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November 2022 • Volume 6, Number 11 • "Good News You Can Use"

# Long Beach School District ranked #1!

By Toni Miles

The Long Beach School District has been ranked number one in the state of Mississippi. The good news came on the heels of an education Q&A session hosted by the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce, an interactive community meeting headed up by Long Beach School District Superintendent Dr. Talia Lock at the Long Beach Senior Center the morning of Tuesday, September 27.

"I feel so proud of everything this district has accomplished," said Dr. Lock. "We had come in second in the state years ago, so to be the first in the state for the first time after coming off a pandemic - I know how hard everyone has worked closing those gaps."

"They grew our students tremendously, and, for the hard work that our students and teachers put in, as well as our administrators, there just aren't enough words to say how proud I am."

The Mississippi Schools Board As-



Toni Miles

Dr. Talia Lock shares some of the Long Beach School District's recent achievements.

sociation officiated the Long Beach School District's (LBSD's) number one ranking and schools' accountability grades during its monthly board meeting on Thursday, September 29,

confirming the LBSD as the number one school district in the entire state based on accountability results. There are 145 total school districts in Mississippi.

LBSD also earned an "A" under this year's scores, the highest possible academic rating. LBSD's overall score is 803, up 107 points over the district's 2019 total of 696. The min-

**The Long Beach School District and City of Long Beach held a parade to celebrate the district's #1 ranking. Photos from the event are on page 5.**

imum score districts must reach for A status is 668.

Preparations are already underway in Long Beach to celebrate this milestone.

"This is something our whole city and community needs to celebrate," said Lock. "This has been a feat accomplished because of the parents, the community and businesses, too. If everyone had not supported what we

cont. on page 10

# Voters to cast ballots Nov. 8th for District 4 Congressman

By Toni Miles

South Mississippians will soon be casting their votes to determine who will be the next District 4 United States Congressman, replacing six-term incumbent Republican Congressman Steven Palazzo. On the ballot for the race are Democrat Johnny DuPree and Republican Mike Ezell.

Democratic candidate Johnny DuPree is a former mayor of Hattiesburg and won the Democratic nomination in the June 7 primary race earlier this year.

Long-time South Mississippi lawman and current Jackson County Sheriff Mike Ezell pulled off a narrow win in a June 28 runoff race against the incumbent, Steven Palazzo, for the 4th Congressional District Republican nomination.

The district represents twelve counties in



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Democratic Candidate Johnny DuPree



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Republican Candidate Mike Ezell

South Mississippi, including Harrison County and the cities of Long Beach and Pass Christian.

General election polls will open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 8. If neither candidate receives a majority of the vote on election day, a runoff will be held.

For voting locations, visit HarrisonCountyMS.gov or the Secretary of State's Polling Place Locator webpage at SoS.ms.gov.

All voters will be asked to show a valid photo ID to vote in the November 8 election.

Information about both candidates and a sample ballot can be found at Ballotpedia.org.

For further information, call the Harrison County Circuit Clerk's Office at 228-865-4005 or 228-865-4051.

Check out the Long Beach Breeze's Facebook page for election results, as well as the next copy of the Long Beach Breeze/Pass Post.



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# Troop 321 retires flags on Patriot's Day



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Boy Scouts of America Troop 321 conducted a flag retirement ceremony to coincide with Patriot's Day. The Scouts BSA Troop held a flag retirement ceremony in the evening hours at Camp Tiak in Wiggins, Mississippi. Flags were retired in a formal ceremony conducted by the scouts in a dignified manner in accordance with the U.S Flag Code. The troop includes members of the American Legion and veterans of the U.S. military branches of the Air Force, Army and Marine Corps among its adult military leaders. Boys from the troop conducted the ceremony, then the individuals who were present each received a flag to burn on the fire in a solemn procession. The ceremony was planned in order to coincide with Patriot's Day, September 11th.



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[www.LongBeachBreeze.com](http://www.LongBeachBreeze.com)

# Decking the Town Green out in pink



Toni Miles



Toni Miles

By Toni Miles

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and the Long Beach Harper McCaughan Town Green pavilion has gone pink as a reminder.

Banners with photos of local residents who have struggled with the disease are draped across the entry to the pavilion. Pink lights are also wrapped around light poles to highlight the importance of the month and the need to educate everyone about breast cancer and timely breast cancer checks, especially considering early detection saves lives.

In 2022, an estimated 287,850 new cases of invasive breast cancer are expected to be diagnosed in women in the

United States, along with 51,200 new cases of non-invasive breast cancer.

Throughout the month of October, the City of Long Beach has been holding breast cancer awareness and fundraising events.

Many factors influence breast cancer risk, including family history, lifestyle habits and advancing age.

Thanks to research advances and improved methods of early detection, most women will have an excellent prognosis when diagnosed with breast cancer.

A mammogram is a non-invasive X-ray used to check breasts for breast cancer and other abnormalities. It is the only test shown to reduce breast cancer

deaths. Mammograms can detect cancer early – when most treatable – long before it can be felt. This improves odds of survival and can help avoid more extensive treatment.

It is recommended that women who are ages 40-44 should have the choice to start annual breast cancer screening with mammograms, if they wish to do so. Women ages 45-54 should get mammograms every year, and those 55 and older should get mammograms at least every two years.

To help further reduce the chance of developing breast cancer, it is recommended to eat a healthy diet and exercise regularly, avoid alcohol and (if applicable) quit smoking.

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# Long Beach neighborhood rolls out its own pre-Cruisin' party



Toni Miles



Toni Miles



Toni Miles



Toni Miles

The home of Long Beach residents Carly and Jim Schloegel has become the pre-Cruisin' the Coast hotspot before the annual car show officially gets underway each year.

Jim Schloegel directing parking at the event

Jon Kable, his daughter Megan Kable, and Levi Schmiedebusch soak in the sun, company and classic cars at the neighborhood event.

Four generations of the host family were present for this pre-Cruisin' neighborhood tradition, from left to right: Giovanni Chifici, Carly Schloegel, Jean Maas, Luca Chifici and Candice Chifici.

By Toni Miles

Everyone is familiar with Cruisin' the Coast, America's largest block party, but one neighborhood in Long Beach has a block party of its own before the annual classic car show even officially revs up.

Jim and Carly Shloegel's home on Magnolia Street has been the hub for four years now for a pre-Cruisin' neighborhood block party. It takes place in their neighborhood, affectionately dubbed "Magnolia Village" by the locals, located just a few blocks away from the beach, and rolls out each year on the Saturday before the official Cruisin' kick off.

"We moved into the neighborhood a few years ago, and my husband Jim loves Cruisin' the Coast and he loves to

cook," says Carly Schloegel. "We started off small, just inviting neighbors and getting everybody to meet each other, and it just kept growing."

That's thanks largely in part to Carly's husband, who invites just about everyone he runs into, including strangers, to the get-together.

"I just flagged down a guy who was walking down the road yesterday and somebody who was walking his dog this morning. I went over and started talking to them and said, 'Hey, y'all be sure to come on by.' We invite anybody to come on by," Jim Schloegel says.

Jim has managed to recruit repeat visitors from as far away as Oregon.

"This guy was in his Corvette. I was in my 1956 pick up. He pulled over on

the side of the road because he was having trouble with his Corvette, so I helped him out a little. I told him to come on by, and he showed up the next day. That's what it's all about," Jim says.

"He's come two years in a row now," Carly added with a laugh.

Some things do change, though. Jim sold his 1956 Chevy pickup truck last year, but now he's looking for something new – well, sort of.

"I'm on the hunt for something else," Jim said. "I have two grandsons, and I need something with a back seat. I couldn't put them in the front seat of a '56 Chevy truck with an iron dashboard and no airbags."

Those grandsons, a one-and-a-half-year-old and three-year-old, were at this

year's neighborhood block party with their mother, Candice Chifici, who drove all the way from Metairie, Louisiana, as she does each year, for this event, which has also become a family tradition.

"We've been doing this since before they were born," Chifici says. "Our three-year-old loves all the cars. It's going to continue as a family tradition."

On this day, four generations of the host's family were at the pre-Cruisin' hot spot, along with dozens of people from the neighborhood, and, of course, Jim's recruits, new and old.

"We always have awesome food, music, and - of course - beverages, and this year we have a photo booth - and we're still meeting a lot of new people," Carly says.



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# Celebrating education success in the streets



LBSD buses rolled after hours in the parade.

By Toni Miles

Buses were rolling down the streets of the Long Beach after hours on Wednesday, October 5, in the Friendly City's second parade of the week. Teachers, administrators, faculty and students with the Long Beach School District were among those in a city-wide parade celebrating the Long Beach School District's latest success and benchmark achievement - being named as the Number 1 school district in the state of Mississippi.

Family, friends, business and community leaders were among those who lined the parade route, which wound from Long Beach High School to the Harper McCaughan Town Green Pavilion on Jeff Davis Avenue, where Long Beach High School cheerleaders, the school's band and others put on a performance after the celebration on the streets. Long Beach Mayor George Bass and Alderman-at-Large Donald Frazer read and presented Long Beach School District leaders with a proclamation from the City of Long Beach in honor of this first-time designation for the Long Beach School District, which edged out 145 schools for this top spot in education in the Magnolia State.



Parents, students, business leaders and other members of the community were on hand for the parade and city-wide celebration.



The parade was held October 5.



Long Beach Mayor George Bass was among those celebrating the LBSD's top designation at the October 5 event.



The parade ended with a celebration at the Harper McCaughan Town Green Pavilion.

All photos by Toni Miles

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# The Levens CALB Legacy continues for 2023

By Toni Miles

Two Levens cousins will reign as king and queen of the upcoming 2023 Carnival Association of Long Beach's (CALB's) Royal Court. Michael Levens will serve as King Scott 63rd. His cousin Jenny Levens will reign by his side as Queen Rosalie 2023.

Jenny Levens is a familiar face in the Friendly City, as she was frequently seen speaking on behalf of the City in her past post as Community Affairs Director or as the past director of the Long Beach and Pass Christian Chambers of Commerce. A lifelong resident of Long Beach - and not yet forty - Jenny has been recognized locally and throughout the state for her community and business endeavors, including being named the *Mississippi Business Journal's* Top 50 Under 40 in 2018.

Her new role as Queen(-elect) Rosalie is uncharted territory, but she has quite the supporting cast beside her, including her husband Scott Brown, their two children and several family members who have served as royalty and as CALB queen in the past.

King(-elect) Scott 63rd and Queen(-elect) Rosalie 2023 are already off to an impressive start. More than two hundred people turned out to show their support and make donations to a local cause at a September 17 gathering and kickoff party for the Carnival season. Jenny's Aunt Margaret Levens made sure she hit up every attendee that night to purchase raffle tickets for the charitable cause.

"I enjoy doing whatever I can for the children, and I am good at asking for money for that reason," Margaret Levens says. "Anything and any time for a good cause, especially for children and a great education."

The Levens matriarch, Mary Levens, also a past queen, was also on hand at the event to show support.

"Mary Levens (known as Grandma Levens to mostly everyone in town and all our friends) is our Queen," Jenny says. "She is the matriarch of the Levens family - her original nine children and their spouses, grandchildren plus their spouses and her great-grandchildren. Our Grandma was born and raised in Long Beach. Our Grandfather grew up in Gulfport. They moved away for a couple of years, but Long Beach was always home."

Past Queen (Grandma) Mary Levens was joined by other relatives and past CALB royalty, including King Earl Levens and Queen Margaret Levens, to show their support at the kickoff party. Photos of them, as well as Queen Bernadette Levens Tolson, were on display. Though Bernadette's life was not a very long one, her impact on the family as a whole is long-lasting and far-reaching.

"Bernadette is our aunt," Jenny says. "She was the first royal member from the Levens family in CALB. She was twen-



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King(-elect) Scott 63rd, Michael Levens, second from left, and Queen(-elect) Rosalie 2023, Jenny Levens, second from right, pose between King(-elect) Christian XCIII Chris Boswell and Queen(-elect) Christiana 2023 Angelica Espinal of the St. Paul's Carnival Association at the CALB kickoff party in September.



ty-one when she reigned. We younger ones wish we had been around for Aunt Bernadette's reign as Queen, but we weren't born yet. She truly was one of the most beautiful Queens."

"Aunt Bernadette leaves behind a huge legacy with her three children Tricia, Tyler, Zachary, her loving husband Uncle Jimie T. and her favorite grandson Hayden," continues Jenny. "She was very involved in CALB over the years from donating, sponsoring and helping at events. She was a CPA and had a practice with our Grandma - she was very loved and respected. We miss her dearly and are honored to carry on the tradition she started."

Jenny will carry out that tradition this year alongside her cousin Michael Levens, King Scott 63rd.

"No one else I would rather have this experience with," Jenny says. "It is fun to share this with our spouses and kids."

The feeling is mutual, says Michael.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Photos, from left to right, of past Levens CALB royalty: Queen Bernadette Levens Tolson 1983, King Earl Levens 1993, Queen Mary Levens 2003 and Queen Margaret Levens 2013.

"It is a great honor to be chosen and have the opportunity to be King(-elect) Scott 63rd," Michael says. "It is awesome to work side-by-side with my cousin [Jenny] to raise money for local charities and be able to carry on the family legacy. It's going to be fun to have my son and daughter serve as pages around the same age that I was the page for my dad when he was the king. These are special family memories that we'll remember forever."

Michael is also a familiar face in the Friendly City. A lifelong resident of Long Beach, he, too, has garnered some impressive awards over the years, including the title of NAVO Civilian of the Year in 2019.

Michael began his career as a federal civil servant for the Naval Oceanographic Office at Stennis Space Center in 2008. He currently serves as a commissioner on the Long Beach City Planning and Development Commission. He and

his wife, Briana Travelbee Levens, live in Long Beach with their two children.

While the Levens family was not involved with CALB until the 1980s, Michael is well aware of the group's history and mission.

"Even though Long Beach did not have its first official Mardi Gras celebration until 1961, the spirit of the season was always present in the area," Michael says. "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."

That's how the Carnival Association of Long Beach started, and the Levens are actively continuing that mission, crediting a great team of supporters as they carry out the tradition of fundraising for the local community.

"I would like to reiterate that while we may be the royalty elect for 2022-2023, there are a lot of people supporting us and the CALB organization throughout the year, including our Team Captain, Ashleigh Seal, and the many people that make up Team Levens," Michael says. "We have a great team and look forward to working toward a great Carnival Season. Anyone who wants to come support CALB is welcome, and it's for a great cause."

"I am thrilled that our family is big enough and strong enough to carry on this tradition for King and Queen, but to have both in the same year is wonderful," Margaret Levens says. "I just wish that our biggest supporter of CALB in the family, Queen Rosalie Bernadette 1983, was here to see it in person; but I know she is watching from heaven."

"As King(-elect) and Queen(-elect), we [Michael and I] are looking forward to working with our team to complete the CALB mission of fundraising, but also to taking the time out to enjoy the many events we have planned and working to grow the organization," Jenny says.

Among these upcoming events are a Winter Tea Party, scheduled for Sunday, November 6, from 10 a.m. to noon at the St. Thomas Parrish Life Center, and a Fallin' for Fun Fest, set for Monday, November 14, along with 2023 events that include the CALB Ball on Friday, February 10, and the CALB Parade, set for Saturday, February 11. While there will be a theme and parade marshal, mum's the word, at least for now.

"Yes, there is a theme, but it is CALB's tradition to release that information until the day of the ball, so we are sworn to secrecy."

For more information about the events, visit [www.LongBeachCarnival.com](http://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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# Two LBHS students named National Merit Semifinalists

By Toni Miles

Long Beach High School seniors Jack Dean, IV, and Caleb Haber have been named National Merit Semifinalists.

Dean is the son of Danielle Powell (Glen) and Jack Dean III (Suzette). After high school, he plans to attend the University of South Alabama and pursue a computer engineering degree. His long-term goal is to become an accomplished computer engineer. He would like to go back to college and earn a bachelor's degree in business and work hard enough to earn a leadership role in a major computer company. After he retires, he would like to work for a smaller company doing some simple work until he retires for a second time.

When asked how Long Beach prepared him for the future, Dean said the teachers and staff helped him plan.

"The teachers have helped me find a job that fits my interest through numerous interest cluster tests that identify jobs that I would enjoy. The staff has helped me with attending Collegiate Academy and making the transition into going to

college much easier," Dean said.

Haber is the son of Jennifer Rhodes and Michael Haber. After high school, he plans to travel and attend college.

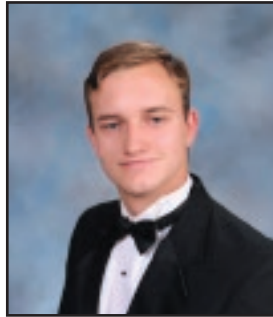
"I have things I wish to do. I have ideas of where I want to take my life. I wish to travel for college, potentially internationally, if I can," Haber said. "While my time in Long Beach has been fun, I believe that, to grow, I must leave and explore the world around me. I will always be grateful for the people I've met here and remember my time fondly."

Haber's long-term plans include studying internationally and eventually moving to another country. He wants to continue to grow and learn from other people around the world, believing that real knowledge, or wisdom, is a gift and the best way to gain that is to experience it himself. When asked how Long Beach schools have prepared him for the future, Haber said he appreciated all his teachers - and especially one who provided special guidance.

"Long Beach High School teachers and staff fostered an environment where



Special to Long Beach Breeze  
Caleb Haber



Special to Long Beach Breeze  
Jack Dean

I could explore myself and grow as a person. While I enjoyed all my classes and appreciate all my teachers, I especially want to highlight my theatre teacher, Mrs. Carrie Bellew, who is always there for her students. I do not think I would be the person I am today without her guidance. I hope one day that I can have the impact that she had on me."

The two Long Beach students were among the more than 16,000 Semifinalists named in the National Merit Scholarship Corporation's (NMSC) 68th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists represents less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors. They will now continue to compete for some 7,250 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million that will be offered in the spring of 2023.

High school juniors entered the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2021 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). The nationwide pool of Semifinalists includes the highest-scoring entrants from each state.

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

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## From our coast to Florida's: Gift card drive continues to help Hurricane Ian victims

By Toni Miles

Those of us who lived in South Mississippi when Hurricane Katrina struck back on August 29, 2005, know just how long and difficult it will be for those hardest-hit by Hurricane Ian to recover and rebuild.

I remember, as a sophomore reporter at a local TV news station, reporting on a major hurricane for the first time in my life, saying, "This storm is far from being over." That was in the wee hours of the morning of August 29, 2005, just before all of us local journalists sought cover at the television studio as Katrina unleashed her fury on us. Little did I know, at age 29, just how true these words would be.

Fast-forward seventeen years, and now it's our neighbors, primarily in southwest Florida, faced with the monumental and difficult challenge of trying to pick up the pieces of their shattered lives, homes and property to rebuild after Ian made landfall on Wednesday, September 28, 2022, a date that will forever be etched in their minds, as August 29, 2005, is in ours.

Long Beach Mayor George Bass remembers Katrina well. Bass was serving as Long Beach's Fire Chief when Hurricane Katrina hit. He says Central Fire Station was the only building left standing that could be used as a hub for emergency, rescue and recovery operations in the city in Katrina's aftermath. It was a



Toni Miles

The Long Beach shoreline and tattered remains of Highway 90 just after Katrina made landfall in 2005

heart-breaking, border-line hopeless situation, but Florida's first-responders and emergency workers brought our area a ray of light and committed themselves to providing us with much-needed help in our recovery.

"Everybody that was here for Katrina realizes the devastation we faced, the lost hope that we had," says Mayor Bass. "About five days after Katrina, I had a group come in from South Florida. They

came in and offered their help to us here in the City of Long Beach. Their first question was, 'What can we do to help you?'"

"I sat down, a little overwhelmed with everything that had gone on, and I told them what our immediate needs at that time were, and they said, 'We can meet those needs for you,' - and they did."

"This group that had come in from Florida - they were from the same area where Ian hit - I am talking about Punta

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**202 Alexander Road**

**Long Beach Fire Department No. 1 (Central Fire Station)**  
**645 Klondyke Road**

**Long Beach Fire Department Station No. 2**  
**120 East 2nd Street**

Gorda, Fort Myers, Port Charlotte and several other little towns right there that have been devastated, and we certainly know what devastation looks like when we recall Katrina," Mayor Bass said. "We need to pay this back for what was paid forward for us."

That's just what the City of Long Beach is doing, and you can help.

Mayor Bass, a few other City leaders and a firefighter made a trip to Fort My-

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*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

Post-Ian destruction in Punta Gorda, Florida, recently visited and assessed by Long Beach City leaders. Punta Gorda volunteers greatly helped the City of Long Beach after Katrina.



*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

Scenes of destruction from Fort Myers, Florida, after Hurricane Ian look eerily similar to Long Beach's devastation after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Emergency workers and first responders from Fort Myers were among the first on the scene to help the City of Long Beach after Katrina.



*Toni Miles*

Scene of post-Katrina destruction in Long Beach, Mississippi, just one day after the hurricane made landfall in 2005

ers and Punta Gorda, Florida, in early October, shortly after Ian's landfall, to assess the damage and needs there.

"Hopefully, we will be able to assist them and help them in their recovery, making it happen for them, as they made it happen for us," Mayor Bass said.

The City of Long Beach is collecting gift cards at the City's police and fire stations for those in Fort Myers, Punta Gorda and other devastated areas in south-

west Florida to assist in their recovery.

"What we're asking is \$25, whether it be a card to them or \$25 to Walmart. Sure, they're going to have to drive away from there to probably get to Walmart, just like we did, but those cards will help them to buy what their essentials are, what they really need. It will allow them to really catch their breath, and say, 'I've got hope,'" Mayor Bass says. "It's up to us to raise these funds and gift cards to go

down there and give them these stacks of cards. We had I don't how many different organizations come in with stacks of gift cards that we handed out to people after Katrina. They would come in and tell us what their needs were, and we'd say, 'Here, take this, these gift cards.' The goodness of somebody else's heart is provided by somebody else, and I think it's incumbent upon us to try to do this same thing."

Mayor Bass and other local leaders plan to make another trip to southwest Florida to deliver the donated gift cards.

"We'll be making other trips," Mayor Bass says. "We're hoping to be able to put together a coalition of our Coast workers here to maybe send them down there and reach out to these cities. They were here for the duration during our time of need; now it's our turn to give back and pay it forward."

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cont. from front page

# Long Beach School District ranked #1!



Toni Miles

Pictured are LBSD Superintendent Dr. Talia Lock and Michelle Kinsey with Mississippi Power at the Chamber's Education Q&A session.

did, this would not have happened. Our teachers work very hard, but they need that support, and they have had it throughout - and for that we are very thankful.”

Long Beach Alderman-at-Large Donald Frazer praised the hard work of the city's education workers and leaders on the day of the announcement, saying, “It's a great day to be a Bearcat! I couldn't be more proud of our schools. Under the leadership of Dr. Lock, all her teachers and staff, from the top to bottom - what a great team effort! Congratulations on being the top school district in the state - just another reason Long Beach is such a great place to live.”

In the Mississippi Department of Education's (MDE's) 2019 Accountability Results, the last ranking of school districts across the state prior to the pandemic, the LBSD had an “A” ranking and was thirteenth in the state.

Because traditional, in-person learning was suspended in March 2020, state-wide assessments were not administered for the 2019-2020 school year. During the 2020-2021 school year, state tests were administered, but assessments did not result in accountability rankings for districts.

LBSD has been rated an “A” for five consecutive years of accountability - 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2022.

As for the most recent rankings, all five of LBSD schools received an “A” rating.

Mississippi's school grading system considers several indicators, including how well students perform on state tests, whether students are showing improvement on those tests from year to year and whether students graduate in four years.

The system also factors in how well schools are helping their lowest achieving students and English learners make progress toward proficiency; whether students are participating in and performing well in accelerated coursework, such as Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) classes, and dual credit college courses; how students perform on the ACT; whether there are large differences between the achievement levels among students, especially students who receive additional educational services; and whether a school is performing above expectations.

The grades do not measure how well an individual student or teacher is doing or take into consideration other things the school may be doing well, such as meeting students' emotional/social or health needs or how well students are performing in other subject areas.

It's often said during the worst of times, the best leaders emerge. The unprecedented struggles and challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic proved no exception.

“Everybody knew we had to work hard,” said Dr. Lock. “They did not let any distractions get in their way. We were a team. As a district, we were heading in the same direction, which is to move students and to grow students. The pandemic did present a lot of challenges – teachers were in their rooms, trying to teach the

current skills, and they were constantly having to go back and see (in regards to the students' virtual learning) what did they need to do or make up, what they needed to get caught up on. They were constantly doing that, and then, when we had a little bit of normalcy, they just continued to push hard, even harder, to close those gaps. It paid off in a big way for them, for us.”

Dr. Lock shares the credit with not only the school district's teachers, faculty and administrators, but also praises the community as a whole. In 2018, Long Beach voters approved \$20 million in bond money to be invested in the district, including a new and improved cafeteria, gym and Performing Arts Center at the high school and district-wide security upgrades at Long Beach schools.

Dr. Lock says she knows the bar has been raised high, and these additions, plus those on the way, will better equip the district to maintain their standard of excellence.

“The students take pride in our new facilities,” Dr. Lock said. “Our teachers, our faculty and staff also have so much pride in these facilities, and now we know after our recent grand opening, our community is very proud of the investment they've made, and what we've spent the money on. We're looking forward to doing more great things – in the Performing Arts Center, in the new gym, in the classroom spaces and the new science labs, and maximizing what we can do for our students' continued success.”

Programs in the district continue to grow and expand. Reeves Elementary School launched a pre-K program this year. While a small fee is charged for students to sign up, district leaders are hoping to get to the point where the pre-K program can be offered for free.

Until December 31 of this year, Long Beach tax payers can designate their tax dollars to benefit the district's pre-K program through the Long Beach Early Learning Collaborative. Donations made to the Long Beach Early Learning Collaborative come back to donors as a credit on their tax return. To participate, contact Kelleigh Reynolds Broussard or Amber Geiser at LBSD, who will verify with the Mississippi Department of Education that the tax credit cap has not been reached for 2022.

“Every day, if you do what's right by the students, at the end of the day, you can say you did the best you know how to do, and you can lay your head on the pillow every night, knowing you did the best for the kids and the district,” Dr. Lock said.

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# Annual Sea Santa Sail-A-Bration set for Dec. 3



By Toni Miles

It's hard to believe Christmas is just around the corner, as well as some of the Coast's most popular holiday traditions and festivities, including the annual Long Beach Sea Santa Sail-A-Bration, which is scheduled for Saturday, December 3.

"The Long Beach Community Development Association is excited to host the annual Christmas parade, Sea Santa Sail-a-Bration," says Shelda Jones, President of the Long Beach Community Development Association. "It is family-oriented and the only waterless boat parade on the Coast."

The festivities will start at 5:45 p.m. with a waterless boat parade rolling down Jeff Davis Avenue, followed by festivities that will include games, a Christmas craft station, live music, a human snow globe and the annual lighting of the Christmas tree at the Harper McCaughan Town Green in Long Beach.

A source has also reported that Santa is expected to take time out of his busy schedule to meet with youngsters and take pictures with them at the event. It's an event the entire family can enjoy. An awards presentation for the best "floats" in the waterless boat parade will also be held.

Registration for the parade is underway. For more information, or to register, visit the Long Beach Community Development Association's Facebook page or [www.LongBeachCDA.com](http://www.LongBeachCDA.com).

# Junior Sailing Team brings home awards



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach Yacht Club Junior Sailing Team recently participated in the Back to School Regatta hosted by the Pontchartrain Yacht Club in Mandeville, Louisiana. Skipper Ella Lansford and crew Amelia Clark were first in the Club 420 class, with four first place finishes and one second place finish. Skipper AJ Johnson and crew Patrick Clark were seventh in the 420 class. Jonathan Mate was fourth in the Optimist single-hand Green fleet, with two second place finishes and one third place finish out of nine races. Hayden Senne was eighth in the Green fleet, and had two fourth place finishes and one fifth place finish among his races. It was the first regatta for Amelia Clark, Patrick Clark, Mate and Senne. Lansford (pictured center, right) and Amelia Clark (pictured center, left) were also part of the four-boat team that won the James Edwards Trophy for the Dinghy Cup Challenge.

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Photos by Ann Madden

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However, it's not just for businesses. Non-profit organizations who have W-2 employees may also be eligible.

## Why haven't I heard of it?

You've probably heard of PPP loans, but maybe not the ERC. Well, they come from the same legislation, but the ERC is not as well known due to previous uncertainty surrounding eligibility guidance. Now, with clearer guidance and professional help, your organization can receive the credit it has earned.

## → How do I get the ERC?

To get the ERC, you must amend your previously filed quarterly tax returns for tax years 2020 and 2021. Our firm can help you achieve this and maximize your ERC. We will also provide you a comprehensive claims package which details your eligibility, and we will stand by our work, giving you peace of mind.

## → Is my organization eligible?

Eligibility for the ERC is based on both numbers and facts associated with how your business was impacted by the pandemic. We would be happy to schedule a free, no obligation meeting to discuss your eligibility.

## → There's still time!

The IRS generally provides three years from when you originally filed to amend your tax returns and claim the credit!

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## Books and characters to come to life at Library's Fall Fantasy Faire

By Toni Miles

Favorite books and fantasy characters will come to life, and attendees can even dress up like their own heroes at the Long Beach Library's Fall Fantasy Faire, set for Saturday, November 19, at Long Beach's Harper McCaughan Green from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is a library fundraiser and is being put on by The Friends of the Long Beach Public Library to help raise Capital Improvement Funds for the library.

The whole family can enjoy music, vendors, demonstrations, games and magical activities, and everyone can dress as their favorite fantasy character and participate in a fashion show. Game booth and raffle tickets are on sale now at the library. The library itself will be closed on November 19 during the Fall Fantasy Faire.

Volunteers and vendors for the Fall Fantasy Faire have a logistics meeting scheduled for November 5 at 1 p.m. Silent auction or raffle ticket items being donated need to be in by November 10, so that individuals and businesses can be properly credited.

Meanwhile, the Friends of the Long Beach Public Library have a meeting scheduled for Monday, November 14, at 1 p.m.

As for the holiday schedule for November, the library will be closed Friday, November 11, through Saturday, November 12, for Veteran's Day and will reopen Monday, November 28, at 9 a.m. The library will be closed Wednesday, November 23, through Saturday, November 26, and will reopen on Monday, November 28, at 9 a.m.

For more information about the Fall Fantasy Faire, to sign up as a vendor, or to volunteer to help, call the library at 228-863-0711.



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# Schmitt and Suthoff named LBHS Homecoming royalty



*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

The Long Beach School District recently celebrated their Homecoming and crowned Bailee Schmitt their 2022 LBHS Homecoming Queen and Clint Suthoff as their 2022 LBHS Homecoming King.



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# Find the perfect pumpkin at the beach

A beachfront pumpkin patch? Your eyes are not deceiving you! There's a perfect pumpkin for everyone at Trinity Episcopal Church's Pumpkin Patch in Pass Christian. The pumpkin patch comes around every year and is perched across from the beach, north of Highway 90 near the border of Long Beach and Pass Christian. People have already turned out in droves to pick out the perfect pumpkin for Halloween and the coast's upcoming fall holidays and festivities!



## 26<sup>th</sup> Holiday Boutique

Fri., Nov. 4: 10 - 5  
Sat., Nov. 5: 10 - 4

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## PCYC LADIES AUXILIARY HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE MOVED UP TO NOV. 4 & 5

*Features Book Signing by State's Former First Lady Julie Hines Mabus*

For the first time in 26 years, the Pass Christian Yacht Club's Ladies Auxiliary will host the very popular Annual Holiday Boutique on the **first** weekend of November, Friday, Nov. 4 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 5, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., at the West Harrison Civic Center in Long Beach, MS. Among new offerings, this year, are make-your-own candles, handcrafted resin items that capture your special memories, handmade jewelry pieces that incorporate personal photographs, luxe pajamas and caftans, and handstitched quilts.

Other firsts for this year are a performance by the PCHS Choir on Nov. 4 and Children's Holiday Story Time on Nov. 5 featuring a book reading by Dr. Lanny Acosta. Also on Nov. 5, Santa Claus will drop by for a visit and photos beginning at 11 a.m. At noon on the 5<sup>th</sup>, the former first lady of Mississippi, Julie Hines Mabus, will sign copies of her recent book *Confessions of a Southern Beauty Queen*.

Vendors include: Art & Found Around, Ashley's Home Cooking, Becky's Creations, Bling Things, Bolli's, Cabi on the Coast, Chicas Artistas, Designs by Linda, Elizabeth Veglia, Fairee Designs, High Tide Coastal Creations, Holiday Blooms, Home Tweet Home, JoAnn's Gifts, Julie Boudreaux, Kitsie's Kitchen, KL Resinworks, Loup Limited Wood & Glass, Lynn Bonge Artist, Micey Moyer Artist, Midtown Pharmacy & Gifts, NOLA in Stitches, Pass Christian Books, Peace by Piece Quilt Shop, Rustic Candle Bar, Wire Jewelry by Sue and others.



# Full throttle: Thousands line the streets for Cruisin' the Coast parade

Thousands of people lined the streets of downtown Long Beach on Monday, October 3, for the city's annual Cruisin' the Coast parade. Dozens of classic cars, trucks and vehicles rolled down the parade route on a picture-perfect day.

Young and old alike competed to catch beads, teddy bears and other throws. Officials said this year's turnout was the biggest to date. The Tip Tops played in the foreground of the setting sun at the Long Beach Harbor as the festivities wrapped at the end of the parade route during the 26th Annual Cruisin' the Coast event in South Mississippi.

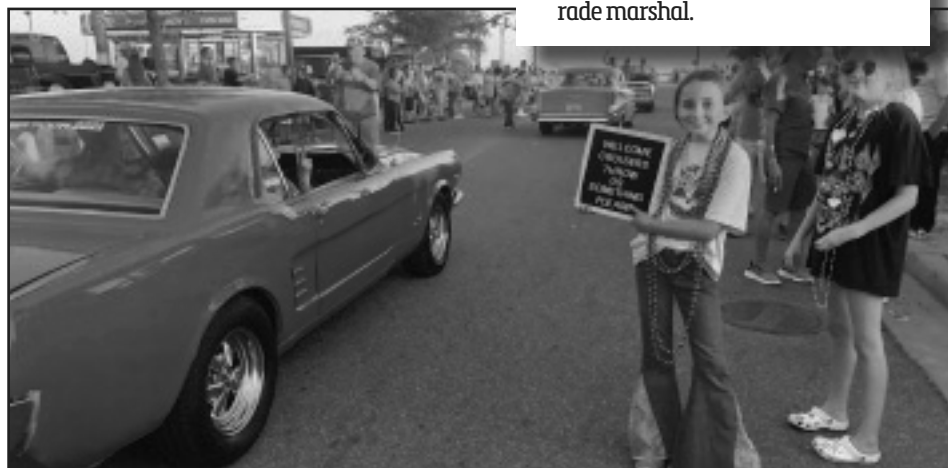
National TV show host and car enthusiast Cristy Lee served as parade marshal.

All photos by Toni Miles

Thousands lined the streets of downtown Long Beach for the city's annual Cruisin' the Coast Parade.



The sun set as the Tip Tops took to the stage to provide live entertainment after the parade.



Marli Middleton was ready with her sign for this year's parade.

## Reed follows culinary passion in summer experience

Special to Long Beach Breeze

This past summer, Aniyah A. Reed, a senior at Long Beach High School, joined outstanding high school students from across the nation to take part in a unique academic and career oriented development experience, The Culinary Institute of America Culinary Academy, in San Antonio, Texas.

The Culinary Institute of America Culinary Academy is one of the Envision by WorldStrides family of programs that enables students to explore their interests and experience learning beyond the classroom.

Reed says she has always dreamed of becoming a chef with an artistic style. She has been accepted to seven art and design schools so far and is looking forward to having the opportunity to experience one of the institutes that she has held dear ever since she was in the sixth grade. Reed loves to draw and create anime characters, along with creating cuisine inspired by the different attributes of the characters' personalities.

"As an alumna of Envision myself, I am excited for Aniyah A. Reed to meet, work, and collaborate with other high-achieving students from across the country and the globe," said Amanda Freitag Thomas, SVP for Envision, ahead of Reed arriving for the program. "Hands down, my favorite part of attending an Envision program was being with motivated students in an environment designed to help us challenge our assumptions, meet new people, and grow. Creating that same learning environment is a central focus for all of our programs. At The Culinary Institute of America Culinary Academy, students build the confidence and skills needed to excel at college and in the workplace. They learn how to adapt to and communicate in new situations, to new challenges, and with new people, which, given how rapidly the world is changing due to technology and innovation, are essential skills for success."

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# THE PASS POST

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## Pass Christian fishing crews ranked best in South

By Toni Miles

Pass Christian’s fishing crews are the best in the South, according to a recent finding by FishingBooker, America’s largest platform for scheduling fishing trips.

Charter fishing crews in the Pass hold an average of five out of five stars in FishingBooker customer reviews, and Pass Christian edged out other destinations, including Coral Gables, Florida, New Orleans and Austin, Texas, for the top spot. According to reviews, it was the Pass fishing crews’ flexibility, friendliness and skill that landed them number one in the United States south.

“We have a world class fishery here. We have some of the best captains in the Gulf of Mexico that all fish right out of here,” says Captain Ronnie Daniels, Charter Boat Commissioner for the State of Mississippi and the owner and operator of the Fisherman Guide Service, one of several charter boat businesses housed at the new Shaggy’s Charter Docks in the Pass Christian Harbor.

Captain Daniels says business has been good, despite challenges such as higher gas prices and storms.

In fact, the owners of Shaggy’s at the Pass Christian Harbor saw a silver lining after Hurricane Zeta for their business and local fishing crews and captains.

“A few years ago, in the wake of Hurricane Zeta, we set out with an ambitious plan to create more energy in the Pass Christian Harbor,” says Rimmer Covington, Jr., CEO and Owner of Shaggy’s Restaurants. “We needed more space to accommodate our guests, and the local charter fleet needed a new place to call home. We partnered with the best charter boat captains in the area to create Shaggy’s Charter Docks with one vision: to build a world-class venue and showcase Pass Harbor’s fishery and captains. It’s especially



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Captain Ronnie Daniels and his son Hank pose at Shaggy’s Charter Docks, where Daniels’ charter boat fishing business is now housed.

gratifying to see these captains get the recognition that they deserve, because there’s no doubt they’ve earned it.”

Like the rising tide, area businesses see increased revenues, as more charter boat fishing trips are booked.

“We don’t only have fishing here. We also have a boat running off of this dock that does sunset cruises, dolphin tours, island trips – absolutely family-friendly,” Captain Daniels says.



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## Pass Christian sea turtle eggs not viable



*Special to The Pass Post*

IMMS workers assessed the nest in mid-October to check on the status of the sea turtle eggs.

By Toni Miles

After more than two months of anticipation, crews with the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies (IMMS) say they are saddened over the failure of one hundred thirty-two sea turtle eggs to provide new life, but they remain positive about what the nest means overall for the area and environment.

“Sea turtle eggs typically incubate fifty to sixty days before hatching,” says Theresa Madrigal, IMMS’s stranding coordinator. “As that time came and went, our staff became concerned that the nest in Pass Christian was not viable, as there were no signs of hatching during that critical period.”

After Harrison County Sand Beach workers discovered and reported mainland Mississippi’s first sea turtle nest since 2018, IMMS workers guarded the nest and monitored its progress until the decision was made in mid-October to excavate it.

“Following our permit guidelines with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, our staff had to wait until at least seventy days after the eggs were laid before digging into the nest,” Madrigal says. “As such, we conducted what is called an excavation. The purpose of this is to determine how many eggs were laid and what occurred during the development of the eggs. We determined there were one hundred thirty-two eggs, and none of them showed any signs of embryonic development. As we suspected, the eggs were not viable.”

IMMS will complete a genetics study to determine the species of eggs, which they initially believe to be loggerhead.

But it’s not all bad news.

“Though it is a sad outcome for our staff and the community, it is important to note the implications of having a sea turtle nest on our mainland beaches,” Madrigal says. “Sea turtles maintain site fidelity to where they hatched. This means that the turtle that nested here was likely born here and will continue to nest in the future. Also of importance is that an individual sea turtle will typically lay multiple nests in one season. As such, this turtle may very well have nested somewhere else in Mississippi.”

“IMMS was involved in monitoring some nests on the barrier islands in partnership with National Park Service, Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Vittor and Associates,” Madrigal says. “Our efforts were part of an ongoing study looking at the restoration efforts done by these groups to reconnect East Ship and West Ship Islands. During our efforts this summer, we located five nests. One of these was an endangered Kemp’s Ridley, which is extremely rare and exciting. Three nests were successful.”

And there’s still much to be learned.

“IMMS will be conducting a genetics study from all of these nests to determine a variety of factors that will contribute to the overall understanding of how sea turtles utilize Mississippi coastlines to nest and the overall conservation of sea turtles in our area,” Madrigal says.



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# Pass Police Department plans annual Trunk or Treat

Special to The Pass Post

The Pass Christian Police Department's annual Trunk or Treat event will be held Friday, October 28, from 5 until 7 p.m. at the ball-field on Fleitas Avenue. The pedestrian entrance for the event will be at Fleitas Avenue and Second Street.



The department is accepting candy donations, and volunteers are also needed to provide trunks and assistance for the event. Candy donations can be dropped off at the Police Department at 525 Espy Avenue.

For more information or to volunteer with a trunk or to provide other assistance, contact Sue at 228-452-3327, ext. 110.

# Pirate Palooza set for Nov. 7

## Pirate PALOOZA

Special to The Pass Post

Pass Christian High School's Pirate Palooza is back for 2022.

Pass High will be hosting Pirate Palooza on Monday, November 7, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. in the Pass Christian High School Commons and gym. This year's activities will include a chili cook-off, talent show, silent auction, local vendors, cake auction, bake sale, and a tribute to Veterans.



The evening will begin with a salute to veterans, who will be admitted free of charge. The chili cook-off will consist of around twenty-five different chili recipes to sample from local sponsors. The talent show will showcase students' talents and celebrate their achievements. Finally,

there will be a silent auction with items from businesses along the Gulf Coast.

Admission to the event is \$7, and all proceeds will go to Pass Christian High School's Renaissance program.

The Renaissance program promotes student achievement, teacher effectiveness, parent support, and community awareness of an attitude of excellence at Pass Christian High School. Renaissance works to create and sustain an environment where academic achievement is expected, nurtured and celebrated through a program of reinforcement, recognition and reward.

To become a Pirate Palooza sponsor, donate a silent auction item or enter a chili team, contact the school office at 228-452-2008.

# Coburn celebrates expansion project



Special to The Pass Post

Coburn Supply Company recently celebrated their facility's expansion project with a ribbon cutting. Representing the City was Mayor Jimmy Rafferty, Community Affairs Director Susan Putnam, Ward 1 Alderman Betty Sparkman and Harbormaster Russell Holliman, Jr.

# Library named in memory of Susan Hughes



Special to The Pass Post

St. Vincent dePaul Catholic School recently named their school library in memory the school's very first librarian, Susan Hughes, who passed away earlier this year. A plaque with Hughes' photograph has been placed in front of the library, which is now called "The Susan Hughes Memorial Library." After Katrina washed away St. Thomas and St. Paul in 2005, Hughes was the librarian in the "skating rink school." She put shelves together, collected books, and made sure the students of St. Thomas-St. Paul had books to read and to check out. When construction began on the new St. Vincent dePaul school, Hughes applied for and was awarded the Laura Bush Library Grant in the amount of \$25,000, which bought a lot of books and other library necessities. Hughes' family and friends were invited to attend the school Mass and then walk back to school for the unveiling of the plaque. Pictured (l to r) are St. Vincent DePaul Principal Carol Church, Greyson Hughes, Robin Hughes, Robert Hughes, Matt Hughes, Jett Hughes and former principal Elizabeth Fortenberry.

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# Long Beach concert series wraps with Starz

By Toni Miles

The Finally First Friday Long Beach Live 2022 Concert Series has wrapped this year with entertainment by Starz. The band took the stage the night of Friday, October 7, at the Harper McCaughan Town Green Pavilion, ending the City of Long Beach's popular concert series for 2022 on a high note.



Photo by Jacob Saucier



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