

## Long Beach ready to roll with Mardi Gras ball and night parade

By Toni Miles

Carnival season is here, and the Carnival Association of Long Beach (CALB) is preparing for the official unveiling of this year's royal court and the annual Mardi Gras Night Parade.

The 2024 CALB 63rd Annual Coronation Ball is set to take place on Friday, February 2, where King Scott (King-candidate Junior Husband) and Queen Rosalie 2024 (Queen-candidate Lisa Frazer) will be crowned, and this year's CALB Mardi Gras theme will be revealed.

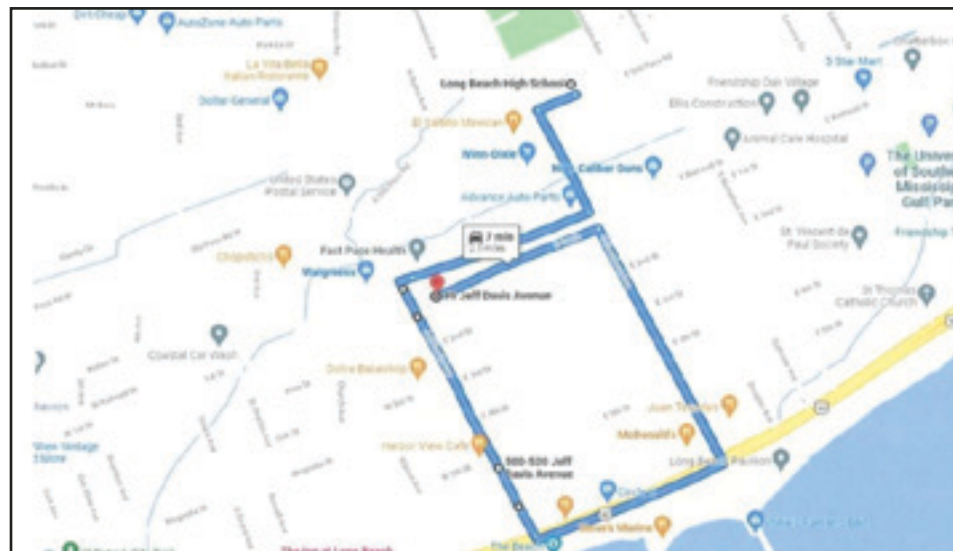
Thousands of people are expected



to line the streets of downtown Long Beach for the CALB annual Mardi Gras Night Parade, scheduled for Saturday, February 3. Brightly-decorated floats will roll down the same parade route as last year at 6 p.m.

The parade will start at Long Beach High School, heading south until turning west on Railroad Street to Jeff Davis Avenue, where the procession will continue to Highway 90 and head east, then turn north at Cleveland Avenue at the east end of the harbor, continue north on Cleveland and then turn east on East 1st Street,

*cont. on page 4*



*This year's parade route will be the same as in recent years past.*

## Long Beach could become next site for casino resort on Mississippi Gulf Coast

By Toni Miles

After years of hurdles, the wager on bringing a casino resort development to Long Beach is one step closer to becoming a reality.

Following a Special Session of the Long Beach Board of Aldermen on December 13, 2023, the City of Long Beach announced the commencement of lease negotiations with a casino developer for a portion of land in the Long Beach Harbor, which could be part of an overall proposed casino resort site.

The developer was not named in the City's announcement or in the meeting minutes from the Special Session. The approval for City officials and the City attorney to enter into negotiations was unanimously approved by all aldermen present, which included Aldermen Donald Frazer, Patrick Bennett, Bernie Parker, Angie Johnson, Timothy McCaffrey, Jr., and Mike Brown. Alderman Pete McGoey was absent from the meeting.



When asked to comment on the potential developer following the announcement of negotiations, Mayor George Bass said, "We have nothing new to add on the prospective developer. We are awaiting word from them on their questions and concerns with the State Gam-



Toni Miles

*A For Sale sign markets a potential casino hotel site in Long Beach on the corner of South Burke Avenue and Beach Boulevard.*

ing Commission."

While City leaders say this marks the initial stage of discussions, they also emphasize that no agreements have yet been finalized.

An official statement released by the City of Long Beach reads: "We value community input and trans-

parency throughout the process. Stay tuned for updates as we work collaboratively to explore potential opportunities."

The Mississippi Gaming Commission approved a potential casino site in Long Beach back in 2019. In the fall of 2022, the Mississippi Supreme Court ruled in favor of developers in a Tidelands dispute with the Mississippi Secretary of State.

The Mayor's office would not comment on the identity of the current potential developer, so it is unknown whether the developer the City is negotiating with is the same developer who was part of the Tidelands dispute.

City officials would also not elaborate on what land is involved in the negotiations. Currently, on the corner of South Burke Avenue and Beach Boulevard, a "For Sale" sign is present, advertising a "potential casino hotel site." In a previous rendering prepared for a casino

*cont. on page 5*



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# LARGEST TURNOUT YET FOR JEEP-A-GRAS PARADE



By Toni Miles

Mardi Gras season is here, and the streets of downtown Long Beach transformed into a sea of purple, gold and green as dozens of Jeeps rolled out for the 3rd Annual Jeep-a-Gras Parade on Saturday, January 13.

A record number of parade-goers also turned out for this "warm-up" Mardi Gras event, despite temperatures dipping into the forties the night of the parade, which started at the Long Beach High School stadium parking lot, wound down Railroad Street, turned on Jeff Davis Avenue and wrapped up at Coastal Daiquiri, where live entertainment provided the perfect finishing touch for this now-annual event.

More than one-hundred Jeeps pre-registered to roll in the parade procession, with Jeepers coming from other states to take part in the festivities.

The two-day event launched at Coastal Daiquiri on Friday, January 12, where

Jeepers attended a Jeep-A-Greet and picked up their pre-registration packets and T-shirts.

People of all ages and from all walks of life lined the parade-route, competing to catch coveted throws, which included signature Jeep toy ducks.

Hot food was also available to warm the crowd, including barbeque from a local vendor set up on the route.

This is the third year the Friendly City has hosted the Jeep-A-Gras parade, attracting Jeepers and visitors from throughout the region. Jeep-A-Gras is the only all-Jeep Mardi Gras parade on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and was sponsored this year by the Carnival Association of Long Beach and Team Husband-Frazer (Junior Husband, 2024 CALB king candidate and Lisa Frazer, 2024 CALB queen candidate).

All photos by Toni Miles



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# First Long Beach cannabis facility celebrates groundbreaking



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Rendering of the Sweet Life Canna Co. completed facility



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Sweet Life Canna Co. held a groundbreaking to celebrate the completion of the shell of their facility.

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The first medical cannabis cultivation facility in Long Beach, Sweet Life Canna Co., recently held a ceremonial groundbreaking event to celebrate the completion of the shell of their 10,000 square foot facility, located at 5030 A Avenue.

“We are thrilled to celebrate this pivotal moment for our company and for Mississippi,” said Courtney Paolillo, chief executive officer of Sweet Life Canna Co. “The next phase of development for Sweet Life Canna Co. will be the buildout of the facility, incorporating state-of-the-art infrastructure, that will enable grow operation to commence as early as possible.”

Sweet Life Canna Co. was granted a medical cannabis cultivation license by the state of Mississippi on July 31, 2023. The license allowed the company to begin construction of their cultivation facility. Upon building completion, Sweet Life Canna Co. will cultivate, produce and distribute medical cannabis for patients accessing dispensaries throughout Mississippi.

The groundbreaking event included a facility tour, keynote speeches and a question and answer session.

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cont. from front page

# Long Beach ready to roll with Mardi Gras ball and night parade



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Pictured is the 2023 Carnival Association of Long Beach's Royal Court. This year's Coronation Ball will take place on Friday, February 2.

wrapping up back at Jeff Davis Avenue.

Parade-goers are encouraged to stake out a spot on the parade route early for the best viewing and throws.

Just west of Long Beach, the St. Paul's Carnival Association Mardi Gras Parade is set to roll in downtown Pass Christian on Sunday, February 11, starting at noon.

The Carnival Association of Long Beach, which sponsors Mardi Gras events in the Friendly City and rolled out the first CALB parade in 1971, was founded in 1960 and began as the St. Thomas Mothers Club by a group of mothers from St. Thomas Catholic School to assist the school with funding. Since then, CALB has raised millions of dollars for St. Thomas School (now St. Vincent de Paul School) and many other charities in the area. For more information about events, visit [www.LongBeachCarnival.com](http://www.LongBeachCarnival.com).



Lindy Sholes

The CALB Annual Night Parade is a popular event in Long Beach each year. This year's parade is set to roll out at 6 p.m. on Saturday, February 3, in downtown Long Beach.



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cont. from front page

## Long Beach could become next site for casino resort on Mississippi Gulf Coast

project in Long Beach, the waterfront property across Beach Boulevard, adjacent to the Long Beach Yacht Club and Parrish's Restaurant, was included in the casino development project.

One obvious opportunity for the City is the additional revenue a casino development would flush into City coffers. Casino developments, which began as far back as more than thirty years ago, have proven to be big money-makers and sources of much-needed revenue for cities across the Coast.

The new casino resort would create additional jobs in the area, could diversify the economy and is projected to boost local tax revenues, in particular pumping up revenues by the millions yearly for Long Beach public schools. The casino resort would also be one of the few located on Mississippi's west coast, with Hollywood Casino and the Silver Slipper in Hancock County to the west of Long Beach and the Island View Casino located just east in Gulfport.

In the past, Long Beach residents have voted in favor of a new casino in the Friendly City. Back in a special election in 2006, fifty-five percent of voters voted in favor of a casino development, then planned to be located north of Highway 90. While those plans fell through, the City of Long Beach is now one step closer to becoming the site of South Mississippi's next casino, making it the thirteenth casino situated on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

During the initial hearings in 2018, most Long Beach homeowners expressed support for the possibility of a casino in their town. However, several Long Beach homeowners say they are concerned that the Gulf Coast is already saturated with casinos and fear the development will spark an increase in crime.

Meanwhile, proposed casino developments at other locations have recently been approved and are moving forward. In March of last year (2023), the Mississippi Gaming Commission approved an "onshore gaming establishment to be located in Clermont Harbor" in Bay St. Louis. The development, known as South Beach Casino, had an initial blueprint that includes a 40,000-square foot casino, complete with 1,100 slot machines, twenty-five table games and six poker tables.

## Science Café to feature black bears

Long Beach Breeze

The January Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL) Science Café will be held on Monday, January 29, and will focus on black bears.

Historically, black bears have been an abundant and valuable native game species in the state of Mississippi. Anthony Ballard, black bear program leader with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, will give a presentation about black bears.

Ballard's presentation will outline the decline of black bear numbers around the turn of the twentieth century, detail their natural rebound and describe the growing abundance that the state is currently experiencing. Attendees will also hear about the research being conducted on black bears, such as GPS collaring, reproductive success and genetic data collection.

The evening will also include exploration of the future of the black bear program, program goals, and how residents can take steps to avoid conflict with bears through public engagement.

The Science Café will be held both in-person and virtually from 6 until 7 p.m. In-person participation will be at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory,

in room 104 of the Caylor Building at 703 East Beach Drive in Ocean Springs. Cookies, coffee and other complimentary treats will be available.

Virtual participation can be accessed by Zoom at <https://usm-edu.zoom.us/j/81999011694>, webinar ID 819 9901 1694.



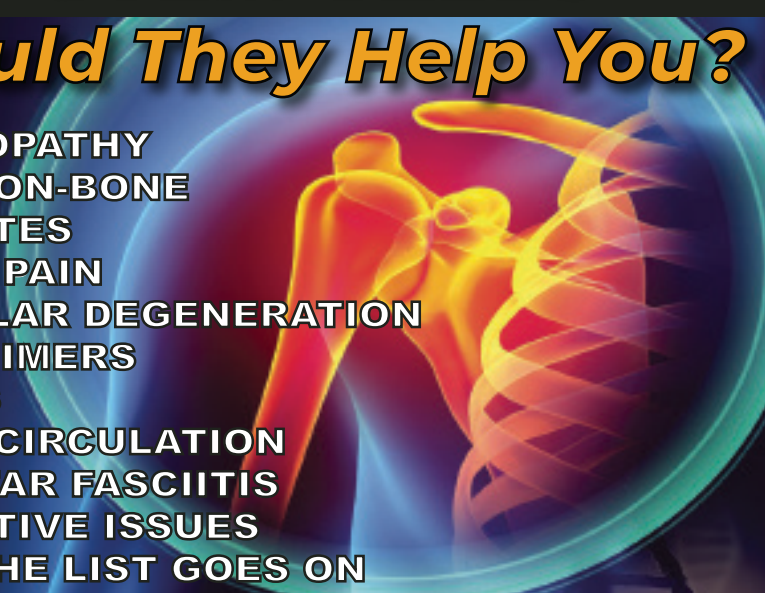
Toni Miles

Anthony Ballard, black bear program leader with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks

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# Local grocer plans pre-parade party on Feb. 3

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In the spirit of Carnival season, Winn-Dixie will offer local specialties and a free community event ahead of Mardi Gras. The neighborhood grocer has been serving the Gulf Coast community for decades, and company officials say they are excited to continue honoring the unique traditions locals enjoy each year.

Additionally, on Saturday, February 3, the grocer will host a pre-parade party for the local community from 3 until 6 p.m. at their Long Beach store, located at 109 N Cleveland Avenue. Long Beach residents are invited to join in the festivities ahead of the Carnival Association of Long

Beach's annual parade. King cakes will be available in Mississippi Gulf Coast stores until the end of Carnival.



For more than forty years, Winn-Dixie has provided king cakes for local families to enjoy. With multiple sizes of king cakes, revelers can enjoy a wide array of flavors ranging from traditional cinnamon to varieties with moist, creamy fillings including cream cheese, strawberry, chocolate and more. The grocer's king cakes are baked fresh daily and available now at Mississippi Gulf Coast stores until the end of Carnival season.

Along with king cake offerings, stores also create a variety of deli assortments designed for celebrating on or off the parade route, as well as offer festive Mardi Gras merchandise.



# Local teachers receive grants from Education Foundation



Special to Long Beach Breeze

T. L. Reeves Elementary's Jessica Dedeaux



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach High School's Betsy Hertz



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach High School's Gary Stone

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Long Beach Excellence in Education Foundation recently announced the award of three educational grants to Long Beach School District staff. The foundation awarded the grants, each valued up to \$500, for special projects for which applicants requested funding assistance.

This year's grant recipients are Jessica Dedeaux of T.L. Reeves Elementary, for her "Growing Second Grade Gardeners" project; Betsy Hertz of Long Beach High School, for her "Low Tech Saver Space" project; and Gary Stone of Long Beach High School, for his "LBTV Audio/Vocal Booth" project. The group received several applications and hopes to continue to expand the grant program in the future.

The Long Beach Excellence in Educa-

tion Foundation, a fund of the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, sets as its goal to administer funds for the charitable purpose of supporting the Long Beach School District (LBSD), its teachers and students, by funding scholarships, grant recognition programs and other such supplemental activities within the LBSD.

Since forming last year, the group has funded nine teacher grants; and, by the close of this school year, will have awarded ten \$1,000 scholarships to Long Beach High School seniors. These, and other programs, are possible through the group's fundraising activities and through tax-deductible donations.

For more information about the Long Beach Excellence in Education Foundation, contact

LBExcellenceInEducation@gmail.com or visit their Facebook page.

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## First quarter brings Family Movie Day, Science Café to library



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Mike Familant will present his "Searching America Bigfoot Experience" at the library-hosted Science Café, set for March 4 at City Hall.

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn, LBPL Youth and Technology Services

The Friends of the Library will hold a meeting on Monday, February 5, at 1:30 p.m. in the children's wing. There will be no meeting for the Long Beach Library Board of Trustees in February.

Holiday closings for February will be Saturday, February 17, through Monday, February 19, for Presidents Day. The library will reopen on Tuesday, February 20, at 9 a.m.

Family Movie Day will be on Saturday, February 10, at 10 a.m. in the children's wing.

Apart from Saturday, February 17, the book sale will continue 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.

On Monday, March 4, at 5:30 p.m., the library will be hosting the Science Café at City Hall. The event will feature Mike Familant's Searching America Bigfoot Experience Tour 2024.

New Jersey native Familant will share his thirteen years of experiences researching and collecting evidence about North America's most iconic cryptid, Bigfoot, also called Sasquatch, Grassman, Skunk Ape and Big Red Eye, among others.

From the Florida Swamps to the North Country of Maine and everywhere in between, Familant is the full-time, lead investigator and producer of the show, *In the Shadow of Big Red Eye*.

He will present evidence which he and his team have collected throughout his journey, as well as share some of the unfortunate experiences which come along with Bigfooting.

Those who wish to learn more about Familant, can view his docuseries, *Squatchables*, on his YouTube Channel, "Sussex County Bigfoot." More information about the team's expeditions is available on his Facebook page, *In the Shadow of Big Red Eye*, and at [ShadowOfRedEye.com](http://ShadowOfRedEye.com).

The evening session is free to the public and open to all ages.

For more information about any of our events or offerings, please give us a call at 228-863-0711. The library is located at 209 Jeff Davis Avenue.

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# Military, community, City leaders gather to honor late veterans

All photos by Toni Miles



Ward 6 Alderman Bernie Parker (right) was among the politicians who turned out to pay homage to late servicemen and women at Long Beach's 5th Annual Wreaths Across America.



American Legion Post 1995 Color Guard presents the Posting of the Colors at the honorary program.



Dozens of Seabees from the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport were on hand for this year's event.



Jenna Chavaree and her father, Ray Chavaree, place a Memorial Wreath on the grave of a late local veteran.



Navy Seabee (Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport) Chaplain Jason Gregory spoke the benediction at the ceremony. Afterwards, he helped others, including his son, Peter Gregory (left), place Memorial Wreaths.

By Toni Miles

While many spent the week before Christmas mailing holiday cards and shopping for those on their gift list, more than a hundred people rallied together at the Long Beach City Cemetery on Girard Avenue on December 16 for the city's 5th Annual Wreaths Across America program, honoring late members of the military and those still listed as Prisoners of War (POWs) or considered Missing in Action (MIA).

The ceremony opened with a moment of silence in memory and reverence of those who have served in the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard, as well as the more than 81,000 servicemen and women who are still considered POWs or MIA.

After the moment of silence, the American Legion Post 1995 Color Guard carried out the Posting of the Colors, followed by the National Anthem, sung by Long Beach High School's Women's Trio: Riley Sanders, Renn Newman and Maddie Cripple.

Alderman-at-Large Donald Frazer shared opening remarks, expressing appreciation for military men and women who gave their life for their country and Americans' freedom.

Memorial wreaths were then presented publicly for all branches of the U.S. Military by Marty Goodman, Sergeant Major, USA (retired) and Private Kervin Martinez, who presented for the Army; Gold Star Mother Margaret Levens and Corporal Justin Hurley, who presented for the Marine Corps; Petty Officer 2nd Class Colton Wilson and Keith Hieser, former Petty Officer 2nd Class, who presented for the Navy; Gravis Suber, Master Sergeant (retired) and Airman Noah Lima, who presented for the Air Force; Tom Pointe, Chief Warrant Officer-4 (retired) and Constructionman Dabner Maldonado-Montalvo, who presented for the Navy; and Wendy Griffioen, Donnie Levens American Legion Post 1995 Vice Commander and Petty Officer 2nd Class (retired) and Manny Segura, Eddy Blake VFW Post 3937 Vice Commander and Chief Petty Officer (retired), who presented for the POWs and MIA.

During the closing ceremony, Gulfport's Naval Construction Battalion Center (Seabees) Chaplain Jason Gregory conducted the benediction. Ms. Adrienne Cocco played "Taps" to wrap up the ceremony.

People from all walks of life, including local politicians, children, dozens of local Seabees and members from all branches of the military were on hand for this annual event.

"We need to recognize the men and women who have served in our military, to protect our country. We can't do enough for them. We can't thank them enough," said Bernie Parker, Long Beach Alderman for Ward 6.

More than two hundred fresh balsam wreaths, which were purchased and donated by local businesses and members of the community, were laid on the graves of all veterans laid to rest in the cemetery, some of whom still have family members and descendants living in the area who were on hand for the honorary ceremony.

Wreaths Across America began in 1992 with a trailerload of wreaths decorated by volunteers and laid on the graves of veterans buried at Arlington National Cemetery. The event has since spread throughout the nation and takes place annually throughout cities in South Mississippi, including Long Beach, but the purpose remains the same, to honor and remember those who have served the country.

This marked the 5th year Wreaths Across America has been held in Long Beach. It's now become an annual event in the Friendly City, during which memorial wreaths are also laid on the graves of late veterans laid to rest in nearby cemeteries, as well.

Wreaths Across America is hosted locally by Eddie Blake VFW Post 3937 and Donnie Levens American Legion Post 1995.



Dozens of local children were on hand to help lay the Memorial Wreaths.



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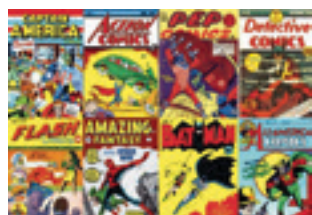
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**Fire Station #3 could be complete by February**



Toni Miles

The new fire station, located on Johnson Road in west Harrison County, is pictured in mid-January. Construction on the facility could be complete as soon as February.

By Toni Miles

Government officials say it won't be long before a new fire station in west Harrison County will be serving the local area. Construction on Fire Station #3, located on Johnson Road next to the Industrial Complex in west Harrison County, could be complete as soon as February.

Once complete, the City of Long Beach will have three full-time firefighters providing increased fire protection in the area.

The project is a coordinated effort between Harrison County and the Long Beach Fire Department. The new facility will be better manned and will enable the area to keep its current fire rating. It could possibly help improve the current fire rating, which, in turn, may reduce the overall cost of fire insurance coverage for residents in the area.

The new fire station replaces the old, mold-ridden one that was previously located at the Johnson Road site. Demolition of the old facility began in the summer of 2022 to make way for the new and improved fire station.



Toni Miles

Once complete, the new fire station will be manned by three full-time firefighters.

**Easter egg hunt scheduled in March for local families**

By Toni Miles

Easter will arrive early this year, with the holiday set to be celebrated Sunday, March 31, and the City of Long Beach is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt the weekend before the Easter holiday.

The event is free, open to the public and will take place from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, March 23, at the Harper McCaughan Town Green, located at 301 Jeff Davis Avenue in Long Beach.

The first Easter egg hunt starts at 10:15 a.m. for those ages four and under, followed by another Easter egg hunt for those five to eight years old at 10:45 a.m.

At 11:15 a.m., an Easter egg hunt will be held for those age nine to twelve years of age.

There will also be face painting and crafts at the event, and the Easter Bunny will be poised and ready to take pictures with those who are interested.



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## Annual Touch-A-Truck event planned for March 16



Dominick Fimiano

The Seabee exhibit provided by the nearby Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport was a main draw at last year's event.

By Toni Miles

Residents are advised to not be concerned if they notice police cars and fire trucks at the Long Beach Harbor on Saturday, March 16. It's all part of the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce's annual fundraising Touch-A-Truck event.

As in years past, Touch-A-Truck provides kids of all ages with the opportunity to experience life-sized vehicles and interact with community support leaders, including police officers, firefighters, construction workers and more.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, March 16, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the west side of the Long Beach Harbor. Admission is \$5 per person. Children under two years of age get in free. Admission is paid at the gate and benefits the local community.

Hosted yearly by the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce, funds raised at the event will go towards the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce's High School Scholarship program and small business grants.



Dominick Fimiano

Kids at last year's Touch-A-Truck event got an up-close look at first responders' and law enforcement vehicles, including the Harrison County Sheriff's Department patrol vehicle pictured.

## Coffee With First Responders set for Feb. 1 and Feb. 8

By Toni Miles

The community is encouraged to head out and start their day with local heroes at Coffee With First Responders, scheduled to be held in February in both Long Beach and Pass Christian.

Coffee With First Responders is set to take place in Long Beach at Bankhouse Coffee, located at 126 Jeff Davis Avenue in Long Beach, on Thursday, February 1, at 7:30 a.m.

Sponsored by the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce, the morning event will provide a unique opportunity for community members to network, meet and greet and show appreciation for the area's first responders.

The event is free and open to the public. Coffee and pastries will be provided for all local first responders at the event.

The following week, on Thursday, February 8, also at 7:30 a.m., the Pass Christian Chamber of Commerce will be holding its Coffee With First Responders event at 301: Venue on Scenic, located at 301 East Scenic Drive in Pass Christian.

Coffee and pastries will also be complimentary for first responders in the Pass who attend. This event is also free, and the public is invited to attend.



## Youth Symphony holding auditions

Special to Long Beach Breeze

The Gulf Coast Youth Symphony Orchestra will be having auditions for all strings, percussionist and winds on Sunday, January 28, at Gulfport High School, between 1 and 5 p.m.

The orchestra holds practices every Wednesday at Gulfport High School from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. The orchestra provides an opportunity for ninth through twelfth graders wanting to learn more classical type of music. The orchestra is mainly in need of percussion, brass and woodwind players.

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# Long Beach and Pass Christian launch year with Christmas tree recycling

By Toni Miles

The cities of Long Beach and Pass Christian started the new year off on the right foot, doing their part to recycle. Long Beach and Pass Christian were two of four cities that provided drop-off locations for Harrison County's and Mississippi Power's annual Christmas Tree Recycling Program.

Residents were allowed to drop off their live Christmas trees, stripped of all decorations, starting the day after Christmas through January 13 at the east side of the Long Beach Harbor and at the Pass Christian Harbor.

It's all part of the Harrison County Beautification Initiative. This recycling program not only helps build up fire safety in the area by giving residents a convenient drop-off location right after the holiday, as live trees dry out and become fire hazards, but the annual program also gives these trees a new life. The trees are recycled into mulch that is then used at public places, such as playgrounds and city sites throughout Harrison County.

The program also saves space in local landfills and curbs illegal dumping.

The cities of Gulfport and Biloxi also participated in the Christmas tree recycling program, with drop-off locations at the Courthouse Pier and Mississippi Power Company's Plant Watson in Gulfport, and a drop-off site on Rodenburg Avenue in Biloxi.



Toni Miles

Residents took advantage of Harrison County and Mississippi Power's annual Christmas tree recycling program by dropping off their live Christmas trees at designated sites, as seen here at the Long Beach Harbor. The trees will be recycled into mulch to be used throughout Harrison County.



Toni Miles

City Hall in downtown Long Beach is a sea of Mardi Gras decorations as the 2024 Carnival season gets into full swing.

By Toni Miles


It won't be long before the "good times" roll through the streets of downtown Long Beach, as Mardi Gras season in South Mississippi gets into full swing.

Long Beach businesses, and, as seen here, Long Beach City Hall, are already decked out for the Carnival season.

The Carnival Association of Long Beach (CALB) Night Parade is set to roll out along the streets of downtown Long Beach on Saturday, February 3, at 6 p.m. The annual parade is family-friendly and free to the public. Attendees are encouraged to stake out their spot on the parade route early for the best viewing and position to catch some coveted beads.



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# THE PASS POST

## City readies for Mardi Gras 2024

The Pass Post

With documented Mardi Gras parades all the way back to 1914, Pass Christian will kick off its 2024 Carnival season with a parade led by the St. Paul Carnival Association (SPCA).

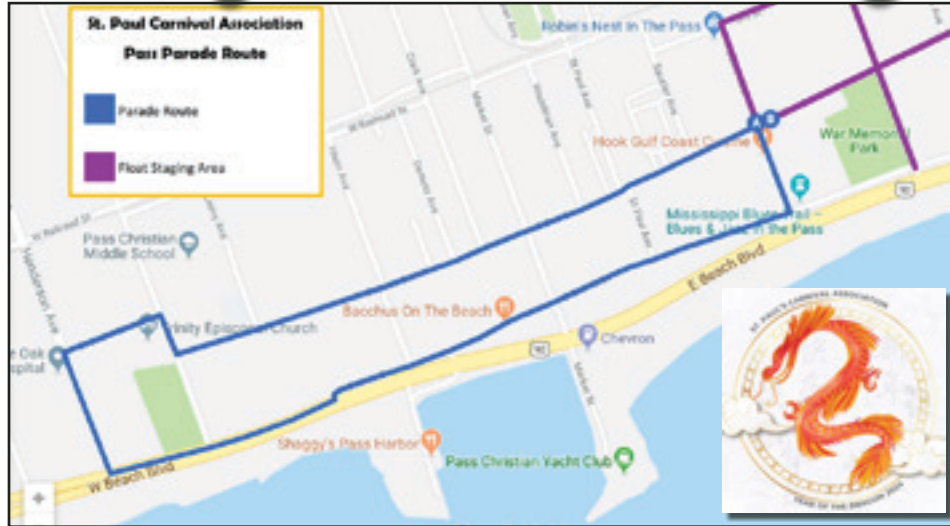
SPCA was founded in 1930 as a means to raise funds for the benefit of St. Joseph School and the Sisters of Mercy who taught there. Since its establishment, the organization's philanthropic activities have grown year after year, with most today benefitting St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School.

This year's SPCA royalty, King Christian XCIV, Kirk Kimball, and Queen Christiana 2024, Lindsey Rogers Fowler, will anchor the parade, with their theme of "Year of the Dragon." The parade will roll through the streets of the city beginning at noon on Sunday, February 11.

Ahead of the parade, the duo will host a Royal Ball on Friday, February 9, at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School in Long Beach, beginning at 8 p.m. The school is located at 4321 Espy Avenue.

The next morning, on Saturday, February 10, SPCA will have a Royal Brunch at the Pass Christian Yacht Club, located at 120 Market Street.

Those who wish to be a part of the parade can submit applications until January 27 at 5 p.m. The application fee is \$400. Applications are available at [StPaulCarnival.com](http://StPaulCarnival.com).



Special to The Pass Post

SPCA 2024 royalty, Lindsey Rogers Fowler and Kirk Kimball, will host the "Year of the Dragon" parade on Sunday, February 11.

All units approved to participate in the parade will receive a line up time and position, and all floats must be in their assigned position no later than 10:30 a.m. on parade day. Floats who wish to be judged must have a float and riders who conform to the parade theme, with all riders in costumes and in their assigned position by 11 a.m.

A mandatory captain meeting will be held on February 1 at 6 p.m. at the Pass Christian Police Department at 525 Espy Avenue.

The parade will start at the corner of Davis Avenue and Second Street and proceed to Scenic Drive. From there, it will turn west to Henderson Avenue, north to St. Louis, east to Church Street, south to

Second Street, and then east on Second to Davis Avenue.

Parade-goers are encouraged to follow all instructions from police and follow signs for parking. Cars on the parade route in "No Parking" areas may be towed. No parking will be allowed in the median of Highway 90.

On parade day, Davis Avenue east to Courtenay Avenue will close at 9 a.m. to serve as the parade float staging area. Traffic will not be allowed on Second Street between Davis and Courtenay, south of railroad tracks on Fleitas Avenue, or on Davis Avenue after 9 a.m. that Sunday morning.

Additionally, streets west of Davis Ave-

nue to Henderson Avenue on Scenic Drive, Highway 90 and Second Street are expected to close no later than 10 a.m.

Parking possibilities include Trinity Episcopal Church, which offers parking via online advance ticket purchases only. Tickets are available, first-come, first-served at [www.TrinityInThePass.com](http://www.TrinityInThePass.com). For more information, call the church office at 228-452-4563. In addition, the City of Pass Christian has historically offered parking at the harbor on the day of the parade. Call 228-452-3311 for more information.

Visit [www.StPaulCarnival.com](http://www.StPaulCarnival.com) for more information about the parade or Carnival events, or call 228-493-2728.

### Battle of Pass Christian subject of Feb. 26 luncheon

Special to The Pass Post

The Pass Christian Historical Society will hold its monthly luncheon on Monday, February 26, at noon, welcoming speaker Pat Alford, who will give the history of "The Battle of Pass Christian."

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, February 23. Reservations and more information are available by calling 228-452-7254 or emailing [Reservations@PassHistory.org](mailto:Reservations@PassHistory.org).

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



### Pittman named Chamber Chair for 2024

Special to The Pass Post

The Pass Christian Chamber recently announced that Shaninun Pittman will serve as the Pass Christian Chamber of Commerce Chair for 2024.

Born and raised in Columbia, Mississippi, Pittman has called the Mississippi Gulf Coast home for the past nineteen years. He is an angel investor, both founder and CEO of the Mississippi city-based venture capital Baristocracy LLC.

When he is not writing or engaging with fellow dance theater Mississippi (dtMS) cohorts in creating compelling and new choreographic productions, Pittman works strategically behind the scenes to secure funding for underserved arts initiatives throughout the region and state. An active member with wishes to one day become board president of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, Pittman is currently volunteering his time at Biloxi Little Theatre.



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# Library offers plethora of options for February

The Pass Post

The Pass Christian Public Library and the Pass Christian Garden Club are partnering to host a garden program with John Lipscomb on "What the Bluebirds Told Me"

Set for **Thursday, February 1, at 1 p.m.**, the program will include an informal introduction and open discussion about bluebird mating, nesting and fledglings. Also included will be information about habitat, bluebird box placement and predators.



Lipscomb is a Master Naturalist who has collected data on bluebirds during nesting season for the last sixteen years. His data is shared with Cornell University's Nestwatch program. He has observed 1,254 bluebirds that have fledged during this time period.

**Bob and Connie Boyd of Unique Stones** will offer an educational presentation on **Wednesday, February 14.**

They will discuss semi-precious stones, including how they are made and how to use them for jewelry and other purposes.



The program will begin at **2 p.m.**

For parents of fourth through sixth graders looking for something for their kids to do during the next school intercession, the library, in partnership with the Mississippi Healthy Happy program and the Harrison County MSU Extension Service, will offer a "Fun with Food" three-day cooking workshop.

From **2 until 4 p.m. on February 14 through 16**, children will have the opportunity to taste new foods; learn how food is grown; use math, reading and time skills; practice food and kitchen safety skills; play new games; and, of course, cook. Organizers say the course provides an excellent way to introduce children to the world of cooking and nutrition.

While the "Fun with Food" program is offered for free, children must be able to attend all



three workshop days in order to participate, and advance registration is required, as workshop space is limited.

This spring, the library will continue to offer their popular "Sit, Stay, Read!" children's reading program.

Set for the third Saturday of each month from **10 a.m. until noon**, the upcoming

programs – **February 17, March 16, April 20 and May 18** - are hosted by the Visiting Pet Teams of South Mississippi and provide a fun way for children to improve their communication and reading skills while visiting with a four-legged friend. The dog-friendly atmosphere provides motivation for the children to practice their reading, and reading sessions usually last for thirty minutes.

Children are rewarded with bookmarks, stickers, or pencils for participating in the free program. Children must not be afraid of or be allergic to animals in order to participate, and pre-registration is not required.

Those who want to get over a fear of computers by learning how to use them are encouraged to consider attending two computer classes being offered at the Pass Christian Public Library on **Thursday, February 22.**

The first class, "Computer 101," will be held at **1 p.m.** and will teach participants the very basics of computers, including computer terms, parts, the mouse, the keyboard, etc. "Computer 101" is designed for those who are new to using computers, and no experience is necessary.

The second class, "Internet 101," set to start at **2:15 p.m.**, will guide participants through the basics of safely surfing the internet, including how to search for and sift through all of the information that is found on the internet. Class attendees will learn what a browser and a web address are, how to navigate websites, and how to use a search engine.

Classes will be held in the library's conference room and are free and open to the public. However, class size is limited, so registration is recommended.

All programs are free and open to the public.

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

For more information or to register for a class, call the library at 228-452-4596, or email [PassChristianLibrary@gmail.com](mailto:PassChristianLibrary@gmail.com).




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# Long Beach students take top honors in Stock Market Games



*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

First place winners (l to r) included Audreigh McVay, Aaliyah Martin and Darren Barrows. Not pictured is Ann Marie Miller.

*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

Students in Mrs. Parker’s fourth-grade Discovery class recently took part in the Stock Market Games (SMG), and two of her teams took honors in the elementary division. There were sixty-seven fourth- and fifth-grade teams competing throughout the state of Mississippi.

Placing first in the state, with a return of 12.48% above the S&P 500, making \$15,776.76, was the team of Darren Barrows, Ann Marie Miller, Audreigh McVay and Aaliyah Martin.

The team of Chri’Ty Crews, Sofia Dunn and David Guaigua placed third in the



*Special to Long Beach Breeze*

Third place winners (l to r) were Sofia Dunn, David Guaigua and Chi’Ty Crews.

state, with a return of 4.19% above the S&P 500, making \$7,488.95.

“We believed it and achieved it,” said Mrs. Parker.

SMG is an online education program used in thousands of classrooms nationwide to help teach math, social studies, business, economics and language skills. Students in grades four through twelve participate in teams and manage a simulated investment portfolio during the school year. The simulation enables teams of students to invest a hypothetical \$100,000 in the stock market over a thirteen-week period. Winners are determined on the percentage return above or below S&P 500 growth.

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