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August 2022 • Volume 6, Number 8 • "Good News You Can Use"

\$4.3M in Federal funding opens door for Gateway Harbor Project



By Toni Miles

Project renderings for the Long Beach Gateway Harbor Project

In a Southern culture steeped in hospitality and welcoming openness, evidenced by local homes with wrap-around front porches, it should come as no surprise that leaders with the City of Long Beach have comprised a plan to use the Friendly City's "front door" beach area along Highway 90 to draw more developers, businesses and visitors into the city.

Now, thanks to \$4.3 million in federal funding through a Congressional appropriations request, announced by Long Beach Mayor George Bass and Congressman Steven Palazzo in June, the door is finally open for the Gateway Harbor Project, which aims to draw more developers and visitors into the city by placing signage and landscaping at two major intersections along Highway 90, at Jeff Davis Avenue.

Mayor Bass, who has made several visits to Washington, D.C., since he took office in 2017, has worked tirelessly with the local delegation, including Mississippi's District 120 Representative Richard Bennett and U.S. Congressman Steven Palazzo, to help secure the funding.

Bass says the \$4.3 million will go a long way. Besides placing signage along the popular beachfront thoroughfare, the Gateway Harbor Project includes improved landscaping, attractive landmarks and even a lighthouse, all of which Bass hopes will light the way to those "passing through" the area to stop and check out what Long Beach has to offer.

Also included in the plan are sidewalks, parking and pathways along the city's beachfront and at the Long Beach Harbor.

City leaders have wasted no time moving forward on this long-anticipated project, approving a motion at the Long Beach Board of Aldermen's meeting on July 5 to advertise for bids to get the initial phase of the overall project off the ground, and time is of the essence, as pointed out by Alderman-at-Large Donald Frazer at the meeting.

"I know this is going to be a moving target with the new funds out there and everything, whether we call this Phase One or what, but I want to see some progress on this," Frazer said. "We can start here, finish one project and move forward."

"I would note that these funds that are being spent have been designated specifically for this project, and, if we don't spend them on this, this downtown redevelopment gateway, we won't get to have them at all for anything," said Bass.

As the City moves forward with the Harbor Gateway Project, Long Beach leaders also continue to work to secure separate funding concentrated on the Long Beach Harbor, which still shows signs of damage from storms that made landfall in the area during past hurricane seasons. While several boat ramps have reopened at the harbor and are being used by a steady stream of boaters, there's still a lot that needs to be done to restore the overall harbor and its facilities and to better fortify it during future storms and possible hurricanes.

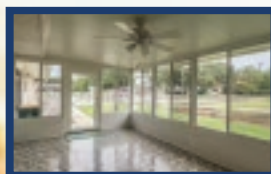


Toni Miles

One of the main focuses of the Gateway Harbor Project is the busy intersection at Jeff Davis Avenue and Highway 90.



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Volunteers sought for multiple Adopt a Grandparent opportunities

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Adopt a Grandparent Day, which is observed the Saturday before National Grandparents Day each year, is a day set aside for community volunteers to visit and honor those who are often neglected during a time in their lives when they should be appreciated the most.

Statistics show fifty percent of nursing home residents have no close relatives, forty-six percent have no living children, and sixty percent have no outside visitors.

About twenty percent of nursing home residents suffer from major depression, triggered by a lack of social interaction and isolation.

When Kathy Rogers had to move her mother into a nursing home for thirty days, she experienced the reality of the emotional hardships the residents often face. Many seniors are dropped off and forgotten, left longing for interaction and attention.

Moved by what they had witnessed, Kathy and her husband Lee founded Adopt a Grandparent in 2014, with the mission to recognize and honor the life and value of the elderly in society.

Adopt a Grandparent currently serves over 2,300 seniors in forty facilities across the Gulf Coast, including Senior Oaks Nursing Home in Long Beach.

The organization's out-



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reach is two-fold. Throughout the year, gifts and requested items are collected and placed in Treasure Boxes to be delivered to local nursing homes on Adopt a Grandparent Day. On that day, teams of volunteers gather to spend one hour visiting with residents. There are games, crafts and other activities planned for the visit to encourage interaction and connection with residents.

Adopt a Grandparent Day 2022 will be observed on Saturday, September 10. The organization is currently seeking volunteers to donate items for the Treasure Boxes and to help prepare the boxes for delivery. The

list of gifts and requested items can be found on their website.

There are several events and tasks open for volunteers to help with, including decorating Treasure Boxes; creating artwork, letters and cards; and packing the Treasure Boxes at a Packing Party on Saturday, September 3. Details and registration for all events can be found at www.AdoptAGrandparentDay.org.

Volunteers are also needed for the visit event on September 10. Online registration to visit the nursing homes, including Senior Oaks in Long Beach, will open August 1.

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www.LongBeachBreeze.com

LBSD begins new school year on August 4

Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach School District will begin its 2022-23 school year on August 4.

Ahead of the start of school, the district will hold sessions for students and parents to meet teachers, and high school freshmen and new students will have an orientation session.

July 29 will kick off the sessions, with preschooler Meet the Teacher sessions open for students with last names beginning with A-L from 10 until 11:30 a.m. and 1:45 to 3:15 p.m. Last names beginning with M-Z will have the option of sessions from 12 to 1:30 p.m. or 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Also on July 29, Long Beach High School students can pick up their schedules and arrange their parking. Seniors can stop by the school from noon until 1 p.m., juniors from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m., and sophomores from 2:30 until 3:30 p.m. Ahead of that, from 9 until 11 a.m., freshmen and new students will have orientation.

August 1, from 5 until 6:30 p.m., Harper McCaughan Elementary will have their sixth grade Meet the Teacher event.

Quarles and Reeves Elementary will both hold their Meet the Teacher sessions on August 2, with kindergarten

and third grade from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at both schools, and first and second grade from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. at both schools.

Also on August 2, from 3 until 6 p.m., all fully-registered Long Beach Middle School students can pick up their schedules in the school's gym.

Harper McCaughan Elementary will have Meet the Teacher for fourth and fifth graders on August 3, from 5 until 6:30 p.m.

Open Houses have been planned for each school, as well. The Long Beach High School Grand Opening and Community Open House will be on August 13 at a time yet to be determined, followed by the school's Open House on August 23 at 5:30 p.m.

Harper McCaughan Elementary's Open House is set for August 29 from 5:30 until 7 p.m., Quarles and Reeves Elementary will both have their Open Houses at 5:30 p.m. on August 30, and the Long Beach Middle School Open House will be set at a later date.

For more information about the school district's upcoming school year, visit their website at www.LBSDk12.com.



LBSD CALENDAR

August 1-3	Teacher Workdays
August 4	First Day for Students
September 5	Labor Day Holiday
October 3	Fall Break
November 21-25	Thanksgiving Holidays
December 16	60% Day
December 19 - January 2	Christmas Holidays
January 3-4	Teacher Workdays/ Parent Conferences
January 5	Students Return
January 16	Martin Luther King Holiday
February 20 - 22	Mardi Gras Holidays
April 7 - 14	Spring Break
May 18	LBHS Graduation
May 23, 24	Final Exams
May 24 (60% Day)	Last Student Day
May 25, 26	Teacher Workdays

Make-up days, if needed: October 3, January 4, February 20, February 22





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Dinner event benefits St. Vincent de Paul Society



Toni Miles

The cast of the 2022 Mafia Murder Mystery Dinner with event producer David Biagini (far right), who also serves as MS SOFIA President.



Toni Miles



Toni Miles

Local chefs roll out authentic, homemade Italian cuisine to servers at the dinner show.

By Toni Miles

The Mississippi Society of Italian Americans (MS SOFIA) welcomed hundreds of people from throughout South Mississippi to the annual Mafia Murder Mystery Dinner, a fundraiser dinner show held at St. Mary Catholic Church located in the Woolmarket area.

The Friday and Saturday night performances completely sold out, and the Sunday matinee was filled to eighty percent capacity. Organizers said it was the best turn out yet, which is good news for churches that want to participate in a coast-wide bocce church league, as well as those who receive assistance and scholarships

from across the Coast through the St. Vincent de Paul Society, which will benefit from the proceeds of the three-day event.

“MS SOFIA is gratified by the community response to our production,” said MS SOFIA President David Biagini. “‘Pasquale’s Speakeasy’ (aka St. Mary Catholic Church’s Murray Hall) was near, at, or above capacity for all three performances. More than 240 people enjoyed our Italian dinner and show.”

It appeared a good time was had by all at the who-done-it dinner show, featuring cast members from various walks of faith. Father Martin J. “Father G” Gillespie, pastor of St. Mary’s

Parish, took on the role of the Godfather, Don Martin “Babyface” Giuseppe, trading his collar for a bowtie – at least during the three performances. Jimmy Duggan, who played Luigi “the Sneak” Giuseppe, wrote and directed the live dinner show. Other cast members included John and Suzanne Hudson, Shirley Abels, John Cruso and Toni Miles.

A homemade baked ziti Italian dinner, complete with wine and bottled Italian water, preceded each performance.

Proceeds will assist the St. Vincent de Paul Society and help construct a first-class bocce facility at St. Mary Catholic Church as an impetus for a

coast-wide church bocce league.

The bocce facility and league are examples of MS SOFIA’s mission as a charitable foundation that shares Italian culture and awards annual scholarships to high school students on the coast.

Since 2016, the organization has sponsored a variety of special events in the Long Beach area, including an outdoor Italian Festa hosted by Holy Family Catholic Church and the St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School.

Event organizers say stay tuned – there will be more shows and fundraisers to come, and there will be a seat at the table for anyone who dares to attend.



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Sewage infrastructure work continues, questions welcomed

Q: How is progress in the area of Beatline Road from Johnson Road to Pineville Road coming along? Is there an estimated time frame for completion of this leg of the project when drivers will no longer have to use the detour through Long Beach Industrial Park?

A: The contractors have encountered some unforeseen items under the road. They hope to have the road open to thru traffic by the end of July. Keep in mind that the southbound lane will be temporary gravel while the other areas of the new piping are being installed.

Q: Besides the area of Beatline Road from Johnson Road to Pineville Road, in what other areas of the city is work for the infrastructure now taking place? Is there anything drivers need to know about these parts of the project that will affect the commute in these areas?

A: Drivers of South of Plantation Drive (easement behind homes), Nicholson Avenue, Pineville Road and Menge Avenue need to plan for traffic delays during the entire construction effort in all areas. Please be patient and comply with road signs, detours and workers.

Q: School reopens soon. Are there any areas of construction or work that parents need to be aware of on their daily commute to drop off and pick up their children the first month of school?

A: At this time, everyone is working toward having minimal to no impact on school areas for drop-off and pick-up.

Q: Is there anything you'd like residents / businesses to know right now in regards to the project?

A: Please continue to be patient, cooperate with workers, and comply with road signs, detours, and workers. The top goal of all is everyone's safety, so please have a high awareness of safety when entering construction areas.

Q: Are there any contingency plans in place should a tropical disturbance or hurricane affect the City of Long Beach?

A: Yes. Hurricane contingency plans always are in place. As storms arise, the plan will be adjusted to account for the size and capacity of the storm.

Photos by Toni Miles.



Each month, the print edition of *Long Beach Breeze* will include questions about the city's ongoing, multimillion dollar sewer improvement and infrastructure project.

Continuing the ongoing series and partnership between the *Long Beach Breeze* and the City of Long Beach, *Long Beach Breeze* reporter Toni Miles recently presented Long Beach Community Affairs Director Jenny Levens with some new questions from residents.

Readers' questions are always welcome! To submit a question about the project, visit: www.LongBeachBreeze.com and fill out the question submission form. Scan the QR code to submit your questions.



Scan the QR code to submit your questions.



Jenny Levens,
Long Beach Community
Affairs Director

Looking ahead from Levens:

On July 11, contractors began installing and performing the tie-in of the new HCUA sewer pipes along Pineville Road. The major parts of the project that are expected to be completed by the end of 2022 include Royal Drive to Nicholson, which are scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2022. Progress is coming along nicely, considering the magnitude of the project. There have been some delays, as with any construction project. The entire project replaces almost 23,000 feet of large sewer transmission lines that carry the entire City of Long Beach's sewer. Most delays have been related to unforeseen underground conditions and the instability of nationwide manufacturing in 2021. The next area of work to take place is on Menge Avenue. Drivers need to plan for traffic delays during the entire construction effort in all areas.

Visit www.longbeachbreeze.com/sewage-infrastructure to submit your questions.



Meet Your Neighbor: Helen Zito

By Will Brown

In 2005, Helen Zito retired after twelve years working in a director position for BellSouth in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She made the decision to retire after the telecommunications company merged with AT&T, but Zito quickly decided she was too young to be retiring. She began a second career with Ochsner Health doing some part time work at first before being named Ochsner’s Director of Alumni Affairs ten years ago. Shortly after settling into this position, Zito and her husband moved from their hometown of New Orleans to Long Beach, where Zito has continued to work for Ochsner while setting out to pursue her dream to be an artist.

“I’ve always been a crafty, artsy person,” Zito said. “I love my painting. I paint on silk, and that’s sort of my passion.”

Zito first decided to pursue silk painting fifteen years ago and traveled to Mendocino, California, to take lessons. The process of silk painting involves stretching out a piece of white silk and painting on it with dyes. The piece of silk is steamed to let the dyes set, and then it is washed several times with several different iterations. The final product can be anything from a scarf to a pillow to a piece of wall art.

Zito frequented art shows throughout Louisiana and the Gulf Coast for a number of years, and her artwork is displayed at Gallery 782 in Biloxi and The Shops at Century Hall in Bay St. Louis. Zito also creates art pieces such as scarves and shawls by using painted silk and fusing wool fibers together, a process known as Nuno felting.

Zito and her husband moved to Long Beach in 2017, with the hopes of retiring in the community. While neither have retired yet, Zito was drawn to the friendliness and tranquility that Long Beach had to offer.

“It’s quieter than most of the Gulf communities,” Zito said. “The people are so friendly, and it’s always felt like home.”

Zito says she loves living in Long Beach and watching the growth of the community, as well as being on the beach and in close proximity to all the amenities the Gulf Coast has to offer.

“We love the beach area here and all the family activities that go on,” Zito said. “If we want to explore the casinos or nightlife, we can go somewhere else, but we like living in the quiet community.”



Special to Long Beach Breeze
Helen Zito

Q: What is your favorite things about Long Beach?

A: “A big part is the people, and we love the beach.”

Q: What are your favorite hobbies outside of work?

A: “I do a lot of reading, and my husband and I like to travel. I do a lot of cruising, and work is what consumes me. We have three grandkids, and we are very involved with them.”

Q: What is your favorite restaurant in Long Beach?

A: “Definitely Steve’s Marina. That’s our favorite. We know someone who works there, and we love to go there.”

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

A: “Well, I am a British literature person. I love Jane Austen and reading all of her books. My husband and I both like to watch historical things. We are really interested in seeing the *Downton Abbey* movie that just came out. And, of course, we love *Jurassic Park*, so we will be seeing that too.”

Q: If you could go anywhere in the world, where would it be - and what is your favorite place you have traveled to?

A: “Right now, I aspire to travel to England to explore some of my favorite authors. The most exciting place I’ve ever traveled to is Italy. I was able to go to Florence and Rome some time ago when I was studying for my MBA. It was a different time from today, but it was a wonderful trip; and it is also my heritage.”

Q: If you won the lottery and got one million dollars, how would you spend the money?

A: “The first thing I would do is give a bunch away to church and people who need it. I would probably donate to Oschner, and then I would make sure my kids were well set.”

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LBSD Mission Acceleration program lauded



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The Long Beach School District (LBSD) recently had some summer visitors who showed up to observe and celebrate the success of the district's Mission Acceleration program, which is designed to address the need for learning recovery that was necessitated by the loss of in-person and synchronous learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Representatives Richard Bennett, Kevin Felsher and Kent McCarty, along with Holly Spivey, Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves' Education Policy Advisor, stopped in Long Beach to see the program in action. The pilot program, funded through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund, seeks to accelerate reading achievement for children in Mississippi.

LBSD participated in the Mississippi Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and was selected to join in the pilot project with the Center for Excellence in Literacy Instruction and the University of Mississippi. The program provides a combination of high-dose tutoring using evidence-based reading interventions, a vast digital library, and meaningful academic and social connections with a college role model.

The program has significantly impacted the achievements of participating students, according to LBSD project coordinator Jennifer Gordon.

"I wholeheartedly believe the Mission Acceleration program is golden in our district," Gordon said. "I have seen students make meaningful connections with a role model, improve in literacy skills, and get excited to read! I have students who hated to read, never wanted to volunteer, and honestly acted out because they were embarrassed that they could not read. Now, I have those students wearing glasses and coming to me to borrow new books to read."

"This is a chance for struggling readers to catch up – to accelerate – and they do! I feel this program is a huge success and will only get better. It is vital that we continue services to accelerate our future Mississippians."

Continued funding is crucial for schools to be able to maintain programs that are providing the tools to bridge the learning-loss gaps created during COVID-19, says LBSD Assistant Superintendent Kelleigh Reynolds-Brou-

sard, who was instrumental in bringing Mission Acceleration to Long Beach.

"It is most appreciated that our legislators visited onsite to see the impact on our students by way of the implementation of Mission Acceleration within Long Beach School District," Reynolds-Broussard said. "Funding for programs addressing educational gaps is critical to continuing growth from the learning losses due to COVID-19 and to work toward preparing students to become proficient readers."

House Education Chairman Richard Bennett was happy to see students engaged and excited to be learning.

"It's a great program. It really gives the kids who are falling behind a chance to catch up with their peers. I think once you fall behind, you never catch up without this type of help, and I think this is a great thing for those students and for the state of Mississippi," Bennett said.

"I was impressed by the students' enthusiasm and the enthusiasm of the people teaching them. It was fun for them, and I think going to summer school sometimes is a dreaded thing to do. The kids were having fun, and they were enjoying their summer; so, it was great. Whenever you can have fun learning, it's a great situation."

The excitement of students being tutored was also impressive to House Education Committee Vice-Chairman Kent McCarty.

"I think all the students who were here today really seemed engaged; they seemed excited to be here. They seemed genuinely to be enjoying the whole experience," said McCarty. "That was surprising to someone who doesn't remember fourth or fifth grade very fondly. To see these kids with a smile on their face, spending their summer back at school and enjoying it, was really impressive to see."

Representative Felsher, who was also among the program's visitors in Long Beach, was also impressed by Mission Acceleration.

"To see the impact it is having on children, especially the children who most need it, is really heart-warming, and it makes me a believer of the program," Felsher said. "I loved watching the tutors with the children. You could see them responding, and having that one-on-one relationship seemed to really be impactful for them."

For more information about Mission Acceleration, visit www.MSMissionAcceleration.org.



Special to Long Beach Breeze



Scouts BSA Troop hikes in the Redwoods

By Guest Columnist Tommy Carroll

Boy Scouts of America High Adventure Troop 321 from Long Beach recently traveled to California and hiked in the tallest living objects on Earth. The first day of the trip after traveling included visits to the Father Crowley overlook in Death Valley National Forest, the Airplane Graveyard at Mohave, Red Rock Canyon State Recreation Area and Mount Whitney, the highest mountain in the contiguous U.S. They then drove through the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range and stopped at the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest Visitor Center, where they explored and gathered data for merit badges among the oldest living creatures on Earth. The trees that the scouts were exploring aged to over 5,000 years!

The following day, the troop traveled to Lake Tahoe, the largest alpine lake in the world, which was surrounded by snow-covered mountains. The scouts enjoyed a chilly swim, then left to travel up the Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway to the lowlands below Mt. Shasta.

As the troop traveled the north, they enjoyed experiencing the extreme environmental shift, from the arid heat of Death Valley to the cool-dry of the Sierras to the cold damp of the Pacific Northwest. Traveling north, the troop saw the height of the trees increase along with the weather change. Upon arriving at Redwood State Park, home

of the Coastal Redwoods, the size of the trees was just difficult to comprehend.

The troop set up camp at Elk Prairie Campground and enjoyed hiking through the area's trails. The trails that the scouts hiked on, the Cathedral Trail, the Foothills Trail, the Rotary Memorial Trail and Big Tree Loop, all provided views that created awe for each of the hikers. To better grasp the size of the trees, the troop encircled a few different trees with everyone on the hike just to see if they could ... and just barely did!

The trip included a visit to Camp Tamarancho, a Scout Camp with over 400 acres of redwood canyons and scenic knolls, which also overlooks the San Francisco Bay. The scouts also travelled to the base of the Golden Gate Bridge and hiked across into San Francisco.

From San Francisco, the group went south to Big Sur National Forest and set up camp at Hearst San-Simeon State Park. A morning beach hike down to the local tourist village of Cambria allowed them to see giant fronds of sea kelp and seals basking on the rocks. The trip itinerary concluded with a stay at the Knott's Berry Farm Resort Hotel, where they enjoyed some restaurant food and the Knott's Berry Farm Amusement Park.

Scouts from Troop 321 hail from Diamondhead, Poplarville, Gulfport, Biloxi, Ocean Springs and Long Beach.



**See an expanded article
that details the scouts'
adventures - plus more
photos! - online at
LongBeachBreeze.com.**





Start back to school season with a library card

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn, LBPL Youth and Technology Services

Hello, Long Beach!

August is always a kickoff to the start of a new school year. What better way to do so than by having your very own library card! Children that are five years of age can have their own card with a parent or guardian's consent and can check out two items on their very first check out. It's a wonderful way to teach responsibility, too!

Preschool story time will continue through August on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. in the children's wing. For a current schedule of events, visit the library's website at www.LongBeach.lib.ms.us.

There are no meetings scheduled in August for the Friends of the Library or the Library's Board of Trustees.

Summer Reading was so much fun this year! As promised, I included more pictures of the events we had over the summer. I want to thank everyone who participated and volunteered to be a part of the programs!

If you haven't seen the photographs that were entered as entries in the contest, they are still on display. The winner was chosen by our patrons, but all entries will hang in the teen room. The first-place winner was Jeff Andrews, and the second-place winner was Darlene Adams, Elizabeth Studios. The third-place winner was Julie Rhoades, and the fourth-place winner was Brittany Stephens, BMS.

Now for the bad news. We had originally planned a Harry Potter's Wizarding Weekend event to take place the last weekend of July. However, after realizing that this was the same weekend as Tax Free Weekend (an event in which many parents with school aged children participate), we have decided to postpone our event until another time. We apologize for the upset it may cause your family, but we truly feel



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that postponing the Harry Potter event until it is something everyone can enjoy is in everyone's best interest.

There are no holidays scheduled in August.

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

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Schroeder awarded Key Club scholarship



Toni Miles

Pictured (l to r) are Key Club Advisor Karen Ramsey, Kiwanis President Ingrid Miscavage, Long Beach High School senior Katelyn Schroeder and Key Club Advisor Aimie Chambliss-Dunaway.

By Dom Fimiano

The Kiwanis Club of Long Beach recently presented the Long Beach High School Key Club scholarship to Katelyn Schroeder. The student receiving this award each year is the most academically successful active Key Club senior. Schroeder serves as the Key Club president, participating in community service organizations and academic honor societies. Key Club activities are designed to provide volunteer assistance in the Long Beach School District and the City of Long Beach.

Kiwanis Club Secretary Howard Lock said the dedication and enthusiasm of Key Club members has been felt in communities across the country since the program began in 1925. The student-led organization encourages leadership development through service to others. Students build confidence while learning to be effective leaders. They strive for academic success while promoting school activities.

Schroeder, a STAR student who graduated seventh in her class, is a multi-sport scholar student athlete, participating on the LBHS bowling, softball and volleyball teams. Schroeder has served as a contributor to the success achieved by the LBHS 2021-22 state champion bowling team, while individually ranking third in the state, as well as a LBHS softball pitcher honored as a regional player and MVP of the all-star game.

Schroeder said, "Sports are a big part of my life where I find joy and happiness." She says she is thankful to her family, teachers and coaches for all their dedication and support helping her be so successful.

Her teachers and parents say they are proud of the success she has achieved with her classes, athletic contributions and community involvement. Key Club advisors Karen Ramsey and Aimie Chambliss-Dunaway said that Schroeder is an impressive student and talented athlete who is always asking what needs to be done and willing to help.

Schroeder's parents say that she is a silent leader for her teammates, often being an example of how to win with dignity, lose with grace and do both with humility. They say she leads in her community with a servant's heart through organizations such as Kiwanis Key Club, Camp Awesome, Buddy Ball and Camp Able.

"Her accomplishments are wonderful," they said. "We are most proud of Katelyn for being a well-rounded young lady who respectfully shows empathy, acceptance and the love of God to everyone she meets. She truly is a blessing from God. Katelyn has matured into an amazing well-rounded person."

Schroeder will be attending William Carey University on full academic and softball scholarships and plans to study pharmacology.



Carmichael named new Bearcats girls soccer coach

By Datti Jinkiri

Kevin Carmichael has been named the girls soccer coach at Long Beach High School.

Carmichael is currently the director of coach and player development at South Mississippi Soccer Club. He's been working in that capacity with the club since 2020, and he oversees every age group from under-five to under-19.

Previously, he spent time in Virginia with Fredericksburg Football Club, Virginia Beach Football Club and the Hampton Roads Strikers. He has previous experience in the state's high school ranks, as he coached the girls soccer team at Granby High School.

Carmichael graduated from Chowan University in North Carolina, where he played for the men's soccer team.

Carmichael will bring his extensive experience to a Long



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Kevin Carmichael

Beach team that will be looking to make a run in the MHSAA Class 5A Playoffs. The Lady Bearcats finished the 2021-22 regular season with a 12-6-1 record before falling to South Jones in the playoffs.

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Hope and help available for those who need it

By Toni Miles

Life is a struggle, but perhaps more so now, as gas prices and food costs hit an all-time high.

"There are people hanging on by a thread right now," says Glenda Hull, as she multi-tasks, sorting and distributing food and other essentials to homeless and needy people in the area at Open Table Ministry's recent monthly give-away.

"We don't just feed the homeless," Hull said. "We serve those who may have shelter, an apartment, but they're just having a hard time making ends meet. Maybe somebody lost their job a month ago, or maybe they just need a meal. Maybe they haven't gotten a pair of socks in God knows how long. Anybody is welcome. It may not seem like much, but you can see the need, the suffering through the smiles," Hull said.

Needs Glenda, her husband Terry Hull, and their church, First United Methodist in Long Beach, feel called to fill - something they've been doing since 2015.

"We happened [into this] by divine serendipity," Hull said. "We had all this food prepared for an event that fell through, so instead we decided to try to find some homeless camps. When we did, we saw the need, and so we started Open Table Ministry. We started out feeding ten or fifteen people, and we ended up serving one hundred to one hundred twenty-five people every month.

"We want to show the love of God, the love of Jesus. We want to be the hands and feet of Jesus, and ease some suffering," Hull said.

According to Patter Johnson, they're doing just that.

"I've been coming out here for about four years," Johnson said. "I once had my own dog, my own business, was about to start a second business...but then I had a nervous breakdown. I ended up on the street with my duffel bag.



Toni Miles

Glenda Hull of Long Beach organizes donations for the homeless and those in need for a monthly give-away at the 19th Street Park in Gulfport.

I struggled and struggled, but now I've been off the streets for two years."

Johnson said years ago she volunteered with other non-profits who help the homeless and needy in the area. She never thought she'd be on the receiving end one day.

"It was hard, but I'm off the streets now," Johnson says, as her voice cracks and tears well up in her eyes. But now, things are looking up, and she credits the Hulls and all those associated with Open Table ministry with this new, exciting chapter in her life, reflected by the gleam in her eyes as she holds her young son, thankful they have an apartment now. She's even rebooting old dreams.

"You should have seen her [Johnson] five years ago," Hull said. "She looks so



Toni Miles

Patter Johnson and Glenda Hull

19TH STREET PARK GIVE-AWAY

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(Located behind the 19th Street Community Center)

much better. She's really trying hard. She's come a long way."

"Like they say, always walk by faith," Johnson said. "God is what got me through this. She [Glenda Hull and Open Table Ministry] helped get me through this. Every time Ms. Glenda saw me, I was pregnant, and she helped me, gave

me a blanket, the things I needed."

And according to Hull, a little divine intervention goes a long way.

"Basically, God has blessed this ministry," she said. "We don't advertise for donations. It just comes in to the church office. We have an account at the church, so donations can be made through First United Methodist Church in Long Beach. We use these donations to buy food, supplies and other things."

"We are all really, truly created equal, but we are not treated equal. Social injustice has just slayed the human race. I've had far more opportunities in my lifetime than the people here today, and that hurts me. It hurts me to know they didn't have the same opportunities," Hull said.

But everybody has the same opportunity to give, and members of other cities, faiths, churches and denominations, all pitch in to help, whether it's manning the monthly donations site at the 19th Street Park in Gulfport, or collecting food, clothing and other needs at local churches for distribution.

Hull says year-round, there is a constant need for food, socks and underwear, men's, women's and children's clothing, as well as personal hygiene items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner and even Q-tips and clothes pins.

"It's these 'little things' we love to provide for them that people often don't think about," Hull said. "They like clothes pins. They use them to hang their clothes up on the branches."

Open Table Ministry has an open-door policy - anyone in need is welcome to attend their monthly give-away, which takes place the second Saturday of each month at the 19th Street Park in Gulfport, and anyone can give.

Donations can be made at and through First United Methodist Church in Long Beach by calling 228-863-9619.

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Goodwill and Long Beach Fire Department team up to hold LB Express Donation Station July 29-30



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach Goodwill store is located on West Railroad Street.

By Toni Miles

For forty-eight years, Goodwill of South Mississippi has been contributing to the community by helping people with barriers to employment receive job training and placement services, operating twelve Goodwill stores throughout South Mississippi, including its Long Beach site, located at 200 West Railroad Street.

Goodwill accepts donated items, new and gently used, and sells them at low prices to help empower those in the community affected by poverty. Shoppers can find secondhand clothes, electronics, furniture and more at any Goodwill store, and, with today's economic uncertainty and challenges, the need for services and goods provided by Goodwill are in high demand.

Income generated by the collection of donated goods sold at Goodwill stores goes right back into the local community. Ninety-two cents of every dollar earned goes directly to providing people in the community with job training and placement services, connecting them with meaningful employment.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach Fire Department on Klondyke Road will be a Goodwill Express Donation Dropoff Site on July 29-30.



Their services also help the environment. Last year alone, Goodwill of South Mississippi collected more than sixteen million pounds of recycled goods that otherwise would have ended up in a landfill.

For those cleaning out their closets or looking to donate toys, electronics, home décor or furniture that's no longer needed, Goodwill of South Mississippi is more than ready to accept their donations.

To make donating even more convenient, Goodwill of South Mississippi and the Long Beach Fire Department are teaming up on the weekend of Friday, July 29, and Saturday, July 30, to set up an Express Donation Station.

Long Beach residents can drop off their donations at the Long Beach Fire Department at 645 Klondyke Road from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Goodwill

will have a manned truck on site to collect the donations, which are also tax deductible. For more information, call 228-209-5722, or visit www.goodwillms.org to check out their calendar for this and other donation locations.

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Photos by Ann Madden

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Ashton Rupert named Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo Queen



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Ashton Rupert of Long Beach (center) was recently crowned the 2022 Mississippi Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo Queen. She will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. The second runner up was MacKenzie Galbraith of Hancock County (left), and the first runner up was Alicia Arnold of Gulfport (right). The runners-up will each receive a \$500 scholarship.

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Mississippi Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo is held annually on the fourth of July weekend. Competing for this year's title of MSDSFR Queen were Emily Lofton, Bay St. Louis; Gracie Handler, Biloxi; Alicia Arnold, Gulfport; Keeleigh Stockstill, Harrison County; Mackenzie Galbraith, Hancock County; Ashton Rupert, Long Beach; Bella-Reece Williams, Pass Christian; Aleyah Calomese, Waveland; and Kendall Chandler, Jackson County. They were joined by Lauren-Anne Lagasse, Rodeo Queen of 2021, for several days of activities, which included interviews, luncheons, a visit to the Mississippi Aquarium, welcome/visitor center visits, and even some fish cleaning. Princesses each receive \$250 scholarships.

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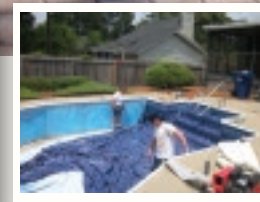
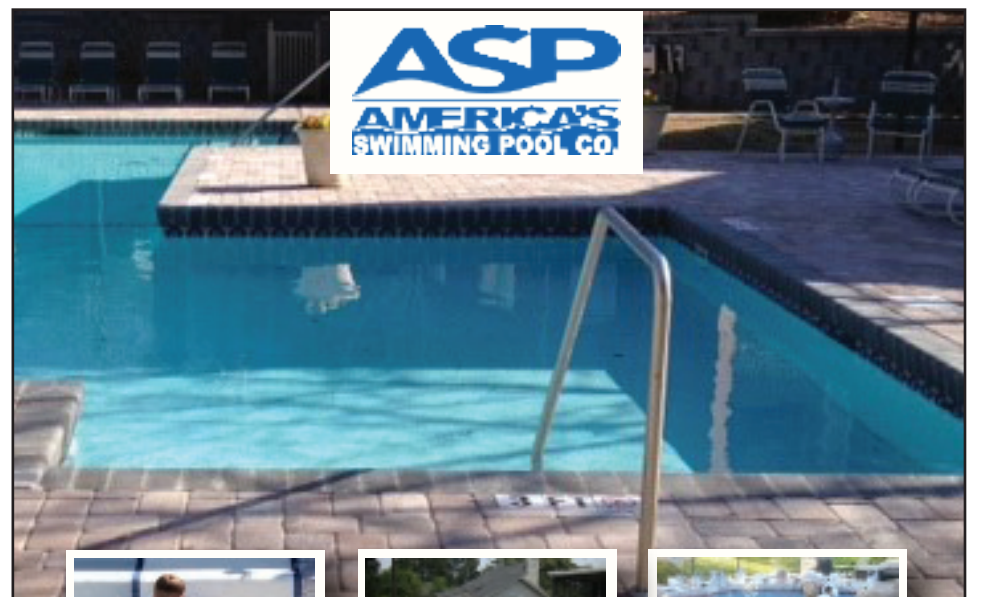
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Long Beach residents enjoy Cinema Under the Oaks



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Long Beach Breeze

Toni Miles

The University of Southern Mississippi-Gulf Park recently hosted a showing of *Onward* on Lloyd Lawn by the Friendship Oak on USM's Gulf Park campus. Continuing on August 12, with a showing of *Jungle Cruise*, the university invites Long Beach families to come out to their Cinema Under the Oaks event, designed to provide entertainment to the local community over the course of the summer. The family fun starts at 6 p.m., with free inflatables. Concessions will also be available, and all proceeds will benefit USM student organizations. Residents are encouraged to bring blankets and chairs. No alcohol or tobacco is allowed. The movie will begin at dusk. The event will be held on Lloyd Lawn by the Friendship Oak on USM's Gulf Park Campus at 730 East Beach Boulevard. In the event of rain, the event will be relocated to the FEC Auditorium. For questions, contact cinemaundertheoaks@usm.edu.



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New Long Beach football coach looking for improvements this season

By Datti Jinkiri

The high school football season is right around the corner. This August will not only feature the start of the Mississippi high school football season, it will signal the start of the Jacob Massey era at Long Beach High School.

Massey was named the head coach of the Bearcats in January. He was most recently the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Class 6A powerhouse Petal High School. He also spent time at Amory High School and Desoto Central High School.

"I am extremely excited about this opportunity," Massey said. "When I started coaching, I always knew that I wanted to become a head football coach, and I am so grateful to the administration and community for giving me a chance to fulfill my dream of running a football program."

The Bearcats finished the 2021 season with a 1-9 record. The only way for the team to go is up, and the team has been making improvements under Massey since spring practices began. This summer, the team has been playing 7-on-7 games against top Class 6A competition (such as Gulfport and Petal), as well as practicing multiple times per week.

Generating offense will be key for a team that only averaged just over ten points per game last year. Massey, who was a triple option quarterback in high school, will look for his team to do that by running the ball. Football games are won in the trenches, and the Bearcats will look to be efficient there. This will allow the team to keep possession for longer periods of time, while also keeping the defense fresh.

Massey also played quarterback at Louisiana College, where the team ran the air raid offense. His college experience has influenced him in his coaching career, so fans can also expect to see some air raid concepts in the team's offense.

Offensive players to watch out for are junior running back Edjuan Trautman, junior athlete Colt Busby, senior wide receiver Exavier Johnson, and sophomore quarterback Will Brady. Taking the reigns of the offense will be an important task for the young Brady, and Massey is expecting him to be a key figure in the offense.

"In our offense, we will only be as good as our quarterback will allow

us to be, so his development is going to be paramount to our success on the field," he said.

"We also have a good group of skill players that will facilitate his growth and development."

Defensively, the Bearcats will look to be disciplined. This specifically entails lining up correctly in formations and tackling. Doing these fundamental skills consistently at a high level will help the Bearcats limit their mistakes on the defensive side of the football this season.

Having great athletes doesn't hurt, either. Ac-

cording to Massey, the Bearcat linebackers have stepped up and been leaders on defense and in the weight room. It's no wonder that two key defensive players to watch for are sophomore linebacker Taj Aubert and junior linebacker Jahari Mitchell. Sophomore safety Andre Windham will also be a player to watch out for in the defensive secondary.

But, at the end of the day, assistant coaches are just as important as the head coach in implementing these offensive and defensive concepts. Massey's staff consists of Benji Foreman, defensive coordinator; Jamie Arms, quarterbacks/running backs; Cody Finley, offensive line; Max Crawford, wide receivers; Shane Pollan, H backs/tight ends/outside linebackers; Horace Fortenberry, defensive line; and Cedric Antwine, defensive backs.

"Every head coach in any sport is only going to be as good as his assistants," Massey stated.

"I have been very fortunate to keep some really good football coaches from the previous staff and also add some new coaches that have brought a lot to the table. Without a doubt, I am excited to see what our coaches will do to transform our team for this upcoming season."

As the Bearcats head towards the start of the season, Massey isn't looking for his team to look like world beaters from day one. Rome wasn't built in a day. However, he is looking for gradual improvements as the season moves forward.

"At the end of the day, I want our guys to focus on Long Beach," Massey said.

"The number one thing I want us to focus on is getting better as a team."

"If we can focus on the little things, like giving max effort and eliminating mistakes, the outcomes will take care of themselves."



Special to Long Beach Breeze

LBHS Head Football Coach Jacob Massey.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Watching film during spring training.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Learning new drills during spring training.

"Our theme for the season is W.I.N (What's Important Now), so, as a head coach, I have tried to live by our theme every day," Massey added.

"For Long Beach, we have tried to focus on taking care of the little things and making sure we get one

percent better every day."

The Bearcats will play at St. Martin in a jamboree on August 19 before officially opening the season against Pass Christian at home on Friday, August 26. Kickoff against Pass Christian is set for 7 p.m. that night.



Long Beach resident celebrates 107th birthday



Ms. Luanne Smith of Long Beach recently celebrated her 107th birthday in her home with family members and friends. She is the oldest of ten children and has one brother who is still alive. She credits her longevity to staying close to the Lord, trusting in God and eating an apple a day. She doesn't forget faces and names, is a huge Saints fan and loves watching Family Feud.

Special to Long Beach Breeze



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Ezell beats incumbent in runoff, heads to general election



Republican candidate Mike Ezell



Democratic candidate Johnny DuPree



Libertarian candidate Alden Johnson

By Toni Miles

By a narrow margin of just more than 3,000 votes, long-time South Mississippi lawman and current Jackson County Sheriff Mike Ezell edged out incumbent Congressman Steven Palazzo for the Republican nomination for Mississippi's 4th Congressional District Seat in U.S. Congress.

Ezell will go on to face Democratic candidate and former Hattiesburg mayor Johnny DuPree and Libertarian Alden Johnson in the race to be Mississippi's next 4th District Congressman.

Ezell secured 30,849 votes to Palazzo's 26,685 votes in the June 28 runoff, with 53.6-percent of the vote going to Ezell, and 46.4-percent of votes going to Palazzo, a six-term incumbent Congressman.

Palazzo will continue to serve in Washington, D.C., until the winner of the November 8 General Election is sworn in January of 2023.

The district represents twelve counties in South Mississippi, including Harrison County, which includes Long Beach.

Check out next month's edition of the Long Beach Breeze, where we will speak to all three candidates who will appear on the General Election ballot in this race, so you can get to know a little bit more about the candidates and their platforms before casting your ballot in the November 8 election.

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Three concerts left for 2022 Long Beach Live

Long Beach Breeze

Three concerts remain for the 2022 Long Beach Live Finally First Friday Concert Series.

They include Da Real Band on August 5, Barstool Cowboy on September 9, and Starz on October 7.

All concerts are held at the Harper McCaughan Town Green on Jeff Davis Avenue. Long Beach families are encouraged to come out for Finally First Friday, which will feature live music beginning at 7 p.m., but the fun begins even before the music.

Those with classic cars are invited to cruise in or even slow roll Jeff Davis "like the good 'ol days." Antique and vintage vehicles will line the streets, and organizers say the evening is a good opportunity for residents to take it easy, relax and spend some time just enjoying the crowds and the music.

Local businesses will be open late and offering specials and deals during the night out. The concert is free. Residents are encouraged to bring chairs and blankets, if desired. For more information, call the City of Long Beach at 228-863-1556.



Toni Miles



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Long Beach PD welcomes new officers



Special to Long Beach Breeze

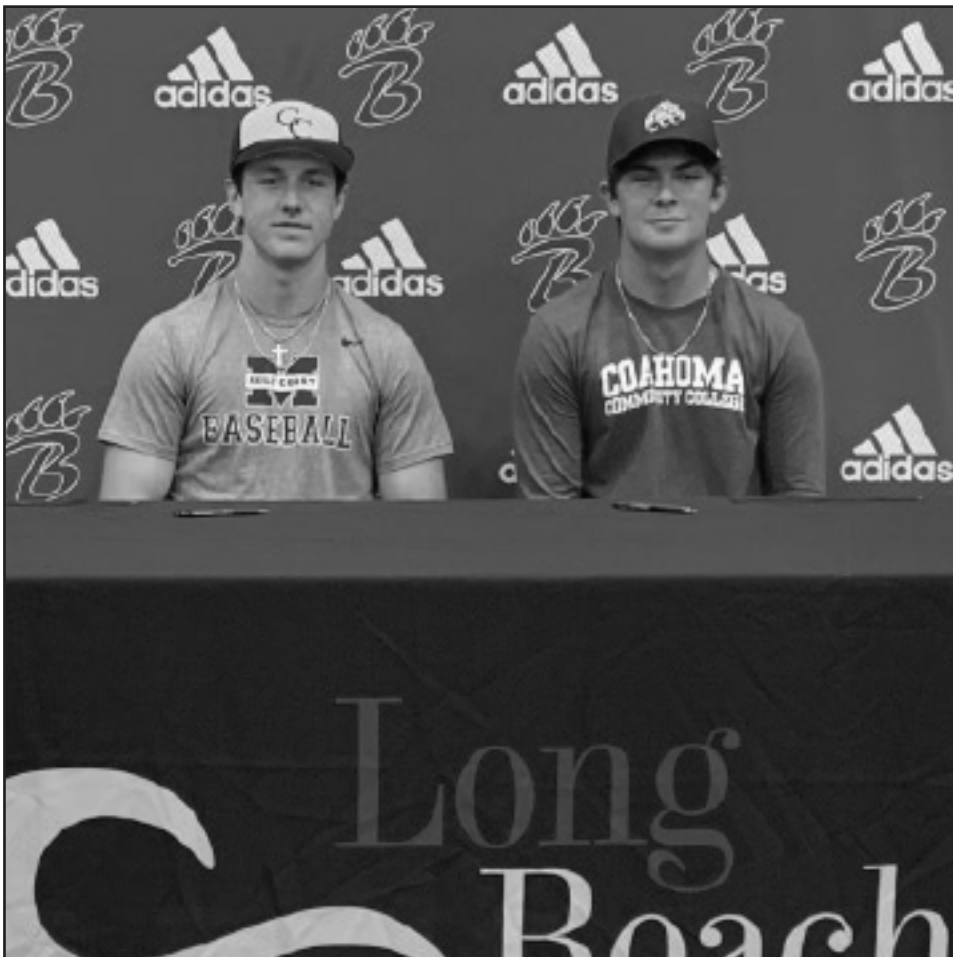
Officer John Bestoca (left) was recently sworn in to the Long Beach Police Department's Reserve Unit. He is pictured with Long Beach Police Chief Billy Seal (right).



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Kenniss Montgomery (left) and Amanda Branning (right) recently joined the Long Beach Police Department. They are pictured with Long Beach Police Chief Billy Seal (center).

Students sign to play baseball at college level



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Harrison Bull (left) recently signed to play baseball at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, and Aaron D'Aquila (right) signed to play baseball at Coahoma Community College. Both students are recent graduates of Long Beach High School.

Artist visits beloved work at library



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Milton and Dorothy Williams recently stopped by the Long Beach Library, and the library staff was quick to have them pose for a special photo. Milton Williams is the artist of the Friendship Oak painting that hangs in the library. In 1985, Williams stretched the large canvas himself in a small apartment before bringing it to the library to paint. Williams, who worked on the painting in the library's meeting room, allowed patrons to watch him as he worked, and he also let both children and adults add leaves to the tree. The painting, which has been a special part of the library for thirty-seven years, survived Hurricane Katrina and was saved by the Long Beach Fire Department, who stored it at the fire station until it could be put back in its place of honor.



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THE PASS POST

Lady Raiders bring home the gold

The Lady Raiders of Pass Christian made history in the 2022 USA Softball of Mississippi South State Tournament, where the team went undefeated and was named the USA Softball State All-Star 10u Fast Pitch Champion. The team is the first all-star team girls' softball team in Pass Christian's history.



Special to The Pass Post

The team was recognized at a recent Board of Aldermen meeting. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Honesti Burks (#5, 2nd Base), Sophia Gonzalez (#4, 3rd Base), Dris Cuevas (#15, Pitcher), Lola Bentz (#11, 1st Base/Pitcher), Olivia Snell. (#9, Short Stop/Pitcher), Chay Gerald (#8, Catcher) and Mayor Jimmy Rafferty; and back row: Alderpersons Betty Sparkman, Regina Charlot, Kenny Torgeson, Kirk Kimball and Victor Pickich. Not pictured are Corrine Kuhner (#7, Right Field), Ava League (#14, Left Field), Kennedy Chitwood (#3, Center Field) and Reagan League (#12, Outfield). Coaches (not pictured) include head coach Bret Bentz, and assistant coaches Darrian Cuevas, Christian Chitwood and Connie Burks.



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Community bike ride set for August 11

Special to The Pass Post

The next Pedal in the Pass, a community bicycle dinner ride, will be held on Thursday, August 11. The activity is described as “an easy, no drop bicycle ride” through downtown Pass Christian.

Riders are welcome to follow up the ride with an optional Dutch treat group dinner at one of the downtown restaurants.

All participants must have a bike and a helmet, and all ages are welcome.

Those wishing to participate should meet at the corner of Scenic Drive and Fleitas Avenue, in War Memorial Park in Pass Christian. Weather permitting,



the ride begins at 6 p.m.

Pedal in the Pass, a free event, takes place on the second Thursday of each month. For more information, call Richard Allard at 228-452-2453.

Free Medicare seminar set for August 16

Special to The Pass Post

The Mississippi State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) and Senior Medicare Patrol will host a free seminar about Medicare on Tuesday, August 16.

Set for 10:30 a.m. in the conference room of the Pass Christian Public Library, the seminar will offer answers to questions about Medicare, as well as provide information about prescription drug coverage, Medigap policies and long-term care insurance.

Cecellia Parker, from the local Area Agency on Aging, and Danielle Guilory, senior outreach specialist with Community Medicare Patrol, will talk about the parts of Medicare, sup-

plements to Medicare, and subsidies available through the Mississippi State Health Insurance Program, as well as how to avoid and limit Medicare fraud.

Open enrollment for Medicare Part D starts on October 15 and runs through December 7. During that window, those eligible for Medicare can switch from Medicare Advantage to Original Medicare or vice versa, switch from one Medicare Advantage plan to another, or switch from one Part D prescription plan to another.

The seminar is open to the public and is not affiliated with any business.

The library is located at 111 Hiern Avenue. For more information, contact the library at 228-452-4596.



Old Town Library focus of August 22 luncheon

Special to The Pass Post

The Pass Christian Historical Society will hold its August monthly luncheon on Monday, August 22, at noon. The August luncheon, “From the Past of the Pass-The Old Town Library” will feature the history of the Ole Town Library with Richard Ward and Sally James.

The Historical Society is located at 201 East Scenic Drive. An optional lunch is offered and starts at noon. Reservations are required for lunch, which is \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members. To make a reservation for lunch, call 228-452-7254 or email reservations@passhistory.org by Friday, August 19. For more information, call Wendy Allard of the Programs Committee at 228-342-5438.



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Paddle the Bay raises \$30K for community

Special to The Pass Post

All photos special to The Pass Post.

The Rotary Club of Pass Christian held their annual fund raiser, "Paddle the Bay" at Henderson Park on Saturday, July 9. The event raised over \$30,000, which will be used to serve the community of Pass Christian. In addition to those who participated and raised money, many community volunteers came together to make sure the event work was done, including the Pass Christian football players.



2022

PIRATES

FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

FRIDAY	FRIDAY	FRIDAY
AUG 26 LONG BEACH LONG BEACH, MS	SEP 2 FARMER FIELD HARRISBURG, MS	SEP 9 PURVIS PURVIS, MS
SEP 16 ST. STANISLAUS PAIN CHERRY, MS	SEP 23 POPLARVILLE POPLARVILLE, MS	OCT 7 MOSS POINT PASS CHRISTIAN, MS
OCT 14 BAY HIGH BAY ST. LOUIS, MS	OCT 21 TOWNE COUNTY PASS CHRISTIAN, MS	OCT 28 GREENE COUNTY LEAKWILLE, MS

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Smart phone, computer classes offered August 30

Special to The Pass Post

Those seeking to learn more about the latest technology are encouraged to attend a series of digital literacy classes at the Pass Christian Public Library on August 30.

Lauren-Colby Nikels with the Mississippi State Extension Service Center for Technology Outreach will host a Smart Phone Basics course at 10:30 a.m., followed by a Computer Basics course at 1 p.m.

The Smart Phone Basics course will be an informal walk-through of how to use a smart phone to surf the internet, check email, watch a movie or read a book.

The Computer Basics course will help attendees get started using a computer and the internet.

Both programs are free and open to the public, but class size will be limited. For further information or to reserve a spot, contact the library at 228-452-4596 or by email at passchristianlibrary@gmail.com.

The library is located at 111 Hiern Avenue in Pass Christian.

Buddy Sports offers painting session on July 26



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Special to Long Beach Breeze

During the summer months, MS Gulf Coast Buddy Sports is offering Twisted Canvas painting sessions for youth and adults with special needs. Taking a break from the hot outdoor sporting activities, Buddy Sports has another painting session scheduled for July 26 at Twisted Canvas in Long Beach.

The sessions are free of charge and give individuals with special needs an opportunity to get out and do something fun while staying indoors. This is the second summer that Buddy Sports has partnered with Elizabeth Tyner, owner of Twisted Canvas, to provide this opportunity. Information regarding the MS Gulf Coast Buddy Sports program can be found at MSGulfCoastBuddySports.org or on the organization's Facebook page, BuddyBall@MSGulfCoastBuddySports.

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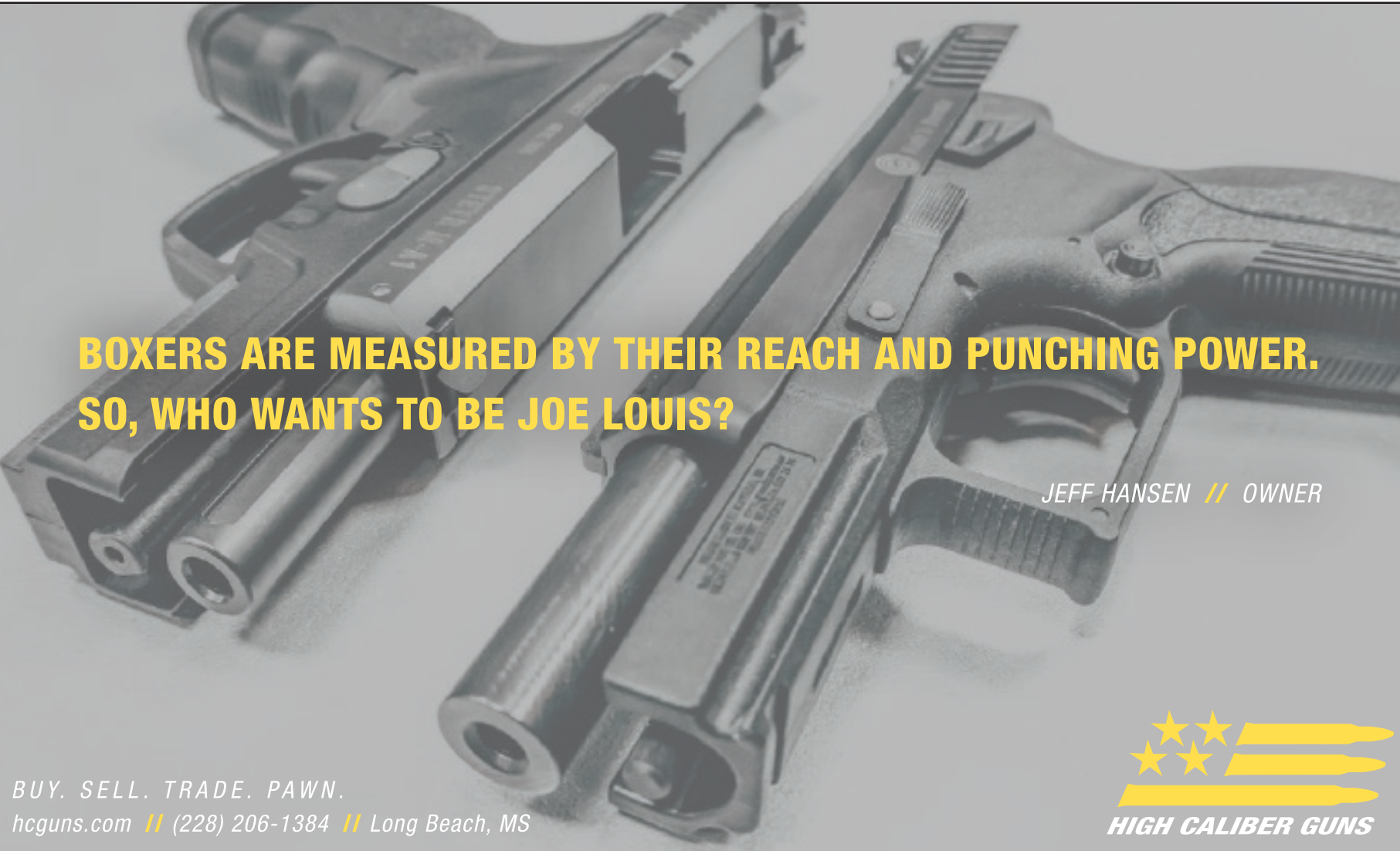


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