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First-ever 4th of July Jubilee set to light up Long Beach July 1st

By Toni Miles

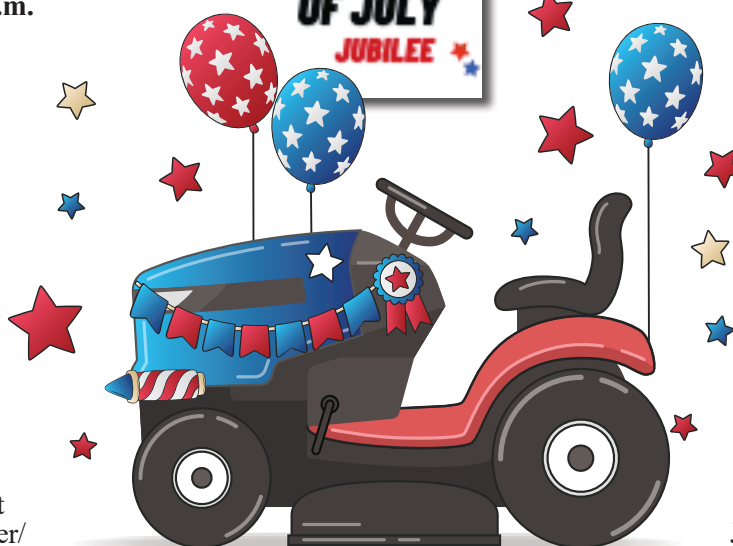
Come July 4, it will be 147 years since America gained its independence, but in Long Beach, a first-ever holiday celebration will take place. The inaugural Long Beach 4th of July Jubilee is set to take place in the downtown area of the Friendly City on Saturday, July 1.

The celebration begins with a festival at the Harper McCaughan Town Green on Jeff Davis Avenue at 10 a.m. The festival will feature local artists, food trucks and even free crafts for kids.

At 1 p.m., the 4th of July Jubilee parade will roll down Jeff Davis Avenue, an event that's sure to be filled with young and old alike, a sea of red, white and blue, and even lawnmowers in the procession!

"Long Beach is planning a huge day of celebration in honor of our country's independence," says Long Beach Community Affairs Director Courtney Cuevas. "The parade will include members of our local military branches, veterans, scouts, Long Beach school championship sports teams, as well as local government officials and community members. There will be lawnmowers, both riding and walk, and golf carts decorated in [a] Fourth of July theme."

Parade prizes, including Best Decorated Rider, Best Decorated Walk Mower and Best Decorated Diver/



Power Pusher, will be awarded.

At 6 p.m., the public is invited to enjoy live music at the Harper McCaughan Town Green.

The festivities will wrap up true Independence Day style, with a fireworks show along the Long Beach shoreline near the harbor and Jeff Davis Avenue at 8 p.m. The fireworks will be set off right by the Jim Simpson pier, and organizers say that just about any spot on the beach near the harbor or parking area should be ideal for viewing. Residents are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or something comfortable to sit on to watch the show.

This inaugural holiday celebration is being hosted by Sawyer Walters, new Long Beach Community Affairs Director Courtney Cuevas, and a supporting Committee.

"Sawyer and I are thrilled to be able to bring a new event into the city of Long Beach," Cuevas says. "We hope everyone will come celebrate the 4th of July with the city of Long Beach on July 1 for a day full of fun. We are excited along with business owners to bring this positive event to the community."

For more information, visit the Long Beach 4th of July Jubilee Facebook page.

Voters to choose new Harrison County Sheriff in August 8 Republican primary

By Toni Miles

Mississippi voters, including those in Long Beach and Pass Christian, will soon 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, since the only candidates on the ballot for this race are both Republicans, Louis Elias and Matt Haley.

The Republican and Democrat party candidates are nominated through primary elections. A voter may vote in either party's primary and cast a ballot for that party's nominees to the general election. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes in a primary, a run-



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Republican candidate for Harrison County Sheriff, Louis N. Elias



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Republican candidate for Harrison County Sheriff, Matt Haley

off will be held between the top two vote-getters.

A voter who votes in the primary of one party may not "cross over" to vote in the run-off of another party.

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. Peterson is 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.

Major Louis Elias is a Long Beach native who has a law enforcement career spanning more than twenty-five

cont. on page 6

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LaRosa awarded P.E.O. STAR Scholarship



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STAR Scholarship Committee Chair Sarah Lowry (left), of P.E.O. Chapter B in Long Beach, presented the organization's STAR Scholarship to Jillian LaRosa (right), who recently graduated from Long Beach High School.

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Jillian LaRosa of Long Beach, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. David LaRosa, has been awarded a P.E.O. STAR Scholarship. P.E.O. is an international philanthropic organization interested in bringing women increased opportunities for higher education. The STAR scholarship program provides scholarships for exceptional high school senior women to attend an accredited post-secondary educational institution in the United States or Canada.

Candidates must exhibit excellence in leadership, academics, extracurricular activities, community service and potential for future success. LaRosa ranks at the top of her class at Long Beach High School, holds numerous leadership positions in extracurricular organizations, is a four-year member of the

LBHS dance team, and has dedicated many hours of service to her community.

She was recommended for the scholarship by P.E.O. Chapter B-Long Beach. Established in 1930, Chapter B-Long Beach serves as Mississippi's second-oldest chapter and currently hosts over fifty members.

"Jillian is such an impressive young lady, who views education as a lifelong challenge," said STAR Scholarship Committee Chair Sarah Lowry. "Her approach to her studies is to learn, to understand what she has learned, and to apply what she has learned. In addition, she also recognizes that education/learning is not limited to the classroom setting."

LaRosa plans to attend the University of Mississippi in the fall and major in chemical engineering.



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Local youth can set sail at Yacht Club's Sail Camp



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The second session of the Long Beach Yacht Club's Sail Camp for youth is set for July 11-July 15.

By Toni Miles

The Long Beach Yacht Club is hosting a sail camp for youth, ages eight to eighteen, that aims to teach children and young people how to sail. The program's goal is to create a safe and fun environment where children can explore the sport of sailing. The camp will also provide an oppor-

tunity for participants to enjoy other activities, such as swimming, fishing and kayaking.

The first session of the sail camp is already full, but organizers say there's still time to sign up for the second session, which will run from Tuesday, July 11, through Saturday, July 15. The camp is five days long, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. A \$50

non-refundable deposit must be submitted to the Yacht Club for registration to be considered complete. The remaining amount of the camp fee is due the first day of the camp.

There are only a few spots left for the upcoming camp in July. For more information or to register, visit the Long Beach Yacht Club Sail Camp Facebook page.



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Family Movie Day, book sales continue at library

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn, LBPL Youth and Technology Services

The library will be closed on Tuesday, July 4, for Independence Day. We will re-open on Wednesday, July 5, at 9 a.m.

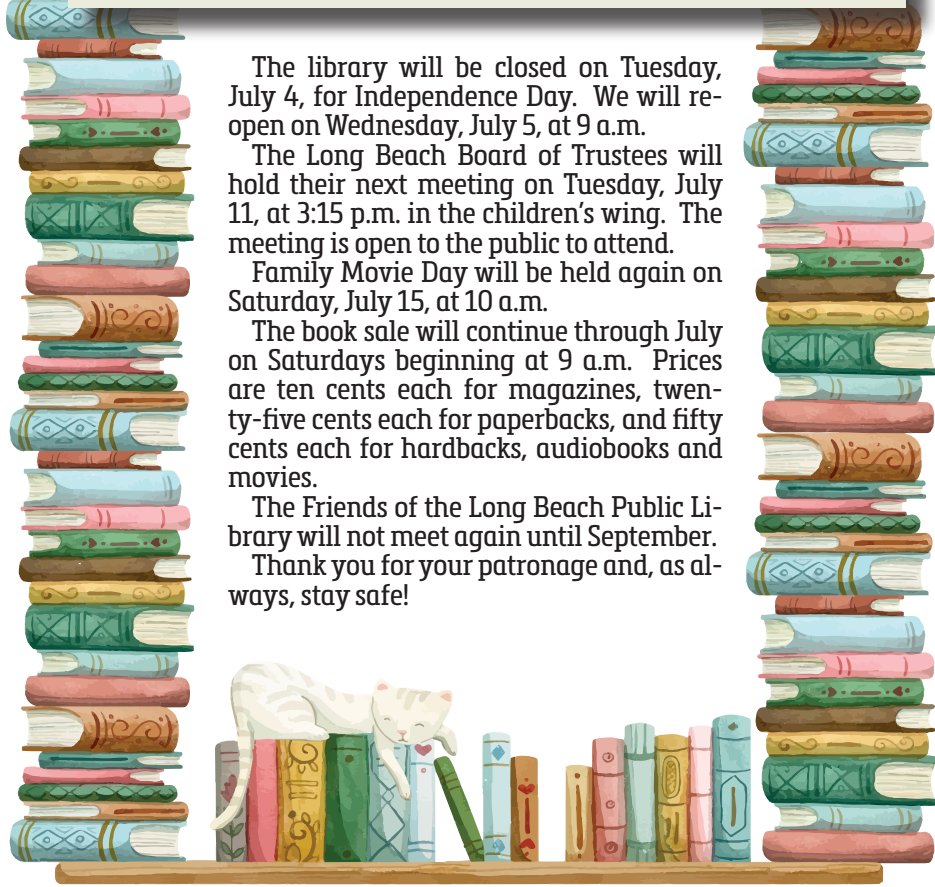
The Long Beach Board of Trustees will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, July 11, at 3:15 p.m. in the children's wing. The meeting is open to the public to attend.

Family Movie Day will be held again on Saturday, July 15, at 10 a.m.

The book sale will continue through July 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.

The Friends of the Long Beach Public Library will not meet again until September.

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




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Local police honored during National Police Week



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Pat Hudson made and placed a flower arrangement to honor Sgt. Steve Morgan and Det. James Northcutt, two Long Beach police officers who lost their lives in the line of duty twenty-five years ago.



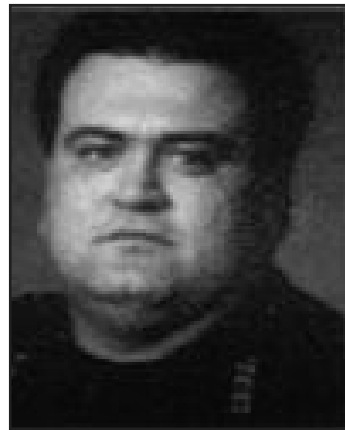
Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach police officer Jordan Cutrer was presented with the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award by the Gulfport Exchange Club for his heroic efforts in assisting a person in need of serious medical attention.



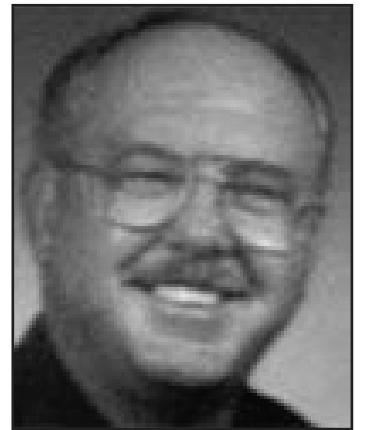
Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach Police Department Crime Scene Investigator Tamra Brodelon was recently recognized for her outstanding achievements by the North Long Beach Baptist Church at their Emergency Responders Appreciation Day Festival.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach Police Sergeant Steven Morgan was remembered.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach Police Detective James Northcutt was remembered.

By Toni Miles

Long Beach police officers were honored by the local community during May for National Police Week, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect and serve in the line of duty were not forgotten.

Long Beach police officers Detective James Northcutt and Sergeant Steven Morgan were shot and killed, and another officer was wounded, while responding to a domestic disturbance twenty-five years ago in Long Beach. Their watch ended on

May 6, 1998.

Pat Hudson made a flower arrangement that was laid on the headstones to honor Sgt. Steve Morgan and Det. James Northcutt on the 25-year anniversary of the two police officers' deaths.

The Long Beach Police Department also issued a statement in memory of the two local policemen who gave their all: "We honor and remember, not only their dedication and service to our community, but their families and all those whose lives were changed on that dreadful day. No words can fully express the

gratitude we have for their service and the sorrow for their loss."

The Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence also honored these two heroes and offered their support to the Long Beach police force by delivering breakfast to local police in the month of May.

Meanwhile, two Long Beach Police Department employees have received top honors.

Long Beach police officer Jordan Cutrer was presented with the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award by the Gulfport Exchange Club for his heroic efforts in assist-

ing a person in need of serious medical attention. His actions led to a successful outcome to a life-threatening incident.

Also, Long Beach Police Department's Crime Scene Investigator, Tamra Bordelon, was recognized for her outstanding achievements by the North Long Beach Baptist Church at their Emergency Responders Appreciation Day Festival. Within the last two years, CSI Bordelon has worked diligently to advance from Evidence Technician to becoming the sixth Certified Crime Scene Investigator in the state of Mississippi.

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cont. from front page

Voters to choose new Harrison County Sheriff in August 8 Republican primary

years. Elias has been a certified law enforcement officer since 1994.

Elias is a graduate of Long Beach High School and the Harrison County Law Enforcement Academy. He went on to serve as director of the Harrison County Law Enforcement Academy from 2014 to 2023. He attended Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College and the University of Southern Mississippi to study criminal justice.

Elias' career includes serving Harrison County in municipal, county, state and federal capacities, as well as competing for and being promoted to leadership roles as an investigator, patrolman, patrol supervisor (Sergeant), K-9 handler/supervisor (Sergeant), shift supervisor (Sergeant), then moving up the ranks to Lieutenant, Captain and Major in administrative roles with the Harrison County Sheriff's Office and its training division from 2010 to 2023.

In 2014, Elias was promoted to Captain and named director of the Harrison County Law Enforcement Training Academy. His duties expanded in January 2016, when he was promoted to his current rank of Major and selected to oversee training for all Harrison County Sheriff's Office employees.

Under the rank of Lieutenant, Captain and Major, Elias assumed diverse administrative responsibilities, in-

cluding budgeting, purchasing oversight, and human resources recruiting and retention initiatives.

Elias has been married to Amy Tripp for twenty years, and they have two children, Tripp and Tucker.

Candidate Matt Haley has lived in Harrison County for more than thirty years, and he has served in the Harrison County Sheriff's Office for more than twenty-five years in various divisions.

Haley started working at the Harrison County Sheriff's Office at the age of twenty-three, working as a correctional officer at the jail under Sheriff Joe Price. He is currently serving as an administrator over three divisions within the Sheriff's Office. He has twenty-five years of experience in a wide range of administrative fields, including purchasing, handling grants, budgets, policy development and implementation of training.

Haley says his years patrolling the streets of Harrison County afforded him the opportunity to build numerous relationships throughout local schools and the community. In 2018, under the leadership of current Sheriff Troy Peterson, Haley was promoted to the rank of Administrative Captain, working closely with outgoing Sheriff Peterson, providing Haley with the opportunity to help make decisions for the department's current and future

well-being.

Haley lives in Saucier and is married to Felicha Hendry Haley. He has two sons, Jordan and Jayden, along with daughter-in-law Jenna, as well as two granddaughters, June and Julia.

Several Harrison County Board of Supervisor positions will also be decided during the August primaries. Two Republicans, Dan Cuevas and incumbent Beverly Martin, are running for District 1 Supervisor.

The District 2 Supervisor seat is also being sought by two Republicans, John L. Hoggatt and incumbent Rebecca Powers.

Democrats, including incumbent Kent Jones, Chris Fisher and John Johnson, are running for District 4 Supervisor.

Republicans Nathan Barrett, Howard Walkinshaw and Alan Chouest 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 are vying against Independents John "Jake" Cook and James E. Griffin for Justice Court Judge District #4.

The primary election 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 ballot 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, 2023. Absentee ballots by mail must be postmarked by Tuesday, August 8, and received by Tuesday, August 15.

The 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, 2023.

Absentee ballots must be returned by mail and postmarked by Tuesday, November 7, and received by Tuesday, November 14, 2023 for the general election.

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

For more information about the upcoming primaries and general election, as well as to view a list of candidates running for office, visit BallotPedia.com.

For information about candidates in statewide races, visit the Mississippi Secretary of State's website at SOS.MS.gov.

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Puryear completes doctorate at USM



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Dr. Chad Miller, University of Southern Mississippi (USM) dissertation committee chair, and Dr. Stephen Puryear are pictured at USM's recent Gulf Park graduation. Puryear recently received his Ph.D. in business and leadership from USM and maintained a 4.0 grade point average for the duration of his doctoral studies. He is currently employed by the Mississippi State University CAVS-E facility.

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American Legion honors top of class LBHS grads



Special to The Clinton Courier

Pictured is LBHS valedictorian Jillian Navi LaRosa with American Legion Post 1995 2nd Vice Commander Charlie Martinek.

Special to Long Beach Breeze

American Legion Post 1995 in Long Beach recently recognized Long Beach High School's valedictorian and salutatorian for the Class of 2023.

Valedictorian Jillian Navi LaRosa and salutatorian Lenwood Stokley Sawyer IV were recognized for receiving the highest and second highest academic ranking in their graduating class.

American Legion Post 1995 awarded each recipient a medal for their achievement, a certificate of achievement, and a check as a token of their recognition.



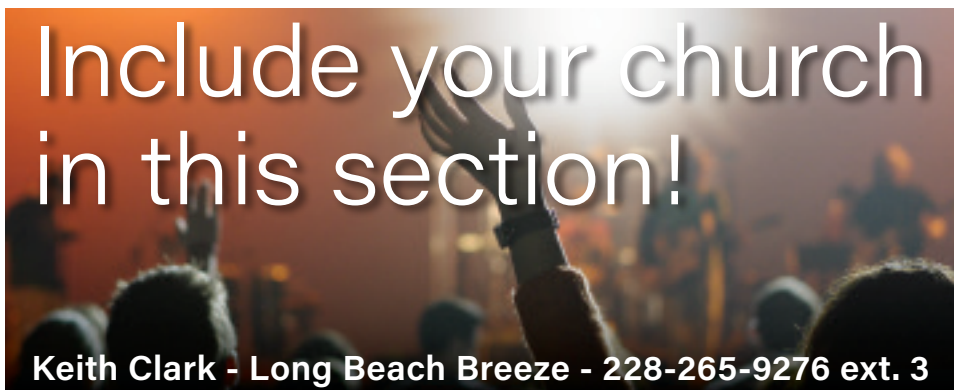
Special to The Clinton Courier

Pictured is LBHS salutatorian Lenwood Stokley Sawyer IV with American Legion Post 1995 2nd Vice Commander Charlie Martinek.

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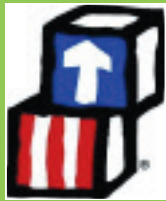
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Cinema Under the Oaks set for July 14, August 11



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The University of Southern Mississippi-Gulf Park is hosting their second installment of Cinema Under the Oaks, a family movie showing each month of the summer. The free movie events are designed to provide entertainment to the local community over the course of the summer.

Upcoming showings include *Moana* on July 14 and *Turning Red* on August 11.

The family fun starts at 6 p.m. with concessions and games, and the movie begins at 7 p.m. in the theater-style Fleming Education Center Auditorium. The movie is free. No alcohol or tobacco is allowed.

For questions, contact CinemaUnderTheOaks@usm.edu.

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CES celebrates commencement, honors beloved chaplain

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Trinity Episcopal Church in Pass Christian was filled with worship, reverence, joy and happy-yet-bittersweet tears on Thursday, May 25, when Coast Episcopal School (CES) honored its sixth-grade graduating class for academic excellence, creativity and spiritual growth.

In addition to honoring the thirteen graduating students, Head of School Jake Winter presented the school's chaplain, the Reverend Clélie McCandless, with the prestigious "Head of School Award."

Reverend McCandless, affectionately known as Mother Clélie, has served the independent school in Long Beach for nearly twenty years. Originally a lay chaplain, Mother Clélie returned to serve as the school's ordained Chaplain seven years ago after earning a M. Div. Degree in 2011 from the University of the South School of Theology in Sewanee, Tennessee.

"No matter who walks through her door, whether it is a student having a hard time or a tired teacher who just needs someone to talk to for a moment, Mother Clélie, you keep this place rolling," said Winter. "Coast is not a person, it's an idea, and, Mother Clélie, I want to thank you for keeping that idea alive."

Following the service, Mother Clé-



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Coast Episcopal School's 2023 sixth-grade students were celebrated at Trinity Episcopal Church.

lie remarked, "My day starts with holy joy each morning in CES Chapel. It is my awesome delight to lead our beautiful children in worship and prayer. Receiving this award from Jake, who loves this school with his whole heart, is more meaningful than I can express."

As always, the beloved chaplain's thoughts focused on the students for whom the service was held: "Our students are nurtured and prepared for academic and spiritual success beyond our doors," she said.

During the commencement, each of the students shared their most precious memory of CES, from Camp McDowell and Appalachian Trail field trips to the school's kindergar-

ten/fifth grade buddy program to preschool popsicles and chocolate water slides.

Retired Preschool Director Yvonne Williams and current Director Marcie Power presented eight of the graduates with Alpha-Omega Crosses for attending Coast Episcopal from preschool through sixth grade.

The CES Character Cup, voted upon each year by the sixth grade, all faculty, resulted in a tie this year. Alexis Lambert, daughter of Hutson and Anita Lambert, and William Gunn, son of William and Elizabeth Gunn, received their cups from sixth-grade homeroom teacher Angela Colegrove.

Piper Miller, daughter of Martin and Whitney Miller, received the Seidule



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Reverend Mother Clélie McCandless was honored by CES Head of School Jake Winter at the school's sixth-grade commencement.

Award for achieving the highest academic average from Dean of Elementary Kim McWilliams. In place since 2010, the award is named in honor of Jim Seidule, who was CES Interim Head of School in the years immediately following Hurricane Katrina.

Sixth-grade faculty Angela Colegrove and Summer Dorcik presented diplomas to each graduate: Anderson Grace Bates, Avery Grace Genin, William Corban Gunn, Dax John-Ski Hansell, Alexis Lee Lambert, Hadley Cole Mayfield, Piper Diane Miller, Charles Adam Thompson, London Grace Ulmer, Arden Olivia Van Cleave, Owen Patrick Vorrath, Elias James Wetzel and Grayson Samuel Wood.

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Jeepin the Coast wraps with record-breaking numbers

All photos Special to Long Beach Breeze



Jeepers from across the United States roll into South Mississippi each year for the annual Jeepin the Coast event. This Jeep, named the White Tiger, is owned by Big John and Rhonda Combel, and proved its popularity outside of LSU Tiger territory at this year's JTC.



Jeepin the Coast attracted people, young and old, from all walks of life.



Matt Colerick of Ocean Springs won second place in the audio competition.



Grayson Colerick takes advantage of a photo op in front of his family's Jeep.



Local resident and business owner Vernon Wilson brightened up this year's JTC event with his bright yellow Jeep.

By Toni Miles

The 2023 Jeepin the Coast (JTC), the sixth year for the now-annual event, was full throttle along the Mississippi Gulf Coast May 31 through June 4. The

five-day event for Jeep owners, lovers and enthusiasts attracted thousands of people to various locations, all the way from a kickoff party in Pass Christian to the June 4 See You Later Sunday Party at Coastal Daiquiri in Long Beach.

Jeepers from across the nation rolled into South Mississippi, showing off their Jeeps, buying merchandise and mingling with locals and visitors at various events and concerts open to the public, with Long Beach serving as Jeep Central.

Organizers say this year's Jeepin the Coast smashed past records, with more than 2,000 Jeeps registered on opening day, which is considered a soft opening to the South Mississippi summer tourism season.

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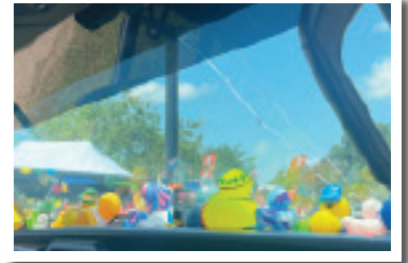
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JEEPIN THE COAST

Duck, duck, Jeep

All photos by Marilou D. Horton



By Marilou D. Horton

It would have been challenging to walk around Long Beach during Jeepin the Coast 2023 without spotting rubber ducks of all colors, shapes and sizes on dashboards, rooftops and even hoods of recreational vehicles. According to Jeepers, the tradition of "gifting" the trinkets was started by an unknown individual during the COVID-19 pandemic and has rapidly spread across the county.

Dwayne, a vendor at the Jeep expo in Long Beach, explained why the ducks are synonymous with Jeepers today.

"The story goes that some girl was feeling lonely during COVID, went to the store, and bought a rubber duck while there," said Dwayne. "Later, when she was leaving the store, the girl saw a Jeep she liked, so she placed the duck on the hood of the vehicle. Her purpose was to make the driver happy and to show her appreciation for the Jeep, and it just kind of spread from there."

Long Beach resident Harold Wagner offered a similar explanation for the popularity of the ducks by Jeep owners.

"The duck thing started about three or four years ago, and somebody took a rubber duck and laid it on a Jeep just to say she liked the vehicle," said Wagner. "It's called 'Ducking A Jeep' today. It just spread across the nation. As you can see, there are ducks on top of the Jeeps, and the dashboards are full of them."

Wagner added that his dash had been loaded with the small colorful duckies over eight times. He now has over two hundred ducks.

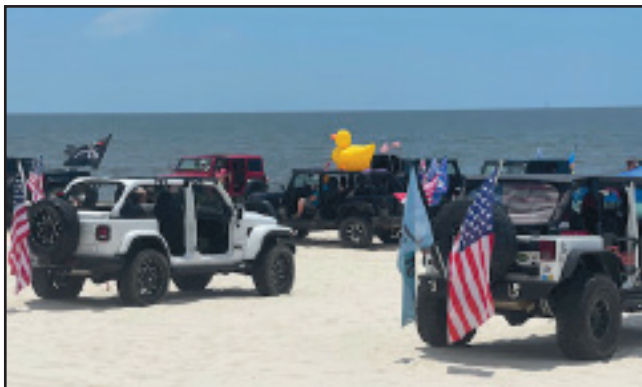
"So, we let the dash fill up and then remove them," said Wagner. "I put them in a bag behind the seat, and it [the dashboard] quickly fills up again."

Wagner said the trend is observed nationwide, and he has been "ducked" in the Carolinas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee. "At just about any event, we pick up a few ducks somewhere," he concluded.

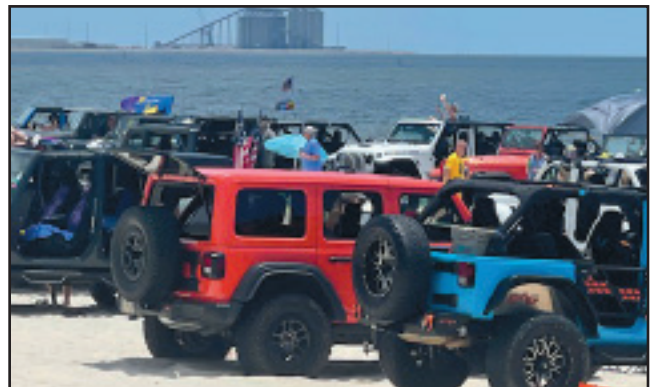
Scallywags assist in monitoring Long Beach crawl



Marilou Horton



Marilou Horton



Marilou Horton

One of the highlights of Jeepin the Coast is the two-day beach crawl along the Long Beach coastline. The Scallywags Gulf Coast Jeep Krewe and Harrison County's Sheriff Deputies assisted in monitoring the event.

By Marilou D. Horton

An estimated 4,000 to 5,000 participants attended Jeepin the Coast earlier this month, with the majority of those enjoying the annual "crawl" along Long Beach's coastline. The Scallywags Gulf Coast Jeep Krewe, spear-headed by Long Beach resident Harold Wagner, did their part in assuring the beach crawl was safe and successful again this year.

"We work directly with Jennifer Moran with Jeepin the Coast to help coordinate the beach crawl so that we prevent people from parking on the dunes, parking on the water, getting in the burn areas," Wagner explained. The group also monitors the seawalls to protect and preserve them.

An avid Jeepster himself, Wagner said that the much-anticipated beach

crawl in Long Beach continues to draw more significant numbers each year. Driving on the beach is prohibited, except during the supervised event on Long Beach during Jeepin the Coast.

"We had more [crawlers] on the beach this year than last year by far," Wagner noted. "I wouldn't even estimate how many. Right now [on Friday, June 2], we have about half a mile worth of beach with Jeeps stacked door to door. We are pretty well full right now."

Saturday's [June 3] attendance for the crawl even doubled that of Friday's, according to Wagner.

During the crawl from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. during the weekend, the Jeeps were allowed to park on the beach.

"They have free range of the beach, as long as they keep an emergency lane open," Wagner said during

the Friday, June 2, interview. "If an emergency happens, we can get our emergency vehicles in and out of here. We have four Harrison County officers here with us, if we need them. If we have an emergency on the beach, they have the numbers and the people we can contact. They can get EMS out here to us as quickly as possible."

The Scallywags assisted in the beach crawl in 2022 and say they were excited about helping out again this year.

"Last year, Jennifer contacted us, because we're a local Krewe based in Long Beach and Pascagoula. We are a Jeep family that loves our beach and our Coast, and we are here to protect it," Wagner said.

He said the Krewe members are not only there to protect the beach, but they want to ensure that the Jeep-

ers understand where they can and can't park, so no one interferes with what the Federal government and the County require.

During the recent event, eight to ten Scallywags were stationed on the beach to assist with monitoring; ten or twelve other volunteers from the Krewe were based throughout the general area to ensure all went smoothly on both days of the crawl. After everyone had left the beach, the group picked up the remaining trash and ensured all County requirements were met.

Wagner said he continues to be impressed with Jeepin the Coast's beach crawl in Long Beach and how it goes on yearly without a glitch.

"Jennifer Moran and her crew do a phenomenal job getting it situated on their end, and then the Scallywags do our portion on this end."

Gulf Park campus hosts "To the Top" block party



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Rain didn't stop the University of Southern Mississippi's (USM) Gulf Park campus from celebrating with an end of the year "To the Top" Block Party.

Students, faculty and staff were treated to music, food and giveaways as the 2023 spring semester came to an end. Cornhole games, a hot dog and hamburger table, and a food truck serving tacos, wraps and quesadillas were among the attractions.

Gulf Park USM freshman student Elisa Gutierrez said she had a great first year at Gulf Park and was excited to wind down and relax with friends.

"[The year] was really fun, and I enjoyed it," said Gutierrez. "The people are so nice here. All my teachers were amazing!"

The USM Office of Student Affairs handed out t-shirts, flying discs and fans. Students could also pick up yard signs.

Sophomore Miranda South, who serves as Student Government Association Vice President of Judicial Affairs at Gulf Park, said it's important to have events like the block party on campus.

"It builds a stronger community for the students," said South. "You get to learn more people and meet a lot of the faculty."



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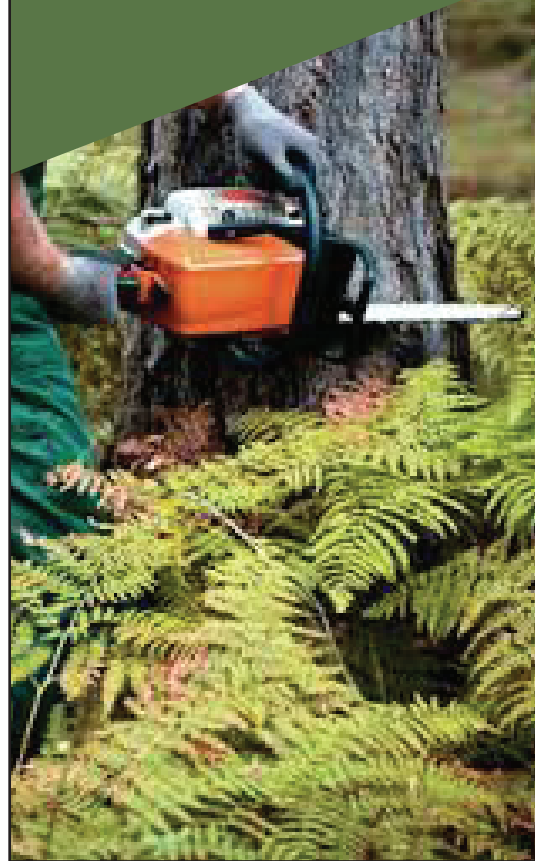
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Long Beach Senior Center: A golden opportunity for the entire community

All photos by Toni Miles.



Pictured (l to r) are James Ware, Nellie Johnson, Shirley Keys, Jane Wallace and Barbra Sparacino, enjoying a card game.



The center provides activities for both seniors and youth.



The Long Beach Activity and Senior Center is located at 20257 Daugherty Road.



Pickleball is just one of many sports and activities offered at the Long Beach Activity and Senior Center.



Karon Miller, instructor Joy Necaie and Sylvia Burke enjoy rock painting and ceramics.



A number of area residents visit the Long Beach Activity and Senior Center for Tai Chi classes.



A 1.2-mile outdoor walking trail, open and free to the public, is located just west of the center, and is lit at night.

Long Beach Activity and Senior Center weekly activities include:

Card and dice games, dominos, puzzles	Monday - Friday	7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Indoor walking trail	Monday - Friday	7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Outdoor walking trails	Open daily, lit at night Long Beach Senior Center: A golden opportunity for the entire community	
Pickleball	Monday - Friday	8 a.m. to noon
Tai Chi	Monday and Wednesday	9 a.m.
Ceramics / Pottery	Monday - Friday	7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Yoga	Tuesday and Thursday	9:30 a.m.

By Toni Miles

Don't let the name mislead you – on any given day, the Long Beach Activity and Senior Center, located at 20257 Daugherty Road, is always bustling with activities for people from all age groups who have no plans of slowing down or being idle. Just ask Jane Wallace, who visits the center often to play competitive card games with friends.

"I love it here," Wallace says. "You've got good food, good fun and good friends."

For Long Beach Parks and Recreation, Beautification and Senior Center Director Robert "Bob" Paul, Jr., it's not just a job, but a calling he and his colleagues at the Long Beach Activity and Senior Center are passionate about. The familiar faces, like Wallace's, aren't just visitors - they're considered to be friends and extended family.

"It's just what it is with our seniors," Paul says. "They're set in their ways. We learn what to provide for them and what they like. We try not to rock the boat. They know what they like, and we try to keep it that way."

That mission is evidenced by a number of diverse programs and activities geared towards seniors in the local area. Programs from Tai Chi and yoga, to more strenuous ones, are available to keep the minds and bodies of those in their "golden years" in tip-top shape - and observers will report that there's no fiercer competition than on the pickleball court.

For those who may not desire to be as physically mobile, there are other options, like ceramics. Joy Necaie, the center's Arts and Crafts Director, has worked at the center for thirteen years as the ceramics instructor and has made many friends, old and new, along the way.

Necaie points out that all activities are adaptable, and she loves helping people enjoy new opportunities.

"One [of the regular attendees] is a 93-year-old," Necaie says. "I have some who are blind, and it's a touchy-feely kind of thing, but that's how they do it. What I love is to see a newcomer come in who says, 'I don't know, I'm not talented at all.' All I have to do is show them what this paint can do with this project, and when it comes out of the kiln, it's like, 'Oh my gosh - I did that?' That's a good feeling."

The center also provides programs, space and activities for others, including local youth and students in the community.

An "Open Gym" is available this summer for local youth, ages kindergarten through sixth grade. It's open daily through July 21 and runs from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. The program costs \$15 per day or \$50 per week, for those who pay for the

entire week on Monday.

Activities kids can enjoy include basketball, volleyball, hockey, wall ball, baseball and softball, dodgeball and more. Aftercare is available from 3 until 5 p.m. for \$40 per week, available by the week only. For more information, call 228-669-7601.

In addition, some of the Long Beach Activity and Senior Center's facilities and fields are used year-round by local schools and youths for various sporting events and activities.

Currently, there is an indoor and outdoor walking trail available for everyone to use. The 1.2-mile trail is located on the west side of the center and is open to the public 24/7 and is lit up at night.

The indoor walking track is open Monday through Friday during normal business hours, but Paul says the best time for using the indoor track is from 7 to 9 a.m., noon to 1 p.m., and 3 to 4 p.m., since there are other activities, such as pickleball, that take place near the indoor track during certain hours.

There is also a dog park for large and small dogs. It is lit and open twenty-four hours a day, every day. Food is among the offerings, as well.

"We do holiday dinners every year," says Donna Hudson, assistant director of the center, who has worked with local seniors for more than twenty-five years and who personally helps cook and prepare several special meals each year. "We always have a Thanksgiving dinner, although it may not be on the actual holiday."

"We feel a closeness of family, togetherness. We've been knowing some of these people for years," Hudson says.

Paul, Hudson, Necaie and all those who work and help out at the center say they will continue to do their part to make the days of those who walk through their doors as full and fulfilling as possible.

"You know you're helping them, making them feel good about their day...and they're around other people," Hudson says.

The Long Beach Activity and Senior Center is open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Recreation and Activity Center is open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bus service is available for seniors who need transportation to the center. To arrange transportation, call 228-868-7517.

The center is also available for rental for events and special occasions by calling 228-669-7601.

For more information, call 228-868-7517. Online, visit the Long Beach Senior Citizen Activity Center Facebook page or click on the "Activity & Senior Center" tab under the "Live & Play" link on the City of Long Beach's website at CityOfLongBeachMS.info.



Activity and Senior Center



Free summer telehealth program available for public school students

Special to The Clinton Courier

This summer, Mississippi's public school students can have free video visits with a medical provider through the Mississippi School-based Telehealth program.

The program includes telehealth services for both minor medical care as well as behavioral health care. Care options cover a range of ailments for students, from sore throats and headaches to anxiety and depression.

When a student needs minor medical or non-crisis behavioral health care this summer, the parent/guardian may call 601-815-2020 to schedule a visit with a University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) provider. The parent/guardian will use a computer, tablet or smartphone to let the student and provider see each other, talk and share information.

The provider will recommend treatment or make a referral during the video visit. Each video visit will require the consent of a parent or guardian and will include the parent/guardian, the student and the UMMC provider. The program is available to Mississippi public school students this summer through a grant from the Mississippi Department of Education.

Minor medical care will be available seven days a week from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., and behavioral health will be available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Medical professionals say that telehealth is a good choice for treating minor medical issues, including asthma and allergies, skin irritations, colds and flu, head lice, sore throat, pinkeye, headaches, rashes and fever.

Behavioral health care will be provided by experienced specialists in non-crisis situations for anxiety, depression, behavioral difficulties, coping skills, trouble expressing feelings and more. However, if a child is at risk of harming themselves or others, 911 or 988 for the National Suicide and Crisis Hotline should be called immediately.

Any Mississippi public school student can participate in the program this summer at no cost, and insurance is not a requirement for being seen through the program. Any costs for prescriptions and follow-up visits with primary care physicians or specialists, however, will be the responsibility of the parent or guardian.

The program is available to all children in Mississippi, but families outside the Mississippi public school system may be charged for the telehealth visit. For more information, visit www.umm.edu/Healthcare/Telehealth/Schools/Home.html.



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LBTV wins Sparklight grant

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach Television (LBTV) at Long Beach High School (LBHS) was recently announced as one of six Sparklight "Dream Bigger" awards. The fifth annual social media campaign awarded \$15,000 to schools and organizations providing STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education to kindergarten through twelfth-grade students.

Since 2019, Sparklight and the associated Cable One family of brands have awarded nearly \$120,000 through the Dream Bigger initiative.

LBHS will use the award to purchase an additional, much-needed professional-grade video camera for the school's daily LBTV broadcast, which teaches student journalists about reporting, videography, teamwork and professionalism.

"Helping provide our future leaders with access to hands-on learning opportunities through our 'Dream Bigger' campaign aligns with our continued commitment to the communities we serve," said Trish Niemann, Sparklight's vice president of communications strategy. "STEM education sets these young students up for success, and we are honored to be part of their learning journey."

More than 100 schools and organizations from communities in the twenty-one states Sparklight serves submitted entries outlining how the award would be used to fund their STEM projects, and how the projects benefit students. Determined by public voting, the six schools and STEM programs will each receive the \$2,500 Dream Bigger award.

1st Thursdays bring bike rides

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach 1st Thursday Community Bicycle Rides continue this summer, with rides set for July 6, August 3 and September 7.

The free ride for all ages begins at 6 p.m., with riders meeting at the Harper McCaughan Town Green, at the corner of Jeff Davis and 3rd Street.

Riders should bring their own bikes and helmets to take an easy look through Long Beach.

For more information, call 228-297-7229.





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Patriotic banners line the streets of Long Beach to honor those who serve



Toni Miles

A row of eight banners featuring local servicemen and women hang front-and-center at the Harper McCaughan Town Green.



Toni Miles

Local military heroes are featured on banners throughout the downtown area.

By Toni Miles

Long Beach has long been home to many who have served the country in the military, including some who have paid the ultimate price for the freedoms enjoyed by Americans, and those heroes are hoisted high for all to see on the City of Long Beach's military banners, which are displayed along the city's most popular thoroughfare, Jeff Davis Avenue.

The banners each feature a veteran's name, branch of service and years of service and are placed on street lamps along Jeff Davis Avenue. The project is designed to be a tribute for the community to recognize and honor Long Beach residents and their family members who are serving, are veterans who have served, or were veterans who gave their life for the country through service in the United States Armed Forces.

The honorary banners will continue to be on display through the July 4th holiday.

Long Beach students awarded Chamber scholarships



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Biloxi, Gulfport, Long Beach and Pass Christian Chambers of Commerce recently hosted a joint Excellence in Education Awards Ceremony to recognize educators and award \$25,000 in scholarships to high school seniors. The Long Beach Chamber of Commerce's scholarship recipients included Stokley Sawyer, Rowan Sanzin, Ella Lansford and Alexander Eleuterius.

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THE PASS POST

Honoring the country's late heroes

All photos by Toni Miles.



The Laying of the Remembrance Wreath was part of the ceremony to honor fallen heroes and was laid by Raul Gomez, State Deputy of the Mississippi Jurisdiction of the Knights of Columbus and member of Council #4472, Pass Christian.



Gold Star Families were among those at the event. They were presented with a rose at the ceremony. Pictured are Steel Worker 2nd Class (SCW) Rob Harkins, representing all Seabees Gold Star families; CE3 Cody Marquez, representing all USCG Gold Star families; CWO4 -Retired Roger Hudson, representing all USN Gold Star families; Ms. Loretta Burns-Knighten, mother of Captain Tiffany Quinqueka Burns (USA); Ms. Diane Moore, daughter of CMSgt Thomas Moore (USAF); and Mrs. Margaret Levens, mother of Marine SSgt Donnie F. Levens (USMC).



Gold Star Families were presented with a rose at the ceremony by Cecil R. Ruddock Memorial Post VFW 5931 Commander Mark Carter, United States Navy Retired Builder First Class, Seabee Combat Warfare Specialist and Donnie Levens American Legion Post #1995 Commander Bill Moran, United States Vietnam Era Veteran.



Tina O'Shields, a Cecil R. Ruddock Memorial VFW Post 5931 member in Pass Christian, addresses the crowd at the Memorial Day ceremony.

By Toni Miles

Gone. Never forgotten. Memorial Day is a federal holiday each year to honor and mourn all the United States military personnel who died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

On Memorial Day, May 29, 2023, dozens of people across the coast gathered to do just that at the Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony held at War Memorial Park in Pass Christian. The event was hosted by the Cecil R. Ruddock Memorial VFW Post 5931. Members from all branches of the military and from cities throughout South Mississippi were on hand for the event.

Scout Troop #316 raised and lowered the American and Mississippi state flag at half-staff in the park as part of the ceremony, followed by the laying of the Remembrance Wreath to honor fallen heroes by the Knights of Columbus Council #4472.

The Patriots Penn Winner, Mia Clare Lacy, read her essay to the crowd, and there was also a Gold Star Family Presentation for the surviving family members of servicemen and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom and country, who were honored and presented with a rose. The remembrance ceremony ended with a prayer.

A Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony is held each Memorial Day at War Memorial Park in Pass Christian, where monuments honoring those who have served are on display throughout the year.



Scout Troop #316 raises and lowers the American and Mississippi state flag to half-staff at the ceremony.



VFW Post 5931 Commander Mark Cart speaks at the Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony at War Memorial Park.



The Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony is held each Memorial Day at War Memorial Park in Pass Christian.



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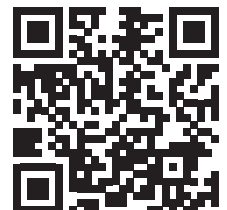


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Pass Christian students awarded Chamber scholarships



Special to The Clinton Courier

The Biloxi, Gulfport, Long Beach and Pass Christian Chambers of Commerce recently hosted a joint Excellence in Education Awards Ceremony to recognize educators and award \$25,000 in scholarships to high school seniors. The Pass Christian Chamber of Commerce's scholarship recipients included Savannah Meyers and John-Xavier Thornton.

PCHS graduates Class of 2023

Special to The Pass Post

On Friday, May 12, 2023, Pass Christian High School graduated 157 seniors. Ariana Lynn-Taylor Troutman, with a weighted GPA of 4.486, was named the valedictorian.



With a weighted GPA of 4.477, Anne Marie Allen was Pass Christian High School's salutatorian.



Troutman will continue her education by attending Middlebury College, and Allen will be attending Bowdoin College.

Theatre in the Pass performances set for July 20-23



Special to The Pass Post

Theatre in the Pass will present *The Odd Couple* July 20-23.

Special to The Pass Post

Theatre in the Pass is making preparations to present the female edition of *The Odd Couple* by Neil Simon. Performances are planned for Thursday, July 20, through Sunday, July 23.

Following its premiere on Broadway in 1965, *The Odd Couple* characters were revived in a 1968 film and 1970s television series, as well as several other derivative works and spin-offs.

The play takes place in New York City in the 1980s, in the days before social media and cell phones. In Simon's contemporary comic classic, adapted to a female edition, Unger and Madison are at it again - Florence Unger and Olive Madison, that is. Instead of the poker party that begins the original version, Ms. Madison has invited the girls over for an evening of Trivial Pursuit. The Pidgeon sisters have been replaced by the two Constanzuela brothers, but the hilarity remains the same. Through the comedy, the women showcase a theme of female friendships that make them stronger together.

The play is directed by Gail Trahan, and performance times will be at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, with a 2 p.m. matinee closing out the run on Sunday, July 23.

General admission tickets are \$20, with a discounted price of \$18 available for seniors. Tickets may be purchased at the door or via the PayPal link on the Theatre in the Pass website at PassMainStreet.com.

For more information, email Info@TheatreInThePass.org. Theatre in the Pass is a program of The Pass Christian Main Street Foundation.



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Bearcat Broadcast Network looking for interested students



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Long Beach Middle School and Long Beach High School students who are interested in sports broadcasting or video production are encouraged to apply to volunteer with the Bearcat Broadcast Network (BBN).

The Bearcat Broadcast Network, which is looking for volunteer student-based production crews for the 2023-2024 school year, offers students the opportunity to serve as camera operators, graphic technicians, audio engineers, producers, play-by-play announcers and reporters. The students produce live streamings or recordings of sporting events and/or special school events, providing them with valuable hands-on experience.

Interested students, as well as current BBN crew members, are asked to fill out an interest form. The form is available on the Long Beach School District's Facebook page as a Google doc. For more information, email Bearcat.Broadcast.Network@lbsdk12.com.

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HIGH CALIBER GUNS

STUDENTS CLOSE OUT SCHOOL WITH FIELD DAYS

All photos Special to Long Beach Breeze

The final weeks of school brought field day fun to youngsters at Reeves Elementary and Long Beach Middle School. Students had the opportunity to have fun and celebrate the end of state testing and the close of a successful year. Students and staff participated in various physical activities that encouraged social interaction, teamwork and friendly competition and provided lasting memories in a segue to summer.



Ka'Lon Duncanson serves USM's Gulf Park proudly as SGA president

Special to Long Beach Breeze

From Freeport, Bahamas to Long Beach, Miss., Ka'Lon Duncanson has made the most of his time as a student at The University of Southern Mississippi's (USM) Gulf Park campus and most recently as Student Government Association (SGA) President.

Duncanson always had a passion for community service. He was involved in his junior high school's local government junior council and his passion for helping others and his community flourished.

"I'm big on community service," said Duncanson.

In high school, Duncanson was gathering groups and working on small projects around school. He would help clean up campus and paint bathroom walls that were spray painted with graffiti. His leadership role did not stop there, especially when deciding where to attend college.

When looking for schools, he said USM felt like family.

"This is where I want to be,"

said Duncanson. "I didn't even want to look at any other universities. The southern hospitality was it for me."

Even though he didn't know anyone at USM, he knew right away that he wanted to enroll as a student. He first toured the Hattiesburg campus. Later, touring Gulf Park, he fell in love with the proximity to the coast. His drive to campus helps him to feel at home with the beach and sunset views.

He came to USM pursuing a bachelor's degree in marketing, but his freshmen year started with challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, that didn't stop Duncanson from making big waves on campus.

He started off as the Vice President of Judicial Affairs, then later making his way to president.

"I didn't expect to be president. I really wanted to make a difference on campus," said Duncanson.

Duncanson did just that by starting a student group called Fins and Flippers which is a stu-



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dent organization focusing on scuba diving, snorkeling, marine conservation and community service. The group also participates in monthly beach clean-ups.

In the Spring of 2022, Duncanson was awarded the Student Employee of the Year dedicated for his hard work at the Office of Student Affairs. His organization, Fins and Flippers was awarded the Outstanding Student Organization.

Duncanson also took advantage of USM's study abroad program, traveling to London in the Sum-

mer of 2022. There, he learned about international business and cultural changes. USM has provided him with endless possibilities and his time as a Golden Eagle has allowed him to grow professionally and personally.

"I would describe my time here as a growth period in my life," said Duncanson.

With a smile on his face, Duncanson continues to thrive as SGA President.

"Being an SGA president for me is an honor," said Duncanson. "I love being an advocate for students, being their voice."

Duncanson enjoys what campus has to offer. Events such as the end-of-the-semester block parties, harvest picnics and commencement are what makes Gulf Park feel like a community.

This summer, Duncanson has plans to participate in an exciting internship for Caterpillar in Washington DC. He said working in the Office of Student Affairs has inspired him to pursue his future career. He graduates in December 2023.

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Summer calendar is packed with activities and events in Long Beach

By Toni Miles

Are you looking for fun things to do this summer in the Friendly City? If so, there are plenty of events and activities for all ages to enjoy. Here's a look at just some of them:

4th of July Jubilee

Saturday, July 1
Downtown Long Beach
Noon: Festival at the Town Green
1 p.m.: Parade on Jeff Davis Avenue
6 p.m.: Live Music at the Town Green
8 p.m.: Fireworks Show

Long Beach 1st Thursday Community Bicycle Rides

July 6, August 3 and September 7
Harper McCaughan Town Green @
Jeff Davis Avenue and 3rd Street
Easy Look Through Long Beach
Bring a bike and helmet
More info: 228-297-7229



Forget Me Not Florist Christmas in July

Saturday, July 15
Harper McCaughan Town Green
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The Forget Me Not Annual Christmas in July Festival will feature various artists and vendors for shoppers and visitors.



Cinema Under the Oaks

July 14 - *Moana*
August 11 - *Turning Red*
USM Gulf Park Campus
Fleming Education Center Auditorium
730 E. Beach Blvd.
Concessions and games open at 6 p.m.
Movies begin at 7 p.m.



Long Beach Live Finally First Friday Concerts

Free concerts at the Harper McCaughan Town Green Pavilion on Jeff Davis Avenue the first Friday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. Before each concert, a cruise in featuring classic automobiles will be on display at 6 p.m.



Upcoming Concert Dates:
Friday, July 7
Friday, August 4

Long Beach Farmers Market:

This weekly, non-profit outdoor market features local farmers and food producers, as well as live music, each Saturday at the Harper McCaughan Town Green from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Admission is free.

William Carey University launches “Making College Affordable”

Special to Long Beach Breeze

William Carey University announces “Making College Affordable” – a major restructuring of its financial aid program. Starting in fall 2023, it will mean an average increase of forty percent in scholarship amounts awarded to freshmen, transfer and international students. It also means free textbooks for undergraduate students and no tuition increase over fall 2022.

This initiative was among Dr. Ben Burnett’s first priorities in August 2022 as he assumed a new role as the university’s president.

“While Carey has always been competitive with other institutions in Mississippi, and in most cases less expensive, we felt our scholarship structure was outdated and needed to reflect the needs of our students today,” Burnett said.

“We want all students to have the option of choosing a Christian higher education. Hopefully, these changes will make that possible for many more students in the future. We don’t ever want financial hardship to prevent a student from enrolling at Carey.”

WCU’s academic scholarships are ranked in four tiers and awarded based on factors like scores on ACT and SAT tests for freshmen, college grade point average for transfer students and whether the student lives on-campus or off-campus. Under the new structure, scholarships will range



Special to Long Beach Breeze

from \$5,100 to \$9,300 per year for students who live on campus, and \$2,700 to \$6,600 for commuters.

The new program also includes Church-Related Vocation scholarships for ministerial students – increasing those awards to \$9,000 for on-campus students and \$6,300 for commuters.

“One of the things I’ve learned talking to prospective students and families is that people assume William Carey’s tuition is high because it’s a private university. That’s never been the case. We kept tuition low – but now, we’ve raised our scholarships to unprecedented amounts. Students can absolutely afford to pursue

- More than 90 percent of WCU students receive financial aid. Both academic and talent-based scholarships are available. Work study is available.
- WCU’s academic year consists of three 10-week trimesters.
- The student-faculty ratio is 14:1.
- WCU is home to 18 athletic programs.

their educational dreams at William Carey,” said Dr. Brett Golson, dean of the Cooper School of Missions and Ministry Studies.

For more information, visit wmcarey.edu/MakingCollegeAffordable, or contact the WCU Office of Admissions, Tradition campus at 228-702-1815.

Gulf Coast Library honors long-time employees



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Allisa Beck (center) was recognized for forty years of service to the USM Gulf Coast Library.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Saidul Hassan (right) was recognized for twenty years of service to the USM Gulf Coast Library.

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Allisa Beck and Saidul Hassan were recently honored for their service to the University of Southern Mississippi’s Gulf Coast Library. Beck, who serves as the Arts and Humanities and Collection Management Librarian, was recognized for four decades of service. Hassan, who serves as the Library Technology Specialist, was honored for twenty years of service.

Mississippi insurance brokers can now sell pet insurance

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Pet health insurance may seem like a joke to some, but it is big business.

As of 2020, there were 3.1 million pets insured, which amounts to billions of dollars in premiums - and that big business is coming to Mississippi. With Senate Bill 2228 signed into law this legislative session, Mississippi becomes the second state, after Maine, to adopt a law that will create “a comprehensive legal framework within which pet insurance may be sold” in Mississippi. The bill would amend Mississippi law to would allow health and life insurance agents to sell pet insurance, not just brokers licensed to sell property and casualty insurance.

According to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, the pet insurance industry had an increase in annual premiums of over thirty percent from 2020 to 2021, totaling about \$2.8 billion.

Pet insurance, like human health insurance, includes exclusions, various levels of coverage, deductibles and payment limits. Some carriers have different levels of coverage for the customer to choose from, while other carriers have one-size-fits-all type plans. Most pet insurance companies exclude pre-existing conditions and hereditary or congenital conditions. Some insurance companies will not accept pets after a certain age, and many companies have waiting periods before benefits begin.

Insurance policies are usually broken down by the type of pet being insured. Some companies allow the owner to choose their veterinarian. The actual monthly cost of the policy will depend on many variables, including the species of animal, breed, gender, age, location, and the coverages and deductible chosen. Most policies pay on a reimbursement basis and are not transferable to other pets, but, with written approval and consent, some policies can be transferred to new owners.

Pet health insurance policies mostly cover issues such as cancer and broken bones, and some injuries may have a one-year waiting period. According to findings by *Consumer Reports*, in 2020, the average accident and illness premiums cost \$594 a year for a dog and \$342 for a cat. Medical treatment for dogs typically costs more than for cats.

The legislation does not apply to life insurance for pets.

Mississippi’s Insurance Commissioner will be given the authority to regulate the industry.

The new law goes into effect July 1, 2023. Those desiring more information about pet insurance are encouraged to call their local insurance agent or contact the Insurance Commissioner’s office at 601-359-3569.