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City of Long Beach receives \$16.8M for Beatline Parkway Project

By Taylor McKay Hathorn

Four days after the November 15 passage of the Biden administration's \$1T infrastructure bill, Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg announced that the City of Long Beach would receive \$16.8M of those federal dollars for its Beatline Parkway Project.

Jenny Levens, the community affairs director for the City of Long Beach, says the receipt of funds marks the end of a years-long drought of federal funding for the project.

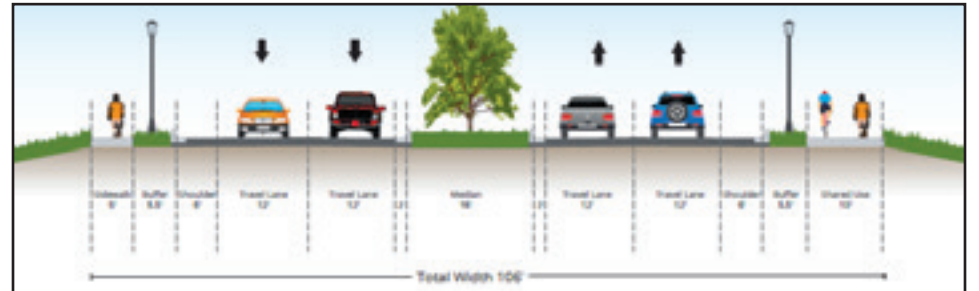
"We applied for a few years," Levens said. "This year, the application was due in July, and that is the application [from which] we got notice that we received funds."

The funds will make a massive infrastructure project possible for the coastal city, as the Beatline Parkway project aims to connect Highway 90 to Beatline Road with a five-lane roadway. The construction of the five-lane roadway will include the CSX railroad crossing and will stretch north of Canal Number One, thus

completing right-of-way acquisition to the Johnson Road intersection. Officials say that this new construction will provide needed safety benefits to the coastal community, as the Beatline Parkway will be the only four-lane evacuation route in West Harrison County for both the city of Long Beach and neighboring Pass Christian.

City officials say this will facilitate the City's ability to get relief services in and out during weather disasters, particularly as the route would not be easily susceptible to the flooding that plagues other Long Beach roadways. The flooding issue would also be alleviated through the design of the Beatline Parkway, which is intended to remove dangerous and ineffective drainage ditches and replace them with more effective drainage options.

In addition to these improved flooding-prevention measures, the Beatline Parkway project is also slated to improve traffic conditions, as the plan includes modern traffic control systems intended to allow a greater flow of vehicles to pass through the area uninhibited, with-



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A conceptual cross section of the proposed four-lane (plus additional turning lanes) Beatline Parkway, including intermittent turning bays, underground utilities, buffered pedestrian sidewalks and multi-use path, landscaping and signage continuity, energy-efficient lighting, improved stormwater management, improved traffic control and reduced emissions.

out any detriment to traveler safety. This improved flow would come primarily through the rerouting and straightening of the pair of ninety-degree turns that presently exist on the parkway, along with the addition of a number of intersection enhancements. Such enhancements would affect the I-10, Red Creek, 28th Street, Daugherty Road, Pineville, CSX Crossing, Railroad Street, 2nd Street, and Hwy-90 intersections. Despite this projected increase in traffic, current

plans are hopeful that the residential area around CSX Crossing could still be considered a "quiet zone" for residents.

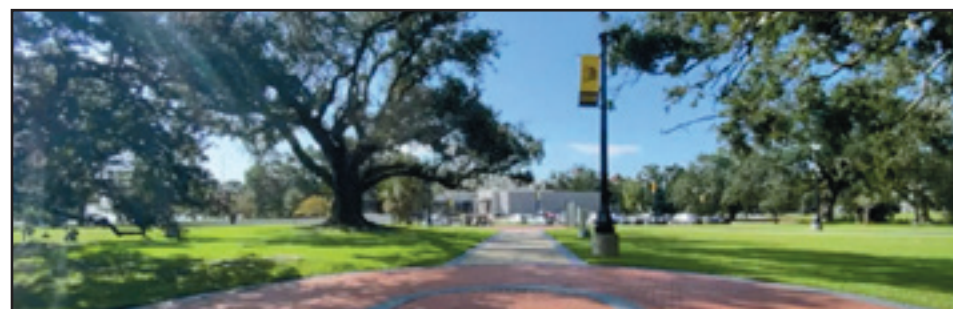
These improvements are also expected to affect foot traffic and bicyclists, as plans for the five-lane project call for including separate lanes for bikers and runners/walkers, which the City of Long Beach hopes will be appealing to both current Long Beach activity enthusiasts and those looking to relocate in an active community.

USM Gulf Park gets major upgrades to pedestrian pathways

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Getting around The University of Southern Mississippi's (USM) Gulf Park campus in Long Beach is starting to get easier, thanks to funding from the Mississippi Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Transportation Alternatives Program.

The University's Physical Plant has been updating the sidewalks and other outdoor areas across campus for several months, which includes wider sidewalks, walkways that are Americans with Disabilities Act accessible, directional signage and new lighting. Future work will include a dedicated viewing area for the famed Friendship



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Oak.

"We're very appreciative of MDOT Commissioner Tom King for his support in helping us map out these plans in order to make these projects happen," said Dr. Shannon Campbell, Senior Associate Vice President for

Coastal Operations at USM. "Being the beachfront campus of Mississippi, we want people to feel welcome here, and these sidewalks and the lighting help us to do that, not only by making campus more navigable for students, faculty and staff, but also by connect-

ing us to the community at large."

In phase one of the project, "ghost" sidewalks were eliminated. These sidewalks were remnants of Hurricane Katrina, which led to buildings no longer standing.

"We had buildings that were no longer here, so we had sidewalks that were going nowhere. We were able to take all those out and install new sidewalks that accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists to get from one side of campus to the other," said Jason Cantu, architect and space planner for the Gulf Park campus.

The new sidewalks are anywhere from six- to twelve-feet wide, com-

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Beekeeping 101 classes to be offered in Long Beach



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By Brooke Holley

With the idea that it's never too late to learn a new skill, Bob Collins is extending an invitation to area residents to start off 2022 learning something unique. Collins, the media chair of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Beekeepers Association, recently announced that the Beekeeping Association will be providing the chance to learn about honey bees in a free Beekeeping 101 class, offered in three sessions, with the option of a hands-on, fourth session at a local honey bee yard.

With the locale for the classes being at First Baptist Church of Long Beach, Collins is hopeful that many residents will take the opportunity to expand their knowledge and come learn about beekeeping. The dates of the first three Saturday sessions are January 8, January 22, and February 5. All sessions will be held from 2-4 p.m.

The course has been offered in the past, but, like many good things, took a break during the pandemic.

"This year, we decided to offer the classes again," Collins offers, "and the venue we're having them in is large enough to spread out a bit, if attendees feel more comfortable to do so." First Baptist Church is located on North Cleveland Avenue.

Collins says the question most people will have is whether this class is for them. Collins makes it clear that it's for anyone interested in learning more about honey bees, from those with intermediate beekeeping skills to beginners looking to start their journey learning about honey bees.

Attendees will learn about the biology of the honey bee, their hab-

its, life cycles and behaviors. They will also learn how to properly care for and behave around bees.

"This class will give one the necessary skills to dive into the incredible world of honey bees," Collins adds.

Incredible is just one word to describe the world of honey bees. Another word to explain them is valuable. Around twenty percent of the world's food production is dependent on the continuing success of honey bee pollination. In fact, the value of the agriculture industry in the United States will increase between fifteen to twenty billion, all because of the pollination of honey bees.

Collins explains that "a Burger King Whopper, complete with a sesame seed bun, patty, cheese, lettuce, onions, pickles, and ketchup, would be left with only the bun - sans even the sesame seeds - without these pollinators," offering just a sample of knowledge that one could learn at a Beekeeping 101 class.

Collins puts it very simply: "Bees are THAT important," when explaining the lack of food production that would happen without them. The Association encourages anyone interested in the classes to find the events on their Facebook page and indicate whether they are "interested" or "going," so that the organizers are able to prepare before the classes.

The date and location of the fourth session is still to be determined. It is very important to note that these sessions, unlike most beekeeping classes, are free. More information about the classes can be found on the organization's Facebook page, along with a vast amount of information about the beekeeping world.

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LBHS students sign college commitments



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Long Beach High School held a fall signing event for senior athletes going on to compete at the next level after graduation. Pictured (l to r) are Katelyn Schroeder, who signed to play softball at William Carey University; Gabriella Setnikar who signed to play soccer at East Central Community College; Ashton Rupert, who signed to play soccer at East Central Community College; Kylah Cuevas who signed to play soccer at Hinds Community College; Brooklyn Biancamano who signed to run cross country at the University of Arkansas; Amiri Williams, who signed to play baseball at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College; and Cameron Fennell, who signed to play baseball at Pearl River Community College. Not pictured is Gracie Bloom, who signed to play golf at William Carey University.

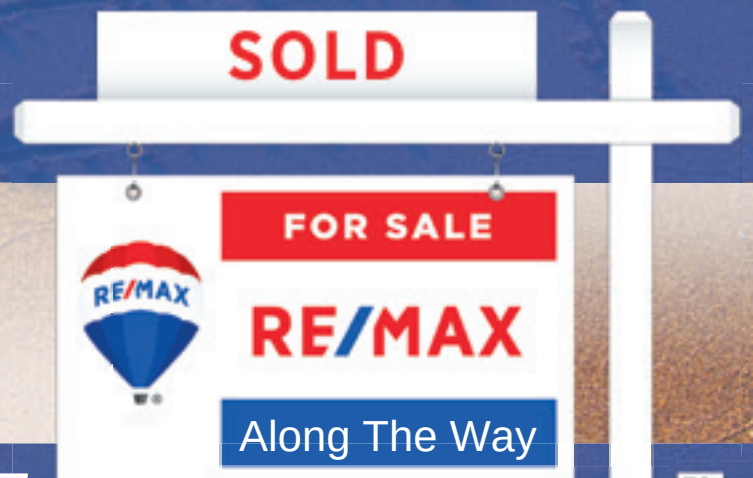
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USM Gulf Park gets pathway upgrades

pared to the previous width of just three feet. They are also designed aesthetically with brick-paved “nodes” that connect sidewalks that intersect with each other.

“Before, the sidewalks were just kind of haphazard. Now, they’re planned, they’re purposeful, they’re meaningful, and they’re beautiful,” Cantu said.

Cantu explained that the sidewalk project, deemed the Pathways Project, allows for two axes to exist on campus—one that runs north and south, and the other east and west. The Science Building, for example, was built after Hurricane Katrina, and more sidewalks were needed to connect the west side of campus, where it is located.

“In our master plan, we are also hoping to start connecting to Long Beach,” Cantu explained. “So, phase two takes us to the Science Building, but also provides a place for Long Beach to tie into us, and us to tie into them.”

This extension into the City of Long Beach includes plans for a future gateway entrance on the west side of campus, similar to the one already at the main entrance on the south side. It also creates an opportunity for sidewalks to be placed there, so that the USM campus connects to downtown Long Beach. Such an addition would better allow students to walk to local businesses and improve campus access for city residents who exercise there or attend events.

“Part of this project is actually addressing the need for us to connect some of our buildings on the west side of campus, which is our growth area for future growth and future facilities,” Campbell explained. “The sidewalks will allow us to connect those future projects, as well.”

Other updates in the Pathways Project that are ongoing include installing lighting across campus that matches that of the Hattiesburg campus, black and gold banners, and benches and tables near the Friendship Oak to provide a comfortable viewing spot. The sidewalk near the Friendship Oak will also be extended south toward the beach. There is also new wayfinding across campus that lists buildings and points of interest. USM is currently designing phase three, with construction to begin late spring and complete by December 2022.

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Long Beach Scout troop offering flag program to residents

By Will Brown

A Long Beach Scout troop is looking to raise money for a summer backpacking trip to California through the "Honor with Flags" fundraiser.

Scout BSA Troop 321 is hoping to travel to California this summer to hike, camp, and conduct research. Scouts will travel to Inyo National Forest and hike among trees up to 5,000 years old, among the oldest on earth. From there, they will travel to Lake Tahoe and camp before spending time hiking in the Redwoods. The troop then plans to hike down and camp on Golds Bluff Beach before heading south to Big Sur. After a fun day at Knotts Berry Farm, the troop will return home.

Scoutmaster Tommy Carroll explains the purpose of this fundraiser is to raise money for the trip, while also teaching the scouts about citizenship and values.

"The Honor with Flags Foundation supplies youth groups with the ability to put these flags out," Carroll said. "We started talking and developing a working relationship, and it just kind of went from there."

Carroll first heard of Honor with Flags from two former members of the troop, who have since moved to Texas. Honor With Flags proceeded



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to supply Troop 321 with the flags, as well as a database with maps of where to put out and retrieve them. While most of Troop 321's trips are paid for out of pocket, Carroll said fundraisers like Honor with Flags help reduce the burden on the parents.

As part of the fundraiser, Scouts BSA Troop 321 will put out flags in the yards of subscribers for patriotic holidays. The troop works to build

the flagpole and puts a small PVC sleeve in the ground for the pole to stand in. The flag is dropped inside the sleeve, where it remains for the week leading up to and the week following the holiday. All the flags are American-made, and the materials that Troop 321 uses to build the poles are donated from local hardware stores, as well as larger box companies, such as Lowes.

Carroll and a couple of friends founded Troop 321 on November 10, 2018, as a troop focused on high-adventure trips, such as canoeing, sailing, and backpacking in remote areas. The ages of Scouts range from teen to seventeen. At first, the troop was primarily led by adults; but, as the Scouts got older and more experienced, they began to take on more responsibility. Carroll's primary role changed from always being in charge to becoming a mentor and coach for the youth leading the program, which he says was one of the goals of the organization.

In the past, Troop 321 has gone on several trips focused on adventure. The troop's first big trip was on the Appalachian Trail, and they spent months learning how to hike and backpack in rugged terrain. After spending the first couple nights of the trip at a state park, the Scouts hit the

trail and spent days backpacking in a remote location, using the skills they learned to complete a 50-mile hike. The troop has also hiked to the bottom of the Grand Canyon and across the Continental Divide in Colorado, a trip which landed them on the cover of Scout's Life Magazine. In addition to hiking trips, Troop 321 once spent a week living on a sailboat in the Florida Keys, where Scouts were taught how to snorkel and live on the water.

The upcoming trip to California that Troop 321 is planning is different than previous high-adventure trips the troop has been on. Instead of being focused on adventure, Scouts will be learning about a particular subject and gathering scientific study for research.

"We are not focused on physical strain," Carroll said "This trip is all about exploration, learning and data gathering. The goal of the trip is for Scouts to receive the Exploration Merit Badge." The badge features a picture of the Indiana Jones hat and whip, and is one of the most notable badges a Scout can receive.

The seven patriotic holidays the Scout's fundraiser will cover are Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, September 11th, and Veterans Day. Visit www.honorwithflags.com to have a flag installed.

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Long Beach leaders ponder 3rd Street sidewalk

By Dom Fimiano

Long Beach's Board of Aldermen and Mayor George Bass are considering making some changes to the sidewalk plans for the city, specifically the 2nd Street sidewalk project. With the announcement by the University of Southern Mississippi's (USM) Dr. Shannon Campbell, USM's senior associate vice president for coastal operations, that a sidewalk will be built from the 3rd Street entrance across the Gulf Park campus, the Long Beach Board of Aldermen are considering moving the sidewalk to 3rd Street to connect the campus sidewalk to the Long Beach Town Green.

Long Beach Alderman-at-Large Donald Frazier said the Long Beach sidewalk location is being reconsidered because "we currently have two bridges being built that will never connect without one being relocated." Aldermen say they are now discussing if it would be a better idea to have a sidewalk from the Town Green on 3rd Street to USM.

Another reason aldermen are considering moving the sidewalk to 3rd Street is that a relocation to 3rd Street would save the City money, since an existing sidewalk is in place from Jefferson Davis along the Town Green. In addition, connecting directly into USM's new sidewalk would provide direct access between the city and USM on 3rd Street.

Aldermen say they believe it would be a much better idea to connect the Town Green sidewalk directly to USM. Frazer said the sidewalk project is in the engineering phase to determine the feasibility of building a sidewalk on 3rd Street.

Mardi Gras season starts early with Jeep-A-Gras parade

By Anna Williams

The Carnival Association of Long Beach (CALB) is planning to let the good times keep rolling and the sparkles keep shining, because, as Christmas and New Year celebrations roll out of town, it is officially Mardi Gras season - and this year's season will hold a brand-new event for the Long Beach community.

CALB will be hosting an all-Jeep Mardi Gras parade to kick off the carnival season on January 22, 2022, at 6 p.m. The event has been named "Jeep-A-Gras" and is for Jeep and Mardi Gras enthusiasts alike.

The event will be held in addition to the annual CALB Long Beach night parade, set for February 19, 2022, at 6 p.m. The evening prior, February 18, will be the organization's annual Coronation Ball.

This will be the first year that the Carnival Association of Long Beach has hosted a Jeep-specific parade, and organizers say that the addition of the event is mainly due to so many Jeep owners requesting admission into the annual traditional Mardi Gras parade in previous years.

"With so many Jeep owners on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the requests I've received for them to participate in the parade, it really makes sense to have a Mardi Gras parade dedicated to highlighting them," said Jeep-a-Gras Coordinator Eddie Seal.

The parade route will start on Cleveland Avenue and continue to Jeff Davis, ending on 5th Street. The lineup will begin at the Long Beach High School stadium.

Those interested in participating in the Jeep-A-Gras parade are encouraged to email Seal at eddie-seal2350@gmail.com or fill out a registration form located on the Carnival Association of Long Beach's Facebook page.

Information is also available on the organization's website at www.LongBeachCarnival.com.

Of course, all residents are invited to attend the event, which will be free.

"Not only will this be a family-friendly and fun event, but the Carnival Association of Long Beach gives back to several local charities; so attending and supporting these events is ultimately giving back to the need in our great community," said Seal.



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Long Beach School District names Teacher and Administrator of the Year



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Pictured with Long Beach School District Administrator of the Year, Mrs. Johanna Hughey (center), are Long Beach School District Superintendent Dr. Talia Lock (left) and LBSD School Board President Mr. Tim Pierce (right).



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Pictured with Long Beach School District Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Brandy Zink (center), are LBSD School Board President Mr. Tim Pierce (left) and LBSD Superintendent Dr. Talia Lock (right).

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Recently, Long Beach School District (LBSD) Superintendent Dr. Talia Lock, along with a group of employees from LBSD Central Services, surprised the district's Administrator and Teacher of the Year with special announcements at their respective schools.

This year, the Long Beach Middle School Principal, Mrs. Johanna Hughey, was selected as the district Administrator of the Year. Hughey began her career as a student teacher at Long Beach in 1997 and in 1999 started teaching full time. She taught in Long Beach for ten years before temporarily moving to Florida with her family for her husband's military career.

In 2012, Hughey returned not only to Long Beach but also to educating Bearcats at Long Beach High School. Following her move back to the Coast, also Hughey briefly worked in curriculum and instruction for another district before returning to Long Beach as assistant principal at Long Beach Middle School. Four years later, Hughey accepted the position of principal at W. J. Quarles Elementary for one year, before returning to the school where her heart truly lies - to lead as principal of Long Beach Middle School.

Throughout her career in Long Beach, Hughey has also served as Dance Team sponsor, Cheer Team sponsor and JV Cheer sponsor. This is her twenty-fourth year in education, and she continues to be the best at her practice by going on to earn her master's degree and her National Boards.

"Her loyalty, commitment and support to her students, faculty and staff are undeniable," Lock said of Hughey. "She remains a cheerleader to everyone in her school and pushes them to do their best. It was an honor to announce Mrs. Hughey as the Long Beach Administrator of the Year."

This year's Teacher of the Year is Long Beach High School's (LBHS) Brandy Zink. Zink is a National Board Certified teacher with seventeen years teaching experience. Zink's dedication to her students and the community is evident not only in her classroom, but in her activities outside the classroom, as well. She is involved with youth ministry at her church, has volunteered as a youth cheer coach, co-sponsors National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) at LBHS and serves as the state conference chair, coaches the LBHS Cheerleading Squad, organizes community pep rallies - and so much more.

"Anything she is asked to help with," Lock said, "she doesn't just do - she takes it and runs with it. When asked to help the student council spirit committee, host special pep rallies, plan and host a Senior Send-Off and a million other things, she goes above and beyond to make the vision better than what anyone thought it could be."

When asked why she does what she does, in a nutshell, Zink says that her goal every day is to leave her students just a little better than they were when they walked into her classroom. She says she is determined to find out what her students really need, and then she tries to provide it as best she can. Her goal is to not only reach students in her classroom, but all students she comes across and to provide a safe haven in her room where students know that she truly cares and is available.

Not only does Zink do this, say district officials, but she also teaches her standards and excels at it.

"Because she teaches with passion and energy and her students know she cares, her students always pass the English II test and make tremendous growth. That doesn't just happen by accident, but with hard work and dedication," Lock said of Zink.

Hughey and Zink will represent the Long Beach School District and compete against teachers and administrators from across the state for the honor of being named Mississippi Administrator and Teacher of the Year.



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Meet Your Neighbor: Timothy Holland

By Will Brown

When Timothy Holland began his career in education thirty years ago, he dreamed of someday becoming a head high school baseball coach. Holland began his career as an assistant baseball coach at Pascagoula High School, where he also served as an assistant football coach, assistant basketball coach and math teacher. Two years after Pascagoula baseball won the 1996 state championship, Holland was named the head baseball coach at Gulfport High, a role he held for four years before holding the same position for four more years in Pass Christian.

After Hurricane Katrina decimated the Gulf Coast in 2005, Holland realized he wanted to get out of coaching and into administration. Holland first worked in Picayune's administration, before coming to work in the Long Beach school system. He spent four years as an assistant principal at Long Beach High School, one year as their Director of Federal Programs, and then ten years as the principal of Long Beach Middle School.

"I think what drew me to Long Beach was the school being the focal point of the town," Holland said. "It was a small enough community that the school employs most people within the city. The academic excellence here is something that drew us to Long Beach, as well."

During Holland's administrative tenure, the Long Beach school system was consistently one of the top-rated districts in Mississippi. In the four years Holland spent at Long Beach High, the school was given an A-rating or level five rating.

"Our vision was to be the best," Holland said. "I sold that to the kids, and I think they bought into it; and that is why we were as successful as we were."

The end of Holland's tenure at the Long Beach Middle School principal was full of challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Students were forced to take classes from home, and in-person learning was replaced with classes over Zoom or Google Classroom for many months. Holland said that most difficult part of the pandemic was trying to meet the expectations of a top-rated school district under these conditions.

"The biggest challenge from a school standpoint is meeting the challenges that are brought to you as an educator or a teacher," Holland said.

Holland lived in Gulfport for the first several years he taught at Long Beach Middle School, but he and his family relocated to Long Beach in 2015. In the years since, Holland noted that the community has changed and how that change has been reflected in the school system.

"I think the community has become more diverse," Holland said. "I think the biggest thing for Long Beach has been attracting more businesses, while keeping that bedroom community feel at the same time."

Holland retired from Long Beach Middle School this past June and now works at St. Stanislaus. He said the most rewarding part of his career in education is making an impact in the lives of children, whether it is academically, physically, or socially.



Teresa and Timothy Holland.

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Question: What are some of your hobbies outside of work?

Answer: "I run and bike a lot; I do triathlons. I did a half iron man for my 50th birthday. I am always trying to push myself and do things like that. I am a member of the Gulf Coast Running Club and the Gulf Coast Cycling Club, as well. I also like to play golf, and I have a baseball card collection I spend lots of time with."

Question: What is your favorite restaurant in Long Beach?

Answer: "Probably Bull's."

Question: What are some of your favorite books and movies?

Answer: "I'm a baseball fanatic, my favorite movie is *Field of Dreams*. I like *The Rookie*, *The Natural*, all the baseball films. I'm a John Grisham fan, so *The Firm* is one of my favorite movies. I also like action movies with Sylvester Stallone."

Question: What is your favorite place you have ever traveled, and where would you like to travel to the most?

Answer: "I have two sons that we adopted from Russia. We traveled to Russia four times with my wife when we adopted them. Matthew is our oldest son; he is 19 now. We adopted him after his first birthday, and we adopted his biological brother, Jacob, about a year later, when he was ten months old."

Question: Talk more about your experience going through the adoption process.

Answer: "When we considered adopting, we looked at doing it stateside. The wait is definitely a challenge - in some cases, you had to wait seven to ten years to actually get a child. I didn't want to be a 45-year-old with a two-year-old running around the house, so we started looking at international adoptions; and someone turned us onto Children of the World in Alabama. That's the company we ended up going through. They were wonderful to work with, and the whole process took between eighteen months and two years, and then we had Matthew at home. At the time, Russia was the easiest place to adopt from that met what we

were looking for."

Question: If you won one million dollars in the lottery, how would you spend the money?

Answer: "I think my wife and I consider ourselves very blessed. I would pay my bills off, but I would like to help as many people as I possibly could and share the experience."

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LBHS students hold business festival



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By Dom Fimiano

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Recently, the Long Beach High School (LBHS) Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) held a Fall Business Festival on the Long Beach Town Green. In addition to spotlighting LBHS student entrepreneurs and the LBHS "Shark Tank" project, the event offered the community an opportunity to support the students by purchasing items from student businesses.

FCCLA is a nonprofit national vocational student organization for students in family and consumer sciences education in public and private school through grade twelve. Its purpose is to help young men and women become leaders and address important personal, family, work, and societal issues through family and consumer sciences education.

Demetria Brown, who is the sponsor for FCCLA at LBHS, said she was inspired by the television show Shark Tank to create the Long Beach High School Business Festival. Students learned about writing business plans, funding their business, creating inventory, marketing their products, and selling items to maintain a successful business. For the Fall Business Festival, students showcased their products, funded their inventory, advertised, and sold products to students, teachers, administrators and the community. Occasionally, the students gave some items away as treats to promote and advertise their business.

At the end of the festival, the FCCLA officers discussed which student should be selected as the Student Entrepreneur of the Year. Brown said the award recipient is chosen based on the participant's attitude, including entrepreneurial spirit, humility, perseverance, and grit; ability to execute a strategy and achieve key startup milestones, such as assessing complete business plan, raising capital, or generating revenue; leadership skills in building and growing the company; and business potential in meeting a growing need or service to the community.

This year, the FCCLA officers unanimously chose Jacob Holland as Student Entrepreneur of the Year. Holland was chosen for his work selecting ingredients and his diligent preparation of savory egg rolls, specialty crab rangoon and perfectly seasoned Cajun fries.

Fellow FCCLA members said they were impressed when they witnessed how much work and care went into choosing ingredients, patiently preparing, and then cooking everything to taste just right. Holland attributes his success to his first summer job, which was working at Hibachi Ninja last summer.

Businesses participating in the Fall Business Festival included Alexuz Huizenga, with The Fine Henna; Jacob Holland, with Roll Ups; Hailey Saddler, with HP Candles; and Riley Morvant, with Scrunchies. The festival also included games, food and other activities for the community to enjoy.

Golden Crayon Awards given to Triplett, Adcock

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach School District recently awarded its Golden Crayon Award to Kenny Triplett, a member of the LBSD Technology Department, and Hope Adcock, a third-grade teacher at Thomas L. Reeves Elementary School.

In the announcement of his award, LBSD officials said that “Kenny works tirelessly to accommodate requests through the district. He both live-streams and records and edits countless programs, award ceremonies, athletics and special events to stream for families and community members to view. Most of these activities take place in the evening and weekends.”

Triplett also mentors students who are interested in pursuing his field, produces signs for activities and administrative needs and is “always available for everyone in the district.”

“He always goes above and beyond to make sure Long Beach looks good in pictures, videos, websites and social media.”

Adcock, who was nominated by a student’s parent, was praised “because she has been a great support system for my son and me. My son has been going through a very hard time emotionally. Mrs. Adcock has taken the extra time to talk to him and encourage him by helping him with his mindset and self-confidence. She has been a great support for me, since my husband is on deployment, and I needed that extra help and support to help me guide my son.”

In the nomination information, the parent said Adcock “has been a great support in helping me when I have run out of ideas on how to best handle the situation. She has been taking extra time to help him with math. I know and understand that running a classroom with many children can be hard and stressful at times; however, she finds the love, compassion, patience and time to care for the students that most need her at this time. I could never repay her kind heart.”

The Golden Crayon Award is given periodically to an individual or group of people in the LBSD who have gone “above and beyond” for the district – someone or a group who has stood out among the other “crayons” and made the collective picture a little bit brighter.



Hope Adcock

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Kenny Triplett

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Fayard presides at annual Youth Legislature

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Our Lady Academy (OLA) Youth Legislature delegation, represented by Long Beach resident Alyssa Fayard, as well as Alexandra Bujan, Karlie Dunn, Anne Pierson Kane, Amelia McCall, Jaqueline Mossy and Olivia Tartavouille, recently attended the 57th annual Youth Legislature session held at the State Capitol, where they experienced the political process of signing a bill into law.

OLA delegates were recognized for their outstanding performance at the conference. Fayard presided as Speaker of the House, and Dunn served as President Pro Tem. Tartavouille was elected Lieutenant Governor and awarded Outstanding Representative, and Bujan was elected Senate Majority Leader for the 2022 Youth Legislature Conference.

“I have been an active member of the OLA Youth Leg team, under the guidance of our history and government teacher, Mrs. Elise Cuevas, since I was in eighth grade,” said Dunn. “The moment I stepped into the chambers at my first conference, I was enamored by the entire legislative process. Since then, I have been engaged in every conference and have learned so much about our government policies and procedures. I strongly recommend every high school student interested in governmental affairs to become a member of their school Youth Leg Program.”

The Mississippi Youth Legislature conducts a mock legislative session during which the students present their bills in hopes of having them signed into law. As in the official legislative process, the bill must be passed by both chambers of the Youth Legislature, before making it to the Youth Governor’s desk.



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Our Lady Academy delegates included (l to r), front row: Alyssa Fayard of Long Beach, Karlie Dunn and Amelia McCall; and back row: Alexandra Bujan, Jaqueline Mossy, Olivia Tartavouille, and Anne Pierson Kane.



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Beauty Spot of the Month awards given

The Long Beach Garden Club recently honored two businesses with the their "Beauty Spot of the Month" awards. To find out more info about the Long Beach Garden Club, visit their Facebook page.



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Worship: 10:00

Wednesday P.M.

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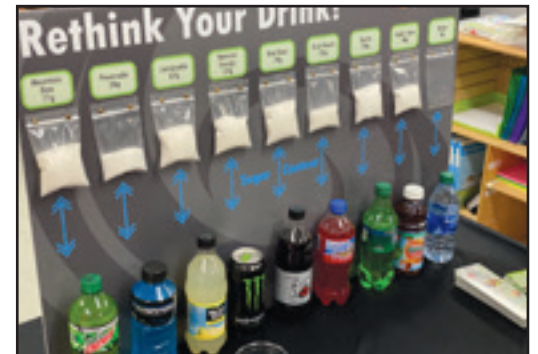
8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship In-Person in the sanctuary
This service will be live streamed on Facebook.

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship In-Person in the sanctuary

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

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Quarles students participate in "Hydration Event"



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All photos Special to Long Beach Breeze.

Let's Go! Gulf Coast came to Quarles Elementary School recently for a "Hydration Event." Students have been learning about the benefits of drinking "zero" sugary drinks and increasing their water intake. They also learned the importance of eating five fruits and vegetables, reducing screen time to less than two hours a day, and getting one hour of exercise per day. The children each received a water

tracker to take home to track their daily water intake for a week. Let's Go! Gulf Coast is a public/private partnership with a mission of working to address priority health issues of youth on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Their programs focus on promoting healthy lifestyles and are designed to engage participants across the lifespan through diverse and varied platforms, in order to create the greatest and most sustainable impact possible for youth and communities.

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Sanders earns scholarship

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Our Lady Academy (OLA) senior Eugenie Saunders of Long Beach has been awarded a \$2,500 scholarship from Coast Electric Power Association. Recipients are selected based upon their academic achievements, participation in student organizations and volunteerism in their schools, churches and communities, and participation in local cooperative activities and/or interviews.

An honors student, Saunders is a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society, French Honor Society, Campus Ministry, Yearbook Club Editor, OLA Golf team, and serves as an OLA Ambassador.

To date, her other accomplishments and recognitions include the United States History Grit Award, Outstanding Service Hours Award, French I Grit Award, the Leonard Bernstein Award for Outstanding Musicianship, and Extracurricular Leadership Award for the Saint Stanislaus Regiment Band.

Marilyn Pigott, OLA principal, said, "Eugenie is a remarkable young lady who exudes a positive spirit and demonstrates strong student and community leadership skills. Her dedication to learning and succeeding has paved her way to a rewarding future. She is an exceptional role model and an inspiration to all of the OLA community."

Saunders has received admission into the Early Entry Program for the University of South Alabama (USA) School of Nursing. The Early Entry Program (EEP) is a unique program that allows high-achieving high school seniors to earn pre-approved acceptance into the College of Nursing.

She attends Holy Family Church, where she is active in the youth group program, an alter server, and a member of the Holy Family band. She is the daughter of Regina Saunders of Long Beach.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Eugenie Saunders

Meleones named Elementary Art Teacher of the Year

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach art teacher Tara Meleones was recently awarded the Mississippi Art Educators Association (MAEA) Elementary Art Teacher of the Year. Meleones teaches art to first through sixth graders at St. Vincent dePaul Catholic School.

MAEA, a professional organization whose mission is to promote art education through professional development, service, advancement of knowledge, and leadership, gives awards each year to outstanding art teachers around the state.

Meleones traveled to Jackson to attend the annual MAEA fall conference for three days of workshops, lessons, and lectures. Most of the conference was held at the Mississippi Museum of Art, and the awards dinner was held at the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Tara Meleones (left) recently received the Elementary Art Educator of the Year Award, presented by Dr. Randolph Miley (right), past president of MAEA and current Chair the Art Department at Mississippi College.

Storytime, critters and book sale on schedule for library in 2022

Special to Long Beach Breeze

There are lots of upcoming events to look forward to in January 2022 at the Long Beach Public Library.

Preschool Storytime will continue to be held on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., and crafts are now being done at the library as part of story time.

Don't forget about Second Saturday! This family program is not only free to the public, but also a great way to learn about the local wildlife in Mississippi. Caretakers from The Gulf Coast Wildlife Rehab will be here on Saturday, January 8, at 10:30 a.m. in the children's wing to teach us about the special animals they rehabilitate and release back into their natural habitat.

The Long Beach Board of Trustees will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, January 11, at 3:30 p.m. It will be held in the meeting room of the main wing and will be open to the public.

Also, anyone who needs to reserve the meeting room can

contact Mrs. Saucier at 228-863-0711. Reservation forms are available upon request.

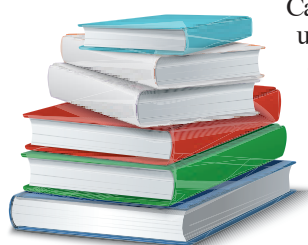
The book sale, which is normally held in the meeting room of the main wing, is now open to the public again. Book sale prices have not changed. Discards in the main entrance are still free.

Upcoming holiday closings at the library include the following:

- **New Year's Eve and New Year's Day** – The library will be closed Friday, December 31, 2021, through Saturday, January 1, 2022. We will reopen on Monday, January 3, 2022, at 9 a.m.
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** – The library will be closed Saturday, January 15, through Monday, January 17. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 18, at 9 a.m.

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

We can be reached online at www.LongBeach.lib.ms.us, or by phone at 228-863-0711. Thank you for your patronage, and continue to stay safe!



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Seemanns honored for making CES Makerspace vision a reality

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Robots. 3D Printers. Animation. Laser-cutters. Soda bottles. Pipe cleaners. Popsicle sticks.

From complex to simple, Coast Episcopal School's (CES) Makerspace provides its students with endless, hands-on opportunities for learning. Recently, the new multi-technology asset of CES was officially dedicated as "The Seemann Makerspace."

Made possible by the vision and generosity of Bill and Wynn Seemann, the Seemann Makerspace at Coast Episcopal School has been enriching the lives of students since October 2020, when the doors of the multi-technology classroom first opened. Recently, the COVID-delayed dedication to the Seemanns took place when students, faculty and staff gathered to honor the family, whose gift was memorialized with a brass plaque that will grace the building's entrance to welcome eager, engaged students for years to come.

"Making things is fundamental to what it means to be human," said Bill Seemann. "From earliest civilizations, we have made tools, houses, boats automobiles. There is a joy to conceiving and making things with our hands. Now we see ourselves entering a new world, where more and more of what is made is designed and manufactured with the aid of computers. Becoming familiar with this technology and using it to make things at an early age is going to help our children succeed in an increasingly complex world."

"From the moment I told Bill that CES was considering adding a makerspace, he was enthralled," said Wynn Seemann, "and, as a longtime educator whose philosophy has always been that children learn by doing, so was I."

The Seemanns traveled to makerspaces in other places to learn what the addition of a technology-based building could mean to CES students. From that point forward, "Bill was on it!" Mrs. Seemann recalled. "He began designing the building, selecting the materials, and overseeing its construction."

She added that her husband's interest was no surprise. "Bill is a maker. He has always been curious about how things work and challenged to learn how to make them work better. He has turned that passion into a career." Mr. Seemann is the founder of Gulfport-based Seemann Composites, Inc., which is based on his industry-transforming research and development in composite fabrication.

The CES Makerspace boasts three 3D printers, a laser cutter and a vinyl cutter for creating objects; a greenscreen and iPads for movie production; and Ozobots



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Donors Bill and Wynn Seemann cut the ceremonial ribbon with golden scissors created in the Seemann Makerspace of the Coast Episcopal School at its recent dedication.



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Pictured (l to r) during the blessing of the Seemann Dedication Plaque are Wynn Seemann, Bill Seemann, Makerspace Director Will Ashley, Reverend Patrick Sanders and Reverend Clelie McCandless.

(robots) that introduce coding. Technology meets everyday objects with the utilization of recycled and simple materials such as cardboard, soda bottles, popsicle sticks, pipe cleaners and hot glue.

The projects taking place within the Makerspace walls are an extension of lessons in CES's traditional classrooms, as the faculty works closely with Makerspace Director Will Ashley to tie curriculum into technology. Ashley, a Coast Episcopal alumnus himself, graduated from Mississippi State University in 2015 and went on to Penn State University, where he received his master's degree in learning, design and technology in 2019.

"I was thrilled to return to my alma mater as the Makerspace Director in 2019, and my goals are to work with classroom teachers to blend curriculum into as many projects as possible, while, at the same time, allowing our students to let their creativity, curiosity, and personal interests dictate the projects we create," Ashley said. "In the Makerspace, we demonstrate that no idea is too big, and that failure is just the first step toward success."

"It is our hope that this Makerspace will not only help the children of Coast Episcopal, but also encourage other schools on the Gulf Coast to bring the love of making things to students of all ages," said Mr. Seemann. "We need to start young to prepare our children for what lies ahead."

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