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November 20, 2020 • Volume 4, Number 11 • “Good News You Can Use”

Mayor Bass covers storm damage, roads, sewer and taxes in State of the City address

By Shaun Szkolnik

The City of Long Beach presented the annual State of the City address on November 4, 2020. Due to considerations created by the COVID-19 pandemic, Mayor Robert Bass presented his remarks virtually, via the Internet. A number of topics were covered relating to the City’s recent past, present and future.

Bass began with the City’s response to the difficulties created by Hurricane Zeta, including how the City will be attending to the debris created by the storm.

“We began working on Friday (October 30) to get out packages on bids for our debris removal,” said Bass. “We worked very diligently last night... we had five recessed meetings with the Board of Alderman where we were taking care of these items and passing them before the Board and



Photo courtesy City of Long Beach

getting their approval on what we were doing on an emergency basis. Today, this morning, the City was divided into four quadrants, where we have teams in each of

those quadrants from Necaise Brothers that will be picking up and have been picking up debris. We want to be able to get our life back together.”

The mayor also highlighted the level of destruction that the near-Category 3 hurricane brought to the city.

“We’ve suffered a lot of damage in Long Beach. Our harbor is destroyed - the inner harbor. It’s not quite as bad as Katrina, but it is almost that same degree of destruction ... we’re very hopeful. We know that it is going to take some time, [and] we ask for your patience as we deal with this.”

Turning to economic issues, Bass discussed the City’s revenues.

“I’m happy to report that we’ve had this year about \$113,000 - or a seven and a half percent - increase during the COVID period,” said Bass. “We had from \$1.5 million in 2019 to \$1.628 million this year in sales tax. We’ve continued to grow our sales tax. I think

cont. on page 14

Sea Santa Sail-A-Bratation booked for Long Beach

By Andy Kanengiser

The 7th annual Sea Santa Sail-A-Bratation is happening on December 5, but on a smaller scale this year.

What Gulf Coast people cherish as a unique holiday tradition the first Saturday in December will still occur, but visitors can expect a more modest version, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

What’s staying on track? There will be a Christmas



parade that evening in downtown Long Beach, plus children can have their photos snapped with Santa on the Town Green. And prizes will be awarded. The fun parade begins at 5:45 p.m. with waterless boats to be featured in the Friendly City.

But, due to the worldwide health emergency, people must practice safe distancing. There will be no live entertain-

cont. on page 2



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Christmas on the Avenue brightens the holidays in Long Beach

By Andy Kanengiser

Bringing joy to so many on the Gulf Coast, Christmas on the Avenue is set for December 12.

The 15th annual event, a family-friendly activity that helps raise funds to support the Long Beach High Concert Choir each year, features a holiday season performance by the Long Beach High Concert Choir. The eighty-member student choir is among the best in the Magnolia State.

The talented Long Beach singers will perform at the Harper McCaughan Town Green along Jeff Davis Avenue. The event runs from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. that Saturday. It's free.

Given the COVID-19 pandemic that's cancelled so many activities across Mississippi communities and around the globe, Long Beach Concert Choir supporters are happy to see their performances will go on.

The concert choir is led by director Terry Walker and associate director Brian Chancey. The Long Beach High choir benefits from the work of Rita Wilson, as



well. She's the Long Beach Middle School choral director who gets her students ready to sing at the next level.

Want to see some of the choir's many achievements? Connect with www.longbeachconcertchoir.org, or visit the group's Facebook page. Rated one of the top five high school concert choirs in Mississippi, the choir consistently receives Superior ratings at district and state competitions and has entertained audiences for more than three decades.

Just stop by their Christmas on the Avenue concert to see why they've excelled. The group includes four small ensembles: Madrigals, a Sextet, Men's Ensemble and Men's Quartet.

There are several activities connected with the 2020 Christmas on the Avenue. There's a Breakfast with Santa, arts and crafts vendors, food and plenty of fun. There's time for kids to have their photos made with Santa, too.

Applications are being accept-

ed for booth space for the annual arts and crafts fair. A 10' x 10' booth space is \$50, with set up taking place from 7 until 9 a.m. that morning, and tear down from 4 until 6 p.m. Booths must be staffed at all times during the event. Applications are being accepted until December 4.

In addition, all vendors must have a City of Long Beach vendor's license for the event, which is \$10. Payment for the vendor license will need to be made payable to the City of Long Beach, and event organizers will take care of picking up the license for vendors and have them at the festival site at check in.

From Mayor George Bass to Long Beach District Superintendent Dr. Jay Smith and business people along Jeff Davis Avenue, the event is always eagerly anticipated, and the timing is perfect as the Christmas holidays draw near.

Due to concerns about COVID-19 cases rising across the U.S., Mississippi leaders say social distancing and other health protocols should be followed at the December 12 event as well as at other events statewide.

cont. from page 1

Sea Santa Sail-A-Bratation booked for Long Beach

ment, and a number of events that have been held in years past at the Town Green won't occur. Crowd favorites like the human snow globe won't take place, nor will the snow stop, for instance. Across the U.S., health officials strongly encourage people to wear masks to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, with more than 240,000 coronavirus deaths nationwide as of November 10.

Organizers are trying to focus on the bright side.

"At least we will have a parade," said Shelda Jones, president of the Long Beach Community Development Association.

The Association, along with the City of Long Beach, is teaming to sponsor the festive holiday event. The group is a division of the Mississippi Main Street Association.

Jones met with Long Beach Mayor George Bass, along with police, fire department officials, and City recreation lead-

ers on November 9 to discuss event details. Officials won't allow any items to be thrown from the boats during the parade. The Christmas tree lighting will occur.

"We hope people come out and enjoy the Christmas parade," Jones said. It's one good way to bring a little bit of the Christmas spirit to Long Beach, said Jones.

Typically, the event draws hundreds of Gulf Coast people each year.

Showcasing boats of all types, the parade route starts at the Long Beach High football stadium, moves along Railroad Street and heads to Jeff Davis Avenue.

There's more information about the December 5 event on the Long Beach Community Development Association website and Facebook pages. For details and parade registration, visit www.longbeachcda.com, or call 228-380-6851.



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Cross Country teams perform well at state meet



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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
Andy Kanengiser
Lindy Sholes
Fred Weller
Shaun Szkolnik

Sales
Keith Clark
Keith@LongBeachBreeze.com

Fred Weller
Fred@LongBeachBreeze.com

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Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach High School Boys and Girls cross country teams placed fourth at the state meet this year. Top boy scorers included junior Brandon Griffith and freshman Olin Dorris. Top girl scorers were senior Alexa Nanatovich and junior Brooklyn Biancamano, who claimed her fourth consecutive 5A gold medal and a new course record of 18:15 at Choctaw Trails. Girls' coach Erin Biancamano said she was proud of the resilience of the team, who performed well despite the stresses of Hurricane Zeta hitting their hometown sixty hours prior to race time and most of the team being without power when their bus departed on Saturday morning. Pictured (l to r) are girls' team members: Hannah Graf (9th grade), Bridey Walters (9th grade), Brooklyn Biancamano (11th grade), Alexa Nanatovich (12th grade), Emily Lyons (12th grade), Pepper Newman (8th grade), Hannah Walters (8th grade) and Riley Morvant (9th grade).

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General Manager**



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Memorial 5K set for December 5

By Lindy Sholes

Long Beach residents will have an opportunity to get the holiday season off to a healthy, charitable and festive start at the annual Fred Walker Memorial Jingle Bells 5K on December 5.

The run/walk will begin at 8 a.m. at the Town Green. The route will proceed to Lang Avenue and then back to the Town Green, where medals will be awarded to top winners and age group winners. A holiday costume contest will be held after the race, judged by the Coast Cares Foundation (CCF) board members, and prizes will also be awarded to contest winners. The Foundation hosts the event every year, and proceeds go toward a Long Beach High School scholarship fund and charitable Coast organizations.

“CCF was formed by like-minded friends with a desire to support the Mississippi Gulf Coast and its youth by raising funds to provide cash grants and scholarships with priorities in education, wellness and community development,” said CCF board member Lisa Hamel.

The race has taken place for almost twenty years. Hamel said it started when the Gulf Coast Substance Abuse Task Force held the first race to raise funds for its mission. The Force was formed by former Long Beach Alderman and School Board trustee Fred Walker, in whose memory the race is named. According to his obituary, Walker noted “a rash number of deaths in Long Beach by drug overdose in 2004,” leading him to incorporate the organization. He also started the committee that would launch the well-attended Long Beach Live concert series.

Hamel said CCF was formed to continue the race when the task force folded after Walker’s death in 2016.

“In honor of Fred’s service to the youth of Long Beach and our mission of providing academic scholarships, we chose to rename our event after him and donate a portion of proceeds to the Long Beach High School Fred Walker Scholarship Fund,” Hamel said.

The cost to register is \$25 for adults and \$15 for children and students



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Festive participants were plentiful in the 2019 Fred Walker Memorial Jingle Bells 5K.

up to age 18. Due to COVID-19, participants must be pre-registered, and the event is limited to 100 participants. Registrants will receive a T-shirt.

To register, visit www.gulfcoastrunningclub.org, or fill out the form provided on the Fred Walker Memorial Jingle Bells 5K Facebook page and e-mail it to mrslionfish@hotmail.com or mail to P.O. Box 1352, Long Beach, MS 39560.

The LBHS boys baseball team will also be present to assist in the U.S. Marine Corp’s Toys for Tots drive. To donate to the drive, bring a new, unwrapped toy for children in need along the Gulf Coast.



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Real estate myths—debunked



By Guest Columnist Mallory Savner, Licensed realtor, Veterans Realty

Buyers and sellers alike often enter the real estate market with preconceived notions of the real estate process and how it all works. Sometimes these notions are incorrect, so we want to clear up any misconceptions and hopefully help alleviate a little stress.

1. You can't buy a for sale by owner (FSBO) home if you have an agent.

Truth: Many sellers realize that real estate transactions are complicated, and most buyers have agent representation. Even though the seller may choose not to have representation, they often will offer payment to a buyer's agent in order to attract agents' buyer clients. If you see a FSBO, ask your agent to help—most sellers will compensate them, and you will benefit from their knowledge and expertise.

2. You save money by selling your home yourself as a "for sale by owner."

Truth: While many sellers have other reasons for going it alone, many choose to do so in order to save money. This sometimes may be the case, but statistics show the opposite seems to be true. According to NAR (National Association of Realtors), in 2019, the typical FSBO home sold for \$200,000, versus \$280,000 for agent-assisted home sales. This is due in large part to an agent's knowledge and expertise. Most people do not buy or sell homes every day (that's where an agent's experience comes in—this is what we do every day), and, in Mississippi, they do not have access to all of the information that is available to agents. A real estate agent makes sure your home is priced correctly, marketed effectively, and has the time and know-how to negotiate contracts and ensure all deadlines are met.

3. Buyers pay all closing costs.

Truth: While many of the closing costs are associated with the buyer (lender fees, reserve on taxes and insurance, etc.), and sometimes that is the case, it could be argued some closing costs are equally as much the seller's as the buyer's—such as closing attorney fees. Both parties want the home to sell, and both parties need a closing attorney and title search to do so. All markets differ, and there is not just one way to handle closing costs. It will vary dependent upon the transaction. All closing costs are negotiable as part of the contract. Your agent can help you (whether you are the buyer or seller) determine the best way to handle closing costs and what makes sense for your situation.

4. Buyers choose the closing attorney/title company.

Truth: This comes back to the above myth that buyers pay all closing costs. If buyer is paying all closing costs, sure, they should pick the attorney/title company. In short, whomever pays majority of closing costs chooses the closing attorney/title company. If it's split 50/50, buyer and seller will come to a mutual agreement as to who the closing attorney/title company will be. However, it is a best practice to discuss among both parties to come to a mutual agreement on closing attorney/title company, regardless of who is paying.

5. Real estate agents can only show their own company's listings.

Truth: Real estate agents can show any listing available. Most agents belong to the local real estate board and MLS (multiple listing service) and have access to any listing that is multiple listed and also FSBO (see above). If you are a buyer and have an agent you would like to work with, get in touch with them. As your agent, they have a fiduciary duty to represent you and work on your behalf with your best interests in mind. And generally speaking, it is completely free of charge to you!

6. Agents get paid a salary.

Truth: The majority of agents work on a commission-based scale. It's important to keep this in mind, because time is literally money for an agent. Agents do not get paid until the transaction makes it to the closing table. If you are looking at multiple agents to work with, be upfront about that. You have every right to interview agents to find the best fit, but it is courteous to let them know that and choose an agent to work with, before they spend time working for you.

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Family Attic owner cherishes customers

By Andy Kanengiser

Norma Weed first got the bug for the retail business in Upstate New York, and then she transported it more than 1,000 miles away to Long Beach, Mississippi.

Selling used furniture, antiques, glassware, stoneware vintage items and more at the Family Attic, the New York native loves getting to know customers at the Family Attic.

At age 87, and still going strong, the Family Attic owner cares more about the customers than ringing up sales.

"It's fun for her to meet new people," says her daughter, Cindy Bryant, who works with her mom at the store.

Whether they are shopping for dressers, love seats, jewelry, pottery or want a COVID-19 face mask, customers will usually find something they want to buy at the store. And if they can't, they are always guaranteed to find Miss Norma greeting them with a smile.

"She's not a pushy salesman," says her daughter.

Being nice and striking up a conversation with friends and total strangers is just something Miss Norma is very good at.

In a growing Long Beach shopping mall starting to fill up with a nail salon, puppy place, a chiropractor and other businesses at 528 Klondyke Road, Family Attic this fall celebrated its third anniversary.

The Klondyke Road plaza became home turf for Norma Weed and Cindy Bryant because they wanted to live and work near a family member in the military in south Mississippi. He started at the Seabee Base on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

The two moved to Long Beach after living nearly six years in West Virginia for several years following decades in the Empire State.

The distance between her former home in Pine Bush, New York, and Long Beach, Mississippi is 1,308 miles - or a drive of more than nineteen hours. But Miss Norma and Cindy cherish life in the Friendly City, with no plans to become New Yorkers again. Still, the picnicking, fishing, swimming and trails in Bear Mountain State Park plus nearby historic and cultural sites in Poughkeepsie will always provide fond memories.

Over the years, Weed operated a fabric store, did flea market sales and got into antiques.

A former resident of the Hudson Valley, ninety miles north of New York City, Miss Norma finds the sultry summer weather in South Mississippi isn't her cup of tea.

But she never tires of visiting with people searching for bargains at her discount retail business in Harrison County. Looking for an Adirondack chair for your pool or yard? The Family Attic is selling these chairs made in the U.S. with natural pine. The price is \$85. There are plenty of items on sale year-round.

Weed refuses to retire anytime soon.

"Mom is in it because she loves it."

While the COVID-19 pandemic dramatically slowed the business climate along the Gulf Coast since March, Miss Norma refuses to let health emergency challenges get in her way. The shop stays open from Tuesday through Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Family Attic promotes its business on its Facebook page, in newspaper ads and via word of mouth. The company marked its third anniversary with plenty of sales between September 16 through 26. People needing to move and seeking to downsize are encouraged to sell furniture to the store. Just ask for Miss Norma or her daughter, Cindy. It's also a good way to make new friends on the Gulf Coast.



Dom Firmiano

Cindy Bryant (left) and Norma Weed (right)

America's tech giants are not the problem, and an antitrust lawsuit is not the solution

By Chip Pickering

America's tech giants are not the problem, and antitrust is not the solution. As we enter into a new age of competition and rivalry with China on strategic, on national security, on economic grounds, we have a lot of people in Washington who are wanting to now either break up or heavily regulate the internet companies just at the wrong time and in the wrong way. As you look at every measurement of consumer welfare - lower prices, more innovation, greater investment across all parts of the economy - American tech companies are creating greater growth, lower prices, better services - and that's a hallmark of a very competitive market and not a concentrated monopolistic market.

Ask yourself, is it not the American way to encourage innovation with our brightest minds? Do we want to stifle our ideas and productivity, which is what I would argue is the very thing that has put us on top. Fourteen of the world's top twenty tech companies are American; we are in a new age of competition and rivalry with China. The U.S. tech industry's global market position is at risk and has huge ramifications for re-starting the American economy and our long-term prospects. It's clear the American technology and e-commerce sector drives U.S. growth. States are aggressively competing on a daily basis for good technology jobs. Our universities and colleges are investing in more and more technology and public-private partnerships. Lawsuits will definitely damage our fastest growing industry and threaten these American jobs.

With a global pandemic threatening the entire world, again ask yourself where would we have been over the last six months without technology to assist our businesses to continue to operate, to educate

our children with distance learning, and to provide much needed health care by the use of telehealth? In a recent nationwide survey by the Connected Commerce Council, 93% of small businesses reported they were disrupted by COVID-19 and nearly three in four increased their use of digital tools with COVID-19. A majority of small businesses found digital tools more helpful during COVID-19 than before it. Most also plan to continue to use more digital tools after the pandemic.

By attacking U.S. companies like Amazon, Apple, Facebook and Google, the Justice Department, members of Congress, and some state attorneys general have taken a step back in time and are forgetting the hard work that has been done on the issue of antitrust. Companies being too large or successful is not a violation of antitrust laws. Antitrust was established to focus on the consumer and there is a robust consumer welfare standard in our antitrust laws now. Plus, many of the technology companies that are currently being attacked provide free services to our families, services that we use every day in our lives. Comments have been made about political bias within our technology companies from both sides of the aisle. There are solutions to political bias, but mistakenly using antitrust is not the right way to encourage free speech.

Politicizing antitrust by attacking our technology companies and filing federal and state antitrust lawsuits are not the way to go for our country's future. Lawsuits are a distraction from real issues that need to be addressed and a waste of taxpayers' money. Solutions are out there; decision makers and our technology companies can find them together. Lawsuits will only cause delay, distraction and economic losses. Our technology jobs and our future are at stake.

Pickering currently serves as CEO of INCOMPAS.



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Zeta causes damage to Long Beach



Keith Clark

By zDom Fimiano

Hurricane Zeta tore through Long Beach late last month, leaving the harbor severely damaged, destroying both the Jim Simpson and Stringer piers, and causing much of the city to lose power. The harbor is destroyed and is expected to take a year or more to restore. The storm surge reached 5th Street, a block north of Highway 90, in Long Beach, and the city sustained extensive wind damage. Thankfully, there were no fatalities. The harbor will remain closed until reconstruction is complete.



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[PART I. of II.] The same month that the ministry of Fatherless and Widows began (December, 2012). It was dropped in the founders' heart to run to race. He believes they are connected: "Running represents our life", says the founder. "There is a starting line (birth) and a finish line (death) to this life." In September, he ran his 5th Boston Marathon (1st Virtual) in honor of his dad, a Long Beach veteran who died earlier this year; and for the ministry. He allowed Long Beach to place 2nd in MS of the 19 qualified runners. Last month, his time gets Long Beach the state record title in the mile for age 55. If you wish to support our local Fatherless & Widows, you can donate \$5.23 for the 5:23 time he got for the mile record. Click the Donate button on WWW.FatherlessAndWidows.ORG. Two pages to follow on Facebook: 1. Fatherless & Widows, 2. God's Will Thrift. The store is next to our post office across from our VFW & has a donation canister. Win/Win is getting great Christmas deals and helping our local fatherless and widows. For checks, P.O. box 77, Long Beach.

No one in the ministry draws any income. We thank Becky Ritch, our "Volunteer of the Year" and all other volunteers for all of your help. We have needed it with all of the post-hurricane store damage, roofing, fences, limbs, contractors and insurance needs. We are thankful for such a supportive community. [PART II next issue]

No one in the ministry draws any income. We thank Becky Ritch, our "Volunteer of the Year" and all other volunteers for all of your help. We have needed it with all of the post-hurricane store damage, roofing, fences, limbs, contractors and insurance needs. We are thankful for such a supportive community. [PART II next issue]



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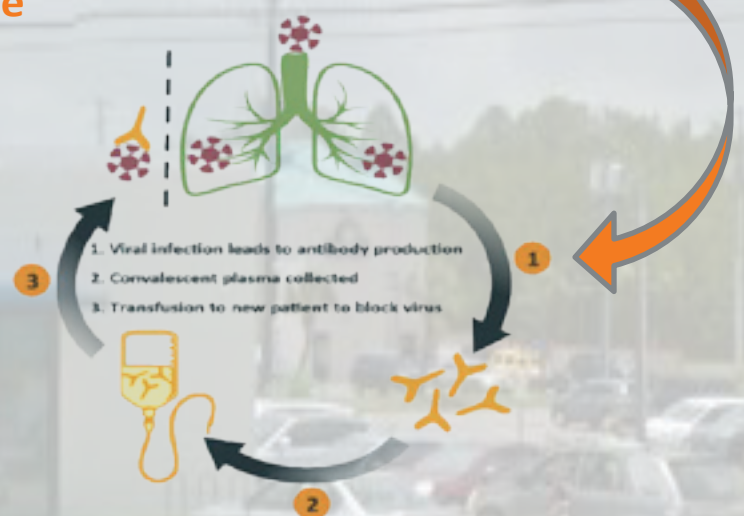
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COVID Recovered



Library readies for holidays, free books available

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn, LBPL Youth and Technology Services

Hello, Long Beach! Hope this is finding all our patrons well! The staff would like to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving!

Every year around this time, we have what is known as "Selfies with Santa." It is a day when parents can come in with the little ones and take pictures of them with a special "guest of honor." We knew we would not be able to do THIS particular program this year; so, instead, we are planning a Christmas Selfie Day for families (one household per photo) on Friday, December 11, 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the children's wing. In order to keep Santa, the elves, and all the reindeer safe this year, we ask that you please wear your jolliest facial mask for your photo. All children who participate will receive a gift bag/craft kit to take home. If there are any questions, please contact me (Renee) at 228-863-0711.

We would like to congratulate and thank Joseph Bothe on his book drive towards his Eagle Scouts project. When all was said and done, donations totaled well over 30+ new books that will be added to the young adult area. These items will be placed on a shelf that was also donated as part of his project. We'd also like to thank all who helped him with the construction and completion of this goal. We are currently processing the books and will have them ready for checkout soon.



There are still plenty of books and VHS tapes on carts and in boxes in the main wing THAT NEED TO GO. Again, these are all discards, and THEY ARE FREE. Please take as many of them as you want. Also, I was just told that some cookbooks have been added, just in time for the holidays!

Holidays coming up in December include the following:

- The library will be closed Thursday, December 24, for Christmas Eve, and Friday, December 25, for Christmas Day. We will reopen at 9 a.m. on Monday, December 28.
- The library will be closing at noon on Wednesday, December 31, for New Year's Eve and will remain closed through Saturday, January 2, 2021 for the New Year's Holidays. We will reopen at 9 a.m. on Monday, January 4, 2021.

At this time, unfortunately, the library is still not able to schedule Preschool Story time, Parent's Coffee, or any type of group meetings at the library, due to social distancing restrictions.

Our meeting rooms are being used for quarantine purposes.

There are no meetings in December for the Friends of the Long Beach Public Library, the Book Club, or the Long Beach Board of Trustees. We will keep you posted on when their next meeting will be.

Stay safe!

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Worship: 10:00

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Bible Classes 6:30



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8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship In-Person in the sanctuary (reservation is required @ 228-863-9619).

This service will be live streamed on Facebook.

11:00 a.m. The Well service In-Person in the Christian Life Center (reservation is required @ 228-863-9619).

This service will be live streamed on Facebook.

Masks are required at all services. We will have masks available for you if you don't have one

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Drum Major Abbie Drake achieves success with Long Beach Band



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Drum Major Abbie Drake



Special to Long Beach Breeze

By Andy Kanengiser

Drum major Abbie Drake is one of the key pieces of the Long Beach High School Marching Band.

The talented Gulf Coast teen isn't ready to quit when her senior year ends. At the University of Southern Mississippi, the Long Beach resident hopes to join the Pride of Mississippi Marching Band on the Hattiesburg campus.

Since its founding in 1920 as a twenty-piece brass ensemble, the Southern Miss band has evolved into a group of more than three hundred students.

Drake's got the skills, drive and work ethic to succeed in Golden Eagles Country, say those who know her. She plans to study music education at USM and equip herself with the classroom skills to teach young kids.

"I really want to teach music and pass on what I have learned to the next generation of students," said Drake.

But before becoming a USM freshman, the seventeen-year-old Long Beach native wants to finish her service with the Long Beach Maroon & White on a high note.

She's been a dedicated band member since middle school and says she cherishes every minute of the experience.

"I love making music and - of course - conducting music."

There are many benefits to being a member of the Long Beach band - from making new friends to learning from a stellar director, Mickey Mangum, say band members.

"The experiences the band has given me are priceless," Drake says. The band directors, she says, are nothing short of fabulous. "The learning experience I received from my band directors has been life-changing."

The Long Beach High Marching Band made its debut for the 2020

season when the Bearcats hosted St. Stanislaus in a September 18 football game at Lance Lumpkin Stadium.

The daughter of Phillip and Erin Drake has served as a drum major for three years. She was also recently selected Long Beach High's Homecoming Queen.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, mask wearing and social distancing are among the health protocols to mitigate the spread of the virus.

Long Beach has felt the consequences of COVID-19. The Long Beach vs Gautier football game set for September 25 was cancelled after a player tested positive for the coronavirus. The same thing has happened at many high schools and colleges across the nation this fall.

The Long Beach High Marching Band is doing all things possible to meet the challenges.

"It's not easy," says Drake. "There are a lot of rules we have to follow, and sometimes it keeps us doing from what we initially planned."

As a drum major and president of the band council, she always goes the extra mile.

"I stay on top of spraying/wiping down music stands and chairs daily. Thanks to our band director, we have solved many social distancing issues, like how to spread the band out and having masks with a Velcro flap that opens so we can play our instruments."

Long Beach High Band Director Mickey Mangum says he is delighted to have drum major Abbie Drake and so many other remarkable students performing on the field and at music competitions.

"The Long Beach High School Band continues to shine after a banner year in 2019," Mangum said.

The band achieved a fifth-place finish in the MHSAA State Band championship in November 2019.

At Bearcats home football games this season, the Long Beach band performed a special show featuring patriotic music, a tribute to active duty and retired military personnel in the Harrison County community.



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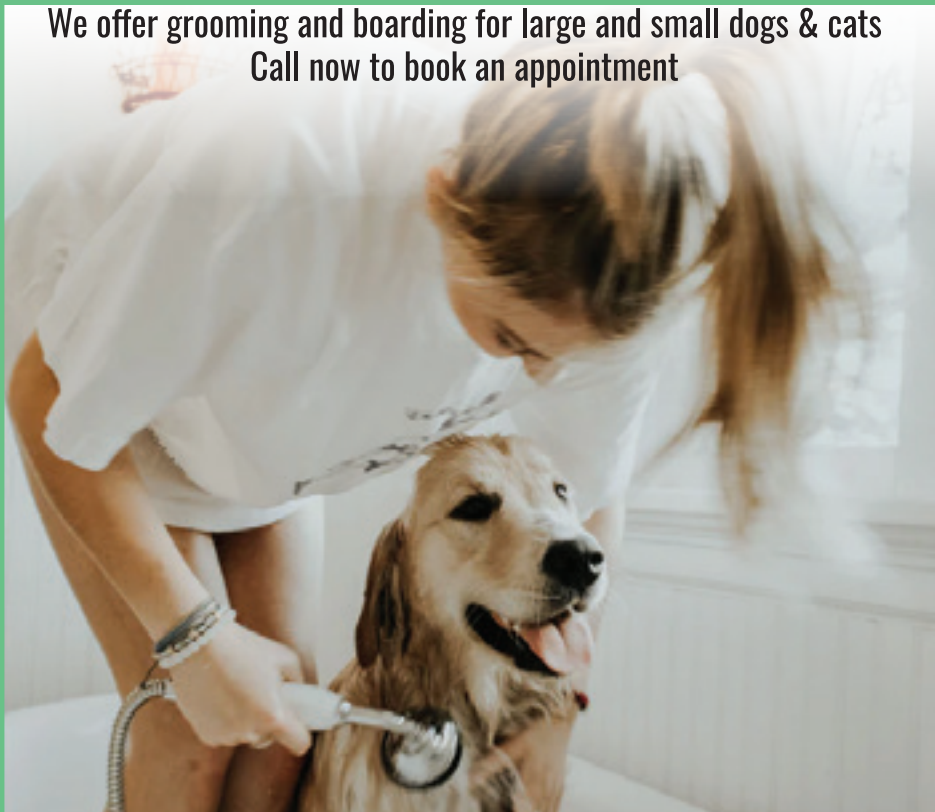
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Long Beach High Bearcats wrap up football season



Dom Fimiano

Long Beach High football coach Ryan Ross

By Andy Kanengiser

On Senior Night, the inaugural campaign for Long Beach High head football coach Ryan Ross ended with a loss to visiting Pascagoula.

The 38-7 defeat wasn't the way Coach Ross, players or fans wanted to wrap up the season.

The Bearcats finished with a final record of 1-8 and a league mark of 1-6. The one Maroon and White triumph was against the West Harrison Hurricanes on September 4. The Bearcats came away with a 21-12 victory against their Gulf Coast rival in Harrison County.

Some games with strong teams like Hattiesburg were tight, with the score just 7-2 in favor of the Tigers at halftime. The final score on October 23 was 33 to 2 for the Tigers that Friday night.

Other games were close throughout, such as the 14-6 loss to St. Stanislaus of Bay St. Louis on September 18. There were two forfeits along the way.

But supporters of the Maroon and White witnessed progress under Coach Ryan Ross, who inherited a losing Bearcats program. He took the Long Beach job after serving as the successful coach of the Ocean Springs High Greyhounds.

Long Beach High parent Lakisha Burnett gives Coach Ross high marks days after the 2020 campaign ended.

"Personally, our family thinks that he's an asset to the district. Even though there was only one win, there is a noticeable positive difference in team togetherness and sportsmanship in comparison to last year," Burnett said.

Ross offered his take with his first season as head coach of the Bearcats now in the books.

"This season was very challenging in many ways," Coach Ross said. "I am proud of our guys for responding each week to what seemed like one obstacle after another."

The end result, he said, "is not what we are hoping for; however, I am thankful that our varsity, along with the middle school teams, were able to play."

In February, Ryan Ross was selected the new Bearcats football coach. He came to Long Beach High after nine years as the Ocean Springs High head coach, bringing a dozen years of head coaching experience. He took his teams to the playoffs eight of the dozen years.

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cont. from page 1

Mayor Bass covers storm damage, roads, sewer and taxes in State of the City address

the citizens have done a great job of sharing the shopping with our businesses here in Long Beach.”

Bass also touched on the fact that taxes in Long Beach have not been raised in several years.

“An important thing that we’ve done, and I feel like you will agree, is that we have not raised taxes,” said Bass. “City taxes of Long Beach have not been raised in over fifteen years, and we would like to continue that as we move forward.”

Bass also addressed the issue of the sewer system in the city.

“We have several things going on for sewer,” said Bass. “One of the big things we have, and a lot of people don’t realize that, is we have a sewer force main that runs from Nicholson Avenue all the way over to the Long Beach/Pass Christian waste-water treatment plant. We connect in at Munge Avenue into a good pipe. The pipe that’s in the ground now - we’re experiencing breaks. Over the last nine months, we’ve experienced four breaks that have cost the City of Long Beach right at \$500,000 to repair. We’ve received, went out, and petitioned for a grant through a special ... fund that gave us a little over \$3 million. We secured through the State, through our Harrison County Utility Authority, an SRF fund [sewer repair fund]. We were able to borrow \$4 million, and it is at a very low 1.5 or 1.6 [percent] interest rate that allows us to do a complete rebuild of that force main to stop these problems.”

Concerning streets in the city, some of the mayor’s remarks addressed issues with Klondyke and Commission Road.

“Streets, you talk about Klondyke and Commission,” said Bass. “Everybody that drives there in the

morning and everybody that drives there in the afternoon, you know the congestion we have, you know the problems we have. Well, we have half funding to approve that. We looked at doing a roundabout, and we looked at increasing the storage lanes, adding more lanes - North, South, East and West. For the funds we had, the best choice was to go with the storage lanes and upgrade the traffic signals. Surveying was due to begin this week for that project. It is in design stage. I ask you to bear with us. We know your complaints; we complain about it, also. The reason we started two years ago seeking funding on this project was to try and eliminate this before it gets any worse. I just want you to know that we are working in that direction, and, hopefully, we’ll be able to go to bid within six months on this project.”

A large part of Hurricane Zeta’s impact on Long Beach was on the harbor. Bass discussed steps that will be taken to mitigate some of the damage that storms in the Gulf can wreak on it.

“We have \$2.2 million to work on the south-east shoreline,” said Bass. “What this is going to do is be a bulkhead at the south-east of our harbor, where we were seeing most of our damage ... we’re about to look at our fourth time this year of having to evacuate the harbor; very costly. These bulkheads may help us a little bit ... it will certainly stop the damage we receive each time to our piers. We had just completed repairs from Hurricane Nate two years ago, when, three weeks later, we experienced another storm that came through and did damage again to our outer pier ... we’re hoping this new bulkhead will eliminate some of these problems.”

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Wreaths Across America event set for December 19

Special to Long Beach Breeze

In December 1992, wreath maker Morrill Worcester found himself with a surplus of 5,000 wreaths during the holiday season. Worcester saw the surplus as an opportunity to pay tribute to the country's veterans and arranged for the wreaths to be placed at Arlington National Cemetery. The now-annual tribute to U.S. veterans has continued ever since, touching the lives of millions of veterans' families and volunteers and growing in scope through the years.

In 2007, the Worcester family, along with veterans and volunteers, formed the non-profit organization Wreaths Across America to continue and expand their efforts at Arlington National Cemetery and to support those around the country who wished to do the same. Wreaths Across America's mission is simple: remember the fallen, honor those that serve, and teach the next generation about the value of freedom. In 2019, Wreaths Across America and its national network of volunteers placed nearly two million veterans' wreaths at more than 2,100 locations in all fifty U.S. states, at sea, and abroad.

This year, National Wreaths Across America day will be held on Saturday, December 19. Although there will not be a formal

ceremony like last year's, members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3937 and American Legion Post 1995 will begin laying wreaths at 1 p.m. on December 19 at the Long Beach City Cemetery. Volunteers who would like to assist in the wreath laying are very welcome.

In 2019, with the financial support of businesses, organizations, and veterans' families and friends, volunteers were able to lay a wreath at every one of the 216 known veteran's gravesites. Those who know of a veteran at the cemetery who does not have a gravesite indication that he/she is a veteran are encouraged to contact Charles Martinek at 228-236-4200 or martinek@CableOne.net, so that the group can be sure he/she also receives a wreath.

Each hand-made, fresh, live wreath costs \$15 to sponsor and is made in the U.S. with Maine balsam. Although the Long Beach City Cemetery will be focus of the wreath laying, wreaths for veterans interred at other Long Beach and neighboring cemeteries can be sponsored and picked up that afternoon.

For those who wish to remember and honor deceased veterans, sponsorships or donations can be mailed or delivered to VFW Post 3937, 213 Klondyke Road, Long Beach MS 39560 or to American Legion Post 1995, PO Box 550, Long Beach MS 39560.



Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber leaders honor Pam Sanders

By Andy Kanengiser

Long Beach businesswoman Pam Sanders is a success story in the Friendly City, and Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce leaders are taking notice.

Sanders is the owner of Bacchus Wine and Liquor at 99 Jeff Davis Avenue as well as the One Stop Goodyear store just around the corner. The full-service independent Goodyear dealer is a good place to repair or shop for tires and take care of other car needs – from oil changes to brakes, batteries and alignments.

Coast Young Professionals (CYP) recently announced that Sanders is being saluted as a 2020 Forever Young recipient. The group showcased award recipients on their Facebook page in October along with a video. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, things were done virtually to honor Coast people like Sanders.

CYP is part of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce. So is the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Gulf Coast, the Pass Christian Chamber of Commerce, and the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, to name a few.

Sanders is a well-known presence in



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Pam Sanders was recently named the 2020 Forever Young recipient by the Coast Young Professionals.

her hometown. She's been involved in Chamber of Commerce activities for sixteen years and is a former Citizen of the Year in Long Beach. She's chaired the "Taste of Long Beach" event for ten years and goes out of her way to promote her scenic region.

"I love Long Beach," Sanders says. "Everybody works together."

At age 65, Sanders says she has no intentions of slowing down.

The businesswoman grew up on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and is a 1973 graduate of Pass Christian High. She attended Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College and got married at age 19. She's lived in Jacksonville, Alabama, New Orleans and moved back to the Mississippi Gulf Coast in 1985.

This fall, Sanders has stayed busy promoting the "Taste of Long Beach" event that features a raffle with five baskets and \$700 in gift cards. She said it is a fun annual event designed to showcase Long Beach businesses, especially restaurants, on social media. This year, it's "online," due to COVID-19. Local eateries are being featured on Chamber Facebook pages, with "attendees" eligible to win prizes and gift cards.

LBHS Homecoming Court presented at Oct. 23 game



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach High School recently announced their 2020 Homecoming Court. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Senior Maids Macy Barkum-Robinson, Asia Bui, Abbie Drake, Samantha Gundlach and Sarah Simpson; second row: Court Maids (freshmen, sophomores and juniors) Ava Graham, Jayla LaGarde, Brianna Breeland, Samantha Wilson, Rachel Crapps and Mercedes Eavenson; third row: Senior Dukes Killian McCaleb, Nathaniel Mink, Jesse Rice, Jacob Taylor and Carlos Torres; and Court Dukes (freshmen, sophomores and juniors) Travis Bourland, Kyle Huey, Kian McAdory, Stokley Sawyer, West Bourland and Michael Burkett. Homecoming festivities were held October 23.

OLA eighth-grade science team brings home honors



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The winning team included (l to r) Camille Boudreaux, Emma Grace Cain, Margaret Compretta and Riley Curthrids.

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Our Lady Academy's (OLA) eighth grade science team of Camille Boudreaux, Emma Grace Cain, Margaret Compretta and Riley Curthrids recently won first place in the Middle School Division at the 2020 University of Southern Mississippi (USM) Stewardship Summit. Cain is a Long Beach resident. Of the sixty-five videos that were submitted from various schools across the Mississippi Gulf Coast, fourteen teams were chosen to attend the summit. Each team offered solutions to issues affecting the Gulf Coast during a storm.

The OLA team presented a video of various solutions to prevent further erosion to coastal areas. Included in their presentation were the pros and cons of alternative solutions, as well as their proposed recommendation to plant Sea Oats in coastal areas. Based on their findings, the planting of Sea Oats would help stabilize the shorelines from the punishing blow of storm surges, resulting in the reduction of erosion at a minimal cost.

In January of this year, OLA Science teacher Randi Tolar implemented this pilot program, which focused on promoting community resilience to coastal hazards and in particular to the flooding effects of tropical systems. The program is supported by the Naval Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET), Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience (MWEE) and University of Southern Mississippi (USM).

Local trumpeters accepted into Bugles Across America



Dom Fimiano

Long Beach High School trumpet players Olivia Walker, Ethan Mitchell, Jacob Taylor and Dyllon Hadaway have been accepted into Bugles Across America. The students will have the opportunity to sound Taps at various local events and perform at funerals for fallen soldiers and veterans. Bugles Across America was founded in 2000 by Tom Day, when Congress passed legislation stating that Veterans have a right to at least two uniformed military people to fold the flag and play Taps on a CD player. Bugles Across America felt veterans each deserve a live rendition of Taps by a real bugler, and they provide the service to Veterans and their families. Pictured (l to r) are junior Olivia Walker, senior Dyllon Hadaway, senior Jacob Taylor, senior Ethan Mitchell and Adrienne Cocco Assistant Director, Bugles Across America, Mississippi Chapter.



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Students "Pink Out" school for charity



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The students of W.J. Quarles Elementary have a passion for helping others. The students in grades K-3 raised a total of \$1,382 for the Pink Heart Funds non-profit charity by purchasing pink ribbons from October 12 - 27. Teachers displayed the ribbons in the hallway to help "Pink Out" Quarles. Mrs. Dianna Miller and Mrs. Dana Wedgeworth sponsored the event and were excited to meet with Mrs. JoAn Niceley, founder of Pink Heart Funds to donate the funds the students raised. The money raised will be used to help provide wigs for children and adults with hair loss disorders, including those receiving cancer treatments. Pictured (l to r) are Niceley, Miller and Wedgeworth.

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Long Beach student Olivia Mims earns statewide honor



Dom Firriano

Olivia Mims (center), pictured with parents Robert Mims (left) and Christie Mims (right).

By Andy Kanengiser

Mississippi Department of Education officials recently announced the list of the State Superintendent's Student Advisory Council.

Olivia Mims of Long Beach is among students statewide named to advise Mississippi Superintendent of Education Carey Wright.

It is quite an honor for the talented student and artist. Mims is among 163 students selected to the council. They join more than seventy Mississippi students selected in 2019.

The students will share their insights about educational opportunities and policy with Dr. Wright. Students serving are high school juniors and seniors, along with college freshmen. They come from different backgrounds and regions across the Magnolia State.

Mims is very involved in Long Beach Bearcats country. The Long Beach resident is a member of the Long Beach High Beta Club, the Interact Club and the school's annual staff. She is also enrolled in the dual credit Collegiate Academy program. As a result, she will earn an associate's degree from

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College after her Long Beach High graduation.

She tentatively plans to attend the Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston. She plans to study interior design and architecture during her studies in New England. Founded in 1873, it is the first publicly-funded independent college of art and design in the nation. She's an avid photographer and creative artist in Harrison County.

The daughter of Rob and Christie Mims, Mims attends Northwood Church, where she serves on the photography team.

Her parents are delighted to learn of their daughter's latest honor.

"Her mom and I are very proud of her accomplishments thus far and of her selection to the council," says Rob Mims, missions director at Northwood Church in Gulfport.

"Olivia is a hardworking, intelligent young lady with a good head on her shoulders," he added.

Members of the Mims family have called South Mississippi their home since 2008. Olivia is the oldest of four children in the family.

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Relief organizers express gratitude



All Photos Special to Long Beach Breeze

Volunteers from Society of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church unload hurricane relief supplies in Iowa, Louisiana. Within a week of the storm, enough donations were collected to fill to capacity an entire semi-truck trailer and several other vehicles. The supplies were delivered to St. Raphael Catholic Church and Zion Travelers Baptist Church on September 6.

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church extend many thanks to all of the individuals, churches and organizations that contributed relief supplies for Southwest Louisiana Hurricane victims.

“The generosity of people in Long Beach and along the coast was astounding,” said Darlene Barry, one of the coordinators of the effort. “We are so thankful for this swift response, which was true intentional discipleship in action.”

Barry reported that, within a week, there was such an abundance of supplies collected, that a semi-truck trailer, a covered work trailer, a flat-bed trailer and several pick-up trucks were filled to capacity.

The supplies were delivered September 6 to St. Raphael Catholic Church and Zion Travelers Baptist Church in the small Louisiana farming community of Iowa (pronounced “eye-oh-way”). Teams of skilled and unskilled volunteers are now being coordinated to help clear debris and repair homes there.

To volunteer, contact Juliane Wyatt, St. Thomas Evangelization Team member, at 859-750-8951 or jwyattflute@gmail.com.

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