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September 2022 • Volume 6, Number 9 • "Good News You Can Use"

## Open house and open doors at Long Beach High School

By Toni Miles

The grounds of Long Beach High School (LBHS) bustled with activity, even though it was a Saturday. Hundreds of people, including state and local lawmakers, school board members, teachers, faculty, parents and students were on hand for Long Beach High School's Grand Opening on August 13, an official celebration of the newly-constructed and renovated high school.

Those in attendance got a first-hand look at how \$20 million in bond money, approved by Long Beach voters in a 2018 referendum, has been invested at Long Beach High School and the city's education system.

Several lawmakers, school district and community leaders addressed the crowd in the school's new performing arts center after a ribbon cutting, including Long Beach High School Principal Justin Sutton, who shared



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach School Board President Tim Pierce snips the ribbon at the LBHS Open House.

how he's already seen how the community's investment has paid off.

"Just the look on student after students' faces when they went into that [new basketball] gym..." Sutton said. "They knew they had something special to be sitting in. It's a home court advantage, because you could

hear that Bearcat pride reverberating down the halls and everywhere during games."

"It's more than that. The media center students get to be in now, the cafeteria, the classrooms that have great technology at the tips of their fingers for our students, the teachers.

This community has done an amazing job of putting our students in the best possible environment for success. As principal of the school, on behalf of the teachers and students here, thank you so much for supporting us in ways so many people could only wish to be supported. We're looking forward to educating our students and making them not only the best in Mississippi, but anywhere else that you can look."

Some of the \$20 million in bond money was used to upgrade security at the high school. A new and improved cafeteria, gym and classrooms, as well as other upgrades and additions to the school, also funded by the bond money, were all on display during a public tour at the open house.

"And the Long Beach School District has committed over an additional \$6 million more of the district finances to support this project and to make additional renovations to

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## Prayer garden vandalized at St. Thomas Catholic Church

By Toni Miles

A labor of love and a site of celebration that was dedicated in April was marred just three months later, after a homeless man passing through South Mississippi allegedly vandalized the Marian Grotto Prayer Garden nestled behind St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church in Long Beach on July 15. A parishioner discovered the vandalism that same day after 6:30 a.m. mass.

Although police quickly made an arrest, charging Matthew Seis with a felony charge of malicious mischief, parishioners are now faced with restoring the space, designated as a historical site with a marker unveiled at the ceremony back on Palm Sunday, April 10 of this year.

Seis allegedly toppled a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary and an angel



Photo by Toni Miles

A photo taken August 10 shows the vandalism of the Marian Grotto Prayer Garden behind St. Thomas Catholic Church has been cleaned up, with the broken statues of Mary and the angel removed.

statue at the site. The reason Seis gave police was that he believed Catholics should not be worshipping (alleged) idols.

St. Thomas parishioners banded together the same day of the vandalism to pray a rosary around the desecrated space, while also praying for Seis, the alleged perpetrator. They also covered the toppled statue of Mary. The statues have since been removed for repair/replacement. For the time being, a plant sits on the platform where the angel statue once stood, and another statue of Mary has been set up temporarily. Parishioners are hoping to soon change that.

Before the April 10 dedication, church members had worked hard to restore the garden and grotto at St. Thomas Catholic Church. Members

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# Prayer garden vandalized at St. Thomas Catholic Church

cont. from front page

of the St. Vincent de Paul Society had also raised money for the grotto.

Parishioner Henry Schepens, Sr. donated the grotto to St. Thomas in 1972. The donation was in memory of his parents, Leo and Theresa Dauro Schepens, and the Vincent and Angelina Trippe Dauro family. The original site for the grotto was south of Bear Bayou and west of the church. The statue of the Blessed Mother in the grotto was donated to St. Thomas the Apostle in 1972 by A.C. Fayard. The following year, Helen Fayard rededicated the Statue of Our Lady in memory of her husband, A.C. Fayard, and their daughter, Helen Ann. David Fayard donated the landscaping. Two additional monuments in the prayer garden are the cherub fountain, provided by St. Thomas parishioners and Fr. Louis Lohan, and a statue of an angel holding a baby, known as "The Essence of Love," which was donated by Steve and Kathy Day.

In recent years, the prayer garden has been visited more fre-



Photo by Toni Miles

A statue of an angel cradling an infant stands in the foreground at the April 10 dedication of the Marian Grotto Prayer Garden.



Photo by Toni Miles

The statue was toppled during a July 15 crime of vandalism.



Photo by Toni Miles

A plant sits on the stand where the angel statue once stood before it was vandalized.



Photo by Toni Miles

A statue of Mary stands in the Prayer Garden in this photo taken on April 10.



Photo by Toni Miles

The statue of Mary that was vandalized is shown covered on the ground next to a temporary replacement statue in the Prayer Garden. The vandalized statue of Mary is being repaired on-site by a professional.

quently by parishioners and organizations to peacefully pray. A St. Vincent de Paul Society member mentioned the grotto and prayer garden needed improvements at a Society meeting. Spears said they met with Pastor O'Connell to request permission and discuss ideas on refurbishing the prayer garden.

All of this hard work came to fruition back in the spring of this year. Now, in the wake of the vandalism, parishioners are praying for help and restoration.

"It has broken our hearts," said Darlene Berry, past president of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. "We'd been working on it and got a lot of donations to help us."

History repeats itself now that parishioners face the task of restoring the Marian Grotto Prayer Garden, but they hold fast to their faith that the site will be restored soon.

Anyone wishing to help can make a donation to the St. Vincent de Paul Society by visiting [www.SaintThomasLB.org](http://www.SaintThomasLB.org). Donors are asked to specify that their donation is for the grotto.

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## Improvements coming to Long Beach Cemetery

By Toni Miles

The City of Long Beach is moving forward on improvements to the Long Beach Cemetery, located at the corner of Girard Avenue and First Street.

At the July 19 Long Beach Board of Aldermen meeting, Board members discussed and unanimously voted to move forward with Phase 1 of the cemetery improvements, approving the recommendation for solar lighting made by City Engineer David Ball, who suggested a combined light and solar panel up-lighting solution, which clamps onto the cemetery's flagpole.



Photo by Toni Miles

The Long Beach Cemetery is the final resting place for several generations of families with roots and long histories in the Friendly City. Better lighting is coming to the cemetery in Phase 1 of an improvement project.

The estimated cost for the improved lighting is roughly \$500, which includes the price to obtain and install the lighting on the cemetery's flagpole.

At the meeting, the Board members

decided to address drainage issues at the cemetery at a later time.

The cemetery is the final resting place for generations of families with strong ties and roots in the Friendly City.



By Toni Miles

Members of the Long Beach Board of Aldermen plan to address drainage issues at the cemetery in the future.

Photo by Toni Miles

The Long Beach Cemetery is located at the corner of Girard Avenue and First Street.

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cont. from front page

## Open house and open doors at Long Beach High School



Photo by Toni Miles

Parents, teachers and local lawmakers are among those who filed in for opening remarks in the school's Performing Arts Center.



Photo by Toni Miles

LBHS students, parents, school district leaders and lawmakers were among those who attended the open house.

our existing buildings," Long Beach School District Superintendent Dr. Talia Lock told the crowd.

"We've done everything you can do to make the citizens proud of our district, and we're not finished yet. There's still more to come," said Long Beach School Board President Tim Pierce. "Thanks to [state

representative] Richard Bennett and our legislators for helping us break ground. Hopefully in fiscal year 2023, we'll have our CTE building, our Career Technical Education Building. That is so important. The Career Technical Education facility is so crucial, because not everybody's bound for college. We are



Photo by Toni Miles

Long Beach High School's new and improved basketball gym is just one of the many upgrades funded by \$20 million in bond money.

going to build a CTE building, and it's going to have that technical education for those children that are not college-bound but need an education and need a trade. We are looking forward to that."

Parents of students who passed away during their high school years at LBHS were honored during the

opening ceremony, and memorial bricks were also dedicated in the students' honor at the event.

Following the Grand Opening, guests attended a Meet the Bearcats event at Lumpkin Magee Stadium to see the 2022-2203 football team scrimmage and to check out the newly-renovated turf field.

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# A time for rebuilding and remembrance for LB firefighters

By Toni Miles

Long Beach firefighters - they're always on call and always ready to put their lives on the line for others, and their sacrifices have not gone unnoticed.

Plans are underway for honoring Long Beach firefighters, as City officials and leaders with the Long Beach Fire Department continue to iron out details for Fire Department

memorial plaques.

At the Board of Aldermen's August 2 meeting, Overstreet & Associates Consulting Firm submitted prices for the plaques in aluminum and bronze. Aldermen unanimously voted to authorize the purchase of two bronze memorial plaques that will be on visible display at Fire Station #1 and Fire Station #2 in Long Beach, at a cost of \$2,212 each. Six months ago, the Board

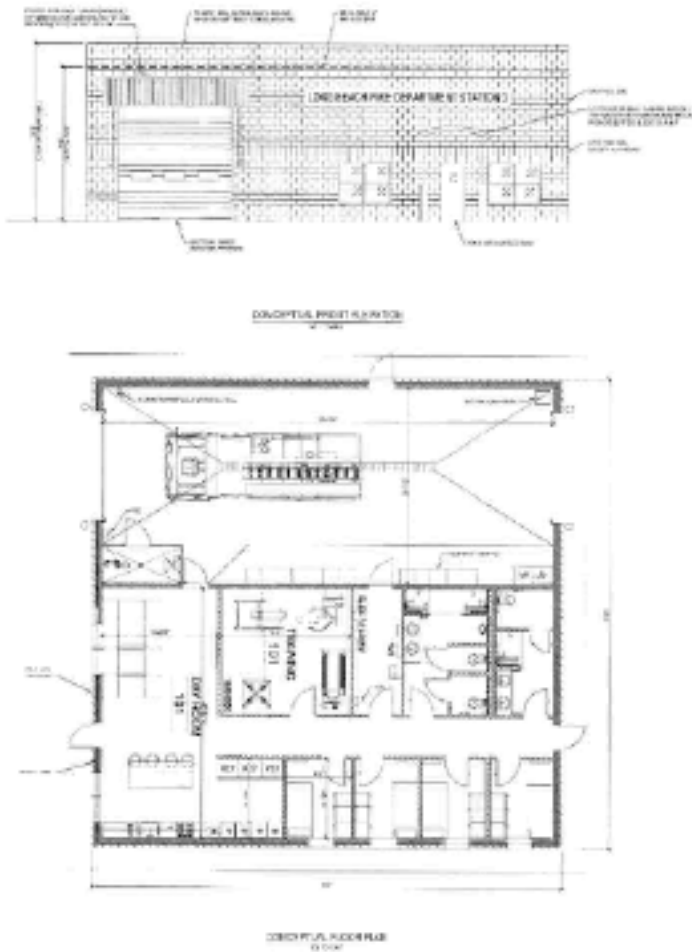
had approved \$5,000 for these plaques.

Meanwhile, work continues to rebuild Fire Station #3 on Johnson Road in west Harrison County. The former, outdated building that once stood at the site has been leveled to make room for a new fire station, which will provide better coverage and service for businesses and residents in that area.

At the August 2 meeting, Long

Beach Fire Chief Griff Skellie praised the Mayor and Board of the status of Fire Station #3. He said that Harrison County Fire Chief Pat Sullivan was in agreement with the conceptual drawings submitted to the Long Beach Board of Aldermen and would present it to the Harrison County Board of Supervisors.

The basic concept is for a 3,600 square-foot building that will withstand 165 mph winds.



Photos of renderings presented for Fire Station #3 on Johnson Road in Long Beach.



Photo by Toni Miles

Pictured is the now-leveled site of the outdated and demolished Fire Station #3, which was torn down to make way for a new and improved facility.

# Pet preparations need to be made for hurricane season, also

By Guest Columnist Dr. Joey Kaletsch

If you live on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, it's not a matter of IF you will have to evacuate for a hurricane, but WHEN you will have to evacuate. It does take some preparation to travel with pets. The first step in preparation is to make sure your pet is comfortable being confined to a crate.

I recommend crate training for dogs and cats when they are puppies or kittens. Crate training can also aid tremendously in house training a puppy. If you adopt an older pet, it should be one of the first things you do.

The second step is to ensure your pet



is comfortable traveling in a vehicle. This can be accomplished by taking your pet on test rides. Some animals really enjoy riding, while other animals suffer from motion sickness or anxiety. If your pet suffers from one or both of these conditions, your veterinarian can prescribe medications to help. It is a good idea to perform more test rides after giving the medications as prescribed to see how well they work. You and your veterinarian can work together to find the dose that works best.

Have a travel plan, with a list of pet friendly hotels, shelters and rest stops. Mature animals can go longer periods without having to eliminate; however, puppies will have to make more frequent stops.

Make reservations in advance to ensure you have a place to stay with your

pets. I also recommend making a list of veterinarians along the route and in the area you will be staying.

You may choose to board your pets once you get to the evacuation location; if so, make reservations as soon as you can. Bring a copy of your pet's health records with you, and make sure your pet is up to date on all of their vaccinations. I STRONGLY recommend having your pets microchipped, in case you get separated.

Bring at least two weeks of food and medications with you. Sudden changes in diet can lead to gastrointestinal and pancreatic problems. Pets also suffer from anxiety, so talk to your veterinarian about additional anti-anxiety medications.

Bring litter and litter boxes. Some cats are very particular about the type of

litter they will use for elimination.

Don't forget leashes, collars and harnesses, as well as bags to pick up and properly dispose of feces.

As with everything, proper planning reduces stress in stressful situations. but even the best plans can quickly go awry; so, having a "Plan B" and sometimes "Plan C" is a good idea. We can only hope that God's plan for the Coast is for us to enjoy a storm-free hurricane season.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Joey Kaletsch is the general practitioner and owner of Beatline Oaks Veterinary Hospital. He is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association and the South Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association.*



# First sea turtle nest in mainland MS since 2018 found nearby

By Toni Miles

After decades of environmental challenges and destruction, including several hurricanes, the BP oil spill and the negative effects of prior openings of the Bonnet Carré Spillway into the Gulf of Mexico, the Harrison County Sand Beach Authority (HCSBA) has discovered a buried treasure in the nearby sands of the Pass Christian beach. HCSBA workers recently found tracks in the sand that led to a nest with eggs laid by a sea turtle. They immediately called the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies (IMMS) to investigate the site, located just east of the Pass Christian Harbor.

“The nest was laid August 1 and reported in the morning. Tracks were very fresh, so the eggs were laid definitely laid some time that night,” said IMMS Stranding Coordinator Theresa Madrigal. “We basically looked at the tracks to determine where the eggs would be. Then we located where the eggs were, and we put up barriers and signage around the area.”

After confirming the nest location, IMMS crews marked off the area with stakes and flagging tape in an effort to protect the nest from harm while the eggs are incubating.

“The eggs typically incubate for fifty to sixty days, and, when ready, the hatchlings will emerge from the sand, typically at night,” said Madrigal.

“We expect to see hatching sometime during the middle of September to the beginning of October.”

As for the species of the turtle, Madrigal says, “We are not one hundred percent certain which species of sea turtle laid the nest. Loggerhead sea turtles have been documented in past years laying nests on the mainland. IMMS has assisted with any reports of nesting activity since 2012.”

“While the tracks seem to indicate that this is likely a loggerhead, there has been some evidence that Kemp’s Ridley sea turtles have

nested in Mississippi. When the turtle is not physically seen or documented nesting, the tracks are used to determine species. Kemp’s Ridentals and loggerheads have very similar tracks. We will determine the species after the eggs have hatched,” Madrigal says.

“Sea turtles will return to their natal beaches [the beaches from which they hatched] to lay their eggs once they reach maturity,” Madrigal

says. “This means that sea turtle nesting events will likely increase on the Mississippi coast over the next several decades.”

As for this nest, it marks the first sea turtle nest found on mainland Mississippi in four years – since 2018, and IMMS workers are keeping a close eye on it.

While more than one hundred eggs are believed to be in the nest, the odds of the hatchlings’ survival to maturity and reproductive age are very slim.

“Once hatched, the baby turtles

will head out into the waters of the Mississippi Sound,” Madrigal says. “Everyone is hoping once hatched, these baby sea turtles will emerge and beat the odds, as only about one in 10,000 sea turtle eggs reaches adulthood.”

Meanwhile, keeping the eggs and nest safe is a top priority.

Sea turtles are federally protected through the Endangered Species Act.

“It is illegal to tamper with a sea turtle nest, and doing so will result in financial penalties and potential imprisonment,” Madrigal says. “We have both staff and volunteers who are monitoring the area closely. We do not want to deter the public from going to view the nest, but ask that they stay outside the outer barrier that has been set up.”

More details and updates are available on the IMMS webpage at [IMMS.org](http://IMMS.org).

To report nesting sea turtles, hatchlings, or dead, sick or injured sea turtles, call the IMMS 24-hour hotline at: 888-SOS-DOLPHIN or 888-767-3657.

**Want to know more? Read our expanded article online at [www.LongBeachBreeze.com](http://www.LongBeachBreeze.com)!**



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## Central Fire Station sets staging area for helping locals in need

By Toni Miles

Central Fire Station in Long Beach houses local heroes who are always on call, ready to assist the community in times of tragedy, but, on July 29 and 30, the fire station on Klondyke Road provided the setting for another venue of goodwill to help the local community and those who are struggling financially, through the Express Donation Station to benefit Goodwill Industries of South Mississippi's Long Beach location.

Both days, people streamed into the parking lot at Central Fire Station to drop off donations at the drive.

"As far as donations, we've collected a whole bunch of glassware, a personal heater and lots of clothes," said Chris Durant, an employee with Goodwill Industries' Long Beach store, on the second day of the donation drive, as he proudly showed a truck full of donations made by generous members of the community.

Durant said there was a great turnout on the first day of the collection, Friday, July 29, although they weren't quite as busy collecting donations on the second day of the drive.

"I think the overcast weather may have kept some people from coming out here today," Durant said, but he was quick to point out the wide range of donations they had collected so far at the two-day event, pointing out that every donation counts.

"It's helping the community by helping those in poverty - one donation at a time," Durant said.



Photo by Toni Miles

Goodwill Industries of South Mississippi set up a truck for donations last month during the two-day drive at Central Fire Station in Long Beach.

## Huey accepted to Rural Physicians Program

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Katie Huey, a Long Beach native and junior at the University of Southern Mississippi, was recently selected to participate in the undergraduate portion of the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program (MRPSP). Huey is the daughter of Andrew Huey and Anita Huey, both of Long Beach.

Upon completion of all medical school admissions requirements, the student can use the scholarship at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine or William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

During medical school, each MRPSP scholar may receive \$35,000 per year based on available funding.

Upon completion of medical school, MRPSP scholars must enter a residency program provide four years of service in a clinic-based practice in an approved Mississippi community of 15,000 people or fewer and located more than twenty miles from a medically-served area.



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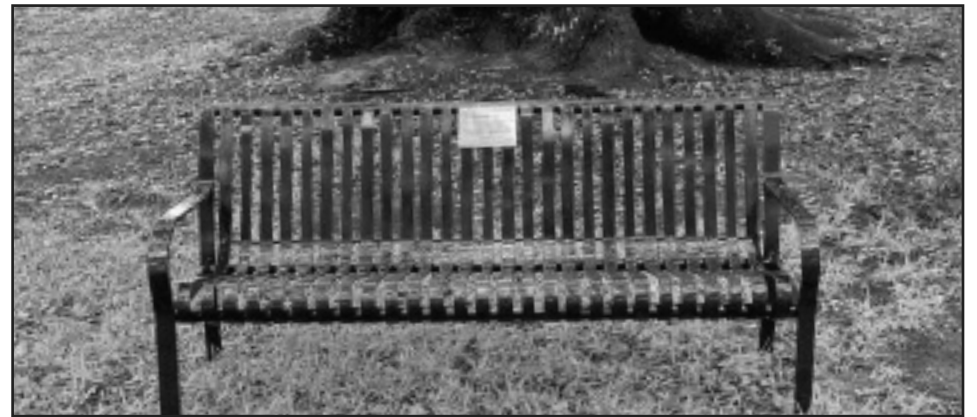


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## Bench honors retired associate dean



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The University of Southern Mississippi Foundation recently honored Edward McCormack, retired Gulf Coast Library associate dean, with a special gift for his twenty-nine years of service to the University - a bench located under an oak tree near the library. The gift was presented to McCormack at his retirement reception this summer.

## LB educators named to MDE council

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) recently announced the addition of fifty-two highly regarded education professionals from across the state to serve on the Mississippi Teacher Advisory Council (MTAC) for the 2022-23 school year.

Among those selected were Melissa Sanzin from Thomas L. Reeves Elementary and Tammy White and Haley Young from Long Beach Middle School.

The MTAC, formed in 2016, now includes 309 educators representing schools in urban and rural settings and an array of content areas, including general education, arts, special education and career and technical education.

The MTAC aims to empower teachers to discuss topics critical to their success in the classroom and to share suggestions on how MDE can assist. In addition, members will provide feedback on a variety of MDE initiatives.



# Getting the groove on at the Town Green

By Toni Miles

As the scorching South Mississippi summertime temperature began to drop, the stage, crowds and dance floor heated up to a fevered pitch at the Harper McCaughan Town Green in Long Beach the evening of Friday, August 5. People of all ages and from all walks of life rocked, danced and frolicked with the Da Real Band, the local headliner showcased in the Fi-

nally First Friday Live Concert Series for the month of August.

Da Real Band is the fourth band to take to the stage during this year's Long Beach Live Concert Series, and the hundreds of fans who turned out for the show were not disappointed. Throughout the night, crowd-goers themselves provided entertainment, too, doing line dances, and couples got a little closer during the band's slow songs.

Before the band took center stage at the August 5 concert, classic cars, Jeeps and hot rods rolled in and parked along Jeff Davis Avenue for all to see during the Cruis'n showcase beforehand at 6 p.m.

While Da Real Band was the fourth group to perform, there are two more live shows scheduled for this year's lineup. Barstool Cowboy will provide live entertainment Friday, September 9 (due to the Labor Day

holiday weekend), and, on October 7, the group Starz is set to entertain.

All concerts in the series are free, open to the public, and start at 7 p.m. at the Harper McCaughan Town Green off Jeff Davis Avenue. Attendees are reminded to bring their own refreshments and lawn chairs if they desire to sit outside of the provided seating at the pavillion. Cruis'n starts at 6 p.m. before the concerts.



Photo by Toni Miles

Hundreds packed the Harper McCaughan Town Green concert venue August 5. Another concert is planned for Friday, September 9.



Photo by Toni Miles

Local car enthusiasts (from left to right) Randy Sibley, Ronald Tubbs, Emmie Tubbs and Jerry Jacobs sat back, relaxed and took a front row seat to check out the crowds and all the vintage cars and hotrods rolling down Jeff Davis Avenue's August 5 Cruis'n event.



Photo by Toni Miles

Da Real Band thrilled the crowd at the live concert.



Photo by Toni Miles

People got close during slow songs played at the August 5 concert.



# Visit and honor elderly with Adopt a Grandparent Day opportunities

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Adopt a Grandparent Day is observed the Saturday before National Grandparents Day each year. It is a day set aside to visit and honor the elderly in the community, specifically those residing in nursing homes.

With many nursing home residents having no close relatives, no living children and few outside visitors, residents run the risk of suffering from major depression, triggered by a lack of social interaction and isolation.

Kathy and Lee Rogers founded Adopt a Grandparent Day in 2014 to bring awareness to and help remedy the loneliness faced by nursing home residents.

The organization's outreach 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.

The Treasure Boxes include various items, including activity and coloring books, plush toys and stress balls, handheld games and fidget toys, and journals. Recent additions to the list include inflatable beach balls, which are used in games to keep residents

active.

Treasure Box items can be donated directly from the organization's Amazon Wish List, located on the Adopt a Grandparent Day website at [www.AdoptAGrandparentDay.org](http://www.AdoptAGrandparentDay.org). The Treasure Boxes also include handmade cards, letters and artwork sent in from volunteers all over the state. Volunteers can register online to provide these items and to help laminate them.

During the in-person visit, residents and volunteers gather to decorate a large "Happy Grandparents Day" banner that will remain on display in celebration of the national holiday. Trivia games and other fun group activities are planned for the visit, as well. Volunteers are encouraged to speak to residents one-on-one, giving them the opportunity to share their stories and make natural connections.

The visit events on September 10 will be held at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., depending on the facility. Volunteer registration is now open online to visit one of the participating facilities, including Pass Christian Health and Rehab at 10 a.m. and Senior Oaks in Long Beach at 2 p.m. To volunteer or donate, or for more information, visit [www.AdoptAGrandparentDay.org](http://www.AdoptAGrandparentDay.org), and select "Volunteer Events."



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# LBHS Class of '72 reunion events planned

*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

The Long Beach High School Class of 1972 will be celebrating their 50th class reunion on homecoming weekend, September 22-24.

The class will have a float in the Homecoming Parade on Thursday, and then will be seated together at the homecoming game on Friday night. They will also be recognized at the game, and other events are being planned for the remainder of the weekend.

All Class of 1972 members are encouraged to participate and enjoy a weekend with friends. For more information, contact Denise Ladner Daniel, who is serving as the coordinator of the event weekend, at 228-383-5774.



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# Exciting new chapters coming up at the library



By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn, LBPL Youth and Technology Services

Hello, Long Beach!

With September just right around the corner, we want to remind our readers that September is Library Card Sign-Up Month. If you have a child who is five years of age who wants his or her own library card, it's free, and a great way to kick off the school year!

Some of our local youngsters have already gotten a head start, and they are featured in the Long Beach Library's Hall of Fame. Pictures of these kindergarten Hall of Famers, posing with their new library cards, are proudly displayed in the library. Parents, come on in and bring your children, so we can add them to our Hall of Fame.

November will be here before you know it, and we want everyone to know



Photo by Toni Miles

Three kindergarteners are featured with their newly obtained library cards at the Long Beach Public Library.

the library will be having its first-ever Fall Fantasy Faire Fundraiser on Saturday, November 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the library and Harper McCaughan Town Green on Jeff Davis Avenue. It's open to the public, and this inaugural event is sponsored by Friends of the Long Beach Public Library.

Kids and adults alike are encouraged to dress up as your favorite fantasy character at this family-friendly Fall Fantasy Faire Fundraiser. This is just one of many fun activities where you can let your imagination run wild! We're also looking for volunteers and vendors. Interested vendors should contact the library at 228-863-0711 for more information. Potential vendors, be sure to reach out sooner rather than later!

Interested in being part of a book club? Please call the library for more information.

Also, we would like to welcome new Board of Trustees member, Julia Speed, while wishing outgoing member Brian Lamar well. There are no meetings for the Board of Trustees scheduled for the month of September.

The Friends of the Long Beach Public Library begins meeting again in September. The first meeting will be on September 12 at 1 p.m. in the meeting room of the main wing.

Preschool story time will continue through September 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 LongBeach.lib.ms.us.

The library will be closed for the Labor Day holiday. It will be closed from Saturday, September 3, through Monday, September 5, and will reopen at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, September 6.

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



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# Scouts BSA Troop 321 canoes the Boundary Waters at the Canadian border

By Guest Columnist Tommy Carroll

Boy Scouts of America High Adventure Troop 321 from Long Beach recently traveled to Minnesota and canoed the Boundary Waters between the U.S. and Canada. Five Life Scouts, working on their Eagle Scout rank, Addison Carroll, Austin Reeves, Chase Cockrell, Jonathan Potts and Justin Elliott, and two of their two adult advisors, Terry Togstad and Tommy Carroll, made the trip to explore the wilderness at the border between the two countries.

The Boy Scouts of America has a High Adventure Base, Northern Tier, located a few miles south of the Canadian border from where the crew launched. This base is located in Northeastern Minnesota at the edge of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, a region containing over one million acres of wilderness and over a thousand lakes. It is located in the Superior National Forest and is listed as National Geographic's "50 Destinations of A Lifetime."

The crew began their expedition with a 3/4 -mile portage (carrying the canoes overhead while another person carries their gear) to their first launch of their six-day and five-night journey. Battling wind, rain and mosquitoes, the scouts completed a 57-mile trek over water and on land. While on their expedition, the adventurers fished, explored, cliff-jumped and swam. They carried gear and supplies needed to cook their own meals while there.

One of the days was simply a "lay-over" day, due to a thunderstorm that hit in the late morning. The scouts spent that day fishing, swimming, exploring the small island that they just happened to be camping on that day and working on merit badges. The other days were filled with packing up camp in the mornings, canoeing, portaging and setting up at a new camp site in the afternoons.

Temperatures, while there, were seasonably warm for the area, reaching only down to a low of 50 degrees and highs in the lower-80s. Sunrises were spectacular, and sunsets were amazing over the water, and the crew were up and going for both at each end of the day.

The area was formed by glaciers and has some fascinating features. The crew visited and portaged next to waterfalls and climbed a 1,500' peak at Thunder Point to capture a view of Knife Lake, which forms part of the border between the U.S. and Canada.

After the canoeing adventure, the troop stopped at the Mall of America, the country's largest mall, located in Minneapolis, where they rode the ride "Fly Over America" and got to virtually visit places that they have previously hiked and visited.

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



Scouts from Boy Scouts of America High Adventure Troop 321 are pictured preparing to launch their first portage of their 57-mile trek. For the following six days and five nights, the scouts canoed, camped and fished in the Boundary waters between the U.S. and Canada.



Scouts from Boy Scouts of America High Adventure Troop 321 are pictured (l to r) after completing their 57-mile trek and arriving back at the BSA High Adventure Base Camp, Northern Tier: Life Scout Chase Cockrell, Life Scout Jonathan Potts, Life Scout Addison Carroll, Assistant Scoutmaster Terry Togstad (Adult Advisor), Life Scout Austin Reeves (Crew Leader), Life Scout Justin Elliott and Scoutmaster Tommy Carroll (Adult Advisor).



Crew Leader Austin Reeves works through details of route with scouts from Troop 321, as Crew Interpreter (Crew Guide) Ross Harriss and Scoutmaster Tommy Carroll look on.

**CHECK OUT MORE PICS ONLINE**  
[LongBeachBreeze.com](http://LongBeachBreeze.com)



Scouts from Troop 321 enjoy some campfire time in the afternoon.



Adult Adviser Terry Togstad captures the essence of the canoeing travels in this picture. On the left of the lake is Canada, and the right side is the United States. Justin Elliott and Chase Cockrell paddle and look forward toward the crew's other two canoes.



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All photos special to Long Beach Breeze

# Update on Education event set for Sept. 27



Photo by Toni Miles

By Toni Miles

School has just begun for the 2022-2023 Long Beach School District, but Superintendent Dr. Talia Lock is already preparing for an interactive Update on Education event scheduled for Tuesday, September 27, from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the Long Beach Senior Activity Center located at 20257 Daugherty Road.

Parents and guardians, as well as the community as a whole, will have

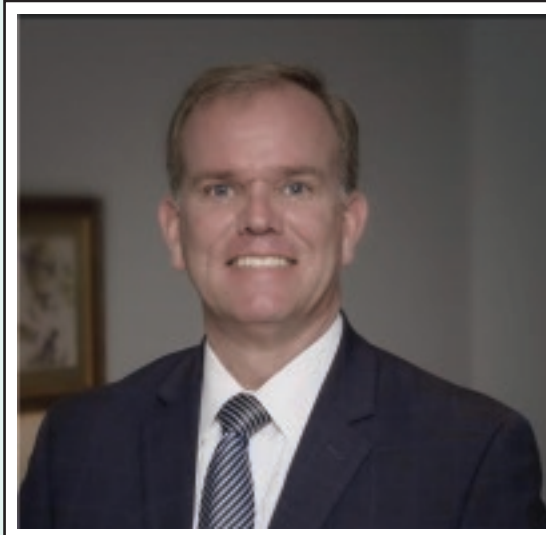
the chance to meet Dr. Lock and hear updates about the accomplishments of the Long Beach School District during the 2021-2022 school year. Dr. Lock will also share plans and goals for the 2022-2023 school year.



The event is sponsored by the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce. Doors will open at 7:30 a.m., and tickets are \$20 for the general public. Chamber members can purchase tickets for \$15. For more information, visit the Chamber's webpage at MSCoastChamber.com, or call 228-604-0014.

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Photos by Ann Madden

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# Get down while raising funds for those battling cancer

By Toni Miles

Long Beach residents will have the chance to groove on, get down and boogie, all while raising funds and hopes for local people in the community who are battling cancer. Those with the Pink Heart Funds are setting the stage at Sully's Richburg Hall in downtown Gulfport for one of the non-profit's biggest fundraisers of the year, Disco Fever.



Disco Fever is scheduled to take place Saturday, October 15, at Richburg Hall from 6:30 until 11 p.m. Rob Stinson will serve as emcee. Dr. Rock and the Interns will provide entertainment. "Sweet Potato Queen" Jill Conner Browne will also be at the event.

Organizers say there will be plenty of good food, a mystery signature drink, an auction and lots of room on the dance floor for those who show up for Disco Fever, and the disco ball won't be the only bling of the night. There will also be a diamond necklace raffle. The winner's name will be drawn during the event.

Pink Heart Funds founder and CEO JoAn Nicely says they are still looking for more auction donations and sponsors for the event.

The mission of the non-profit is to inspire, encourage and restore hope for those affected by cancer and extreme hair-loss disorders. Pink Heart Funds also provides beautiful, free human hair wigs for those who are suffering from hair loss due to cancer treatments.

For more details about the event, to purchase tickets, or to be a sponsor or donate something for the fundraising auction, head over to the Pink Heart Funds Facebook page, or check out their website at [www.PinkHeartFunds.org](http://www.PinkHeartFunds.org).

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# Free online class available for teacher license renewal



Special to Long Beach Breeze

During summer's Ex-STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts and Math) camp, teachers pursuing master's degrees in gifted education at William Carey University worked with elementary school students on classroom projects.

Special to Long Beach Breeze

William Carey University will offer K-12 teachers an on-line, tuition-free class in September that can be used to assist in the renewal of the Mississippi Educator License.

This is the latest in a series of steps designed to tackle Mississippi's teacher shortage by finding ways to recruit and retain classroom teachers. The tuition-free course was first offered in the Spring of 2020, and 128 teachers used it to renew their license.

"This is not the first time we've offered scholarships or tuition assistance to people who want to become teachers. We work to support the recruitment of new teachers, but we also want to ensure we provide support and resources for the retention of teachers. It is our prayer that our Mississippi teachers know we support them and want to help ease the burden of the costs to renew their license," said Dr. Teresa Poole, dean of the WCU School of Education.

The class is called "Teacher Performance and Professional Growth." It fosters professional growth and development through performance self-study. The emphasis is on informed decision-making and reflection in relation to the five domains of the Mississippi Teacher Growth Rubric.

Current K-12 teachers can earn three credit hours by completing the five-week master's level class. The class begins September 26. The deadline to apply is September 1, and enrollment is limited. Tuition costs are waived, but students will be responsible for an \$85 application and technology fee.

For more information, email Dr. Billie Fick at [education@wmcarey.edu](mailto:education@wmcarey.edu). To apply, visit: [Forms.WMCarey.edu/view.php?id=90095](https://forms.wmcarey.edu/view.php?id=90095).



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# Setting the table for A Taste of Long Beach



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Two attendees from a past Taste of Long Beach event sample a featured wine at the fundraiser.

By Toni Miles

Wine and food enthusiasts, listen up! It's that time of year again. The Long Beach Chamber of Commerce is setting the table for one of its biggest fundraisers of the year. The 13th Annual Taste of Long Beach is set for Thursday, October 27, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Long Beach Senior Center, located at 20257 Daugherty Road.

There's sure to be something to satisfy everyone's palate, with dozens of local restaurants, food and beverage vendors showcasing and offering samples of their best food, wine and beverages. There will also be live music and a silent auction.

The reason behind this annual fundraiser is also something to toast—created by the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce back in 2009 and designed to raise awareness of the excellent culinary talent located in the local community, Taste of

Long Beach supports the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce's program of work, including business development such as small business grants, teacher grants and high school scholarships.

Put on yearly by the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce, event organizers are hoping to top even last year's success and turnout, which boasted 400 guests from across South Mississippi.

"Really, it's a great opportunity for the Chamber to showcase the local business here in Long Beach, to really highlight all of the culinary talent and raise funds for the community," says Adele Lyons, CEO of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce.

"This event gives back to the small business community and also provides teacher grants and scholarships for high school seniors."

For more information, visit the Chamber's webpage at [MSCoastChamber.com](http://MSCoastChamber.com).



# USM Gulf Park to offer accelerated nursing degree

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) has devised a unique plan to help combat the nation's ongoing nursing shortage by offering an accelerated degree pathway through the University's Gulf Park campus in Long Beach.

Pending full academic and accreditation approvals, the distinctive, accelerated pathway will help eligible students earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree in a shorter time and decrease barriers to admission, while providing benefits to those who have already earned a higher education degree.

Students expected to enroll in this degree option will be eligible to bypass some typical BSN requirements, because they have already earned a degree. Prospective applicants must have completed a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university.

Dr. Lachel Story, Dean of USM's College of Nursing and Health Professions, points out that the accelerated delivery format will be the only one of its kind in South Mississippi. With the nation continuing to suffer from an unprecedented nursing shortage following the COVID-19 pandemic and USM's traditional nursing program on the Hattiesburg campus consistently filled, the time seemed right to consider a coastal alternative that will meet the needs of a different student market that has recently emerged.

"We have been having conversations over the last year with our clinical partners and community stakeholders about how we can address the nursing shortage and meet the needs of the coastal community. This pathway was developed as a part of those conversations," Story said.

Story notes that the curriculum is in the final stages of development and review. Provided all academic and accreditation approvals are obtained on schedule, the application could open as early as this fall, with the goal of admitting the first cohort to begin next year. Once enrolled, students can expect to complete the accelerated pathway in as little as one year.

"The accelerated nursing option will provide a unique non-traditional path that will serve as an example of innovative programming that our Coastal Operations are becoming known for. Our goal is to continue to meet the needs of our citizens along the Gulf Coast region and across Mississippi," said Dr. Steven R. Moser, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at USM.

Dr. Gordon Cannon, Vice President for Research at USM, noted a significant benefit for students who enroll in the accelerated option.

"In addition to helping alleviate the shortage in nursing professionals, this accelerated option will facilitate our students' ability to get good paying jobs in health services throughout the state as well as the coastal region of Mississippi," Cannon said.

To learn more about USM's nursing program, call 601-266-5445.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Each year, the event includes items to bid on in the fundraiser's silent auction.



## Residents encouraged to nominate teachers for Sparklight award

*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

Sparklight recently announced that ten K-12 teachers who are making a difference in their schools and communities will each receive a \$1,500 award from the internet service provider.

As part of Sparklight's "A Stronger Connection" social media campaign, individuals in the twenty-one states Sparklight serves may nominate a teacher simply by sharing a photo and written entry outlining how the educator works to build connections and goes above and beyond for their students. Local residents are encouraged to take a few minutes to nominate an educator (or multiple educators) for the award.

"Teachers perform a vital role in educating the future leaders

of our communities, and often spend their personal time and resources to ensure their students have the tools they need to be successful," said Trish Niemann, Sparklight's vice president of communications strategy. "Sparklight wants to recognize the outstanding educators in the cities and towns we serve and help them get their school year off to a great start."

Entries will be accepted through August 26 at [sparklight.com/contest](http://sparklight.com/contest). Individuals whose nominees are selected to win will also receive a back-to-school prize pack from Sparklight.

The winners will be highlighted on Sparklight's social media channels, including Facebook and Instagram.



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# FUMC launching respite care support program for memory impaired, caregivers

By Toni Miles

Thirteen members of First United Methodist Church of Long Beach are teaming up to provide a support program for those in the community who struggle with dementia, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and traumatic brain injury, as well as those in the community who care for them. Volunteers met on August 5 at the Long Beach church to iron out details for a new Side-by-Side Respite Ministry Program, set to launch this October 12.

"We all know people who live with this or know somebody who is caring for someone who lives with this, and we see what it's like and how it isolates. None of us is meant to be isolated," said Jon Kaufman, Senior Pastor at First United Methodist Church of Long Beach.

One of the major goals of the program is to offer a place of social interaction, joy and activities for those who are isolated by disease, and to help promote community for those who need it most.

## Side-by-Side Respite Ministry Program

**A support program for those with dementia, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and related impairments, offering:**

- Music
- Exercise
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- Arts and Crafts
- Pet Assisted Therapy
- Service Projects
- Gardening

**Begins October 12  
Wednesdays  
from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Call 228-863-9619  
for more information.**

It's a labor of love orchestrated by local volunteers, many of whom know - and have experienced first-hand - the challenges of being caretakers for loved ones suffering from memory and brain impairments.

"My parents were very active until COVID, and COVID shut everything down for them, obviously," said one volunteer. "My father, [who is] 94 and has dementia...I saw a huge decline in him during that time. Now my mother doesn't drive, so they sit at home a lot. I don't think they have anything available to them like this."

"Something like this gives people the opportunity to have community," said another volunteer. "The more community you have, the more active your mind stays."

"I was drawn to this, because my husband passed away due to Parkinson's," said one volunteer. "I was his caregiver. I know how exhausting it is to be there 24-7 without anybody to help you. That was my motivation, for the caregivers."

A benefit for caregivers is a time of respite - time to run errands, shop, have lunch with a friend, or complete other activities.

"My mother died of dementia a few years ago," said another volunteer. "She both lost herself and found herself. The years of the anxiety and irritation and anger and doing six billion things at once all dropped off, and she was young and free and happy. She burst into song and laughed... and then, eventually, she lost most of that. She'd know who we were but couldn't communicate, really. It was emotionally challenging. In the beginning, she wanted to go join people and be able to do stuff."

"The 'why' for me was personal - because, at the time I first heard of this ministry, my own mother was living with dementia," said Kaufman. "The things I learned helped me - especially during 2020 - to relate to her, helped me to do some activities with her that stimulated her memory, her senses, music, some games, things like that that led us to connect - especially music, because that would unlock memories."

Music and exercise are just

some of the activities that will be offered weekly through the program. There will also be meals, arts and crafts, games, service projects and pet therapy. But behind everything planned is the desire to create an atmosphere of love and hope for those living with the reality of diseases related to memory loss.

"It will be a standard menu every week, so that it's familiar," said Ben Barlow, Associate Pastor at First United Methodist Church of Long Beach. "When they come in, they will be greeted. They'll do music. They'll do exercises. I don't know that it's in that order, but it will be familiar."

While final details are still being worked out, starting October 12, every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Side by Side Respite Ministry Program volunteers will be on hand at First United Methodist Church of Long Beach to provide support and activities for local members of the community who suffer from dementia, Alzheimer's or similar conditions. The program is open to anyone in need, regardless of their faith or station in life, and will be held in the Christian Life Center at the church, located at 208 Pine Street.

The program has been in the works for quite some time and is partially modeled after a similar program offered by a Methodist church in Montgomery, Alabama. The aim of the program is to help add worth and value by taking care of local seniors, enhancing the quality of their lives while also providing support for their caretakers. All volunteers are trained in the ministry to relate specifically with those who live with dementia.

Participants in the program should be independent in mobility, bathroom needs, social participation and eating, and a completed medical assessment from the participant's physician and a list of current medications is needed for enrollment. Caregivers are invited to call and schedule a tour of Side-By-Side Respite Care Ministry prior to enrollment. For more information, to volunteer, or to apply for the program, call First United Methodist Church in Long Beach at 228-863-9619.

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August	19	vs St. Martin@ MGCCC	7:30
	26	vs Pass Christian.....	7:30
September	2	@ St. Stanislaus.....	7:30
	9	vs Bay High.....	7:30
	16	vs South Pike.....	7:30
	23	vs Vancleave...HC.....	7:30
	30	vs Gautier.....	7:30
October	7	@ PRC.....	7:00
	14	@ East Central.....	7:00
	21	@ West Harrison.....	7:00
	28	vs Picayune.....	7:00
November	3	@ George County.....	7:00

## Flying high, thanks to the Long Beach “Swingers’ Club”

By Toni Miles

Jeff Savarese is life-long Long Beach resident and graduate of Long Beach High School, Class of 1970. He’s a familiar face in South Mississippi, especially in the Long Beach area.

A jack-of-all-trades, Savarese is comfortable doing all sorts of work, from pressure washing to parking lot sweeping, but he’s probably best known for his sweeping sense of humor, as evidenced by his website called “Jeff Day Parade,” which has grown to host more than 2,000 people. Members hail from across the globe, from Switzerland to Togo (a small country nestled in the continent of Africa), Canada to Egypt, but a dream of Savarese to build something the entire Friendly City community could enjoy is what set him on his most recent mission - to bring a set of swings to the downtown area.

“I think everybody should enjoy life,” Savarese says.

Now more people, especially local families, will be able to, thanks to Savarese and his fundraising partners - donors who are automatically inducted into the Long Beach “Swingers’ Club.” Each time a person makes a donation, he or she becomes a member of the “Long Beach Swingers.”

Right now, the group is 73 members strong, and all played a part in Savarese’s dream of rebuilding a recreation area he himself enjoyed growing up - a



Toni Miles

A family enjoys the new swings at the Harper McCaughan Town Green.

set of swings perched on the beach at the end of Jeff Davis Avenue. It was a popular spot until Hurricane Camille wiped it away in 1969.

“When I put that idea out, many Long Beach High School graduates, from classes ranging from the 1950s to the 2000s, offered to make a donation,” Savarese said. “In all, and within a few months’ time, a little more than \$4,300 had been raised to fund the project.”

The money was raised just in time for summer. The project came to fruition in early June - a swing set complete with six seats was up and ready to use by those who live in and visit the Friendly City, becoming a nice addition to the splash pad located at Harper McCaughan Town Green.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Local volunteers helped spread mulch during the final phase of the project. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Kamryn Conley, Jill Dolan and Levi Dolan; and back row: Frankie Castiglia, Jeff Savarese and Steve Ford.

Although the project was Savarese’s brainchild, he says it wouldn’t have been possible without all the local high school graduates pulling together to make it possible.

Savarese’s class, the Class of 1970, landed first place in the fundraising contest, with the Class of 1974 coming in second.

“They had just as many class members donate, but they didn’t have as deep of pockets as our graduating class did,” Savarese says, with a mischievous grin.

Savarese held a trophy presentation for the second-place winners at a meeting with the Class of 1974.

“They thought they were getting a great, big trophy,” Savarese says with a laugh. To their surprise, he pulled out a



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Jeff Savarese presents Paul Dorris, a Long Beach High Class of 1974 graduate, with his class’s second-place trophy.

small matchstick trophy constructed especially for the second place “winners.” He says everyone was a good sport about it, and they’re all looking forward to putting together a new project for the Friendly City.

Stay tuned - it’s sure to be interesting.

In the meantime, those looking for a lift - or just a good laugh and local humor - are encouraged to check out Savarese’s Jeff Day Parade Facebook page, where one can find tall tales about people and happenings in the Long Beach area that are sure to elicit a smile. Membership, of course, is open to everyone; but Savarese says a donation to an upcoming project is required to become a member of the “Swingers’ Club.”

# THE PASS POST

THE PASS POST

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Clay Mansell

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## Special delivery due soon on Pass Christian beach

By Toni Miles

Buried treasure has been found on the Pass Christian beach, just east of the harbor. Workers with the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies (IMMS) are keeping a close eye on a nest of sea turtle eggs recently discovered by Harrison County sand beach crews.

Experts say the nest was laid on August 1, and eggs will typically incubate for fifty to sixty days, projecting hatching in mid-September to early October.

While the public is welcome to view the nest from afar, everyone is cautioned to stay outside of the orange tape and barriers set up blocking off the nest.

To read more about the first mainland sea turtle nest in Mississippi since 2018, visit page 6!



Special to The Pass Post  
IMMS Stranding Coordinator Theresa Madrigal measures the width of the track, with IMMS staff Jessica Lewis filming data collection.



Photo by Toni Miles  
IMMS workers marked off the area where the sea turtle nest is located, just east of the Pass Christian Harbor, with stakes and orange flagging tape. Everyone is urged to avoid this area while the eggs are incubating. Sea turtle eggs typically hatch 50 to 60 days after they are laid.

**Want to know more? Read our full article on page 6!**



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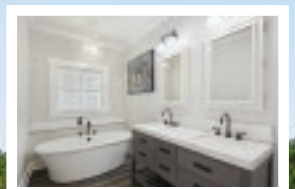
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## Mississippi Dental Arts holds ribbon cutting



Special to The Pass Post

Mississippi Dental Arts recently celebrated their opening with a ribbon cutting. Owner Dr. Trace Favre was joined by Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber members, City officials, family and friends. Pictured (l to r) are Dr. Favre, office manager Jana Brown, hygienist Leah Schultz, assistant Savannah Carlisle and Pass Christian Mayor Jimmy Rafferty. The business is located at 121 East Second Street. For more information, call 228- 254-1212.

## Hartman photo chosen for NYC presentation

Special to The Pass Post

Hudson Jag Hartman of Pass Christian will appear in the bright lights of Broadway on Saturday, September 17, as part of the annual National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) Times Square video presentation. The one-hour video of roughly 500 photographs will include children, teens, and adults with Down syndrome from all fifty states. The collective images promote the value, acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome in a very visible way.

The photo of Hudson was selected from more than 2,400 entries in the NDSS worldwide call for photos. The presentation will be live streamed on the NDSS Facebook page from 8:30-9:30 a.m. on September 17.

The Times Square Video presentation will be followed by the New York City Buddy Walk® in Central Park. The flagship Buddy Walk has taken place in New York City since 1995 as part of the National Buddy Walk Pro-



Special to The Pass Post

Hudson Hartman

gram. Buddy Walk events are held in hundreds of cities across the country, as well as select international locations.

For more information about the National Down Syndrome Society or the Buddy Walk, visit [www.ndss.org](http://www.ndss.org).



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# New school year – and program - roll out in LBSD

By Toni Miles

All photos by Toni Miles

After a nearly three-month summer break, the sound of shuffling feet and excited chatter filled the halls and classrooms of Thomas L. Reeves Elementary School as the Long Beach School District's schools reopened Thursday, August 4.

While there were hundreds of familiar faces of returning students, there were also plenty of new ones, too, as Reeves Elementary School ushered in this year's class of kindergartners, as well as an inaugural class of Pre-K students.

"In the past, this has been a K-3 school," said Reeves Elementary School Principal Russ Badeaux. "This year, it's going to be a pre-K-4 through third grade. We're really excited to have our little ones here. It's a program we got a grant for. We're just excited to have these kids in and offer this service, to get these kids started in early education."

And education is something Badeaux knows all about. He has decades of experience working in the Long Beach School District - going on twenty-four years, to be exact. Badeaux has served in many capacities over the years, with a resume that includes teacher, coach, assistant principal at Long Beach High School, and principal of Harper McCaughan Upper Elementary School, as well as roles as an athletic director and in the transportation sector of the school district. He's also a Long Beach High School graduate.

This is his first year serving as principal of Reeves Elementary School, but Badeaux had made the rounds before lunch had even rolled around on the first day of school.

"Our teachers have done a great job," Badeaux said. "They were well prepared for today. I have actually been in every single classroom and talked to all the kids this morning. The kids are excited to be here. I think they are just ready for a great year," Badeaux said.

Pre-K teacher Jordan Seal and Pre-K assistant teacher Marvena Haynes wasted no time welcoming the school's first-ever group of Pre-K students, whose big smiles clearly expressed the joy, and not jitters, in the classroom.

Third-grade teacher Hope Adcock was equally enthusiastic ushering in her students.

"It's always exciting," Adcock said. "I love to see their smiles, and, even when they come in with a frown and are scared, that's special, too, because it's an opportunity to bond with them."

Although Adcock has more than twenty years of teaching experience, the 2022-2023 school year does bring about a few changes.

"Today presents a new challenge, because we're moving from teaching all subjects to team teaching, so the children have to learn that they'll be in my classroom part of the time and also with the teacher across the hall. They're learning the new schedule," Adcock said.

Adcock made the most of every moment on day one, working on her laptop as she ate lunch with her students in the cafeteria, but Adcock and Principal Badeaux credit everyone – from teachers to cafeteria workers and beyond – for their contributions to the success of their school.

"I think our district, from every employee here, we all have a part in our success; because, when the students walk out the door, the bus driver will greet them. When they come into the building, they have custodians who are smiling and friendly and greeting them," Adcock said. "Everyone works together. We have a school, a good school district. It takes a village. We all know that, and we all participate in it."



Students at Thomas L. Reeves Elementary School received a warm welcome on opening day of the 2022-2023 school year.



Pre-K teacher Jordan Seal guides pre-K students the first day of the 2022-2023 school year.



Pre-K Assistant Teacher Marvena Haynes provides some hands-on lessons for pre-K students.



Three students become fast friends in pre-K on the first day of school.



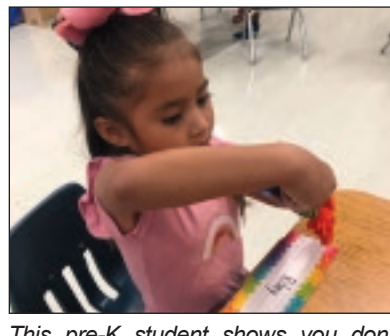
Students started building a good foundation on the first day of school at Reeves Elementary.



The new pre-K students are already hard at work in their classroom.



Teacher Hope Adcock multitasks at lunch time.



This pre-K student shows you don't have to be advanced in years to show focus and concentration.



A cafeteria worker talks with a student at Reeves Elementary School.

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