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December 21, 2017 • Volume 1, Number 5 • "Good News You Can Use"

Smith leaving LBSD to retire

By Fred Weller

Dr. Jay Smith has announced his retirement from the Long Beach School District (LBSD), but not



from education. When he retires at the end of next March, Smith will have completed twenty-eight years of service to the education Special to Long Beach Breeze of Mississip-

Dr. Jay Smith pi's children. He prefers to look at the situation from that perspective, rather than leaving Long Beach after completing less than two years of his threeyear contract. In contrast, Smith's predecessor, Carrolyn Hamilton, served twenty-eight years with LBSD, thirteen of those years as superintendent.

acknowledged Smith his retirement benefits will be enhanced by the Public Employees Retirement System rules by his retiring after twenty-eight years of service rather than taking full retirement at twenty-five years. The difference is that retirement after twenty-eight years provides a lump sum settlement in addition to the monthly stipend.

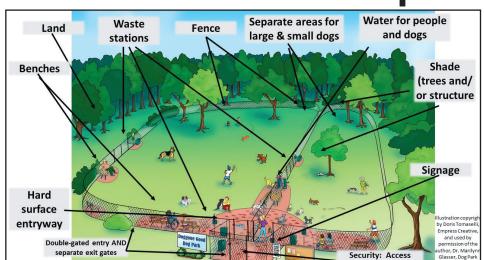
Smith counts as his biggest achievement to LBSD as enhancing the "rainy day" fund by \$1.7 million. He says this was achieved by paying strict attention to details. An unfortunate side to the budgetary improvement, he says, was that positions were lost in addition to

Dog lovers unite to have canine park

By Traci Bonney

Long Beach is on its way to joining other Gulf Coast cities with a dog park, thanks to the grassroots efforts of an increasing number of local canine pet parents.

The recently-formed Long Beach Dog Park Association is working to secure funding and a location for an off-leash canine playground named F.E.T.C.H. Park, which stands for "Friendly-City Education and Training for Canines and their Humans." Interest in the park is steadily growing, as evidenced by the association's Facebook community, which currently has about ninety members. The association's seven-member board includes two local veterinarians and is headed by president Barbara Reed and vice president Julie Paul. Reed recently appeared before the Long Beach City Council to



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request input from Mayor George Bass and the Aldermen about the park's location. Reed said the park would require at least one acre, and three would be optimal. The vacant lot adjacent to St. Patrick's Episcopal Church on North Cleveland Avenue was the favored she said that if the City didn't own the property, a site adjacent to the fire department was the second top candidate.

In addition to choosing a site and verifying its availability, the association has been looking at ways to raise funds for F.E.T.C.H. Park.

Time capsule opened with a fanfare

location, Reed reported. However,

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On December 10, the Long Beach Class of 1981 opened their Bicentennial time capsule, which was buried on the Long Beach Middle School (formerly Long Beach Junior High) campus in December of 1976. During the 1976-77 school year, students in Mr. Comeaux's eighth grade Advanced History class created the capsule and chose the opening date in order to coincide with Mississippi's Bicentennial. Members of classes from 1976 to 1980 assembled to open the time capsule.

See more photos on page 6



Special to Long Beach Breeze





Selling Christmas trees a Malloy family affair



Christopher, Jason and Deanna Malloy "bale" a tree

Photo by Fred Weller

By Fred Weller

The Malloys, Deana, Jason and Christopher, have set up shop for the twelfth year on the vacant lot behind Ward's on Burke Avenue off Railroad Street. The three family members plus the grand-kids are working daily. Grandpa and Grandma pitch in to bring the fragrance and beauty of Fraser fir trees from the mountains of North Carolina to homes in Long Beach.

The trees vary from four feet to eleven feet tall, not counting the "candle" or "top knot," and are priced accordingly. Every tree is cut off at the base to provide a fresh area to absorb water and keep the needles from prematurely falling off. Deana believes in keeping fresh water in the stand at all times. She has used various supplements from homemade to scientific, each intended to keep the trees green; but she says nothing works like water. Customers have said, by using only water, their trees have lasted until Mardi Gras or occasionally until Easter in years when the holidays are early. Letting the tree become deficient in water for less than one day will cause the needles to drop.

Next, the trees are trimmed to enhance their symmetry and balance. The electric chain saw makes short work of the task, by cutting off the butt end to a diameter that fits the typical tree stand. This also removes any low branches that could interfere with balancing the tree.

Finally, to ensure the trip home in the bed of a pickup or on top of the car, the trees are baled by passing them through a hoop that encircles the tree with plastic netting. A tree is loaded onto a cart and hauled to the waiting vehicle for its ride to its place of joy and splendor.

The semi-truck load of trees is selling at the rate of fifteen to twenty trees per day seven days per week. Most years, the trees are sold out well before Christmas. Deana believes the quality of the trees this year are better than previous years, because of ideal growing conditions in the mountains the last several years.

cont. from front page

Dog lovers unite to have canine park open in LB

The group is working with the Long Beach Main Street Association and has submitted grant applications, contacted one of the cofounders of the Raising Cain's restaurant chain, and investigated possibilities for sponsorships of park components, such as paving bricks, benches, fencing, etc.

The association invited Randall Taylor, who helped start Biloxi's Popps Ferry dog park, to speak at its November meeting. Taylor told the group how several dog owners who were stationed at Keesler AFB started taking their pets to an unused ball field, which led to the formation of a dog park commit-

Taylor offered several pointers from his experience, including the importance of having city administration cooperation in launching and maintaining a park. He also named the three main issues any dog park faces: training people to patrol their pets' leavings; making sure dogs that visit the park are immunized and tagged; and educating parents about the potential injury risks to both children and adults if a large dog gets overexcited.

When the Long Beach park opens, it will be one of only a few in Mississippi, Taylor said. He noted that besides two parks in

in Gautier and Hattiesburg, and one being developed in Gulfport. The Gulfport park opened at the end of November, two weeks after the Long Beach association's meeting.

association

Biloxi, there were parks

expects F.E.T.C.H.
Park to open within the
next year or two, Reed told
the City Council at its October
17 meeting, depending on how
quickly the site can be finalized
and funds can be raised for the
equipment and amenities that will
be needed.

The

For more information about the park, contact the association through its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/fetchpark-longbeachms.



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Publisher / Owner

Clay Mansell

ClayMansell@LongBeachBreeze.com

Editor-In-Chief

Stephanie Tracy

Editor

Fred Weller

News@LongBeachBreeze.com

Office Manager Doris Bynum

Writers

Traci Bonney Andy Kanengiser

Graphic Designer / Production Megan Smith

Designer@LongBeachBreeze.com

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USM students provide Thanksgiving food for area families

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Students, faculty and staff from The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) Gulf Park campus recently presented Thanksgiving Golden Baskets and one car to 25 needy Mississippi Gulf Coast fam-

The Thanksgiving Golden Basket

providing food, clothing and so much more to some of the least food secure families right here on the Mississippi Gulf Coast," said Karen Aderer, LCSW and clinical instructor in the School of Social Work and BSW Club advisor.

The project was conceptualized in 2011, when a student in the Bache-

departments and units, as well as a local company who wanted to get involved in the project.

Selected families may also have transportation issues, or have experienced a recent adverse life event such as a fire, loss of job, or eviction.

USM students and employees were

and toys," said City of Long Beach Mayor George Bass.

The Judges' Choice Award was presented to Team NDORI, comprised of USM student Michelle Jara, as well as Jacob Jara and Emily Foret. The People's Choice Award was presented to the Pre-Social Work student cohort, repre-



Pictured (I to r) are, front row: Allie Funderburk. Michelle Jara, Emily Foret and Kimberly Richmond; and back row: Dr. Casey Maugh Funderburk, Mayor George Bass, Jacob Jara, Butch Oustalet, Chief Leonard Papania and Karen Aderer.

Drive is an annual event coordinated by USM students in the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) Club, which is based on the University's Gulf Park campus in Long Beach.

Golden Basket recipients are deemed to be among the least food secure by social workers at Head Start agencies located in Hancock, Harrison and Jackson counties. Teams consisting of USM students, faculty and staff provide all of the items for a Thanksgiving dinner, as well as holiday presents and other items for the family, such as clothing, shoes and personal hygiene items.

"I never feel prouder than I do each year at this event, when I get to see the culmination of the hard work and commitment of our students. They put significant effort toward

lor of Social Work program working at a local Head Start saw a need to provide a Thanksgiving meal to a family who lacked food security. In 2012, Aderer formalized the project, leading each of the four cohorts of Social Work students pre-Social Work, juniors, seniors and master's students, as well as the social work faculty - to each adopt a family.

Aderer added, "I am extremely happy to be a part of this Coast community and to work with our students, faculty and staff here on the Gulf Park campus who made

social work cohorts, various USM

able to view the collected items and place a vote for one participating team to win a People's Choice Award for their creativity, organization, and abundance of items. Local community leaders served as celebrity judges for the event, selecting one participating team as the Judges' Choice winner for the event. City of Long Beach Mayor George Bass, business leader Butch Oustalet, and Gulfport Police Chief Leonard Papania served as celebrity judges.

"I was invited to be a judge for the Golden Basket event, and my initial thought was wicker baskets filled with food. When I pulled into the parking lot, I was completely blown away when I saw a car designated for one of the families that had been filled with clothing, food

sented by Kimberly Richmond.

The Judges Choice Award winner, Team NDORI, secured a donation of a 2004 Infinity FX35 SUV, which the team filled with food, clothing, toys and gift cards for their adopted family. Team NDORI also secured an adult bed and baby bed for their adopted family.

When asked about the future of the project Aderer said, "My hope is that as word spreads, we will have more and more groups within the university who want to adopt a family and more and more community partners who want to donate or adopt a family of their own. My ultimate goal is that participation in this event instills in our students a lifelong desire to be involved in charitable works in our community and elsewhere."

this year's event the largest to date." In 2017, the project was expanded to support more than two dozen families who were adopted by



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Preschoolers enjoyed a story and visit with Santa at a recent Parents' Coffee Break.

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn

Well, the holidays are upon us. The staff at the library would like to wish our patrons and their families a joyous holiday season. We hope that this issue finds you healthy, enjoying the comforts of family and friends, setting goals to stick to your New Year's Resolution (for a few days at least), and snuggled up with a good book to read over the holidays.

As you can see from the picture provided, during our Parents' Coffee Break, our special visitor was none other than Santa! Despite his busy schedule this time of year, he visited with all the children and read them a story. We cannot thank you enough, Santa!

There is a lot happening at your library in January. Several groups that hold monthly meetings at the library will be meeting again in January. However, their regular meeting days may have changed due to holiday closings for the month. As a reminder to the members, I have included the meetings and times for the month of January. The Friends of the Long Beach

Library will meet on Monday, January 8, at 1 p.m. in the meeting room of the main wing.

Also meeting again in January is the Long Beach Public Library Board. They will meet on Tuesday, January 9, at 2 p.m. in the meeting room of the main wing.

The Long Beach Library Book Club will also hold their next meeting in January. It will be on Monday, January 22, at 1 p.m. in the meeting room of the main wing. This month's novel is Commonwealth: A Novel by Ann Patchett. Don't forget that preschool story time is always held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. and is geared towards preschool aged children. A complete list and description of upcoming story time events, as well other library-related events, can be found on our webpage at www.longbeach.lib.ms.us.

Hope to see you at your library soon!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Renee Rayburn is Director of Youth and Technology Services for the Long Beach Public Library.

January Library Events

Preschool Story Time | Jan. 2,4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25 and 30 | 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Parents' Coffee Break | Jan. 2 | 10-11:30 a.m.

Friends of the Library | Jan. 8 | 1-2 p.m.

Library Board Meeting | Jan. 9 | 2-3 p.m.

Book Club Meeting | Jan. 22 | 1-2 p.m.

Closed for Christmas Holidays | Dec. 23-26

Closed for New Year's Holidays | Dec. 30 - Jan. 1

Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday | Jan. 13 -15

Enjoy the library in January | Gala New Years evening at St. Thomas Catholic Church



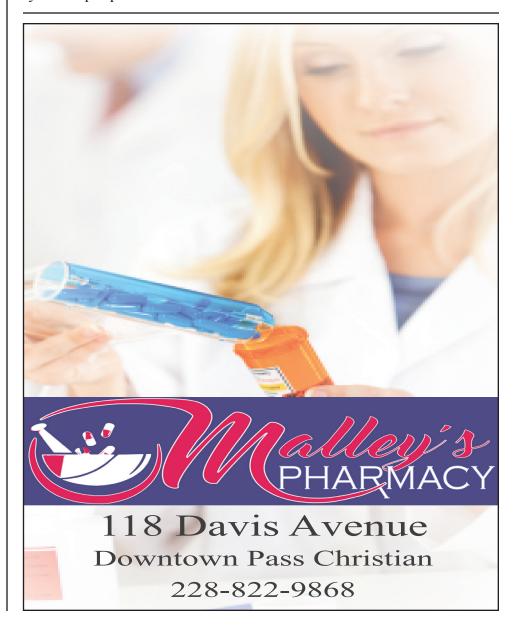
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The Community Center at St. Thomas Catholic Church will be the venue for "Cocktails and Confetti," a New Year's Eve Party and Raffle, on December 31 in the Community Center at St. Thomas Catholic Church at 8 pm. Tickets for the 21 and over event are on sale online at stthomaslb.org. The cost of the tickets for the party is \$30 per person.

Organizers say the event promises an evening of live band, beer, wine, champagne toast and breakfast a little after midnight, all included in the ticket price. Raffle tickets for a chance to win \$2,018 will be available for purchase for \$10 per ticket. Raffle winners do not need to be present to win

All proceeds benefit the St. Thomas Youth Ministry. For more information, call 228-343-0948.





cont. from front page

Time capsule opened with great fanfare



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Gulf Coast Public Safety offers meals for holidays

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The Gulf Coast Public Safety Feed the Needy Program has begun its 2017 campaign to deliver hot meals to the homes of those less fortunate on Christmas Day. The program is a collaboration between public safety agencies and donors of time, money and goods. 2017 will be the twenty-eighth year that the program has been going strong.

The program has grown from feeding a few to providing over 5,000 meals per year to those in need during the holiday times. The Feed the Needy Program is funded by donations only. In addition, it relies on hundreds of volunteers who donate their time to the program each year.

To make a donation to help those less fortunate, contact Lt. Mike Shaw with the Gulfport Police Department at 228-868-5703. Donations can also be mailed to Gulf Coast Law Enforcement Feed the Needy, Attn: Lt. Mike Shaw, 2220 Fifteenth Street, Gulfport, MS 39501.

Volunteers wishing to help package and deliver meals should report to Lyman Community Center, 13472 Highway 49 in Gulfport at 8 a.m. on Christmas Day. Deliveries will begin at 9 a.m.

To order a meal for any needy person, contact one of the sponsoring agencies:

- Biloxi Police Dept. 228-385-3033
- D'Iberville Police Dept. 228-396-4252
- Gulfport Police Dept. 228-868-5703
- Gulfport Fire Dept. 228-868-5950
- Harrison County Sheriff's Dept. 228-896-0606
- Long Beach Police Dept. 228-865-1981
- Pass Christian Police Dept. 228-452-3302

cont. from front page

LBSD Superintendent retires before contract ends

trimming costs. The ever-increasing costs to maintain the district's structural assets is the most serious deficiency that Smith feels he is leaving

behind. Like his predecessor, Smith acknowledges the inability to source funding for new facilities is the biggest challenge to face the community in years ahead.

Absorbing the costs to rehabilitate the damages caused by Katrina remains an impediment to the dis-

trict's financial health. The unseen cost Smith sees is the loss of state funding based on student enrollment. Only now has the enrollment returned to the pre-Katrina level of approximately 3,000 students.

Overall, Smith feels that he has left LBSD in a better place based on the financial availability of the "rainy day" fund's increase. His personal future will most

likely remain in education but, rather than an administrative role, prohibited by state rules in his contract, will be directed toward the growing field educational consulting. Many districts now rely on the expertise consultants, of as has LBSD, for

guidance through the increasing maze of government regulations and educational requirements of today's high tech world.

Meanwhile, the school board is faced with a search for a new superintendent.

LBHS senior selected to U.S. Army All-American Band



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Brandon Walker (center) is presented with his official Army All-American Band jacket by representatives from game sponsor American Family Insurance and the U.S. Army.

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Long Beach High School senior Brandon Walker has been selected as one of 125 student musicians from across the nation who will be a part of the 2018 U.S. Army All-American Marching Band.

Walker will play trumpet with the band as they perform during the 2018 All-American Bowl, which features the nation's top high school senior football players and marching musicians. This year's game will be in San Antonio, Texas, at the Alamodome. Being selected for this band indicates that Walker is among the best of high school marching band members and will set an example of excellence for his

peers. He was selected from hundreds of qualified applicants for his outstanding performance ability, marching skill, attention to detail, ability to follow directions and maturity.

As part of the band's selection tour, Walker was honored by the U.S. Army Selection team late last month in the Long Beach High School gym.

"Brandon is a very hard-working student, and we are very proud of him for receiving the honor of being named to the U.S. Army All-American Band," said Mickey Mangum, LBHS Band Director. "I can't think of a more deserving student for this recognition."









Annual Sail-a-Bration draws crowds

The Long Beach Community Development Association (LBCDA), a division of Main Street, hosted the annual Sea Santa Sail-A-Bration on Saturday, December 2, to kick off the holiday season. The boat parade wound its way through downtown Long Beach with crowds of onlookers enjoying the festivities.



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Estate planning in the state of MS: What is the big deal?

By Guest Columnist Patrick W. Kirby, Esa.

You have all heard of the phrase, "Getting your affairs in order." Well, that is a simple but effective definition of estate planning.

You do not know when you are going to die. You do not know if you will be incapacitated during your lifetime. As a result of that uncertainty, you need to plan.

Estate planning involves protecting what you own. You have probably worked hard to accumulate what you have. If you do not plan properly, your assets can end up in far different hands than you intended.

Estate planning includes taking action to protect your surviving spouse. You may be thinking that you want to make sure your husband or wife has financial security when you die. However, the Mississippi laws that apply when a married person dies without a will or other estate plan leave the surviving spouse with only a child's share of the estate. It is important for you to take action to give your surviving spouse the security he or she needs.

Estate planning also involves taking action to protect your children. You have worked hard over your lifetime raising your children and providing financial security for yourself and, if you are married, for your spouse. You may be thinking that you would like to be able to provide one final gift to your children by leaving them an inheritance. How nice would that be to allow your children to have peace of mind in their remaining years because you were able to leave them an inheritance?

Or maybe you ride around in your car with one of those bumper stickers that reads, "I'm spending my children's inheritance." While that may be true, I will bet that you would rather have your children (or some other loved ones) inherit from you as opposed to your assets going to the government, the lawyers or the courts.

Leaving assets to your children can be easy, or it can be complex. Whether your children are young or old, rich or poor, married or single, you need to be aware of some important legal concepts that could jeopardize your children's inheritance.

If your children are young, you better have an estate plan. If you die before your children reach the age of 18 and you do not have a properly written Trust or Last Will and Testament, a judge will determine who will raise your children until they reach the age of 18. In addition, a court will determine who will control any financial assets that your children inherit; and, if any of those assets need to be spent on your children before they reach the age of 18 (for school expenses, living expenses, etc.), a judge will have to approve each expenditure. This guardianship procedure can be complicated and expensive.

If your children are married, have been married, or even if they might get married in the future, you need to take action to protect their inheritance from their past or future divorces. You already know that many marriages these days end in divorce. What you may not know, however, is that if your children inherit from you and then get divorced,

your child may have to share that inheritance with their ex-spouse.

You can also protect your children by arranging to minimize the tax they pay at your death. A federal estate tax exists that could require your children to pay up to half of their inheritance to the IRS. Equally important but less frequently discussed, capital gains tax and income tax can also be minimized or avoided through proper estate planning.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Patrick W. Kirby has been practicing law on the Mississippi Gulf Coast for fifteen years and has worked for some of the top law firms in the State of Mississippi. Prior to law school, he was a Registered Nurse. In addition, he is a Colonel in the Mississippi Air National Guard and is currently the Commander of the 172nd Medical Group in Jackson, Mississippi. Prior to this assignment, Kirby was a flight nurse and has flown more than twenty-five combat medical evacuation missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.







NCBC unveils Seabee Heritage Center Memorial Plaza

By Fred Weller

Construction The Naval Battalion Center (NCBC)

celebrated the Seabees' seventy-fifth anniversary during a recent unveiling and ribbon cutting of the new Seabee Memorial Plaza. The Memorial Plaza was built next to the Seabee Training Hall. It was planned and built completely by Seabees.

Lt. Commander Shawn Talley was the Operathe 133 Naval

Mobile Construction Batallion for the project. The work was especially challenging because of heavy rains during the construction. In addition to the placement of the "display walls," the commemorative brick pavers are set in concrete. The detailed high quality concrete finish required special skills not normally used by the Seabees.

Lt. Commander Talley says he found working with the Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) and Historical Foundation was an unexpected benefit and a pleasure. Each of the commemorative paving bricks is inscribed with three lines, providing a place to permanently recoged, can be customized with a special message, tribute to a former or current Seabee, a

The CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

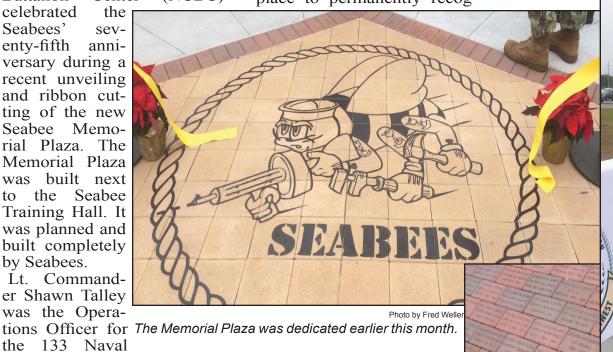
> whose purpose is to ensure the proud heritage and rich history of the Navy's Civil Engineer Corps and the Navy's military construction force, Seabees, properly documented, preserved and maintained. Public awareof the ness contributions

and accomplishments the Seabees and the Civil Photo by Fred Weller Engineer Corps Lt. Commander Shawn Talley was the is a primary goal. Founded

> in September 1991, the Foundation has a worldwide membership, and donations are tax deductible.

> The event signified the end to the year-long series of events which commemorated the heritage and history of the U.S. Navy Seabees during their anniversary milestone year. The Plaza is the last project completed by Lt. Commander Talley's unit before their deployment.

> > M-F 8:30-6 SAT. 9-3



nize and honor loved ones, both present and past. In addition, the Memorial Plaza will also offer a place for a moment of solitude and reflection. Over 10,000 Bricks are available to be paving bricks available for engraved for \$125 per engraving will form the brick. heart of the Plaza, which will showcase the "Can Do" spirit of the Seabees and the CEC, still strong and vital after seven decades of helping preserve the nation's freedom, protect infrastructures, and create a

Each brick, individually craft-

safer, better world.

Operations Officer for the Memorial Plaza project. Seabee unit,

another service or any other appro-

priate text. The cost of each brick is \$125, and each brick can have up to three lines of up to twenty characters per line (including spacing). Lettering will be centered on bricks and in capital letters and will be laser etched in black for durability and beauty.

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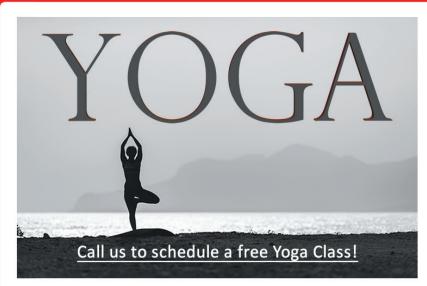






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LBHS Girls Voleyball recieve reward check



Photo by Elizabeth Davi

Rosalie Station Car Wash recently hosted a fundraiser for the Long Beach High School volleyball team. Manager Matt Levens (front left) presented the team with a check for \$1.735 as a result of the effort.





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LBSD continues tradition of honoring Veterans



All photos special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach Middle School and Harper McCaughan Elementary School continued their traditions in honoring Veterans Day with their annual Veterans Day Events. Both events were open to the public and were host to a large number of military veterans, service men and women and their families.

Superintendent Dr. Jay R. Smith spoke about the importance of these celebrations.

"As a veteran myself, it is important for our district to recognize the efforts of all of those who have served in the United States Military. We take pride in all our student-led Veterans Day programs. With so many of our students having parents in the military, it is also an important time for us to recognize not only the service member, but the families who sacrifice for them."

These annual events give students opportunities to show their respect and honor those who have served the country. Each event included student performances and guest speakers. Both celebrations were followed by small receptions for veterans, current military service members and their families.

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Officers complete training | Farmer's Market opening



Several members of the Long Beach Police Department recently completed the Long Beach Police Department Harrison County Law Enforcement Training Academy. Pictured (I to r) are Long Beach Police Chief Billy Seal, Cody Goldsworthy, Brittney Jackson, Nicholas Dean and Assistant Police Chief Bruce Carver, Jr. Dean took home the driving award, and Jackson took home the PT award.





The grand opening of the Long Beach Farmer's Market was celebrated with a ribbon cutting by Mayor George Bass.



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7 Locations on the Coast