

March 2025 • Volume 9, Number 3 • "Good News You Can Use"

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Work on east side of Long Beach Harbor progressing

By Toni Miles

After nearly five years of obstacles, delayed progress and an extensive period of

playing the waiting game as the City of Long Beach engaged in a yearslong battle to try to secure an additional \$9.5 million in FEMA funds to help with much-needed harbor repairs, work continues on the east side of the Long Beach Harbor.

"Progress is moving forward on the outer wall of the Long Beach Harbor," says Long Beach Community Affairs Director Courtney Cuevas. "Both W.C. Fore and Borries are hard at work installing pylons and the concrete cap."

"This vital concrete wall is being built to protect the inner harbor from future storms, reducing the strength



This close-up shows the concrete wall being built to reduce the strength of wave action and protect the inner harbor.

future storms, reducing the strength of wave action before it impacts the harbor. *cont. on page 5*



W.C. Fore and Borries are installing pylons and the concrete cap at the Long Beach Harbor as repairs and restoration work gets underway on the east end of the harbor after Hurricane Zeta wreaked havoc back in 2020.

Local World War II veteran and decorated hero Edgar McKay honored

By Toni Miles

With each passing day, the number of World War II veterans still alive decreases, with the Department of Veterans Affairs projecting that the number of living World War II veterans is now below .5% of the total number of Americans who served in the conflict.

One of them is a local resident who was honored via proclamation at a recent Long Beach Board of Aldermen meeting. Family, friends and members of the Donnie Levens American Legion Post 1995 in Long Beach were on hand as Long Beach Mayor George Bass, on behalf of the Long Beach Board of Aldermen, honored Edgar Lee "Coach Red" McKay with a proclamation declaring January 7 as Edgar McKay Day.

McKay, a World War II POW (prisoner of war) in Germany who was wounded in combat just prior to being



Long Beach Mayor George Bass (left) is shown reading the proclamation to World War II veteran Edgar McKay (seated, right).

captured by the Germans, received the Purple Heart and numerous other medals and citations for his valor and service in the war.

The honor coincided with another milestone for McKay, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday. Before presenting McKay with the proclamation, Bass shared the heroic, storied history and tales of valor regarding McKay and his service.

"This is one of those pleasurable things that not a lot of people ever get to do; so, on behalf of the elected Board [of Aldermen] here and myself, if you've ever seen a hero before, or never have..., this man is a hero," said Bass.

"Mr. McKay entered the Army in November of 1943 as part of the 4th Armored Division, 10th Armored Infantry Regiment that marched in Europe under the command of General *cont. on page 10*



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P.E.O. celebrates Founders' Day

Special to Long Beach Breeze

On February 1, members of P.E.O. Chapter B-Long Beach celebrated P.E.O. Founders' Day at a luncheon and program at the St. Martin Community Center in Jackson County, hosted by P.E.O. Chapter AA - Ocean Springs. Chapter B presented the program, sharing facts about the original seven members and what P.E.O. has accomplished since its beginning 156 years ago.

P.E.O. was founded on January 21, 1869, by seven students at Iowa Wesleyan College in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. Through membership, the P.E.O. Sisterhood has brought together more than half a million women in the United States and Canada who are passionate about helping women advance through education, while supporting and motivating them.

P.E.O. is a philanthropic educational organization. True to the mission of promoting opportunities for women, education continues to be the primary philanthropy of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. Since its inception, P.E.O. has helped more than 125,000 women pursue educational goals by providing nearly \$432 million in grants, scholarships, awards, and loans in addition to the stewardship of Cottey College, locat-



LONG BEACH BREEZE

Members of PEO Chapter B-Long Beach participated in the Founders' Day Celebration on February 1. Pictured (I to r) are Deb Kurts, Gail Donald, Cindy Mitchell, Charlotte Oliver, Linda Carden, Belinda Tipton, Lee Anne Bryant, Grace Gingles, Kathy Cook, Mary Westmoreland, Dominique Perryman, Shirley Gay and Betsy Bullard. Not pictured are Malette Ramsey and Carol Reeves.

ed in Nevada, Missouri.

Organized in 1930, Chapter B-Long Beach serves as Mississippi's second oldest chapter and remains very active in the community.

For more information about P.E.O., visit PEOInternational.org and/or PEOMississippi.org.

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Allen announces candidacy for Long Beach Alderman for Ward 2

By Jesse Allen



Jesse Allen is a proud Long Beach native. Born in 1971, Jesse is deeply rooted in the community, having attended Long Beach schools and graduating from Long Beach High School in 1989.

His career spans a wide range of technical skills and leadership roles, all of which have contributed to his strong work ethic and commitment to serving the people of Long Beach.

In 1992, he moved to Byhalia, MS, where he worked as a supervisor on large budget projects, including the FedEx World Headquarters, the Memphis and Shelby County Library, and the St. Jude Research Facility. This work helped shape Jesse's expertise in managing large-scale, critical Infrastructure projects.

From 2006 to 2017, Jesse worked exclusively for FedEx overseeing fire suppression systems at the FedEx Airport property, including aircraft hangers, a role requiring precision, responsibility, and trustworthiness.

In 2017, Jesse returned to his hometown of Long Beach, where he and his wife, Renee, have made their home. Together, they raised four children: Austin Allen, Cameron Owens, Justin Allen, and Colton Allen, and are proud grandparents to two beautiful grandchildren.

In 2020 Jesse founded Bear Point Custom Metal, a steel work fabrication and repair business serving Long Beach and the surrounding area. As a local business owner, Jesse understands the challenges and opportunities facing the community and is dedicated to creating a positive impact.

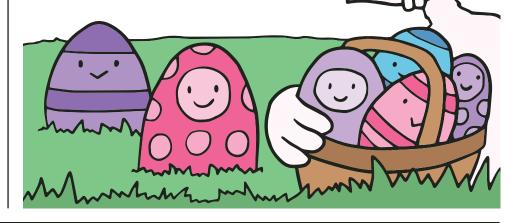
Jesse's diverse background, commitment to his family, and deep ties to Long Beach make him a dedicated candidate who is ready to serve as Alderman for Ward 2. With a focus on growth, safety, and community development, Jesse Allen is committed to ensuring Long Beach thrives for generations to come. Savethedateforthe annalezzant

By Toni Miles

Mark your calendars - the Easter Bunny is coming to Long Beach! He is scheduled to be a part of the City's annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 12. Families are encouraged to save the date for the two-hour springtime festivities.

Events will include face painting and crafts, as well as thousands of eggs for children up to age nine to collect during hunts separated by age groups. The Easter Bunny will be available for photos from 10 a.m. until noon, as well.

The event will be held at the Harper McCaughan Town Green, located at 201 Jeff Davis Avenue.







March, 2025

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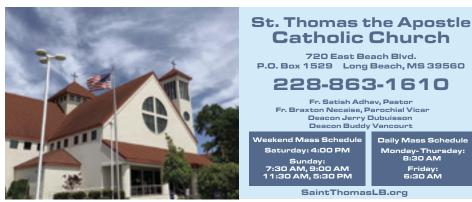
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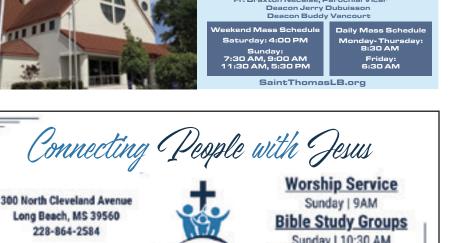


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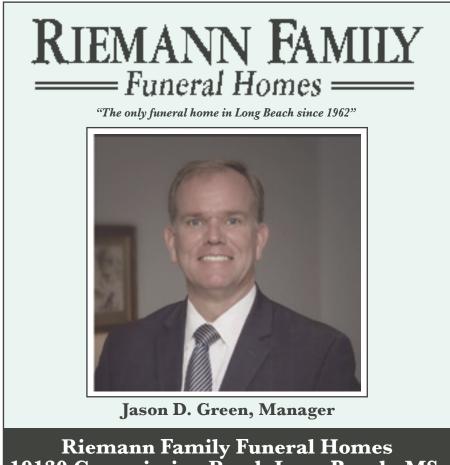
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Johnson announces candidacy for Long Beach Alderman for Ward 3

By Angie Johnson



I am honored to have served the city of Long Beach and the citizens of Ward 3 as Alderman for the past four years. With 55 years of residency in Long Beach, I understand that serving our community is a public trust. I sincerely appreciate the support I have received and humbly ask for your continued backing as I seek reelection as Ward 3 Alderman.

Long Beach is a unique and growing community that cherishes its small-town atmosphere. We must plan carefully to protect our quality of life while ensuring economic viability and sustainability for our future.

I have supported essential infrastructure improvements to our sewage, drainage, and water mains, enhanced our public parks, cemetery, and FETCH dog park, the renovation of the Quarles House Greenvale. I am thrilled that Long

Beach was the first city in Mississippi to establish a Safe Haven Baby Box location. I brought forth the development of the Economic Development Committee to assist with the trajectory of business growth and community involvement, blending Long Beach's uniqueness with our future strategic plan. Projects include completing our sidewalk project from Pineville to Railroad, improving intersections, widening and paving roads,, completing the Gateway Project, and completing our Harbor.

My vision focuses on upda ting our strategic plan to drive economic growth through fiscal responsibility, creating a sustainable business plan, and generating new opportunities for existing and new businesses. I am committed to updating ordinances for uniform consistency, enforcing accountability, holding property owners responsible for their land and buildings, and fostering community collaboration. Together, we can create opportunities that drive economic vitality and collaborative success.

During my term, I have been fiscally responsible your hard-earned tax dollars and was the only Alderman to vote against the tax increase . I meticulously review each line of the budget, determining wants versus needs, and combining resources for efficiency and productivity. Though we are a small town, we have a big vision.

I stand for integrity, communication, and accountability. I am here to listen and learn from community input. I continually seek opportunities to be a better alderman and will continue to work hard for the citizens of Ward 3 and our city.

Being a businesswoman with a financial background, an involved community board member, and my experience as your current alderman, sets me apart. I look forward to once again serving as your Alderman and I humbly ask for your support and vote on April 1. Our Town. Our Future. Our Long Beach.

cont. from front page

Work on east side of Long Beach Harbor progressing



After nearly five years of obstacles and red tape, restoration work is now well underway at the east side of the Long Beach Harbor.

It's big step forward for the safety and resilience of our community's waterfront," Cuevas said.

And it comes not a moment too soon, as the 2025 hurricane season looms just around the corner, set to begin on June 1.

A few months ago, the City's request for an additional \$9.5 million in upfront FEMA funding for repairs was denied by an arbitration panel, although FEMA will reimburse the City for ninety-percent of the harbor repairs, once complete. However, this left City leaders scrambling to secure more funding from other sources to get the overall needed repairs going and complete at the harbor before requesting the FEMA reimbursement.

Hurricane Zeta made landfall as a Category 2 hurricane, battering the Mississippi Gulf Coast, decimating all the boat slips and piers in the harbor and throughout the city.



LONG BEACH BREEZE YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Lefort, Mares and Pingul named **National Merit Scholarship Finalists**

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach High School (LBHS) seniors Grace Lefort, Justin Mares and Aubrey Pingul have all been named National Merit Finalists.

The National Merit Scholarship Program, which began in 1955, is an annual academic competition for scholarships. The program is conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®), a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance.

From a beginning pool of 50,000 students, some 16,000 of them are named Semifinal-ists. Students who qualify as Semifinalists then have an opportuni-

ty to advance to the Finalist level and compete for National Merit Scholarships. About 6,870 of the outstanding Finalists will be chosen as Merit Scholarship® winners in the 2025 competition.



"I am incredibly proud to congratulate our three outstanding students from Long Beach High School on being named National Merit Finalists," said LBSD Superintendent Dr. Talia Lock.

'This prestigious recognition is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and academic excellence. Their achievements not only reflect their individual talents but also the supportive environment fostered by our dedicated teachers and staff. We celebrate their success and look forward to seeing the remarkable contributions they will continue to make in the future."

Special to Long Beach Breeze Justin Mares

Grace Lefort is the daughter of Brooke and Greg Lefort. After high school, she plans to attend a four-year university in California to earn her BFA in musical theatre. Lefort's long-term plans are to

work in the theatre industry as an actor or technician

Justin Mares is the son of Jeremy and Christina Mares. After high school, he hopes to attend Tulane University to obtain his undergraduate degree before attending medical school. Mares' long-term goals are to complete medical school and work in his fields of interest, surgery and cardiology.

Aubrey Pingul is the daughter of Kevin and Emily Pingul. After high school, she plans to attend Mississippi State University to obtain a bachelor's degree in computer science. Her long-term goal is to be able to look back on her life and experiences and be proud of what she has done and where she has gone.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Grace Lefort

pecial to Long Beach Breeze Aubrey Pingul

Nguyen named LBHS's **BSN Student-Athlete of the Month**

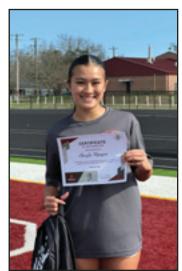
Special to Long Beach Breeze

Shayla Nguyen was recently selected as the BSN Student Athlete of the Month at Long Beach High School. A member of the

cheer squad, soccer team, and track team, school representatives say Nguyen has made a remarkable impact at her school, particularly with the Lady Bearcats soccer team.

Officials say her dedication and hard work are evident in every practice and game, where she consistently demonstrates her commitment to excellence. Her teammates elected her as captain for her senior year, a role they say she embraces with passion and responsibility. A versatile athlete, Nguyen handles multiple positions on the field, playing defense, midfield and forward. Beyond her individual skills, teammates say she possesses a unique ability to uplift and encourage them, fostering a positive atmosphere that inspires those around her.

Nguyen is described as "one of a kind." School officials say she gives 110% to soccer, cheerleading, track, the classroom and the community and is a stellar teammate who leads by example. Although she cannot compete with the cheer team in the postseason, she still supports her teammates



Special to Long Beach Breeze Shayla Nguyen

by sending words of encouragement or attending any event she is able to attend. They say what really makes her one of a kind is that she *chooses* to give 110%.



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LONG BEACH BREEZE

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER





"Green" books, puzzles, e-books and movie on deck for March at the library

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn, LBPL Youth and Technology Services

Hello, Long Beach! Here is what's happening at the Long Beach Public Library in March.

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, come and pick out a "green" book! You'll make the Library Leprechauns happy. Look for the display under the stairs. Puzzled for something new? Head over to the "Puzzle Swap" display next to

Puzzled for something new? Head over to the "Puzzle Swap" display next to the elevator, and take a puzzle or leave a puzzle...or both! Drop off a puzzle that you no longer want so someone else can enjoy it. Pick a puzzle to take home. The library is not responsible for any missing pieces.

The Friends of the Long Beach Public Library will meet on Monday, March 3, at 1 p.m. in the main wing. We are always looking for new members, so, if you ever thought of joining the group, please come and bring a Friend. Also, don't forget, the Friends' Book Sale will be open

each Saturday in the main meeting room.

The Friends and the library staff would like to thank Mrs. Liz Crimmins for her most generous donation of \$1,000 for books purchased in memory of her late husband, Mr. Lloyd Crimmins. These books will each be labeled in his memory. We are most grateful for her support.

This month's Family Movie Day will be held on Saturday, March 15, at 10 a.m. in the main library. We invite everyone to come watch *Hidden Figures* (PG) and enjoy the new T.V. viewing area in the main library's sitting area. Thank you to the Scott family for donating the new T.V. When not showing movies, the television will show important library news and information for anyone visiting the library.

As always, parents are invited to bring their little ones to Preschool Story Time each Tuesday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m. in the children's wing. Come listen to the story, make a craft, and dance with your child to their favorite children's songs.



Special to Long Beach Breez

A new "Puzzle Swap" display is located at the library, where patrons can take a puzzle, leave a puzzle – or both!

March 2-8, 2025, is Read an e-Book Week, so check out our Tumblebooks, Boundless and Hoopla collections for a new adventure!

And as a final reminder, the library's hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

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.

As always, we thank everyone for their continued support and patronage, and stay safe!



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8 PASS POSS Visit us online at Long Beach Breeze.com for more Pass news]

Pass Christian becomes official Mississippi Main Street Community

Special to The Pass Post

The Mississippi Main Street Association (MMSA) recently designated the city of Pass Christian as an official Mississippi Main Street Community.

Working through the MMSA membership pathway, Pass Christian Main Street (PCMS) became a Network member of MMSA in 2022 and recently met all benchmarks to achieve official Main Street Designation. The organization was designated as a Main Street Community in

2011 and has been working in recent years to re-establish its status with MMSA. "The City of Pass Christian is very fortunate

to have our Main Street achieve its certification," said Mayor Jimmy Rafferty. "Many thanks to all of those who played a part in helping us get the certification which will make us eligible for grants."

"Main Street has already had a positive impact on our community, and we are looking forward to more enhancements in the future," Rafferty added.

"The City of Pass Christian's commitment to its people, history and growth is evident by their obtaining official Main Street Designation with the Mississippi Main Street Association," said Jim Miller, MMSA Executive Director. "The MMSA team looks forward to working with Pass Christian Main Street to execute and implement their Downtown Roadmap for continued preservation and economic vitality."

"The Pass Christian Main Street Board of Directors is thrilled that the foundation has earned the honor of becoming a 'Designated' Main Street organization and is looking forward to the additional opportunities this brings to the community," said Pass Christian Main Street Board President Wendy Diaz del Valle.

The mission of the Mississippi Main Street Association is to be a catalyst for the preservation and economic revitalization of Mississippi's historic downtowns and traditional commercial districts.

Pass Christian senior named candidate in U.S. Presidential Scholars Program



Erik "Talan" Lindmark, a graduating senior at Pass Christian High School, has been named a Career and Technical Education candidate as part of the 2025 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, which recognizes distinguished seniors for their accomplishments in academic success; leadership; service to school and community; scholarship and talent in the visual, creative and performing arts; and ability and accomplishment in career and technical fields. The U.S. Department of Education will announce up to 161 Scholars in May. Of these, up to twenty will be selected as U.S. Presidential Scholars in Career and Technical Education. Pass Christian Schools Superintendent Dr. Carla J. Evers said, "Talan is a remarkable young man with a bright future ahead of him. Pirate Nation wishes him all the best as a candidate for this prestigious award."

Special to The Pass Pos

Pass St. Patrick's Day Parade set for Saturday, March 15

The Pass Post

The Krewe of Blarney, Inc., a Mississippi non-profit corporation that sponsors the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Pass Christian, will hold its annual parade on Saturday, March 15. The parade lineup begins at noon in the 200 block of Davis Avenue, preceded by a bless-

ing and proclamation at the city pavilion. The parade will begin at 1 p.m. at the pavilion, traveling down Davis Avenue to Scenic Drive and then west to Bacchus on the Beach.

The "Krewe" is made up of Kaptains and Kaptainesses who walk in the parade and stop at toasting spots along

stop at toasting spots along the way. In the past, in addition to the Grand Marshall and Colleen, the parade has featured Boy Scouts, drumlines, the high school band, strutting leprechauns, decorated golf carts, classic cars and other walkers.

Following the parade, the Krewe hosts live music and traditional corned beef, potatoes and cabbage.



Those who would like to participate in the parade can do so with a small donation to help the Krewe defray the costs. For more information, visit "Krewe of Blarney – Pass Christian" on Facebook.



Pass Christian has become the 48th Designated Main Street Community by Mississippi Main Street. Pictured are PCMS Board President Wendy Diaz del Valle, Mississippi Main Street Executive Director Jim Miller and PCMS Executive Director Robin Rafferty.



Robin's Nest : 255 Davis Ave., Pass Christian, MS, 228.222.4863 Roberts Place Café : 233 Davis Ave., Pass Christian. 228.222.4031



Mardi Gras events planned for Pass for 2025

PASS POS

The Pass Post

Once again, the St. Paul Carnival Association (SPCA) has a plethora of events planned for the 2025 Carnival season.

Following a Royal Ball on Friday, February 28, and the Royal Brunch the next morning, the main event, said by many to be the "best parade on the Gulf Coast" will roll on Sunday, March 2, at noon.

According to SPCA, this will be its 93rd annual Mardi Gras parade, though Pass Christian has documented parades all the way back to 1914. This year's SPCA royalty, King Christian XCV, James Butcher, and Queen

This year's SPCA royalty, King Christian XCV, James Butcher, and Queen Christiana 2025, Rebecca Reed Koenenn, will headline the parade, with their theme of "Welcome to Emerald City."

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 Avenue to Henderson Avenue on Scenic

PCMS girls soccer team wins Gulf Coast Conference Championship



Special to The Pass Pos

The Pass Christian Middle School girls soccer team recently triumphed as Gulf Coast Champions, securing a 4-2 victory over rival Long Beach at Francis McDonald Stadium. The championship win caps off the Pirates' season-long commitment to excellence both on and off the field. The championship-winning Pirates were led by coaches and athletes including Zaria Acker, Hailey Armstrong, Carmen Ausmer, Emma Benson, Anna Brenneis, Chloe Brenneis, Reese Clark, Makaelah Couch, Charlotte DuPree, Sophia Gonzalez, Elle Goodsell, Ryan Hurst, Kendall Kershaw, Lily Krebs, Izzy Milevsky, Addison Oliver, Hannah Slocum, Olivia Snell, Khloe Williams, Sarah Morvant and Head Coach Lauren Seignious.



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 at www.TrinityInThe-Pass.com. 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 for more information about the parade or Carnival events.

Outstanding employee, teacher and citizen recognized

The Rotary Club of Pass Christian, in partnership with Pass Christian Main Street, gathered recently to recognize three people for their selfless contributions to the city.



Outstanding Citizen Paul Ellis

(right) is pictured with Rotary Club

President Chipper McDermott (left)



City Employee of the Year Andy Purchner (left) is pictured with Pass Christian Mayor Jimmy Rafferty.



Teacher of the Year Andy Batten (left) is pictured with Pass Christian Schools Superintendent Carla

PASS CHRISTIAN LIBRARY EVENTS All events will be held at the Pass Christian Library at 111 Hiern Avenue. For more information or to sign up,

call the library at 228-452-4596 or email w.allard@harrison.lib.ms.us.

FLASH WRITING YOUR MEMOIR

Author Deborah Tainsh will return on Wednesday, March 5, to facilitate her "Flash Writing Your Memoir" class. Set for 2 p.m. and continuing weekly through April 30, the workshop is designed to inspire and assist attendees in writing stories for family posterity through flash, micro and creative nonfiction. Ideally, participants will attend as many sessions as possible, but perfect attendance is not required. Tainsh, a novelist and essayist, has facilitated numerous creative and memoir writing workshops for libraries and Barnes and Noble stores. Attendees are asked to bring their laptop or pen and paper, as well as any writing they are working on, if desired. Call the library to reserve a spot in the class.

TOWER GARDENING

The Pass Christian Garden Club, the library and the One Book One Pass Community Read Project are partnering to host a garden program. Set for 1 p.m. on Thursday, March 6, the program topic will be "Tower Gardening," presented by Merryl Gallahar-Nall. Nall will

Gallahar-Nall. Nall will instruct attendees on how to grow food and plants vertically in a tower garden. The program is free, and the public is welcome to attend.

CHAIR YOGA

Those who would like to achieve greater flexibility, good posture, learn mindfulness skills and access new levels of energy are invited to join Chair Yoga with Sid classes at the Pass Christian Public Library. Starting March 11, the eight-week series will begin promptly at noon and will confinue through April 29 in the conference room of the library. Participants are asked to wear comfortable clothes and bring socks, water and an exercise mat. The cost is free, but

donations will be accepted for instructional costs. The class is open to the public. Those who are interested are asked to call the library to sign up for the classes.

SIT, STAY, READ!

The popular Sit, Stay, READ program, hosted by the Visiting Pet Teams of South Mississippi, comes to the library the third Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. until noon. Upcoming programs – March 15, April 19 and May 17 - provide a fun way for children to improve

their communication and reading skills while visiting with a four-legged friend. The dog-friendly atmosphere can motivate children to practice their reading in a thirty-minute reading session, with rewards such as bookmarks, stickers or pencils. Children must not be afraid of or be allergic to animals in order to participate, and pre-registration is not required.

BOOK SALE

Evers (right).

The Friends of the Pass Christian Library will have their spring book sale beginning Friday, March 28, at 8 a.m. It will be open on Sunday, March 30, from noon until 4 p.m. and will continue through April 9 during regular library hours. Prices will range from \$1 for hardcover books and DVDs to \$.25 for small paperback books.

Those who have books, videos, puzzles or other items they would like to donate are encouraged to bring them to the library. Donations are accepted Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Library. cont. from front page

LONG BEACH BREEZE

March, 2025

Local World War II veteran and decorated hero Edgar McKay honored



There was a standing ovation at the January 7 Long Beach Board of Aldermen meeting as the date was designated Edgar McKay Day, in honor of a local World War II veteran, recipient of the Purple Heart and numerous other honors and medals for his valor while serving in the war.

George Patton, and rumor was General George Patton's son-in-law was being held prisoner in Germany," said Bass.

"Their mission was to go in and release the prisoners of the POW camp."

"Mr. McKay's Company, A Company... had to fight their way through ... they opened the gates of the POW camp and released all of the prisoners, including the son-in-law of General Patton. Late in the afternoon, while refueling the tank, German soldiers had surrounded them and began to shoot and throw hand grenades. Then, by dark, the Germans had closed in. Their officers told them 'every man for himself' - either surrender or try to make it back to their lines.'

The operation, titled "Operation Baum," was a covert mission to rescue Patton's son-in-law, LTC John Waters, as well as the other POWs at the Stalag XIII-C POW camp in Bavaria, Germany.

"Trying to run back to the line with a fellow soldier, Mr. McKay received shrapnel in his shoulder and legs. At daylight, while resting, they were captured by German soldiers," Bass said.

They were taken to a POW camp...where he was imprisoned for twenty-eight days, during the days of March 27 to April 18. He was listed as Missing in Action (MIA).

"Mr. McKay and others were liberated from the POW camp ... by the 7th Army and were sent to the 23rd General Hospital in France, then sent home on the Liberty Ship. Mr. McKay received the Purple Heart, a Good Conduct Medal, the European African Middle East Campaign Medal, American Campaign Medal, the World

War II Victory Medal, the Combat Infantry Medal, the Honorable Service Medal and the Bronze Star."

During the presentation of the proclamation, McKay received a standing ovation.

McKay is among the approximately 66,000 living World War II veterans in America today.

EDDY BLAKE VFW POST 3937

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and Purple Heart recipient Edgar "Coach Red" McKay

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March, 2025



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LONG BEACH BREEZE YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Touch-A-Truck offering free admission again this year



Kids will be allowed to interact (and parents can take photos!) with the vehicles at the March 15 event

By Toni Miles

The Long Beach Chamber of Commerce is going in for the long haul with its annual Touch-A-Truck fundraising event offering free admission for the second year in a row.

This year's event; the eighth annual, is scheduled to take place on Saturday, March 15, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the west side of the Long Beach Harbor, located at 720 South Cleveland Avenue.

Touch-A-Truck is the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce's annual spring-time fundraising event that provides kids of all ages with the opportunity to experience first-hand lifesized vehicles, such as power trucks, bulldozers, firetrucks and more. Youngsters (and their families) also get the opportunity to interact with community support leaders, including police officers, firemen, construction



The Long Beach Chamber of Commerce's annual Touch-A-Truck event will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the west side of the Long Beach Harbor.



Children will have the opportunity to explore large equipment and vehicles.

workers and more.

There are plenty of food vendors and other attractions, such as the Fire Safe House, that is open each year to teach young people what to do in the case of a fire and how to escape safely.

This is one of the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce's biggest fundraisers of the year, with funds raised going towards the Chamber's high school scholarships.

More than forty vehicles of all shapes and sizes have confirmed they will be on site at this year's event.

"The Long Beach Chamber of Commerce Touch-A-Truck event is a wonderful way for children and their families to interact, explore and learn about safety from our local heroes," said Pam Sanders, Board Chair of the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce.

Again, this year's family-friendly event is free. For more information, visit MSCoastChamber.com.



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Schmitt recognized for volleyball, academics

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Bailee Schmitt of Long Beach, a student at The W, was recently honored on the 2024-25 Academic All-District® Volleyball Team, one of only four individuals from the univer

individuals from the university to be recognized with the honor.

The 2024-25 Academic All-District® Volleyball Team is selected by the College Sports Communicators, recognizing the nation's top student-athletes for their combined performances on the court and in the classroom.

The sophomore libero/defensive specialist Schmitt, a Long Beach High School graduate, was fifth on the team for service aces, with 13. Schmitt finished third on the squad for total digs, at 169 (2.56 d.p.s.). She ranked second in total reception attempts (361) and posted an impressive .909 receiving percentage for 2024.

To earn Academic All-Dis- Baille Schmitt trict[®] honors, a student-ath-

Baille Schmitt

lete must be at least a sophomore in academic and athletic standing, and hold a minimum 3.50 cumulative grade-point average.

Elsworth announces candidacy for Long Beach Alderman for Ward 4

By Skip Elsworth



Thomas "Skip" Elsworth is a dedicated community member and experienced public servant who is running for Alderman in Long Beach's Ward 4. This marks his first time seeking political office, but his background and commitment to his community make him a strong candidate.

Skip grew up in Long Beach and graduated from Long Beach High School in 1986. His early career began in automotive collision repair at Turan Lane Chevrolet before he joined the Long Beach Fire Department in 1992. There,

he served as a full-time Firefighter/EMT and Fire Investigator until 2004. Additionally, Skip worked part-time for the Harrison County Sheriff's Department, performing various duties such as Transport Officer, Motorcycle Escort Officer, and oversaw the Vehicle Collision Shop at the Work Center.

In 2004, Skip transitioned to the Biloxi Fire Department, where he continued his career as a full-time Firefighter/EMT. By 2007, he was promoted to Fire Inspector/Investigator and served as the fire department's representative on the city's Development Review Committee. After retiring in 2017, he was hired part-time by Harrison County Fire Rescue in 2019 as the Fire Prevention Officer and the fire department representative on the county's Development Review Committee. Skip also started his own business, Fire Code Compliance LLC, in 2010, where he provides Life Safety / Fire Code Consultation, Inspections, and maintenance of Fire Protection Equipment.

A lifelong resident of Long Beach, Skip is married to Misty Elsworth, and together they have three children—Chase, Dalton, and Ashlyn "Myrtle"— along with two bonus daughters, Laurel "Toot" Ladner and Meghan Aime, and two grandchildren. Outside of work, Skip enjoys grilling, boiling crawfish, watching football, and spending quality time with family and friends.

Skip's extensive public service experience, leadership in fire and life safety, and deep roots in Long Beach make him a trusted and passionate candidate who is committed to working for the betterment of the community.





Special to Long Beach Breez

LONG BEACH BREEZE YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER



Rusty Pelican celebrates 40 years of high-flying business



The Rusty Pelican restaurant was relocated to this site on Beatline Road after Hurricane Katrina destroyed its previous location on Highway 90 in 2005.

By Toni Miles

The City of Long Beach recently recognized Hue Roettele, owner and operator of the Rusty Pelican, as she celebrates forty years of business in the community.

Since its opening, the Rusty Pelican has been a beloved local establishment, serving generations of residents and visitors. Originally located on Highway 90, the restaurant was a staple of the Long Beach dining scene until 2005 when Hurricane Katrina devastated the Mississippi Gulf Coast, destroying both Roettele's home and business.

Despite the setback, and "South Mississippi Strong," Roettele's determination never wavered. In June of 2007, a building permit was issued for the restaurant's new location at 6174 Beatline Road, where it has continued to thrive and serve as a staple of the community.

Beyond her success in the business world, Roettele has been an active part of the community, generously providing meals for City employees and supporting local initiatives over the years.

"Her dedication and perseverance serve as an inspiration, demonstrating the resilience that defines Long Beach," says Long Beach Community Affairs Director Courtney Cuevas. "City officials extend their heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Roettele on this significant milestone."

"The Rusty Pelican has been more than just a restaurant - it has been a gathering place and a

cherished part of our community. We thank Ms. Roettele for her contributions and wish her continued success in the years ahead."



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Hue Roettele, owner and operator of the Rusty Pelican restaurant, was honored by the City of Long Beach at a recent Board of Aldermen meeting for forty years of business and service. Roettele is pictured here with Long Beach Mayor George Bass.

American Legion sign standing strong



pecial to Long Beach Breeze

further evidence of their tireless efforts. One of those efforts is a new sign at the intersection of Jeff Davis Avenue and Highway 90. Members of the Donnie Levens American Legion Post 1995, Long Beach Mayor George Bass, and Margaret Levens, mother of Donnie Levens, for whom

Post 1995, is named for, were on hand as City crew members installed the new sign,

which serves to provide information for

community members traveling in the area to

know about the American Legion and its

monthly meeting date

The sign was first put up on August 29, 2024, the 19th anni-

versary of Hurricane

Katrina, and, ironi-

cally, a Category 2

late-season hurricane,

pushed

and time.

Francine,

Margaret Levens, mother of Donnie Levens, the local hero for whom the Donnie Levens American Legion Post 1995 is named, was on hand (pictured far right) as Long Beach Mayor George Bass, members of the American Legion and City crews installed a new sign at the intersection of Jeff Davis Avenue and Highway 90 in August. The sign had to be resurrected after Hurricane Francine passed through the area in October of last year.

By Toni Miles

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Long Beach and local veterans' groups and organizations have long been known for the far-reaching impact and community projects, scholarships, assistance and much-deserved recognition, honor and support they provide for veterans, and recent local events are



A new American Legion sign sits at the intersection of Jeff Davis Avenue and Highway 90 in Long Beach and shares information about local American Legion Post 1995 and its monthly meeting date and time.

through the area and knocked the newly-erected American Legion sign down. It wasn't long after that crews reinstalled the sign, and it remains standing strong at the busy intersection at Jeff Davis Avenue and Highway 90 in Long Beach today.

The American Legion holds meetings the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. For more information, call 228-341-3574.

Joey X Giudina Constant A NEW BUSINESS LEADER ALDERMAN & WARD 3



March, 2025

March, 2025



It's not every day you see sand and snow mingling along the Gulf Coast. In late January, a winter storm brought snow and ice to Long Beach and Pass Christian for the first time in years. Snow fell steadily for hours, leaving an unusual scene of white-covered

Our readers shared hundreds of photos with us. Thank you all! Please visit our Facebook album "Snow Day in Long Beach..." to view more pictures of the winter wonderland and snow

Jontha 07.00

landscapes.

day fun.



Submitted by Jennifer Glenn Submitted by Lauren Foreman





Submitted by Sybil Harrison

Submitted by Dixie Lomax

Submitted by Jeanne Whitaker

Submitted by Alisha Westbrook

Submitted by Bernadette Mastroianni





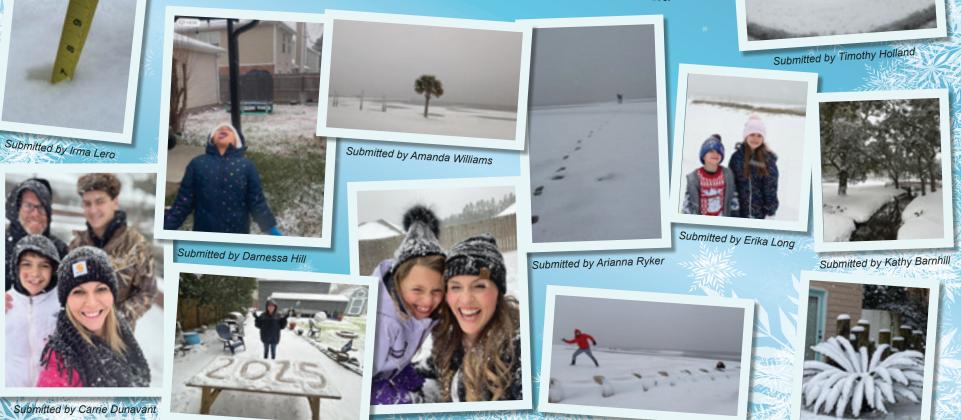
Submitted by Amanda Yarbrough

Submitted by Marianne Weaver



Submitted by Marianne Weaver

Submitted by Mary Heidingsfelder



Submitted by Ashley Landry

A.C.

LONG BEACH BREEZE YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

March, 2025

Packing party for March of the Mayors Annual food drive set for February 28

By Toni Miles

The race is on among fourteen cities, including Long Beach and Pass Christian, for food collections in this year's annual March of the Mayors food drive event.

Long Beach and Pass Christian join Bay St. Louis, Biloxi, D'Iberville, Diamondhead, Gautier, Gulfport, Moss Point, Ocean Springs, Pascagoula, Pic-

ayune, Waveland and Wiggins in the annual food drive's collection of non-perishable food items to be distributed to local food pantries throughout the region on February 28.

As with each year, hundreds of individual and business volunteers will join forces

at the Lyman Community Center, located at 13742 on Highway 49 in Gulfport, on Friday, February 28, at 9 a.m. to help pack food donations, which will then be delivered to area pantries throughout South Mississippi, including the Long Beach Food Pantry and the Christian Concern Ministry Food Pantry at Our Mother of Mercy Church in Pass Christian. Each participating city is assigned a non-perishable food item to collect. After the collection, which ends February 27, volunteers from all over converge to pack boxes at what's been dubbed "Mississippi's largest



food box packing party."

Long Beach residents have been dropping off canned green beans - the City's assigned food item to collect for this year's drive - at various locations, including Long Beach City Hall, the Long Beach Police Station, Central Fire Station and at all Long Beach schools, where students and student groups participated in collecting green beans for the charitable

event. Pass Christian collected canned corn for the event.

"We're going to pack these boxes, nutritional meals for everybody, and you know there's a number of folks that need these. It's an [opportunity] for those who are in a little bit better

position to help our neighbors," said Long Beach Mayor George Bass at the City of Long Beach's official March of the Mayors food drive kickoff event on January 30

March of the Mayors is a weeklong, statewide, annual food drive and distribution event hosted by the non-profit group Extra Table. This year's events are taking place throughout the state from February 24-28, over a span of five days, five reyear marks the 15th anniversary of the program.



Roberts Place Café welcomes new customers thanks to their ad!

"I've had several folks mention they saw our ad which led them to dining with us at Roberts Place cafe!" -Dorothy Roberts-Owner, Roberts Place Cafe' & Robin's Nest in the Pass

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