

May 2023 • Volume 7, Number 5 • "Good News You Can Use"

Long Beach on track to be first in Mississippi to provide Safe Haven baby box

By Toni Miles

After clearing several legal hurdles, Long Beach is set to make history as the first city in the state of Mississippi to provide help and safe harbor for newborns in the area through the use of a Safe Haven baby box (SHBB). Baby boxes are being used throughout the nation to provide a safe place for people to anonymously surrender newborns they are unable to care for.

After Long Beach aldermen approved an agreement with SHBB at their February 21 meeting, City leaders finalized and signed a contract with SHBB on Friday, March 24. The new ordinance allows for infants to be legally surrendered by a parent and clears the way for installation and use of the baby box in Long Beach.

Local resident Caitlin Kelly, a nurse who has also fostered and adopted children herself, is the driving force behind South Mississippi's SHBB program.



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"The baby box will be the first of its kind in Mississippi. This first box will be located in Central Fire Station on Klondyke Road," Kelly says. "We are in the process now of raising funds."

Kelly says once the funds are met, it could take three to four months for the box to be made and then installed, so it's very feasible that the state's first baby box will be operating in the Friendly City before the end of this year.

As for how baby boxes work, Kelly says, "The box itself is located inside a fire station, police station



Safe Haven Baby Boxes' mission is to prevent illegal abandonment of newborns by raising awareness, offering a 24-hour hotline for mothers in crisis, and offering the Safe Haven Baby Boxes as a last resort option for women who want to maintain complete anonymity.

**866-99BABY1
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or hospital. It contains a silent alarm that activates as soon as the mother or parent opens the box. A second sensor activates once the infant is laid into the medical-grade bassinet. EMS/911 dispatch is activated upon the box opening. Once the child is obtained by EMS, they will go to the local hospital, where the child will be medically evaluated. At this time, Child Protection Services is contacted, and measures are then taken to proceed with adoptive placement."

Kelly says there are one hundred forty boxes throughout the United States, as well as a hotline that is manned twenty-four hours a day to support and assist those in crisis.

"The number one way to let women know of this Safe Haven option is by raising awareness that the hotline exists, as well as the box, which is a last resort," says Kelly.

The hotline number is 866-99BABY1 (866-992-2291).

Long Beach Ward 6 Alderman Pete

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USM gets \$2.5 million for Gulf Park Campus

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The University of Southern Mississippi's (USM) Gulf Park Campus is about to get an upgrade, precisely a \$2.5 million upgrade, thanks to Mississippi lawmakers.

The grant comes from a bill that will award \$50 million in BP settlement funds to various Mississippi Gulf Coast counties. Senate Bill 3047 was passed in both chambers on March 27 and now heads to Gov. Tate Reeves' desk for a signature.

Dr. Westley Follett, who is serving as the interim director for the School of Coastal Resilience at USM, says he is elated with this new endeavor for the Long Beach campus.

"We are enormously grateful and thrilled beyond words to receive this



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Pictured in the Gulf Park Campus film room are Dr. Shannon Campbell (left), who serves as Senior Associate Vice President for Coastal Operations, and USM President Dr. Joseph Paul (right).

grant," said Follett. "It will be transformative, for our students and faculty, for the Gulf Park campus, and for our coastal communities. The Center of Excellence that this grant will establish will further position USM as the premier location in Mississippi and the Gulf Coast region for film education and expertise."

The USM Visualization and Digital Multimedia Center of Excellence will work together with the Film Studies and Production program in the School of Coastal Resilience. The center aims to promote a better understanding of the oceans, coasts, and the Blue Economy that they sustain. One of the overarching goals is to enhance creativity in students through film studies and to prepare USM students for high-demand occupations in careers

like coastal research.

Associate Professor of Film Vincenzo Mistretta said this new center will provide greater opportunity for USM students.

"The film program at Southern Miss' Gulf Park campus is designed to immerse students in the study and practice of film as an expressive and professional art form," said Mistretta. "The new center will expand our ability to offer creative storytelling capabilities through experiential learning. Deeply rooted within the diverse environment of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the USM film program provides a platform where students can cultivate intellectual development and creativity to help transform their community. The

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Register now for Long Beach Library summer reading program

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn, LBPL Youth and Technology Services

With May just around the corner, families will soon be looking for something to do over the summer. The library continues its preschool story time through the summer twice a week and offers a summer reading program that is free and requires nothing more than registration and participation. Having a library card with the library helps, and it offers games and activities, eBooks for the whole family, or the chance to just pick up that favorite summer book and share it with your child.

As I mentioned last month, online registration for the library's summer reading program will begin Wednesday, May 1, and ends May 31.



Visit the library's website (www.LongBeach.lib.ms.us), and click on the bright orange "Click here..." button. This year, our planning went into programs and activities that the family would enjoy doing together. We have used some from the past that were family favorites - and added a few new ones. We have several guests coming to visit, so, when you register, make sure to place a check in the box if you think you and your family will be in attendance, as this helps our visitors know how many to plan for, as well.

A schedule will be made available for both preschool story time and all family programs soon, and a link is provided when you register your family members. Each member of your family who will be attending programs will need to register.

Also new this year, we are trying out morning programs for all programming. With the exception of one program this summer, all programs will begin at 10:30 a.m. Some will last an hour; there are others in which we will allow more time to complete.

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

The book sale will continue through May. Remember, it is open only on Saturdays beginning at 9 a.m. Prices are ten cents each for magazines, twenty-five cents each for paperbacks, and fifty cents each for hardbacks, audiobooks and movies.

There are no meetings scheduled in May for the Long Beach Board of Trustees or the Friends of the Long Beach Public Library.

The library will be closed from Saturday, May 27, through Monday, May 29, for Memorial Day.

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

STUCO members attend leadership conference



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Student Council members from Harper McCaughan and Long Beach Middle School recently attended the Mississippi State Association of Student Councils Leadership Conference at Jones Junior College in Ellisville. Students participated in breakout and networking sessions after listening to two motivational guest speakers.



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Long Beach Fire Department adds new fire truck to its fleet



Toni Miles

A newly-purchased fire truck for the Long Beach Fire Department, on display at City Hall.

By Toni Miles

The Long Beach Fire Department has added a brand-new fire truck to its fleet. The state-of-the-art fire truck was on display outside of Long Beach City Hall during the March 4 Board of Aldermen meeting for residents to check out. The Board unanimously voted to



Toni Miles

Fire Station #3 is set to be built at this leveled site on Johnson Road in west Long Beach near the Industrial Complex.

authorize financing and purchase of the new fire truck after a recommendation by City Comptroller Kini Gonsoulin. On March 16, City leaders approved a transfer of \$10,000 from the City's proposed 2023 Paving Budget to Public Works' Asphalt Budget to go towards purchase of this new fire truck, which will enhance the fire

department's timely and effective response to fires and other emergencies within the city.

Meanwhile, plans are still underway for the construction of a new fire station, Fire Station #3, set to be built on Johnson Road near the Industrial Complex in west Harrison County. Bids for the project are currently underway.

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Long Beach revving up for 5th annual Jeepin the Coast

By Toni Miles

Ready, set, let's roll! Jeepin the Coast is just around the corner, with on-site registration pickup set for Wednesday, May 31, from 3 to 7 p.m. at Jeep Central, located in the heart of downtown Long Beach at 506 Jeff Davis Avenue.

This marks the fifth year for Jeepin the Coast (JTC), which will roll on until Sunday, June 4. During the five-day event, thousands of Jeep owners and enthusiasts from across the nation will be cruising the streets and beaches of South Mississippi. While this year's JTC events are spread out among several coast cities, including Pass Christian, Bay St. Louis and Gulfport, most of the action and main events will take place in Long Beach.

Registered Jeeps will pick up their swag bags, including their cards for the JTC Scavenger Hunt, on Wednesday, May 31, at Jeep Central. A kickoff party will follow at 5 p.m. in Pass Christian at 200 Davis Avenue, where live entertainment will be provided by Aaron Foret until 8 p.m.

Registration continues Thursday, June 1, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Jeep Central, as the Scavenger Hunt continues. There will also be a silent auction and the sale of Jeep raffle tickets for a drawing on Saturday, June 3, at 6 p.m. Thursday's events will wrap up with live music by Ryan Foret & Foret Tra-



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JTC's Vendor Village will be set up for shoppers and souvenir seekers on Jeff Davis Avenue.

ditions from 6 to 9 p.m. at Sully's, located at 1316 30th Avenue in Gulfport. At 8:30 p.m., a light and sound competition called "Lightin the Night" and "Shakin the Streets" will be on display at Sully's. An after party with live entertainment will follow at 10 p.m. at Tripletails on Beach Boulevard in Bay St. Louis.

Registration and swag bag pickups will continue on Friday, June 2, at Jeep Central. Vendor

Village will be open for shoppers and souvenir seekers from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Jeep Central on Jeff Davis Avenue in Long Beach.

The Poker Run begins Friday at 10:30 a.m. as the JTC Beach Crawl rolls out from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jeeps who wish to cruise the sandy beaches of Long Beach during the Beach Crawl can find entry signs for the event at the

intersection of Trautman Avenue and

Highway 90 in Long Beach.

Also on Friday, the Show & Shine Jeep Show will take place in downtown Long Beach, near Vendor Village, from 2 to 4 p.m. The 3C Band will put on a concert from 7 to 11 p.m. Friday night at Jeep Central. There will be a fireworks show on the beach near Jeep Central at 8:30 p.m. in Long Beach, followed by an after party with live entertainment at Tripletails in Bay St. Louis at 10 p.m.

Registration and swag bag pickup will continue from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, June 3, which is day four of the event. Vendor Village will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Jeep Central as the Scavenger Hunt continues. Saturday's Beach Crawl will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Participating Jeeps should look for entry signs at Trautman Avenue and Highway 90 in Long Beach for the JTC Beach Crawl.

Poker Run cards must be turned in on Saturday at Jeep Central's registration tent between 2 and 4 p.m. Winners will be called on their cell phones to report back to the registration tent.

One of the main highlights of the five-day event, the JTC Parade, will roll out at 6 p.m. on Saturday. Participants are reminded to bring beads, as this is a Mardi Gras-style parade that will roll down the streets of the Friend-

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Meet Your Neighbor: Tireless volunteers give from the heart

By Marilou D. Horton

Through a charity group page on social media, Georgia native Christy Whited and Heather Saab-Crotzer of Alabama formed an immediate bond five years ago. The two residents of Long Beach for less than eight years are now inseparable and known around the Coast for being the ultimate volunteers.

Long Beach resident Rosie Paugh Hanson described the duo as selfless volunteers and shoppers for fundraisers.

"The list is long, but, when they run as a team, they get done what needs to be done," Hanson said. "Long Beach is fortunate to have them. They are involved in the schools, Camp Awesome, the Humane Society, and our local gifting groups, to name a few."

Together, Whited and Saab-Crotzer donate their time as athletic boosters, spearhead food drives for needy families, and organize (and lead) fundraisers for various non-profit groups. The ladies are involved in Camp Awesome, Sleepy Head LLC, and are administrators for five different Facebook pages. Their participation includes a Santa Stop, book fairs, assembling Easter baskets, and assisting heavily in a summer food program.

A few of the ladies' pet projects involve providing a merrier Christmas for many children in Long Beach by anonymous gift-giving and also raising money for the Long Beach School District's upper elementary school through an annual Spring Fling. This year's spring event, complete with games, food and visits from the local fire department, sheriff's office and the mobile command unit, was held on March 31.

As Saab-Crotzer wrapped up the school's annual spectacular, Whited completed annual funding raising for Camp Awesome. Whited explained that the special needs camp, the brainchild of Honey Leblanc, is staffed entirely by volunteers and includes two sessions - one for children under thirteen, and another for adults. Attendees are paired with a personal counselor who accompanies them to activities such as swimming, a casino night, an evening of painting, makeup sessions and a spa night. Whited and others on her team have been responsible for raising money to make the camp possible and fund the various activities.

The next project and fundraiser for the duo is Sleepy Heads Inc. The non-profit

organization, the ladies said, is dedicated to helping people with narcolepsy and other severe sleep disorders get the rest they need. Sleepy Heads' mission is to donate beds to those who need them, and the ladies are planning a benefit drawdown and silent auction on Saturday, September 9, at the Long Beach Activity Center. Doors will open at 7 p.m., and tickets, which include a meal, are \$40. The Stephens Brothers will provide live entertainment, and there will be a \$2,500 prize. The public is invited and must be 21+ to attend.

Even with all they have on their plates, the volunteers spend hours serving the Long Beach School District, also. Though Saab-Crotzer no longer has a child enrolled in the school district, she is both a track and football booster for the Long Beach Middle School and Harper McCaughan Elementary School PTOs, as is Whited.

"I have been on the PTO since my daughter was in kindergarten, and now she is twenty-three," Saab-Crotzer explained. "I didn't want her to go to school without me, so I just stayed when I went to school that first day to drop her off. I started in the parking lot, and one day they let me inside," she joked.

As exhausting as it is, the ladies also run concessions for the sports teams on Monday, Thursday and Friday nights. Whited does all the ordering of each event's snacks, drinks and food items. Regarding social media, both ladies serve as administrators on the Facebook pages for Long Beach High School football, Harper McCaughan Elementary School, Long Beach Middle School and Long Beach Neighbors.

With the ladies immersed in so many activities, it can be challenging to list each one. To outsiders, it may appear exhausting, but the two women say they love every minute of it. Both noted, however, that additional involvement is needed within the community.

"Volunteers are on a decline; we are struggling right now. Parents don't realize that participating in the event might require only an hour." Whited stressed it is optional for an interested volunteer to have a child on track, football, soccer, or any other team in order to help.

"It's great doing what we do," Saab-Crotzer said. "The students are appreciative, and it is so rewarding to provide for them." As both headed out to pick up supplies for their next event, the Long Beach ladies noted they wouldn't have it any other way.



Marilou Horton

Long Beach residents Heather Saab-Crotzer (left) and Christy Whited (right)

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Scouts achieve Eagle Scout rank

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach Scouts Caleb Solangi and Hayes Johnson, III recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout.

As life-long members of the Long Beach community, both Solangi and Johnson started their Scouting journey together as first graders in the Tiger Den in Long Beach's Cub Scout Pack 321. After they earned the Arrow of Light achievement, they crossed over into Long Beach's Boy Scout Troop 205, where they have attended weekly meetings in the Scout Hut, gone on monthly campouts, earned rank, completed merit badges, attended summer and winter camps, gone white water rafting, camped in caves, hiked, backpacked, learned survival skills, canoed, and even welded.

Eagle Scout is the highest and most difficult rank that can be achieved by a Scout in the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Since its establishment in 1911, less than six percent of Scouts have earned this award, which requires the Scout to earn at least twenty-two merit badges, maintain leadership positions, provide community service and complete an Eagle Scout Project that will benefit the citizens of the community.

Solangi has earned thirty-five merit badges, and his Eagle Scout Project was to install a trailhead sign for the walking trail at the Long Beach Activity Center. The sign includes a map of the trail and landmarks, as well as safety information and guidelines for walkers and pet owners. Solangi worked with graphic designers to execute his vision for the sign, consulted with construction experts on the structure itself, and worked with his team to put it all together. After graduating from Long Beach High School, Solangi plans to attend Millsaps College in Jackson, where he will be majoring in biochem-



Eagle Scouts Caleb Solangi (left) and Hayes Johnson (right)



All photos Special to Long Beach Breeze



Members of Boy Scouts of America Troop 205 are shown with now-Eagle Scout Hayes Johnson's sandbag funnels project, which was donated to the City of Long Beach.

istry, with the intent of going to medical school. He will also be a member of the Millsaps Majors' tennis team.

Johnson has earned twenty-nine merit badges, and his Eagle Scout Project was to build multiple sandbag filling systems to expedite the filling process for storm sandbags. For many citizens, the process of filling sandbags ahead of a tropical storm or hurricane can be difficult to impossible without help. Hundreds of sandbags are filled within days - and even hours - of the storm's impact. Johnson's devices have been provided to the City of Long Beach to be placed alongside the sand piles on the eve of a

storm, to help people who are preparing for a possible inclement weather event. After graduating from Long Beach High School, Johnson plans to attend Mississippi State University in Starkville, where he will be majoring in political science, with the intent of going to law school. He will also be a member of the Mississippi State band.

In late March, both Solangi and Johnson were honored at their Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony, which was held at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Long Beach.

For more information about Troop 205, visit www.LBMSScouts.org.



Caleb Solangi's Eagle Scout project, installing a trailhead sign for the walking trail at the Long Beach Activity Center, provides walkers with a map of the trail and its landmarks, as well as safety information and guidelines for use.



Local Boys State and Girls State delegates selected

Special to Long Beach Breeze

American Legion Post 1995 recently named local students as Boys State and Girls State delegates, as well as recognized outstanding local educators. Representatives from the organization presented recognitions at Long Beach High School and Pass Christian High School.

Through its youth programs, the American Legion plays a leading role in the development of today's informed and responsible citizens.

The American Legion Boys State and the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State programs bring together dynamic youth for an intense week of leadership, patriotism and community enlightenment. Delegates to the

programs, which are held separately, learn how City, County, and State governments function by emulating and performing those offices themselves.

Eligible delegates must be juniors in high school and possess a high level of academic skills. This allows the students to return from their respective summer program with the opportunity to apply their practical experience in government to their senior year of high school. The programs also cultivate the seeds of patriotism and instill a deep care about the future of America, but also can serve to help prepare students for a career in public service or politics.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Rising juniors from Long Beach High School were selected by their career counselor to attend the American Legion Boys State summer program as delegates. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Delegate Luke Dulaney, Delegate Jared Smith, Delegate Shane Walker and LBHS Principal Justin Sutton; and back row: LBHS counselor Connie Tucker, and Ray Chavaree, Mike Griffioen and Wendy Griffioen, all of American Legion Post 1995.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Rising juniors from Long Beach High School were selected by their career counselor to attend the American Legion Girls State summer program as delegates. Pictured (l to r) are: LBHS Principal Justin Sutton, Delegate Chloe Gordon, Delegate Secilia Gundlach, Delegate Arlene Nguyen, Delegate Gracey Saddler and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1995 member Margaret Levens. Not pictured is Delegate Hannah Hartley.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Rising juniors from Pass Christian High School were selected by their career counselor to attend the American Legion Boys State summer program as delegates. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: counselor Paige Cobb, Delegate Trevor Terrell, Delegate Gage Stevison-Trapani, Delegate Micah McKay and counselor Emily Snell; and back row: Ray Chavaree, Wendy Griffioen and Mike Griffioen, all of American Legion Post 1995.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Rising juniors from Pass Christian High School were selected by their career counselor to attend the American Legion Girls State summer program as delegates. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Delegate Lillian Tinsley, Delegate Pejah Lloyd and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1995 member Margaret Levens; and back row: Ray Chavaree, Wendy Griffioen and Mike Griffioen, all of American Legion Post 1995.

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Photos by Ann Madden

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Sheriff, other county races before voters this summer, fall

By Toni Miles

Mississippi voters, including those in Long Beach and Pass Christian, will be heading to the polls to cast their ballots in upcoming state and county races.

While the General Election date is set for Tuesday, November 7, some races, including the race for Harrison County Sheriff, will be decided in the August 8 primaries. The qualifying deadline was February 1.

Two Republicans, Louis N. Elias and Matt Haley, are running to be Harrison County's next sheriff, taking the place of current Sheriff Troy Peterson, who has served two terms and is not seeking a third, retiring after serving thirty years with the Harrison County Sheriff's Office. He will serve out the rest of his term until 2024, when they newly-elected sheriff will take office.

Several Harrison County Board of Supervisor positions will also be decided during the August primaries. Republicans Dan Cuevas and Beverly Martin (incumbent) and Dan Cuevas are running for District 1 Supervisor. Two Republicans, John L. Hoggatt and Rebecca Powers (incumbent), are running for District 2 Supervisor. For District 4 Supervisor, Democrats Chris Fisher, John Johnson and Kent Jones (incumbent) are running. Republicans Nathan Barrett, Alan Chouest and Howard Walkinshaw are vying for District 5 Supervisor, to take the place of current Supervisor Connie Rockco, who has served in the position since 1999.

Also on the ballot for Harrison County are races for Circuit Clerk, with candidates Justin W. Wetzel, a

Republican, running against Independent Melvin J. Ray for the position; and Democrats Damon Reese and Theressia A. Lyons vying against Independents John "Jake" Cook and James E. Griffin for Justice Court Judge District #4.

Primaries will be held on Tuesday, August 8, during which voters will decide which party candidates will move on to appear on the Tuesday, November 7, general election ballots in the remaining State and County races.

The deadline to register to vote in the August 8 Mississippi primary election is 5 p.m. on Monday, July 10. In-person absentee voting takes place Saturday, July 29, through Saturday, August 5. Absentee ballots by mail must be postmarked by Tuesday, August 8, and received by Tuesday,

August 15.

The voter registration deadline for the November 7 general election is Monday, October 9, for those who register in-person. Mail-in voter registration must be postmarked by Tuesday, October 10.

Absentee ballots must be returned by mail and postmarked by Tuesday, November 7, and received by Tuesday, November 14, for the general election.

For more information on the upcoming primaries and the general election, as well as candidates running for office, visit ballotpedia.com.

For information about candidates in statewide races, visit sos.ms.gov, the Mississippi Secretary of State's website.

For information about Harrison County races, visit HarrisonCountyMS.gov.

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8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship In-Person in the sanctuary
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11:00 a.m. The Well service In-Person at the USM Fleming Auditorium
 This service will be live streamed on Facebook.

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

Bringing community together with pop up groups



All photos Special to Long Beach Breeze



Jennifer Lee's first ladies' pop up group in Long Beach, which had a small turnout, led the way to the creation of the Ladies Pop Up Group Of The Mississippi Gulf Coast page on Facebook. Over 1,000 women now participate in groups throughout the Coast in a quest for fun and friendship.

By Marilou D. Horton

When empty-nester Jennifer Lee moved to Long Beach a little over three years ago, she needed a way to meet other ladies and develop new friendships. Out of that desire, and with help from social media, she created the Ladies Pop Up Group Of The Mississippi Gulf Coast. The group, Lee explained, is a way for women on the Coast to get to know one another.

"I started posting in the Residents of Long Beach [Facebook] Group to see if any ladies would meet me at a coffee shop," said Lee. "The first pop up was at Bankhouse Coffee Shop in Long Beach. I showed up with a book to read in case no one showed up. But they did show up!"

Before the pandemic, Lee would hold pop ups on different days and nights and at various restaurants.

"It grew to about eighteen before COVID," she noted. Now the Long Beach group has expanded to anywhere from thirty to fifty women.

Lee said there are over 1,000 members on the Ladies Pop Up Group Of The Mississippi Gulf Coast page, and recently small groups have been formed in several towns. There are even walking groups and a special-needs adult hangout group. The pop up groups have no membership fees, and everyone is invited.

"They just pay for their meal. If we go to a park or bonfire, we charge to cover food and supplies," explained Lee.

All of the communication for the women's groups, whose attendees vary in age from nineteen to ninety-something, is through Facebook via the Ladies Pop Up Group Of The Mississippi Gulf Coast and by advertising events on all residents' group pages. Interested ladies are invited to attend the events held at restaurants, parks and neighborhood clubhouses. The theme and towns change each month.

"Sometimes, we do game nights at neighborhood clubhouses," said Lee. "Once a year, we do a bonfire, where we invite spouses or significant others. We do a Christmas 'Dirty Santa,' and, in May, we are doing a sunset cruise aboard Ship Island Excursions. Spouses are included [on the cruise], and we are hoping for a hundred thirty participants."

The hostess for the coastal event added that the group has become a ministry for her.

"I long to show the love of Jesus to others," she said. "I love people and hope to help women and families build community."

Lee concluded by saying, "I think people realized during COVID their need for community. They realize the importance of friendship and doing life together. No one truly desires to be as lonely as many felt during COVID."

Touch a Truck captures attention of both children and parents

All photos by Marilou Horton

Lower temperatures and a brisk wind were unable to keep parents and children away from the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce's Annual "Touch A Truck" earlier this spring. The event raises money for local grants and scholarships and allows the community an opportunity to learn about various careers firsthand.



cont. from front page

Long Beach on track to be first in Mississippi to provide Safe Haven baby box

McGoey is among those in full support of the SHBB program.

“Since taking my seat on the Long Beach Board of Aldermen, there hasn’t been an issue I am more passionate about than Safe Haven baby boxes,” McGoey said. “In lieu of the recent overturning of *Roe vs. Wade*, this provides an alternative for women unable to keep possession of their newborns, for whatever reason - the opportunity to anonymously and safely relinquish the child under safe, healthy and climate-controlled conditions where prompt attention will be afforded. Twenty-eight babies have been abandoned in these units nationwide, and I shudder to entertain what dispositions they may have met had these [baby boxes] not been in place.”

Monica Kelsey, an abandoned infant herself, founded the 501(c)3 non-profit Safe Haven Baby Boxes in Indiana in an effort to save unwanted newborns whose parents, for whatever reason, want to surrender the child. The first baby box was put into operation in 2016.

“She [Kelsey] was an abandoned baby herself in Indiana back in the 1970s, and she has made it her mission that the Safe Haven organization's primary goal is to raise awareness for Safe Haven Law,” Kelly says. “SHBB’s national,



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach Safe Haven Baby Box organizer Caitlin Kelly looks on as Long Beach Mayor George Bass signs Mississippi’s first ordinance and contract agreement in the state to approve the use of a Safe Haven Baby Box.

twenty-four-hour hotline affords mothers assistance free of charge. To date, this hotline has helped more than 8,000 women from every state in the United States. They have referred over five hundred women to crisis centers and have assisted in over one hundred twenty legal, safe infant surrenders. Six of those babies have been surrendered just this year.”

The state of Mississippi already has a Safe Haven law, which allows children to be surrendered within seven



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Once funding is met, a Safe Haven baby box will be installed at Central Fire Station, located at 645 Klondyke Road in Long Beach.

days after their birth, and House Bill 1318, which was recently signed into law, expands those seven days to forty-five.

“One major change of the law is a mother or parent is able to surrender a child forty-five days and younger without the fear of prosecution,” Kelly says. “The law also states that Safe Haven baby boxes can be utilized anywhere in the state. This is huge. For the first time in the state of Mississippi, women and parents have an anonymous option to safely

surrender a child.”

Kelly says she hopes it won’t be long before other cities also install baby boxes. As for the baby box in Long Beach, fundraising is well underway for the project and [as of press time] has almost reached the halfway point to its \$20,000 fundraising goal.”

“All donations are tax deductible,” Kelly says.

To donate, visit secure.qgiv.com. For more information about Safe Haven Baby Boxes, visit SHBB.org.

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CES students experience Louisiana Philharmonic Symphony

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Thirteen sixth graders from Coast Episcopal School (CES) in Long Beach recently traveled to New Orleans' famous Orpheum Theater to experience an open rehearsal of works by Chinese and Polish composers performed by the Louisiana Philharmonic Symphony and conducted by Rei Hotoda.

Accompanied by CES music teacher Jody Smith, sixth-grade teacher Angela Colegrove and six parents, the students were able to hear Zhou Long's "The Rhyme of Taigu" and Bacewicz's "Concerto for String Orchestra" being rehearsed for an evening performance at the historic 1,407-seat theater, which was built in 1918.

Smith explained that the goal of the trip was to enable the students to hear the sound of the instruments, absorb the creation possibilities of a full orchestra and to experience the cultural enrichment of attending a symphonic performance.

"Even if our students, each of whom are receiving instrumental instruction at our school, choose not to continue with lessons moving forward, they will have the confidence of understanding the pleasure that comes from attending a professional performance," said Smith.

Because the students attended an open rehearsal, they were able to observe the conductor providing direction to the musicians, who were improving their performance slated for later that evening.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Coast Episcopal School sixth graders recently experienced the Louisiana Philharmonic Symphony from New Orleans' historic Orpheum's highest balcony.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

John and Kathy Eastman provided lunch at NOLA's historic Roosevelt Hotel following the symphony's open rehearsal.

Additionally, the students were able to observe the musicians from two vantage points: front row seats that enabled them to see the work of individual musicians just a few feet away from them, and, later, from the theater's highest balcony, which provided them with the broader context of the symphony as a whole.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

CES art teacher Tarah Herbert, music teacher Jody Smith, and students Owen Vorrath and Piper Miller view the art work they created with their classmates.

Prior to traveling to New Orleans, the students prepared for their musical journey by participating in a project devised by art teacher Tarah Herbert, which integrated the sounds of the pieces they would be hearing with physical art. Each child put black marker to paper and created individualized art illustrating how

the music they were hearing impacted them emotionally.

"Observing the students' individual creativity and also noticing the commonalities of elements in the pieces was exciting to me as an art teacher," said Herbert. "The students were moved by the music, which was apparent in their art."

Funds for the New Orleans trip were provided by The Donald Theriot Memorial Fund for musical instruments, started nine years ago following the death in March 2014 of CES grandparent and music lover Donald Theriot. Established by his wife, Kathleen, and two daughters, the fund is comprised of contributions from individual donations made in honor of Mr. Theriot.

"We are just thrilled that the fund, which was made possible through the generosity of Don's friends, has allowed music teacher Jody Smith to purchase so many new instruments," said Theriot's daughter, Whitney Miller, who accompanied her sixth-grade daughter, Piper, on the trip. "It was so cool to see how engaged and interested our CES students were while watching the symphony. Don used to play classical music throughout our home, and he would have been so happy to watch Piper and the other sixth graders appreciate the experience."

Following Friday's symphony performance, the students were treated to lunch at New Orleans' Roosevelt Hotel by John and Kathy Eastman.



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Magnolia Gulf Coast Junior Beta Club headed to Nationals



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Pictured (l to r) are, front row: sponsor Leslie Bates, Luke Dillman (Long Beach), Garrett Nelson (Ocean Springs) and Audrey Legg (Gulfport); and back row: Braxton Bates (Saucier), Wyatt Nelson (Ocean Springs), Elizabeth Dacus (Gulfport), Madelyn Dillard (Gulfport), Kaitlyn Atwater (Gulfport) and Sponsor Maria Dacus.

Special to Long Beach Breeze

National Beta members from Magnolia Gulf Coast Beta Club (MGC Beta), a group of homeschool students in fourth through twelfth grades from the Gulf Coast area, are celebrating their recent participation in the 31st Annual Mississippi Junior Beta Convention. The students competed in club, team, individual academic, and visual art competitions and placed in several categories at the state convention. Long Beach's Luke Dillman brought home three visual arts awards, one academic testing award, and he was the captain of the Apparel Design, Service Learning Showcase, and Technology teams.

Winners from MGC Beta included Elementary Division club competitions of Apparel Design (2nd Place), Service Learning Showcase (3rd Place), and Technology (3rd Place), completed by Luke Dillman, Audrey Legg, and Garrett Nelson; Club Trading Pin competition (1st Place), completed by Kaitlyn Atwater, Braxton Bates, Elizabeth Dacus, Madelyn Dillard, Wyatt Nelson and Garrett Nelson; and Junior Division Quiz Bowl (2nd Place), completed by Braxton Bates, Elizabeth Dacus, Kaitlyn Atwater and Wyatt Nelson. Kaitlyn Atwater won 3rd Place for eighth grade Language Arts; Luke Dillman won

1st Place for fourth grade Language Arts; Garrett Nelson won 1st Place for fourth grade Social Studies; and Wyatt Nelson won 2nd Place for sixth grade Science. In the individual visual art competition, Luke Dillman won 1st place in Quilling, 2nd Place in Sculpture, and 4th Place in Painting.

The members who attended were Kaitlyn Atwater, Braxton Bates (MGC JR Club President), Elizabeth Dacus (MGC JR Club Vice-President), Madelyn Dillard (MGC JR Club Secretary), Luke Dillman, Audrey Legg (MGC JR Club Historian), Wyatt Nelson (MGC JR Club Treasurer), and Garrett Nelson (MGC JR Club Chaplain). The sponsors for the group are Maria Dacus and Leslie Bates.

National Beta State Convention allows students the opportunity to compete in various academic and STEM-based, virtual, and performing arts competitions. State Convention was offered as a hybrid event. This gave students the opportunity to compete either virtually or onsite at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center, depending on their level of comfort. Victories at the state level provide an opportunity to compete at the national level. National Convention will be held at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville, Kentucky, in June.

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Bearcat Belles bring home superior ratings



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Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Jillian LaRosa and Karissah Swartz; middle row: Jordyn Reeves, Emma Kate Desnoyers, Celena Shankle, Emily Roslin, Seli Gundlach, Shaniece Chapple and Joliegh Gustin; and back row: Coach Leslie Rigby, Jessica James, Brianna Dunning, Ashlyn Johnson, Madison Hudson, Sophia Ward and Andria Hamilton. Not pictured is Captain Kennedy Kuntz.

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach High School Bearcat Belles Dance Team was recently awarded first place superior ratings in the Hip Hop and Pom categories at the American All-Star, LLC Mardi Gras Classic in Chalmette, Louisiana.

The Bearcat Belles' coach, Leslie Rigby, also won an award for best overall choreography.

During the 2022-23 season, the Belles performed at home basketball games, pep rallies, and at community outreach events, including the First Annual Anti-bullying Awareness 5k Walk/Run, the Shuckers pregame show, and the New Orleans Pelicans pregame show.

The Belles also received superior ratings at the American All-Star, LLC Dance Team camp this past July at the University of Southern Mississippi.

St. Thomas members share Easter joy



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Service and Social Justice Committee of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church recently put together Easter baskets, which were delivered to shut-ins and senior citizens in their parish. Each basket contained items donated by parishioners, including religious items, chocolates, puzzles, a stuffed animal and a small canned ham, as well as Easter cards and greetings from different parish groups. The committee, started by Fr. Vincent, has members from all organizations at St. Thomas. The children of A.D. and Marge Taylor sponsored this year's baskets in memory of their parents. Pictured (l to r) are Fr. Vincent Ajayi, Pam and Charles Fallo, Vicky Ruiz, Dave Gauthier, Pope Francis, Tom Ponte, Mike Taylor, Kasey and Katherine Chappell, Tammy Casey, Alice Necaize, and Sally and Fiona Crocker.



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cont. from page 4

Long Beach revving up for 5th annual Jeepin the Coast



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ly City. Jeepers who want to take part in the parade must be lined up no later than 5:15 p.m. behind the Harper McCaughan Town Green. Parade Jeeps must be registered as a JTC Jeep and must be pre-registered for the parade.

A Concert in the Streets featuring the Todd O'Neill & Cat Daddy Band will take center stage Friday night from 7:30 to 10 p.m. at Jeep Central in Long Beach. Concert-goers are asked to bring their own chairs.

On the last day of JTC, Jeepers will meet up in Bay St. Louis at Anita's Bar, located at 828 Highway 90, from 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. on Sunday, June 4. Jeepers will roll out at 9 a.m. Sunday to cruise Highway 90 together to a "See Ya Later Sunday" party, which will be held at Coastal Daiquiri on Jeff Davis Avenue in Long Beach from 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Scavenger Hunt cards will be turned in at the "See Ya Later Sunday" party. Drawings for door prizes begin at 11 a.m. No cards will be ac-

cepted after 10:45 a.m.

A non-denominational church service will also be held on Sunday, June 4, at 9:30 a.m. under the oaks at the Harper McCaughan Town Green, located at 301 Jeff Davis Avenue in Long Beach.

JTC brings thousands of people to South Mississippi each year and provides a substantial economic boost to local businesses. It also provides the opportunity for visitors to sample the area's trademark hospitality and coast cuisine.

A group of friends from South Mississippi, Jennifer Moran, Julie Bradley and Kim Favre, are the driving force behind JTC. Avid Jeepers, they wanted to create a family-friendly event for the area, and have done just that, as the popular event continues to grow each year.

To register for JTC, or for more information, visit the website at Jeepin-TheCoast.com.

cont. from front page

USM gets \$2.5 million for Gulf Park Campus

center will help us nurture collaborative learning experiences that emphasize problem solving, communication skills and social engagement."

The center will also be the host of an annual environmental film festival and will be used to promote stories that impact people living in coastal and maritime areas. USM students will have the opportunity to have hands-on experience in state-of-the-art film, digital and multimedia technology. According to Dr. Follett, the center will be the "go-to" location for film-related expertise in the Gulf Coast region.

For more information about the School of Coastal Resilience, visit www.usm.edu/coastal-resilience.

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Haber named LBHS STAR Student

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach High School senior Caleb Haber has earned the distinction of being named the 2022-2023 LBHS STAR Student and has selected Mrs. Carrie Ferguson-Bellew as his STAR Teacher.

Haber is the son of Jennifer Rhodes and Michael Haber. After high school, he plans to attend the University of Southern Mississippi.

“At USM, I plan to major in theatre with a focus in stage management. I want to earn a minor too, but I am undecided on what field that I will study,” Haber said.

Haber is undecided about his long-term goals, but definitely knows he wants to travel. He believes that real knowledge or wisdom is a gift, and the way to gain that is to experience the world himself.

“Throughout my life, I wish to continue to learn and grow,” said Haber. “I want to travel and experience the rest of the world. I want to learn from other people; I want to learn how they live, the daily struggles they endure, the clever solutions to problems they face.”

Haber believes the Long Beach High teachers and staff helped shape him for the future.

“They fostered an environment where I could explore myself and grow as a person.”

And while Haber says he appreciates all the teachers he has had at LBHS, one in particular made a difference in his life - his STAR Teacher, Mrs. Carrie Bellew.

“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,” said Haber. “She is always there for her students, and I hope one day that I can have the impact that she had on me. I chose her [as STAR Teacher] because she has had the greatest impact on me. Other teachers have taught me ideas and processes, but she taught me skills that I will use in my future. It was in her class that I grew as a person and found my love for theatre.”

Bellew says she is grateful to have been selected by Haber and has nothing but the highest regard for him.

“Caleb Haber is not only an out-

standing student but an amazing individual,” Bellew said. “I have had the honor of working side-by-side with him for the last four years. I say ‘work,’ because that is what is required in a theatre program. Caleb is

of him for the program. Caleb is the current president of our organization and our troupe of the International Thespian Society. Caleb Haber is truly a star, and I am so lucky to have had him in my program for this brief moment in time.”

“I am so fortunate to be in a number one school district with a number one student,” said Bellew. “I don’t know how I got so lucky to be able to work here, but I have the utmost appreciation for Dr. Lock, the LBSD School Board, Mr. Sutton, Mrs. Ladner and Mrs. Todd, and my fellow colleagues. It truly is great to be a Bearcat!”

The Mississippi Economic Council (MEC) M. B. Swayze Foundation sponsors the Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program. Established by the Mississippi Economic Council in 1965, the purpose of the STAR program is to recognize outstanding students and teachers in Mississippi through its Education Celebration.



Special to Long Beach Breeze
LBHS 2022-23 STAR Student
Caleb Haber



Special to Long Beach Breeze
LBHS 2022-23 STAR Teacher
Carrie Ferguson-Bellew

usually the first to arrive and the last to leave. He works hard to maintain academic excellence while juggling all the expectations and work required

purpose of the STAR program is to recognize outstanding students and teachers in Mississippi through its Education Celebration.

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LBSD's Parker receives Leo W. Seal Innovative Teacher Grant

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach School District's Carly Parker recently won a Leo W. Seal Innovative Teacher Grant for her project "The Problem Solver's Friend."

With the desire to create a more student-centered classroom that operates with collaboration, project-based learning and technology integration, Parker will be introducing "The Problem Solver's Friend" to her students.

"Through this project, students will immerse themselves in everything STEM. From the definition to interviewing STEM community members to learning how they use STEM in their careers, specifically the 3-D printer. They will create a STEM video library



Carly Parker

Special to Long Beach Breeze

for teachers and students throughout our school to use in their education with STEM," Parker said. "The videos will include the 'Whats', 'How tos', and 'Whys' of STEM."

In addition to the videos, students will be tasked with becoming engineers themselves by brainstorming and finding problems within their classrooms, school and community that they can solve with the help of a 3-D printer.

"An example of this would be finding one leg of a table is not quite long enough and the wadded-up piece of paper is not doing the trick to balance it," said Parker.

The third and final piece of her project will be having students become educators themselves, as they go into class-

rooms to lead a period of learning about STEM and 3-D printing.

Parker, a Long Beach graduate herself, is a gifted teacher at Harper McCaughan Elementary School. She has been in education for eighteen years, spending fourteen of those in Long Beach.

"When I became a teacher, I couldn't wait to come back 'home.' I am always looking for ways to give back to my school and provide the best possible experience for my students. I am and will always be proud to be a Bearcat," Parker said.

The Leo W. Seal Innovative Teacher grants are funded by Hancock Whitney through an endowment at the Gulf Coast Community Foundation.

All five LBSD schools earn Military Star School designation

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Leaders of the Long Beach School District say they are proud to have all five of the schools in their district earn the designation of Mississippi Military Star School.

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) recently named sixty-one of the state's schools as Mississippi's first Military Star Schools. The designation recognizes schools that have made a significant commitment to supporting military families and children of service members.

Long Beach Superintendent Dr. Talia Lock says she is proud of this new designation for her schools.

"Long Beach is a 'System of Excellence,' but, more importantly, we are a family," Lock said.

"Our schools work hard to make sure the children of military families

in our district are receiving the support they need to be successful," said Lock. "It can be challenging for children to face reassignments that cause moves and deployments where they may not see a parent for an extended period of time."

Schools must meet specific requirements that address the unique needs of military students and families to receive the Military Star School designation. Some of these requirements include providing student-led transition services and peer support, appointing a dedicated school liaison for military families, and publicly recognizing service members and their families. In addition, schools must provide professional develop-

ment for staff to specifically train them on how to respond to the needs of military students and families.

LBSD Assistant Superintendent Lori Price led the application process for Long Beach.

"Earning these designations from this program is a tribute to each school's dedication to our military children," said Price.

"The teamwork and commitment that went into obtaining this recognition is another example of why the Long Beach School District is a 'System of Excellence.'"

The Military Star School program was established in February of last year through Executive Order 1561, making Mississippi one of thirty-one states with a formal program to recognize

schools that support military families.

"As a member of a military family, I understand the crucial role our schools play in supporting military-connected students," said Dr. Robert Taylor, state superintendent of education. "The teachers, staff and leaders of Mississippi's Military Star Schools have demonstrated their commitment to their students and our nation. I am incredibly proud of the work they do every day to support the children of service members."

The Military Star School designation remains in effect for two years. Schools can reapply to maintain the designation. New schools can apply to receive the designation in 2024.

For more information or to view a list of all of Mississippi's 2023 Military Star Schools, visit www.MDEK12.org/MilitaryStarSchool.



Starlight Gala to directly benefit local students

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Pass Christian Unit of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast will hold its eighth annual Starlight Gala on Saturday, April 29, to benefit the support services the unit provides to children living in Pass Christian and Long Beach.

A grand party that includes live and silent auctions for items - such as trips to Europe, a table for ten at the Bacchus Ball, a cochon de lait jambalaya party and everything in between - the gala will be held from 7 until 11 p.m. at the Pass Christian Yacht Club. Organizers point out that all proceeds from the event will go directly to the Boys & Girls Club of the Gulf Coast Pass Christian Unit, to directly impact Long Beach and Pass Christian youth.

"The Starlight Gala provides the funding for after-school care throughout the school year as well as summer day camps for kids in OUR area," empha-

sized Trish Lyerla, chairwoman for the event. "These services give local parents the opportunity to work full-time and provide for their families, without worrying about their children going home alone - and the kids have a safe, really interesting place to go with mentors, computers, music and art activities, athletics, healthy snacks and, during the summer, breakfast and lunch."

Tickets to the gala are \$125 per person, which includes live music by South, food, a full open bar and live and silent auctions of trips, artwork, jewelry, fishing charters and more. To purchase tickets or to make a donation, visit www.BGCGulfCoast.org/starlight-gala or call Sydney Wall at 228-806-5496.

"The mission of the Boys & Girls Club in Pass Christian is to make sure all young people reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens," Lyerla continued. "The Starlight Gala is the major source of funding for these local programs. Those



attending the gala will be helping us fulfill our mission, investing in our young people and strengthening our community—all while having a ball."

For fifty-seven years, the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast have been in the forefront of youth development in South Mississippi, working with young people from disadvantaged economic, social and familial circumstances to

save and change the lives of children and teens by providing safe, positive and engaging environments and programs that prepare and inspire them to achieve great futures. The Starlight Gala proceeds are expected to provide life-changing programs and services for over five hundred fifty local public school students. For more information about the programs, call 228-896-3770.



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LBHS teams honored for State Championship wins

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach High School girls' bowling and boys' soccer teams were honored for their recent wins and State Championship titles in their respective sports at the March 4 Long Beach Board of Aldermen meeting, where Mayor George Bass presented both winning teams with City proclamations in praise of their teams' victories and State Championship titles.



Toni Miles

The Long Beach High School girls' bowling team won the State Championship Title, an achievement recognized by City leaders at the March 4 Board of Aldermen meeting.



Toni Miles

The Long Beach High School boys' soccer team won the State Championship Title, an achievement recognized by City leaders at the March 4 Board of Aldermen meeting.



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THE PASS POST

Annual Tour of Homes is back

After a three-year hiatus, the Pass Christian Historical Society is bringing back their annual Tour of Homes on Sunday, May 7, from 2 until 5 p.m. Proceeds from the tour support the Society's efforts to help preserve and share the history of Pass Christian and the Mississippi Gulf Coast, something its members have been doing since 1966.

Four homes will be featured on this year's tour, all on Scenic Drive. Three homes date from the mid- to late-1800s, and the fourth is a post-Katrina replica of the well-known "Dixie White House."



629 East Scenic Drive, c. 1871, is the home of Liz and Drew Robertson. The house was previously owned by William Wiegand, a New Orleans newspaperman, who wrote several books about Pass Christian.



855 East Scenic Drive, c. 1890s, the home of Jan Stumpf, has also recently undergone renovations. The original owner of the house operated several businesses in town and carried a line of postcards, so the home is often featured in early postcards. The home will be the site of the Society's traditional Tour Tea and will also feature music by Vince Vance.



767 East Scenic Drive, the home of Dr. Julianne Huber and William Sewell, was built in 2008. It is a replica of the original house on the lot, Beaulieu, which dated to 1854. Beaulieu was perhaps best known as the "Dixie White House," after President Woodrow Wilson and his family resided there during their Christmas vacation in 1913-14. Beaulieu was heavily damaged by Hurricane Camille and was eventually demolished.



829 East Scenic Drive, c. 1850, is the home of Carolyn and Michael Christovich. The house is known by its distinctive "crab-claw" stairs and has recently undergone an extensive renovation.

Tickets to the Tour of Homes are \$25 in advance, \$30 on the day of the Tour, and include the complimentary Tour Tea. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit www.PassHistory.org. Sponsorship opportunities are also available for individuals and businesses.

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Jazz in the Pass set for May 28

Special to The Pass Post

Pass Christian's War Memorial Park will once again be filled with toe-tapping, live music echoing over the Mississippi Sound on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. The annual Jazz in the Pass returns this year on May 28, from noon until 8 p.m.

Sponsored by Pass Christian Main Street, the event also includes food and drink vendors, as well as a selection of craft vendors.

This year's line up includes the Clinton High School Jazz Band, from noon until 1:45 p.m.; Jake's Jazz Trio, featuring Camilla Ali, from 2 until 3:45 p.m.; Julius Handy II, from 4 until 5:45 p.m.; and Unfazed Show and Band, from 6 until 8 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and/or blankets, but glass containers are not allowed. War Memorial Park is located at 101 Fleitas Avenue.

For more information, visit the Jazz in the Pass Facebook page.



Community bike ride set for May 11

Special to The Pass Post

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

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

All participants must have a bike and a

helmet, and all ages are welcome.

Those wishing to participate should meet near Scenic Drive in War Memorial Park in Pass Christian. Weather permitting, the ride begins at 6 p.m.

Pedal in the Pass, a free event, takes place on the second Thursday of each month. Upcoming ride dates include June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14 and October 12. For more information, call Richard Allard at 228-452-2453.



PCMS students win geography bee



Special to The Pass Post

Pass Christian Middle School students recently participated in a geography bee in their social studies' classes. The winners from each class period then competed in a school-wide geography bee. Twenty-one students answered random geography questions, with each round of questions becoming more challenging. Winners (l to r) included Marcella Hoffman, third place; Eli Allen, first place; and Carter Ladner, second place.

Grant helps to fund summer fun at library



Special to The Pass Post

The Raptor Road Show has been a favorite offering of the Summer Library Program in years past.

The Pass Post

The Friends of the Pass Christian Public Library recently received a Walmart Community Grant that will help provide funding for the library's annual Summer Library Program.

Head Librarian Wendy Allard says she is grateful for the \$1,000 gift.

"Summer library programs are a way to bring visibility and people to our library and encourage children of all ages to read," said Allard. "Despite limited budget funds for programs, all programs provided by the library are free."

Melanie Walrod, who serves as the youth services and programming librarian, says that "the Summer Library Program provides activities to encourage reading during the summer months" and that the grant funds will be used to offset the cost of those activities.

"[Our] programs will include a presentation for the young children, a Youth Music Workshop for older children, middle school programs, as well as programs for adults," said Walrod.

"For the adults, we try to offer speakers, documentary screenings, and music," added Allard.

For more information about the Pass Christian Library, visit www.harrison.lib.ms.us, or call 228-452-4596.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Look for more information about the Pass Christian library summer offerings in the June issue of The Pass Post.



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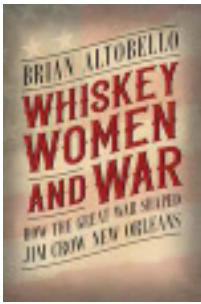


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“Whiskey, Women and War” luncheon announced



Special to The Pass Post

The Pass Christian Historical Society will hold its monthly luncheon on Monday, May 22 at noon. The speaker will be author Brian Altobello, who will present a program titled “Whiskey, Women and War: How the Great War Shaped Jim Crow New Orleans.” Organizers say it will reveal a surprising and exciting history of New Orleans on the home front during World War I, as the speaker will bring to life the history of a city that endured World War I in its own singular style.

Lunch will begin at noon, and the cost is \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members. Those who plan to attend are asked to make lunch reservations by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 19. Reservations and more information are available by calling 228-452-7254 or emailing Reservations@PassHistory.org.

The Historical Society is located at 201 East Scenic Drive in Pass Christian.

Art in the Pass t-shirt design winners announced



Special to The Pass Post

Three students from St. Vincent dePaul Catholic School recently won an art contest to design the t-shirts for Art in the Pass. Many elementary students entered the contest, and the organizers chose three winners - all from St. Vincent dePaul. Their designs are on this year's Art in the Pass t-shirts. Pictured are the winning students: third grader Kate Day, fifth grader Sophia Gonzalez and sixth grader Isabella Dardar.

Chacon graduates from NFPA program

Special to The Pass Post

Marcos Chacon, a member of Firefighter Class 202 of the Mississippi State Fire Academy and the Pass Christian Fire Department, recently graduated from the Academy's intense seven-week National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1001 Firefighter I-II course held at the Mississippi State Fire Academy in Jackson.



The course included online, classroom and hands-on instruction in the areas of fire behavior, fire suppression, rescue, incident command, hazardous materials and other fire-related topics.

The Mississippi State Fire Academy is a division of the Mississippi Insurance Department. State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney and Academy Executive Director Terry Wages believe these firefighters will be an asset to the fire departments they represent.

“We are excited for them to go and serve their community,” said Wages.

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