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The background of the Memorial Day section is a grayscale image of the Iwo Jima Memorial. It shows five soldiers in a crouched position, pushing a large flagpole topped with the American flag. The flag is waving in the wind. The sky is cloudy.

## MEMORIAL DAY

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## Christian Service Center sees dramatic increase in cases

By Robbie Kepec

The Christian Service Center has seen a dramatic increase in the need for food and financial assistance during the COVID 19 pandemic. In April, 2020, the Center had 342 clients for a total of 930 family members.

Our food pantry provided food for 862 people (3 meals a day for 7 days) or the equivalent of 18,102 meals. These numbers are startling compared to April, 2019, when the Center had 116 clients for a total of 355 family members. In April, 2019, our food pantry provided food for 326 people (3 meals a day for 7 days) or the equivalent of 6,846 meals. Just to emphasize, 6,846 meals in April 2019 and 18,102 meals in April, 2020!

Most of our volunteers are considered “at risk” by virtue of their age so the Center has implemented safety procedures to protect them and our clients, including wearing masks, frequent sanitizing, and reducing the numbers of volunteers on site so that social distancing can be maintained. Clients are interviewed by phone so there is no contact, and there is no contact between volunteers and clients when food is distributed.

Because the community has been generous with their donations and our volunteers are making the best of an uncomfortable situation, the Center has been able to keep up with the increasing need. We would like to thank our donors and our volunteers. You have given hope to people who had nowhere else to go, food to people who were hungry and kept people in their homes and off the streets.

The Christian Service Center is a “Hand Up” rather than a “Hand Out” agency. Clients are given immediate emergency aid as well as guidance on finding solutions to their problems. The CSC is a 100% volunteer agency funded by the churches of Pleasure Island, various community organizations, including the United Way of Baldwin County, and interested individuals. For more information please call the CSC at 251-968-5256 or visit [www.cscgs.com](http://www.cscgs.com).

If you would like to help us keep our pantry full, the Center needs macaroni and cheese, ramen noodles, canned vegetables, toilet paper, paper towels, potatoes (bagged or loose), rice (1 or 2 lb. bags), and jelly.

Pictured: CSC volunteers working in the agency’s Gulf Shores pantry.

## G.S. Mayor says we have a history of coming back stronger, better

By Fran Thompson

During a video interview with South Baldwin’s Gateway Initiative, Gulf Shores Mayor Robert Craft said that after seeing a beach filled with people at a Jimmy Buffett concert almost four months after the Deepwater

Horizon Oil Spill back in 2010, he knew Gulf Shores was on its way to recovery.

He said he feels no differently about our future once we recover from this COVID-19 pandemic.

“I just strongly believe that it doesn’t matter what this community sees, We will get through it and we’ll come back better.”

“I can remember 35,000 people. I remember standing there looking out over the crowd that day. And if you have not seen that video, you ought to watch it. Everybody ought to watch that video. I got chill bumps that day and I think most of the folks that were

there did. I knew we were going to recover. I could tell from the people that were there that we were going to get through this because we’re going to work together.”

Mayor Craft, a resident of the city since he was two, like the rest of the world, watched the oil creep across the Gulf. He knew that oil was eventually going to arrive on the Gulf Shores beaches, but the city had to first prepare for the Hangout Music Festival.

“Then the weekend after Memorial Day, somewhere around the first of June - oil. It was like our beaches were covered as far as you could see with oil. It was just so heart-breaking and crushing because at that time I had visions – I think we all had visions – of the Exxon Valdez. That area of Alaska and that coast is still closed and dead to fisheries. I’m thinking ‘that’s our future.’ And our whole way of life is over.”

Craft said BP’s work crews were smart enough to listen to the city’s recommendations, honed from cleaning beaches for 30 plus years, in their efforts pick up oil.

“They came in with buckets and rakes and tried to pick it up by hand. We knew real quickly that wasn’t going to work. So we went to work showing them how we clean beaches and modifying the equipment we have to pick up oil.”

Lucy Buffett, owner of LuLu’s at Homeport Marina, was a beacon of positivity during the oil spill crisis, preaching constantly that the Gulf will repair itself in time. As well as

championing the resiliency of the Gulf and the people who live alongside it, she said recruited her famous brother Jimmy to play a concert here.

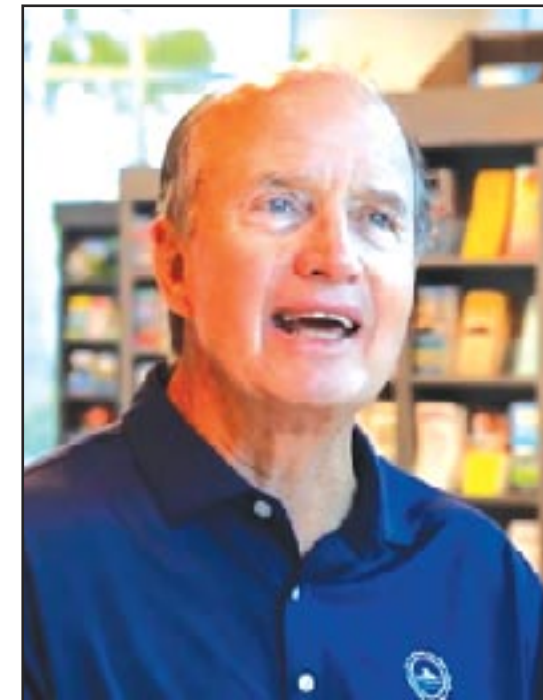
“So, we put together with BP’s funding Jimmy Buffett from the Coast,” Mayor Craft said. “That day we gave away 35,000 free tickets. But you could only get a free ticket by either being a local. Or you had to rent a room at a condo or a hotel, and you had to stay three nights. In doing so, we created revenue to our community that reduced the amount of claims to BP. So, BP was able to pay for it.

“I was able to talk with Mike Utsler and the folks at BP and tell them that if you do this, you’ll get the video that you will want to show of a recovering coast. You’ll expose us as a recovering coast and you’ll have less claims. And it worked. It worked really well.”

Craft said the resiliency and togetherness evident back then still exists within the Pleasure Island community.

“Having watched us get through and recover from storms and build back better. Get through and recover from oil spills and build back better and be stronger. I just strongly believe that it doesn’t matter what this community sees we will get through it and we’ll come back better. And we will continue to be the best we can be.”

The Gateway Initiative is a five-year plan to create regional partnerships to collectively address and bring solutions to Baldwin County problems.





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# Gulf Shores seniors will graduate at Wharf Amphitheater May 29

## Foley High School graduation is June 1 at Ivan Jones Stadium

Gulf Shores Schools will hold its first graduation ceremony for its 455 seniors on May 29 at 7 p.m. at The Wharf Amphitheater. Participation in the ceremony is voluntary for seniors and faculty.

Orange Beach High School will not have its first graduating class until 2020, But Baldwin County School District Superintendent Eddie Tyler said graduating ceremonies will be held at Foley High School on June 1 at Ivan Jones Stadium

Gulf Shores Schools administrators said state health guidelines for large gatherings will be followed. Those guidelines include social distancing, providing sanitizing stations and encouraging graduates' at risk family and friends to live stream the ceremony from home. Masks will be provided for all attendees.

Seniors will receive 12 tickets to the ceremony. Members of the same household can sit in clusters but the family cluster must remain three and a half seats) from other clusters. Security personnel will be on site to monitor and enforce social distancing guidelines.

"The governor's announcement about the opening of Alabama last week gave us the opportunity for which we were hoping. I am pleased to announce we will hold in-person formal graduations in the month of June. We will be putting that information out next week," Tyler said in a letter to BCSD parents.

"I am so proud of what our teams pulled together and how our teachers turned on a dime to change

their instructional methods to support our kids. Things ended well and from all indications at the beach, it appears we are moving toward a normal summer.

"In a normal year, seniors would have donned their caps and gowns and children would be competing in field day, but nothing about these last two months has been normal," Tyler added. Tyler added that graduation ceremonies will follow the state's protocols for large gatherings and administrators are working with law enforcement, health and state officials on exact ceremony dates.

BCSD after-school care summer programs have been cancelled, but some school-sponsored events will be held this summer. Which events will be open and when they will be rescheduled has not been determined. After school childcare will be available on campus in the fall.

"The advice we have gotten thus far will require us to continue limiting the number of participants and providing elements of social distancing, masks or other protocols. I have asked the principals to work with their staff to determine how we will move forward with athletic, band and other school-sponsored training this summer," he said.

The Alabama High School Athletic Association will make an announcement in early June as to when athletic training and practices will resume at Baldwin County schools. "The restrictions have been eased enough for some of our programs to be allowed to proceed forward," he said.



### Gulf Shores will "Paint The Town Blue" for seniors

The City of Gulf Shores would like to honor the Class of 2020 – the first graduating class of Gulf Shores City Schools – by painting the town blue! Starting May 20, the City will be posting blue ribbons on all city buildings, lighting up buildings and medians in blue, and putting flags out along Highway 59. The community is asked to join in support at homes or businesses by hanging a blue ribbon, painting windows, changing your LED signs, or doing something else to send a message to let graduates know how their community is proud of them!

## Creel, Prince & Hill named Teachers of the Year at G.S. Schools

Courtney Creel, Scott Prince and Jason Hill were named Gulf Shores Schools first ever Teachers of the Year, as the 2019-20 school year was the city's first as an independent school district.

GSES Teacher of the Year - Courtney Creel

This is Courtney Creel's 5th year teaching fourth grade at Gulf Shores Elementary School. Before moving to the Gulf Coast, she lived and grew up in a small town about 15 miles north of Montgomery, called Prattville. She attended Prattville High School, and Auburn University of Montgomery, where she received her teaching degree. Previously, she taught 2nd grade and 9th grade math.

GSMS Teacher of the Year - Scott Prince

Scott Prince (pictured) teaches general and advanced 8th grade Life Science and Greenpower Tech at Gulf Shores Middle School. He coaches the Turbo Dolphins Greenpower USA race team at the school. He is originally from Cairo, Georgia - where he attended Cairo High School. He obtained degrees in education with specialization in

Science and Social Science from Valdosta State. He is currently in the process of earning his National Board Certification. Some of his previous accomplishments are Grady County Public Schools Teacher of the Year and Washington Middle School Teacher of the Year, where he started and built a STEM program/curriculum.

GSHS Teacher of TheYear - Jason Hill

Jason Hill teaches AP Chemistry, Honors Chemistry and Physical Science. It is his fourth year teaching and coaching at Gulf Shores High School and his 21st year as an educator. Jason also serves as an assistant football coach, head indoor and outdoor track and field coach and is the school's athletic academic advisor. Jason has an Associate Degree from Southern Union State Junior College, a Bachelor's from UAB and a Master's from the University of Montevallo. Jason's wife, Tanya, also serves the school system as the Child Nutrition Coordinator and his daughters, Bayleigh and Cyarah, are both students in Gulf Shores.





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# Alabama Opens for Red Snapper Fishing on May 22

## Federally permitted for-hire vessels have their own 62-day season beginning June 1

Alabama state waters and federal waters will open for red snapper fishing on Friday, May 22. The season will consist of four-day weekends, Friday through Monday, May 22, 2020, to July 19, 2020.

The season dates listed above only apply to anglers fishing from recreational vessels and state-licensed Alabama commercial party boats that do not hold federal for-hire fishing permits. Anglers fishing from federally permitted for-hire vessels have their own 62-day season beginning June 1, 2020, at 12:01 a.m. local time through August 2, 2020, at 12:01 a.m. local time.

As in recent years, MRD will use Snapper Check to monitor landings during the season and may adjust the private vessel season length to provide maximum access for fishermen, while adhering to the quota. Alabama's 2020 private vessel quota is 1,122,662 pounds.

Anglers are reminded of the following:

- Weekends are defined as 12:01 a.m. Friday through 11:59 p.m. Monday. The season will close on Sunday, July 19, at 11:59 p.m. The daily bag limit will be two red snapper per person, per day with a minimum size limit of 16 inches total length.
- Anglers over the age of 16 must have an Alabama saltwater fishing license (resident or non-resident, annual or trip), or any Alabama resident

65 or older or lifetime saltwater license holder must have a current saltwater angler registration. The saltwater angler registration is free and available at [www.outdooralabama.com/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-angler-registration](http://www.outdooralabama.com/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-angler-registration).

- All anglers 16 years of age and older (resident or non-resident) who possess gulf reef fish, including red snapper, must have an Alabama Gulf Reef Fish Endorsement which is available at [www.outdooralabama.com/license-information](http://www.outdooralabama.com/license-information).

- Anglers under the age of 16 are not required to be licensed, possess an Alabama Gulf Reef Fish Endorsement or have a saltwater angler registration, but their catch must be included in a landing report.

- Each vessel landing red snapper in Alabama is required by law to complete one landing report per vessel trip of their harvested red snapper through Snapper Check prior to removing the fish from the boat or the boat with the fish being removed from the water. All red snapper landed are required to be reported regardless of the jurisdiction in which they were caught.

- Red snapper caught from non-powered vessels, piers and the shoreline are required to be reported through Snapper Check and require a Conservation ID number. For information on how to obtain a Conservation ID, visit [outdooralabama.com/hunter-resources/how-ob](http://outdooralabama.com/hunter-resources/how-ob)



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- A landing report may be submitted through Snapper Check in the Outdoor AL app, which is available from the Apple and Android stores or online at [www.outdooralabama.com](http://www.outdooralabama.com). Paper reports and drop boxes are available at select coastal public boat ramps.

- Participation in a MRD creel survey or being inspected by enforcement officers is not considered reporting. Anglers must still report through Snapper Check or fill out a paper report even if encountered by MRD staff.

- Operators of vessels with an Alabama Commercial Party Boat License without federal for-hire permits must abide by the state season, possess an Alabama Gulf Reef Fish Endorsement and may only fish inside the 9-mile state waters line. An Alabama landing report must be completed when landing red snapper in Alabama.

- Possession of red snapper in state waters while the Alabama season is closed is prohibited. Anglers fishing under another state's red snapper season, must abide by that state's rules and land fish in that state. Individuals on vessels with red snapper may not transit Alabama state waters while the Alabama season is closed.

Anglers on federally permitted charter vessels may fish in state waters only during the days the state season is open. They may transit with red snapper during the days state waters are closed. Once the federal season is closed, they may not fish in state or federal waters. Owners/operators of federally permitted charter vessels are required to possess an Alabama Gulf Reef Fish Endorsement and submit an Alabama red snapper landing report prior to red snapper being landed in Alabama.

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources promotes wise stewardship, management and enjoyment of Alabama's natural resources through four divisions: Marine Resources, State Lands, State Parks, and Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. To learn more about ADCNR, visit [outdooralabama.com](http://outdooralabama.com).





# Foley Public Library back open; museum openings on hold

Mayor John Koniar announced today that the Foley Public Library will reopen on Monday, May 18, when it will resume its regular schedule. Restrooms in parks across the city, as well as the Comfort Station in the John B. Foley Park have been reopened. At this time, the Senior Center, city museums, train ride and Kids Park remain closed. The city is committed to working with Gov. Ivey and the Alabama Department of Public Health to protect residents during this outbreak. For updates, follow us online at [www.cityoffoley.org](http://www.cityoffoley.org), on Facebook at City of Foley Municipal Government or WHEP Radio Baldwin 92.5 FM.



# Gulf Shores Women's Club provides lunches at SBRMC

The Gulf Shores Women's Club recently delivered 100 box lunches to South Baldwin Regional Medical Center in appreciation of the South Baldwin community's health care heroes. The club membership sends a huge shout-out and thank you to Kitty's Cafe for preparing the lunches and member Fran Hopkins for coordinating delivery. Funds for the donation were provided from the club's Tour of Homes proceeds. "GSWC is concerned for our community during this time and hopes that this donation will help," said club president Beth Taylor.

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THANK GOODNESS FOR CROWN ROYAL: Charles "Sandy" Sanders, 91 and a founding member of the Kiwanis Club of Big Lagoon, has found a perfect way to recycle his used Crown Royal bags. Sandy's comment for the May Kiwanis newsletter: "The voices in my head may not be real, but they have some good ideas." The club will have a zoom meeting on May 19 at 10 a.m. For more club info, call 850-207-1217.

## Church bells are again ringing in the Yellowhammer State

Church bells are ringing again in Alabama, as Governor Kay Ivey's most recent guidelines allows for indoor Sunday worship service once again in the Yellowhammer State. For six consecutive Sun days, church congregations met online or at stay-in-the-car services. The latest Safer-At-Home order recommends that worshippers over 65 or in any other at-risk demographics do not attend or worship inside the facility or worship in an area reserved for those at-risk. Churches are asked to, of course utilize social distancing between parties and attendees are encouraged to wear masks.

The guidelines issued by the Alabama Department of Public Health noted that COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. "Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if they are 65 or older, or have pre-existing health conditions such as diabetes or heart disease that place them at higher risk," according to the guidelines.

Churches, congregations, and places of worship may adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all employees, volunteers and congregants. The same minimum recommended health practices apply to funeral services, burials and memorials.

Churches are asked to continue to allow employees and volunteers to work from home as much as possible and screen employees by taking their temperatures onsite with a no-touch thermometer each day upon arrival. Normal temperature should not exceed 100.4 degrees.

The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable. Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Churches, congregations and places of worship should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization.

## Gulf Shores 3rd grader makes "ear savers" to help others during pandemic O'Connells have produced & donated more than 4,000 ear guards thus far

By Fran Thompson

Nine year old Jackson O'Connell, a third grader at Gulf Shores Elementary School, was just getting established as an entrepreneur when the Covid-19 pandemic began

**"I'm printing ear savers so people's ears don't hurt when they are wearing face masks because of the coronavirus."**

its deadly spread throughout the world. The owner of Jax Bag Tags, Jackson was using a 3-D printer to make book bag tags, key chains and other custom accessories that he could ship to order and, mostly, give to his friends as gifts.

But as the coronavirus spread, Jackson decided he wanted to do more. With help and guidance from his parents, he decided to use the family's three

3D printers to make ear guards to improve the comfort levels of health care workers and anyone else that wears a mask for extended periods during this pandemic. The guards are designed to hold in place the elastic on facemasks, thus relieving the pressure the elastic strings place on ears.

"My 3D printers are taking a break from bag tags," Jackson said on his website. "I'm printing ear savers so people's ears don't hurt when they are wearing face masks because of the coronavirus."

Jackson's mom, Kristin O'Connell, a yoga instructor at Glow, said she and her husband, Ken, who is in engineering sales, have shipped more than 4,000 ear savers so far. Word has spread through social media as well as through notes the couple includes in each shipment.

The seven year Gulf Shores residents have shipped domestically to hospitals and medical offices from New York to California. Locally, they have presented hundreds of ear savers to Thomas Hospital and South Baldwin Regional Medical Center. They have also dropped off masks at Community Senior Life Center in Orange Beach.

Both Ken and Kristen wear masks when they shop, and they routinely pass out the ear savers at Public and CVS Pharmacy when employees ask about them. "We just take some with us and hand them out to whoever wants them," Kristen said.

"People will order a couple and then go to

work and see other people who ask how do you get them," Kristen said.

It takes about an hour to make eight ear savers on each 3-D printer. So, at full capacity, the O'Connells can produce close to 200 in an eight hour shift. Some of the ear savers have the word Hero imprinted on them.

"We initially called them ear guards, but we started getting thank you notes from people, and a few of them called them ear savers," Kristen said. "Jackson said he loved that and that's what we should call them."

Jackson knows that his ear savers are a hit and are helping people be more comfortable as they work in public during the pandemic.

He seems to enjoy the media attention and has become quite savvy from doing interviews.

"He is super proud about it," Kristen said. "He's had a few interviews and he is getting pretty good at them, too."

The O'Connells make no profit from producing ear savers, and they give them away to anyone who asks. For more info about how to attain an ear saver or to make donations that will go toward making masks to donate to others (extra money raised will go to help families directly impacted by the Covid-19 virus), visit [jaxbagtags.com](http://jaxbagtags.com).







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# Boomer Brigade makes 700 masks for SBRMC

## 35 women from The Peninsula team up to help

By Fran Thompson

A group of women 35 strong, all residents of The Peninsula subdivision on Ft. Morgan Rd. in Gulf

**“It is a wonderful group of women who just all decided we were going to do something and we worked beautifully together.”**

Shores, will have donated 700 hospital quality surgical masks to South Baldwin Regional Medical Center when they drop off their final batch on April 30.

It started as an idea, a meeting on a driveway with Cindy Grasso, Judy Sholtis, Beverly Allison and Brenda Ceruzzi.

What followed was a phone call to an administrator at SBRMC who said they needed masks that would be acceptable for hospital use. A flyer was placed in The Peninsula owners website asking for ladies who would be interested in volunteering their time to make masks.

The Boomer Brigade was born! The brainchild of Grasso, an Ohio native who has lived at The Peninsula with her husband for 20 years, the one month project included many women who had never met before.

“I was laying in bed trying to think what it is that I could do and I came up with this,” Grasso said. “A lot of us did not know each other before, but we came together as a team.”

Grasso split the volunteers into eight teams, with each team member having a specific job. At the request of SBRMC, the women used fabric ties rather than elastic bands on the masks. “It was like an assembly line,” Grasso said. “When one lady got her job done, she would

take it to the next lady (leaving it on her door) until the masks were finished and delivered each Friday by the people who were in charge of the final step of stuffing the masks with coffee filters.”

Grasso said friendships have been formed during the project. Some volunteers recently met for the first time after dropping off bags by front doors and communicating via texts for four weeks.

“It was whole team effort,” Grasso said. “I’m very proud of what we were able to do. It is a wonderful group of women who just all decided we were going to do something and we worked beautifully together.”

Sholtis, the project’s sewing coordinator, is a former teacher at Christ

The King in Daphne who retired to The Peninsula with her husband five years ago. She is Grasso’s next door neighbor. “She called and said ‘Judy, we need to think about making masks or something,’ and I just happened to be downloading a mask pattern,” she said.

A sewer for more than 50 years, Sholtis put out a few sewing fires while helping the volunteers along.

“I have gotten to know so many wonderful people in this neighborhood,” she said.

Grasso said it turned out to be a wonderful experience. “I think these women should be very proud of themselves,” she said.

Sholtis agreed. “I am overwhelmed and moved by all the women who came forward,” she said. “We

formed new friendships. There was such a need at that point and it has just been wonderful to see people doing what they can. People here are willing to do anything to help.”

In addition to Sholtis, Ceruzzi, Allison and Grasso, the Boomer Brigade included Sandy Barker, Debra Wyler, Toni Klutho, Mary Ann Pflueger, Sharon Merke, Anne Riggs, Rosalie Kuskey, Ginger Houston, Jan Dugan, Loren Garofalo, Tina Sybert, Kathy Morris, Cindy Sedge, Ellen Rogers, Rhonda Barber, Kathy Barber, Darlene Fuehring, Lauri Rogers, Linda Hill, Susan Andrews, Andrea Carstens, Joyce Wolf, Tracy Marmalejo, Sandy Schuchardt, Brenda Braswell, Linda Wood, Heidi Stanley, Laura Hagen, Joan Pursley, Eileen Leonard and Charlotte Stinson.

Grasso also thanked Jan Ricks, the Brigade’s contact at SBRMC, and Fuehring for taking the team picture (below).

“Not everyone could make picture day, but thank you to all these incredible ladies. It’s a testament to people working together for a common goal,” she said.





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# Central Alabama Church takes its food pantry up a notch Next "Stop, Pop, Drop & Roll giveaway is May 30

By Fran Thompson

Central Flora-Bama Church has always had a unique relationship with God. For one thing, the non-denominational, Christian church meets at the Flora-Bama, arguably America's most famous honky-tonk. Beach attire is not only welcome but encouraged during the church's 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday services (online at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. currently).

Pastor Rick Long and the congregation gather by the beach at the Alabama - Florida state line to praise the Lord, not judge each other. "It's Okay to not be Okay" is the way they phrase it on church banners and t-shirts.

"We exist to introduce people to Jesus and help them follow him," Pastor Long says.

During what has been a deliberating crisis for the entire country, the church has stepped up its efforts to reach out to those in need by adding "Stop, Pop, Drop & Roll" fresh food distribution Saturdays as a supplement to its ongoing food pantry. The next giveaway is May 30 from 8 a.m. -11 a.m in the Flora-Bama parking lot at 17401 Perdido Key Dr.

Church volunteers fill boxes with fresh produce, fresh fruit, eggs, milk, cheese, chicken and pork loin as well as staples such as canned soups and veggies, rice, grits, and pasta.

"I have always enjoyed the opportunity to serve and help others. During these strange times, I had-

n't been presented with many of those opportunities. Participating in these events and doing whatever I can to assist has been as big of a blessing to me as it has been for those we've helped," said Darryl Campbell, one of the volunteers at a recent food giveaway.

The church has partnered with the three Flora-Bama restaurants on the property and Feeding The Gulf Coast to present the food assistance events.

"We feed 125 people a week from the food pantry anyway. But with the help of about 40 volunteers, we've been feeding around 500 on Saturdays," Pastor Long said. "The need is much bigger now. We will be feeding families for multiple weeks."

The pastor said the volunteers pass out healthy food that recipients are able to freeze when necessary. And if they ask for more than one box, that is what they will get. No questions asked.

"We are helping some good people who were looking for the spring and summer to catch back up from winter when the hammer came down," Pastor Long said.

"We are finding a lot of people who never had a need for this before. These are strong people, and it is hard for them to ask for help. We are here to relieve some of the pressure."

Pastor Long said that much of his church's community service would not be possible without ongoing

financial assistance of the Flora-Bama.

"They saw a need and they came to us and said 'what can we do?' We did not even have to ask them. The Flora-Bama wanted to be involved and came to us.

"They've lost millions of dollars from this (pandemic) and they are still stepping up. I've never seen a company so willing to step up for its employees and community" he added. "They are incredible people. They had some major things on the books when this happened and they lost hundreds of thousands of dollars just by closing when they did - For wanting to be proactive to protect their employees.

"It's not just what they do, it's who they are," he added.

Pastor Long said he is thankful that to his knowledge none of his congregation has contracted Covid-19. But, like the Flora-Bama, he was proactive in deciding to stop meeting live and he will also be precautionary when live services begin again.

"We will come back as soon as it is safe for everybody. We hope to do something big for the first one," he said.

For more information about the Central Church Food Bank, call Contact Feeding the Gulf Coast at 251-653-1617.

The ongoing Central Church food pantry is open on Tuesday, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. for pick-ups. Food can be dropped off on Sundays and Wednesdays during those same hours.

For a \$35 donation, patrons can feed a family of four with an entire week's worth of food. For more information regarding drop-off or pick-up or sponsorships, call 251-504-9696 or 251-256-0858, email [florabama@centralonline.tv](mailto:florabama@centralonline.tv) or visit [centralonline.tv/flora-bama](http://centralonline.tv/flora-bama).



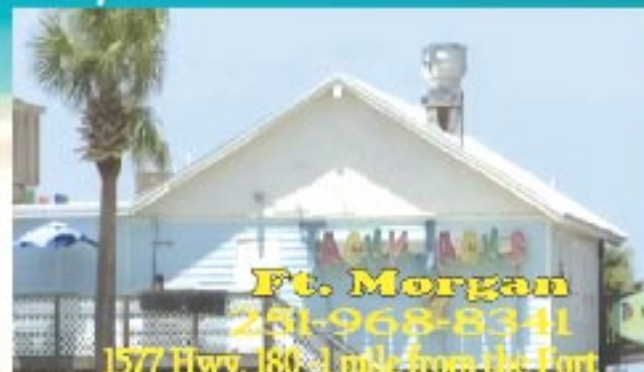


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## Restaurant Assn. offers free food safety instruction

The National Restaurant Assn. is offering free food safety and career development resources through its ServSafe program. Now through May 31, ServSafe is offering free food safety courses and career development training to restaurant professionals. Courses include: ServSafe Food Handler; ServSafe Takeout and Delivery; COVID-19 Precautions; ServSuccess Training for Restaurant Workers; AHLEI Training for Hospitality Professionals. For more information or to register for these free courses, visit ServSafe.com.

## Gulf Shores Library, Dog Park are now open

The Gulf Shores Library and Dog Park are once again open to the public:

The library will be taking several safety precautions such as limiting hours, monitoring social distancing and reducing the capacity of patrons allowed in at one time. Please visit their page for more information.

Patrons are asked to please remember to practice social distancing and personal hygiene practices while visiting the dog park.

The city is continuing to work on plans to reopen other facilities in the safest way possible. Go to the city's website and facebook pages for updates.

## Alabama's Restaurant Assn. Promise Campaign

The Alabama Restaurant & Hospitality Association has launched the Alabama Restaurant Promise campaign to help restaurants instill confidence with customers as they choose to return to dine-in service at Alabama restaurants. The Promise communicates a restaurant's pledge for the safety of staff and customers.

Restaurants participating in the campaign are asked to read the Alabama Restaurant Promise assurances and print the poster for display at entrances to demonstrate to customers that precautions are being taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

## G.S. Recycling Center back open for business

City Administrator Steve Griffith announced the city's recycling center will reopen on May 18 at the Gulf Shores City Council May 11 meeting. The facility has been closed since late March due to concerns over the pandemic and employees handling materials from households all over Pleasure Island. The drop-off recycling facility, located at 160 W. 36th Ave., does not accept medical waste, aerosol cans, paint or tires.

Items accepted include: Glass; Aluminium; Plastic No. 1, 2, 3; Office paper, Newspapers, Magazines; Fluorescent Light Bulbs; Metal; Cardboard; Electronics (televisions, microwaves, printers); Tin cans (must be rinsed); Packing Styrofoam.



## Lack of traffic during quarantine a plus for Canal Rd. work crews

By John Mullen

Not that anybody in Orange Beach (or the world) sees the quarantine as a blessing, but the coronavirus has made work easier and more safe for road crews working on the five year project that will result in the five-laning of Canal Road when complete.

"The nice thing even though it's difficult for businesses and for our community its excellent for the roadwork. They've made some good headway and to get the milling done before the summer without the traffic has been an advantage for the project," said O.B. Community Development Director Kit Alexander.

The milling work is mostly complete on the north side of the road from near Alabama 161 to William Silvers Parkway. The timetable for completion is still intact. The Alabama Department of Transportation has said the completion date for the project is December of 2020. Crews are now working to mill the pavement on the south side of the road from west to east to get the required width for five full lanes.

During the council's dual regular and work session on April 21, Councilman Jeff Silvers said with much of the milling complete he's been fielding questions about how long the road will remain unpaved.

"People are asking how long they are going to have to drive through the rumbled grooves and stuff like that," Silvers said.

Alexander said it could be quite some time before the paving begins on any of the new road. "They've still got a little bit of milling to do and then they will start working this week on the south side of the road before they do the final paving," Alexander said. "They'll pave the whole road once it's completed."

Temporary striping is on the milled part of the roadway and includes other improvements that have been missing in past projects.

"We've had problems previously with the temporary striping not being reflective," Alexander said. "In rain and during dark hours it's been hard to see the lane demarcations so they are putting in those reflective pavement markets in at the request of the city. I can also say they vol-

unteered to provide those in response to complaints from the city. It'll be better than past state projects where we've had that difficulty."

The council met virtually for the second straight session and plans are to continue digital meetings as long as pandemic restrictions are in place. The meeting lasted less than 13 minutes.

During the regular session, the council:

- Awarded the bid for the Adult Fitness Center to Stuart Construction for about \$2.9 million.
- Passed a resolution declaring a police vehicle light bar owned by the City of Orange Beach as surplus and unneeded and authorizing donating the bar to Elberta.
- Passed a resolution authorizing the execution of an agreement with Harbor Communications to installing fiber at the Sportsplex.
- Passed a resolution authorizing execution of a software service renewal agreement for art jury processing with Zapp Software.
- During the work session, the council discussed:
- Three resolutions for professional services agreement and a contract with Moffatt & Nichol to implement the Lower Perdido Bay/Perdido Pass Navigation Project Hydrological Modeling and Sediment Budget Study not to exceed \$365,000. Moffatt & Nichol will also provide a Restoration Alternatives Analysis and Design of Lower Perdido Bay/Perdido Pass for \$413,822.
- Setting two public hearings, one for a 14-lot subdivision Robinson Grove on Terry Cove east of Walker Key and six four-bedroom homes in Cypress Village Courtyard. Both were rescheduled for May 5 pending status of pandemic restrictions.
- Heard a first reading on a new a parking deck east of Turquoise Place to take overflow parking. Cars now must park across the street and drivers have to brave crossing five-lane Perdido Beach Boulevard to reach the condo towers. The applicants want an extension of the planned unit development through Sept. 30, 2021. That public hearing is also tentatively scheduled for May 5 but will be subject to be delayed again if pandemic restrictions are still in place.



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Return to the Oyster Bar to pick up your food order and return to your table.

Once you have finished your meal, close your tab with your server and exit the Flora-Bama.

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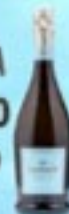
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## O.B. to train staff on proper disinfection methods City also approves changes to two construction projects

By John Mullen

Orange Beach is going to spend about \$2,000 to get key personnel training on the proper way to clean and disinfect city facilities against the COVID-19 virus.

**“This training trains to understand the difference between decontamination and disinfection. You have to clean it before you can disinfect it. You can’t sterilize or disinfect dirt.”**

ing and their families.”

The city is hiring GreenCo from Foley to run the first of two training modules the first of which is free and the second step in the training will be paid for by the city. Department heads were asked to designate employees that would benefit most from the training.

“Here’s the importance,” Boyd said. “Let’s say Maria is cleaning an elevator and Maria understands spraying the elevator to get inside and wipe the doors but she also uses that rag elsewhere. She also may cough in the elevator and not have protection. This training trains to understand the difference between decontamination and disinfection. You have to clean it before you can disinfect it. You can’t sterilize or disinfect dirt.”

Also, during the meeting, the council OK’d a change in two planned unit developments, one for Turquoise Place and another for Robinson Grove, a 14-home subdivision on Terry Cove east of the Walker Key complex. Turquoise Place asked for an extension of its PUD until Sept. 30, 2021 as it makes plans to build a parking deck east of that complex to alleviate overcrowding in its parking deck. The overflow parking is having to use a field across five-lane Perdido Beach Boulevard and those using it must make that dangerous crossing to get to the condos.

Robinson Grove is a cottage development on former Walker family land and will also include a pier with boat slips for residents.

During the May 5 regular session, Orange Beach City Council also:

- Awarded a bid for recreation center drainage and tennis court improvements to Ammons & Blackmon Construction for about \$1.4 million.
  - Authorized the purchase of a service vehicle with a truck bed for the Utilities Department for \$69,362.
  - Authorized the purchase of a vehicle for the Utilities Department from state bid for \$29,861 for a Ford F-150 Supercab 4X4 pickup.
  - Authorized execution of a lease agreement for the Parks and Recreation Department with Williams Scotsman for a portable classroom for the Camp Sunshine program for \$29,180.73 for a year.
  - Authorized execution of a service agreement with Williams Scotsman for modifications to the portable classroom for the Expect Excellence program in the amount of \$7,000.
  - Authorized the execution of a software license agreement with Active Network for a childcare module and Connect App.
  - Approved the submission of the 2019 Municipal Water Pollution Prevention (MWPP) Annual Report.
  - Passed a resolution authorizing the sole source purchase of a submersible pump from Jim House & Associates for the Utilities Department for \$33,576.
- During the work session, the council discussed:
- A line of credit with Finance Director Ford Handley.
  - A performance contract with Tennis Pro to offer training services for the city. Current pro Rhett Russell is going to move to the role of a independent contractor instead of working for the city.
  - A resolution awarding the bid for the Sewer Office Building. The bid opening is scheduled May 7.
  - A resolution awarding the bid for Police Vehicle Emergency Equipment. The bid opening is scheduled for May 14.
  - A resolution awarding the bid for a new boat lift for the Fire Department at Hudson Marina. The bid opening was scheduled for May 14.



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# Gulf Shores School System Child Nutrition Program serves meals to kids under 18

## School administrators were already formulating summer feeding program when pandemic hit

By John Mullen

When Gulf Shores started its own school system in June of 2019, Superintendent Dr. Matt Akin wanted to hit the ground running including getting a summer lunch program started.

"The day that we took over, June 1, the freezer at the high school went out that morning," Akin said. "So, it's been kind of an uphill battle with our lunchrooms. One of the things Child Nutrition Program Coordinator Tanya Hill and I talked about from the beginning was a summer feeding program. We have the grant for elementary school and we got it for the middle school where we going to have kids there in the summer."

When the current COVID-19 pandemic caused the shutdown of schools statewide the city went looking for funding to get through the rest of the calendar school year.

"How that ties in is when COVID-19 kicked in and the closures happened the feds came in and said if you're doing a summer feeding program you can start feeding now," Akin said. "Well, our application hadn't been approved and so Tanya got on the ball and had it approved in about 48 hours. What that does is then the federal government will support us and paying for the meals so that we can serve our kids in the summertime. They're kind of treating this like it's an extended summer."

The program will be in place until classes start again, Akin said. He also said that Hill has been the driving force behind the program with teachers volunteer and lunchroom workers putting in hours to help out as well.

"Tanya put it together," Akin said. "We found out on a Friday that we were dismissing the next week and so within a week we had our program up and going. The first week we just started serving grab-and-go just from the high school. She had volunteers come in and helping with lunch. Our lunchroom ladies, we deemed them essential employees and just a few of them are working a day, just a few hours a day."

It started with just a grab-and-go site at the high

school and about 65 kids a day were being fed. They'd get a hot lunch and something to take home for breakfast the next day. But they felt some kids were being left out.

"Tanya and I talked and looked at sites where we could go to the kids because we knew a lot of the kids were having trouble getting to us," Akin said. "We've expanded those sites down Fort Morgan Road, the Cultural Center and over by Cobb Theatres. We're going to about five different sites so our numbers have just steadily grown."

The program has served as many as 415 kids a day, and although the average has dropped to 375 students now, more than 25,000 total meals have been served.

"We are very pleased that the program has been able to meet the needs of the community," Akin said.

When the initial order came down from Gov. Kay Ivey further tightening restrictions, Hill began looking for ways to lessen the contact between volunteers and those picking up meals.

"We switched it this week because of the shelter-in-place order by the governor to where we do Monday, Wednesday, Friday," Hill said. "On Monday we give them a hot meal, we give them a cold meal for Tuesday plus breakfast for Tuesday and breakfast for Wednesday morning. We give them four meals on Monday and four meals on Wednesday. We give them a Friday hot lunch and then we give them breakfast for Saturday."

Akin said being an independent and small school system made it easier for he and staff to get the program moving quickly.

"I think it's a good example of being our own school system that we were able to step up," Akin said. "Just within a couple of days we were able to get this program going. It's an example of probably in the past we wouldn't have been able to serve the community like this. We've got a lot of people out of work and a lot of people in the service industry that aren't working. It makes me feel good to be a part of a school system that's really stepping up for the community."



Any child under 18 from south Baldwin can stop by and get meals from the school system's drop off locations.

"Obviously, it's put into place to serve our students but the federal guidelines let us serve any child in the community 18 and under," Akin said. "A family had contacted her from Foley and said we saw about your lunches. Most of the kids, obviously, are in Gulf Shores but we're here to serve the whole community. Orange Beach is certainly included in that."

The program started with five grab-and-go locations. And three locations - St. Andrews by the Sea on Ft Morgan Road, Gulf Shores Cultural Center on County Road and Gulf Shores High School will continue serving meals from 11:30 a.m. 'til noon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (no service on Memorial Day).

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# Funny Bones

By George Ridder



I'm trying to learn the alphabet but I can't get past X. I don't know why.

I used to be in a band called The Hinges. We opened for The Doors.

Teacher: Clyde, your composition about "My dog" is exactly like your brothers. Did you copy this?  
Clyde: No sir. It's the same dog.  
Donna: "I can tell if someone is lying just by looking at him."  
Ashley: "Really?"  
Donna: "Yep. I can tell if he is standing too."

My wife thought she heard a noise downstairs. She nudged me and whispered, "Wake up, wake up!" "What's the matter?" I asked. "There are burglars in the kitchen. I think they're eating the tuna casserole I made tonight." "That'll teach them!" I replied.

They say you shouldn't go grocery shopping when you're hungry... But I ran out of food a few days ago, and it's just getting worse!

Bill went to the chiropractor thinking that the chiropractor would not be able to treat his

chronic back pain. After a few minutes, his back felt like new. The doctor asked, "How do you feel about chiropractors now?" Bill replied, "I stand corrected!"

Did you know that 97% of the world is dumb? Luckily I'm in the other 5%!

A fellow nurse at my hospital received a call from an anxious patient. "I'm diabetic and I'm afraid I've had too much sugar today," the caller said. "Are you light-headed?" my colleague asked. "No," the caller answered, "I'm a brunette."

Police have arrested the World Tongue-Twister Champion... They said he'll be given a tough sentence!

I was struggling to get my wife's attention. So, I simply sat down and looked comfortable. That did the trick.

Where do you take some one who's been injured in a peek-a-boo accident?  
To the I-C-U!  
My boss texted me, "Send me one of your funny jokes, Pete." I replied, "I'm working at the moment, Sir, I will send you one later."  
He replied, "That was fantastic, send me another one."

There is a guy stealing iPhones around town. At some point he's going to face time!

The other day I got carded at the liquor store. While I was taking out my ID, my old Blockbuster card fell out. The clerk shook his head and said, "Never mind," and rang me up.

Two friends met on the street after not having seen each other for some time. One of them was on crutches. "Hello!" said the other man. "Why are you on crutches?" "Car accident," said the man on crutches. "When did that happen?" "Oh, about six weeks ago."

"And you still have to be on crutches?"  
"Well, my doctor says I could get along without them. My lawyer says I can't."  
The cowboy was trying to buy a health insurance policy. The insurance agent was going down the list of standard questions.  
"Ever have an accident?"  
"Nope, nary a one."  
"Well, you said in this form you were bitten by a snake once. Wouldn't you consider that an accident?"  
"Heck, no. That dang varmint bit me on purpose."

Three NFL fans of a losing team were drowning their sorrows at a sports bar after the team lost yet again. The first fan said, "I blame the coach. If he developed better plays, we'd be a great team."  
The second fan nodded and replied, "I blame the players. They just don't try hard enough."  
The third fan said, "I blame my parents. If I'd been born in New England, I'd be supporting a better team."



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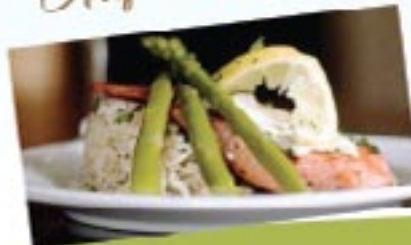
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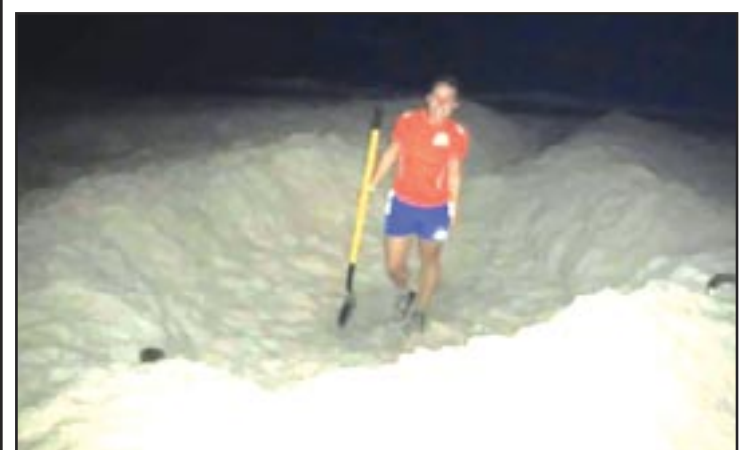


## Around Town



### Council declares May National Bike Month in Gulf Shores

Gulf Shores City Council proclaimed May as National Bike Month in Gulf Shores. In association with the League of American Bicyclists, Gulf Shores will focus during the covid-19 pandemic on well-being and connection, and how bikes provide physical and mental health benefits. The current uncertainty reminds us that bikes are an enduring tool for resiliency as both an essential means of transportation for folks who can't work from home and as an essential exercise in self-care and respite. Bikes move people physically and emotionally. National Bike Month is sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists and celebrated in communities from coast to coast. Established in 1956, National Bike Month is a chance to showcase the many benefits of bicycling — and encourage more folks to give biking a try. Gulf Shores was designated a Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists in 2018.



### Orange Beach reminds folks not to leave craters at beach

Digging holes might be fun but did you know they are dangerous? "Large holes on the beach not only pose a threat to our shore animals, such as nesting sea turtles, but the public and city personnel as well," posted The City of Orange Beach on its Facebook page. "Our City of Orange Beach Coastal Resources crews have found a large number of holes since beaches have reopened. If you dig a hole, fill it up! Let's keep our beaches safe!"

## Southern Living names Pleasure Isle "Best Beach Town"

"With its white sand, decadent seafood, and pristine wildlife sanctuaries, the Alabama coast was once the South's best-kept secret" states Southern Living in a story naming Gulf Shores and Orange Beach, the two cities that comprise Pleasure Island the South's Best Beach Town.

With honors such as the one bestowed upon it from the respected magazine piling up, Pleasure Island is no longer a secret. But the proximity to nature is still a main attraction here in Paradise. The island's outdoor riches such as the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge and the Coastal Alabama Back Bay Blueway Paddling Trails were highlighted, as was the new 25-acre Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo.

The magazine listed local restaurants, including Tacky Jacks, The Perch and Foodcraft at The Lodge at Gulf State Park, Lucy Buffett's Lulu's (order The "Pa-Menna" Cheeseburger) and Fisher's. "Fill any gaps in your itinerary with 'y'all won't believe this' selfies while you sip on a beachy beverage at the Flora-Bama," stated the magazine.

Hilton Head, South Carolina, and Tybee Island, Georgia finished second and third, respectively, in the magazine's annual ranking of the Southeast's best beach towns. Senator Richard Shelby said he was glad Alabama's Gulf Coast is "receiving the recognition it deserves."



### FBISF accepting artwork applications for 2020 fest posters

Frank Brown Songwriters' Festival Artwork Contest is accepting submission for design the artwork for this year's festival shirts and posters. Deadline is April 30. Eligible media include: acrylics, oils, watercolors, pastels, drawings, printmaking, and digital art. Cash awards totaling \$200 will be awarded to the winner of the contest.

This year's fest dates are Nov. 5-20. For more info or to download an application form, visit [frankbrownsonwriters.com](http://frankbrownsonwriters.com) or call 850-492-7664.

### Gulf Shores accepts \$69K in coronavirus aid for airport

By John Mullen

Gulf Shores City Council accepted a \$69,000 federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act grant for Jack Edwards National Airport that will be used to reimburse the city for payroll costs and repair old approach lighting systems during its combined work session and regular meeting on May 11.

City Council also:

- Authorized a contract with Olsen Associates for \$51,400 for annual monitoring of the engineered beach renourishment project.
- Agreed to the annexation into the city of 2.75 acres located at 19280 Oak Road West that currently contains the Oyster Bay Fire Hall.
- OK'd the expenditure of \$1.4 million worth of expense vouchers.
- Voted to amend the business license code "to require electronic filing of sales, use, lodging and

rental tax which would mirror the state code." Electronic filing would be required for tax payments of \$750 or greater. Once this threshold has been met, electronic filing is required.

• Declared several items as surplus from the Utilities Board and will auction them off at gov-deals.com

• Proclaimed May as National Bike Month and May 18-25 as National Beach Safety Week.

### Next Hangout Fest May 21-23, 2021

Hangout Fest organizers vow to bring back as much of this year's talent as possible when the cancelled Fest takes control of Gulf Shores Public Beach in 2021.

The controversial fest, which is mostly unpopular among full time Pleasure Island residents, has four years remaining on its current contract with the City of Gulf Shores. The city is on record as stating that it will not be responsible for expenses the fest incurs before securing its occupational permit in 2021.

Ticket holders for this year's fest, which sold out in record time, were contacted by email and offered first dibs on 2021 tickets. Refunds were also available up until mid-May.

Through its public relations firm, the fest promised ticket holders that next year's fest will be "massive" and "the most epic, carefree, 'let's kick-off the summer right' beach party."

The city collects a three percent tax on retail sales and bed tax on rentals generated by the fest in return for closing Gulf Shores Public Beach to the public for just over two weeks.

Orange Beach's official position is that The Hangout Fest causes way more damage to its brand as a family vacation destination than the bed tax windfall is worth.



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## Around Town



### 54th Orange Beach Fire BBQ postponed 'til fall Fundraiser began as Home Demonstration Club picnic

For obvious reasons, the OBFD decided to postpone the 54th Annual Barbeque, usually held on the second Saturday of June, until fall. Be on the lookout for announcements about the fundraiser. The fire department prepares more than 4,000 pounds of pork and its Ladies Auxiliary sells desserts such as whole cakes, banana pudding and other homemade goodies. Proceeds pay for fire prevention education and other fire and safety equipment.

For more information, call 251-981-6166.

BBQ started as Home Demonstration Club picnic  
Editor's Note: Orange Beach native Margaret Childress Long is Orange Beach's Honorary Historian and author the book, *The Best Place to Be The Story of Orange Beach*. She and co-author Michael D. Shipler also published a second book: *Orange Beach, Alabama, A Pictorial History*.

By Margaret Long

The annual Community Picnic was started as a project of the Home Demonstration Club which my mother, Dorothy Childress, Ella Callaway and others started in 1951. The Club purchased the land for the Community Center from Edna Walker White in 1959. The dream came true when the Orange Beach Community Center was built in 1972 (remodeled in 2000). The Club disbanded on July 27, 1965. The annual Picnic that they established turned into the Annual Barbecue and has continued ever since. It is always held on the second Saturday of June. Roy Blalock, father of Pete and Tem, headed up the Annual Barbecue for years. My daddy would donate cabbage for the slaw every year. His farm was where my son, Wes Moore, has the gator park, Alligator Alley. The Fire Dept took it over after we became a city. It gets bigger every year.

Pictured: (left) Rebecca Davis and Mary Hayes were summer residents of Cotton Bayou and members of the Home Demonstration Club. (Right) Dorothy Childress, Margaret's mother, was very involved with the Orange Beach BBQ and was president and founder of the Home Demonstration Club. The club was formed to raise funds for the purchase of land for a community center. The Orange Beach Community Center, site of the BBQ, is still a vibrant part of the Pleasure Island community. (From *The Story of Orange Beach, Alabama – The Best Place to Be*)

## Gulf Shores to plant 44 oak trees along Gateway Blvd. Entire Gateway Blvd. project budgeted for \$4.8 million

By John Mullen

Gulf Shores voted at its May 11 council meeting to spend nearly \$150,000 for 54 trees to go in the median of Coastal Gateway Boulevard in the northeast part of the city. That's about \$2,700 per tree.

The council also heard a report from Gulf Shores Fire Battalion Chief Melvin Shepard about the reopening of the beaches on April 30. Also, during the meeting, City Administrator Steve Griffith announced the city's recycling center on 36th Avenue West is set to reopen on May 18 after being closed since late March due to concerns over the pandemic and employees handling materials from households all over Pleasure Island.

"Coastal Gateway Boulevard has not only become one of the primary gateways into the city but is also experiencing one of the highest growth rates in the community," Public Works Director Mark Acreman said.

Major improvements include widening it to four lanes with landscaped center medians, added additional lanes to the State Route 59 intersection, closed drainage system to allow for bike lanes and sidewalks and a traffic signal at the Beach Express intersection. This signal began functioning on May 11.

The bid is for the purchase and planting of 54 six-inch caliper oak trees each more than 20 feet tall.

"The new oak trees will create an immediate positive impression and create a sense of place for all of the residents along CGB," Acreman said. "These oaks will also seamlessly blend with the existing live oaks, be drip irrigated and come with a one-year warranty."

Mayor Robert Craft expressed concerns about the stability of the trees given the windy coastal environment.

"With trees this tall and windy conditions how are you managing to stake those and secure those in place?" the mayor asked.

"Each tree will have a four-wire staking system that's been designed to support the weight," Acreman said. "In addition to that, each one will have a bubbler irrigation for each tree to ensure their viability. Obviously, we'll be planting them throughout the course of the summer in the hot season."

The entire Coastal Gateway Boulevard project is budgeted for \$4.8 million in 2020 and \$550,000 of that is designated for landscaping and contingencies.

## Children's book highlights special vacation to Orange Beach

To add some encouragement during stressful times and to show how tough times can produce positive effects, look no further than author Tracy Ryder Bradshaw.

Bradshaw, an elementary school teacher in Tennessee, has been a bereaved mom since her son Sawyer's life was taken on October 13, 2011. He was 19 years old, and she said her world seemed to stop. Three and a half years later, she was given a precious gift in a stuffed therapy bear made from a T-shirt Sawyer wore as a child and another he wore as a teenager. She named him Sawbear and began taking him on vacations and to events.

Camera in hand, Bradshaw said it seemed natural and crazy at the same time to snap pictures of Sawbear. Those photos turned into a children's book series following the adventures of Sawbear. She said creating Sawbear books has brought sweet memories of her son, smiles, motivation, and love which has comforted her heart.

As part of her journey with Sawbear, she revisited her son's favorite vacation spot - Orange Beach, Alabama. Bradshaw first published "Sawbear's Vacation to Orange Beach" in 2017 and recently reached out to the city.

This spring, she created a read aloud of Sawbear's Orange Beach adventures on YouTube. She hopes children in and around Orange Beach will enjoy the read aloud video. The book is perfect for young children. Kids can follow Sawbear's vacation as he learns about finding shells, using sunscreen, riding a Ferris Wheel at The Wharf, and

much more fun. His adventures are shared from a child's voice with innocence and curiosity as he explores our slice of paradise

The book certainly shows that "Life is Better Here." You can google "Sawbear's Orange Beach Vacation" as read by author Tracy Ryder Bradshaw on YouTube.

Pictured: Cover illustration from Sawyer's Orange Beach Vacation.





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# “Any break these fish get is good for the fish”

By David Rainer

Al. Dept. of Conser/Nat Resources

It's like a recurring nightmare. Thankfully, that bad dream has only occurred once every 10 years or so.

Unfortunately, it's not a dream.

For the charter boat fleet and inshore fishing guides along the Alabama Gulf Coast, the shutdown caused by the

**“If you remember, five years after the oil spill, all those giant (speckled) trout showed up. This won't have to go on much longer to affect speckled trout.”**

COVID-19 virus has caused flashbacks to the spring of 2010 and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill that paralyzed the northern Gulf Coast.

After the oil spill, the Gulf of Mexico and some inshore waters were closed to fishing. In this situation, the Gulf is open, but the customers are gone for the most part. Alabama Governor Kay Ivey and Conservation Commissioner Chris Blankenship have done everything possible to keep the outdoors open, but those who venture out must follow the social distancing guidelines.

Capt. Johnny Greene, who runs the 65-foot Intimidator out of Orange Beach, is enjoying some of the best fishing the Gulf has to offer until the virus started taking its toll on his bookings.

“We were set for the best year we've ever had,” Greene said. “We were pretty booked up. Then it started dwindling down as people started dealing with the reality of what was going to happen. Trips started canceling from a few days out to a few weeks out to a month out. At this point, I think the reality is we're just trying to save red snapper season. I don't know what will come about between now and then.”

The charter industry's peak business occurs during for-hire snapper season, which is currently scheduled to open later this month.

Alabama Marine Resources Division Director Scott Bannon is concerned about the impact the shutdown is having on one of Alabama's favorite pastimes, not to mention the economic harm.

“The pandemic is impacting all aspects

of fishing, and I have concerns that some business, especially charter, will not have the financial means to make it through this,” Bannon said. “About \$300 million will become available through the CARES Act to specifically address fishing impacts. But we don't know when that is coming or how it will be divided, and that has to cover the entire country. We do have hope that people will want to travel and fish on the Gulf Coast and that will help all aspects of the economy to get started again.”

Meanwhile, some boats are large enough to abide by the virus mitigation guidelines, and Greene is fortunate enough to have one.

“I can carry up to 10 people on the boat and make it work,” he said. “That would be eight passengers and two crew. My boat is in the upper echelon of charters in terms of size. I can spread people out. But a lot of boats are not as big as mine, and it's going to cause tremendous hardships if people don't get back to work pretty quick.”

During the offseason, the charters spend money advertising and preparing their boats for the fishing season, which usually cranks up during spring break and runs through the summer. Boat bottoms are cleaned of barnacles and new paint is applied. Engine maintenance is conducted, and propellers are refurbished. Nothing indicated they should put on the brakes.

“We just went through a long winter period of inactivity,” Greene said. “As heavily seasonal as we are, if you go through the boatyard, we had no predictions of this – you know, don't do this or that. You're spending your money to make preparations and get your boat ready. Then all of a sudden, you can't go.”

“That's the hard part. There are probably going to be some boats that may not make it through this deal. We just don't know what's going to happen.”

Greene said his boat was booked for almost every day in March and most of April.

“It all started to fall apart in March,” he said. “I mean, what are we going to say to somebody if they're scared and don't want to go. It's a tough deal, and it's going to affect a lot of people.”

The uncertainty of the virus is what makes it difficult for the independent contractors like the charter captains and their deck hands.

Greene said one big difference between the oil spill and the COVID-19 shutdown is that numerous charter boats were hired by BP for a variety of tasks during the spill cleanup and recovery.

“Quite a few boats were able to get income from BP,” he said. “Some of them made a lot of money, although I wasn't one of them. I've been doing this for a long time, and I'm thankful for all the blessings I've had. I'm not sweating it as much as a lot of guys are. This is going to absolutely cripple some of the younger guys who are just getting going. Of course, it's not helping me at all in terms of long-term planning.”

“But there are a lot of fishermen in town that are absolutely living paycheck to paycheck. Some filed for unemployment to have something to feed their families. It's a challenge. Most fishermen are proud people and don't like handouts. They just want the opportunity to go to work. You take that away and it really affects them. That mental aspect is really hard for people to understand.”

Greene said the virus outbreak couldn't have come at a worse time in terms of fishing success. Although the charter business was steady, the fishing had been difficult for the past couple of years because of environmental factors, mostly freshwater influx from a flooded Mississippi River.

“The fishing was really good,” he said. “Things had been tough for the past couple of years. This year everything was happening. The fish were biting, and everything was going our way. The weather was beautiful, and the water was pretty. The beeliners (vermillion snapper) were biting. We were catching big triggerfish. Tuna and wahoo were cooperating. Everything you needed for a particular trip was working.”

“Then I left on an overnight trip. I got back and everybody was freaked out. I left for one night and look what happened. It was just crazy.”

Greene said he has had to call the customers and cancel.

“You just have to be understanding and try to reschedule as many trips as you can,” he said. “You try to work with people. Everybody is as scared as you are. Charter trips are discretionary money. When people are scared, they're not going to spend any money. Nobody knows what to do.”

A couple of weeks ago (in March), I was on a text string with my fishing guide friend, Jay Gunn, and one of the texters posted:

“I'm not sure what's worse, being a restaurant owner in Gulf Shores or a fishing guide.” Gunn said he definitely wouldn't want to be in the restaurant business on the Gulf Coast right now.

Gunn said the shutdown will probably eliminate some people from the guide business.

“If you have a big mortgage or don't have enough cash on hand to weather a couple of months, you're probably not going to make it,” he said. “The charters and guides with long-term customers are not going to be as affected, but it's going to be rough on the new guys.”

Gunn said this virus shutdown is indeed like a flashback to the oil spill, but he chooses to look for the proverbial silver lining.

“The good that can come out of it is what I have to look at,” he said. “The beach is not destroyed. If this closure lasts a while, it could be beneficial to the fishing in the long run.”

Gunn said with very few anglers out, the sheepshead completed their spawn virtually unmolested. That abundance of eggs will produce fish that will contribute to the stocks three or four years from now.

“If you remember, five years after the oil spill, all those giant (speckled) trout showed up,” he said. “This won't have to go on much longer to affect speckled trout. If this extends to the middle of May without any significant fishing taking place, the major speckled trout spawn happens in early May. Now they spawn all the way to September, but the major spawn is in May. If that happens, you can expect a bump in recruitment (juvenile fish entering the adult population). Then you will have a subsequent bump in bigger fish five years from now.”

“Any break these fish get is good for the fish. It's not good for the fishermen, but it's good for the fish. And that includes the surf fish, too. You can't go to the beach, so those fish will get a break. Last year was one of the best pompano runs we've had in a while. Those fish won't get caught on their spawning run either. That could mean better pompano fishing next year and down the road.”

Pictured: Teddy Tinney took advantage of being out of school to reel in this 49.94-pound yellowedge grouper on his dad's (Brad) boat. (Photo by Brad Tinney)





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## Around Town



### Baldwin Memorial Day Flag Relay honors fallen heros

Runners are still being accepted for this year's Baldwin County Memorial Day (May 25) Relay to help honor our fallen soldiers by transporting the American flag across Baldwin County from Loxley to Perdido Pass three miles at time. If you have a group of runners or you would like to organize a group of runners for a three mile run, call 251-533-1323 or email tyler.york85@icloud.com or go to facebook.

The relay is completely volunteer driven and police escorts are already in place for the group run down Hwy.59 and across Perdido Beach Blvd. to Perdido Pass.

Runners will hand off the flags every three miles to the next group of runners. The relay will total about 47 miles. Additionally, signs will be placed along the route to honor fallen service members. The signs will contain a picture, name and date deceased of the hero. Following the run, the signs will be collected and redistributed accordingly.

This year's Memorial Day Flag Relay will pay tribute to Navy veteran and veteran supporter Tommy Boyington (pictured above left). Tommy passed away Nov 5, 2019. He was known for his avid support of veterans and organized the American Hero's Memorial Day Cookout at the W.F. Green State Veteran's Home in Bay Minette. His family has reported that he took great pride in this annual event. He wore the same red, white and blue shirt every year and for this event only. He enjoyed Coors Light, was a regular at GooRoos and made some of the best boiled peanuts in Baldwin County.

Tommy's time with us was cut short, but his legacy will live on. Our hope is to continue and share in his passion for honoring our nation's heroes.

A message from Ashley Swafford -

Signs and shirts are still available for purchase until May 21. Flag relay route signs are \$15 and shirts are \$22. The shirts will honor all our fallen heroes on the signs by having their names on the back. Proceeds will go to the Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery. To purchase either, please Venmo @ashley-swafford, message Ashley Swafford, or email ashleyswaf@gmail.com.



### Registration opens for O.B. summer reading program

The Orange Beach Public Library is planning an "Imagine Your Story" Summer Reading program with weekly grab-and-go STEM and craft activities, virtual storytimes and online reading logs. Online sign-ups begin on Tuesday, May 26th. The form will be posted on the library page on the City Website and shared on the library's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Orange-BeachPublicLibrary](http://www.facebook.com/Orange-BeachPublicLibrary). T

here will be no in-person programming this summer.

For more information, call the Orange Beach Library at 251-981-2923.

### Youth-Reach Gulf Coast Golf Tourney April 9 in Loxley

The 8th Annual Youth-Reach Gulf Coast Golf Tournament will be held June 2 at Steelwood Country Club in Loxley. Check-in and breakfast starts at 7:30 a.m., an hour before the shotgun start. Format is four-man scramble and tourney competitions include closest to the pin, longest drive, straightest drive and longest putt. The entry fee is \$600 per team or \$200 per player and includes breakfast, a filet mignon lunch, golf towel nice tumbler, green fees and range balls.

Tournament sponsorship ranging from hole to title are also being solicited. Call (251) 967-4809 or visit [youthreachgc.org](http://youthreachgc.org) or more info.

Youth-Reach Gulf Coast is a non-profit Christ-centered home set on a beautiful 81-acre campus east of Summerdale. The program is designed to remold the values and turn around the lives of at-risk young men, ages 18-22. Founded in 1984, the program's focuses on structure and a balanced family and home life. Facilitated by respected counselors, it is a long-term program intended to heal past wounds and restore families.



### O.B. offering File of Life packets for vulnerable citizens

Orange Beach Fire Marshal Craig Stephenson hands resident Lionel Epp a File of Life packet. As part of the program, the Orange Beach Fire Rescue is providing packets to senior citizens and citizens with chronic medical problems living in the City of Orange Beach. The packets will provide critical health information to first responders in the event of an emergency. File of Life packets are available in the Orange Beach Fire Department Administration building. Please call OBFD at 251-981-6166, or 251-981-1179 for arrangements. Find all the details at [orangebeachal.gov/news/orange-beach-fire-rescue-launches-file-life-program](http://orangebeachal.gov/news/orange-beach-fire-rescue-launches-file-life-program).



### Construction begins on West Lagoon Ave. multi-use path

During the Monday, March 9, Gulf Shores City Council meeting, the council approved construction to begin for the West Lagoon Avenue Multi-Use Path and Resurfacing project. The project consists of widening the existing roadway to include a 5-foot wide bike lane on each side of the street, along with a new 10-foot wide detached multi-use pedestrian path on the north side of the street.

Once completed, pedestrians and cyclists will be able to travel west from Highway 59 to Little Lagoon Pass Park via protected off-road sidewalks and multi-use pathways. The contract for the project, in the amount not to exceed \$1,420,000 dollars, was awarded to McElhenney Construction, LLC. Construction is now underway and is scheduled to be completed before the summer season starts. The road will remain open throughout construction, but additional traffic and intermittent lane closures are to be expected. Please take care while traveling through this area. For more information regarding this project, please contact Public Works at 251-968-1156.





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## Around Town

### Foley preparing for 2020 budget shortfall

Foley Mayor John Koniar said the city has not yet seen the effects the coronavirus quarantine will have on the city's budget, but that will change at the end of April.

"We believe that in addition to many citizens being out of work and many businesses closed, the near shuttering of tourism related spending will cause these revenue streams to see material reductions," the Mayor said in a letter to citizens and Foley business owners. "We, like you, are unsure of the eventual length of the Stay at Home order, or the effect the pandemic will have on our economy even after it is lifted. But we believe that even in the best case scenario, the city will not meet its original budgeted revenue dollars for the remaining months of this fiscal year."

Mayor Koniar said the city is reducing operational expenditures and capital purchases where possible and analyzing forecasted capital projects and delaying those when possible at least until future revenue streams are certain. The city's essential operational activities will not be compromised. Police and fire protection, essential administrative and maintenance functions, and regular sanitation collections will continue. City staff will continue to provide services via phone calls, emails and at the city hall lobby.

Foley is following closely Gov. Ivey's Stay at Home order, in effect until April 30 and he has confidence in the governor's committee that is reviewing steps to re-open the state's economy. "We anticipate that the governor will take measured steps in any reopening scenario. As a municipality, we stand ready to implement any steps the state determines necessary, and to work with our businesses and citizens to create an orderly and safe transition back to a fully-opened economy when that time comes," he said.

Foley's library, senior center, Kids Park, and recreational youth programs, other facilities such as Graham Creek Preserve, dog park, municipal parks and farmers market are closed, but the rose trail remains open. "We will continue to focus on the things that provide us the quality of life that we all expect. As we do initiate the reopening of city facilities and programs, we will initiate a plan that takes into account the same type of safety-related data (capacity, social distancing, and personal protection protocols) that the governor's committee considered in creating their own recommendations to the state."

### Darrellyn Dunmore receives certification

Darrellyn Dunmore, Executive Director of Foley Main Street, received certification as a Historic Real Estate Development Finance Professional from the National Development Council, after successfully completing NDC's intensive historic real estate development finance training series. The two course program courses are five days in length and conclude with an exam.

Darrellyn (pictured) has an extensive background in economic and community development as well as in finance. This certification brings together her past experience and increases her understanding of specific problem solving and financial deal structuring utilized in historic and downtown buildings.

"This position is 80% economic development and 20% community development. An in depth understanding of historic buildings and what it takes to bring them up to their maximum economic efficiency is of great value when working with increasing the economic vitality of a downtown," she said. "This is more important than ever with the impact of COVID-19 on our community."

Foley Main Street is committed to increasing the economic vibrancy of the Foley Main Street district by working with businesses and investors interested in the city's historic downtown. to increase awareness of the Foley Main Street district.

## Gulf Shores allocates \$355K to redo pool surface surface

By John Mullen

Gulf Shores voted to spend about \$355,000 to redo surfaces around the pool at the Bodenhamer Recreation Center and also for doing renovations on locker rooms. The council met virtually from the Erie Meyer Civic Center on April 27 with only two items on the agenda.

"The city opened sealed bids on April 7 and Asphalt Services was the lowest conforming bidder," Public Works Director Mark Acreman said. "This includes the deck repairs, base bid and the four additive alternates related to the renovations of the men's and women's restroom areas. There was one additional alternative for exterior drainage work that we elected not to move forward with.



The project will include the renovation of the pool deck and adjacent staff offices as well as the women's, men's, girls' and boys' restroom and shower areas."

Acreman said an attempt to fix the surface of the deck a few years ago didn't work and the city decided to redo then entire flooring around the pool and offices.

"There are some issues we are trying to address with this project," Acreman said. "There's a deck-coating failure. A couple of years ago we attempted to seal the existing quarry tile that we had around the pool. Even through our best efforts that surface did not adhere. In this particular project we're actually going to (remove) both the tile and the underlying concrete deck and completely repour that and put in new tile over the top. In addition to that, we need some additional channel drains around the perimeter of the pool to help with standing water around the entire pool. We'll be addressing that with this project."

In the locker rooms, the entire floor will also be removed and replaced as well and drains added to help eliminate standing water tracked out of the showers.

"Internally, in the men's and women's locker rooms and shower areas there is additional floor drainage needed," Acreman said. "While we are tearing out the concrete underlying the deck material, we're going to plumb new drains in the showers and locker rooms. So many times, the water will track right out unto the tile floors. There's no drains there today to address this water issue. This will definitely help that situation

there."

The new deck will be topped with slip-resistant tile around the pool and in the locker rooms. Work is scheduled to begin in May and be completed by the end of July.

City staff were taking questions from the public during the meeting and one citizen questioned doing the work at the beginning of summer. Director of Recreation and Cultural Affairs Grant Brown said with the current restrictions due to COVID-19 and the

warmer weather make it an ideal time for the work.

"We feel like now is a really good time to renovate the pool area," Brown said. "We're not sure when the center will reopen based on the COVID-19 situation we are in now and how quickly we can get back in. If we can get through

this in early summer then in the fall and through the winter when its cold outside and people will need an indoor heated pool. We feel like it's the right time to move forward. We've been putting this off for a couple of years trying to get this money budgeted and the right permanent fix for this problem we've been experiencing for a number of years."

Councilman Joe Garriss asked if there were still plans to renovate and expand the lobby at the Bodenhamer Center but those have been put off until the next budget year, Brown said.

"One of the projects we're going to do with the Bodenhamer lobby renovations was to create some additional workout space for treadmills and other cardio equipment," Brown said. "We still plan to replace the machines that are upstairs that need to be replaced and the ones that are able to be moved we plan to move them out to the Cultural Center. We won't be able to without that additional renovation to bring any of that equipment down to an expanded space downstairs. But we are able to add cardio equipment to the Cultural Center as a bit of an escape for additional capacity."

Also during the dual meeting the council:

- OK'd more than \$5 million in expense vouchers including a \$1 million advance payment to the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo and a \$3.5 million prepayment to Retirement Systems of Alabama.
- Awarded a bid for mosquito control products to Target Specialty Products and ADAPCO based upon unit prices submitted.



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## Around Town

### Perdido Key opens for rentals ahead of Memorial Weekend

Escambia County is one of six counties in the Florida Panhandle that will be open for vacation rentals in time for Memorial Weekend, according to a the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation. Short term rentals have been barred in the state since March 27 in an effort to stop the spread of the coronavirus. Escambia property owners will not be allowed to rent to people from states with COVID-19 rates higher than 700 per 100,000 residents. Those states are New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, Louisiana and Michigan. Guests must be provided local coronavirus guidelines and properties must undergo enhanced cleaning and sanitation between bookings.

The Escambia County Board of County Commissioners joined the throng of elected officials and business leaders asking Florida Governor Ron DeSantis to lift the ban on short-term vacation rentals. Florida suspended rental periods shorter than 30 days while allowing hotels to remain open under Phase One of the state's reopening process issued on March 27. The ban had been extended indefinitely.

District II Commissioner Doug Underhill told the Pensacola News Journal that Perdido Key has no hotels and short term rentals bring tourists, and thus dollars and jobs to Southwest Escambia County. "It's imperative that we remember, there are no hotels or motels on Perdido Key," Underhill said.

Santa Rosa County Commissioners also officially asked the governor to lift the ban on vacation rentals, stating that there is only one hotel on Navarre Beach. "Our local economy has suffered greatly due to this ban as well as the continued loss of income that many rely on to pay mortgages and support local employment," that letter stated.

## Dr. McCollough's new book is titled "The Gift You Give Yourself"

The latest book from Dr. Gaylon McCollough, owner of McCollough Plastic Surgery Clinic & Skin Center in Gulf Shores, is now available as an eBook through Brown Books Publishing Group.

The Gift You Give Yourself is a guide to help people navigate the overwhelming world of beauty, skin and health care.

Dr. McCollough's holistic approach will help people find their path to better health and confidence because beauty is deeper than surface appearances. He walks readers through popular cosmetic surgical procedures, skin care regimens, diet and nutrition guidelines, providing them ways to develop well-rounded, personalized goals.

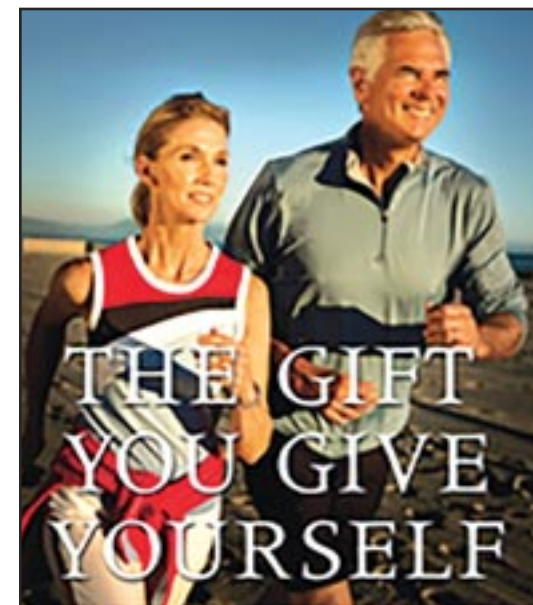
"The Gift You Give Yourself is a treasure – the collection of a life's work of study and practice now generously shared with the world," Dr. Jan Seward said. "Dr. McCollough is a true exemplar of the adage that beauty is so much more than skin deep. By addressing the whole person – body, mind, and spirit – he makes his patients whole."

In addition to revealing plastic surgery secrets, Dr. McCollough explains why and how a full body transformation helps people achieve and maintain their beauty and health goals. He wants to help everyone feel comfortable in their skin so that they can go out into the world and conquer life.

"You have within you the resources to become

the shining example of humanity you were created to be," Dr. McCollough said. "The Gift You Give Yourself can help people learn how to use those resources to mold themselves into the person they have always wanted and can be."

For more info, visit [McColloughPlasticSurgery.com](http://McColloughPlasticSurgery.com).



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The staff at Bellingrath Gardens and Home is excited to announce that the Gardens are open with regular hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. This Phase I reopening applies to the Gardens only; the Home will remain temporarily closed. The Gardens and Home have been closed since March 18. During the Phase I reopening, the Magnolia Café will be open for drinks only. The Bellingrath Gift Shop will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. The Delchamps Gallery of Boehm Porcelain will be open for restroom use only. The Phase I reopening will include adherence to Covid-19 safety guidelines and procedures recommended by government and health officials. Guests are welcome to bring their own masks and hand sanitizer. More info: [bellingrath.org](http://bellingrath.org).



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## AROUND TOWN

### O.B. extends deadlines for contractors to bid on adult gym

Orange Beach City Council extended the deadline for contractors to bid on building its new adult gym at the Orange Beach recreation complex during its April 7 meeting. Contractors, like the rest of the country, are under duress dealing with COVID delays and the extra time will allow more of them to bid, according to O.B. City Administrator Ken Grimes. "They were hit with difficulty getting estimates from subcontractors due to quarantine," Grimes said. The new gym for adults would cost about \$3 million and would free up space in the Recreation Center for the city's ever-expanding Expect Excellence after school and summer program. Camp Sunshine, which sits directly north of where the gym will be built, will have its programs at Orange Beach Elementary School during construction. "Knowing the size of this gym, knowing the interior break-out rooms, larger locker rooms with saunas and various things like that and flexible aerobics rooms," Grimes said. "That's the target. It's a one-story and the design is a 24-7 access that way will have minimal staff there during the day during working hours and then at night it will be where the big open room will be lit and safe and a good line of sight everywhere." Pictured: Artist renderings of the new 17,400-square-foot adult gym at the Orange Beach recreation complex.



### Alabama's sea turtle nesting season started May 1

Alabama's sea turtle nesting season officially started on May 1 and the Share The Beach monitoring program, under the auspices of the Alabama Coastal Foundation (ACF) staff, is ready. The ACF reports that preparing for this year's season was challenging due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But with help from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Alabama Department of Conservation, Share the Beach team leaders and volunteers are ready.

For more info about the program, visit [AlabamaSeaTurtles.com](http://AlabamaSeaTurtles.com) or email : [sjohnson@joinACF.org](mailto:sjohnson@joinACF.org). If you think you've found a sea turtle nest, or if you see an injured or dead sea turtle, call 1-866-SEA-TURT (1-866-732-8878).



### CVB's Beth Gendler recognized as a "15 Over 50" by Connect

Beth Gendler, vice president of sales and sports at the Gulf Shores & Orange Beach Tourism and Sports Commission, was recognized as a member of Connect Association magazine's "15 Over 50." The honor highlights the top professionals in the events industry. Connect Association is a national, B2B magazine that provides resources and ideas to professionals and planners in the meetings and events industry.

"To say we are proud of Beth is an understatement," said Herb Malone, president and CEO at the visitor bureau. "Her experience and passion for this industry and our beach community speaks for itself in growing our meetings, sports and international business. Beth is a trusted leader and friend in the lives of so many, including me. She sets out to make a difference in others' lives, and she is enormously deserving of this honor."

Peers in the events world nominated Gendler. Nominations were received from across the country, then reviewed and evaluated by the Connect staff based on references, industry involvement and other resources.

### South Baldwin Newcomers will donate \$13K in profits

By Karen Brumbelow

South Baldwin Newcomers Club held its annual Toast to the Coast fundraiser on January 23rd, 2020. With the great support we received from numerous local restaurants and bakeries, local businesses that helped promote our fundraiser, our members generously volunteering hours, and the great attendance from our community, we are honored each year to be able to donate scholarships to local high school seniors and local charities. Each year we honor these recipients at our June luncheon, but with the Corona Virus and the circumstances it has brought this year, our June luncheon will not be held.

Our SBNC President, Libby Bates along with Susan West, Special Events Chair are excited to announce we raised \$26,000 this year. We are honored to award \$13,000 to the following Local High School Seniors: Foley High School – Erin Meszaros and Shelly Barcelona. Gulf Shores High School – Emily Anson, Mikaela Boecher, Jackson Carey, Zachary Coeur, Malia Elliot, Braswell McMeans, Elliot Taylos. Coastal Alabama Community College – Grace Parker. We wish each one these students the absolute best in their education journey and in their future.

We are also honored to announce that \$13,000 will be donated to the following local 501c3 organizations: Alabama Sheriff's Boys Ranch, All About Dogs Coastal Rescue, Baldwin County Child Advocacy Center, Baldwin Pops Orchestra, Daybreak Respite, Ecumenical Ministries Meals on Wheels, Family Promise-Baldwin County, Gulf Coast Art Alliance, Gulf Shores High School Band Department, Klaas Kids Regional Search and Operations Center, Light-house of Baldwin County, Mary's Shelter, Safe Harbor Animal Coalition and South Baldwin Literacy Council. Thank you to all these local organizations that work so hard to assist our county residents each day.

Again, a huge thank you to all who supported us in this year's Toast To The Coast – Disco Fever themed fundraiser, we look forward to seeing everyone next year and are excited to hear what the theme will be for 2021.

### 1,000 tune in to watch O.B. Council meeting on Facebook

More than 1,000 people watched on facebook during the April 7 Orange Beach City Council regular session and work session. Council members and city staffers in attendance practiced proper social distancing. The meeting was live-streamed on the city's Facebook page.

The OBA community website live-streamed a few council meetings back in 2006 but there wasn't a lot of interest so it was discontinued. Orange Beach Mayor Tony Kennon said the city is likely to continue doing the broadcast until the pandemic ends.

"I think this is a great meeting and I'd like to just continue to air it and let people look at it," Kennon said. "For those that complain about us meeting I'm sorry but business has got to be done. I think we all are in agreement that the public has a right to voice their opinion when we do business and be seen."

O.B. City Council meets monthly on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m. The next meeting is April 21. Council meetings are immediately followed by the Council of the Whole workshop. Agendas are published at [orangebeach.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/](http://orangebeach.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/).



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## AROUND TOWN

### Gulf Shores fast tracks \$1 million zoo donation

By John Mullen

At a dual work session and regular council meeting on April 13 Gulf Shores the city council agreed to speed up its donation of \$1 million to the Gulf Coast Zoo to help with expenses during the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic and the zoo's closing.

"The zoo requests waiver of the city's 60-day right to rescind the requirement in order to immediately release the zoo's remaining \$625,000 operational reserve balance for operational expenses being incurred during the zoo's closing due to the COVID-19 pandemic in conjunction with a \$1 million city grant," Finance Director Cindy King said. In 2017 the city agreed to give the zoo \$1 million within 30 days after the zoo delivered its certification of completion. The \$1 million was to assist with operating expenses once all other resources are exhausted. The zoo opened on March 14 and closed almost immediately due to the COVID-19 pandemic and reported it had enough money to last through March and most of April while being closed during the pandemic.

According to city documents, the zoo will need the city's \$1 million as well as the \$625,000 the zoo borrowed for their operating reserves to assist with operating expenses sooner than the 60-day period. The council voted 4-0 with Steve Jones, a member of the zoo's board of directors, abstaining. Councilman Gary Sinak was not present.

"We want to thank the mayor and city council members for your continued support of the zoo during these unprecedented and challenging times," Zoo Director Joel Hamilton said in an email to the council. "Your dedication toward helping the zoo remain a successful member of this community is much appreciated. We all look forward to opening the zoo very soon. We would not be able to do that without the support of a great community and the city behind us."

### O.B. Lions Rubber Duck Race postponed 'til Sept.

The Orange Beach Lions Club's Annual Rubber Duck Race fundraiser has been postponed from April 25 to Sept. 26 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All tickets sold for the April 25 event will be honored on Sept. 26. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26th at The Oasis Resort lazy river at The Wharf. Six raffle tickets - aka a 6 quack - are \$25 or get one ticket for \$5. The winning duck (and ticket) receives a \$500 grand prize. All of the proceeds go toward college scholarships and community service in Orange Beach.

For raffle tickets and/or sponsorship information, contact Angela Claypool at 251-504-2773 or Iris Ethridge at 251-978-9700.

## New features & old favorites will greet shoppers at Orange Beach Rouses Grab-and-go options, Mongolian Grill among new state of the art options

By John Mullen

The new remodel at the Rouses on Perdido Beach Blvd. in the heart of Orange Beach includes more options of grab and go foods to take the cooking out of your vacation and/or your supper plans.

**"That's something fun and the first time we've done this in any of our stores. The cotton machine and the popcorn popper right up there in the front."**

"It's fully ready and we're very, very excited and very, very proud to have this new state-of-the-art grocery store right here in Orange Beach," Rouses Marketing Director Tim Accosta said. "It's one of Rouses' best that we've done. It's ready."

The official grand opening is Wednesday, May 20 but some of the new features are up and running already.

"We added a Mongolian grill and we've basically expanded the whole deli and bakery department from what was in here before," Accosta said. "We have

Mongolian bowls. We have chicken, beef, shrimp, vegetables and you got a combination of either rice bowls or noodle bowls. That's been very popular. It's available for grab and go and we will also be preparing the dishes right in front of you. That's the first thing you see when you walk in."

The supermarket will also now feature several side dishes or bigger dishes that can be warmed up later without messing up the kitchen.

"We also added a chef-inspired case with dishes ready to take home," Accosta said. "Just pick 'em up and take 'em home and heat up for dinner. If you want to get a steak we've got some potatoes and other sides ready to go. Broccoli and other stuff, too. That's also right in the front near the Mongolian grill."

"It's perfect. If you're down here visiting on the beach just take it back to the condo and you're good to go. You've got your meal. Check out that chef-inspired case with the potatoes and so forth you can have a home-cooked meal at your condo without doing all the cooking. Just heat it up."

Louisiana visitors will also get a taste of home from the smoked ribs and seafood cooked out front to a variety of Cajun products throughout the store not readily available in most Alabama stores.

"We'll have our grill going and we'll be outside boiling some crawfish and some seafood," Accosta said. "We're going to be doing our full-slab ribs on the grill outside and some steaks as well. That's been a very popular favorite of the crowds down here in Orange Beach and Gulf Shores. If you're coming in from Louisiana and you want to be boiling, get your seafood boil or fish fry all ready to go."

The grand re-opening includes a special on royal reds starting May 20 for \$5.99 a pound. "This is the large 10-15 count royal reds. For that price. These are the big boys. It's going to be a real popular item I believe," Accosta said.

Rouses' meat department and section has been expanded to include not only the steaks they already offer but some new ones and some specialty dishes as well.

"We added a completely new specialty meat case with our choice angus beef and prime beef steaks as well," Accosta said. "We've been doing our fresh sausage made in house ever since we opened up over here. So, we have some beautiful, beautiful steaks bacon-wrapped, pork tenderloins. We have kabobs, New York strip steaks, prime filet, ribeye steaks, green-onion stuffed bacon-wrapped tenderloin, bacon-wrapped stuffed chicken breasts. A lot of great specials in the meat department. We have lobsters and fresh seafood, too."

Other items include a sushi bar where the rolls are made fresh daily. That includes a \$5 roll each day. There will be a fresh-cut counter offering up fruits and vegetables.

For the beach, you can get all the chairs, toys, umbrellas, hats and complete beer and wine section and coolers to take them in for your beach day. There's even a fishing section that offers tackle and artificial and frozen bait.

A special feature not available in any other Rouses store will greet customers as they come in.

"We have cotton candy and popcorn machines in here making fresh popcorn," Accosta said. "That's something fun and the first time we've done this in any of our stores. The cotton machine and the popcorn popper right up there in the front."



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# O.B.'s Raegan Mitchell USTA State Tennis Player of the Year

Raegan Mitchell (pictured) from Orange Beach has recently received the USTA Alabama Female Jr. Tennis Player of the Year award. She is a junior in high school and is the daughter of Rhett and Amy Russell. Rhett Russell has served as the tennis pro at the Orange Beach Tennis Center for many years.



Raegan is one of six children that play tennis in the family. Her older sister Blaeke plays college tennis at

Campbellsville University in Kentucky. Brock, Racquel, Blaeze and David Rhett compete all across the state of Alabama and the south in their tennis divisions.

Raegan's goal is to play NCAA Division I tennis. This award is definitely one of the highlights of her tennis career. Her tennis style is an unusual one. She has two backhand groundstrokes. When she was 7, she was asked, "Are you ready to move to one hand for your forehand?" Raegan responded, "No mom, I am not doing it and you can't make me."

She is a straight A student and home-schools through First Assembly of God Christian School in Robertsedale, Alabama. Raegan wants to major in chemistry in college and possibly get a master's degree. Raegan's academic goal is to get her ACT high enough to get an academic scholarship also. Raegan has a tennis recruiting trip out of state in April this year. Raegan is a member of First Baptist Gulf Shores and is involved in her youth group. Other highlights of her junior tennis career include: representing Alabama at Southern Cup 2015, 2016 and 2019. She won the national bronze ball with her mom Amy Russell at the National Mother Daughter Clay Court Championships in Naples, Florida in 2019. She is going for the gold ball in October 2020.

# Fern Ave. extension allows quicker access to SBMC

After a number of setbacks, Foley's Fern Avenue extension connecting Hwy. 59 and the Foley Beach Express will open on Monday, April 6 at 8 a.m., giving citizens another east/west alternative between Highway 59 and the Beach Express and quicker access to

South Baldwin Hospital for Pleasure Island residents. The new east/west connector, which is two miles in length, will allow emergency vehicles from the south to bypass Foley's downtown. This will enable faster, safer transport for patients en route to South Baldwin Regional Medical Center while also reducing traffic interruptions in the city center.

The project is a cooperative agreement between ALDOT and Foley. The plans were provided by the city and approved by ALDOT. The construction funding was 80 percent federal and 20 percent local.

Initially, there will be a crossover for north-bound traffic on the Foley Beach Express to access Fern Avenue. Officials anticipate that in the future, traffic counts will justify a traffic signal at this location.

# Hot Air Balloon Fest is postponed 'til Aug. 28-29

The 16th Annual Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival, originally scheduled May 1-2 at the Foley Sportsplex, has been postponed until Aug. 28-29. Organizers said it was for the health & safety of everyone involved. More fest info: [gulfcoastballoonfestival.com](http://gulfcoastballoonfestival.com).



Artist Sabrina Steuber (pictured) of Huntsville, winner of the fest poster design contest, posted that she was happy the fest was not cancelled after the announcement. "I'm glad to hear it's been rescheduled, I can still celebrate winning the poster competition & experience the festival," she wrote.

Steuber considers Gulf Shores her second home, as her family visits every fall. She was also one of the winners of Turtle Tracks, a local public art project dedicated to bringing awareness and support to Alabama Gulf Coast environmental conservation, sustainable tourism, and community arts & culture.

She designed a turtle sculpture that is on display permanently at The Beach Club.

The Turtle Tracks Art on Parade program sought out original designs for the Bale of Turtles that was released in and around Gulf Shores. The program was coordinated by the Gulf Coast Arts Alliance & Gallery, located at 225 E 24th St. in Gulf Shores. Pictured; Artist Sabrina Steuber, The 2020 fest poster.

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# COOKIN' WITH CAROLYN

By CAROLYN GODFREY

## CHICKEN ALMONDINE

- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 1 Tbsp. butter
- 1 pkg. (6 oz.) long grain and wild rice
- 2-1/4 cups chicken broth
- 3 cups cubed cooked chicken
- 2 cups frozen french-style green beans, thawed
- 1 can (10-3/4 oz.) condensed cream of chicken soup, undiluted
- 3/4 cup sliced almonds, divided
- 1 jar (4 oz.) diced pimientos, drained
- 1 tsp. pepper
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 bacon strip, cooked and crumbled

In a large saucepan, saute onion in butter until tender. Add rice with contents of seasoning packet and broth. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 25 min. or until liquid is absorbed. Uncover; set aside to cool. In a large bowl, combine the chicken, green beans, soup, 1/2 cup of almonds, pimientos, pepper and garlic powder. Stir in rice. Transfer to a greased 2-12 qt. baking dish. Sprinkle with bacon and remaining almonds. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 30-35 min. or until heated through. Yield: 8 servings.

## CINNAMON APPLE CIDER MONKEY BREAD

- 5 envelopes (.74 oz. each) Instant spiced cider mix
- 3 tubes refrigerated cinnamon rolls with icing
- 2 medium Granny Smith apples, peeled and chopped
- 1 cup chopped pecans or walnuts
- 6 Tbsp. butter, melted
- 2 tsp. ground cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine cider mixes. Separate cinnamon rolls, setting aside icings; cut each roll into quarters. Add to the cider mixture; toss to coat. Arrange a third of the dough pieces in a well-greased 10-in fluted tube pan; top with half of the apples and half of the pecans. Repeat layers once. Top with the remaining dough. Mix melted butter, cinnamon and icing from 1 container until blended. Drizzle over top of rolls. Bake 45-50 min. or until golden brown. (If needed, cover top loosely with foil during last 5 min. to prevent overbrowning.) Immediately invert bread onto a serving plate; keep pan inverted for 10 min., allowing bread to release. Remove pan. Meanwhile, microwave the remaining icing, uncovered, until softened, about 10 seconds. Drizzle over bread. Serve warm. Enjoy!

## Mullet Toss Weekend is postponed, not cancelled

The Flora-Bama Mullet Toss has been postponed until later this year. But events associated with the Gulf Coast's Greatest Beach Party - The Mullet Man Triathlon and Mullet Classic Golf Tourney - will not be held. Along with the Toss, those events raise more than \$25,000 for local schools, sports associations and charities every year. It is the main fundraiser for the Pirates of Lost Treasure Mardi Gras krewe's Secret Santa fund.

## Mobile food pantry June 6 to O.B.'s The Island Church

Christian Life the Island Church in Orange Beach will have its next Island Mobile Food Pantry on Saturday, June 6.

Local families can receive a minimum of 50

pounds of food beginning at 10 a.m. The Island Mobile Food Pantry serves pre-registered residents of Baldwin County at least six times per year.

For information on registration, please call Lisa in the office at 251.967.4840.

## The Captains School is offering its classes online

The Captains School is still in business, but Capt. Casey is now offering all of his company's courses live online. "Although the US Coast Guard licensing office is closed, we can still submit original and renewal applications and our students will be first in line if they go ahead and submit their paperwork now," Capt. Casey said.

"Our office crew is working from home and can provide every service we normally do, with no problems. We hope the live online seminar/webinar works. We are here to continue to help mariners through the maze."

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## AROUND TOWN



### Gulf State Park Pier closed until mid-July

Gulf State Park Pier is currently closed to visitors, as the park begins an exciting \$2.4 million renovation project that will modernize one of the Gulf Coast's top attractions. The pier is expected to re-open in mid-July. The GSP Pier is one of the longest on the Gulf Coast and provides 2,448 feet of fishing space.

The major renovation includes replacing the wooden decking and handrails of the 10-year-old landmark, creating a new observation deck and installing turtle-friendly lighting. A new 50-by-18-foot elevated observation deck will be constructed above the existing pier deck on the south end of the pier, which will give visitors approximately 850 additional square feet of viewing-space.

The new decking, built with sustainably sourced Ipe (pronounced ee-pay) boards, is designed to hold up for decades against exposure to saltwater, wind and rain. The panels can be removed and stored, which is a major safety feature for the inevitable arrival of a hurricane on the Gulf Coast. The new observation desk will be equipped with an elevator. The project will also include refurbishing the offices, restrooms, concession area and bait shop.

"Visiting the Gulf State Park Pier is almost a rite of passage for people who come to Gulf Shores," said Chris Blankenship, Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. "Because it is such an important part of our park, we are absolutely dedicated to maintaining the pier and ensuring it is safe and accessible to our many thousands of guests. We also want to make it as environmentally friendly as possible for sea turtles and other wildlife."

The \$2.4 million project was approved and funded by the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Program, Alabama Trustee Implementation Group. Commissioner Blankenship represents the State of Alabama on this group. The contractor on the project is M.D. Thomas, an Orange Beach-based company.

"While the timing of the renovation isn't ideal, it's good to know that this needed renovation work will allow local anglers to continue using the pier for years to come," said David Thornton, a local angler and expert on fishing at the pier.



## Baldwin high schoolers invited to sing for scholarships Shrimp Fest competition will be held on stage Oct. 10

The National Shrimp Festival Singing for Scholarships event, created in 2013 to support local schools and our talented youth, has opened registration for the 2020 event. The singing competition will feature students who are each chosen to represent their high school. Each high school conducts its own contest and the best will perform on-stage at The Shrimp Fest on Oct. 10 at 10 a.m.

Although each high school conducts its own contest, opportunities are also available for private school and home-schooled students. Scholarships are awarded to the top three participants as well as to each high school.

The awards are: 1st Place – \$1,000 for student and \$500 to represented school; 2nd Place – \$500 for student and \$500 represented school; 3rd Place – \$250 for student and \$500 represented school.

The competition is open students in 9th - 12th grades attending school in Baldwin County. Past winners are eligible. Deadline for submitting entries online is Sept. 11 (or until all spaces are filled). For more info, visit [myshrimpfest.com](http://myshrimpfest.com) or email [shrimpfestivalSFS@gmail.com](mailto:shrimpfestivalSFS@gmail.com).

Pictured: The 2019 contest winners and competition coordinator Allison Headricks. Gulf State Park Pier will close for renovation.

### O.B. to move fire station from Wharf to Powerline

Orange Beach City Council voted to start the condemnation process to declare eminent domain on property owned by Georgine Conner on Powerline road to relocate the current Station 5 housed in The Wharf's old sales office at the entrance to the retail and entertainment complex. The land acquisition would include a nearly half-mile strip that is 220 feet wide along the roadway to put in a public road utility infrastructure. A 380-foot by 400-foot parcel at the southeast corner of Powerline Road and Canal Road would be for building the fire station.



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## Around Town

### Local marketing professionals awarded scholarships

Gulf Shores & Orange Beach Tourism awarded scholarships to attend STS Marketing College to Crystal Hinds of Brett/Robinson Vacation Rentals, Derek Rowan of Hang-out Hospitality Group and Sherry Snider of Perdido Beach Resort.

The scholarships cover each year of the three-year program. STS Marketing College is designed to deepen professionals' knowledge of all facets of destination marketing and promote a working knowledge of current trends, data and implementation strategies. Students attend classes taught by industry experts for one week each summer at the University of North Georgia in Dahlonega. After completion of the program, students earn the Travel Marketing Professional (TMP) certification.

The CVB will send three of their own employees - Jack Gravolet and Faith Henley for the first time and Lauren Traywick for year two. They will be joined by second-year students Kristin McIntosh of Meyer Vacation Rentals, Sharon Wiese of Coastal Alabama Business Chamber and Jenna Romano of LuLu's. Sheena Mizell of The Wharf will attend for her third and final year.

Four local professionals were recognized for completing the program - scholarship recipients Cecelia Mace of The Original Oyster House and Tara McMeans of Design Print Promote and GSOBT's Mary Sergeant and Claire Blackwell. For more information, visit [GulfShores.com](http://GulfShores.com)

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### Blackened Catfish

Two delicate fillets, sprinkled with cajun seasonings and lightly seared. \$17.99

### Coconut Shrimp

Dipped in beer batter, sprinkled with coconut and fried. \$17.99

### Shrimp Creole

Spicy tomato and vegetable sauce over yellow rice. Served with one side dish. \$17.99

### Crawfish Etoufee

Crawfish tails, onions, sweet peppers, and yellow celery simmered in a cajun roux over yellow rice. Served with one side dish. \$17.99

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Fried Flounder - lightly battered and fried golden brown.....	\$8.55
Grilled Chicken - with a light touch of lemon-herb olive oil.....	\$8.55
Chicken Creole - smothered in a spicy tomato & vegetable sauce Served on yellow rice.....	\$8.55
Fried Chicken Tenders - batter-dipped tenders, deep-fried. Served w/honey mustard.....	\$8.55
Country Fried Steak - served w/cream gravy.....	\$8.55
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Vegetable Plate - your choice of four (4) side dishes.....	\$8.55

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Coconut Shrimp with spicy orange marmalade: \$12.99

Stuffed Shrimp bacon wrapped with crabmeat dressing & monterey jack cheese : \$12.99

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Fried Oysters with cocktail sauce: \$14.99

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Broiled Seafood Platter shrimp, scallops & flounder \$14.99

Fried Chicken Tenders with honey mustard \$8.99

Grilled Chicken Breast w/ a light touch of lemon herb oil: \$8.99

Yellow-Fin Tuna grilled or blackened: \$11.99

Mahi-Mahi grilled, blackened, broiled: \$11.99

Flounder fried or broiled: \$9.99

Grouper grilled, blackened, broiled or fried: \$12.99

**Side Dishes**

Sweet Potato Casserole • Cole Slaw • Baked Potato

Steamed Vegetables • French Fries • Yellow Rice

Substitute House or Caesar Salad for a side dish Add \$1.99

## Lunch Specials \$7.99

Includes Tea & Bread

**Monday:** 6oz Filet Mignon served with fresh steamed vegetables, home made mashed potatoes & gravy, fresh baked bread, and ice cream for dessert

**Tuesday:** BBQ Meatloaf 2 Sides

**Wednesday:** 6oz Filet Mignon served with fresh steamed vegetables, home made mashed potatoes & gravy, fresh baked bread, and ice cream for dessert

**Thursday:** Beef Tips over White Rice 2 Sides

**Friday:** Chef Special



## Around Town

### O.B. awards first bid for East Canal Rd. widening project

The City of Orange Beach awarded a bid for preliminary work on the widening of Canal Road from Doc's Seafood Shack and Oyster Bar to Wilson Boulevard at its April 7 meeting. Thompson Engineering will provide engineering and land surveying services for the addition of a roundabout to the widening of Canal Road in an amount not to exceed \$45,700, according to city documents.

"This is the engineering of east Canal Road as the engineers that had been with Burke Kleinpeter (BKI) have moved to Thompson," said Administrator Ken Grimes.

During the regular session, the council also:

- Postponed a resolution authorizing execution of an amended and restated transfer of guaranteed contribution and use agreement with the Baldwin County Board of Education for a Performing Arts Building.

- OK'd resolutions authorizing the execution of a professional services agreements with McCollough Architecture and Davis Architects. Both are annual professional service renewals. McCollough and Davis are partnered on the adult fitness gym, baseball and softball stadiums, Mako Athletic Training Facility-Field House and the current small gym nearing completion.

- OK'd a resolution declaring certain personal property owned by the city as surplus and unneeded and authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to dispose of such property. The property will be auctioned on govdeals.com. Included are a 2012 Chevy Tahoe, a 2005 Ford Explorer, a 1997 Chevy Suburban and several UTVs and ATVs.

- OK'd a resolution authorizing a contract with Olsen Associates to perform engineered beach annual monitoring in the amount of \$48,200.

- OK'd a resolution authorizing the submittal of a grant application to the FEMA Port Security Grant Program to help fund a \$690,000 boat for the police department. If awarded, the grant would pay for 75 percent of the costs, or \$517,000, and the city's cost would be about \$172,000. The new vessel would replace the 20-year-old Marine 1.

- Postponed public hearings and first readings of ordinances proposed for new homes in Cypress Village east of The Wharf and Robinson Grove on the east side of Walker Key on Terry Cove.

- Approved an outdoor music permit for Live Bait Restaurant on beach road in west Orange Beach.

- Accepted a bid on Christmas decorations from Winterland for unit pricing not to exceed \$22,000.

- Recognized Ronald F. Callaway, the first mayor of Orange Beach, who passed on March 9 at the age of 87.

- OK'd a resolution authorizing the execution of a grant award agreement with the Alabama Audubon Society for the Alabama Coastal Bird Stewardship Program in the amount of \$2,650.

- Heard a request for an extension of the Turquoise Place Parking planned unit development for a planned parking deck east of the towers on the beach. It's about a \$12 million project and Kennon said the homeowners' association at Turquoise wanted to collect two summers' worth of fees and rent to help pay for the project. The extension is requested until Sept. 30, 2021.

- Discussed a resolution authorizing a contract with McCollough Architecture to provide a project manual for the Coastal Resources Department Trail Maintenance Shop and Wildlife Center for \$4,500.

- Agreed to hear an appeal from the planning commission's denial to on Broadway Group's plan to build a Dollar General on Canal Road across the road from the Keg and west of Bear Point Plaza. The hearing is scheduled for June.

### Locals start Go-Fund-Me for Christian Service Center

Orange Beach resident Karen Hameroff and others have organized a go-fund-me fundraiser on behalf of Hope Becklund to benefit the Christian Service Center. The Covid19 Pandemic and current regulations have left a grave impact on our small businesses and their employees, which depend on tourism to stay afloat. "We all are aware of the situation as it is a global one, but locally we need our community to help and make a difference collectively by sharing the love," writes Hameroff, who started the fundraiser with Sherry Odom and Terri Long of Wildflowers Boutique.

"The Christian Service Center has always

been a strength to those who are in need on the Alabama Gulf Coast," Hameroff added. "They provide both direct and indirect services to assist the local population. Some of the hardest hit in our beach town are our hospitality industry, local gig workers, like musicians, and housekeeping personnel."

GoFundMe is waiving all service fees for charitable donations and funds to continue aid for the emergency and financial needs of all our locals; to include paying bills like rent, power and water, medical needs and supplying food. The Christian Service Center is located at 317 Dolphin Ave. in Gulf Shores and is open from 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday. Monetary and food donations can be dropped off during those hours. Donations can also be mailed to P.O. Box 882, Gulf Shores, AL 36547.

### ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER AT SPANISH COVE

Residents of Spanish Cove in Lillian enjoyed a fun-filled St. Patrick's Day dinner. The meal, prepared by the Activities Committee, consisted of corned beef, boiled potatoes, cabbage, sour kraut and pie. Perhaps the pie dessert was in commemoration of Pi Day, March 14.





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## PICTURES OF THE WEEK



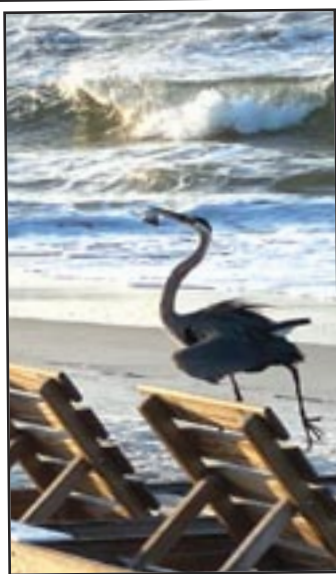
Courtney Gibb shares "Layers of Views of Orange Beach."



Pelicans at Zeke's Landing practice social distancing: OBPD Interim Chief Steve Brown found social distancing guidance from the pelicans at Zeke's Landing and shared his pictures on the Orange Beach facebook page. "Know what to do to stay healthy, don't wing it," Chief Brown posted.



From Jerry Hack.



Early Morning Breakfast in Orange Beach! (Submitted by Brandy Reeves)



Pictures from Little Lagoon courtesy of Sherry Byrd. "He's going to get his own minnows out of the trap hanging on the little pipe," she writes.



Cathy Deal of Innerarity Point shares a heron shot from Perdido Pass, and a sunset & moonrise from Innerarity Point.





# CLASSIFIEDS

## FOR SALE

### THE GROVE

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Just North of Gulf Shores; Building lots available from \$19,900 for your new home. Financing available. Text Alla if you are interested. 251-923-6475; Ryals Realty.

### JOSEPHINE AREA

Josephine area; Estate lot. All utilities are at the street. Nearly 1 acre. Beautiful. Restricted to new construction only. \$49,900. Owner financing available with \$1,000 down, 8% interest. Text 251-269-2156; Ryals Realty.

### 1 ACRE HOMESITE

One Acre Homesite; Between Gulf Shores and Foley. Ok for Tiny Home / RV / Mobile Home. Owner financing Available. 251-747-0097; Ryals Realty.

### NORTH OF GULF SHORES

North of Gulf Shores; nice land; Owner Financing. Very large lot suitable for mobile home, new home, or RV. OK for 2 homes! \$69,900. Seller will finance with \$1000 down, 8% interest. No credit check. Ryals Realty; Text 251-422-8718.

### 17 ACRE GETAWAY

17 acre getaway; In the woods just north of I-10. Super fine land. Ideal hunting getaway. \$99,900 and easy financing with \$2500 down. Text 251-269-2156 Ryals Realty.

## FOR RENT

### 1BR-SENIORS ONLY

Seniors; 1 BR for lease in Gulf Shores; Roomy Island Style Cottage apt in downtown Gulf Shores, ON the Intercoastal Waterway! Near park, restaurants, and churches. Just a few blocks from Acme Oyster House. No dogs, no smoking. ALL utilities included. 55+ older only. Only \$790/mo. Text 251-752-0381

### GULF SHORES 2BR

Gulf Shores 2BR: Roomy 2br townhome next to Acme Oyster House and Tacky Jacks! Includes all utilities except electric. \$1100. No dogs, no smoking. Stable income required. Text 251-923-6475 if you think you qualify.

### COMING SOON

Coming Soon; Brand new apartments in Gulf Shores; Text Marbella Luxury Apartments to get on the list: 251-923-6475. RV LOTS-SENIORS

Attn. Seniors: RV Site in Retirement Park; Located in Country Crossroads Retirement Community! This is a 55+ only park. All utilities are included. Clubhouse, catfish pond, concrete roads, street lamps, nice neighbors. Bring your RV here. \$395 per month. Call 251-422-8718 and leave a message.

### RV LOT!

RV Lot Between Foley and Gulf Shores; Lot only. All utilities are included. \$375 per month. Text 251-747-1688.

### RV LOT-LONG TERM

RV lot for lease long term; Located in Summerdale. \$325 per month with utilities. Call asap 251-269-2156

### GS OFFICE SPACE

Office, cafe shop for lease; Downtown Gulf Shores in Uptown Plaza on East 20th Ave. in Gulf Shores; 1400SF. Nice space, and very nice property for, Office, Retail, or your business. Available now. Text 251-923-6475; Ryals Realty.

### HIGHWAY 59 LOT

Highway 59 Frontage lot; North Side of Foley. 220' frontage. Approx 2 acres. \$1000 per month. No improvements; lot only. 251-269-2156; Hosteeva Realty.

### WAREHOUSE

16,750 SF Warehouse for lease; South side of Foley. One mile from Owa and Walmart. 1.5 Acres included. All paved. 300' OFF OF 59. Buy or Lease for \$4,500 per month. Easy owner financing. 251-747-0097; Ryals Realty.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### LOST DOG

Breed: Morkie (Maltese and Yorkie mix); Microchipped; Spayed Female; Color: White; Wearing: Pink collar with no tags and purple flower in her hair; Sophie was last seen headed towards the TCBY on 12th Ave. in Gulf Shores on May 10. If found call 602-696-0838 or 623-680-2377; Reward.

### REPTILE COLLECTOR

Reptile collector would like to hear from others in this area to buy, sell, trade. Call 850-437-3375.

## SERVICES

### CONDO CARE

Urgent care for your condo or beach house; same day response; Condo and HVAC care from \$35 per month; preventative maintenance programs available; bonded & insured; To get with the pros, call 251-504-2337. (2/30)

### ROOF REPAIRS/TREE LIMB REPAIRS

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ices). Call or text 850-712-7191. (3/26)

### PERSONAL TRAINER

World record holder weight lifter and local resident Betty Lafferty; your home or gym: specializing in senior fitness; 251-978-0474.

### ART LESSONS

Art Lessons w Talis @ Artworks Studio and gallery @ Villagio on Perdido Key; tues & Thursday 10:30-12:30 am; Paint & Wine Class Wed 5-7 (or by special request); Call for more information or reservations; Talis 850-261-9617; 13700 Perdido Key Dr.

### GUITAR LESSONS

By appointment at our Orange Beach

recording studio; 25823 Canal Rd. in Orange Beach; call Top Hat; 251-609-7907; also demo recording and cd duplication.

## HELP WANTED

### DAVID'S GALLERY

Employees, including tattoo artists, piercers; please apply in person; David's Gallery; 809 Gulf Shores Pkwy.; Tues. thru Sun.; noon 'til six.

Security position; evening position and full time. If interested, please call 251-224-1000.

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