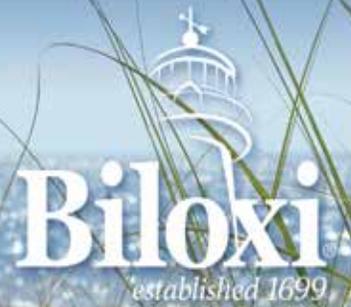


# BNews Monthly

MARCH 2019

*A compendium of what's happening in Biloxi*



## MARCH MADNESS!

Two Mardi Gras parades, a St. Patrick's Day parade and Grillin' on the Green top the month

### Hey, mister, throw me some asphalt

So here's the big question from paraders and Carnival organizers alike, and not unlike businesses and motorists navigating East Biloxi streets: Enough with the detours, when are the roads going to be done?

The good news for North contractor Oscar Renda is the parades, for the most part, are south of the CSX railway. However, motorists will still encounter a dirt road or two north of the railway (see Pages 8-9).

It's a different story for Hemphill Construction Co., south of the railway.

Here's the bottom line: The parades will roll on their usual routes. All of the routes will be paved, even if it's some temporary paving on Howard just east of Porter, says Jack Gratwick of Hemphill Construction.

Paraders will still be in or near a huge, construction zone. Irish Hill Drive, for instance, will be "rocked," just shy of asphalt. Some sidewalks may not be complete and no final coats of asphalt have been installed.

Now back to that lingering question: When will all of the work be finished?

Oscar Renda has a change order or two in the works, but, the fact is, the deadline remains the first week of January 2019, with the meter running on \$6,000-a-day assessments. Hemphill, whose contract sought to minimize disruption, is only months into its 30-month contract.

► See detailed maps and the monthly video of progress at [biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi](http://biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi)

### What you need to know

What a month, Mardi Gras parades March 2 and 5, and St. Patrick's Day parade, along with Grillin' on the Green 11 days later, on March 16.

Here's the inside story:

- Nick L. Shrimp: A toast to the Elks, Page 2
- Neptune Dukes it out this year, Page 6
- Gulf Coast Carnival ready to roll, Page 6
- The wearing and grilling o' the green, Page 7
- Lent, Page 15



Reigning King D'Iberville Keith Williams lets it fly at the 2018 parade. Photo courtesy of Gulf Coast Carnival Association Royal Photographer James Edward Bates

**B-Alert** Text BILOXI to 888777  
for Mardi Gras traffic info

# Each Mardi Gras, Biloxi Elks serve as a reminder of what once was

One of the many time-honored traditions of **Mardi Gras** – the public traditions anyway – is the customary toast to the respective Kings and Queens as they parade by the **City Hall** reviewing stands.

The ritual doesn't offer the pomp and pageantry of, say, the **Neptune ball** or the **Gulf Coast Carnival** coronation, but nonetheless it's an obligatory custom. Whatever words are proclaimed or exchanged is usually drowned

out by the blare of nearby floats, and crowds down the street wonder why the parade has paused, albeit temporarily.

But it's a custom.

Thankfully, you know it's over when the glasses are raised.

One of the things that may be lost on the occasion is the participation of a handful of tuxedoed gents. They're usually in the background, but they were there.

They represent the **Biloxi Elks Lodge 606**, and their presence is a reminder of the days when the stately, three-story Elks lodge stood across from Biloxi City Hall.

"The toasting was actually done from the third floor balcony of the Elks Lodge, not from City Hall," says current Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler "**Chuckie**" **Burdine**, who will be among the Elks representatives on the City Hall reviewing stand this year at toast time.

The old wood-frame building opened in 1913, after three years of construction, remembers longtime Elk **Jimmy Poulos**.

"All the carnival balls, any big event, this is where it would be held," Poulos said. "There was a ballroom on the third floor, and we had our meetings and other stuff on the second floor. I remember that third floor had ceilings of 25 to 30 feet high, and a metal, powder blue horseshoe-shaped balcony, which was one of the last on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

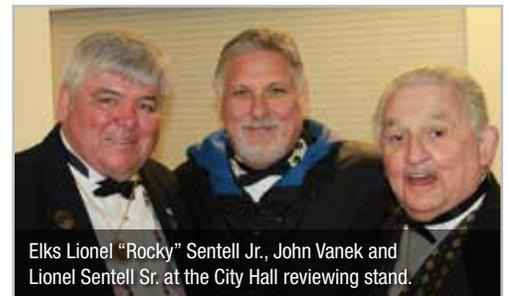
"In fact, the Elks lodge was where the people who started Mardi Gras met. They would discuss the preparations, the ball, which, of course, was held at the lodge, and the parade, which is where the Exalted Ruler would toast the king and queen.

"And the balls, that was a story, too," Poulos said. "They didn't have a fire escape to handle the people that were at the balls or other big events, so when they had a ball, they would get the fire department to put their ladders up to

A mule-drawn Elks float in front of the lodge on Lameuse Street in an image Elk Jimmy Poulos says may be from the World War I era.



The queen and maids of Gulf Coast Carnival, on the reviewing stand in front of the Elks Lodge, raise a glass to the King in the early '50s.



Elks Lionel "Rocky" Sentell Jr., John Vanek and Lionel Sentell Sr. at the City Hall reviewing stand.



Hipster "FoFo" Gilich, aka The Mayor, with fellow Elks "Rocky" and Lionel Sentell, Sr.

the big windows on the third floor in case there was an emergency."

For children, it was a bewildering place – year 'round. "My Daddy and my Grandpa and my uncles would take me places when I was a kid," said Biloxi Public Works Director **Billy Ray Allen**. "One of the things I remember about the Elks Lodge, as, maybe a 7-year-old, was this staircase that was lined with all of these old pictures of old downtown Biloxi and the old factories, where I eventually worked growing up. But you don't see collection of pictures like that today."

The building began losing its popularity as a venue when the **Hurricane Room** opened at the **Buena Vista** in the '60s. In 1975, it became a victim of urban renewal. The Elks moved to a beachfront site adjacent to the **Biloxi City Cemetery**, and their former footprint in downtown was ceded to a new

downtown public library, which, owing to its San Francisco-based architects, was said to be earthquake-resistant. Such resistance did not cover hurricanes, however.

So the Elks Lodge was torn down and the library was built on higher ground a few blocks away, on Howard Avenue.

But surviving is the membership of Biloxi Elks Lodge 606, an organization that's been around 118 years, focusing on a year-round program of philanthropy that focuses on the less fortunate. And at Mardi Gras for the toast.

"Last year, I think they helped serve the champagne on the reviewing stand, and when the King and Queen arrived and were toasted, I think the exalted ruler toasted as well," Burdine said. "It's an important tradition for the Elks, as an organization that has been a part of this community for so many years. And it will continue to be."



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2019 KEESLER & BILOXI AIR & SPACE SHOW

# MAY 4-5

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Point Cadet Marina at Billfish Tournament time.



## City seeks to modernize Point Cadet Marina

The Biloxi City Council has OK'd a contract of almost a quarter-million dollars to upgrade the electrical system at Point Cadet Marina, and the work only touches the surface of what the city wants to see done at the 35-year-old facility.

Contractor DNP of Biloxi was awarded a \$228,000 job that will repair electrical issues on the east side of the marina, and on the west side, upgrade electrical pedestals from 100 amps to 200 amps to accommodate larger boats, especially the hundred or so 65-foot-plus craft at the marina for the annual billfish tournament. The work is expected to begin this month and be completed by the end of May, ahead of the June 3-9 tournament.

Meanwhile, the city is asking the Legislature to fund an 18-million-dollar bond issue for the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources to upgrade Point Cadet Marina to accommodate larger vessels and improve docking facilities for research vessels operated by the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory.

"We're asking the Legislature to set aside about one million dollars a year of the \$8-plus million a year in Tidelands lease funds generated each year right now from Biloxi waterfront businesses," Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich said. "If our local legislators are able to make that happen, DMR will be able to use that money for bonding capacity to fund modernization of Point Cadet Marina."

"We're not talking about expanding the marina. We're talking about using the existing space, but using floating docks, which will be less susceptible to storm damage, to create larger slips, and deepening the marina and improving the west bulkhead at the same time."

Back when the marina was constructed in 1986, as part of the city's award-winning waterfront master plan during the administration of Mayor Gerald Blessey, there was a demand for smaller vessels, Gilich said, noting the marina can now accommodate vessels measuring from 25 to 130 feet.

"Today, we have 246 slips and about a 50 percent occupancy rate at Point Cadet Marina," Gilich said. "If we make these improvements, if we see this evolution of quality and size, we'll be tapping into a market that would see 75-foot yachts traveling the intercoastal waterway to Point Cadet. They are larger boats; their stay would be longer."

The funding plan, Gilich said, would be similar to what the state employed to buy Deer Island years ago.

"We're hoping that our local legislators can see the wisdom in this plan," Gilich said. "It's about making sure we have good docking space for the state research vessels. It's about economic development, waterfront improvements, and public access to the waterfront, which is what the Tidelands program is all about."

"If our local legislators are able to make that happen, DMR will be able to use that money for bonding capacity to fund modernization of Point Cadet Marina."



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# Hibernia St. Pat's Day: Runnin', grillin' and paradin'

St. Patrick's Day festivities take place in Biloxi on Saturday, March 16 with a run, a grilling competition and a parade.

The Gulf Coast Running Club will kick off the day with the annual Hibernia Marching Society St. Patrick's Day 5K and 1-mile Health Run/Walk in downtown Biloxi. The 1-mile begins at 9 a.m. followed by the 5K at 9:30 a.m., both beginning on Lameuse Street.

Then, over at the Biloxi Town Green, Biloxi Main Street will hold its annual Grillin' on the Green from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. You'll find free admission, live entertainment by Rhythm & Rain at 10 a.m., Blackwater Brass at noon, and Ty Taylor and the Kin Folk at 3 p.m. Dozens of arts and craft vendors will be on hand, along with a children's play area. The centerpiece, of course, is the barbecue competition. Teams of grillers will compete for cash prizes.

**St. Patrick's Day Parade**  
Saturday, March 16 – 2 p.m.



► For more info, visit [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us) and [hiberniamarchingsociety.com](http://hiberniamarchingsociety.com)

At 2 p.m., the Hibernia Marching Society St. Patrick's Day Parade will begin. The parade will travel west on U.S. 90 from the Biloxi Yacht Club, turn north at Lameuse Street, west on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, onto Howard Avenue at Reynoir, and then north on Caillavet

Street, ending a half-block east on Esters Boulevard. Reviewing stands are erected on Lameuse Street, across from City Hall, for paradegoers.

Grand marshal this year is John O'Keefe, and colleen is Kristina Winter. Erin go bragh!



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Memorial Cancer Center and Merit Health-Biloxi now offer a new infusion clinic location with private rooms available.

**Memorial**  
Cancer Center

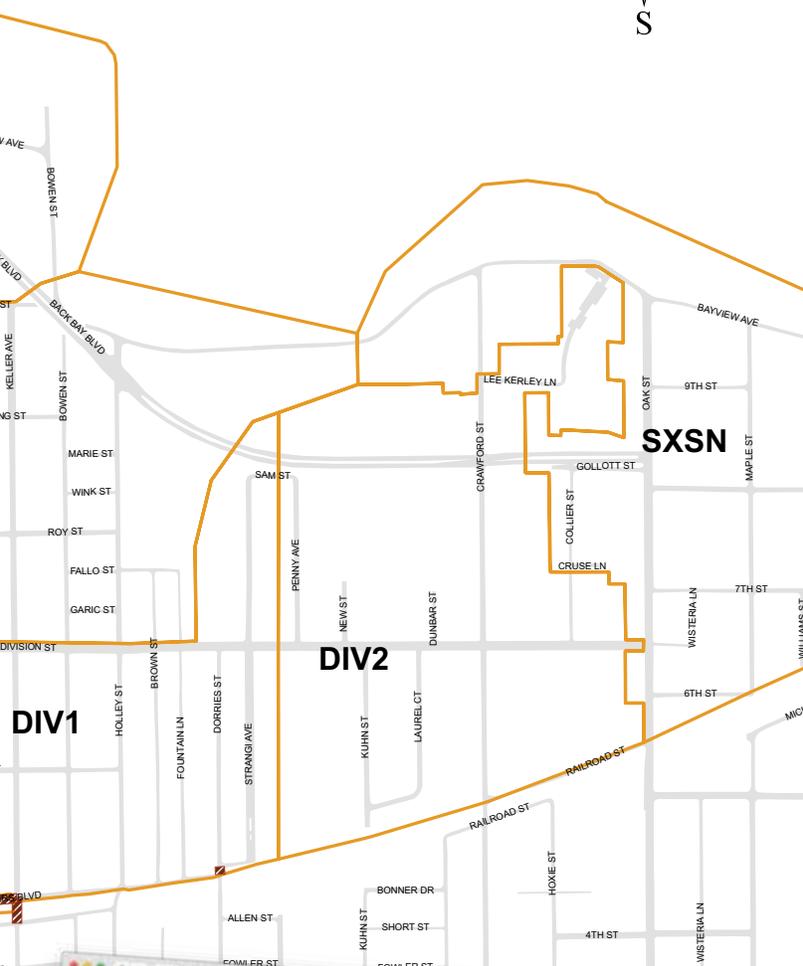
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(as of Feb. 13, 2019)

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# MADNESS



  
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# Be a part of the air show: Become a sponsor

The 2019 Thunder Over the Sound: Keesler & Biloxi Air & Space Show will take place in Biloxi on May 4 and 5 with aerial stunts, educational displays, food vendors and, of course, the high-flying flight demonstrations by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds. Want to know how you can be part of the action? Become a sponsor!



Organizers are asking for businesses to be part of the festivities and gain exposure while showing support for the military community.

"This year's show will truly be unique to what's been done in prior years," said Natalie D. White, director of marketing and commercial sponsorship with the 81st Force Support Squadron. "This will be the first time we will host two show boxes for spectators, one on the beach along U.S. 90 and White Avenue, and the other on the Keesler flight line."

In fact, two areas for spectators over two days offers more opportunities for sponsoring businesses. Sponsorship packages include amenities such as banner placement, parking passes, exhibitor booths, public address announcements, access to VIP and hospitality chalets, access to preflight social meet and greets with civilian air acts and the Saturday night performer. Among the advertising opportunities are exposure in an event program and event app, mentions through event social media, advertisement in "Discover Keesler" and other outlets.

Said White: "A sponsorship puts your business front and center of an estimated crowd of more than 150,000 and takes advantage of numerous advertising ventures."

Those interested should contact the 81st Force Support Squadron's sponsorship department by calling 228-376-8369 or visit online at [www.keeslerbiloxiairshow.com/sponsorship](http://www.keeslerbiloxiairshow.com/sponsorship).

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**Edgewater Mall**

## Best Bets!

### You bet this is a Best Bet!

- March 2 – Krewe of Neptune parade, 5:30 p.m., Downtown Biloxi
- March 5 – Gulf Coast Carnival Association parade, 1 p.m., Downtown Biloxi
- March 16 – Hibernia Marching Society St. Patrick's Day parade, 2 p.m., Downtown Biloxi

### Get some BBQ at Grillin' on the Green

The annual family-fun event, Grillin' on the Green, takes place on Saturday, March 16 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the Biloxi Town Green, 710 Beach Blvd. Grilling teams, 25 to be exact, will compete with barbecue ribs, chicken, and brisket for \$6,000 in cash prizes. Dozens of arts and craft vendors, a children's play area and live entertainment will also be part of the Biloxi Main Street event. Oh, and don't forget to get your Grillin' on the Green t-shirt for only \$15. Details: 228-435-6339.

### From the Biloxi Shuckers, Coming up:

- 105 Caillavet St., 228-233-3465
- Biloxi High School vs. D'Iberville High School, March 1. MGM Park. Gates open 6 p.m., first pitch 7 p.m.
  - Biloxi Shuckers National Anthem Tryouts, March 9. Edgewater Mall, 10 a.m. – noon
  - Battle At The Beach Tournament, March 15-16. MGM Park. March 15 game times 5 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.; March 16 game times 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m. & 3 p.m.
  - Mississippi College vs. William Carey University, March 20, MGM Park. Gates open 5:30p.m., first pitch 6:35 p.m.

**First Friday**, March 1, 5-8 p.m., Rue Magnolia & Water Street. Downtown shops and galleries stay open late and offer specials and refreshments. Live entertainment and prize giveaways will also be part of the event. Details: 228-435-6339.

**Friday Morning Serial**, March, 1 & 15, 8-9 a.m., Gulf Coast Community Design Studio, 769 Howard Ave. Free, public event with group discussions and speakers. Guest line up: March 1, Sarah Qarqish, Creative Director at Local Creative, and co-owner/designer at The HannaBerry Workshop; and March 15, Tracy Wyman, Landscape Architectural Designer & Healthy Communities Liaison presenting on Low Impact Development. Details: 228-436-4661.

**Krewe of Neptune parade**, March 2, 5:30 p.m. Parade will roll in downtown Biloxi with John Schneider, aka Bo Duke of "Dukes of Hazzard," as the grand marshal. The parade starts on Main St. and ends at Caillavet and Bayview (map, page 6). Free to attend. Details: kreweofneptune.org.

**Neptunalia**, March 2, 7:30 p.m., Hard Rock Live, 777 Beach Blvd. Open to the public party following the Neptune night parade. Live music featuring Juvenile and 69 Boyz. Tickets range from \$16 to \$35. Details: www.neptunalia.eventbrite.com.

**Annual Gulf Coast Carnival Association Coronation Ball**, March 4, 8 p.m.-1 a.m., Mississippi Gulf Coast Coliseum, 2350 Beach Blvd. Witness the coronation of King d'Iberville and Queen Ixolib who will rule over Carnival for 2019! Admission is free, but one must pick up a view card from Biloxi Visitors Center or Biloxi City Hall. Details: 228-432-8806 or 228-861-1478; gccamg@aol.com; www.gulfcoastcarnivalassociation.com.



**Annual Gulf Coast Carnival Association Mardi Gras parade**, March 5, 1 p.m. Parade rolls downtown Biloxi and travels from the corner of Main Street and MLK Jr., and ends on Caillavet Street (map, page 6). Details: 228-432-8806 or 228-861-1478; gccamg@aol.com; www.gulfcoastcarnivalassociation.com.

**Saints Shenanigans 5k/Fun Run**, March 9, 7 a.m. – Noon, 140 Lameuse St. Nativity Blessed Virgin Mary Elementary School hosts a 5K and 1-mile fun run in memory of former principal, Sister Mary Jo Mike. Registration available online: www.nativitybvm.org. Late registration on race day beginning at 7 a.m. A post run party immediately follows 5K. Fees range from \$15- \$25. Details: www.nativitybvm.org.

## Best Bet!

### Want to perform the Stars and Stripes for the Shuckers?

Do you have what it takes to sing the National Anthem during a Biloxi Shuckers home game? Well, that's what the Biloxi Shuckers want to find out when they host tryouts Saturday, March 9 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Edgewater Mall, 2600 Beach Blvd. They are looking for talented singers and musicians to perform at each of their 70 regular season home games at MGM Park. Be prepared to perform the entirety of "The Star Spangled Banner" which should take less than 90 seconds. Details: 228-233-3465.



## Stay in touch

**BNews:** Welcome to the tenth issue of BNews Monthly. It's a compendium of things you should know about your city: status reports on current and pending public works, and a calendar of community events covering the next 30 days.

**Calendar:** Biloxi Downtown Services is responsible for the Community Calendar, a compendium of events open to the public in Biloxi. Deadline for publication citywide and online is the 10th of each month. Listing must include name of event, date, time, location, one- or two-sentence description, admission fee, phone number or web address. Email to Kay Miller, downtown services manager, kmiller@biloxi.ms.us.

**Bmail:** The city provides information about projects and events via email. Sign up at [biloxi.ms.us/register](http://biloxi.ms.us/register).

**Advertising:** BNews and Bmail represent an advertising opportunity for civic-minded businesses and organizations. In your hands you are holding the only advertising medium that is delivered to every single home, business, apartment and PO Box in the city. For rates and info, email online@biloxi.ms.us or call 228-435-6368.

**B-Alert:** For text advisories on traffic and severe weather, text BILOXI to 888777.

**Website:** The city's website, at [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us), is the comprehensive digest of city information. The website also has links to the city's Facebook and YouTube platforms.

Vincent Creel, Public Affairs Manager  
vcreel@biloxi.ms.us

Cecilia Dobbs Walton, Public Affairs Specialist  
cdbobbswalton@biloxi.ms.us

## Frequently Called Numbers

Area code is 228 unless otherwise noted.

- Animal Control . . . . . 392-0641
- Auto Tag/Property Tax Information . . . . . 435-8242
- Birth Certificates . . . . . 601-576-7960
- Building Permits . . . . . 435-6270
- Business Licenses . . . . . 435-6247
- City Council . . . . . 435-6257
- City Court . . . . . 435-6125
- Code Enforcement . . . . . 435-6270
- Drivers Licenses . . . . . 396-7400
- Emergency Police and Fire . . . . . 911
- Garbage Collection . . . . . 701-9086
- Housing Authority . . . . . 374-7771
- Human Resources . . . . . 435-6259
- Mayor's Office . . . . . 435-6254
- Museums Information . . . . . 435-6244
- Parks & Recreation . . . . . 388-7170
- Planning Commission . . . . . 435-6266
- Public Schools . . . . . 374-1810
- Streets and Drainage . . . . . 435-6271
- Visitor Info . . . . . 374-3105 or 1-800-BILOXI-3
- Water Service . . . . . 435-6236

**Gallery 782**, March 9, 5:30-8 p.m., 773 Jackson St. The public is invited to attend a gala reception, celebrating 10 years of co-op art, which includes food, beverages, and door prize drawings to win one-of-a-kind art! Meet the artists who produce paintings, pottery, fused glass, ceramics, wood, fine art, photography, metal casting, stained glass, jewelry and more! Details: 228-436-7782.

**Gulf Coast BBQ & Music Festival**, March 9-10, times vary; Beauvoir, 2244 Beach Blvd. Barbecue competition, car show, craft vendors and John Schneider in concert on March 9 at 3 p.m. Admission fees vary, including a VIP meet and greet ticket for the concert. Details: 228-388-4400, [www.visitbeauvoir.org](http://www.visitbeauvoir.org).

**Special Needs St. Patrick's Day Dance**, March 15, 6-9 p.m., Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road. Open free to all ages with physical and mental disabilities and their parents. Wear your green and celebrate St. Patrick's Day with food and entertainment. A grand marshal (king) and a colleen (queen) will be chosen by random drawing. Details: 228-388-7170.

**Technology Expo**, March 15, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Beau Rivage Resort & Casino, 875 Beach Blvd. The Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce Technology Expo will host the second annual event and includes keynote speakers during breakfast and lunch and breakout sessions on various technology subjects related to business. Fees apply. Register at [www.techexpoms.com](http://www.techexpoms.com). Details: 228-604-0014.

**Annual Hibernia Society St. Patrick's Day 5K & 1-Mile Health Run/Walk**, March 16, 9 a.m. 1-mile; 9:30 a.m. 5K. Both races begins at Biloxi City Hall, 140 Lameuse St. Late registration on race day beginning at 8 a.m. Presented by the Gulf Coast Running Club. Details: [www.gulfcoastrunningclub.org](http://www.gulfcoastrunningclub.org).

**13th Annual Grillin' On The Green**, March 16, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m., Biloxi Town Green, 710 Beach Blvd. Annual Coast barbecue competition with over 25 competitors vying for more than \$6,000 in cash and trophies! Continuous daylong entertainment, Kids Zone, more than 80 arts and crafts vendors and the annual Hibernia Society St. Patrick's Day Parade at 2 p.m. Admission is free. Details: 228-435-6339.



**Annual Hibernia Society St. Patrick's Day Parade**, March 16, 2 p.m., downtown Biloxi. The parade begins on U.S. 90 and ends a half-block east on Esters Boulevard (map, page 7). Details: 228-265-3416.

**Auburn University Raptor Center at Edgewater Mall**, March 16, 1-3 p.m. 2600 Beach Blvd. Representatives from Auburn University's Southeastern Raptor Center will be at the mall outside of JC Penney's with raptors who serve as educational ambassadors for birds and conservation. Hawks, owls, falcons, and eagles will be represented. Details: 228-388-3424.

**Bike Biloxi**, March 19, 6 p.m.; begins at the MGM Stadium, 105 Caillavet St. Free ride through downtown. Bike ride ends with refreshments at a downtown restaurant at cyclist's expense. Helmets and lights recommended. Details: 228-435-6339.

**Biloxi Special Needs Baseball**, begins March 19, 6 p.m. youth division; 7 p.m. adult division; A.J. Holloway Sports Complex, 765 Wells Drive. Free and open to all ages with physical and mental disabilities. Games played Tuesday evenings and all players will be assisted at the games by players of the Major Little League teams and the Biloxi High Baseball Team. Registration open through March 8. Details: 228-388-7170.

**Battle of the Forces and Celebrity Softball Clash**, March 23, 8 a.m. - 9 p.m., MGM Park, 105 Caillavet St. The "Battle of the Forces" event encompasses everything military; matches the Army, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Navy, and first responders in a double elimination softball tournament. There will also be a

celebrity and a disabled veteran's softball game. Details: 228-596-3025 or veterans@armorbearers.org.

**Taste of South Mississippi**, March 28, 5:30-8 p.m., The Salvation Army Kroc MS Gulf Coast Center, 575 Division St. Annual fundraiser for the Salvation Army Kroc Center scholarships and youth programs. Event includes "tastes" from numerous restaurants in South Mississippi, live music and a silent auction. Tickets: \$30. Details: krocmscoast.org/upcoming-events/.

**Business 101 Series**, March 28, 9:30-11:30 a.m., The Innovation Center, 1636 Popp's Ferry Road. How to Develop a Business Plan; free workshop. Details: www.mssbdc.org; 228-396-8661.

**Hop the Trail to Bunnyland**, March 30, 9-11:30 a.m., Biloxi Town Green 710 Beach Blvd. Open to ages five and younger and includes Easter themed activities and refreshments. Bring your camera for pictures with the Bunny. Free admission. Details: 228-388-7170 or email programs@biloxi.ms.us.

**3rd Annual Biloxi Chamber Craft Beer Fest**, March 30, 4-7 p.m., MGM Stadium, 105 Caillavet St. Must be 21 or older to attend. Details: 228-604-0014 or info@mscoastchamber.com.

### Biloxi Little Theater

220 Lee St., 228-432-8543, www.4blt.org

- **Driving Miss Daisy**, March 15, 16, 21, 22, & 23, 8 p.m.; March 17 & 24, 2 p.m.

### Center Stage

2670 Rue Palafox, 228-388-6258, centerstagebiloxi.com

### Biloxi Lighthouse and Visitors Center

1050 Beach Blvd., 228-374-3105, www.biloxi.ms.us • Open daily, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lighthouse Tours daily, 8-9:30 a.m.

### Biloxi Mardi Gras Museum

119 Rue Magnolia, 228-435-6308, www.biloxi.ms.us • Closed for renovations. The museum will re-open after Mardi Gras 2019 at a new location.

### Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum

115 1st St., 228-435-6320, www.maritimemuseum.org

### Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art

386 Beach Blvd., 228-374-5547, www.georgeohr.com

### West End Hose Co. No. 3 Fire Museum

1046 Howard Ave., 435-6119/435-6200, www.biloxi.ms.us  
Historic 1937 fire house open Saturdays 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or by appointment.

### Biloxi Elks 606 Lodge of Biloxi

1178 Beach Blvd., 228-374-0606

- March 3, 9, 16, & 30, Steak night and entertainment
- March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, Charity Bingo night, 6:30 p.m.
- March 3, Charity Bingo for Kiwanis, 2 p.m.

### Fleur de Lis Society of Biloxi (French Club)

182 Howard Ave., 228-436-6472

- Every Friday night at 7 p.m. Karaoke with Kenny
- March 8, Seafood dinners start at 6 p.m.

## Lagniappe

### Charles R. Hegwood

#### Biloxi Community Market

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6 a.m.-4 p.m. under the I-110 overpass on the corner of Howard Avenue and Hopkins Boulevard. Details: Tina Cowart at 228-388-2443.

#### City of Biloxi Senior Program

Activities for ages 55 and older weekdays at the Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center and the East Biloxi Senior Citizen Center. Details: Gwen Johnson, 228-388-2494, seniors@biloxi.ms.us.

#### Biloxi Libraries

- Biloxi Library, 580 Howard Ave., 228-436-3095
- Margaret Sherry Library, 2141 Popp's Ferry Road, 228-388-1633
- West Biloxi Library, 2047 Pass Road, 228-388-5696
- Woolmarket Library, 13034 Kayleigh Cove, 228-354-9464

For more information call the Harrison County Library System at 228-436-3095.

#### Biloxi Main Street

Promoting, preserving, revitalizing and enhancing the economic growth of the downtown Main Street district. Details and membership: 228-435-6339, mainstreetbiloxi.com



#### City of Biloxi Public Meetings

- **Architectural Review Commission:** Regularly scheduled meetings: second and fourth Thursday of the month at 8:30 a.m.; Community Development, 676 MLK Blvd. Details: 228-435-6266.
- **Biloxi City Council:** Regularly scheduled meetings: first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. and the third and fourth Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m.; City Hall, 140 Lameuse St. Details: 228-435-6257.
- **Biloxi Civil Service Commission:** Regularly scheduled meetings: second Thursday of the month at 4 p.m.; City Hall, 140 Lameuse St. Details: 228-435-6259, Cortney Lamar
- **Biloxi Planning Commission:** Regularly scheduled meetings: first and third Thursday of the month at 2 p.m.; Community Development, 676 MLK Blvd. Details: 228-435-6266.
- **Development Review Committee:** Regularly scheduled meetings: Wednesdays at 9 a.m.; Community Development, 676 MLK Blvd. Details: 228-435-6266.
- **Tree Committee:** Regularly scheduled meetings: second Monday of each month at 4 p.m.; Gulf Coast Community Design Studio, 769 Howard Ave. Details: 228-435-6266.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Story Time Woolmarket Library	<b>29</b> Community Market  Story Time W. Biloxi	<b>30</b>  Winter Classic Horse Show Harrison County Fairgrounds	<b>31</b> Community Market  Story Time MSherry Library  Winter Classic Horse Show Harrison County Fairgrounds	<b>1</b> First Friday Downtown Biloxi  Friday Morning Serial Gulf Coast Community Design Studio  Biloxi High vs. D'Iberville High – MGM Park  Winter Classic Horse Show Harrison County Fairgrounds  Temptations & Four Tops IP Casino	<b>2</b>  Krewe of Neptune Parade Downtown Biloxi  Neptunalia Hard Rock Live  Winter Classic Horse Show Harrison County Fairgrounds  Oak Ridge Boys IP Casino  Mariah Carey Beau Rivage
<b>3</b>  Winter Classic Horse Show Harrison County Fairgrounds	<b>4</b> Story Time Woolmarket Library  Gulf Coast Carnival Association Coronation Ball MS Coast Coliseum	<b>5</b> Community Market  Story Time W. Biloxi  Gulf Coast Carnival Association Mardi Gras Parade Downtown Biloxi 	<b>6</b>  Winter Classic Horse Show Harrison County Fairgrounds	<b>7</b> Community Market  Story Time MSherry Library  Winter Classic Horse Show Harrison County Fairgrounds	<b>8</b> Coastcon MS Coast Coliseum  Winter Classic Horse Show Harrison County Fairgrounds  Sister Hazel Hard Rock  Styx IP Casino  Keith Sweat Beau Rivage	<b>9</b> Saints Shenanigans 5k Nativity BVM Elementary  Gallery 782 Reception Gallery 782  BBQ & Music Festival Beauvoir  Winter Classic Horse Show Harrison County Fairgrounds  Shuckers National Anthem Tryouts – Edgewater Mall  Coastcon – MS Coast Coliseum Brandon Bennett – IP Casino
<b>10</b>  BBQ & Music Festival Beauvoir  Coastcon MS Coast Coliseum  Winter Classic Horse Show Harrison County Fairgrounds	<b>11</b> Story Time Woolmarket Library	<b>12</b> Community Market  Story Time W. Biloxi	<b>13</b>  Winter Classic Horse Show Harrison County Fairgrounds	<b>14</b> Community Market  Story Time MSherry Library  Winter Classic Horse Show Harrison County Fairgrounds	<b>15</b> Friday Morning Serial Gulf Coast Community Design Studio  Special Needs St. Pat's Dance Snyder Community Center Technology Expo – Beau Rivage  Winter Classic Horse Show  Battle at the Beach Tourney – MGM Park Jess Hilarious – Beau Rivage Chris Jansen – IP Casino	<b>16</b> Hibernia Society 5k/1-mile & Parade Downtown Biloxi  Grillin' on the Green Biloxi Town Green  Battle at the Beach Tourney – MGM Park  Winter Classic Horse Show Auburn University Raptor Center – Edgewater Mall  The Southern Mama Cledus T Judd Comedy Exp. – IP Casino
<b>17</b>  Winter Classic Horse Show Harrison County Fairgrounds	<b>18</b> Story Time Woolmarket Library	<b>19</b> Community Market  Story Time W. Biloxi  Bike Biloxi Visitors Center  Biloxi Special Needs Baseball A.J. Holloway Sports Complex	<b>20</b>  Mississippi College vs. William Carey University MGM Park  Winter Classic Horse Show Harrison County Fairgrounds	<b>21</b> Community Market  Story Time MSherry Library  Winter Classic Horse Show Harrison County Fairgrounds	<b>22</b>  Winter Classic Horse Show Harrison County Fairgrounds  Maze with Frankie Beverly Beau Rivage  Parliament Funkadelic featuring George Clinton Beau Rivage  Tracy Lawrence IP Casino	<b>23</b> Battle of the Forces & Celebrity Softball Clash – MGM Park  Annual Home Show MS Coast Coliseum  Winter Classic Horse Show Harrison County Fairgrounds  Get the Lead Out Hard Rock
<b>24</b>  Annual Home Show MS Coast Coliseum  Winter Classic Horse Show	<b>25</b> Story Time Woolmarket Library  PGA Golf Tournament Fallen Oak	<b>26</b> Community Market  Story Time W. Biloxi  PGA Golf Tournament Fallen Oak  Biloxi Special Needs Baseball A.J. Holloway Sports Complex	<b>27</b>  PGA Golf Tournament Fallen Oak  Winter Classic Horse Show Harrison County Fairgrounds	<b>28</b> Community Market  Story Time MSherry Library  Business 101 Series Innovation Center  PGA Golf Tournament Fallen Oak  Winter Classic Horse Show  Taste of Mississippi Salvation Army Kroc Center	<b>29</b>  PGA Golf Tournament Fallen Oak  Winter Classic Horse Show Harrison County Fairgrounds  Jackson Browne with Greg Leisz, Althea Mills & Chavonne Stewart IP Casino  Heather Land Golden Nugget Casino	<b>30</b> Hop The Trail to Bunnyland Biloxi Town Green  Biloxi Chamber Craft Beer Fest – MGM Stadium  Winter Classic Horse Show Harrison County Fairgrounds  Sebastian Maniscalco Beau Rivage  The Wallflowers Hard Rock
<b>31</b>  Winter Classic Horse Show Harrison County Fairgrounds						

# As Lent arrives, It's time to say Oysters 'R' us

## Mr. d'Iberville's First Supper

Early settlers planned their meals with meager ingredients then congregated around campfires to share stories and information.

From the journals of Pierre Le Moyne

d'Iberville, we learn that his first meals on the Gulf Coast consisted of sagamite (ground up corn boiled with a bit of bear grease) accompanied by wine and brandy. This, of course, was before he and his shipmates found a treasure trove of fresh fish, crabs, shrimp, and oysters along the Biloxi shoreline. A seafood buffet, indeed!

## Back in the Day



By Jane Shambra

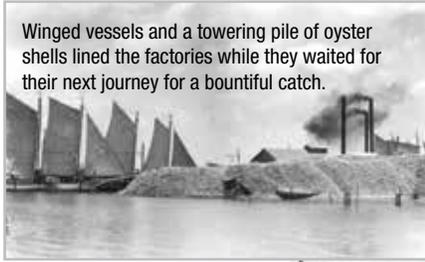
## A Treasure within a Treasure

The abundance of seafood was not the only treasure uncovered. Within some of the oysters' homes, the shell, a pearl may be found. Early pirates collected and saved special pearls in their treasure chests. But, do you know how a pearl is formed? The poor little mollusk becomes irritated when a grain of sand or other irritant enters its humble shell home and it secretes a substance, thus, creating a unique gem. Over time, a magnificent pearl is formed. A treasure from the waters below.

## Artifacts from the Past

Back-in-the-day Biloxi was known as the Seafood Capital of the World. So many vessels navigated the waters, in fact, the Biloxi Lighthouse was erected in 1848 to help guide fishermen home safely. In the late 1880s, canning factories opened and locally caught seafood, including tons of oysters, was processed in Biloxi. Piles and piles of oyster shells were discarded. During that time, many livelihoods depended on how much seafood was caught and how many times the factory would blow their whistles signaling a call for workers.

Recent street reconstruction projects throughout the city have unearthed relics of our past: fragments and even whole oyster shells from decades gone by.



Winged vessels and a towering pile of oyster shells lined the factories while they waited for their next journey for a bountiful catch.

▼ In the early 1930s on Biloxi's Back Bay, workers were hired to load and transport mounds of oyster shells, then plant and scatter them to support new reefs. This was called the "Shell Planting Project."



Larger than life. These Biloxi oyster pyramids provided quite a challenge for the factory workers to be able to reach the pinnacle of the shell mounds to deposit the catch of the day.

◀ This photo was snapped back-in-the-day near the Cruso Canning Company when oysters were more than plentiful and shipped all over the world straight from the Biloxi factories in both raw and canned varieties.

## Early recycling in Biloxi

These unearthed relics may also be from the shells that were used to build roads, a process that began in 1875 with Mayor H.J. Meaut. He had them used to fill in and pave the muddy Biloxi roadways. Unfortunately, over time, the dust became unbearable and watering trucks were called upon to tone down the issue.

Grist mills were built, where shells were ground to a fine powder and added to the diet of chickens. The oyster shells continued to be recycled and used for home construction. In the City of Biloxi publication "The Building of Biloxi," a famous Biloxi house that still stands is noted: The Bowen House, built in 1906 for Louis Bowen. It was partly constructed from a mixture of oyster shell grit leftover from the oyster canning industry. Locals affectionately today refer to this structure, at Lee Street and Howard Avenue, as the "oyster shell house."

## The March Diet

This year, March marks the month of food. Mardi Gras and King Cake season ends, and

another tradition of culinary delights begin. Churches and restaurants will feature meals of seafood, whether it's shrimp, oysters, fish, or crabs.

Many of our local restaurants will offer "Biloxi Bacon" on their menus. This entrée is not bacon at all. It's actually mullet, the manna from heaven, the food that saved many of our ancestors from starvation when times were tough.

Many homemade dishes and eateries will feature oysters at this time. Grandma always told us that a month with an "R" is the best time to eat oysters, and this month ranks in that pick.

Thus, oysters really "R" us in Biloxi, part of our history, part of our cuisine, and even part of the land upon which we all travel.

▶ Looking for oyster recipes, or want to know more about when Biloxi was the Seafood Capital of the World? Visit the Local History and Genealogy Department at the downtown Biloxi Library on Howard Avenue to learn more.



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**BNews** Monthly  
MARCH 2019

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and the Biloxi City Council  
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