

Sea Santa Sail-a-Bration set for Saturday, December 2

By Toni Miles

The Sea Santa Sail-a-Bration, known as "The Original Waterless Boat Parade," will fill Long Beach streets with holiday cheer on the evening of Saturday, December 2.

Hosted by the Long Beach Community Development Association and the City of Long Beach, this year's event will roll through the downtown area at 5:45 p.m. and end at the Harper McCaughan Town Green, where organizers say there will be family-friendly activities, as well as the opportunity to take pictures with Santa himself.

The event is expected to start with thousands of spectators and hundreds of participants for the parade of decked-out boats pulled on trailers, followed by the annual Christmas tree lighting by the Mayor, award presentations, music, and family activities. In addition to the much-anticipated photos with Santa, there will also be face painting, a human snow globe, candy cane bingo, and a live snow play area. All events following the parade will take place under the thousands of lights and decorations that will adorn the Town Green, thanks to the City's Parks and Recreation department.

Organizers recommend finding a place on the route before the parade begins. Boats will line up in the Long Beach High School parking lot and then travel south on Cleveland Avenue, take a right on Railroad Street, a left on Jeff Davis Avenue, then a left on 5th Street, followed by a left on Burke, ending by parking along the Harper McCaughan Town Green, where the festivities will continue.

Advance registration is required to participate in the parade. The deadline for applications, along with the \$25 registration fee, is November 25. Applications received after this date will have a \$50 registration fee.

Beads may be thrown, but the City has requested that candy not be tossed from floats.

For more information or for an application form, visit LongBeachCDA.com.



Wreaths Across America sponsorships available, event set for December 16



Toni Miles

Members of all U.S. military branches were on hand for the last year's Wreaths Across America Event, as pictured here, at the Long Beach Cemetery.

By Toni Miles

With the holidays approaching, Coast locals are encouraged to take time out of their holiday schedules on Saturday, December 16, to help honor the military men and women who dedicated their lives to providing safety and preserving America's freedoms.

That Saturday, the Long Beach City Cemetery, located on Girard Avenue, will be the site of a 1 p.m. memorial service in coordination with National Wreaths Across America Day.

Members of all U.S. military branches were on hand for last year's Wreaths Across America event, which was also held at the Long Beach Cemetery. This local, annual memorial service is being held in Long Beach, thanks to members of the Eddie Blake VFW Post 3937 and

the Donnie Levens American Legion Post 1995, who will again be laying wreaths at the conclusion of this year's ceremony. Volunteers are welcome and encouraged to assist in the laying of the wreaths.

Last year, two hundred sixty-five hand-made, live balsam wreaths were laid on the graves of veterans buried at the Long Beach Cemetery.

The Wreaths Across America program started in December 1992, when wreath-maker Morrill Worcester found himself with a surplus of 5,000 wreaths during the holiday season. Worcester saw the surplus as an opportunity to pay tribute to the country's veterans and arranged for the wreaths to be placed at Arlington National Cemetery. This now-annual tribute to the country's

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First-ever Spooky Halloween Trail debuts with stellar turnout

By Toni Miles

All photos by Toni Miles

As the old saying goes, “The early bird gets the worm!” At the City of Long Beach’s first-ever Spooky Halloween Trail trick-or-treat event on Friday, October 27, it was all those decked out in costumes who showed up early to the event who managed to get the most out of the family-oriented celebration and candy giveaway held on the Fitness Trail behind the Long Beach Senior Center.

The trail looked more like a movie scene, with people of all ages decked out in creative costumes from across-the-board, including video game icon Super Mario, witches and even their cats, at this free community event.

It was a family affair for almost everyone, including Ward 6 Long Beach Alderman Pete McGoey, who was flanked by family members, including his two granddaughters, Briley and Miley Schmidt, who helped run a goodie give-away station on the Spooky Halloween Trail.

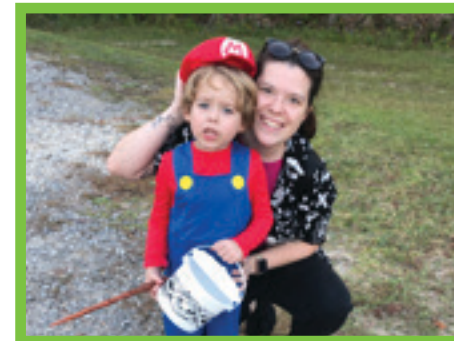
“Courtney Cuevas, our Long Beach Community Affairs Director, put this together,” McGoey said. “She did it with a narrow window of opportunity, just something to provide for the kids. As you can see, it opened up at 5:30 p.m., and even then, the line wound all the way back to the parking lot. Seventeen hundred people committed to coming here tonight, so, who knows, maybe next year it will grow even bigger. We’re glad to have everybody out here, and especially with the kids enjoying themselves so much.”

McGoey says in all about seven hundred kids and their families turned out at the inaugural fall event, which operated on a zero budget. It was the generosity of local businesses and community members who pitched in that made it all happen. The turnout at this debut event was so high that the trail had to wrap up a little early, when all the candy and goodies ran out. This fall celebration is expected to become an annual event. McGoey says it’s ideal for those looking for a safe, family-friendly environment where there’s a little something for everyone.

“The interesting thing is you walk around the track, and there are so many decorations,” McGoey said. “There’s a witch hanging from the tree, a large ghost over there. You’ve got to take a close look to check out all the little secrets along the trail, but it’s pretty cool.”



Ward 6 Alderman Pete McGoey (center) is flanked by granddaughters Briley (left) and Miley Schmidt (right) at the Spooky Halloween Trail. The family gave out candy at one of the booths set up along the trail at the October 27 inaugural event.



Four-year-old Hunter Lizana stopped just long enough for a quick photo with his Aunt Jessica before bounding through the Spooky Halloween Trail at a pace even the video icon Super Mario, as whom he was dressed, would envy.



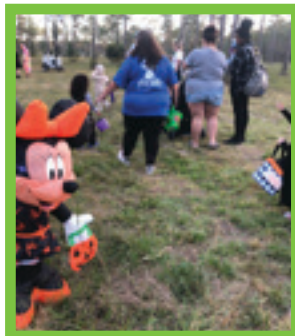
Many parents and kids in costume posed at a fall photo site set up for picture-perfect moments at the fall event.



Kids walked away with lots of candy and other goodies provided at the various booths along the Spooky Halloween Trail.



There were plenty of surprises and fun things for kids (and their parents) to do along the trail.




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Visit library in December for silent auction, holiday movies and ugly sweaters

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn, LBPL Youth and Technology Services

Happy holidays to all! The Friends membership drive went well during National Friends of the Libraries Week, taking in several new members and volunteers for story time. Thanks to all who joined and all who have been volunteering!

As I mentioned last month, their next event begins on **Saturday, December 9**, and starts with an outdoor book sale (weather permitting, of course). Patrons will also be able to get a sneak peek at items in the silent auction on that day. Beginning on **Monday, December 11**, at 9 a.m., patrons may begin placing bids on such items (porcelain dolls, framed artwork, jewelry, kitchenware, etc.) and continue bidding through 11 a.m. on **Friday, December 15**.

Enjoy our Holiday Movie of the Day during the week, and make bids on our auction. A different movie will be showing daily. Then, on Friday, come make your final bids from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., and enjoy listening to the talented Blue Eyes of Long Beach, Sully Wilson! Winners of the bid items will be notified after Sully's performance, and items can be taken home that day or be picked up on Saturday. You do not need to be present to win, but, keep in mind, someone might

outbid you on Friday! As a final incentive, wear your ugliest Christmas sweater for our "Ugliest Christmas Sweater" contest, and maybe you'll win a gift card for your trouble!

As a reminder to our Axis360 patrons, it is now called Boundless. If you use the Axis360 app, however, you will need to download the Boundless app. Logging in from the library's website and/or catalog is still done in the same manner and does not require an app. If you have any questions regarding the new features, please call the library for assistance at 228-863-0711.

Holiday closings for December include the following:
•**Christmas Holidays** - Saturday, December 23, through Tuesday, December 26 (reopen on Wednesday, December 27, at 9 a.m.)

•**New Year's Holidays** - Saturday, December 30, through Monday, January 1, 2024 (reopen on Tuesday, January 2, at 9 a.m.)

There will be no meetings for the Friends of the Library or the Long Beach Library Board of Trustees in December.

We would like to thank you all for your continued support. As always, thank you for your patronage, and stay safe!



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JINGLE BELLS 5K PLANNED FOR DEC. 2

Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach residents can burn off some holiday calories before Christmas at the annual Fred Walker Memorial Jingle Bells 5K on Saturday, December 2.

Starting at 8 a.m. at the Long Beach Town Green, the run/walk will offer a 5K and a one-mile fun run for kids.

Medals and trophies will be awarded to those who place overall and within age groups. The one-mile fun run for kids will be held immediately following the 5K.

Residents are invited to run, walk or roll at the event, which this year will benefit Long Beach High School Scholarship Funds. Also at the event, the Long Beach High School baseball team will sponsor a U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots collection. Participants are asked (but not required) to bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate.

A holiday costume contest will be

held after the race.

Pre-registration is required. T-shirts are guaranteed to registered runners. The cost to register for the 5K is \$25 for adults ages 18 and older, and \$15 for children and students under 18. Registration for the 1 mile fun run is \$15.



The Jingle Bells 5K, presented by the Coast Cares Foundation, started when the Gulf Coast Substance

Abuse Task Force held a race almost two decades ago to raise funds for its mission. The Force was formed by former Long Beach Alderman, School Board trustee and area businessman Fred Walker, in whose memory the present-day race is named. CCF was formed to continue the race when the task force folded after Walker's death in 2016.

To register, visit: www.gulfcoastrunningclub.org. For more information, contact Race Director Leonard Vergunst at director@gulfcoastrunningclub.org or 228-380-7037.

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Troop 321 prepares for Mount Rainier by backpacking Tuxachanie Trail



Boy Scouts of America Troop 321 backpacking on the Tuxachanie Trail. Pictured (l to r) are: Kegan Murphy, Chase Cockrell, Larkin Pulsifer, Isaac Archer, Dylan Hawks, Ishaan Kalluru, Gabe Franco, Austin Reeves and Max Elenbaas. Not pictured are adult leaders: Wordie Carroll, Bill Elenbaas, Michael Hawks and Tommy Carroll.

Photos Special to Long Beach Breeze

By Guest Columnist Tommy Carroll

Boy Scouts of America Troop 321 of Long Beach backpacked the Tuxachanie Trail. The Troop hiked this local twelve-mile trail in preparation for a 100-mile trek planned by the troop for 2024.

The scouts traveled to the trailhead on Highway 49 via their scout bus, Scoutship Integrity, and were dropped off there by Assistant Scoutmaster Terry Togstad. At the trailhead, scouts did a final pack check, paused for a few photos and hit the trail late on a Friday evening.

While on the trek, scouts planned, purchased and prepared their own meals, including steak and mashed potatoes. Scouts spent several weeks in advance of each trek reviewing menus and planning the gear that they needed to be able to cook on the trail. Unlike “car camping,” where scouts have access to additional gear from their patrol boxes, scouts had to plan and prepare to minimize excess weight. For this relatively short and flat trail, extra pounds were not as critical. However, when preparing for a long trek with significant elevation changes, such as the 100-mile Wonderland Trail planned for July 2024, every ounce needs to be reviewed. For this trek, scouts reviewed their menus and pared down their cooking gear to only the necessary items, a task that will have significant impact on bigger treks.

For the first night in, scouts hiked for about an hour, then camped in a clear spot several yards off the main trail. Even on the first night, scouts prepared hot meals on the trail as they set up their camp for each of their patrols.

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Troop 321 scouts backpacked the Tuxachanie Trail in preparation for a 100-mile Mount Rainier Wonderland Trail expedition planned for 2024.



Scouts conducting a chapel service around the campfire on a chilly Sunday morning on the Tuxachanie Trail.



Although many minor streams were dry, scouts Ishaan Kalluru, Gabe Franco, Max Elenbaas and Chase Rogers were able to draw water from the Tuxachanie Creek to filter for drinking for the last leg of the hike.



CES Student Council takes treats to library



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Coast Episcopal School Student Council recently paid a visit to the Long Beach Library to deliver bags of candy to the library staff.

Gulf Park Health Center offering free Narcan kits

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) Gulf Park Health Center is now offering a lifesaving medication to reverse the effects of opioid overdose. Gulf Park faculty and staff can now head over to the Gulf Park Health Center to pick up Narcan/Naloxone kits.

Gulf Park Health Center Nurse Practitioner Connie Richardson said this is needed and beneficial for the community.

"This program is important for the safety of our students on campus," said Richardson. "Faculty and staff are aware of signs of opiate overdose, and now will be armed with the resources to intervene quickly in case of such an emergency."

To take advantage of the opportunity, faculty and staff must fill out a form and watch a short training video. Once the video is completed, an ID is required to pick up the kit. A limited supply is available.

The kits have been provided by the Mississippi Department of Health Pharmacy.

Drug overdose is the leading cause of injury-related deaths in the United States. Young adults ages 18-25 are the largest group of users of prescription drugs. Over 109,000 people have died from opioid overdoses in the nation.

For more information, call 228-214-3300 or visit the Gulf Park Health Center.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), in almost forty percent of overdose deaths, someone was present. The CDC offers five rules of what one should do to save a life:

- Call 911.
- Use naloxone immediately.
- Keep the person overdosing responsive.
- To prevent choking, lay the person on their side.
- Stay with the person until medical assistance is on the scene.

LBHS has three National Merit Semifinalists, two Commended Students



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Luke Dulaney



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Riley McDonnell



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Vicki Tran



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Nicholas Dulaney



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Khanh "May" Nguyen

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Three seniors at Long Beach High School have been named as National Merit Semifinalists in the 69th National Merit Scholarship Program, and two have been named Commended Students.

Seniors Luke Dulaney, Riley McDonnell and Vicki Tran were named National Merit Semifinalists, and Nicholas Dulaney and Khanh "May" Nguyen were named Commended Students.

The three Semifinalists are among the one percent (just over 16,000) of high school students across the country to be recognized as National Merit Semifinalists. Over 1.3 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools entered the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test

(PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest scoring entrants in each state.

The number of Semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,140 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million that will be offered next spring.

To be considered for a National Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition, including submitting a detailed scholarship application that provides information about their aca-

ademic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment and honors and awards received. A Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT or ACT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test.

From over 16,000 Semifinalists, more than 15,000 are expected to advance to the Finalist level, and they will be notified of this designation next February. All National Merit Scholarship winners will be selected from this group of Finalists. More than half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional

academic progress. Although they will not continue in the 2023 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 scorers who entered the 2023 competition by taking the 2021 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) is a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance. It was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Scholarships are underwritten by NMSC with its own funds and by over three hundred business organizations and higher education institutions that share NMSC's goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.

Winners of inaugural 2023 Long Beach Art Competition named



Toni Miles

Emily Nash's "Mandarin Beauty" and Olivia Brown's "The Little Hamburger" were awarded top prize in the inaugural 2023 Long Beach Art Competition.

By Toni Miles

The results are in! A fish and hamburger were the focal points - and the winning combination - for the two top winners of the 2023 Long Beach Art Competition.

"The Little Hamburger" won the top prize in the competition's category for five- to nine-year-old entrants. Six-year-old Olivia Brown is the artist behind the winning artwork.

Thirteen-year-old Emily Nash's entry, titled "Mandarin Beauty," was awarded top prize in the competition's category for those ten to eighteen years of age.

Brown and Nash's winning artwork will be displayed in the halls of Long Beach City Hall over the next year.

This year marks the inaugural Long Beach Art Competition, which will become an annual contest for young people who reside in the Long Beach School District who love art and want to share their creations with the world and those who visit Long Beach City Hall. There

was no specific theme required to participate in the contest.

Brown and Nash were announced as this year's winners of the 2023 Long Beach Art Competition at the October 17 Long Beach Board of Aldermen meeting at City Hall.

"The competition is a great opportunity to recognize and uplift the artistic talent of our city's youth," says City of Long Beach Community Affairs Director Courtney Cuevas, who organized the event.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Olivia Brown is pictured with her award-winning work.

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Troop 321 prepares for Mount Rainier by backpacking Tuxachanie Trail



Boy Scouts of America Troop 321 hiking through the tall pines on the Tuxachanie Trail



Photos Special to Long Beach Breeze

Scout Gabe Franco working under a fallen tree blocking the Tuxachanie Trail while Assistant Scoutmaster Bill Elenbaas looks on.

For the second night, scouts camped in a more established area on the trail.

Although the trail can be accomplished in a single day with hiking gear, the troop used the trek as a training exercise, as well as an introduction to trail life for some of its newer members. Its small elevation changes and relatively short distances provide a great introduction and training ground for beginners, but the trail has enough obstacles that present challenges for experienced trekkers, as well.

As with most adventures with the BSA, trail treks drive the young scouts to exercise their problem-solving skills. Not only are the youth required to plan out their meals and necessary gear, but the trail itself provides obstacles and challenges that the scouts are forced to figure out how to overcome. A good example of this is from one of the partially washed out, topsy-turvy, over-turned bridges that the scouts need to cross. One can not simply "walk across the bridge." The obstacle demands that the scouts think about where to grab and place their feet while they carry their packs, and then requires that they hold on to bridge as

they cross. Challenges like this help them develop into more than just being good citizens and independent young men.

The Tuxachanie Trail almost always has plenty of stream and water crossings from which the scouts train on filtering water. This trek, however, was different. The streams were very dry. The lakes at the Airey Campground and P.O.W. Camp were very low. One of the larger streams, Spike Buck Creek, by which they camped and had initially planned to filter water from, was dusty. Fortunately, the scouts were able to recruit help from additional leaders who were not able to make the trip, and Edwin and Ana Franco were able to leave some additional water at the location of their second campsite. Eventually, the scouts did get an opportunity to filter water, though, in the Tuxachanie Creek itself. Although low, it still provided enough water for training and drinking on the final leg of the trip.

Overall, the scouts enjoyed the hike. The pleasant weather helped keep the attitudes up, and the troop had a good time.

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Christmas on the Avenue, Breakfast with Santa planned for Dec. 9

Long Beach Breeze

For some holiday fun, Long Beach residents can join the Long Beach Concert Choir Association for its annual Christmas on the Avenue and Santa Breakfast on Saturday, December 9.

The Santa Breakfast will be held from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at First United Methodist Church in Long Beach, located at 208 Pine Street. Santa will be on hand to share a pancake breakfast and chat with local kids, and he will also be available to take pictures. There will be “reindeer” games and choir performances, as well. Tickets are \$3 per child and \$5 per adult. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

Christmas on the Avenue is set for 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Harper McCaughan Town Green that same day.

A free family-friendly activity at the Town Green that helps raise funds to support the Long Beach High Concert each year, Christmas on the Avenue features holiday performances, arts

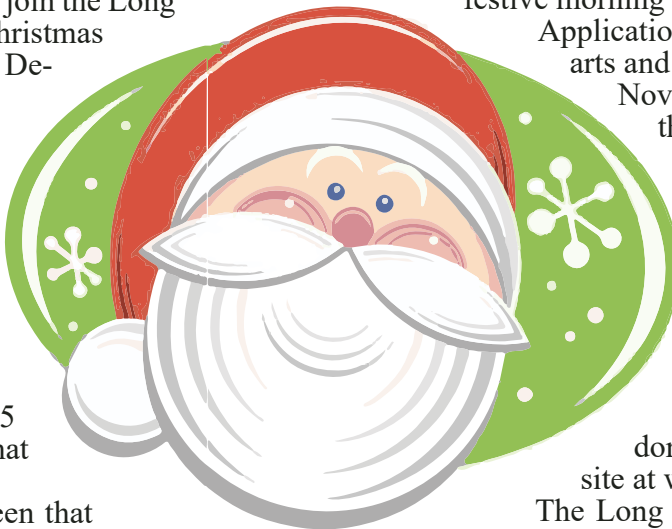
and crafts vendors, demonstrations, food and plenty of fun to provide a festive morning option for families.

Applications are being accepted for booth space for the annual arts and crafts fair. A 10’ x 10’ booth space is \$100 through November 24, and applications will be accepted after that date through December 1 with a \$100 late fee. Set up takes place from 7 until 9 a.m. that morning, and tear down from 5 until 6 p.m. Booths must be staffed at all times during the event.

In addition, all vendors must have a City of Long Beach vendor’s license for the event, which is \$10. Payment for the vendor license will need to be made payable to the City of Long Beach.

Additional information about the events and vendor application forms are available on the choir’s website at www.LongBeachConcertChoir.org.

The Long Beach Concert Choir will have a Christmas Concert the following Friday, December 15, at First United Methodist Church Long Beach. The community is invited to attend.




PLACES OF WORSHIP

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ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE

Thurs, Dec 7: 7pm Vigil Mass Immaculate Conception
 Fri, Dec 8: 6:30am, 12pm Mass Immaculate Conception
 Wed, Dec 20: 6:30pm Penance Service
 Wed, Dec 20: 11am Healing Mass – Lunchkins follow
 Sun, Dec 24: NO 11:30 Mass
 4pm Vigil Mass - Children's Bell & Family Choir
 7pm Vigil Mass
 11:30pm Christmas Carols
 12am Christmas Midnight Mass
 Mon, Dec 25: 7:30, 9am Mass
 Sun, Dec 31: 4pm Vigil Mass Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
 Mon, Jan 1: 9am, 12pm Mass Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
 Sun, Jan 7: Feast of the Holy Family



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Christmas Choir Cantata - December 17 at 9:00 am
 Christmas Eve community lunch: 11-1 in our Christian life center
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 - 4 pm at the Well at Fleming Auditorium at USM
 - 6pm at our Downtown Campus Sanctuary.

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Magnolia Gulf Coast Beta Club participates in Leadership Summit



Pictured (l to r) are senior division members, front row: Alexis Dillman, Kaitlyn Atwater and Stephen Dillman; and back row: Elijah Hudson, Austin Cucuzza, Jacob Dial and Apollo Stafford.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Pictured (l to r) are junior and elementary division members, front row: Elizabeth Dacus, Garrett Nelson, Angela Nelson, Hailey Dial and Micah Cameron; and back row: Wyatt Nelson, Madelyn Dillard, Lydia Crepps, Abigail Dillard and Luke Dillman.

Special to Long Beach Breeze

National Beta members from the elementary, junior and senior divisions of the Magnolia Gulf Coast Beta Club (MGC Beta) recently participated in the Mississippi State Regional Leadership Summit. They were announced as qualifiers of the following challenges: elementary: Project Proposal and Collaboration Connection; juniors: Lead Outside the Box and Collaboration Connection; seniors: Project Proposal, Collaboration Connection, and Lead Outside the Box.

National Beta Leadership Summits bring together students from multi-

ple states for one- to two-day events. During that time, students work with interactive speakers who engage members through introspective exercises and team-building activities. Clubs can also participate in team-based leadership challenges which test their communication, critical thinking, creativity, presentation and collaboration skills. Their victories at this level provide the opportunity to compete at the national level. The National Convention will be held at the Savannah International Convention Center in Savannah, Georgia, during the summer of 2024.

MGC Beta is a group of homeschool

students in fourth through twelfth grades from across the Gulf Coast area. Members who attended the Mississippi State Regional Leadership Summit from the elementary division include Micah Cameron of Gulfport, Angela Dacus of Gulfport, Hailey Dial of Long Beach, Abigail Dillard of Gulfport, Luke Dillman of Long Beach and Wyatt Nelson of Ocean Springs. Those from the junior division include Lydia Crepps of Vancleave, Elizabeth Dacus of Gulfport, Madelyn Dillard of Gulfport, and Wyatt Nelson of Ocean Springs. Senior division members include Kaitlyn Atwater of Gulfport, Austin Cucuzza of Wiggins Jacob

Dial of Long Beach, Alexis Dillman of Long Beach, Stephen Dillman of Long Beach, Elijah Hudson of Ocean Springs and Apollo Stafford of Saucier.

With more than 500,000 active members and 8,750 clubs nationally and internationally, National Beta has become the nation's largest independent, non-profit, educational youth organization. National Beta promotes the ideals of academic achievement, character, service and leadership among elementary and secondary school students. National Junior Beta includes grades four through eight, and National Senior Beta includes grades nine through twelve.

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Kuntz named Luckyday Scholar at Mississippi State

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Kennedy Kuntz of Long Beach, a graduate of Long Beach High School, has been selected as a Luckyday Scholar at Mississippi State University (MSU). Kuntz is a new architecture major in the College of Architecture, Art and Design.

The Jackson-based Luckyday Foundation is continuing its pledge of student support and assistance to university students, as forty-nine first-year Luckyday Scholars began their academic journey at Mississippi State this fall.

"Our Luckyday Scholars truly reflect Mississippi State University's core values of integrity, hard work and respect for others, as well as our commitment to taking care of what matters. We are grateful for the wonderful partnership we have with the Luckyday Foundation and so appreciative of the investments Luckyday is making in these students. By working together, we are providing opportunities for young people to grow academically, serve their communities and prepare to be the leaders our state and nation need," MSU President Mark E. Keenum said.

Founded by the late Frank R. Day from Jackson, the Luckyday Foundation furnishes each student with a scholarship grant of \$6,000 annually, culminating in a total of \$24,000 over four years.

Luckyday Scholars are plugged into a program that includes a freshman seminar, freshman-year mentoring, academic support, designated housing to encourage connections, and opportunities to grow as leaders. Scholars are introduced to the philosophy of servant



Kennedy Kuntz

Special to Long Beach Breeze

leadership and commit to a minimum of ten hours per semester with a single agency, which enhances the program's fundamental principles of scholarship, community, service and leadership.

"Mississippi State University has been an excellent partner in fulfilling the Luckyday Foundation's mission of fostering a community of scholars dedicated to embracing servant leadership," remarked Jamie Houston, Chairperson of the Luckyday Foundation. "The wealth of resources and opportunities extended to these scholars will empower them to flourish and excel as active learners and responsible citizens both in the present and the years to come."

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cont. from front page

Wreaths Across America sponsorships available, event set for December 16



Toni Miles

History will repeat itself on Saturday, December 16, as National Wreaths Across America Day is held again this year at the Long Beach City Cemetery at 1 p.m. Like last year, the public is invited to attend and place wreaths on the graves of local military veterans, honoring their service.

veterans has continued ever since, touching the lives of millions of veterans' families and volunteers and growing in scope to a local level through the years.

In 2007, the Worcester family, along with veterans and volunteers, formed the non-profit organization Wreaths Across America to continue and expand their efforts at Arlington National Cemetery and to support those around the country who wished to do the same.

Wreaths Across America's mission is simple: remember the fallen, honor those that serve, and teach the next generation about the value of freedom. In 2022, overall, Wreaths Across America and its national network of volunteers placed nearly 2.7 million veterans' wreaths at more than 3,702 locations in all fifty U.S. states, at sea and abroad.

In 2022, with the financial support of businesses, organizations, and veterans' families and friends, members of the Eddie Blake VFW Post 3937 and the Donnie Levens American Legion Post 1995 were able to lay a wreath at every one of the known veterans' gravesites at the Long Beach Cemetery.

Anyone who knows of a veteran at the cemetery who does not have a gravesite indication that he or she is a veteran, is asked to let event organizers know, so that they can ensure that he or she also receives a wreath.

Each hand-made, fresh, live wreath costs \$17 and is made in the United States with Maine balsam.

For those who wish to remember and honor deceased veterans, sponsorships or donations can be mailed or delivered to VFW Post 3937, 213 Klondyke Road, Long Beach MS 39560 or to American Legion Post 1995, PO Box 550, Long Beach MS 39560. Mailed sponsorships should include the name of the veteran who is being sponsored.

Those sponsoring a wreath are asked to let local organizers know if they are sponsoring a specific gravesite. Although the Long Beach City Cemetery will be the focus of the wreath laying, wreaths for veterans interred at other Long Beach and neighboring cemeteries can be sponsored and picked up that afternoon after the ceremony.

For more information, contact Wendy Griffioen at 228-424-6910 or Margaret Levens at 228-341-3574.



Toni Miles

Wreaths like this will be laid on the graves of local veterans during the December 16 National Wreaths Across America Day event at the Long Beach City Cemetery.

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Garden Club arranges flowers for Veterans home



All photos Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach Garden Club gathered for their October meeting at the Senior Center in Long Beach to create flower arrangements for the Veterans home on Magnolia Street. Each member brought fresh flowers and supplies to make small arrangements for our Veterans. The public is welcome to attend and/or join the Club, which meets monthly. For more information about the Long Beach Garden Club, visit them on Facebook.



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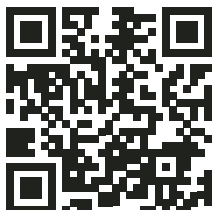
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USM Gulf Park holds annual Harvest Picnic



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Members of The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) Gulf Park Campus community recently enjoyed the fall weather underneath the oak trees and chimney pavilion during the annual Harvest Picnic, which was presented by the Office of Student Engagement.

Jessica Langston, director of student engagement and strategic initiatives, said the event put on by Student Affairs is a popular event at Gulf Park.

"We love to see all of our students come outside of the classroom and interact with their peers, faculty and staff," said Langston. "Over the years, this has helped build the community

we have at Gulf Park."

The event began with music and free Southern Miss gear for students. Faculty, staff and students engaged in tug-of-war games and enjoyed hot dogs, salad and a food truck.

Rylie Reynolds, a junior at Gulf Park majoring in psychology, said she enjoyed the festivities with her classmates.

"The picnic was really fun," Reynolds said. "You don't get to see everyone come together all of the time, and it's nice to have the faculty and staff joining in, as well."

The Gulf Park Pantry was also accepting donations and collecting food items during the event to stock up for USM students.

Shaggy Chic Pet Salon

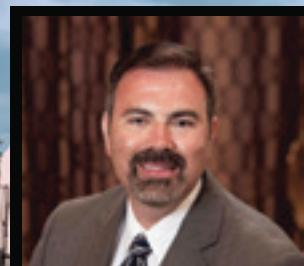
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Young sailors compete in regattas



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach Yacht Club Junior Sailing Team, pictured (l to r) at the Back to School Regatta includes: Jonathan Mate, Tenly Ruhlman, Patrick Clark, Eli Hymel, Amanda Clark, AJ Johnson and Oxford "Brinkley" Caldwell.

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach Yacht Club (LBYC) Junior Sailing Team recently participated in the Back-to-School Regatta held at Pontchartrain Yacht Club in Mandeville, Louisiana. Seven members of the team competed against sailors from all along the Gulf Coast region, with teams from yacht clubs in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

Long Beach sailors Jonathan Mate, Tenly Ruhlman and Oxford "Brinkley" Caldwell competed in the single-handed Optimist sailboat fleet, while skipper Amelia Clark and crew Eli Hymel sailed a C420. AJ Johnson sailed a Laser Radial, and Neil Patrick Clark competed in the larger Laser Full-Rig. All of the sailors did well in the regatta's heavy winds. Veteran sailor Neil Patrick Clark was third in the Laser Full category.

Neil Patrick Clark went on to represent Long Beach High School in the South East Interscholastic Sailing Association (SEISA) regatta at Bay-Waveland Yacht Club. The regatta was a qualifying race for the Interscholastic Sailing Association Cressy Singlehanded National Championship.

The Junior Team then competed at the Wadewitz Regatta at Fairhope Yacht Club. Once again, conditions were heavy, especially on Sunday, with wind gusts at times exceeding seventeen knots. Neil Patrick Clark competed in the Laser Full-Rig category and was fifth. Johnson was seventh in the Laser Radial group. Amelia Clark



Patrick Clark (left) is pictured receiving his award at the Back to School Regatta.

skipped a 420 with Mate and Ruhlman as crew. The 420 was seventh out of twelve boats. Amelia Clark and crew improved in every race, rising from tenth in their first race to fifth in their last. Caldwell was LBYC's sole representative in the Optimist races.

The Long Beach Yacht Club provides a range of opportunities for young sailors, including the Club's Junior Sailing Team, sponsorship of the Long Beach High School Sailing Team, and summer sailing camps. For more information on youth sailing contact Fleet Captain Krista Clark at kristaclark2011@gmail.com.



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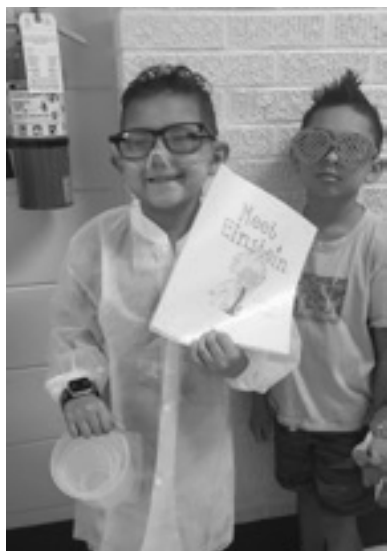
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Quarles celebrates hard work with fun activities

Recently, W.J. Quarles Elementary School celebrated all the hard work that has taken place since the beginning of school. Family members lined the streets as students and staff members dressed as their favorite book characters and held a parade to show off their passion for reading. Fall parties took place throughout the school, and students painted pumpkins and congratulated the Cubs of the Week.

All photos Special to Long Beach Breeze





High school students welcomed to Gulf Park



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) Gulf Park Campus recently welcomed more than four hundred high school and transfer students to showcase the many programs and opportunities the campus has to offer along the coast through Discover Gulf Park.

The event is the largest undergraduate recruitment opportunity for USM Coastal Operations. Dr. Jacob Breland, associate vice president of academic affairs for Coastal Operations, said the event was a team effort by USM faculty and staff.

"Discover Gulf Park is our signature undergraduate recruitment event, where we welcome prospective high

school and transfer students to campus to hear about our academic programs, learn what careers these programs might lead to and what the transformative experiential opportunities unique to those majors that are offered," said Breland. "We are proud to offer 'Coastal programs to Coastal people for Coastal jobs,' and this event is the place we get to connect those dots to opportunities."

School buses arrived early in the morning and were welcomed by Breland and USM mascot Seymour in the Fleming Education Center (FEC). Breland pumped the crowd with ways to become part of the Coastal USM family, seek quality education and contribute to a changing environment.

Students were then dispersed

in groups to four sites and rotated throughout the event.

Different programs were set up around campus to highlight pathways and classes offered.

The School of Ocean Science and Engineering utilized the oak trees and grounds to display their uncrewed vessels. The School of Coastal Resilience provided information on research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate work along with displays from student labs. In the Gulf Coast Library, the School of Education, Psychology and Social Work talked about coursework, future work and how their programs benefit society. The School of Leadership led groups in the North Academic Building discussing leadership roles beyond coursework through ap-

plied technology, Human Capital Development, logistics, trade and transportation.

Dr. Shannon Campbell, senior associate vice president for Coastal Operations, expressed pride in the event and explained why it can lead to success for Coastal USM.

"Discover Gulf Park provides our students first-hand opportunities to meet our faculty, staff and other students and to ask questions about potential programs of study they may wish to pursue after high school. This event is designed to expose prospective students to the academic programs that lead to meaningful jobs and aligns with our motto, 'Coast programs for Coast students for Coast jobs,'" said Campbell.

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Christmas in the Pass to feature special holiday guests

By Toni Miles

The holiday season is always a busy time of year for Santa, but Ol' Saint Nick and Mrs. Claus are taking time out of their busy schedule to join one of the biggest Christmas celebrations on the Coast – Christmas in the Pass. There's also word that the Grinch will make an appearance at the Pass celebration this year, as he did last year.

Even the Grinch's expected arrival at the upcoming event can't dampen the spirits for those who are members of "Whoville." There will be a "Whoville" set up near Hancock Bank, with a screening of *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas* at the celebration.

There will be food, music, children's activities and even a llama-kissing

booth, along with photo stations, arts and crafts, food vendors and more at the annual Christmas in the Pass celebration scheduled to take place Friday, December 1, in downtown Pass Christian. The festivities start at 4 p.m. Santa will show up to visit with children and make himself available for photos in the Hancock Bank Annex during the event.

The Christmas parade will roll out in the downtown area at 6 p.m., followed by the Lighting of the Town Christmas Tree at Davis Avenue and 2nd Street at 6:45 p.m.

Category 6 will put on a live performance at the Davis Avenue Pavilion from 7 to 10 p.m., and the festivities will wrap up with a holiday fireworks display at 8 p.m. Christmas in the Pass will wind down at 10 p.m.



Toni Miles

Santa and Ms. Claus at the 2022 Christmas in the Pass

Admission is free, and local businesses will be open for holiday shopping and dining. Market vendor spaces are also open for registration.

For more information, visit the Christmas in the Pass page on Facebook or call 228-216-2336.

CHRISTMAS IN THE PASS

Friday, December 1
4 - 10 p.m.

Downtown Pass Christian

Schedule of Events:

4 p.m.	Activities begin along Davis Avenue (shops and restaurants open)
6 p.m.	Parade
6:30 p.m.	Santa arrives
6:45 p.m.	Lighting of Town Christmas Tree at Davis Avenue and 2nd Street
7 - 10 p.m.	Category 6 Band plays in Davis Avenue Pavilion
8 p.m.	Holiday fireworks display
10 p.m.	Event concludes

Pass hosts inaugural Veterans Day Parade

By Toni Miles

The streets of downtown Pass Christian converted into a sea of red, white and blue, as people from all walks of life waved American flags and reached for beads and other throws from floats at the first-ever Veterans Day Parade in Pass Christian on Saturday, November 11.

Military personnel from all branches of the U.S. military were represented in the inaugural parade, much to the delight of the impressive turnout for this patriotic event. The parade ended at War Memorial Park, where everyone was invited to take part in a celebration including food, music and shopping at veteran-owned business vendor booths on site.

After a successful first-year launch, this Veterans Day Parade in the Pass, which was put on by the Gulf Coast Veterans Association, is expected to become an annual event.



Alex Smith, Adaeline McNutt, Elad and Yotam.



After the parade, the public was invited to a celebration at War Memorial Park including music, food and shopping at veteran-owned business vendor booths.



All photos by Toni Miles





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Holiday events planned for library

Special to The Pass Post

In addition to their regular programming, the Pass Christian Library has several special events planned for the month of December.

On Saturday, **December 16**, the Visiting Pet Teams of South Mississippi will be at the library for a holiday version of the popular Sit, Stay, READ! Children's Reading Program. Families can drop in any time between 10 a.m. and noon for children to read holiday-themed books to a four-legged friend.

Participants can expect to see Pet Teams dressed in holiday attire, and the children will receive stickers, coupons and bookmarks as awards for their participation.

Reading sessions usually last for thirty minutes and provide a fun way for children to improve their communication and reading skills, and the dog-friendly atmosphere provides motivation for them to practice their reading. The program is free, with no need to pre-register. Participating children must not be afraid of or allergic to animals.

On Wednesday, **December 20**, at 10 a.m., the library will welcome some special guests, as Mrs. Claus and the Christmas Elves stop by for Family Story Time. Mrs. Claus will read her favorite Christmas stories, and the elves will sing and dance with everyone.

Following Story Time, there will be a special Christmas cookie decorating activity for all the children who attend.

The following Wednesday, **December 27**, the library will offer a special Family Winter Book BINGO Program at 10 a.m. The entire family is invited, and prizes will be books.

For more information, call 228-452-4596. The library is located at 111 Hiern Avenue.



Special to The Pass Post

Mrs. Claus will make a stop at the Pass Christian Library on Wednesday, December 20, at 10 a.m.

27th Annual Holiday Boutique helps hundreds with holiday shopping



Toni Miles

Anthony May with Popcorn Plus



Toni Miles

Ashley Chighizola, local owner of the Jolly Olive

By Toni Miles

There were hundreds of shoppers - and also some special guests - who dropped in at this year's 27th Annual Holiday Boutique event at the West Harrison Civic Center on November 10 and 11.

Santa Claus himself made a special appearance to greet shoppers and kids at the shopping extravaganza this year, and the Holy Family Church Children's Choir put on a special live performance, singing Christmas carols for those in attendance.

Twenty-seven years and going strong, this annual shopping event is put on each year by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Pass Christian Yacht Club, and it has remained consistent each year - offering unique gifts and often handmade items made with TLC.

"We have all sorts of things here - children's gifts and items, woodworking, olive oils," said Jo Ann Francingues, chairperson of the 27th Annual Holiday Shopping Boutique. "Some of these vendors have shops. Some work out of their homes, and they travel to affairs like this where there's a marketplace, a bazaar or a boutique. Most everything here is made by artisans, not purchased somewhere else and brought to sell."

The yearly shopping holiday boutique also helps give locals like Ashley Chighizola, who owns the Jolly Olive, a much-needed economic boost, while providing a venue to showcase and sell local- and regionally-crafted goods.

"We have [both] some old returning and some new vendors this year," said Francingues. "They're from the Coast, all along our Coast, from Louisiana to Alabama to Georgia and Florida."

Whatever the reason, whether shopping for special and unique Christmas gifts or just looking for handcrafted items to spruce up their homes, shoppers turned out in full force for this year's two-day holiday shopping extravaganza, as in years past.



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Pride and patriotism fill Long Beach streets for Veterans Day Parade

All photos by Toni Miles

By Toni Miles

Not even the overcast weather could dampen the spirits of those who filled the streets of downtown Long Beach on Saturday, November 11, for the city's annual Veterans Day Parade.

People were out in full force to show their support at this year's parade. Here are a few photos from the Veterans Day Parade that catch and convey some memorable moments at this patriotic annual event.





Christmas Carnival planned for sickle cell warriors

Long Beach Breeze

The Mississippi Sickle Cell Foundation (MSCF) will host a Christmas Carnival for sickle cell warriors and their families on Saturday, December 16.

Coordinating the event this year is Tobi Breland, nurse practitioner at Children's of MS Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders (CCCBD) and MSCF board member, and Teresa Walker, registered nurse at CCCBD and MSCF board member.

"Each year, the Foundation sponsors this event for our young warriors, but we have not been able to have it since 2018, due to the pandemic. We are excited to bring it back this year and hope to have a good turnout," said Breland.

"Sickle cell is a prevalent genetic blood disorder with many possible complications," said Breland. "We plan the event to provide some holi-

day fun for families who deal with the effects of it daily."

The carnival will feature lots of games, food, a cake walk and a special visit and gifts from Santa. Parents are invited to snap a photo of their youngsters with the Jolly 'Ol Elf.

Set for 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Jackson's Christian Life Center at 431 North State Street in Jackson, the event is free, but is limited to children with sickle cell disease and their immediate family only.

"We hope families will come and experience some happiness and joy with others who understand what they go through on a daily basis," said Breland. "We want them to know they are not alone."

For more information, email MS-SickleCellFND@yahoo.com.



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