

East Biloxi roadways show they're storm-ready

There was a time not too long ago when the threat of a tropical storm like Barry - with wind and several inches of rain - would have sent waves of anxiety through the residents, motorists and businesses of East Biloxi.

That's because the majority of the 55 miles of roadways in the infrastructure work north of the CSX railway were mostly dirt, with drainage systems in various stages of construction. Streets were sure to flood with standing water that would leave pock marked muddy roads in its wake.

However, the impact of Hurricane Barry in mid-July, albeit a Category 1 storm that made landfall west of New Orleans, was limited in East Biloxi.

"The new drainage systems in East Biloxi performed very well," said Jennifer Matranga of Oscar Renda. "Frankly, we had issues in only three areas, and they are all under

construction: On Benachi, midway between the railway at Division Street; and Forrest Avenue and Walker-Elder streets, where we are continuing to install infrastructure. That was it.

"Keep in mind that many roadways in East Biloxi are in low-lying areas, so you'll see ponding water in heavy rainfall, especially during high tide, but people can see that the drainage systems are performing as designed."

► See detailed maps status and read the latest on expected completion, Page 12-14

A time for remembering

August is a month to salute the heroes of Hurricane Camille on the 50th anniversary of the monster storm. Among the heroes are Julia Guice, former Biloxi Civil Defense director and historian (shown below at the Camille Memorial in August of 2014), longtime Harrison County Civil Defense director Wade Guice (See Page 2) and former Biloxi Mayor Danny Guice (See Page 10). The city's new TV channel has a weekend of Camille programming Aug. 15-18 and a new Camille documentary premieres at Edgewater Mall's digital theater.



ALSO INSIDE This month

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An East Biloxi Convention Center? Would it work? Where? Page 6

Btv

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This month offers plenty of Camille perspectives

A new documentary about Hurricane Camille is having its world premiere in Biloxi on Friday, Aug. 16 at the movie theater at Edgewater Mall. An Ole Miss filmmaker, Rex Jones, put the film together to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Hurricane Camille, which we refer to as the original monster storm.


Nick L. Shrimp

Jones's presentation, part of the Seafood Museum's "Camille at 50" exhibition, certainly offers opportunity for a fresh perspective and context of Camille, the storm with 200 mph winds that would have

been a Cat 5, had such a gauge been in place when it made landfall on Aug. 17, 1969.

The three showings on Aug. 16 (get \$10 tickets now at the Seafood Museum) ought to play to full houses. It's a good time for old-timers to be reminded and to reflect, and it's a chance for newcomers to be educated about the dangers of storms and flooding.

Quite frankly, as much as we applaud Jones's effort, we will forever see "A Lady Called Camille" as the quintessential story of Camille.

The half-hour documentary, produced by the U.S. government, covers the swath of raw emotions: the angst of preparation, the horrific landfall, the Coastwide devastation of the day, and the herculean recovery efforts.

"A Lady Called Camille" is also a tour de force for Wade Guice, the legendary emergency manager for Harrison County (back then it was the Civil Defense, owing to the nuclear threat of the time).

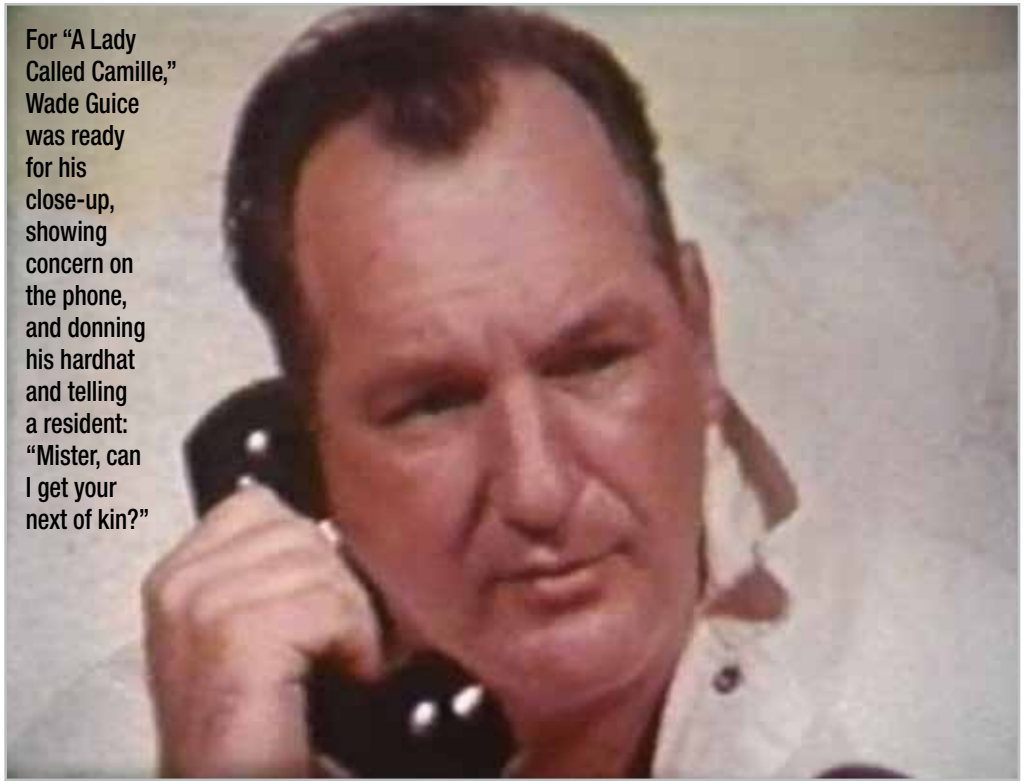
You watch this grainy, sometimes-maudlin Camille documentary growing up and as a youngster you don't think about the wisdom they had in filming events as they occurred. It's amazing, from the opening scenes, you see Guice answering the late-night call that Camille was headed to Biloxi and the Gulf Coast, "right where you live." Guice dutifully dispatches word to his wife, Julia, who served as Biloxi's Civil Defense director: "Julie, Mobile Weather says it's coming. Wake everybody up."

And we're off and running. There's Guice at the phone, barking orders, donning his red hard hat and white CD jumpsuit, with clipboard in hand knocking on doors, interrupting a hurricane party at one point. During the storm, ordering men to "abandon their machines."

Today, you can look at it and see the recreations. And what vivid recreations they were. Says one Wade Guice fan: "There's no doubt he wrote his own part."

William Wade Guice (1927-1996) became Harrison County's Civil Defense Director in

For "A Lady Called Camille," Wade Guice was ready for his close-up, showing concern on the phone, and donning his hardhat and telling a resident: "Mister, can I get your next of kin?"



1961 in an era when the country worried about the potential of Cold War nuclear devastation, which certainly helped Guice in preparing for the bomb-like aftermath of Camille. The organization Guice headed is credited with saving 10,000 lives during the four hurricanes that have hit the Coast since 1965.

After Camille caused more than 100 deaths on the Coast, Guice helped pass a state law requiring citizens to evacuate when ordered or face arrest. A master of the federal disaster bureaucracy, Guice helped Charleston, S.C., organize the cleanup after Hurricane Hugo in 1989.

He helped Saudi Arabia establish a Civil Defense program. And he organized the first international conference on hurricanes in 1977 in Biloxi, from which a national conference evolved.

But when you see Guice in "A Lady Called Camille," you're seeing a master at work. He knew how to communicate a message, with clarity, with authority, with compassion. His mission was keeping citizens safe and aware of the dangers of living on or near the water.

"He was loved, he was respected, he was known," says his son, advertising wunderkind and political guru Reed Guice. "It was like living with Elvis. Everybody knew him, or knew of him, or knew somebody that knew him. And when he went on TV, if he was wearing a coat, with a loosened tie and he had his pipe, then you



knew it was OK. If he had that jumpsuit on, then it was time to head for the hills."

And Wade Guice knew how to craft a message. Says Reed Guice: "You would see him on TV doing an interview, and he would look at that camera and he would say, 'Now to my friends out on the river, I want to tell you ...'"

"Well, every single person who lived out on the river knew that he was talking directly to them. It was their friend Wade Guice telling them something important and they needed to listen. He was a master communicator."

► See Wade Guice in "A Lady Called Camille," Aug. 15-18 on BTV (complete listings on Page 10).



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2018 audit: City gets encouraging financial news

Mayor Andrew “FoFo” Gilich and members of the City Council heard some encouraging financial news the other day, as they prepared to begin crafting a new city budget:

“We have better news to report than in a long time,” auditor John Prentiss of the firm Piltz, Williams, LaRosa and Co. told leaders in the city’s latest audit.

The snapshot of the city’s finances covering the period from Oct. 1, 2017 to Sept. 30, 2018, the most-recent fiscal year, was a clean audit, with no discrepancies, Prentiss said, and the city took in more money than it spent, even though the city had forecast a budget deficit in its original spending plan.

The annual city audit, known as the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, includes reviews of city compliance with state and federal spending laws, budget performance and financial management. The report provides councilmembers the latest audited budget information, which covers FY 2018, as they prepare for FY 2020.

For FY 2018, the city was \$200,000 off its original revenue projection of \$59.6 million, while expenditures planned that year, originally tabbed at \$62.2 million, were held to \$58 million. As a result, Prentiss said, fund balances were on the increase across the board:

- The positive operating budget for the year improved the city’s general fund, or financial cushion, as much as \$9 million to \$15 million, depending on the accounting method.
- The city had a cash balance of \$36 million, which included funds dedicated to major improvement projects and debt service. Part of the city’s encouraging financial news, Prentiss admitted, was attributed to timely receipt of grants as well as “the positive nature of the governmental activities this year.”

Gilich touts period of significant growth

Mayor Andrew “FoFo” Gilich, in a one-page update contained in the FY 2018 CAFR, touted the city’s growth:

“General Fund and Water/Sewer Fund revenues exceeded expenditures. We experienced a modest increase in both casino and sales tax revenues. The city’s bond rating remained an excellent AA(-).

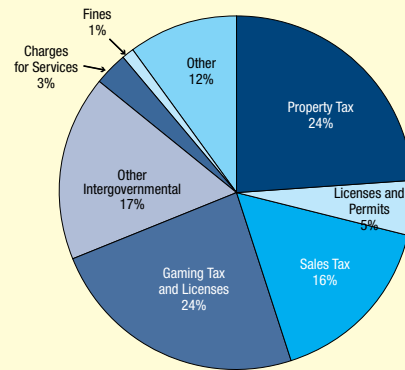
“Opportunity became reality in this period with the completion of more than 500 non-casino hotel rooms. The construction of new residential homes and businesses in of our City has continued with 160 new home permits being issued during the year.



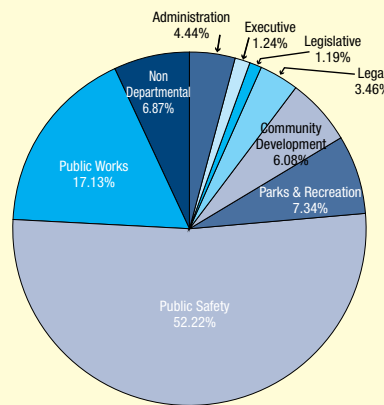
completion and work south of the railroad is well underway. This will set the table for more economic growth and an improved quality of life in our city.”

Where the money came from and where it went in FY 2018

Incoming \$59.4 million



Outgoing \$58 million



- The city’s water and sewer fund, which for years had been subsidized with other revenue (read “gaming revenue”), was now in the black: For FY 2018, the water department, which includes payments to the Harrison County Utility Authority for sewer treatment and garbage collection, saw revenue of \$16.6 million vs. operating expenses of \$15.5 million.

The mayor and councilmembers will conduct budget hearings throughout August, with a goal of having a new municipal spending plan in place for mid-September. The new fiscal year begins Oct. 1, 2019 and runs through Sept. 30, 2020.

News & notes

- **Public safety openings:** The city is seeking to fill openings in its Police and Fire departments. See applications at www.biloxi.ms.us/category/job-postings/ or call Human Resources at 228-435-6259.



- **Personnel:** Biloxi Municipal Clerk Stacy Thacker recently graduated from the Certified Municipal Clerk

program, a three-year program that covers varied topics designed to educate and enhance job performance.

- **Camille documentary world premiere:** “Camille: The Original Monster Storm”, a new compilation about Hurricane Camille, will debut at the Premier Lux at Edgewater Mall on Aug. 16. Showings will follow at the Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum through Nov. 30. Details: 228-435-6320.

- **FEMA:** The city continues to contend with FEMA over \$8.5 million in payments to former infrastructure project manager HNTB. The payments date back to 2008. Said Mayor Andrew “FoFo” Gilich: “FEMA approved all these costs many years ago. It is unfair for them to change course now, and the City will do what is needed to protect our position.”

- **Facebook:** The city’s Facebook page now has more than 36,000 followers. Check it out at www.facebook.com/cobiloxi/ and don’t forget to like the page.

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Report touts impact of East Biloxi Convention Center

A study conducted by a leading tourism planning firm says a new convention center in East Biloxi could create 70,000 additional room nights a year and the most viable venue for such an enterprise appeared to be on Oak Street, which could be connected to two other proposed sites, at Holley and Kuhn streets.

City leaders are reviewing a 146-page analysis of whether a convention center should be considered for East Biloxi, amidst thousands of existing hotel rooms, and where it should be located.

The report was commissioned by Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District and compiled by Conventions, Sports & Leisure International. It was funded by BBR Biloxi, a development firm eying East Biloxi sites.

Said the report: "Net new financial impacts for both the private and public sector in Biloxi has also been estimated. As shown, after factoring in profit margins for the various industries included in our analysis, the local lodging industry is estimated to generate nearly \$7.8 million in net new annual profits, while the gaming sector would make just over \$5.4 million in incremental profit.

"Meanwhile, the public sector would receive an estimated \$3.4 million per year in the form of net new collections derived from state sales

"Completion of this detailed report is an important milestone, reflecting input, data and analysis to inform planning and decision-making."

— Steve Reints of BBR Development

tax, county hotel tax, city gaming tax and county gaming tax collections. State sales tax generation would make up a significant majority of this amount, approximating \$2.4 million per year."

The idea of an East Biloxi convention center — to be located amidst the 5,000 or so hotel rooms east of Interstate 110 — is not a new one, but in November Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich proposed the city enter into an agreement where BBR Biloxi Development would invest as much as \$250,000 to consider the idea, suggest sites, and, if feasible, move forward with a \$150 million "world class, waterfront, mixed-use convention center and retail project."

The center, Gilich has noted, would rely on private funding, and additional tax revenue generated would help retire existing debt at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center. Funds also would be used for Coastal Mississippi marketing efforts.

Said Steve Reints of BBR Development about the report: "Completion of this detailed report

is an important milestone, reflecting input, data and analysis to inform planning and decision-making. We continue to review these findings knowing this project could elevate Biloxi to the highest level, able to attract larger flat floor meetings and conventions that currently do not come to this market.

"The opportunity exists to deliver monumental, sustained positive economic impacts to Biloxi, Harrison County and across the entire Mississippi Gulf Coast. Any potential development must integrate well with existing casino space and the Mississippi Gulf Coast Coliseum and Convention Center. We appreciate Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District's due diligence and inclusive approach to compiling this comprehensive report."

Under the proposal approved by the city, BBR Biloxi would identify potential sites in East Biloxi, which could include the vacant city-owned Tullis-Toledano property on East Beach. In fact, the resolution says if Tullis is indeed deemed a favorable site, the developer could have first option to buy the land, at 20 percent above market value.

► Read the report at <https://bit.ly/conventioncenterreport>

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AUG 23 FIREWORKS FRIDAY 

AUG 24 2ND ANNUAL SHUCKTOBERFEST

AUG 25 SALUTE SUNDAY
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Gold Star Families Memorial headed to Guice Park

Biloxi's Guice Park, located on U.S. 90 north of the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor, will soon have a new monument.

Joining the current World Wars monument, Purple Heart monument and USS Biloxi memorial will be the Gulf Coast Gold Star Families Memorial monument. The Gold Star Families Memorial honors the patriotism and sacrifice of the families who have lost loved ones in combat or military operations.

Keesler Federal Credit Union, the City of Biloxi and the Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation are sponsoring the new monument. A ground breaking ceremony was held July 23 and the monument is scheduled to be complete and dedicated in late November.

Keesler Federal is donating the funds to buy and erect the monument. The city will

provide the site and arrange for construction of the plaza or foundation. The Gulf Coast Gold Star Families committee has assisted with design of the monument. The Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation, a non-profit organization located in Louisville, Ky., has sponsored similar Gold Star monuments around the country in order to raise public awareness about Gold Star families.



2020 U.S. Census: What's it about and what to expect

Every 10 years, the United States Census Bureau collects facts and figures about the nation's economy. The count follows a mandate by the United States Constitution and the collected information helps with federal funds, grants and support to communities such as identifying

needs for schools, senior centers, health clinics, public transportation and fire stations. Each year the federal government distributes \$675 billion to state and communities based on the Census Bureau data.

2020 will be the 24th U.S. Census and Census Day is April 1, 2020.

Here is a timeline from the U.S. Census Bureau of important milestones:

2018

- ▶ 2018 End-to-End Census Test
- ▶ 2020 Census questions sent to Congress by March 31, 2018
- ▶ Six regional 2020 Census offices and 40 area census offices open

2019

- ▶ Partnership activities launch
- ▶ Complete Count Committees establish
- ▶ Remaining 248 area census offices open

2020

- ▶ Advertising begins in early 2020
- ▶ Public response (online, phone, or mail) begins
- ▶ Census Day— April 1, 2020
- ▶ In-person visits to households that haven't responded begin
- ▶ Apportionment counts sent to the President by December 31, 2020

2021

- ▶ Redistricting counts sent to the states by March 31, 2021



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Btv: Biloxi Television rolls out its first month of announced programming.

- In Biloxi, the channel is offered on Sparklight Channel 56 and AT&T Uverse Channel 99 (follow onscreen prompts).
- Streaming and schedule updates coming soon online at biloxi.ms.us.

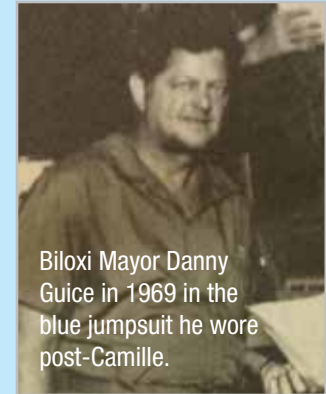
August Schedule

6 a.m.	"Down in Biloxi," by Rockin' Ray Fournier (4 minutes)
6:04 a.m.	"A day in the life of Biloxi," featuring some of the city's best-known places and best-known people. (9 minutes and 10 seconds)
6:13 a.m.	"Biloxi Builders and Visionaries," a look at some of the key figures in Biloxi's history. (8 minutes and 33 seconds)
6:22 a.m.	"Biloxi Today," a look at the city's growth and cultural events. (3 minutes and 18 seconds)
6:25 a.m.	Infrastructure update. The two firms in the midst of infrastructure work in East Biloxi provide an update on progress.
8 a.m.	"A day in the life of Biloxi," featuring some of the city's best-known places and best-known people.
8:09 a.m.	"Biloxi Builders and Visionaries," a look at some of the key figures in Biloxi's history.
8:18 a.m.	"The Croatian Influence on Biloxi," the history of the Slavonian Lodge in Biloxi and its impact on Biloxi.
8:30 a.m.	Infrastructure update. The two firms in the midst of infrastructure work in East Biloxi provide an update on progress.
8:34 a.m.	Howard Avenue, and overview, construction and capacity testing.
8:40 a.m.	Tour of progress on the construction of Fire Station 10, on Old Highway 67, North Biloxi. Fire Chief Joe Boney shows the station's layout.
8:55 a.m.	Interested in joining the Biloxi Police Department? Learn how.
9 a.m.-noon	Biloxi City Council meeting(s), see a recent meeting.
12:20 p.m.	From the air: "Popp's Ferry Causeway Park."
12:21 p.m.	"Unwelcome visitor," Biloxi Police deal with an alligator that found its way to the front beach, near the Biloxi Lighthouse.
12:24 p.m.	"Catfish on Crawford," a Biloxi Police Officer captured video of catfish trapped on Crawford Street in the wake of Hurricane Nate.
12:25 p.m.	"I am Biloxi," a one-minute introduction to Biloxi and its people.
12:30 p.m.	Biloxi City Council meeting, see a recent meeting.
2:30 p.m.	Breakfast with the Mayor, July 17, 2019
3 p.m.	Biloxi Fire Department Annual Awards Ceremony. Eleven acts of bravery are recounted in this hour-long program, from November 2018.
4 p.m.	Biloxi Police Department Annual Awards Ceremony. Meet Officer of the Year Eli Humphrey, and the best of the Biloxi Police Department. The 42-minute program is from February 2019.
5 p.m.	Downtown Biloxi Development gathering. A host of downtown stakeholders discuss opportunities in Biloxi's downtown. This Main Street program is from June 10. Among the speakers: District On Howard developer by Lee Young; Lolly Rash of the Mississippi Heritage Trust; and Kim Fritz, developer and business owner.
6:48 p.m.	Demolition of federal courthouse in downtown Biloxi and announcement of new Community Bank location.
7 p.m.	The Salvation Army Help Card. How can you best help those in need, especially those who approach you on the street? Salvation Army Majors Bradley and Anita Caldwell have an idea: The Help Card, and it's free.
7:12 p.m.	Infrastructure update. The two firms in the midst of infrastructure work in East Biloxi provide an update on progress.
7:20 p.m.	"Biloxi 320," a host of community leaders offer birthday wishes to Biloxi on the 320th anniversary of the founding of Biloxi, from February 2019.
7:26 p.m.	"Biloxi Today," a look the city today.
7:29 p.m.	A host of Biloxi leaders and businesspeople – Bruce Marie, Tonya Gollott Swoope, Kenny Glavan and the late A.J. Holloway – tout the great things about Biloxi.
7:34 p.m.	"A day in the life of Biloxi," featuring some of the city's best-known places and best-known people.
7:43 p.m.	"Biloxi Builders and Visionaries," a look at some of the key figures in Biloxi's history.
7:52 p.m.	"The Architecture of Biloxi," an examination of the many styles of architecture of Biloxi.
7:57 p.m.	"Catfish on Crawford," a Biloxi Police Officer captured video of catfish trapped on Crawford Street in the wake of Hurricane Nate.
8 p.m.:	Former Miss America Mary Ann Mobley – also a Biloxi native – tells the story of the Biloxi Lighthouse in a documentary the city produced in 2004.
8:12 p.m.	"The Biloxi Light," another look at the history of the Biloxi Lighthouse.
8:16 p.m.	From the air: The Biloxi Lighthouse Pier and Biloxi Lighthouse.
8:17 p.m.	"I'm the Biloxi Lighthouse," an ode to the Biloxi Lighthouse, by singer-songwriter Steve Cason.
8:20 p.m.	"An Unwelcome Visitor," Biloxi Police deal with an alligator that found its way to the front beach, near the Biloxi Lighthouse.
8:23 p.m.	Infrastructure update. The two firms in the midst of infrastructure work in east Biloxi provide an update on progress.
8:27 a.m.	Howard Avenue, capacity testing. Just how wide is the new Howard Avenue?
8:30 p.m.	Biloxi City Council meeting, see a recent meeting; other presentations.
10 p.m.	Biloxi City Council meeting, see a recent meeting.
11:57 p.m.	The National Anthem, by Ronny Broussard



You can also find individual programs on the City of Biloxi YouTube page.

Also this month on BTV:



Camille anniversary specials – Aug. 15-18, Thursday through Sunday

- 7 & 10 a.m. and 7 & 10 p.m.
"A Lady Called Camille," with Aug. 17, 2005 introduction by A.J. Holloway
- 8 & 11 a.m. and 8 & 11 p.m.
"Camille 45," reminiscing with Danny Guice

Katrina anniversary specials – Aug. 28-30, Wednesday through Friday

- 7 & 10 a.m. and 7 & 10 p.m.
"Katrina & Biloxi: A Story of Resolve & Resilience"
- 8 & 11 a.m. and 8 & 11 p.m.
"Katrina +10"

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Biloxi Public Schools

District highlights

Excellence From All... For All, Biloxi's Best

- One of 14 A-Rated districts in the state
- Top performing PreK program along the Gulf Coast
- State-of-the-art facilities and technology district-wide
- Highest state-wide percentage of military families at Jeff Davis Elementary
- National Association of Elementary School Principals' National Distinguished Principal of the Year for Mississippi, Popp's Ferry principal Dr. Todd Boucher
- Named a Best Communities for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation for six consecutive years
- Secured two grants with the Department of Defense Education Activity, a military grant with significant impact on STEM programs

August Football schedule



Aug. 16
at George County
6 p.m.
(Jamboree)

Aug. 23
Host Greene County
7 p.m.
(Shrimp Bowl)

Aug. 30
at Gautier High
7 p.m.

www.biloxischools.net



Oscar Renda: Thanksgiving may be D-Day

Oscar Renda Contracting says it's aiming to have the "north contract" substantially complete around Thanksgiving, meaning "all major items of work to be complete."

"I'd like to see us reach the substantial completion point in November and certainly no later than December," said Jennifer Matranga of Oscar Renda Contracting.

The \$128 million project began five years ago this month and was supposed to be completed in January, after more than 70 approved change orders added 500 days and \$12.8 million to the contract.

East Biloxi residents, businesses and motorists, who have endured dusty or muddy dirt roads in the most of the 55 miles of construction, are, for the most part, driving on paved roads these days. In fact, all roads east of Lee Street, except a couple neighborhood streets, have final coats of asphalt.

A half-dozen streets still lack any pavement, and major roadways such as Benachi, Forrest, Elder and parts of Reynoir are still seeing infrastructure work in progress.

However, the days of a heavy thunderstorms turning the streets of East Biloxi into a mud pit are history.

"Flooding has never been an issue, it's been the mud," said Councilman Felix Gines, who's pulled more than two-dozen vehicles from muddy roadways. "That's been the biggest problem that my community has had, the sloppy conditions of the roadways. That led to many questions being raised about the coordination and organization of the project.

"They're shooting for November or December? My goal is to see everything east of Caillavet completed by October. I know they can do that."

Matranga, meantime, said pumps, which were in place and used during previous storms, were not needed during the threat of Tropical Storm Barry, which later became a hurricane.

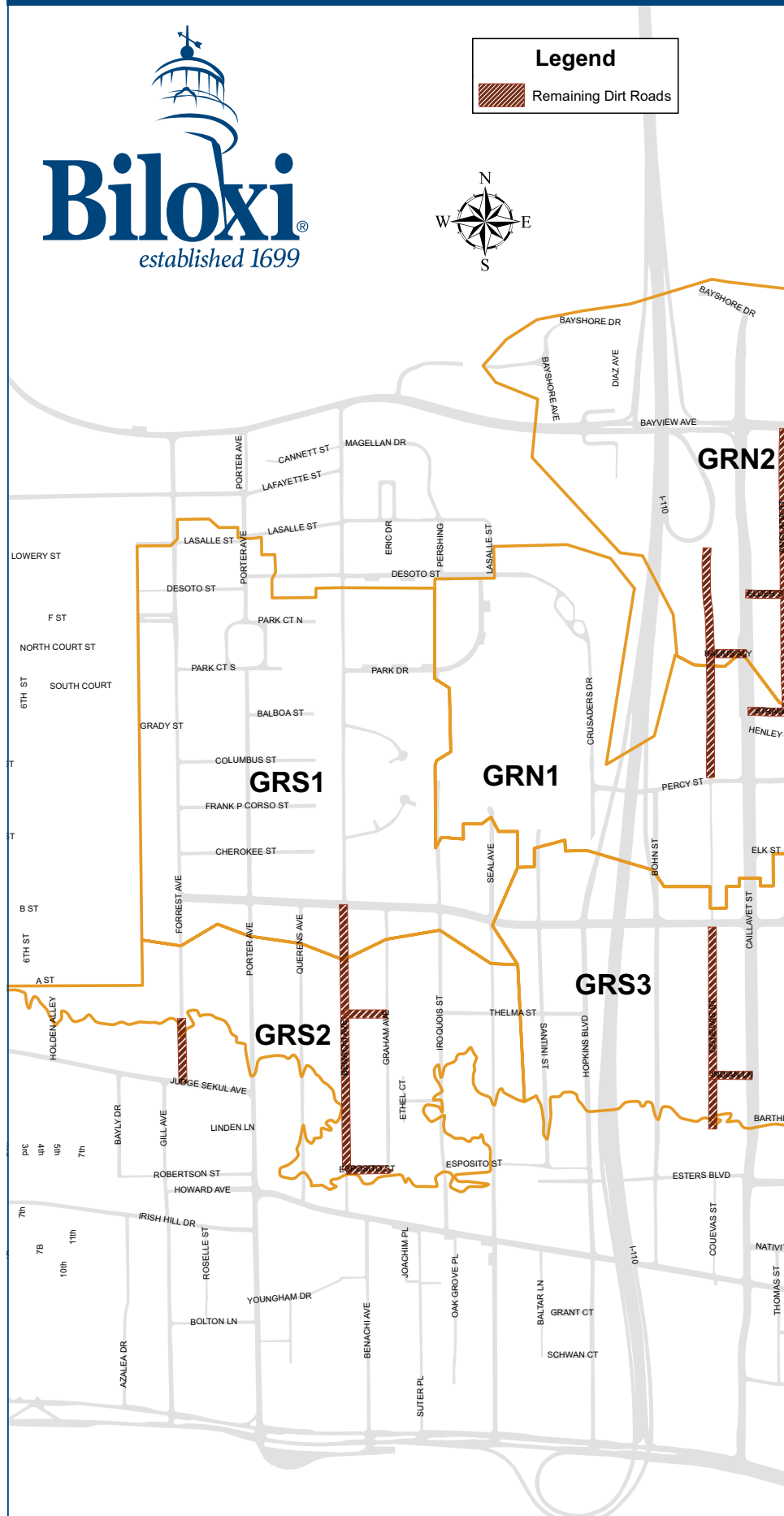
"These drainage systems worked the way they were designed to work," she said, but there is something important that people need to remember:

"Even with a brand-new, efficient drainage system, parts of East Biloxi are tidally influenced. When the tide is up, and the water in the canal on Benachi, for instance, is above the drainage outfalls, the water has nowhere to go.

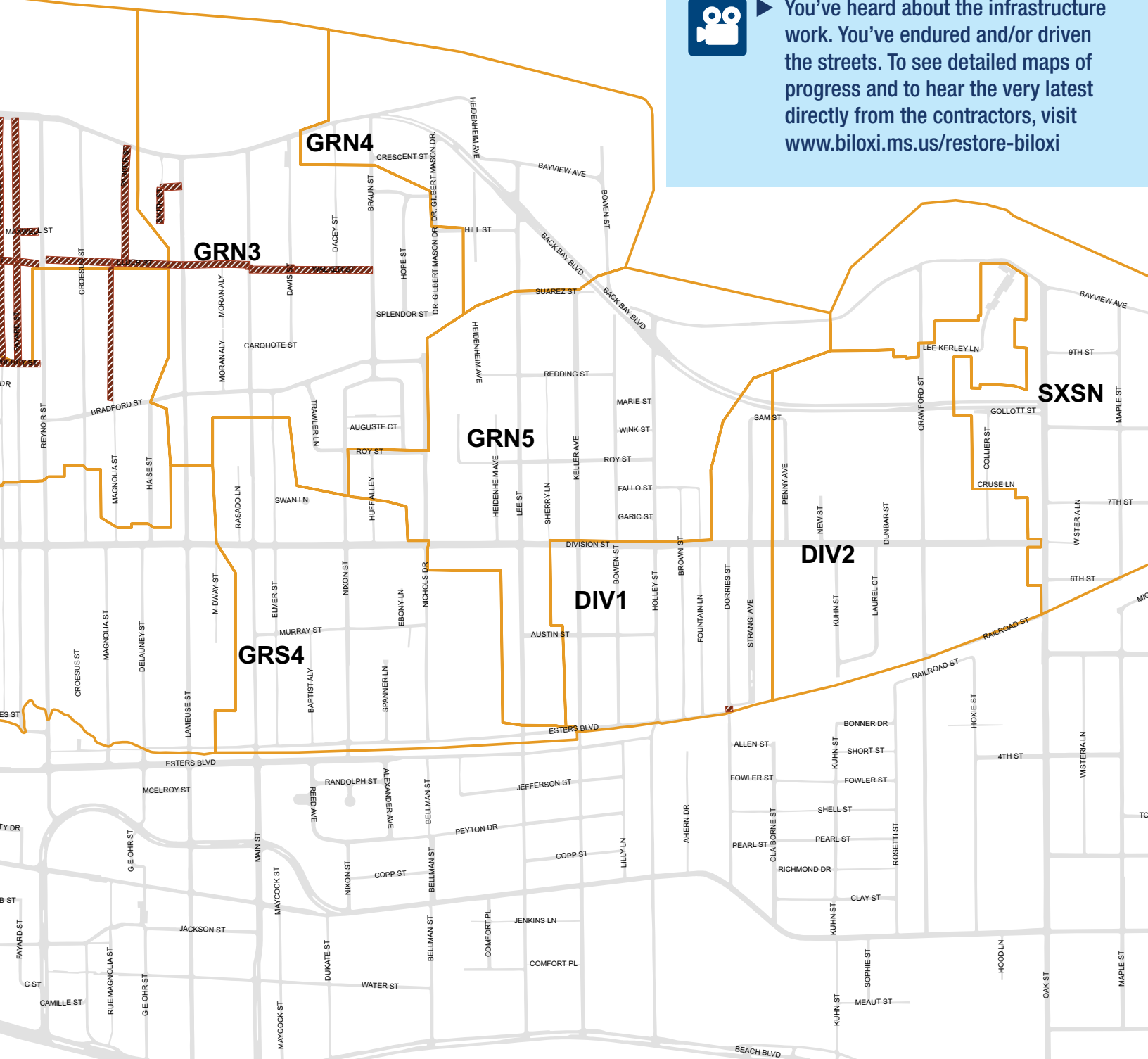
"If you live on a peninsula, in a low-lying area, you can elevate your home, but the roads are still going to become inundated in certain circumstances."

► See detailed maps and a progress video online at biloxi.ms.us and regularly on BTV

The North Contract: Remaining



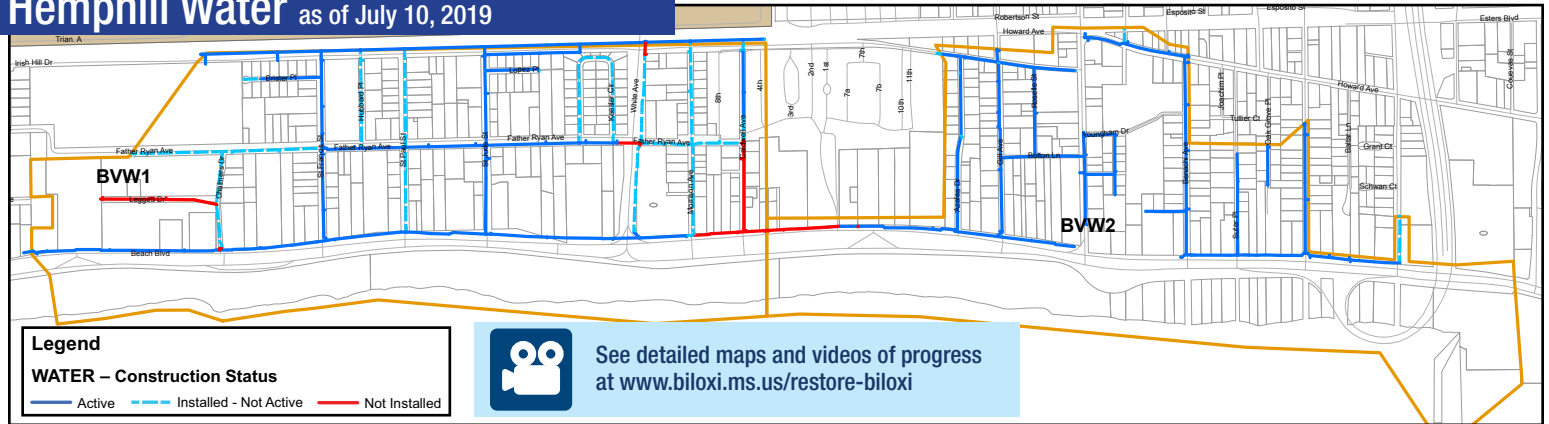
dirt roads (as of July 10, 2019)



▶ You've heard about the infrastructure work. You've endured and/or driven the streets. To see detailed maps of progress and to hear the very latest directly from the contractors, visit www.biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi

Detours and lane closures are becoming more evident south of the CSX Railway, especially on Irish Hill and other thoroughfares, as Hemphill Construction continues to make progress on infrastructure work on six miles of roads between downtown and Seashore Methodist. Here's a look at the status on the \$22.9 million project, which has a deadline of March 2020.

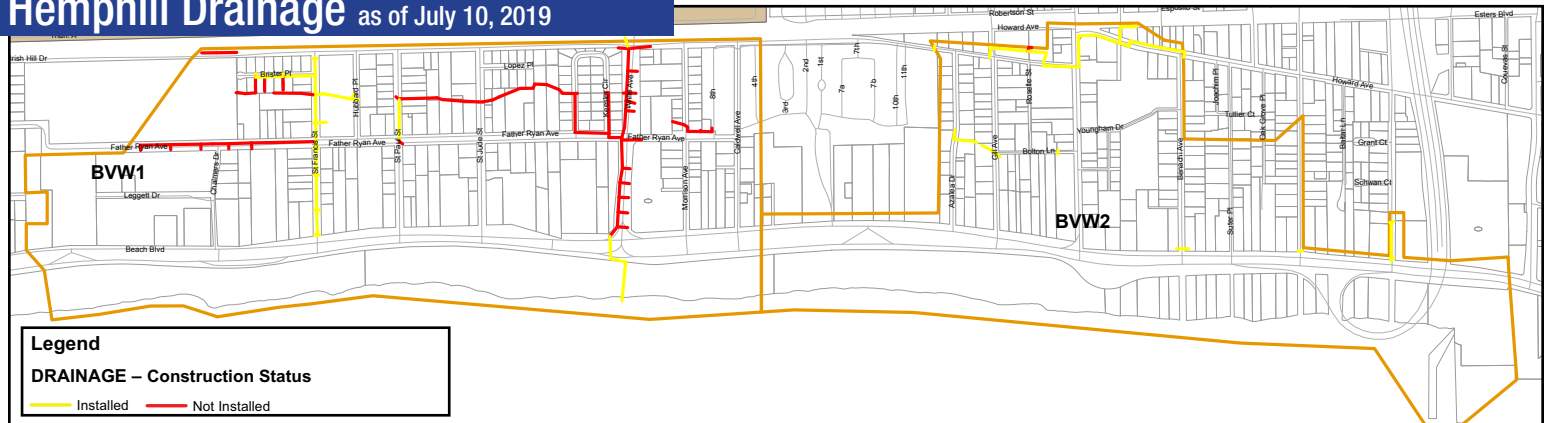
Hemphill Water as of July 10, 2019



Hemphill Sewer as of July 10, 2019



Hemphill Drainage as of July 10, 2019



Hemphill Roads Paved as of July 10, 2019



Best Bets!



It's football and cheer season!

City of Biloxi kicks off the season with registration for its youth leagues on Saturday Aug. 3 and 10 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center off Pass Road. Flag football returns this fall and is open to ages 5 and 6, tackle football is open to ages 7 to 12 and cheerleading is open to ages 6 to 12. Fees begin at \$30 for Biloxi residents and are \$50 for non-Biloxi residents. For full fee information, schedules, and ceremonies, visit online at www.biloxi.ms.us or call the Parks & Recreation Department at 228-388-7170.



Let's talk books!

Biloxi Main Street now has a book club that meets once a month at Jacked Up Coffee Bar, 999 Howard Ave. Books of the month can be picked up at Southern Bound Books, right next door to the coffee bar. The group meets on Thursday, Aug. 22 and expresses opinions about a selected book. It's a great opportunity to meet with locals, enjoy a downtown business and make new friends. For more information, call the Biloxi Main Street office at 228-435-6339.

Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum's Heritage Hall of Fame 2019

nominations, Aug. 1-30. Nominations are open to individuals who have shown dedication to honoring the tradition of the maritime and seafood industry on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Forms are available online at www.maritimemuseum.org or by calling 228-435-6320.

25th Annual Carl Legett Memorial Fishing Tournament, Aug. 1-4, Point Cadet Pavilion, 121 Cadet St. Admission is free. See website for complete schedule of events including weigh-in times, shrimp boil, live entertainment and bikini contest: www.carllegett.com. For more details: Kelly Palermo, 228-896-7646 or email kpalermo@hbamscoast.com.



First Friday, Aug. 2, 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. Admission is free. Details: 228-435-6339.

Sparklight Go Places Contest deadline, Aug. 2. Sparklight is giving three service area residents \$3,000 to use toward Fall 2019 tuition through its Going Places social media campaign. Details: www.sparklight.com/contest.

Biloxi Youth Football and Cheerleading registration, Aug. 3 and 10, 9 a.m.-noon, Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road. Flag football, ages 5-6; tackle football, ages 7-12; cheerleading, ages 6-12. For fees and other details: 228-388-2483.

Biloxi Public Schools' Students First Day, Aug. 6. The 2019 school year begins on Aug. 6 for students in all grades. Details: www.biloxischools.net.

6th Annual 8K Kayak & Trail Run, Aug. 10, 7:30 a.m. Camp Wilkes, 2109 Camp Wilkes Road. Details: www.campwilkesinc.org.

Bare Knuckle Fighting Championship 7, Aug. 10, 6-11 p.m., Mississippi Coast Coliseum, 2350 Beach Blvd. Tickets start at \$45. Details: 228-594-3700.

Special Needs Back to School Dance, Aug 16, 6-9 p.m., Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road. Dance open to all ages with physical and mental disabilities and their families. Admission is free. Details: 228-388-7170.

Best Bet!



Back to school dance

The City of Biloxi Parks and Recreation Department hosts its annual Special Needs Back to School Dance on Friday, Aug. 16 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Donal M. Snyder Senior Community Center. As part of the department's Special Populations Programs, the affair is free and open at all ages with physical and mental disabilities. Refreshments will be available and door prizes will also be part of the event. For more details on the dance and all of Biloxi Parks & Recreation programs, call the department at 228-388-7170.

Stay in touch

BNews: Welcome to the 15th 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.

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, 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
cdobbswalton@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



Bike Biloxi, Aug. 20, 6 p.m., begins at the Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. Free ride through downtown. Bike ride ends with refreshments at a downtown restaurant at cyclist's expense. Helmets and lights recommended. Admission is free. Detail: 228-435-6339.

Biloxi Main Street Book Club, Aug. 22, 5:30 p.m., Jacked Up Coffee Bar, 999 Howard Ave. Book of the month is "Forsaking Mimosa" by Valerie Winn. Stop by Southern Bound Books, next door to the coffee bar, to pick up a copy. The author will join the event for discussion. Details: 228-435-6339.

Biloxi Junior High Football Jamboree, Aug. 22, Location TBA. Details: 228-435-6310, www.biloxischools.net.



First Home Game, Biloxi High School Varsity Football, Aug. 23, 7 p.m. Biloxi Indian Stadium, 1845 Tribe Dr. Details: 228-435-6310, www.biloxischools.net.

Book Signing, Aug. 24, 1-3 p.m., Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. Meet authors Josh Foreman and Ryan Starett of "Hidden History of the Mississippi Sound."

Free event. Details: 228-374-3105.

Biloxi Sports Hall of Fame 2019 Ceremony, Aug. 25, Biloxi Civic Center, 578 Howard Ave. Inductee ceremony for the 2019 class. Ceremony honors individuals who have significantly contributed to the betterment of athletics in the City of Biloxi either through exemplary performance as a player or coach, or in any supporting role of superior accomplishment. Details: 228-388-7170.

First Home Game, Biloxi Schools 9th Grade and Junior Varsity Football, Aug. 26, 5 & 6:30 p.m. Biloxi Indian Stadium, 1845 Tribe Dr. Details: 228-435-6310, www.biloxischools.net.



Shuckers home games:

105 Caillavet St., 800-745-3000 or 228-233-3465, www.milb.com/biloxi, Tickets start at \$7

- **Biloxi Shuckers vs. Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp**, Aug. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5; 6:30 p.m.
- **Biloxi Shuckers vs. Mobile BayBears**, Aug. 13, 14, 15, 16 & 17; 6:30 p.m.
- **Biloxi Shuckers vs. Mississippi Braves**, Aug. 23, 24, 25, 26 & 27; 6:30 p.m.

Biloxi Little Theater

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

- **I Am Frankenstein, A Stage Reading**, Aug. 3, 8 p.m. Admission \$5

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, 9-9:45 a.m., weather permitting

Biloxi Mardi Gras Museum

Closed for moving. Opening soon on Howard Avenue.

Biloxi Shrimping Trip

693 Beach Blvd., 228-392-8645, biloxishrimpingtrip.com

- Sunset cruises, fishing trips, and three shrimping trips daily.

Biloxi Tour Train

(228) 374-8687, www.biloxitourtrain.com

- Tour offerings change daily. Please call the morning of the day you wish to tour for reservations. Groups must be scheduled in advance.

Betsy Ann Riverboat Cruise

173 Beach Blvd., 228-229-4270, betsyannriverboat@gmail.com, bestyannriverboat.com

- Hibachi Night Cruises, Historical & Ecological Tour, and Sunset Eco Tours

Ship Island Excursion

Margaritaville Resort boat dock,
195 Beach Blvd., 228-864-1014,
msshipisland.com

- Daily service: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Friday night Sunset Music Cruise:
Aug. 30 (Labor Day Weekend), 7-9 p.m.
- Ticket prices vary, call for more information.



Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum

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

- “Camille at 50” exhibit open through Nov. 31
- **Camille Conversations** every Friday at 11:30 a.m. Admission \$10 includes lunch from Burger Burger. Call for reservations.

Ohr-O’Keefe Museum of Art

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

- **Visionary Bayou Technician Steve Shepard** exhibition, now-Sept. 14
- **Southern Witness, John Barnes** exhibition, now-Sept. 7

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

- **St. Vincent DePaul Charity Bingo**, Sunday, Aug. 4, \$25 donations to play. Food and drink available. Doors open at noon, early bird games begin at 2 p.m.
- **Charity Bingo**, August 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 6:30 p.m.,
- **Steak Nights with Entertainment**, August 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31, 6 p.m.

Fleur de Lis Society of Biloxi (French Club)

182 Howard Ave., 228-436-6472

- **Friday Night Dinners** at 6 p.m. and **Karaoke with Kenny** at 7:30 p.m. every Friday.

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
28 	29 Story Time Woolmarket Library	30 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi	31 	1 Carl Legett Fishing Tournament Point Cadet  Double Play Thursday	2 First Friday Downtown Biloxi Friday Night Dinners Fleur de Lis Society Carl Legett Fishing Tournament Point Cadet Sparklight Contest Deadline Ron White – Beau Rivage  Fireworks Friday	3 Football/Cheer Registration Donal Snyder Sr. Community Center Steak Nights – Elks Lodge Carl Legett Fishing Tournament Point Cadet  Maris Gras Night & Jersey Auction
4 St. Vincent DePaul Charity Bingo Elks Lodge Carl Legett Fishing Tournament Point Cadet  Salute Sunday	5 Story Time Woolmarket Library  Barks & Brews Monday	6 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi Biloxi Public Schools' Students First Day	7 	8 Community Market Story Time Biloxi Library	9 Friday Night Dinners Fleur de Lis Society Lil Duval Beau Rivage	10 Steak Nights – Elks Lodge 8k Kayak & Trail Run Camp Wilkes Bare Knuckle Fighting Championship MS Coast Coliseum Jake Owen Hard Rock
11 	12 Story Time Woolmarket Library	13 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi  Shuckers T-shirt Tuesday	14  OneCoast Wednesday	15 Community Market Story Time Biloxi Library  First Responders Night	16 Friday Night Dinners Fleur de Lis Society Special Needs Back to School Dance Donal Snyder Sr. Community Center Russell Peters Beau Rivage  Fireworks Friday	17 Steak Nights – Elks Lodge  Southern Miss Night
18 	19 Story Time Woolmarket Library	20 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi Bike Biloxi Biloxi Visitors Center	21 	22 Community Market Story Time Biloxi Library Biloxi Main Street Book Club Jacked Up Coffee Bar Biloxi Junior High Football Jamboree	23 Friday Night Dinners Fleur de Lis Society First Home Game, Biloxi High School Varsity Football Scotty McCreery Beau Rivage  Fireworks Friday	24 Steak Nights – Elks Lodge Book Signing Biloxi Visitors Center Michael Grimm IP Casino Purple Reign Hard Rock  2nd Annual Shucktoberfest
25 Biloxi Sports Hall of Fame Ceremony Biloxi Civic Center  Salute Sunday	26 Story Time Woolmarket Library First Home Game, Biloxi Schools 9th Grade and Junior Varsity Football  Barks & Brews Monday	27 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi  Shuckers Fan Appreciation Day	28 	29 Community Market Festival Story Time Biloxi Library	30 Friday Night Dinners Fleur de Lis Society	31 Steak Nights – Elks Lodge Pablo Cruise Hard Rock Theo Von Dark Arts Beau Rivage

The Mall and All

The Edgewater Gulf Hotel

Once located on the footprint of today's ultra-modern Premiere Lux movie theater, the magnificent Edgewater Gulf Hotel was built for approximately \$2.5 million. It was constructed with reinforced concrete, stood nine floors tall, and had 400 guest rooms, all facing the Gulf. The elaborate hotel opened on Jan. 10, 1927 with Biloxi Mayor

Back in the Day



By Jane Shambra

John J. Kennedy greeting 1,100 guests and WEGH-AM from Chicago broadcasting the event, with its airwaves crossing a thousand miles and four states.

This honeymoon haven was modeled after the famous Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago. It offered swimming, golfing, horseback riding, convention space, tennis

courts, and access to the nearby L & N Edgewater passenger depot.

The massive hotel met its demise in August of 1971 after three attempts and exhausting a total of 850 pounds of explosives. The planned event was necessary to make way for the new Sears retail store.

The Birth of Today's Edgewater Shopping Center

The construction of Biloxi's indoor Edgewater Plaza Shopping Center followed the national trend of providing a new, modern venue for shoppers. With its perfect location along the highly-travelled Beach Boulevard, this plethora of storefronts was deemed "Mississippi's first regional shopping city."

It opened in September of 1963, offering an oasis to beachgoers and was laden with an amazing variety of amenities, including spacious indoor walkways, a huge paved parking lot, indoor landscaping, and a year-round climate-controlled environment. It was designed as its own village, complete with a supermarket, drug store, variety store, a movie theater, and clothing shops.

"Meet Me at the Mall" was its popular slogan. Gayfer's, managed by Robert W. Holcomb, opened as the mall's anchor store. This shopping village within a city is a proud survivor of both Hurricanes Camille and Katrina and is still going strong today.



Take a good look. Do you see the massive Edgewater Gulf Hotel just east of the mall? Today, our newest modern Premiere Lux Cinema and Pizza Pub sits in its place.

Complete with a garden, water fountains, and a cool air-conditioned environment, Edgewater Mall was designed as an oasis from the sweltering summer heat as a "go to" for both residents and tourists.



After the Edgewater Gulf Hotel was demolished, a Sears Department store was added to the indoor mall.



This photo of the construction of the Coliseum was taken from above in 1976, before the age of drones.

Waifs out West

Did you know that a famous orphanage occupied the grounds where today's Coast Coliseum stands? Long ago, that land was once owned by the family of Jefferson Davis. At that time, the area was known as the community of Beauvoir.

In 1896, Dr. Alfred Clay, an Episcopal minister and a leader in the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, purchased the land and opened an orphanage (also called a waif home). Children from ages two through about 16 were brought there to live. It was a safe haven, and included a chapel and a school for those whose parents were not able to care for them.

The 1900 Federal census lists children originating from throughout the United States, residing at that facility. It is estimated that approximately 100 boys and girls resided at that location during its eight-year operation. The orphanage closed in 1903, after Dr. Clay's death, as a result of lack of funding.

The Coast's Colossal Coliseum

Decades after the last orphan left the

Beauvoir area, the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center was constructed on that footprint. Built by Stuart-Martin Construction Co. and designed by architects H.F. Fountain and Charles Proffer, the formal dedication ceremony was held on Dec. 6, 1977. The pledge of allegiance was led by Boy Scout Troop 419 and the National Anthem was played by the Keesler Air Force Band.

"Yankie" Barhanovich, John Mladinich, and Gus Stevens were a few of the members of the Commission who were instrumental in the success of its completion.

Elvis Presley was scheduled to perform for the opening, but with Elvis's death on Aug. 16, 1977 another Mississippi native, Charlie Pride was selected to entertain the first visitors.

Today's Coliseum has grown to offer an endless selection of popular year round events. Graduations, concerts, conventions, circuses, sports events, ice skating, fairs, car shows, and rodeos are just a sample of happenings held at this popular historical location.

SUMMER SWEET TREATS

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Consuming undercooked meats, poultry or shellfish may increase your risk of foodborne illness, especially if you have a medical condition. Must be 12 or younger to receive child pricing. Must be 21 or older to gamble. Scarlet Pearl Casino Resort reserves all rights to cancel or modify any program at any time. See Pearl Rewards Club for promotional rules and details. Gambling problem? Call 1-800-522-4700.

BNews Monthly

AUGUST 2019

Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich
and the Biloxi City Council
George Lawrence • Felix O. Gines
Dixie Newman • Robert L. Deming III
Paul A. Tisdale • Kenny Glavan
Nathan Barrett

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