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February 2023 • Volume 7, Number 2 • "Good News You Can Use"

Long Beach School District receives \$10K donation

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Beginning this school year, the Long Beach School District (LBSD) began offering residents and businesses the chance to contribute to the district's Early Learning Collaborative, which supports the district's PreK-4 program. Those who contribute have the added benefit of receiving tax credits on next year's tax filings.

The program got a large boost recently, when Alliance Health Center, Inc. stepped up and chose to make a difference by donating \$10,000 to district's collaborative.

"We are extremely grateful to receive this investment in our children by way of this organization that recognizes the value of providing an early childhood education to children in Long Beach," said LBSD Assistant Superintendent Kelleigh Reynolds Broussard, who oversees the program.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Students in Long Beach School District's (LBSD) PreK-4 program celebrate Mississippi's ten years of Early Learning Collaboratives. Pictured with the students are LBSD Assistant Superintendent Kelleigh Reynolds Broussard (far left) and Superintendent Dr. Talia Lock (far right).

Superintendent Dr. Talia Lock also says she is thankful for the donation.

"I appreciate their generous donation investing in our students," Lock said. "Partnerships like this are investments in the future of our students and, in turn, the future of our community. Businesses and individuals directing their tax credits to the district's PreK-4 Collaborative is a wonderful opportunity to support our schools and, most importantly, support our children. We hope this is just the beginning of collaborations like this with businesses and individuals in our community."

The tax credit gives residents and businesses the opportunity to benefit students by diverting their state tax liability to remain local in the district's PreK-4 Learning Collaborative. The process is simple and requires a donation payable to Long Beach Early

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Thousands expected for annual Mardi Gras parade on February 11

By Toni Miles

Carnival season has arrived again, and the entire Mississippi Gulf Coast is getting ready to let the good times roll!

The annual Carnival Association of Long Beach (CALB) Mardi Gras parade is scheduled to roll out on Saturday, February 11, at 6 p.m. The parade route begins at the Long Beach High School stadium on Cleveland Avenue, then will turn on Railroad to Jeff Davis. From Jeff Davis, it will roll all the way down to Beach Boulevard, then turn back up Cleveland to 1st Street. From 1st Street, it will continue to Jeff Davis, then turn back down Railroad to Cleveland, where it will end at the high school stadium.

Those who are planning to attend this year's parade are encouraged to go to the parade route early to stake out a good spot.

Among those in this year's parade



Special to Long Beach Breeze

A CALB Mardi Gras parade float rolls down the streets of downtown Long Beach in the 2022 parade.

will be CALB royalty Michael Levens as King Scott 63rd and his cousin, Jenny Levens, who is serving as Queen



Special to Long Beach Breeze

This year's CALB royalty are Michael Levens, King Scott 63rd, and Jenny Levens, Queen Rosalie 2023.

Rosalie 2023.

The CALB Mardi Gras Ball is set to take place on Friday, February 10, the

night before the parade.

The theme of this year's CALB Mardi Gras and the name of this year's parade marshal will not be announced until the night of the February 10 ball, but one thing's for sure: thousands of people from all walks of life are sure to fill the streets of downtown Long Beach for the CALB 2023 Mardi Gras parade.

Several other events are set to take place before the ball and parade.

The CALB **Team Levens \$5,000 Drawdown** is scheduled to take place on Saturday, February 4, at the Long Beach Senior Center, located on Daugherty Road. Tickets are \$50 and provide admission for two adults, including food and drink at the event. Doors will open at 6 p.m. The drawdown, a fundraiser for St. Vincent de Paul School and local charities, starts at 7 p.m.

There is also a raffle for a **\$1,890 Louis Vuitton Graceful MM purse**. Raffle

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Library Lover's Month, Take Your Child to the Library Day highlights for February



By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn, LBPL Youth and Technology Services

February is Library Lover's Month, and to honor that we will have on display some of the staff's favorite books. There will be several genres from which to choose. Come by and see if you can guess the staff member who picked it.

On February 4, be sure to celebrate Take Your Child to The Library Day! Children who stop by and check out a book will receive a tote bag with a surprise!

There will not be meetings for the Friends of the Long Beach Public Library or the Long Beach Board of Trustees in February.

The book sale, normally held in the meeting room, is temporarily closed.

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

The library will be closed for Presidents' Day from Saturday, February 18, through Monday, February 20. The library will reopen at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, February 21.

Thank you for your patronage and, as always, stay safe!



www.takeyourchildtothelibrary.org



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cont. from front page

Thousands expected for annual Mardi Gras parade on February 11

tickets for the purse can be purchased for \$20 or a chance of six for \$100.

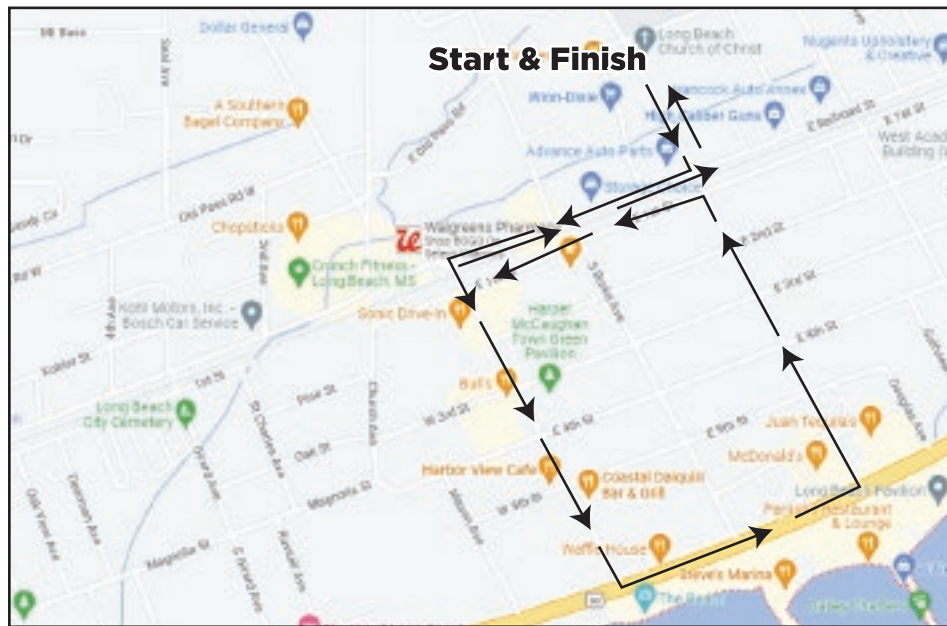
The 2nd Annual Jeep-A-Gras preceded this year's Mardi Gras parade and ball, taking place on Saturday, January 21, in downtown Long Beach.

The group in charge of the Friendly City's Mardi Gras celebrations, the Carnival Association of Long Beach, officially launched decades ago. Although Long Beach did not have its first official Mardi Gras celebration until 1961, the spirit of the season was always present in the area.

In 1960, a small group of mothers whose children attended St. Thomas Elementary School recognized a need for a source of continuing funds to finance the betterment of the quality of education for their children, so they undertook the task of sponsoring an annual Carnival Ball to coincide with Mardi Gras Season.

A contest was held to set a standard name for the King and Queen of Carnival, and Miss Mary Boggs submitted the names of Scott and Rosalie, because the Long Beach community was first known as Scott's Station and Rosalie. Miss Boggs had come up with an easy winner.

By 1964, the small club of ladies had



generated so much interest that it had become a community affair, and the name was changed from the St. Thomas Mother's Club to the Carnival Association of Long Beach. By 1979, the organization had spread coast-wide and



became officially incorporated by obtaining chartered status as a legitimate tax-exempt charitable organization.

For more information about this year's CALB Mardi Gras events, visit www.LongBeachCarnival.com or check out the Facebook pages for the Carnival Association of Long Beach and Team Levens CALB 2022-2023.

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There will be a period of time to facilitate these changes and, as a consequence, we will temporarily be closing Parrish's Restaurant on January 22, 2023.

We are estimating that we will be reopening in the Spring of this year under the new format, with no specific date at this time.

2022 has been a much-appreciated success, and we sincerely thank you for your loyalty. We look forward to reopening soon and will keep you posted through our website and social media.

Thank you
Parrish's Management Team

217 East Beach Blvd. Long Beach, MS 39560

Work underway to restore historic W.J. Quarles House

By Toni Miles

Work is now underway to restore the W.J. Quarles House, the oldest building in the City of Long Beach, thanks to a \$2 million grant from the Gulf Coast Restoration Fund.

Following a year of negotiations and receiving funds from the Gulf Coast Restoration Fund, a \$1.749 million contract was approved by the Long Beach Board of Aldermen during their first meeting of the new year at City Hall on Tuesday, January 3, 2023. The Board signed an agreement with J.O. Collins Contractor, Inc. for the renovations of the historic landmark.

Crews can now be seen working on the renovation and restoration of the historic site located on Old Pass Road in Long Beach.

The W.J. Quarles House is one of the few historic landmarks - and the only historical house with such deep roots - left standing in the City of Long Beach. Many historic sites and buildings were wiped out by Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and prior hurricanes.

Throughout the years, the historic home itself has endured hurricane damage and has been moved from its original site on Railroad Street to its current Old Pass Road location. In 1980, the W.J. Quarles House was added to the National Register of Historic Places. In 2003, it was listed as one of the ten most endangered historic sites



Photo courtesy of the Alexander family

The W.J. Quarles family, pictured in front of the Quarles House.

in the state of Mississippi. In 2012, the W.J. Quarles House was designated a Mississippi Landmark, and now City leaders and historians are optimistic about the \$2 million project reviving the historic home and site to its former glory.

Jim Quarles built the two-story home for his family in 1892, eight years after moving to Long Beach from Tennessee. At that time, it was known as

Greenvale.

The 131-year-old home has been sealed off for decades. Jim Quarles died in 1924, and Hurricane Camille severely damaged the house in 1969, leaving the historic house vacant and sealed until recently.

City officials and tourism leaders plan to use the W.J. Quarles House as a Welcome Center for the city once the project is complete. There are also



Toni Miles

Crews can now be seen working to restore and renovate the historic W.J. Quarles House, constructed in 1892. Quarles, a retired Tennessee educator, moved to Long Beach in 1884. Later, Quarles donated land to the Long Beach School District for an elementary school. W.J. Quarles Elementary School was developed and named in his honor.

plans to display the work of local artists inside the historic home. It will be open to the public, have a community garden and will serve as a location for the Long Beach Historical Society, once completed.

Those interested can purchase prints of what the restored home will look like through the Long Beach Historical Society. Prints can be purchased for \$35.



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Coast Episcopal School offers Little Free Library

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The third graders of Coast Episcopal School (CES) in Long Beach have established the independent school as one of 150,000 locations across the globe to offer a Little Free Library. Located just outside the CES main building at 5065 Espy Avenue in Long Beach, the free-standing unit is accessible to the general public seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day.

According to CES third-grade teacher Jillianne Larson, her students were eager to establish a Little Free Library after reading Uma Krishnaswami's book *Uncle and Me*, which tells the story of a precocious young girl who helps a community member after his Lending Library is shut down by the town's mayor.

"We wanted to give something to our community that would promote literacy and reflect our love for reading," said Larson. "Like the characters in Krishnaswami's novel, my students and I believe in the novel's mantra of finding 'The right book for the right person on the right day,' and we believe this Little Free Library will help others find a book that will get them excited about reading!"

The Little Free Library at CES was constructed by Ms. Larson's partner, Elijah Brown, and the library is now one of 150,000 erected in the United States and 109 other countries promoted by the Little Free Library organization. The organization, based in St. Paul, Minnesota, has a mission to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Libraries. The vision of the organization is to have a Little Free Library in every community and a book for every reader.

For more information about the Little Free Library at Coast Episcopal School, call 228-452-9442.



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All vacancies within the agency are listed on the Mississippi State Personnel Board website, www.mspsb.com.

cont. from front page

Long Beach School District receives \$10K donation

Learning Collaborative. The donation is then matched 1:1 on the state tax return. Long Beach Schools' Early Learning Collaborative was approved by the Mississippi State Board of Education in April of 2022, and the district received a \$750,000 grant from the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) to begin the program with the 2022-23 school year.

Mississippi First, a non-partisan, nonprofit, public policy advocacy organization with a mission to champion transformative policy solutions, ensuring educational excellence for every Mississippi child, authored the "Leaving Last in Line" report in 2012, when Mississippi was one of only ten states without a pre-K program. The organization successfully advocated for the Early Learning Collaborative Act, which established state-funded pre-K in Mississippi in 2013.

The main goal of establishing Early Learning Collaboratives (ELCs) is to better prepare preschoolers for kindergarten. Since 2013, the legislature has appropriated over \$70 million for the Early Learning Collaborative Act. With these funds, MDE has approved thirty-five early learning collaborative programs across the state, and twenty-five percent of four-year-olds across the state have access to high-quality state-funded pre-K as a result. The law also established the 1:1 tax credit for individuals and corporations that support the local matching fund of an approved early learning collaborative.

To make a donation, contact Broussard at kelleigh.broussard@lbsdk12.com or Amber Geiser at amber.geiser@lbsdk12.com, or call the school district office at 228-864-1146.

Coast Chamber plans their Annual Meeting

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, which includes the Pass Christian and Long Beach Chambers of Commerce, will host its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, February 14. The Annual Meeting serves as a forum for educating membership, recognizing leadership, and reviewing the accomplishments and initiatives of the Chamber and its divisions. Additionally, it provides a networking opportunity for the organization's members.

At this year's meeting, the President's gavel will be passed from Sam

Sandoz of Hancock Whitney to Amber Olsen of Nextstaff and United MSD. At the end of the program, the 2023 Pat Santucci Spirit of the Coast award will be presented.

The event will be held in the Magnolia Ballroom at the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino. Doors will open at

11:30 a.m. for lunch and networking, with the program beginning at noon. Individual tickets can be purchased for \$50 each, and

sponsorships are also available. Visit www.MSCoastChamber.com to purchase a ticket, or call Long Beach/Pass Christian Chamber Director Matti Rae Seymour at 228-604-0014.

Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce



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This service will be live streamed on Facebook.

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

New Chamber director sees good things on the horizon

By Toni Miles

Mississippi Gulf Coast native Matti Rae Seymour has hit the ground running in her new role as Director of the Long Beach and Pass Christian Chambers of Commerce.

"When I arrived in August, I jumped right on in and got to work," Seymour says. "Since September, the Long Beach Chamber has successfully held an Update on Education with Dr. Talia Lock, Breakfast with Mayor Bass, presented our 2022 First Responder and Citizen of the Year awards, our 13th Annual Taste of Long Beach, and presented our 2022 teacher grants to three deserving educators. In addition, since September, the Pass Christian Chamber hosted a successful Breakfast with Mayor Rafferty, offered Christmas in the Pass T-shirts, and supported shopping local through our Christmas in the Pass Passport Program."

Seymour was actually among the first to learn of the Long Beach School District's impressive designation as the top school district in the State of Mississippi by the Mississippi Department of Education on September 27 while at the Chamber's impeccably-timed Q&A event with Long Beach School District Superintendent Dr. Talia Lock.

"There is no doubt that education is beneficial in more ways than one," Seymour says. "Not only do these award-winning educational institutions provide us with knowledge and the opportunity to grow, but they also allow for employment opportunities in the community. It is a continuous circle that flows into each other, pushing us forward."

Seymour and those at the Chamber of Commerce are not ones to rest on laurels, though, as evidenced by Seymour's vision moving forward as Director of the Long Beach and Pass Christian Chambers of Commerce.

"For 2023, I want more!" Seymour proclaims. "More opportunities for community outreach, more involvement, more giving back, and more fun and excitement. The goal is to succeed, and we will do just that!"

One popular fundraising event hosted each year by the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce is just around the corner.

"Our next upcoming event will be held in March, Long Beach Chamber's Touch-A-Truck," Seymour says. "We will announce the date soon. Come out and see us and support the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce."

The Touch-A-Truck event in Long Beach re-emerged after a brief hiatus due to COVID, and like many organizations, the Chamber took a hit during the pandemic, but Seymour and her colleagues are looking ahead, and hopeful about the future.

"Like most businesses/organizations, we lost some members due to COVID," Seymour says. "However, we have seen a steady growth of new members in Long Beach and all along our Gulf Coast. Our Chamber immediately became a source of information for our members. We utilized Zoom to get our information out to our members. In general, I believe COVID-19 affected the way many things were done. Events changed, priorities changed, and the main goal was to survive to be able to thrive again in the future. I have seen nothing but resilience and drive since arriving in this role. We adapted with the times and looked forward to the day when we could enjoy life like we had in the past, and it worked."

Seymour is also excited about what she sees on the horizon for both Pass Christian and Long Beach.

"On Jeff Davis Avenue, you can see the new developments, Harbor View Beer Garden, to mention one. Also, as heard at Breakfast with Mayor Bass in October, the City is doing updates and modifications to City utilities to better the lives of Long Beach residents," Seymour says.

Harbor View Beer Garden will be perched just north of the Harbor View Café, and is expected to be up and running for business by the time Jeepin the Coast rolls out in the Friendly City in late May, on property owned by former mayor Robert Bass, who also owns the Harbor View Café. Harbor View Beer Garden is designed to be a relaxing environment, offering games, bonfires, bars and TVs.

As for the Friendly City, Seymour says there's plenty to work with, and the sky is the limit.

"The residents and businesses make Long Beach who and what it is," Seymour says. "The unobstructed views of the Gulf are worth a visit in itself. The City of Long Beach created handicap access to the beach. Also, it's one of the few cities that has a large pavilion on the beach that is open to the public. One of the top attractions is the University of Southern Mississippi, the home of the Friendship Oak tree. The university also offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in a



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach Chamber of Commerce's Taste of Long Beach on September 27 was one of Seymour's first events in her new role.

large variety of academic fields."

While local residents and businesses are struggling with nationwide inflation, Seymour believes the local economy will continue to grow and improve, and she says the Chamber of Commerce, as always, is here to provide support.

"The Long Beach Chamber and the Pass Christian Chamber are both a division of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce," Seymour says. "Our mission is to connect, inform, advocate and develop. We all collaborate together to share new ideas, build relationships and make connections with those outside of our divisions to ensure the success in future partnerships."

"I am extremely grateful and blessed to have been given this opportunity to work alongside so many wonderful and inspiring individuals," Seymour says. "I am ready to see what the future holds and excited to see what all we can accomplish!"

For more information about the Long Beach/Pass Christian Chamber of Commerce, call 228-604-0014, or email Seymour at MattiRae@MSCoastChamber.com.



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Matti Rae Seymour, Director of the Long Beach and Pass Christian Chambers of Commerce

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Wreaths Across America reaches into Long Beach for fifth year



Toni Miles



Special to Long Beach Breeze



Toni Miles

Wreaths Across America took place on December 17 in Long Beach.

Members of all U.S. military branches were on hand for the December 17 event.

"Taps" was played before dozens of volunteers laid wreaths on veterans' graves at the Long Beach City Cemetery.

By Toni Miles

The scene – Long Beach City Cemetery on Girard Avenue. The date – Saturday, December 17. The mission – to remember fallen U.S. veterans, to honor those who serve, and to teach children the value of freedom.

Members representing all branches of the U.S. military, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), American Legion, motorcycle clubs, as well as City officials and local residents were on hand for Wreaths Across America in Long Beach, a formal ceremony hosted by the Eddie Blake VFW Post 3937 and The Donnie Levens American Legion Post 1995. This is the fifth year Wreaths Across America has taken place in the city of Long Beach.

"The laying of a wreath on the grave of our fallen military brothers and sisters, in reverence for their service to our country, is one way for those of us remaining to honor and remember them," says veteran Tina O'Shields.

After the formal ceremony, which included a prayer by the Naval Construction Battalion Center Chaplain and the playing of "Taps," those in attendance set out to place balsam wreaths on the graves of veterans in the cemetery. In all, 265 wreaths were purchased and donated to lay on the graves of veterans buried at the Long Beach City Cemetery and neighboring cemeteries.

"The local Wreaths Across America laying of the wreaths is an annual observance, and, with the help of local busi-

ness and family participation, our groups make sure each veteran's grave has a wreath," O'Shields says.

Wreaths Across America began in 1992 with a trailer load of wreaths decorated by volunteers and laid on the graves of veterans buried at Arlington National Cemetery. The event has since spread throughout the nation and takes place annually throughout cities in South Mississippi, including Long Beach, and the purpose remains the same: to honor and remember those who have served their country, with some paying the ultimate price, such as Marine Sgt. Donnie Levens, who died in the line of duty overseas back in 2006 at age 25. His family members were among those who attended the event.

The hand-made, fresh live wreaths laid on the graves are holding up well to date and serve as a reminder to all to honor and never forget those who sacrifice so much to preserve the freedoms that Americans enjoy today.

"Many of the veterans buried in the Long Beach City Cemetery are local 'boys and girls,' and their families still reside in the area," O'Shields says. "Any help to purchase these family members' wreaths and in laying the wreath on the observance day will be appreciated and welcomed by their living military brothers and sisters."

The next observance and Wreaths Across America event is scheduled for December 16, 2023, at the Long Beach City Cemetery at 1 p.m.

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Special to Long Beach Breeze

The caboose, which now serves as the foundation and houses the Juicy Caboose, was lifted from its former site in Pattonsburg, Missouri, last year for transfer to its new home in downtown Long Beach.

By Toni Miles

It all started with a conversation over cocktails between two women, Tomeka Bryant and Ailsa von Dobeneck, ladies with very different backgrounds, but who have the shared experience of working on the railroad in New Orleans. The two had run into each other unexpectedly at a business conference.

“As we were having cocktails, we came up with this business idea and actually bought a caboose on the Internet,” von Dobeneck says. “Then we woke up the next day. At breakfast, I was like, ‘Tomeka, did we buy a caboose?’ She said, ‘Yes!’”

And that is where the duo’s journey to open a bar and restaurant in Long Beach, Mississippi began.

At first glance, the dynamic duo do not appear to be railroad workers. In fact, they look more like models you’d find in a fashion magazine, but one should not mistake their looks for lack of intelligence, drive or business savvy.

“We are complete opposite sides of the brain,” von Dobeneck says. “Tomeka is a boss. She’s so smart and business-focused. I am the creative, colorful one that does the menu plan and things like that. We’ve been really good friends for years, and we work together well in business, which I think is a really perfect sauce.”

“Juicy Caboose is actually a name that Ailsa came up with,” Bryant says. “It seemed exciting and a name that people would not forget. I think that’s important in business, to have a name that people will always remember.”

Construction continues on the Juicy Caboose restaurant and bar located at the intersection of Mason Avenue and West 5th Street in downtown Long Beach. It’s the duo’s first brick-and-mortar business venture. The caboose got a new paint job in mid-January, and the establishment is tentatively set to open in mid-February.

Inside the new bar and restaurant, customers will feel like they’re taking a step back in time. The caboose, which serves as the foundation and main building, is decked out with historically accurate décor, a living history lesson, if you will, when it comes to railroading and the nation’s deep roots and history in the industry.

“They’re going to see a beautiful red caboose, of course, with a deck where people can sit and enjoy a cocktail, fresh juice and food,” Bryant says. “You’ll also see a covered area and seating for an outdoor bar. Then you’ll also see green space for games, just a place to have a good time with friends and family.”

“Caboosees are no longer used on the railroad, so sometimes you see them used as Air B&Bs or as man caves or lady caves,” von Dobeneck says. “We thought, why don’t we take something like this from the railroad that means so much to us and renovate it? It’s been a fun journey for both of us.”

The menu is special, too, including fresh food daily. Healthy selections, such as salads, and vintage railroad recipe dishes will be on the menu, as well as fruit juices. There will also be a kids’ menu.

“I like the history of food,” von Dobeneck says, “The railroads have some old vintage recipes. We’re using some of them at the Juicy Caboose.”

Patrons can dine on site or order to go, and, of course, there will be a considerable list of taste-tested and specially-selected cocktails to choose from, many of them Bryant’s creations.

Von Dobeneck is a history buff, foodie and columnist who actually appeared on Gordon Ramsey’s *Master Chef* TV show a few years ago. As for her and Bryant’s current business venture, if location truly is everything, the duo believe they have picked the perfect spot.

“We drove the coastline up and down looking for the perfect location for this business,” Bryant says. “I can tell you, the people we ran into Long Beach, the City officials, really made it feel like home. We definitely saw the potential of Long Beach and the growth and thought this would be a great place with such a community vibe, a place that already seemed like a big family. We found the perfect piece of property, and all the stars aligned.”

“It’s a unique concept. We’re hoping people love it,” von Dobeneck says. “It’s definitely going to be a focal point. I know kids love trains. The cocktails will be great. The food will be great, and it will be really fun.”

cont. on page 12

Arbor Day run/walk/roll event for disability awareness set for Feb. 25



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The 35th annual Arbor Day Run/Walk/Roll for disability awareness, a partnership between Disability Connection and the Gulf Coast Running Club to encourage people with disabilities to enjoy the healthful fun of a run, is set for Saturday, February 25. The event will include 5K, one-mile and quarter-mile options.


The outdoor event, which will be held at the Biloxi Town Green, has two goals: to encourage a healthy lifestyle and to encourage people with disabilities to be active community participants by joining the fun of a run. Those with disabilities are included in each length of the race, some in racing wheelchairs.

The registration fee is \$25 per person, and a discounted fee of \$22 is available for pre-registrations through February 17. Online registrations can be completed at www.GulfCoastRunningClub.org. All participants will receive a T-shirt and free trees, while supplies last, and everyone with challenges to running receives a medal.

This year, due to the need for some to socially distance, Disability Connection is again offering the option for schools and groups to participate remotely at the time and place of their choosing. Teams can register a walk/run/roll event through Disability Connection to be held at the time and location of their convenience, such as a football field or walking track. Before their event, teams will receive their Arbor Day T-shirts, medallions, snacks and bottled water.

Registration begins at 8 a.m., with the 5K run set to start at 9 a.m., and the one-mile walk and quarter-mile event will begin together at 9:45 a.m.


All event proceeds support the Disability Connection's programs and events. For sponsorship or team information or to register to participate remotely, call 228-604-4020.



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Annual Pink event opens for registration, requests sponsors

By Toni Miles

Several years ago, Long Beach's JoAn Niceley, a breast cancer survivor, took her life-threatening situation and turned it into her mission to help and support others battling cancer. Once her disease was in remission, Niceley started the non-profit Pink Heart Funds in 2005, an organization that aims to inspire, encourage and restore hope to those affected by cancer.

The 501(c)(3) non-profit provides cranial prosthetics (wigs) for children and adults with cancer-related hair loss, as well as free breast prosthetics and post-mastectomy bras, along with resources and other assistance for those seeking support and advice. Funds to provide these services come from annual fundraisers, and one of these, an annual walk, is just around the corner.

Registration is now underway online for this year's Pink Heart Funds 5K Ribbon Walk and Run, scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 29, at 8 a.m. at Long Beach's Harper McCaughan Town Green. This year's theme is "Wiggin' Out for Cancer Walk," and it will be the eighteenth year Pink Heart Funds has held the annual fundraising walk.

Last year's walk attracted hundreds of



Toni Miles

Hundreds of people participated in the 2022 Pink Heart Funds walk.

participants and raised thousands of dollars that went straight back into the local community. Niceley expects an even bigger crowd at this year's event, and she says sponsors are needed, and donations are being accepted for a silent auction and a raffle at the event.

To register for the 5K Ribbon Walk or Run, visit Race-Roster.com/57435. Registration will be available online until April 27.

To make a donation or for more information, visit the Pink Heart Funds Facebook page or www.PinkHeartFunds.org.



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cont. from page 9

All Aboard! Unique restaurant and bar on track to open soon



Toni Miles

The Juicy Caboosy is tentatively scheduled to open in mid-February.

Before landing and settling on the Friendly City as the site for their new business venture, Bryant and von Dobeneck had to settle some unfinished business in Pattonsburg, Missouri, where they purchased the caboosy.

“This story and concept [of the caboosy] is very special to the people in Pattonsburg,” von Dobeneck says.

Pattonsburg showed their appreciation with a proclamation in the ladies’ honor, which deemed July 14, 2022, Juicy Caboosy Day in and by the City of Pattonsburg. In part, the proclamation reads, “The residents of Pattonsburg are happy to know that the caboosy has found a new home, where it will provide enjoyment to others for years to come...and wish this new business success.”

“I know this caboosy was a staple in their community. Because we were taking something so precious from them, we wanted to document the journey,” Bryant says. “We want to make sure they continue to be a part of the history of the caboosy, that they continue to see something that was so important to them be something that becomes important in Long Beach.”

Bryant and von Dobeneck keep the townsfolk of Pattonsburg updated on their progress and business venture in South Mississippi, through a far-reaching social media drive that has forged friendships spanning almost 900 miles.

“Pattonsburg’s big claim to fame is their yearly car show, located near where the caboosy was in town,” von Dobeneck says. “Some of those from Pattonsburg come down for Cruisin’ the Coast. A couple of them [in Pattonsburg] reached out to South Mississippians on Facebook to link up to tailgate and meet up on the Coast. I hope this year we can get a lot of the Pattonsburg folks back down here to mingle more. It’s kind of serendipitous.”

“I think her [von Dobeneck’s] love for food and cooking and my creative drinks and just us both enjoying a cocktail on the Coast when we were both here is something we connected over,” Bryant says. “I’m just happy to be able to do this with somebody who means so much to me and has played such a huge role in my life.”

The feeling is mutual.

“I’m excited,” von Dobeneck says. “It’s new. It feels different. Tomeka and I were so fortunate to be able to write and build our vision. Now people are coming to visit our vision, and it feels really special that they love it as much as we do.”

For updates and more information, visit The Juicy Caboosy Facebook page or their website at TheJuicyCaboosy.com.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The two friends and business co-owners, Tomeka Bryant (left) and Ailsa von Dobeneck (right) say they are excited about their new Juicy Caboosy business venture in Long Beach.

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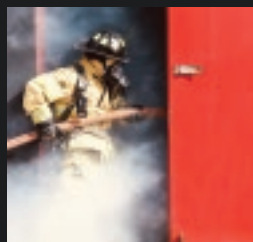


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Photos by Toni Miles

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL IN LONG BEACH!

By Toni Miles

Homes and businesses in the Friendly City have swapped out their red, green and gold Christmas decorations with green, gold and purple as Mardi Gras approaches.

Banners, flags and signs in the traditional Mardi Gras season colors adorn local businesses, including Bacchus Wine & Liquor, the Harbor View Café and locally-owned Bull's restaurant on Jeff Davis Avenue.

Besides enjoying the festivities, local businesses owners say they are also looking forward to the extra flow of income and business the Mardi Gras season usually brings.



Purple, gold and green banners announce the Carnival season and Mardi Gras in Long Beach.



Bull's restaurant is decked out in Mardi Gras décor.



A Mardi Gras banner flies high at the Harbor View Café.

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THE PASS POST

Pass Christian beach sees first-ever fin whale to wash up in Mississippi

By Toni Miles

On January 7, the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies (IMMS) responded to a report of a lone, dead whale washed up in the waters of the Mississippi Sound along the shoreline of the Pass Christian beach, and it took a team effort and multiple agencies to properly handle the situation.

"It was a tremendous effort to retrieve this animal from the water," says IMMS Stranding Coordinator Theresa Madrigal. "We would like to thank Mayor Rafferty, the Pass Christian Police Department, the Pass Christian Fire Department, and the Harrison County Sand Beach Authority for their incredible help. We could not have done this without them."

Partners in the Stranding Network, including the IMMS, MSU DISL, Gulf World and FWC, teamed up to secure the carcass of the fin whale, collect measurements and some samples and to conduct a full necropsy (animal autopsy) on January 8.

The fin whale measured about 30 feet in length and weighed somewhere between 12,000 and 15,000 pounds. Madrigal says since 2002, there have only been three fin whale strandings in the Gulf of



IMMS workers performed a necropsy on Sunday, January 8, on the fin whale that washed up on the Pass Christian beach. *Photo courtesy IMMS*

Mexico, dating back to January 2003 in Gulf County, Florida, and in February 2010 and December 2012 in Texas. This is the first fin whale stranding reported in Mississippi.

"We hope to learn as much as possible from this animal. This was a young male fin whale, a species that is endangered and protected, so it was critical for us to document this case thoroughly," Madrigal says. "All data and samples collected are being extensively analyzed, so that we can hopefully determine what caused this animal to strand and gain a better under-

standing of fin whales."

The fin whale is the second largest whale species on earth, second only to the blue whale. It is found throughout the world's oceans and gets its name from an easy-to-spot fin on its back, near its tail. Fin whales are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

"It is very rare for whales to strand on the Mississippi Coast," Madrigal says. "These animals will stay miles offshore. When we start to see large whales like this coming inshore, it is generally an indicator that they are sick and will likely



Photo courtesy IMMS

strand."

While study, research and analysis of data collected from the washed up fin whale is still underway and being processed, IMMS leaders urge the public to report any and all strandings and sightings of injured or beached marine life.

"We want to remind the public to call our 24-hour hotline (888-767-3657) if they see any dead, sick or injured marine mammals and sea turtles," Madrigal says. "Their reports are critical for us to successfully do our work here in Mississippi to conserve these species."

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Mardi Gras events galore planned for Pass Christian

The Pass Post

Pass Christian, with documented Mardi Gras parades back as far as 1914, will celebrate the 2023 season led in many events by the St. Paul Carnival Association (SPCA), which was founded in 1930. Since its establishment, the organization's philanthropic activities have grown year after year, with most today benefitting St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School.

This year, SPCA royalty King Christian XCIII, Christopher Boswell, and Queen Christiana 2023, Angelica Espinal, will continue storied traditions, culminating with the 2023 "Carnaval de Rio" Pass Parade, set to roll at noon on Sunday, February 19.

In addition, there will be a \$10,000 drawdown event on January 28 at the West Harrison Civic Center at 4670 Espy Avenue in Long Beach. Doors will open at 6 p.m., and the drawdown begins at 7 p.m. Tickets to the event are \$100 for four adults; and dinner, an open bar and live music by Starz Band Live is included. An accompanying Silent Auction will open on January 26 at 10 a.m. and close on January 28 at 9 p.m.

On Friday, February 17, the annual Royal Ball will be held at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School at 4321 Espy Avenue in Long Beach. The tableau begins at 8 p.m. The next morning, a Royal Brunch will be held at the Pass Christian Yacht Club at 120 Market Street.

Mardi Gras activities will continue with the 2023 Pass Parade, which rolls at noon on Sunday, February 19.

Those who wish to be a part of the parade can submit applications until 5 p.m. on February 6. All units approved to participate in the parade will receive a line up time and position, and all floats must be in their assigned position no later than 10:30 a.m. on parade day.

The parade will start at the corner of Davis Avenue and Second Street and proceed to Scenic Drive. From there, it will turn west to Henderson Avenue, north to St. Louis, east to Church Street, south to Second Street, and then east on Second to Davis Avenue.

Parade-goers are encouraged to follow all instructions from police and follow signs for parking. No parking will be allowed in the median of Highway 90.

Trinity Church will offer parade parking, with tickets available from their ticket office under the church on Wednesdays and Saturdays from noon to 6 p.m. Call 281-217-2583 for more information.

The City of Pass Christian will also offer parking at the harbor on the day of the parade. Call 228-452-3311 for more information.

On parade day, Davis Avenue east to Courtenay Avenue will close at 9 a.m. to serve as the parade float staging area. Traffic will not be allowed on Second Street between Davis and Courtenay, south of railroad tracks on Fleitas Avenue, or on Davis Avenue after 9 a.m. that Sunday morning.

Additionally, streets west of Davis Avenue to Henderson Avenue on Scenic Drive, Highway 90 and Second Street are expected to close no later than 10 a.m.

Visit www.StPaulCarnival.com for ticket and silent auction information and the parade application, or call 228-493-2728.

The weekend prior, the Kids' Krewe of Wreckage will host a Pass Christian Kids' Mardi Gras Parade on Saturday, February 11, at 11 a.m.

Students in kindergarten through second grade from Coast Episcopal School, DeLisle Elementary School, Pass Christian Elementary School, Pineville Elementary School and St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School are invited to submit a float for the parade.

All floats must be manually pulled, with no motors, engines, golf carts, etc., along the parade route, which will be on Scenic Drive from Davis Avenue to Market Street. For more information or to register, contact Kirk Kimball at 228-574-7909.

The Krewe of Legacy is also planning a parade for Saturday, February 4, at 1 p.m. For more information, contact Jeffrey Cuevas at 228-216-2097.

Sit, Stay, Read! continues on third Saturdays



All photos Special to The Pass Post

Special to The Pass Post

The Pass Christian Library continues their popular Sit, Stay, Read! Children's reading program for the winter season.

Set for the third Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. until noon, the upcoming programs - February 18, March 18, April 15, and May 20 - are hosted by Visiting Pet Teams of South Mississippi and provide a fun way for children to improve their communication and reading skills while visiting with a four-legged friend. The dog-friendly atmosphere provides motivation for the children to practice their reading, and reading sessions usually last for thirty minutes.

Children are rewarded with bookmarks, stickers, or pencils for participating in the free program. Children must not be afraid of or be allergic to animals in order to participate, and pre-registration is not required. For more information, call 228-452-4596, or email PassChristianLibrary@gmail.com. The library is located at 111 Hiern Avenue.

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