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September 20, 2018 • Volume 2, Number 9 • “Good News You Can Use”

Harbor Market sets opening for September 28

By Amanda Compton-Ortiz

For those looking to experience what a coastal town like Long Beach has to offer, all in one location, the city’s Harbor just may be the next stop.

The site, located along Highway 90 at 217 East Beach Blvd. in Long Beach, is home to Harbor Market, a unique, open-air select vendor and farmers market expected to open on September 28.

“There is nothing else like this on the Coast,” said Quentin Denney, general manager of the market. “This is an entirely new concept and foreign to this area, and we hope to change that.”

The local Parrish and Welch families came up with the idea for the site about a year ago and continued to expand on their concept through

visits to other states with similar attractions.

“The site is unique, and we developed the concept around the location and on what features we knew we could add to it to make it amazing,” said Denney, who also manages social media and branding for the concept.

“Someone had to go first, and that’s where we like to be positioned,” he said. “We truly feel this is a concept that will be copied and built upon. We have the weather, the population and location to push the concept Coast-wide and watch it take off.”

The market’s anchor restaurant, named Country Kitchen at Harbor Market, will feature a southern comfort menu with prices well below the \$20 price point per person, according to Denney.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

The new Long Beach Harbor Market is underway along Highway 90 at 217 East Beach Blvd.

Lee Parrish said the menu will feature country cooking similar to

what you’d expect at Grandma’s house after church on Sunday.

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Seabees return home



Photo by Collin Turner

Steelworker 1st Class Harry Persadsingh, a Seabee assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11, reads a sign held by his daughter during a homecoming reception celebrating the return of the Battalion from their scheduled deployment. See story and additional photos on Page 4.

Beatline Parkway on tap

By Amanda Compton-Ortiz

Construction of an important traffic connection is planned for Long Beach.

It calls for the extension of Beatline Road to include the addition of a six-mile stretch made up of four lanes and a center turn lane.

The new section of road will be named Beatline Parkway. It will start at the railroad tracks at the point where Beatline now turns and changes into West Railroad Street and continue through to Holiday Street, which runs alongside the Wal-Mart property to reach Highway 90 at the city limits line dividing Long Beach from

Pass Christian.

According to Long Beach City Engineer David Ball, the design for the project, first discussed by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen in April, is in the conceptual stages. The project is an interlocal agreement and partnership between the City of Long Beach, City of Pass Christian, and Harrison County.

Pickering Engineering is helping to secure funding for the project, estimated to cost between \$45 and \$50 million or more. An exact dollar amount as well as a specific start date for the project depends on results of a study currently being conducted by the Mississippi

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USM, LB community touts new student housing facility

By Amanda Compton-Ortiz

Students and faculty at University of Southern Mississippi (USM) Gulf Park, the state's only beachfront campus, celebrated the opening of the school's first-ever student housing facility.

On September 8, they were joined by local city officials and business owners for a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony on the grounds of the new Friendship Oak Village, a unique apartment-style dorm facility designed exclusively for students attending USM Gulf Park.

"I'm so excited to see something like this," said Victoria Snyder, who will graduate from USM Gulf Park in May. "I think it's going to have a profoundly positive affect on the campus and the community."



Photo by Amanda Compton-Ortiz

University of Southern Mississippi (USM) Gulf Park Admissions Counselor Amanda Griffin (left) provides information about the school to current campus students and sisters Victoria (middle) and Elizabeth Snyder at the grand opening event of the new Friendship Oak Village student housing facility for USM.

The facility is within walking distance to the school, housed in the former Triton Systems building at 522 E. Railroad St. in Long Beach.

Kentucky-based developer, Encompass Housing, LLC, along with Gulf Coast Student Housing, LLC are responsible for the \$4.6 million makeover to the facility that has the capacity for 122 students.

The facility is privately owned but licensed by USM Gulf Park, and only USM students are eligible to live there.

Snyder currently serves as president of the American Marketing Association, and she is secretary of the Student Government Association as well as a tutor in the Academic Service Center at the university.

"Right now, our student population consists mainly of transfer students. But I think this facility will attract more out-of-state students to our campus and be par-

ticularly appealing to incoming freshman.

"I believe it will also bring more attention to our outstanding academics and majors offered at the school and boost activities and events on campus. It will be interesting to see. I can't wait."

According to Jennifer Glenn, senior commercial client administrator at The First bank, which provided co-funding for the project, the facility is not only unique to USM's Gulf Park campus but to all USM teaching and research sites as well as its sister campus in Hattiesburg.

"This is going to give USM an even better name," Glenn said. "Coupled with the university's top-notch nursing facility and Marine Sciences program, this will bring in an entirely new, broader student base."

"I'm excited to be a small part of a project that will give back so much to future students and businesses."

The 29,000-square foot facility includes 61 dorm suites with two beds in each room. Private bathrooms are shared between two rooms, while a few deluxe suites have their own. There are rooms equipped for disabled students, as well.

The facility has two lounge areas, a study, laundry facilities on site, kitchenette, Wi-Fi, an outdoor swimming pool, basketball court and grilling area.

It also has controlled access parking with a gated parking lot.

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Pineville sidewalk now ready for use

By Fred Weller

Joggers, bicyclists and folks out for a walk are taking advantage of the new 1.3-mile-long sidewalk path along Pineville Road. The completion of the sidewalk that runs from Beatline Road to Harper McCaughan Elementary School was celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by Long Beach Mayor George Bass and former Long Beach Mayor Billy Skellie on August 20.

Skellie recalled the city's efforts to build the sidewalk along Commission Road when he was in office. The project was originated by a group of fifth-grade students and completed seven years later when they were seniors.

The project was funded by MDOT Federal Highway Administration and Gulf Regional Planning Commission. It was awarded in November 2017 to Moran Hauling, Inc. The notice to proceed date was February 6.

The City of Long Beach and Neel-Schaffer have been working on the project since 2015.

Most of the delay was due to drainage improvements in the same area complicating the work. The sidewalk originally envi-



Photo by Fred Weller

Pictured (l to r) are: Local city officials Aldermen Timothy McCaffrey and Bernie Parker, former Long Beach Mayor Billy Skellie and Long Beach Mayor George Bass celebrate the opening of the city's new Pineville Road sidewalk during a ribbon cutting ceremony in late August.

sioned by Mayor Skellie was to extend to Railroad Street. Mayor Bass considers the current contract starting in February and completed in July as being a more representative successful effort, but noted there is always room for improvement in starting and completing any work.

Cross walks are marked with pavement markings, and a flashing sign was installed to warn drivers of pedestrians crossing the street.

Sidewalks in Long Beach are in short but increasing supply even with the enforcement of the City Ordinance #587. The ordinance requires sidewalks be installed in

new single-family and commercial developments before a Certificate of Occupancy (COP) is issued for each individual lot.

All new buildings and roadway infrastructure developed by the city shall have sidewalks installed before a COP can be issued. The city is required to carry a line item in its annual budget for sidewalk installation. The City of Long Beach Building Department at the direction of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen are responsible to enforce the code. Copies of the ordinance can be obtained in City Hall or online at cityoflongbeachms.info.

Cruisin' now

By Fred Weller

The 22nd annual Cruisin' The Coast is coming September 30-October 7.

There will be a special spot where Heroes can watch. It's called the Armed Forces Retirement Home (AFRH) located at 1800 East Beach Drive in Gulfport.

AFRH staff is hoping to enlist the support of all Cruisers, who are invited to pass through its gates along Highway 90 from 2 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, October 2 as a way to salute the Heroes by honoring their service to the USA and including them in the festivities of Cruisin' The Coast.

The staff asks that all Cruisers be made aware of the opportunity to celebrate with the Heroes by spreading the word and keeping the significance of the tour. Last year, according to AFRH, very few cars stopped by the event, and it is therefore in jeopardy of being cancelled.

Registration for Crusin' the Coast will re-open on Monday, October 1, at 11 a.m. at Cruise Central in Gulfport. For more information and a Cruisin' the Coast events schedule, visit cruisinthecoast.com.

Seabees return home to warm-hearted welcome

By Collin Turner
Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class; NMCB-11 Public Affairs Office

Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11 and reservists assigned to NMCB-22 returned home August 5-22, at the conclusion of a six-month deployment in support of U.S. Africa Command, U.S. European Command, U.S. Central Command, and U.S. Indo-Pacific command areas of responsibility.

As the Seabees arrived back at Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport, they were greeted by family members and signs that lined the street outside of the base theater.

“Nothing describes the feeling of having your best friend back,” said Heather Spells, wife of deployed Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Rick Spells.

NMCB-11 began its deployment in February to more than 20 detachment sites worldwide. The battalions’ headquarters element exercised command and control

over the detachment locations from Camp Mitchell, onboard Naval Station Rota, Spain; one of the deployment sites. Other deployment locations included Afghanistan, Bahrain, Cameroon, Djibouti, Gabon, Guam, Israel, Poland, Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federal States of Micronesia, Ukraine, and numerous others.

During their deployment, the two battalions worked on 32 contingency construction, humanitarian, civic assistance and exercise-related construction projects throughout the four geographic regions, completing more than 31,424 man-days of labor.

At the conclusion of the deployment, NMCB-11 relinquished control of their projects and officially turned over their operational responsibilities to NMCB-1 during a relief in place / transfer of authority ceremony held August 13 in Rota.

Homeported in Gulfport, right outside of Long Beach, NMCB-11 is part of the Naval Construc-



All photos by Collin Turner

tion Force (NCF) that provides combatant commanders and Navy component commanders with combat-ready warfighters capable of general engineering, construction and limited combat engineering across the full range of military operations.

The NCF is a vital component of the U.S. Maritime Strategy and is comprised of deployable battalions capable of providing contingency construction, disaster preparation and recovery support, humanitarian assistance, and combat operations support.



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cont. from front page

Harbor Market opening on Sept. 28

Its newly designed lounge, which Parrish will manage along with the restaurant, has been named Parrish's at Harbor Market and will "showcase a relaxed atmosphere of refinement and ambiance for those looking for a quiet spot to make a connection with friends and family. It is designed to accommodate private parties, as well. No TV, just conversation and custom drinks, an expansive wine collection and a large beer selection will be a highlight alongside a tasty small item menu exclusive to the lounge area," Denney said.

The restaurant and lounge areas of the market are expected to be completed and open for business by mid-November. There will also be a ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening for the market planned around this same time.

The market will feature shops and boutiques, collectively known as the Shops at Harbor Market. Purpose-built kiosks will cover the footprint painted in bright colors and will offer all sorts of things for sale.

A children's play area and concert stage, named the Sound Garden at Harbor Market, will also be offered. It will operate over a custom no-fault surface with climbing structures, bridges, swings and play tunnels. Outside seating and tables, crafted out of hundreds of years old Teak woods custom made for the property, will be available for those dining outside in the sun.

There will be space for weekend and event vendors' tents and tables, and a large stretch of property for a full farmers market selling fresh fruit, vegetables, flowers, meats, cheeses, breads, honey and other locally-sourced foods.

"Event vendors can rent space daily, on weekends, or monthly at rates that are very competitive in the area," Denney said. "Food trucks fall into that idea and will be invited during large events."

Some of the shops operating at the market will be Sister Swank Boutique, What's Up Paddleboards, The FlyBox and others that Denney said want to remain anonymous for now.

What's Up Paddleboards will offer bicycle rentals, beach chair rentals, kayak, pontoon boats and paddle board rentals.

There will be a Snack Shack at the Harbor Market catering to kids. It will serve custom drinks like its signature Harbor Punch built on OJ, grenadine, cranberry and Sprite with some gummy fish in the mix.

The market's elevated band stage that sits inside the Sound Garden will feature live music, host karaoke, open mic night, music festivals and feature artist nights "where we rotate music themes and bring out the best local artists around," Denney said.

"We believe that not only will the Harbor Market add jobs locally in Long Beach but it will also contribute a lot to the city's local economy," Denney said. "It will also fill a void in the offering of a family-friendly venue that includes music, play structures, shopping, dining and drinks, water activities, beach sports and much more, all in one area."

A massive, 32-foot lighthouse that would house a stage for bands is a part of the plan. However, due to the onset of inclement weather in the area and the necessary groundwork required along with installation of electrical wiring,

Denney said, the structure won't be built until next season in May or June.

"Until completed, we are going to work on making the platform for the stage - basic power, a new ladder and rail system and speakers - so we can host our first show around Cruisin' the Coast," Denney said.

The first band to perform on the market music stage will be 3 Guys Strumming on September 30 from 6-9 p.m. The event is being sponsored by Friendship Oak Village, a new student housing facility for University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Park students.

"The Long Beach Harbor offers more than just a space for a restaurant, and we recognized that right away," Denney said. "Our idea was to add more to the concept to expand the presence in the Long Beach Harbor and spread it out, attracting more families and offering something to get them to stay longer and experience more of what our area has to offer, all in one place."

Hansen Custom Painting is handling the general construction and all interior and exterior painting for the project along with All-South Electric, JEM Mechanical and a few other smaller, local sub-contracted firms. Architectural designs were created by Leah Watters of Watters Architecture. Kitchen and service appliances and fixtures were designed by Grover Brothers Inc. The children's play area is being designed and built by Hahn Enterprises out of New Orleans, Louisiana. Feature pieces of fine Teak furniture were crafted by Earth's Creations, one of the many vendors represented at the market.

Harbor Market hours of operation

Harbor Market will be open seven days a week, with shorter Sundays and changes for events and holidays.

Shops at Harbor Market

11 a.m.-6 p.m. or later during events. Vendors can stay open as long as the music runs.

Snack Shack

11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Sunday

Restaurant

11 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Friday
 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday
 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday Brunch

Lounge

5 p.m.-2 a.m.

Sound Garden

Always open with future bands, dates and times to be announced.

Music stage

5 p.m.-9 p.m. Wednesday-Friday
 5 p.m.-10 p.m. Saturday
 12-3 p.m. Sunday

Kiwanis Club makes big impact with small project



Photo by Fred Weller

Kiwanis Club members present a donation of hangers to a Long Beach business owner as part of a club service project. Pictured (l to r) are: Deb Kurtz, Mien Thi Tran, Lucky Langston, and Howard Lock.

By Fred Weller

While Hurricane Katrina may have swept away an active Kiwanis Club in Long Beach, some city residents are keeping it alive in Orange Grove.

The Kiwanis pride themselves on their orientation to service projects, whether large or small, ongoing efforts with school kids or local, person to person.

Recently, when Howard Lock was picking up an order of clothing from Mien's Alterations in downtown Long Beach, he and the business owner, Mien Thi Tran, discussed the need for clothes hangers.

Mien said most people don't attach much importance to a clothes hanger, but for a one- to two-person business that uses hangers to present their product to customers, it becomes a significant item. Where do you secure enough hangers in a cost-effective quantity? Five hundred standard metal hangers cost 10 cents apiece, while fifty hangers may cost \$1 each. Mien said, "Fifty hangers may last only one week, then I don't have any for next

week."

With that information, Lock decided this was a situation the Kiwanis could take on as a service project. He was quick to enlist the assistance of two other club members, Deb Kurtz and Lucky Langston. Langston explained, "My real name is Lucky, not a nickname, and I don't have a middle name or initial, just plain old Lucky." Kurtz is the club treasurer and Lock, club secretary, live in Long Beach, while Langston, who is the club's president, lives in Gulfport.

The project was presented to the club, and members began contributing hangers at their weekly meetings. In just a few weeks, a collection box was filled and presented to Mien. The Kiwanis will continue to collect the hangers for Mien and deliver them as needed.

Lock, Kuntz and Langston all enjoy the thirty-plus years each has as a Kiwanis and plan to continue attending the weekly Tuesday meetings held at noon in the Orange Park Golden Corral. For more information on the Kiwanis, contact Lock at mrhe@cable-one.net.

cont. from front page

Beatline Parkway on tap

pi Department of Transportation.

The project is being modeled after the existing four-lane Cowan-Lorraine Road that connects Interstate 10 to Highway 90 in Gulfport. Other connections between the two main thoroughfares include Highway 49 and I-110 in Gulfport and Menge Road in Pass Christian.

According to Ball, the new extension will be the first convenient Coastal connection from I-10 to Hwy 90 in Long Beach.

Ball said it would create a smoother route for those traveling in and out of Long Beach as well as to and from the city's Industrial Park.

"We see it as an economic boom

for the city," he said.

The new section of road, Ball said, will also provide an easier evacuation route for traffic during emergency situations.

Ball added the connection will become a better route for heavier, moving trucks, which too often get stuck on the raised railroad tracks at city crossings.

"This will create an entirely new truck route from Highway 90 to Interstate 10," Ball said.

"Right now, the only smooth truck access going over the railroad tracks is at Jeff Davis," Ball said.

A new railroad crossing and signal would also be installed as part of the project.

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Seabees working overseas

By Amanda Compton-Ortiz

For Construction Electrician Third Class Kevin Palacios, carrying out an assignment in his native land of Columbia is more than just a mission.

“This is awesome,” said Palacios. “I’m Columbian. Not only is my family there, but we are helping a country in need. It makes me proud to be a part of this.”

Palacios was one of nearly one hundred U.S. Navy sailors, including Seabees attached to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133, who set sail for Columbia and other areas in Central and South America on July 26

aboard the USNS Spearhead ship from the Port of Gulfport.

The deployment followed a full day of heavy lifting on July 25 at the pier, where soldiers banded together to load 200 tons of equipment into the ship’s 20,000 square feet of cargo space.

The three-month humanitarian mission is expected to be completed in late October. It includes

digging an 800-foot water well to provide clean, potable water for the local population in Columbia.

“They’ve had a record seven-year drought down there, and they’re really hurting for water resources,” said Construction Mechanic First Class A.J. Wymore.

Medical assistance and training is also part of the mission, with additional stops in Panama, Honduras, El Salvador, Trinidad and Tobago.

According to Commander James Meadows, working with these partner countries helps strengthen military operations and makes integration much smoother

during emergency response situations.

“It is important to foster these relationships,” Meadows said.

In addition, the battalion will participate in drills with divers and explosives. And since they are in the Caribbean during the height of hurricane season, they are prepared to provide disaster relief to the area if necessary.



Photo by Amanda Compton-Ortiz

Seabees A.J. Wymore and Timothy Miller unload 100-pound bags of sand for their overseas mission.

LBHS Homecoming begins



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Pictured (l to r) front are: Long Beach High School's 2018 Homecoming maids, Seniors Megan Walters, Megan Butler, Megan Allen, Emma Mauffray and Janiya McDonald; Back are: Freshmen Hailey Smith and Caitlyn Thornron; Sophomores Julia Meadows and Abbie Drake; and Juniors Maddy Morgan and Reagan Rainey.

By Amanda Compton-Ortiz

Long Beach High School's Homecoming festivities will kick off next week.

Students will start the week by dressing up for different, fun themes as they get ready for game day and a weekend celebration of school spirit and pride.

Meme Monday, Space Jam Tuesday and Walt Disney Wednesday will take place at the school on September 24, 25 and 26, respectively.

On Thursday, September 27, students will continue dress up for Trendy Thursday as they prepare for a Homecoming parade that starts at 6 p.m. at the high school. The parade route will begin at the corner of Cleveland and East Old Pass Road and proceed south on Cleveland to Railroad Street, west

on Railroad to Jeff Davis, south on Jeff Davis and end at Harper McCaughan Town Green for a community pep rally.

On Friday, September 28, students will end their spirit week at school by dressing up in their best maroon and white Bearcats colors and homecoming T-shirts for a student pep rally at 2:30 p.m.

That evening, a pre-game Homecoming Court maids presentation and the crowning of the 2018 Homecoming Queen will be held at 6 p.m. followed by the Homecoming football game at 7 p.m. against Gautier.

Homecoming Week festivities culminate on Saturday, September 29, with “The Greek Gala” Homecoming Dance from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Long Beach Recreational and Senior Citizens Center on Daughtery Road.

THE CITY OF LONG BEACH, MS

is now accepting applications for the position of Fire Fighter Recruit. (Minimum Age 18), Police Recruit (Minimum Age 21), and Dispatcher Recruit. Apply M-F, 10-5 at City Hall, located at 201 Jeff Davis Ave. Accepting applications thru October 30, 2018 - 5:00 p.m.

Applications are available on the City Website

www.cityoflongbeachms.com, but must be mailed or hand delivered.



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Coast Episcopal teacher featured in national show

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Coast Episcopal School art teacher Stacey Johnson has been selected for the 2018 Southern Miss Ceramics National, a juried exhibition of ceramic sculpture, ceramic vessel forms, and installation work by artists from across the United States.

Johnson's entry was selected as one of 64 out of 432 total entries. The show will open on October 12 at the Gallery of Art and Design on the University of Southern Mississippi's (USM) Hattiesburg campus. The show's juror is Anthony Stellaccio, executive director of *Studio Potter Magazine*. The event is free and open to the public. Art will be on display in the gallery through November 2.

"It is a huge honor to be selected for a national show, because the competition is so outstanding

these days," Johnson said. "I was especially thrilled with acceptance into the Ceramics National at USM, because the juror is someone I admire and follow in the art world."

Johnson, who has been primarily doing claywork for 25 years, said all of her sculpture is a personal narrative, with the form based on influences from Moche and Asian ceramics, as well as paintings and sculpture by primitive artists.

"I am interested in representing the companionship and dialogue that exists between human and animal beings, and I have a personal vocabulary of symbolism that I try to use in all work," she said. "It's not necessary that the viewer understand my intent in making a sculpture, but rather that a new interpretation is formed. In this way, the art can become personal and important to each person."

In addition to Johnson's entry, she was also invited to give a ceramics lecture and conduct a layered surfaces demonstration on September 10 at USM's Hattiesburg campus.



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Long Beach youngsters place at state pageant



Special to Long Beach Breeze

Braedee McClain, 5, *Tiny Mr. Gulf Coast*, and Charleigh McClain, 3, *Teeny Miss Emerald Coast*, were recent participants in the *Little Miss and Mr. Magnolia State Pageant*, along with several other contestants from across Mississippi. They are the children of Brandon and Eboni McClain. The McClain family was honored to represent Long Beach at the pageant, one of the biggest held in Mississippi.

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Soldiers honor fallen heroes, military traditions

By Amanda Compton-Ortiz

Over 100 military men and women turned out to pay their respects to fallen officers during a special 5K memorial race held August 27 at the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) in Gulfport – home base for the U.S. Navy's Atlantic Fleet Seabees.

It was the second year for the event, created to honor and celebrate the lives of soldiers who achieved the ranking of Chief Petty Officer (CPO) during their military careers and who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Senior Chief Petty Officer Duane Jerry, co-chairman of the event along with Senior Chief Petty Officer Justin Hallahan, said the race started last year and is planned to become a regular annual event.

"Today was a great turnout," Jerry said. "We will continue to build, and I hope to see an even bigger turnout next year."

The event also kicked off a six-week initiation process for those active service men and women who have been selected to earn chief petty officer status.

"This event is a great opportunity to commit ourselves to a lifestyle of physical fitness and to set the example as leaders in fitness," Jerry said. "It is also a great way to build camaraderie and 'esprit de corps' among ourselves, our leaders, and our sailors."

The event featured 41 soldiers, including 25 Seabees who received their official CPO designation during a formal pinning ceremony that took place at the base on September 15 in which the officers were presented with anchors.

Other CPO selectees attending the race included those from the Naval Support Activity Mid-South Naval Base in Millington, Tennessee, the Stennis Space Center in Bay St. Louis, and Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi.

Among them were office specialists, medical personnel, mess specialists, mass communication specialists and others such as equipment operators, electricians, mechanics, builders, utilitiesmen, engineering aids, and steel workers.

Each soldier was selected to become a CPO by a board of higher ranking chief petty officers including senior CPOs and master CPOs after completing a series of examinations and then moving on

to the rigorous initiation process.

Jerry said all military bases must conduct the initiation process, a 125-year-old U.S. Navy tradition recognized during the event with a special display bearing the names and photographs of 125 fallen CPOs.

"Tradition is the bedrock upon which our core values are formed," Jerry said. "Tradition guides us and gives us direction. Without tradition, our Navy would be adrift."

In line with that tradition, all selectees were presented with a vessel and charge book, a learning tool passed down from CPOs who have served before them.

Each book contains a collection of personal accounts, notes and professional development material that is to be treated with respect and as a badge of honor for those who have them in their possession.

Proper use of the charge books is an essential component of the initiation process and of each officer's welcome and acceptance into the Chief's Mess.

Jerry, who has served 20 years in the military and earned his CPO ranking in 2010, continued, "These soldiers are our reliefs. When we retire after 22, 24 and 26 years of service, these are the men and women we will turn it over to."

Senior Chief Mass Communications Specialist Jeffrey Pierce, who was pinned a CPO thirteen years ago, said initiation season is also a time for existing CPOs to renew their commitments to the Navy, each other, and to reconnect to the history and heritage of being a chief petty officer.

"It's a time for renewed dedication to what they do," Pierce said.

Pierce said a small percentage of U.S. military personnel ever achieve CPO status with only ten percent earning the title of Chief, five percent being named Senior Chief, and just one percent making Master Chief.

The race started with a ceremony followed by a moment of silence. Each mile completed was done so in honor of those who are no longer able to serve their country. The first three miles were ran to pay respects to fallen CPOs:

Builder Chief Joel Baldwin who perished in Mosul, Iraq, on December 21, 2004, from a suicide bomber while attached to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Seven (NMCB 7) based out of Gulfport.

Builder Chief Raymond Border



Photo by Amanda Compton-Ortiz

Soldiers selected this year to become chief petty officers (CPOs) participate in a special ceremony held August 27 at the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) in Gulfport as part of a second annual special 5K memorial race honoring fallen CPOs.

who perished in Paktika Province, Afghanistan, on October 19, 2011, while attached to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Seventy Four (NMCB 74) based out of Gulfport.

Senior Chief Special Warfare Operator (SEAL) Kyle Millik-

en who perished May 5, 2017, in Somalia while serving under U.S. Africa Command. His death marked the first U.S. combat death in Somalia in more than two decades as the U.S. stepped up its fight against the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabaab.

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Family Costume Day to take place at library



Photo by Renee Rayburn

Sarah and Collin Blake enjoy time together during Preschool Story Time at the Long Beach Public Library on September 6. Story time is held every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the library.

By Guest Columnist Renee Rayburn

October is creeping up on all of us. The Long Beach Public Library is hoping to draw families of goblins, ghouls, or other groups of costumes.

On Saturday, October 27, from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., the library will be hosting a Family Costume Day. Families are encouraged to think of a costume theme such as their favorite characters (spooky, superhero, book related, animals, etc.) and visit the library in costumes as a family.

September 6 was Read a Book Day. This unofficial holiday encourages people to pick up a book and immerse themselves in it. Children and their parents enjoyed some of their favorite stories during story time.

Several meetings for groups affiliated with the library are planned, and regular events will continue

including Parent's Coffee Break October 2 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

There will not be a meeting for the Friends of the Long Beach Public Library in October. The group will meet November 5 at 1 p.m. at the library's meeting room of the main wing. If you wish to join the Friends, you can choose to be an active or inactive member for only \$10 a year.

The Long Beach Board of Trustees will meet October 9 at 2 p.m. in the main wing.

The Long Beach Public Library's Book Club will meet October 15 at 1 p.m. at the library. October's choice is *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate.

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

Magnificent Monarchs make home in LB garden

By Debbie Cox, President
Long Beach Garden Club

A garden planted by the Long Beach Garden Club in front of the Children's Library has become a classroom of sorts.

Recently, at the garden, children and adults, too, had the unique opportunity to witness the remarkable life cycle of Monarch butterflies: Eggs, caterpillars, chrysalis, and adult butterflies.

According to garden club members, all of this happened because milkweed plants in the garden provided the breeding ground and food source needed for Monarch growth and development.

In the fall, the Monarchs will migrate to wintering sites in Mexico. In the spring, the Monarchs will return to breeding

areas, like the library garden, and the life cycle starts again.

Unfortunately, researchers report that the Monarch population is dwindling. So, what you can do to help increase

the population? Plant milkweed. It's the only plant upon which female Monarch butterflies lay their eggs and the only food source for Monarch caterpillars. Include butterfly nectar plants in your garden.

Monarchs need nectar for energy to breed and make their long migration to Mexico. Avoid using harmful pesticides in your garden. Additionally, encourage

others to plant habitats for Monarchs.

In the meantime, enjoy these beauties as they flit around Long Beach!

Here are two of the many websites that provide information on

Monarchs: www.monarch-watch.org or www.monarchbutterflyusa.com.



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LB teen prepares to set sail for the Olympics

By Fred Weller

After twelve years of sailing lessons and national competitions, eighteen-year-old Ricky Welch is making waves as he prepares to train for competition at sea in the Olympics.

Last month, Welch placed in the top twenty sailors on the Gold Team in a world championship sailboat race in Kiel, Germany.

Welch, his first and only sailing coach and teacher, Holly Murray, and a well-wishing crowd of Long Beach Yacht Club (LBYC) members, led by Joe Fleming, recently gathered for a fundraiser in support of Welch's participation in the race.

The Laser Radial (a type of sailboat) Youth World Championship 2018 is open to sailors who have won regional competitions sanctioned by the International Laser Class Association (ILCA) and ranked in the first 25 of their gender. The race drew nearly 400 male and female participants, 18 years old and under, from around the world. The team USA consists



Pictured (l to r) are: Holly Murray, Ricky Welch and Joe Fleming. Photo by Fred Weller

of two teams of four individuals for each gender. Welch started sailing in Long

Beach at the age of six. According to Murray, "there were many tears and frustrations in the

beginning, with out of town races where the boat never left the trailer."

Along the way, Welch qualified for the Optimist (a sailboat similar to the Laser) Championship in 2014. This year, Welch has travelled from North Carolina to Texas and Long Beach, CA, before heading to Germany. Traveling to the U.S. Youth Championship at Carolina Yacht Club June 23-27, in Wrightsville Beach, NC, he won third place. Welch won first place in the U.S. Single-handed Sailing Championship in Kemah, TX, June 29-July 3, 2018. The Alamitos Bay Yacht Club, Long Beach, CA, July 12-15, 2018, was the locale where Welch won fourth place in the North American Laser Radial Youth Championship. As a result of his accomplishments and dedication to sailing and willingness to travel, Welch was chosen for the U.S. Sailing Association Olympic Development Program in an ongoing effort to train participants for the Olympic Games.

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