridge at West Railroad Park. The splash pad at the Harper McCaughan Town Green opened Saturday, May 9, and will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., following the Governor's orders, until further notice.



## Middle school Bearcats cheer tryouts announced

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Students wanting to try out for the Long Beach Middle School (LBMS) cheerleading squad have until June 11 to

will learn a cheer, a dance and a chant.

A parent information video has also been posted with information, including instructions on how to submit tryout videos. Videos must be submitted on the



submit a video.

Due to the current pandemic situation, LBMS cheer tryouts for this year will be virtual. All students interested in trying out will learn material at their own leisure using links found on the Athletics page of the LBMS website. Participants

Band app, and information on how to download and use it are available on the website.

In order to try out, applicants must complete and submit a Permission to Tryout form, also found on the web page, [www.lbsdk12.com](http://www.lbsdk12.com).

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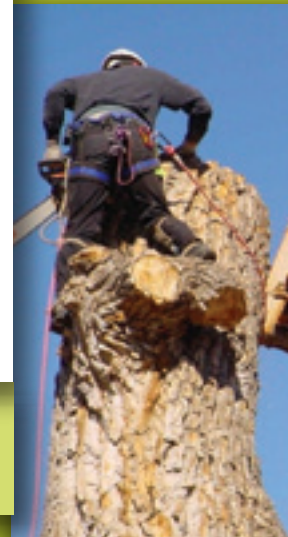
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# Local resident promotes awareness of mental health issues

By Andy Kanengiser

Her passion is her commitment to promoting public awareness of mental health problems impacting people in South Mississippi.

Cynthia Shields has an effective vehicle to advance her mission. The Long Beach resident serves as president of the Coastal Mississippi chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).

The group supports mental health needs of families in Jackson, Hancock, Harrison, Pearl River, Stone and George counties.

NAMI officials are stepping up their activities, since May is Mental Health Awareness Month across the United States.

“The local chapter is our catalyst,” Shields says.

NAMI leaders like her are sponsoring a National Day of Hope on May 30. A kickoff to a NAMIWalks fundraiser on the Gulf Coast October 3, the Day of Hope is a virtual celebration, with leaders inviting people to join them.

The nation’s largest grassroots mental health organization promotes being healthy physically, mentally and spiritually. It’s a cause worth showcasing. NAMI officials say one in every four individuals across America has a mental health condition of some type.

Shields is spreading the word about



her non-profit during a time when anxiety levels, feelings of uncertainty and isolation have risen dramatically throughout America during the COVID-19 crisis. By early May, more than 33 million Americans suddenly lost their jobs. There were more than 1.29 million coronavirus cases across the U.S. and over 76,512 deaths as of May 7.

As a result of the health emergency, NAMI members in the half-dozen South Mississippi counties meet monthly by teleconference.

Seeking to connect with the region’s residents, NAMI’s Coastal Mississippi chapter will host its annual walk on October 3. The 5K walk that Saturday begins 9 a.m. at Fort Maurepas in Ocean Springs.

In 2020, officials are marking eighteen years of NAMIWalks. It is the nation’s largest series of mental health awareness and fundraising events. The Coastal Mississippi chapter seeks to raise \$5,000. There is no cost to register for the family-friendly event this fall.

Details about both events can be

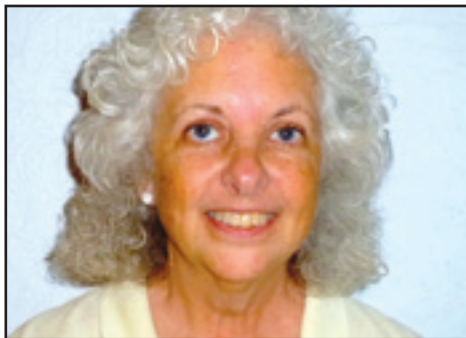
found at NAMIMS.org and NAMI-Walks.org.

Other NAMI chapter activities in South Mississippi include peer-to-peer training sessions, and family support groups on the first and third Saturday mornings of the month.

A physical therapy assistant, Shields says she has long felt the Mississippi Gulf Coast needs to do much more to boost mental health awareness in her region. She points to a plethora of information on the Coast Mississippi NAMI Facebook page and website.

Despite all her efforts, she’s not satisfied with the progress to heighten awareness about mental health. In the region’s six south Mississippi counties, Shields believes things are better than what she discovered three years ago.

But, she says, “We have a long way to go.”



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Long Beach resident Cynthia Shields

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## Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) Workshop planned

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The Standing, Reef Fish, Mackerel, Ecosystem, and Socioeconomic Scientific and Statistical Committees will meet to discuss the MRIP Fishing Effort Survey and its calibration to historical

Effort Survey. The Committees will also discuss the calibration process, including models and methods, comparison to historical data, and impacts of calibration on regional estimates of fishing effort. The weight estimation procedures will also be addressed,



catch and effort data. This meeting, originally planned for April 14-15, 2020, was rescheduled due to concerns about COVID-19 virus and travel restrictions. The workshop will convene from 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 8, and Thursday, July 9, 2020 at the Renaissance Tampa International Plaza Hotel, located at 4200 Jim Walter Blvd., Tampa, FL 33607.

The workshop will begin on July 8 with a presentation and discussion of the differences in effort survey design, catch and effort estimation, characterization of biases, and quality control measures for the new MRIP Fishing

followed by a discussion of how the Fishing Effort Survey will impact quota monitoring.

On July 9, the Committees will consider case studies for Gulf of Mexico migratory group King Mackerel and Gray Snapper. A comparison of landings, effort, and discards, pre and post-Fishing Effort Survey as well as treatment of shore mode landings, effort and discards will be presented for both stocks. The Committees are expected to review this information, discuss it, and provide any recommendations to the Council. This workshop is open to the public.

## Tillman named head softball coach at LBHS



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Rebecca Tillman, a 1992 graduate of Long Beach High School, has been named the head girls' varsity softball coach at Long Beach High School. Tillman, an accomplished athlete in both high school and college in basketball and softball, most recently served as the Long Beach Middle School head softball coach. She has spent many years coaching in summer leagues and travel competition softball programs and has dedicated much of her personal and professional time promoting female sports.

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# LONG BEACH BREEZE

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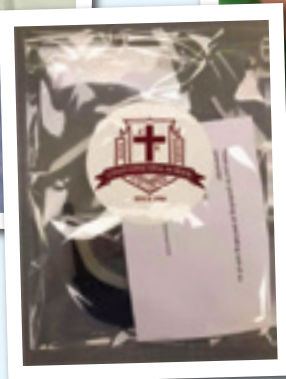
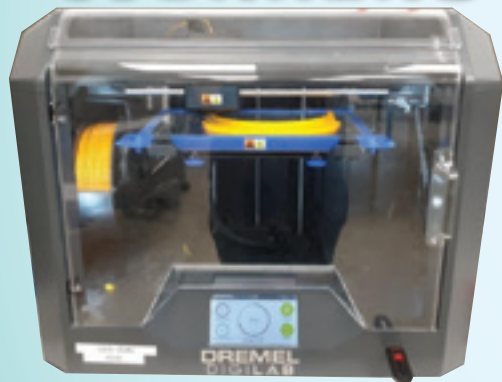
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# CES USES MAKERSPACE TO BENEFIT MEDICAL WORKERS



All photos special to Long Beach Breeze.

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Joining the nationwide efforts to produce personal protective equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers, Will Ashley, Makerspace Coordinator at Coast Episcopal School (CES) in Long Beach, has been manufacturing 3D face shields and face mask extenders. The extenders make face masks more comfortable to wear by lessening the strain on the ears from wearing a mask for extended periods of time.

"One of my goals for the Makerspace is to show our students how we might use technology to solve everyday problems," said Ashley. "A major problem in the news lately is that our hospitals lack PPE to adequately deal with the

COVID-19 pandemic. For the last two weeks, the Makerspace at CES has been printing face shields in our 3D printers for the medical professionals in our area. Each face shield takes about two hours to print. We have printed over seventy face shields and will soon be delivering them to the medical heroes who need them at this time."

Volunteers from CES got together to assemble and package the final product and make their first delivery to the staff at Memorial Hospital in Gulfport.

CES officials said that Budmen Industries provided the design of the face shield so anyone who is able could begin producing them for their local communities. Quinn Callander, a twelve-year-old Boy Scout from British Columbia, Canada, provided the modified design of the face mask extender.

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# USM to distribute CARES funding, readies for fall

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The University of Southern Mississippi has finalized the process for distributing \$6,753,021 in CARES Act funding designated for Emergency Financial Aid Grants for students.

Students who believe they are eligible to receive CARES emergency funds must complete an online application to certify that they have incurred qualifying expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to COVID-19, in accordance with United States Department of Education guidelines.

Although institutions have been given a one-year time frame to distribute all funds, USM's goal is to distribute CARES Act funds as soon as possible.

Students must meet eligibility requirements determined by the United States Department of Education and have a 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file to confirm eligibility for CARES emergency funds.

Specific eligibility requirements and FAFSA filing instructions have been sent



Special to Long Beach Breeze

to students via email.

USM is planning to resume on-campus operations this fall, with the semester scheduled to begin August 24. These plans could change, as guidance from public health officials monitoring COVID-19 continues to evolve.

In preparation for this transition, modified policies and procedures are being developed for implementation across the institution, including expanded health and safety protocols and flexible course formats, which will allow the institution to adapt more easily to changes in the environment.

The university's academic leaders are reviewing national best practices to guide the institution in the transition to an on-campus fall semester, and university officials say faculty are well prepared to adapt to a variety of course delivery

formats as this public health situation evolves further. All spring classes are currently being delivered remotely, and online or other remote delivery formats are also planned for summer courses.

Public health guidelines will determine future plans for large gatherings, including athletic events. Changes to student life programming and housing policies will also be implemented in accordance with current health guidance.

Prospective students are encouraged to visit [usm.edu/admissions](http://usm.edu/admissions) for more information about academic programs, scholarships, and financial aid opportunities.

New students admitted for fall 2020 should register for a required Orientation session at [usm.edu/orientation](http://usm.edu/orientation).

Future Southern Miss students now have the opportunity to schedule an individual online session with an admissions representative to ask questions about the admissions process, housing, scholarships, financial aid and orientation.

Interested students can schedule a virtual admission session by visiting <https://bit.ly/3c2TOKK>.

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All in-person worship has been suspended until we receive an "all clear" notice from the authorities. Our Congregation is worshipping together electronically via ZOOM. This limits participation to only those to whom the link and password has been provided. If anyone else wishes to participate, they can send me a request at [gracepastordave1@gmail.com](mailto:gracepastordave1@gmail.com)

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

## Grab and Go Summer Feeding Program begins June 1



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach School District Feeding Program will be closed at Quarles Elementary and Reeves Elementary from May 20 through May 29 but will resume on Monday, June 1, at Quarles Elementary with the Grab and Go Summer Feeding Program.

Those wishing to take advantage of the program are asked to use the bus lane on the west side at Reeves Street. The free breakfast and lunch will continue to be served by a member of the School Nutrition Staff directly to vehicles.

The USDA program is free for all children 18 years and younger, no matter where the student attends school. Breakfast and lunches will be distributed each day from 10:30 until 12:30.

Adult lunches will be available for a cost of \$3.

The institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## Sparklight partners with Arbor Day Foundation

Special to Long Beach Breeze

In honor of Arbor Day, Sparklight is extending its partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation to plant trees on behalf of customers who switch to paperless billing. Now in its sixth year, the partnership has resulted in 100,000 trees being planted in Sparklight markets as well as areas ravaged by 2017 hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

"We're thrilled with the positive response we've received to our paperless billing service and our partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation," said Trish Niemann, Sparklight Senior Director of Corporation Communications. "Whether they care about conserving natural resources, planting trees in their community, or simply enjoying the convenience that paperless billing offers, we're offering our customers a simple way to make a difference with just a few easy steps."

Paperless billing is part of Sparklight's ongoing effort to offer customers more choices while reducing the company's impact on the environment.

"The generous support shown by Sparklight allows us to plant additional trees that will help provide clean air and water, critical wildlife habitat, and beauty that will be enjoyed by our children and grandchildren," said Arbor Day Foundation President Dan Lambe.

In addition to supporting the environment, managing billing online through Sparklight paperless billing provides customers with secure access to current statements, payment options, and account histories related to their Sparklight bills.

To opt in, or for more information about Sparklight paperless billing, customers can visit [www.sparklight.com](http://www.sparklight.com).



## Mississippi receives over \$51 million in GOMESA funds

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves recently announced that a total of \$51,913,975.74 has been awarded to Mississippi through the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA). The federal passage in 2006 of GOMESA created revenue sharing provisions for the four Gulf oil and gas producing States of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and their coastal political subdivisions.

"We are grateful for President Trump's leadership and the Department of Interior's commitment to supporting our coastal energy resources.

We must continue investing in our conservation and restoration pro-

grams to enhance and protect our state's natural resources and beauty of the Mississippi Coast. These energy revenues will enable our state to continue developing our energy resources for Mississippi and our country as a whole," said Reeves.

The projects that receive this funding will be administered by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR).

"The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources looks forward to managing GOMESA projects for Governor Reeves. These projects will enhance education, research, restoration, water quality and improve our beautiful estuary for the Gulf Coast of Mississippi,"

said MDMR Executive Director Joe Spraggins.

MDMR is currently accepting proposals for projects that may receive funding from GOMESA. Proposals, which are restricted to projects within Hancock, Harrison and Jackson Counties, must meet one or more of the following criteria: projects and activities for the purposes of coastal protection, including conservation, coastal restoration, hurricane protection and infrastructure directly affected by coastal wetland losses; mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife or natural resources; implementation of a federally-approved marine, coastal or comprehensive conservation management plan; mitigation of the impact of Outer Continental Shelf activities through the funding of onshore infrastructure projects; and planning assistance and the administrative costs of compliance.

The deadline for proposals to be submitted is 5 p.m. on June 30, 2020. Proposals may be submitted to Russell Weatherly at [GOMESA@dmr.ms.gov](mailto:GOMESA@dmr.ms.gov).

## Small business grants available

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, Inc. has released the Gulfport, Biloxi, Long Beach and Pass Christian Chambers of Commerce small business grant applications. Small business grants are a membership benefit offered by each city's Chamber division.

More than eighty percent of Mississipp-



pi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, Inc. members are comprised of small businesses. The small business grant program was instituted to aid these small businesses in development and expansion. Grants will be awarded to those who meet the specific criteria and provide adequate documentation supporting their grant request.

Applications can be found on the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, Inc. website, [www.mscoastchamber.com](http://www.mscoastchamber.com), under the "Deadlines/Applications" page.

Small business grant applications for all divisions are due on Wednesday, May 28, by 4 p.m.

For more information, call 228-604-0014.



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# Library staff in planning stages of reopening



Special to Long Beach Breeze

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn,  
LBPL Youth and Technology Services

Hello again from everyone here at Long Beach Public Library! As most of you know, the staff is currently at the library ensuring that it will be the safest it can be when you return. To properly do so, we have had to make some changes in all departments, but we hope that these changes will only be temporary.

We are currently in the planning stages of our reopening. Our outside book

drop is still closed. Please continue to hold your items until we reopen. They will not be overdue, and we will not be charging overdue fines. Don't forget about our online resources and our Virtual Summer Reading Program Online. The links can be found on the Facebook page and on the website calendar.

As always, we want everyone to stay safe; and, to stay updated of all library events, check our Facebook page or website.

If you have any questions, please email me at rrayburn@longbeach.lib.ms.us.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Have you tried the "I Spy Challenge" going on at your local library? Here is the most current picture. Check the Long Beach Public Library's Facebook page for weekly challenges on which items to search for next! Happy hunting!

# 2020 Census: An opportunity to move Mississippi forward

By Guest Columnist Michael Watson,  
Mississippi Secretary of State



With so much uncertainty surrounding our country, one constant is the need for adequate federal funding and representation in Washington, D.C. Our founding fathers knew the importance of accurate representation in congress and implemented the census as a way to proportionally distribute federal funds and congressional seats. The census process is a staple of American government that continues to be an important mandate for our nation's functionality.

Information collected from the census is beneficial to both local governments and the private sector. Institutions across the country, including cities and municipalities, small businesses, and nonprofits often rely on census results to outline where

services are most needed and to promote economic development. We all can do our part to better our state by participating in the 2020 Census.

Completing the census takes less time than ever before. By answering ten questions about your household taking no more than ten minutes, you can help positively impact our state for the next ten years. The best part is you can now complete this process while social distancing in the comfort of your own home. Fill out your census online at 2020census.gov, over the phone by calling 844-330-2020, or through the mail.

As I promote the census across the state, I continue to hear a number of fears and misconceptions regarding the process.

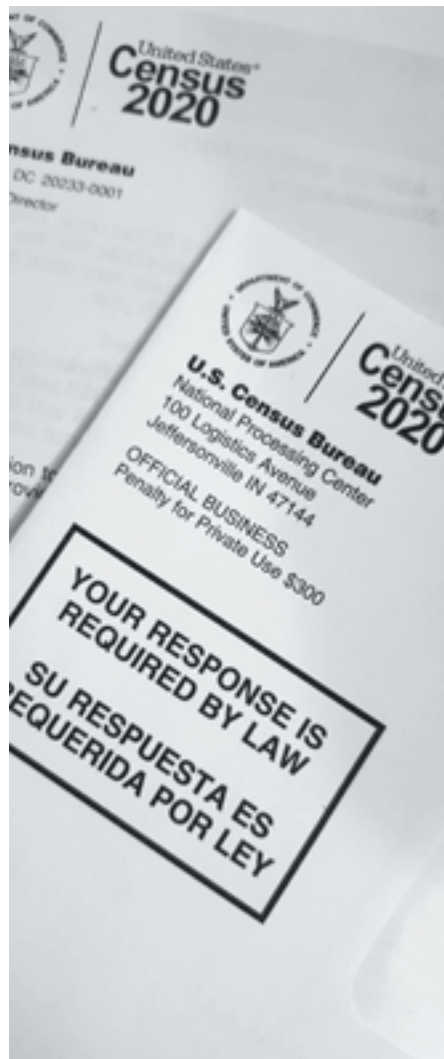


Mississippians should know a legitimate census form or census taker will never ask for your social security number, banking information, donations, or anything on behalf of a political party.

I've also heard concerns about confidentiality. Not only are you kept anonymous, please know your data is used for statistical purposes only, and your responses cannot be shared for a minimum of seventy years.

Similar to an election, the census can only accurately serve those who participate. In 2000, our state lost a congressional seat (MS-5) due to low census participation. Since then, we only send four Representatives to Washington each term, resulting in one less person to speak for Mississippi. In the 2010 census, more than 265,000 Mississippians went uncounted. If this happens again, we could lose billions of dollars in federal funding for our state. Simply put: the more accurate Mississippi's count, the more financial resources and representation Mississippians will receive, thus positively impacting your community and your household for the next decade.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, grassroots efforts to ensure an accurate census count are now on hold. As I write this, we are currently one of the top ten states in terms of the percentage of voluntary responses. I am calling on you to keep up the good work and help ensure a complete and accurate count for Mississippi. Encourage your friends, family members, and neighbors to participate in this vital process, and don't forget to reach out to those around you who may need help submitting responses. The census is more than just a head count; it's an opportunity to move Mississippi forward.



# Bearcats hire new boys' basketball coach



*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

Nick Coln was recently named the new boys' head basketball coach at Long Beach High.

*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

Nick Coln was recently named the new varsity boys' basketball coach for the Long Beach High School Bearcats.

Coln has twelve years' experience as a varsity head coach in the state of Mississippi at Alcorn High, Olive Branch High and Smithville High. He has also served as an assistant coach at Northeast Community College.

As a high school player, Coln was the all-time leading scorer at Alcorn

High School and was a McDonald's All-American nominee. He was the MVP in the USA/Canada Challenge and the Northwest Mississippi Player of the Year. In 1996, he was selected as a Basketball Mississippi Dandy Dozen, ranking him in the top twelve players in the state of Mississippi.

Coach Coln played his college career at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. As a college player, he ranked in the conference top five in three-point shooting in two different seasons.

# LBSD announces sports tryouts

*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

The Long Beach School District has announced tryouts for several of their sports teams.

Long Beach High School baseball tryouts will be held on June 8 and 9 from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Long Beach Middle School baseball tryouts will be held on June 10 and 11 from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Those trying out must wear proper baseball attire and bring their own equipment (glove, cleats, etc.) Those trying out must attend both days of tryouts.

Long Beach Middle School will hold boys basketball tryouts on Wednesday, June 3, from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. in the LBMS gym.

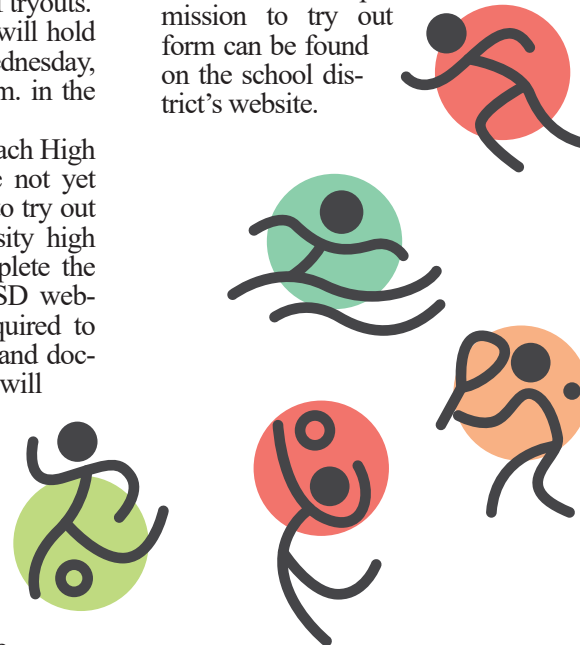
Tryout dates for the Long Beach High School girls soccer team have not yet been set. Students who intend to try out for the varsity and junior varsity high school soccer team must complete the tryout form found on the LBSD website. Students will also be required to complete an exercise program and document it. The exercise program will be emailed to all participants. At the earliest, tryouts could be held in the first two weeks of June, and a summer camp could be held in late June or July, with guest college coaches.

Long Beach High School volleyball tryouts will be June

1 from 9 a.m. until 11 am. In the LBHS gym. Long Beach Middle School will hold girls volleyball tryouts from 9 a.m. until 11 p.m. on June 4 at the LBMS gym.

Long Beach High School softball tryouts are set for June 3 from 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Middle school softball tryouts will be on June 2 from 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

All athletes trying out must have their permission to try out form completely filled out. The permission to try out form can be found on the school district's website.



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# LBSD IMPROVES SCHOOL SECURITY



Even though the students are not in the school buildings, the Long Beach School District has not stopped in its efforts to approve the safety of their schools. Late last month, the district installed bulletproof glass in the reception areas at both W.J. Quarles Elementary School and Thomas L. Reeves Elementary School. In addition, new doors were placed at both locations to prohibit individuals from entering the main halls without being "buzzed" through the doors. When complete, these doors, as well as exterior doors, will only open with ID badges.



All photos special to Long Beach Breeze

# Residents encouraged to plan for hurricane season

*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) joins the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is advising residents to prepare for hurricane season, which officially begins June 1 and runs through November.

“Don’t wait until hurricane season to prepare; start now,” said Commissioner Tom King, Southern Transportation District. “An above average hurricane season is predicted for this year. Before any tropical weather forms, residents should have an evacuation plan in place.”

To help residents plan evacuations, MDOT provides free travel resources, including hurricane evacuation maps in English, Spanish or Vietnamese, and the MDOT Traffic mobile app.

The hurricane evacuation maps will be distributed through newspapers in south Mississippi the first week of June. Additional copies of the maps will be mailed to numerous city halls, libraries and other community centers in south Mississippi for distribution. Orders can also be placed online at [GoMDOT.com/maps](http://GoMDOT.com/maps).

Residents are also encouraged

to download the MDOT Traffic mobile app. The app provides real-time traffic conditions throughout the state and will be utilized to publish emergency alerts directly to users.

“The resources are there to ensure you keep yourself and loved ones safe when a tropical system threatens,” said King. “It’s up to you to create an evacuation plan before the storm and stay prepared during hurricane season.”

This year, residents are advised to take extra precautions because of coronavirus (COVID-19). Residents should consider additional supplies that may be needed to protect themselves and their families, including purchasing Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) like masks, hand sanitizer and disinfectants and adding them to a “Go Bag” in case an evacuation is needed.

Go Bag contents should also include the following:

- o **Cash:** If the power goes out, credit cards won't work. Keep cash on hand for replenishing supplies.

- o **Medications:** Pharmacies might be closed, and hospitals could be overwhelmed. Pack any necessary medications and assume there will not be access to refills for

several days.

- o **A battery-powered radio:** If electricity is out and cell towers are down, this is the best way to know what's happening.

- o **A gallon of water for every family member and pet:** Widespread power outages could make tap water unsafe to drink.

- o **Important documents:** Social Security cards, passports, birth certificates, driver's licenses and more could all be lost or destroyed in a flood, wildfire or any natural disaster. Keep copies of these documents in a waterproof container or digital image saved online. Include a copy of insurance policies so a claim can be filed quickly once the danger has passed.

“As we continue to social distance because of COVID-19, consider where you would go if you had to evacuate because of a storm,” said Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney. “Mississippi storm shelters are practicing social distancing. Find out where you could safely go, what you would need to bring with you, and create a communication plan with your family so everyone understands what to do.”

Evacuations are more common than people realize. Residents should make themselves familiar

with their community’s evacuation zones, so they will know exactly where to go. If a hurricane threatens the community and local officials say it's time to evacuate, don't hesitate; go early.

Residents should review their insurance coverage and make sure they are familiar with their policies. For questions, contact an insurance agent or insurer.

Flood damage is generally not covered by a standard homeowners or renter's insurance policy. Those don't have flood insurance and are considering purchasing a policy should remember there is a 30-day waiting period for policies bought through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Those who purchase a private flood policy should ask about the waiting period.

For more information about hurricane preparation, visit [GoMDOT.com/hurricanes](http://GoMDOT.com/hurricanes). Also, visit [www.msema.org](http://www.msema.org) for additional safety information.

For assistance with an insurance question or claim, call 601-359-3569.

For up to date traffic information, visit [MDOTtraffic.com](http://MDOTtraffic.com) or like and follow @MississippiDOT on Facebook and Twitter.

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