



Special delivery arrives at Central Fire Station in Long Beach

By Toni Miles

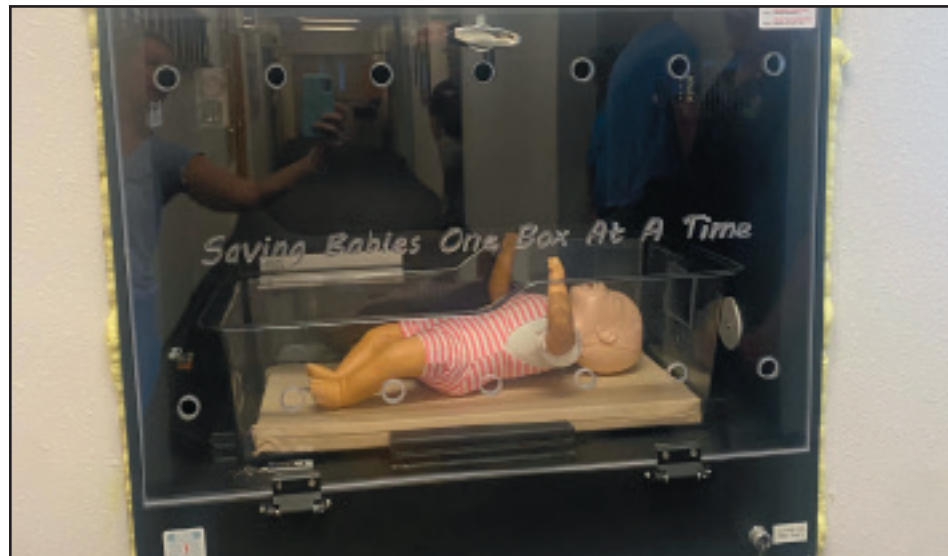
After months of anticipation and expectation, a special delivery has arrived at Central Fire Station on Klondyke Road in Long Beach, and it won't be long before the state's first-ever Safe Haven Baby Box (SHBB) is available operating to provide a life-saving option for mothers and parents who cannot care for their newborns, forty-five days or younger.

The Baby Box was installed at the south side of Central Fire Station on July 13. The Baby Box should be available for use at the end of August, after the firefighters receive training from SHBB. The service was spearheaded and organized by local resident and adoptive parent Caitlin Kelly.

"We are ecstatic that the Box has finally made it to Long Beach," Kelly says. "This is not only exciting for our community, but for the entire state."

Long Beach Fire Chief Griff Skellie is equally excited.

"As Fire Chief here, I was very



Toni Miles

"Saving babies one box at a time" is etched on the new Long Beach Baby Box at Central Fire Station. A baby doll was placed in the box on the day of the July 13 installation to illustrate how it works.

proud that we would be involved," Chief Skellie says. "What we do here every day is to try to save lives, and

that is our main goal. If we can save a life by housing this Baby Box here,

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Welcome signs offer greeting as streetscape signage project progresses



Toni Miles

These two pillars, just north of the intersection of Jeff Davis Avenue and Highway 90, north of the Long Beach Harbor, are the latest addition to the City's streetscape signage project.

By Toni Miles

Signs abound all around showing the continual progress and work being done for the City of Long Beach's streetscape signage project.

Hundreds of colorful flowers, shrubbery and plants are now rooted and on display for all who drive through the Friendly City and pass by the intersection of Highway 90 at the harbor and Jeff Davis Avenue, one of Long Beach's most popular and traveled roads.

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Toni Miles

A new Long Beach Harbor sign is perched at one entrance to the Long Beach Harbor, just south of the intersection of Highway 90 and Jeff Davis Avenue.

USM Gulf Park plans to start physician assistant program

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Officials at The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) harbor high expectations for a new physician assistant (PA) program designated for the University's Gulf Park campus in Long Beach. While the program remains in the planning stages, a program director has been chosen to lead the initiative.

Longtime healthcare professional Chris Tuey, with almost forty years of experience in the field as a registered nurse, physician assistant, systems analyst, and educator, began his new role as Physician Assistant Studies Program Coordinator at USM on June 1.

Tuey comes to USM most recently from Bethel University in St. Paul Minnesota, where he served as an

assistant professor. In addition, Tuey was previously the program director of the Northwestern College - Iowa Physician Assistant program. He described the opportunity to help direct a PA program from the ground up as "very exciting."

"Once I learned of the opportunity at USM and started doing my homework about the school, I was extremely impressed with USM's reputation, research emphasis, and the



school's mission and vision," said Tuey. "Being a part of a new program in this environment is a once-in-a-career opportunity."

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Long Beach Breeze

The City of Long Beach is looking for young local artists who reside in the Long Beach School District to enter the Long Beach Art Competition. In its first year, the competition is designed to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of young Long Beach residents. Works chosen as the winning entries will be displayed for one year in Long Beach City Hall.

Eligible mediums include paintings in oil, acrylic or watercolor; drawings in pastel, colored pencil, charcoal, ink or markers; collage; prints, including lithographs, silkscreen and block prints; photography; and mixed media.

Art work may be up to 26" x 26" x 4" in size, including the frame.

All entries must be an original in concept, design and execution.

There will be two age categories for the competition: ages five to nine, and ages ten to eighteen. No specific theme is required, and creativity is encouraged.

All artwork must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Friday, October 6. Winners will be announced at the October 17 Board of Alderman meeting.

Entries should be submitted in person to Courtney Cuevas at Long Beach City Hall or can be emailed to Courtney.Cuevas@CityOfLongBeachMS.com. Submissions should include a high resolution image of the artwork and the application forms, which are available on the City's website at CityOfLongBeach.MS under "City Events."

Late submissions or submissions without the appropriate forms will not be accepted.

For questions or more information, contact Cuevas by email or call 228-863-1556.



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CES completing facelift before school starts, more upgrades planned

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The last day of the 2022-2023 year at Coast Episcopal School (CES) in Long Beach was more hectic than usual. Not only were students and teachers packing up to prepare for summer break, it was “all hands on deck” as the school’s main building, which houses transitional kindergarten through sixth grade, was emptied in anticipation of the independent school’s first major renovation in fifty years.

“When our students, faculty and staff begin school this coming August, they’ll walk into a new entry and be greeted with the comfort provided by a new central HVAC system,” said Head of School Jake Winter. “Every classroom will be freshly painted, all ceilings will boast new acoustic tiles and new lights will shine throughout the building. The school’s original lockers will be replaced with updated cubbies designed to store student personal belongings efficiently and add to the aesthetics of the building’s hallways.”



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CES leadership and construction partners are all smiles as they prepared for this summer’s renovations at Coast Episcopal School. Pictured (l to r) are principal architect Leah Watters, Watters Architecture; project manager Chris Hansen, Crane Builders; CES Head of School Jake Winter; CES Board President Casey Funderburk; and CED Board Vice President Rebecca Montgomery.

Winter explained that, in addition to the work done this summer, the first step of the renovation took place in the spring of 2023, when

a new phone system was installed that provides instant communication with each classroom and all of
cont. on page 8

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cont. from front page

USM Gulf Park plans to start physician assistant program

Dr. Lachel Story, Dean of USM's College of Nursing and Health Professions, explained that the idea of a PA program at Gulf Park had been discussed for several years. Last August, University administrators gave Story and her colleagues the green light to initiate full-scale planning. The Mississippi State Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) Board, the PA accrediting body (ARC-PA), and SACs followed with approval shortly thereafter.

Story notes that approximately two years of prep-work remains, based upon ARC-PA guidelines. These include the number of students who will be admitted for the initial cohorts. Plans call for the hiring of two faculty this fall to facilitate the curriculum planning process, with up to six faculty on board once the program reaches full capacity.

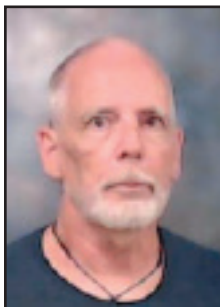
Story calls Tuey's selection as program coordinator an important step in building a program that will benefit multiple facets of healthcare along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

"We are excited to have Mr. Tuey on board. He comes to us with extensive practice and academic experience," said Story. "His leadership will be valuable as we stand up and launch this important program for the healthcare workforce needs along Coastal Mississippi."

As far as immediate objectives in his new role, Tuey emphasized that PA education is heavily regulated and closely scrutinized.

"Needless to say, the initial technical steps in setting up the program need to be flawless," said Tuey. "Beyond that, it is essential to position this program to fit into the mission of the University to serve the students, community and the people of Mississippi while living up to USM's world-class reputation."

To learn more about the physician assistant program at USM, call 601-266-5445.



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Chris Tuey



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Special delivery arrives at Central Fire Station in Long Beach



Toni Miles

Long Beach firefighter Jacob Welch inspects the newly-arrived Safe Haven Baby Box. Local businesses Bottom 2 Top Construction and Commercial Electric offered their services to install the Baby Box at Central Fire Station.

cont. from front page

Welcome signs offer greeting as streetscape signage project progresses



Toni Miles

A new city sign welcomes visitors and commuters on Highway 90 near the Jeff Davis Avenue intersection just north of the harbor. Crews worked on July 6, the day this photo was taken, and over the next few days to firmly plant and arrange flowers and greenery around the signs.

The new blooms and greenery pop in contrast and compliment the new pillars and signs at and along the foot of the intersection heralding the city's name and harbor location.

The new signage, pillars, plants and flowers are part of the first phase of the project, which includes welcome signs at the intersection of Jeff Davis Avenue and Highway 90, as well as at the intersection of South Cleveland Avenue and Highway 90, all designed to draw tourists to the city's harbor area.

that is a plus.”

Firefighters at Central Fire Station will be on call 24/7 and alerted should a baby be surrendered in the temperature-controlled bassinet located inside the Box. Mothers or parents of newborns, can surrender infants forty-five-days-old or younger for whom they are unable to care for. The surrender can be done anonymously and without fear of prosecution, with the assurance the babies will be properly cared for and placed in a loving home.

HOW THE BABY BOX WORKS

The Box contains a silent alarm that activates as soon as the mother or a 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, the child will be taken to a local hospital and be medically evaluated. At that time, Child Protection Services is contacted, and measures are then taken to proceed with adoptive placement.

According to SHBB, many babies have been surrendered across the nation inside Safe Haven Baby Boxes since the first was installed in 2016. Nationwide, there have been thirty-two safe surrenders.

Currently, there are 153 active Baby Boxes in the U.S., including in states such as Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Arkansas, Florida, New Mexico, North Carolina, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma and Arizona. Now, Mississippi is included in this number, with Long Beach leading the way for the rest of the state.

“My prayer is that more coastal cities will see the need to establish a Box in their community,” Kelly says. “Statistically, the more boxes that are in a state, the more safe surrenders there have been.”

“What a great reward it would be if, twenty years from now down the road, someone was to walk up to us and say, ‘Hey, my mother was in a bad spot and dropped me off here, and y’all took care of me,’” Chief Skellie says.

THE 10-MONTH ROAD TO INCORPORATING THE STATE'S FIRST-EVER BABY BOX

The Baby Box is an extension of the Safe Haven Law signed off officially back on April 28 of this year, which states a mother or parent can anonymously and safely surrender a newborn child within forty-five days of birth without fear of prosecution.

The City's Safe Haven Baby Box (SHBB) has been a long time coming, but fast-tracked over the course of only ten months, after clearing several legal hurdles and intense fundraising for the project.

The Long Beach Board of Aldermen approved an agreement with SHBB at their February 21 meeting earlier this year, followed by City leaders finalizing and signing a contract with SHBB on March 24 at Long Beach City Hall.

Although Kelly is the driving force behind the Baby Box program, she credits a few local businesses from Pass Christian and Long Beach with making the Baby Box a reality.

“We were able to meet our fundraising goal, largely in part, by family and friends,” Kelly says. “We are also thankful for the local businesses that donated, as well as First Baptist Church of Long Beach, Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic School, Holy Trinity Catholic School, St. James Elementary School and the Long Beach Rotary Club.

“We will forever be grateful for Bottom 2 Top Construction and Commercial Electric for offering their services to install the Baby Box, as well as Long Beach Mayor [George] Bass and Long Beach Fire Chief [Griff Skellie], who have been onboard with this mission from the start,” Kelly says.

After months of fundraising, educating the public and local lawmakers about the Baby Box program and the City of Long Beach's approval, Kelly joined Governor Tate Reeves at the State Capitol in Jackson, Mississippi, on April 28, and she was on hand at the official Signing Ceremony where the Governor signed multiple pro-mom, pro-life bills, including the Safe Haven Baby Dropbox bill, into law, which allows mothers of newborns to relinquish their babies (now to an extended period) of up to forty-five days after birth into Safe Haven Baby Boxes, hospitals and fire and police stations in Mississippi.

WHAT'S NEXT AND A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Kelly says, as of now, four other cities across Mississippi are reaching out to their community officials to install Baby Boxes, following the City of Long Beach's lead.

“To me, that is what this is all about, spreading the awareness and educating our state about the changes in the Safe Haven Law and the Safe Haven Baby Box Mission,” Kelly says.

To donate or get more information on the Safe Haven Baby Boxes, visit SHBB.org. All donations are tax-deductible.

The toll-free 24-hour hotline for mothers in crisis is 866-992-2291.

Rotary Club collecting fishing gear for youth



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Pictured (l to r) are Long Beach Rotary Club President Jason Lindholm, Gulf Coast Youth Fishing Project founder Travis Allen and Long Beach Rotary Club member Clint Edrington.

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The Rotary Club of Long Beach has partnered with the Gulf Coast Youth Fishing Project to do a fishing pole drive. They are collecting poles, nets, tackle boxes and lures to be given to children who are unable to afford them. At press time, they had collected thirty-four poles, seven nets, five tackle boxes and lots of lures. The hope is for this to be an ongoing project, with year-round collections of fishing items.

The Founder of the Gulf Coast Youth Fishing Project is Travis Allen, who used his lifelong passion as a way to give back to his community. He also started The Gulf Coast Secret Fishing Report on Facebook, which he has used to collect donations. So far, he has given away twenty-four poles to children in need, no questions asked. He will accept any fishing accessories and is even skilled in repair of ones that may need it.

Long Beach Rotary Club President Jason Lindholm views this as an ongoing partnership. He views fishing as a way for kids to stay out of trouble, an activity that gives them a life-long way to feed their families. Rotary Club Member Clint Edrington says he hopes that, in the future, they will be doing giveaways in Long Beach Harbor, with a chance to show the children how to use the poles and fish, as well.

Those who have children in need of a fishing pole are encouraged to contact Travis Allen at 228-365-2387.

Those who have a fishing pole or any other fishing accessory to donate may bring them to Lindholm Wealth Management at 19017 Pineville Road in Long Beach. The Long Beach Rotary Club meets the second Tuesday of each month at Bulls Restaurant, and visitors are always welcome.

USM Gulf Park couple retires after 76 years



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Husband and wife Ricky and Karen Shaw are retiring from The University of Southern Mississippi's (USM) Gulf Park Campus after a combined total of seventy-six years of dedicated service.

Karen Shaw retires after forty-four years working in the Gulf Coast Library; Ricky Shaw retires after thirty-two years in the University Police Department at Gulf Park.

The void will be felt as the two start a new journey as retirees, say their colleagues from both Hattiesburg and Gulf Park campuses, who wished the Shaws farewell during their retirement reception at the Gulf Coast Library.

Lisa Carter, Major of Coastal Operations, and University Police Sergeant Shawn Rodgers said it's a bittersweet moment for the department.

"He gave us thirty-two years," said Carter. "He's seen a lot of changes out here. I wish him well in his new endeavor."

"It's going to be hard to fill his shoes. He did a lot around here," said Rodgers. "He is very personable and worked mostly the night shift. Everything was safe and secure when he was here. He went above and beyond the call of duty."

After showing a video montage of photos of the two during their time at USM, those in attendance hugged both Karen and Ricky, as talk of memories filled the



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third floor of the library.

Dean of University Libraries Dr. John Eye talked about Karen's dedication to her work.

"You don't have to be around Karen much to see how committed she is to USM," Dr. Eye said. "She has committed her working life to the university, and her enthusiasm for the Gulf Park Library is obvious. I wish her the best as she enters this new phase of her life."

Interlibrary Loan and Circulation Specialist Cameron Faulk talked about Karen's leaving like losing a member of the family.

"Karen, ever since the first day I worked at the USM Gulf Park Library in 2015, I have known you," Faulk said to Shaw. "You are synonymous with the USM library system. Forty-four years is nothing to scoff at. Only a very minority of people work for an institution that long, especially in this day and age. When you retire, a little piece of the USM Gulf Park Library is retiring, too. Thank you for everything you have done. You are more than deserving of retirement, and we will miss you."

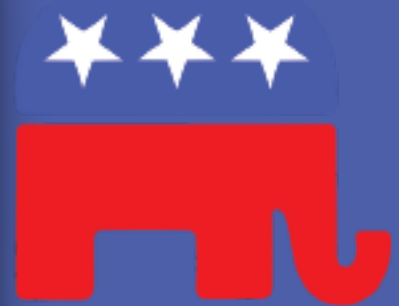
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cont. from page 3

CES completing facelift before school starts, more upgrades planned

the school's seven buildings.

Conversations about the need for infrastructure improvements began two years ago, according to Winter. He recommended to the CES Board of Directors that an architectural firm be hired to create a master plan to identify and prioritize the wide range of improvements needed. Upon the Board's approval, Watters Architecture of Pass Christian spent months reviewing faculty and staff surveys about usability and needs before creating the three-year renovation plan.

"After digging into the campus' fifty-year history in Long Beach, comparing that to the faculty and staff surveys and our own observations of today's campus, we made

a tough recommendation that the most critical investment was to update the spaces that already exist," said principal architect Leah Watters. "The main building has been largely untouched for decades, and the Board and Administration have made a bold decision to invest in the existing infrastructure."

"We are excited by the support of our community for these efforts to improve CES for future generations," Burnett said. "The work this summer is just the beginning, and we are looking forward to sharing our vision and plans with even more CES friends and family over the coming months."

The work currently being completed at CES is the first phase

of a \$2.5 million, three-year plan that, at its conclusion, will result in a contemporary and cohesive look that uses unifying elements on the exteriors of the main building, Gail Keenan Art Center and Seemann Makerspace. Windows throughout the campus buildings will be replaced, a bathroom and water fountain will be added to the school's expansive playground, and the Toddler Town and preschool buildings will have revamped parking, including ADA spaces. New landscaping and wayfinding signage will be added around the campus grounds.

Crane Builders of Waveland is serving as the general contractor for the project's first phase.

CES Board President Casey

Funderburk is equally enthused about the school's renovations. "The Coast Episcopal School Board is excited to support the much-needed renovations to the existing elementary school building," said CES Board President Casey Funderburk. "As the first of many exciting changes coming to CES, this initial phase of the capital campaign marks an important milestone for the growth and development of our children and the school. As our fundraising efforts continue, we hope the community will continue to support our growth as we move toward exciting new additions to the CES footprint."

For information about CED, call 228-452-9442.

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American Legion Post to install new officers

By Toni Miles

The Donnie Levens American Legion Post 1995 will install new officers on Friday, August 4, at the Long Beach Senior Citizen and Activity Center, located at 20257 Daugherty Road in Long Beach at 6 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Each year in July, elections are held for leadership positions with American Legion Post 1995, which is named after Long Beach native and United States Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Donnie Levens, who died in a mid-air collision off Djibouti while serving during Operation Enduring Freedom.

The American Legion is a patriotic veteran’s organization that was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919. Its mission is to enhance the well-being of America’s veterans, their families, the military and communities by their devotion to mutual helpfulness. The American Legion is also committed to mentoring youth, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting national security, and continuing service to fellow service members and veterans.



Toni Miles

Wreaths Across America, as seen here at the Long Beach Cemetery in December of 2022, is one of many community events carried out by the Donnie Levens American Legion Post 1995 each year.

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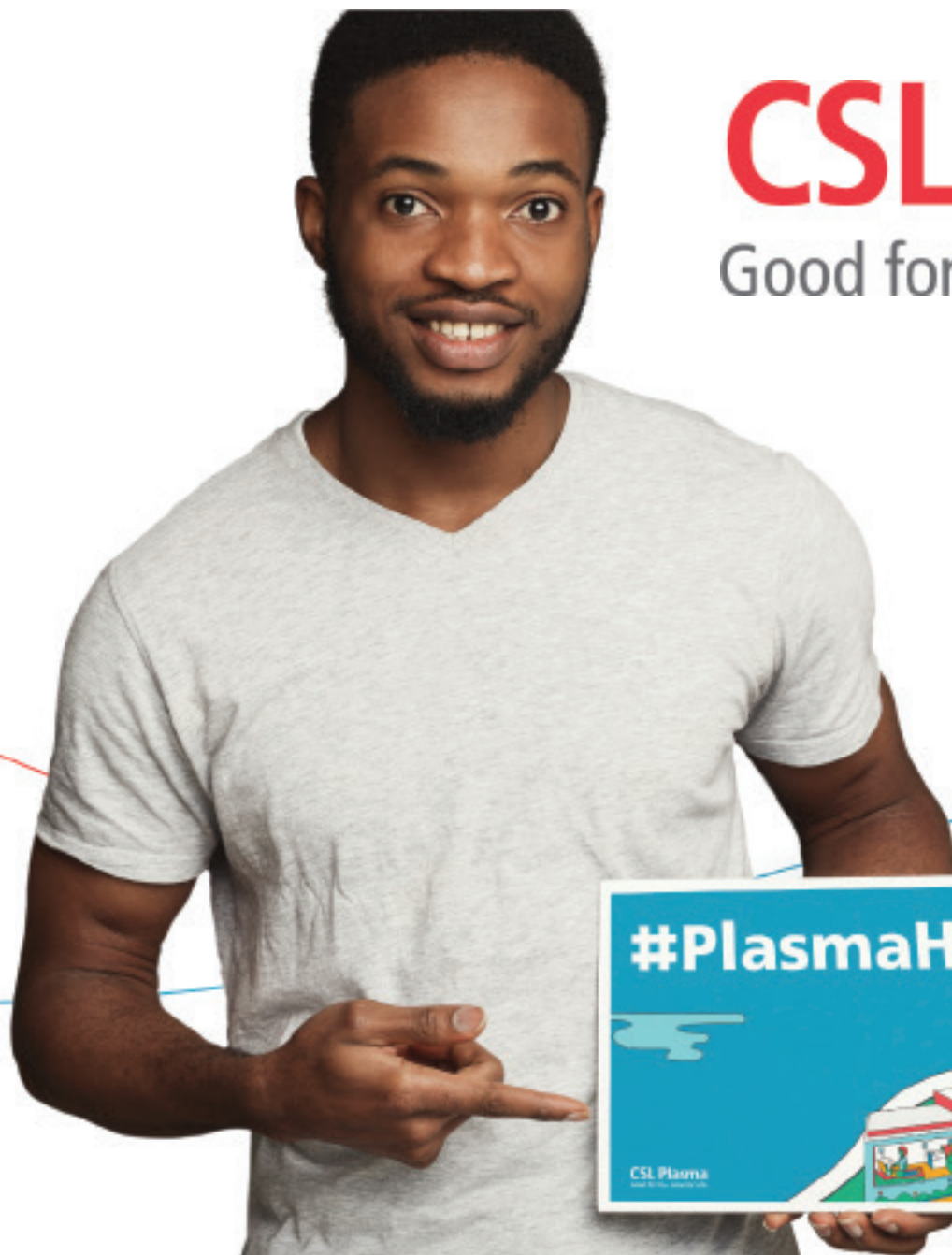
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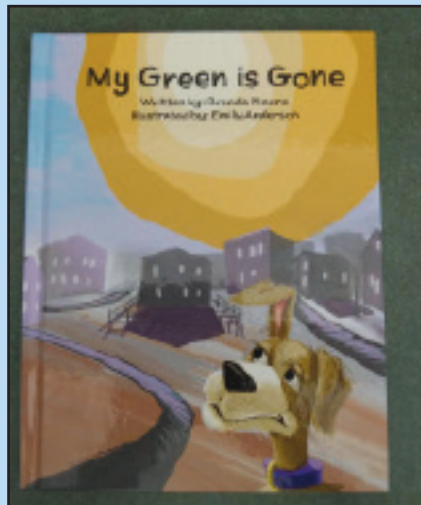
Garden Club reads to library patrons during summer reading program

By Dom Fimiano

The Long Beach Garden Club recently visited the Long Beach Public Library to participate in the library's summer reading program with the reading of a book, the sponsoring of a gardening activity and the presentation of the book to the library's collection. The Garden Club has been supporting the summer reading program for ten years. The day's program and the book presented explored how life revolves around green plants, the importance of preservation and how living green is essential to life.

This year, the Long Beach Garden Club donated *My Green Is Gone*, authored by Brenda Moore, to the library. Moore is the National Garden Club President and author/co-author of four children's books, sponsored by the National Garden Club. She has served as a club president, a district director, and the West Virginia Garden Club president prior to her current position. Moore is a former teacher for the West Virginia Department of Education and a former West Virginia public librarian.

The summer reading program is geared toward lower elementary students and family members. *My Green is Gone* examines what a world would be like without green. The book addressed how living green



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach Garden Club donated a book written by National Garden Club President Brenda Moore to the Long Beach Public Library during their summer reading program.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach Garden Club sponsored a flower pot painting and planting activity for the library's summer reading program. Shown (right) is the flower pot on Children's Librarian Renee Rayburn's desk, which has recently sprouted with plants.



Dom Fimiano

Adults pictured (l to r) are, front row: Kristina Nelson; middle row: Long Beach Garden Club President Ginger Wentz; and back row: Children's Librarian Renee Rayburn, Long Beach Garden Club member Debbie Cox, Eveline Slawinski, Long Beach Garden Club Vice-President Tammy Devin, and Long Beach Garden Club Historian Deborah Caldwell.

is essential to plant growth, plant preservation, and all life on Earth. The Long Beach Garden Club has previously donated several books by Brenda Moore to the Long Beach Library's summer reading program, including *The Frightened Frog*, which is about the challenges of being a frog, written to educate elementary-aged children on environmental issues affecting amphibians.

Debbie Cox with the Long Beach Garden Club presented the story, engaging students with questions and fun. With Cox's help, participants had the opportunity to ask questions, design a pot and plant seeds to nurture new growth. Attendees took their pots home to observe the growth of their seeds.

Summer Reading concludes, events set for August



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Meaghan and "Russ" from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks visited and provided some animal encounters.

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn, LBPL Youth and Technology Services

Summer Reading was a lot of fun this year. Along with the preschool programs, we planned family-oriented events twice a week and two Saturdays for the month of June. We had wonderful guests who presented informative, educational, and fun programming for all ages. We also planned programs that would remain a part of the library for years to come.

The library will be celebrating Book Lover's Day (August 9) beginning on Monday, August 7. Patrons can celebrate Book Lover's Day by reviewing the books they read in August. Instructions will be available when they check out. Reviews are done through Apollo and will be anonymous.

Family Movie Day will be held again on Saturday, August 19, at 10 a.m.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Staff members from the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies spoke about their work to rehabilitate sea turtles and dolphins along the Gulf Coast.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Department of Marine Resources visited for Boat and Water Safety Week.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Families enjoyed Family Puzzle Day at the library.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The book sale is open 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 holidays scheduled for the month of August.

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

For more information about any of our events or offerings, please give us a call at 228-863-0711.

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

Work and progress continue on Fire Station Number 3



Toni Miles



Toni Miles



Toni Miles

The photo on the left is a photo of Fire Station Number 3 on Johnson Road that was taken in July of last year. A recent photo (right) shows the progress that has been made on the property recently.

The project is a coordinated effort between Harrison County and the Long Beach Fire Department.

By Toni Miles

Construction of the City's future new fire station, Fire Station Number 3, located on Johnson Road in west Long Beach, is well underway, as signs of progress continue to be seen.

"The contractor has the slab poured," says Long Beach Fire Chief Griff Skellie. "They have the rebar

and are waiting on the block. The masonry sand has been delivered to the job site. We are still moving forward. They've got the new culvert out front to get across to the job site now."

Demolition began in June of last year, and the ground has been laid for the new facility, which is located in the Harrison County Industrial Park.

Once complete, the City of Long Beach will have three full-time firefighters providing additional protection in the west side of the Industrial Park.

The project is a coordinated effort between Harrison County and the Long Beach Fire Department. The new facility is replacing the old,

mold-ridden building leveled last year. It will be better manned and enable the area to keep its current fire rating - and could possibly help improve its current fire rating, which could drive down the overall cost of fire insurance coverage.

There is no official word on when Fire Station 3 is slated to be complete.

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Work continues to restore and preserve Quarles House

By Toni Miles

Construction work and restoration of Long Beach's historic Quarles House is well underway. The Board of Aldermen approved a contract for the restoration to begin back in January of this year, following a year of negotiations and receiving \$2 million in funding from the Gulf Coast Restoration Fund for the restorative project. Since then, crews with the contractor, J.O. Collins Contractor, Inc., can be seen almost daily working on restoring the historic house to its former glory.

In 2021, the City of Long Beach was gifted the Quarles House, one of Mississippi's most endangered landmarks at the time. Also known as Greenvale, the historic home was constructed in 1892 by William James Quarles, a rural school teacher from Tennessee who settled in the Long Beach community in 1884. It was the residence of W.J. Quarles until 1924.

Because the house was located on property that was highly prized for commercial development in Long Beach, the owner sought permission from the keeper of the National Register of Historic Places to move the structure approximately 400 feet northeast, near the Quarles Family Cemetery. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 and was designated a Mississippi Landmark in 2012, the same year the historic structure's move



Toni Miles

Crews continue restoration work on the historic Quarles House in Long Beach mid-July. The historic home, which has endured and survived numerous storms over the past century, is located at 111 Quarles Street in Long Beach. The home was moved from its original location on Railroad Street in 2003 and was listed as one of the ten most endangered historic sites in the state.

was approved.

As work continues, crews are carrying out plans for the restoration and preservation of the house, all stemming from research and details gathered through the states Department of Archives and History to keep in line with the home's historical accuracy.

"The Quarles House Restoration Proj-



Toni Miles

The Quarles House, deemed the oldest building in the City of Long Beach, is being restored thanks, largely in part, to a \$2 million grant from the Gulf Coast Restoration Fund. Crews with J.O. Collins Contractor, Inc. have been spotted almost daily since the beginning of the year working on the historic home.

ect has been one of our favorite projects this year," said Long Beach Community Affairs Director Courtney Cuevas. "We cannot wait to see the completed project very soon. The contractors are ahead of schedule. If there are no delays in the project, the City and the contractors believe, by the end of the year, the restoration project will be complete."

Once work is complete, the historic home will house the Long Beach Historical Society and will serve as a welcome center for visitors, as well. Prints of what the restored house will look like are available for \$35 through the Long Beach Historical Society. For more information, visit www.LBHistoricalSociety.org.

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Ramos awarded PCE grant from local P.E.O. chapter

Special to Long Beach Breeze

P.E.O. Chapter B – Long Beach recently announced the award of a Program for Continuing Education (PCE) grant to Michett Ramos. P.E.O. is an international philanthropic educational organization interested in bringing women increased opportunities for higher education.

Ramos was born and raised in Puerto Rico and began her pursuit of higher education at Puerto Rico University. Her education was interrupted when her husband joined the military, and they were moved to California.

When the family was relocated to the Gulf Coast, she began working part-time for the Institute for Disability Studies at USM, providing technical assistance, training, resources and support for Mississippians with disabilities and their families.

Ramos, a devoted military spouse and mother of two sons, realized her desire to help others began long ago in Puerto Rico, where she worked as a volunteer distributing food, clothing, and supplies to the homeless population in her area. With the support of her family, she decided to

pursue completing her degree in social work.

While balancing family, work and school, Ramos plans to complete her degree to set an example for her children, showing them that hard work and perseverance are worth the struggles one must endure to reach their goals. She is on track to graduate in May 2024 and will be working with the career counselors at USM to pursue her license and employment in her chosen field.

The P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education, established in 1973, is a grant program providing one-time financial assistance to women whose education has been interrupted and who find it necessary to return to school to complete a degree or certification that will improve their marketable skills for employment. Applicants must be identified and recommended by a local chapter. Ramos was recommended for consideration by P.E.O. Chapter B – Long Beach.

Established in 1930, the group serves as the state's second oldest P.E.O. chapter. For additional information about P.E.O., visit www.PEOInternational.org and/or PEOMississippi.org.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Michett Ramos



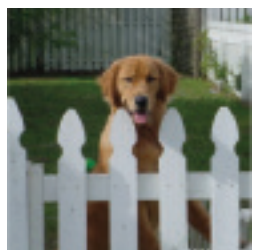
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Students honored by City for participation in Boys and Girls State



Toni Miles

Leaders of American Legion Post 1995 and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1995 pose with 2023 Long Beach Boys and Auxiliary Girls State delegates, who were honored recently at a Board of Aldermen meeting. Pictured (l to r) are Mike Griffioen, Luke Dulaney, Jared Smith, Alderman-at-Large Don Frazer, Ray Chavaree, Arlene Nguyen, Margaret Levens, Chloe Gordon and Wendy Griffioen.



Toni Miles

Members of American Legion Post 1995 were among those on hand as the student delegates were honored at the July 5 meeting.



Toni Miles

At the July 5 Board of Aldermen meeting, Ray Chavaree, American Legion Post 1995's Committee Chair for Boys State, praises local student delegates for their participation in this year's Boys and Auxiliary Girls State conventions.

By Toni Miles

The spotlight shone on four Long Beach students at the July 5 Board of Aldermen meeting.

Local students Chloe Gordon, Arlene Nguyen, Luke Dulaney and Jared Smith were recognized by the mayor and Board of Aldermen for their participation in Mississippi's 2023 Boys and Auxiliary Girls State Convention held at the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) this year. Students Shane Walker, Secilia Gundlach, Gracey Saddler and Hannah Hartley were also selected to attend the conventions

this year.

The Boys State Convention was held May 28 to June 3 in Oxford, returning for its seventh year.

The Auxiliary Girls State Convention took place June 11 to June 17, marking the first time ever the Auxiliary Girls State Convention has been hosted by Ole Miss.

The conventions, hosted by the American Legion each year, draw hundreds of high school juniors from throughout the state for a week of activities designed to "develop tomorrow's informed, responsible citizens."

Although the structures of each

program may differ, the missions of the American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Magnolia Girls State are the same. They both demonstrate that a democracy needs an intelligent citizenry and a moral, honest and impartial administration that is grounded in ethics following the principles of the nation's founders and that is responsive to the will of the people.

While in residence at the programs, the delegates acquire knowledge concerning the political machinery of state, county and local government to prepare them to perform at the convention the same functions as re-

al-world office holders. Every delegate to the two week-long programs holds elective office during their convention and argues bills in their own legislature. Each activity is designed to develop delegates' leadership abilities, political skills and enable them to better understand governing and citizenship.

Leaders with the local Donnie Levens American Legion Post 1995 and others were on hand at the City meeting to honor this year's delegates, who will use the information gained at the state conventions as they head into their senior year of high school.

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Magnolia Gulf Coast Beta Club brings home national awards

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The last few months, National Beta members from Magnolia Gulf Coast Beta Club have been working hard to prepare their entries for National Beta Convention.

Their efforts paid off when they recently received several awards.

In the Senior Division, the club won third place for their club Technology entry, and seventh place for their club Create and Animate entry.

In the Junior Division, Wyatt Nelson won first place in the sixth-grade Science Academics Testing.

In the Elementary Division, Garrett Nelson won second place in fourth-grade Social Studies. Luke Dillman won fifth place in fourth-grade Language Arts and third place in Quilling Visual Arts. The club won fourth place in the Club Apparel Design entry and second place in the club Technology entry.

Magnolia Gulf Coast Beta originally competed and received awards during the Mississippi State Convention held at Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center in February for Senior Division and March for the Junior/Elementary Divisions. Their victories at the



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Magnolia Gulf Coast Beta Club Elementary Division representatives included Garrett Nelson and Luke Dillman.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Magnolia Gulf Coast Beta Club Senior Division representatives included (l to r), front row: Zoie Conley, Apollo Stafford, Alexis Dillman and S.J. Dillman; and back row: Drew Chandler, Austin Cucuzza and Jacob Dial.

state level provided an opportunity to compete at the national level.

The National Convention, held in Louisville, Kentucky, provided all students the opportunity to compete. Over 5,000 Elementary Beta

(grades 4-5), 8,000 Junior Beta (grades 6-8) and 7,900 Senior Beta (grades 9-12) students were able to represent their schools this summer.

Magnolia Gulf Coast Beta Club (MGC Beta) is a group of home-

school students in fourth through twelfth grades from across the Gulf Coast area. Members who attended the National Convention from the MGC Beta Club's Senior Division included Zoie Conley of Gulfport, Drew Chandler of Pass Christian, Apollo Stafford of Saucier, Austin Cucuzza of Wiggins, Jacob Dial of Long Beach, S.J. Dillman of Long Beach, Alexis Dillman of Long Beach and Connor Williams of Biloxi. Junior Division attendees included Wyatt Nelson of Ocean Springs, and Elementary Division representatives were Garrett Nelson of Ocean Springs and Luke Dillman of Long Beach. Members who supported attendees from home include Ryan Ware of Gulfport, Kaitlyn Atwater of Gulfport, Braxton Bates of Saucier, Elizabeth Dacus of Gulfport and Madelyn Dillard of Gulfport. Sponsors for the groups include Suzanne Stafford, Lisa Miller, LeAnna Conley, Joanna Dillman, Maria Dacus and Leslie Bates.

For more information about National Beta, visit BetaClub.org. To connect with Magnolia Gulf Coast Beta, visit their "Prospective Magnolia GC Home School Beta Members" page on Facebook.

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Long Beach Excellence in Education Foundation funds five scholarships

Special to Long Beach Breeze

In its first year of organization, the Long Beach Excellence in Education Foundation has funded five \$1,000 scholarships to Long Beach High School graduating seniors. To be eligible for consideration, applicants had to possess strong leadership skills, academic achievement, strong work ethic, and community involvement.



The 2023 LBSD Scholarship – Honoring Fred Walker award recipients were Alexander Eleuterius, Jacob Haber, JaneClaire King, Samuel Lynn and Rowan Sanzin.

The foundation was formed to support the Long Beach School District (LBSD) by supplementing programs for staff and students. During the 2022-2023 school year, the foundation also funded six teacher grants, supported extracurricular activities, and sponsored several staff recognition programs. The group's efforts are funded through donations and fundraising.

For more information regarding the foundation, contact them at LB-ExcellenceInEducation@gmail.com, or tax-deductible donations may be made at <https://bit.ly/LB-EEF>.

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THE PASS POST

Traffic detours, delays expected as Pass Christian makes way for state's first Buc-ee's

By Toni Miles

Pass Christian will be home to the state's first Buc-ee's at the end of next year, but, until then, those driving through the area can expect traffic detours and delays.

The popular gas station and travel center, known for the large size of its locations and its product offerings of fuel, snacks, souvenirs and, of course, its Beaver Nuggets, is scheduled to open in December of 2024. Officials say that those who travel in the area where the future business site is being built, near the area of Interstate 10 and Menge Avenue in Pass Christian, can expect lots of road construction, traffic delays and detours.

The multi-million dollar road construction project got underway on July 5, and the Menge Avenue overpass is now closed. The bridge there will be replaced. Exit and entrance ramps in the area remain open with detour signs nearby, but motorists are advised to seek alternate routes, if possible.

The new Buc-ee's will be 80,000 square feet and will have one hundred gas pumps. Semi-trucks are not permitted at the chain.

Meanwhile, the Pass Christian School District is already redrawing bus routes due to the construction.

The first phase of the construction project, widening Interstate 10 from four to six lanes between Long Beach and Diamondhead, is already underway



Toni Miles

A sign just south of the Menge Road and Interstate 10 exit signals road work ahead on July 6, one day after construction on the multi-million-dollar road project got underway.



Toni Miles

The new Buc-ee's, tentatively scheduled to open in Pass Christian in December of next year, will be located just south of the intersection at Menge Avenue and Interstate 10 on the west side of Menge Avenue.

and will help alleviate bottlenecks and reduce delays from the anticipated increase in traffic in the area once Buc-ee's opens.

"Additional improvements along the route will help keep all drivers safer," says Mississippi U.S. Senator Roger Wicker.

While the next sixteen months of construction and road work will cause some headaches for commuters in the area, many local leaders believe it is a good long-term investment that will pay off, luring a large number of visitors to the area, making it a travel destination, and creating about two hundred jobs.

In addition, an estimated one hundred forty acres near the area will be sold off for development in coming years as part of the Menge Commercial Park, which could include retail stores, a hotel, medical facility and office spaces.



Toni Miles

A rendering of a standard Buc-ee's storefront. The chain is based in Texas. The Pass Christian location will be the company's first in Mississippi.

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LONG BEACH BREEZE
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Historical Society luncheon to feature astronaut's daughter

Special to The Pass Post

The Pass Christian Historical Society will hold its monthly luncheon on Monday, August 28, at noon. The speaker will be Rosemary Roosa, daughter of Apollo astronaut Stu Roosa, whose program will address the essence of the space race days and the journey to the moon and back through Rosemary Roosa's eyes. She is the author of *To the Moon: An Autobiography of an Apollo Astronaut's Daughter*.

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, August 25. Reservations and more information are available by calling 228-452-7254 or emailing Reservations@PassHistory.org. All proceeds benefit the Pass Christian Historical Society.

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



Microsoft Office classes being held at library

Special to The Pass Post

Those seeking to learn more about Microsoft Office are encouraged to consider attending two computer classes being offered at the Pass Christian Public Library on August 10.

The first class, "Microsoft Office 101," will be held at 1 p.m. and will give participants experience in learning how to use the Microsoft Word document creating program.

The second class, "Copy and Paste in Microsoft Office," set to start at 2:15 p.m., will teach attendees how to copy, paste and edit images using online computer graphic resources.

Classes will be held in the library's conference room and are free and open to the public. Some previous computer experience is helpful, and class size will be limited.

For further information or to reserve a spot, contact the library at 228-452-4596 or by email at PassChristianLibrary@gmail.com.

The library is located at 111 Hiern Avenue in Pass Christian.



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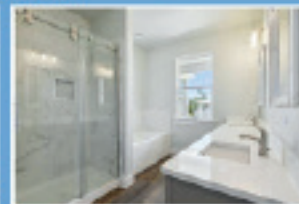
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One Book, One Pass kicks off community reading effort

The Pass Post

The Pass Christian Library is again hosting their annual “One Book, One Pass” community read effort. The idea behind the program is to have everyone in Pass Christian read the same book and then join together to talk about it.

The 2023 selected author is Kiese Laymon, and this year’s book selection is *Heavy: An American Memoir*.

Over the next several months, the community is encouraged to read the book and engage in book discussions, panel discussions and other programs that will culminate in a visit from the author for a presentation at the Randolph Center in Pass Christian.

Laymon, a Southern writer from Jackson, Mississippi, is the Libbie Shearn Moody Professor of English and Creative Writing at Rice University. The 2023 One Book One Pass selection is the author’s bestselling memoir, which has won numerous awards.

Copies of *Heavy: An American Memoir* are available for check out at the Pass Christian Library or for purchase at Pass Christian Books. Those with questions or needing more information are encouraged to call the library at 228-452-4596, or email PassChristianLibrary@gmail.com.



Book sale planned for Aug. 4-16

The Pass Post

The Pass Christian Library is offering the community the opportunity to score some good deals on late-summer reads at their summer book sale. Set for August 4 through August 16, the sale will be open at 8 a.m. each day during normal library hours.

Friends of the Library members welcome donations of books, DVDs or puzzles, which are sold to raise funds for the library. Donations can be dropped off at the library, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. For more information, call 228-452-4596, or stop by the library at 111 Hiern Avenue.



Special to The Pass Post

Summer reading book discussion set for August 16

Special to The Pass Post

With a 2023 theme of “All Together Now,” summer reading is not just for the kids anymore!

Area adults are invited to the Pass Christian Library on Wednesday, August 16, when the library will host a discussion of the book *Hannah and Ariela*, led by the author, Johnnie Bernhard.

A former English teacher, Bernhard is the author of the award-winning books *A Good Girl*, *How We Came to Be* and *Sisters of the Undertow*. Her latest title, which serves as the subject of the discussion, has been described by Claire Ful-

lerton of the *New York Journal of Books* as the story of one woman’s bravery in rescuing another, only to rise phoenix-like into a newly defined, far-reaching life purpose.

Additional copies of *Hannah and Ariela* have been made available for check out at the library, thanks to Pass Christian Books. The discussion will be held at 7 p.m. in the library conference room, and the program is free and open to everyone.

The Pass Christian Library is located at 111 Hiern Avenue in Pass Christian. For more information, call the library at 228-452-4596.

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Long Beach students participate in GenSea Blue summer internships



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach High School student Vicki Tran and Ocean Springs High School student Connor VanCamp participated in an aquaculture internship.

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Three Long Beach High School students, Vicki Tran, Justin Mares and Jose “Tony” Garcia, participated in GenSea Blue internships this summer.

To inspire the next generation of leaders in marine and coastal sciences, the GenSea Blue Economy Pathways Internship program at The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) offered a cohort of seventeen high school students the opportunity to intern at various USM research sites during the summer, with positions ranging from four to eight weeks.

The program, facilitated in partnership with the Center for STEM Education and working with the School of Ocean Science and Engineering (SOSE), brings together USM faculty and staff to host students as blue economy mentors. Under their guidance, students are introduced to the world of STEM along Mississippi’s coastline through hands-on training and invaluable experiences in the blue economy.

“Opportunity doesn’t happen by accident. This program affords students transformational lab and field experience while building their professional networks,” said Chelsey Reid, assistant program manager of outreach of the GenSea program. “By working with high school students, we can meaningfully reach students early enough in their academic career to impact their workforce readiness before graduation. My favorite observed program byproduct can be summed up in one word: hope.”

Interns have worked at teaching and research sites, including the Gulf Park campus in Long Beach, the Stennis Space Center facility, the Marine Research Center in Gulfport and the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Ocean Springs.

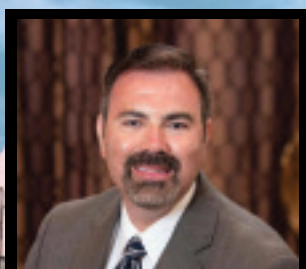
“My internship involved learning about hydrography as well as other careers in the blue economy,” said Garcia. “We got to go out and do a good amount of field-work. For example, we did a survey of part of a river. We also spent some time in the lab handling the various equipment needed for hydrography.”

“During my aquaculture internship, I got to work with countless people who all share a strong passion for their work,” said Tran. “I also got the chance to assist with the oyster hatchery, where I learned about how much work it takes to take care of oysters from their larval stage to their grown stage. My work included cleaning oyster tanks and systems to clear out any mud to promote faster growth and recording down the water quality every day. I got to go out on the boat at Halstead campus to identify surviving and dead oysters that have been placed in the Gulf. I also learned how to initiate a siphon, calculate the amount of algae for the oysters, and how to count the number of larvae under a microscope.”

“Our School is focused on participating in many impactful and strategic initiatives to promote economic, scientific and technological innovation in Mississippi’s coastal zone,” said Dr. Robert Leaf, interim associate director of the SOSE. “We are particularly excited about our engagement with Mississippi’s students. Our faculty cultivate the interests of Mississippi’s students while fostering a deeper understanding of the marine and coastal ecosystem and opening doors to exciting career paths in the blue economy.”



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USM hosts Transatlantic Shipbuilding and Maritime Industry Conference

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The University of Southern Mississippi's (USM) Gulf Park Campus recently hosted the Transatlantic Shipbuilding and Maritime Conference, which included ten German shipbuilding and maritime industry suppliers to the Gulf Coast.

The German American Chamber of Commerce of the Southern U.S. President Matthias Hoffmann was among those in attendance to discuss developments on the coast. Many professionals gathered for a day of networking and informational sessions from German and United States maritime speakers.

Dr. Jason McKenna, Director of Research, Development, Testing, Evaluation, and Training at USM's Roger F. Wicker Center for Ocean Enterprise, spoke about research partnerships to promote the new blue economy in the Gulf of Mexico, along with projects Ocean Enterprise is working on with Federal, State, industry, and non-profit agencies.

"The Gulf of Mexico is fast becoming a new blue economy hub," said McKenna.

McKenna talked about new blue tech start-up companies and indus-



Special to Long Beach Breeze

USM Gulf Park recently hosted the Transatlantic Shipbuilding and Maritime Conference.

try partners having unique access to the Gulf of Mexico through USM and the Port of Gulfport to test their technology. USM's Coastal Operations provides unique, water-front access to these new companies.

Keynote speaker Captain David Wolynski, Commanding Officer of the Naval Oceanographic Office,

focused on the maritime industry and forecasting models of maritime growth through uncrewed platforms.

"We have to make sure our ships are survivable," said Wolynski.

He stressed how uncrewed platforms can provide real data and reach, where crewed vessels find

those applications limited. The United States Navy is working to release more uncrewed platforms in the next five years.

The conference included panel discussions, and presentations focused on latest trends in German shipbuilding, offshore energy and the new blue economy.

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