

Re-openings go viral

Just in time for Memorial Day Weekend, Biloxi's casino resort industry opened for business, bringing 5,000 hotel rooms online, hundreds of thousands of dollars in advertising to attract visitors.

"We know that everyone – operators, employees and visitors – has been anticipating the re-opening of Biloxi's casinos," Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich said. "It's going to be a different experience for sure, with social distancing and other limitations, and we're hoping that everyone will be safe, act responsibly and follow the guidelines. The eyes of the nation will be on us, and we want to do this right."

Although the new cases of coronavirus were flat throughout May in Harrison County – averaging two cases a day – the statewide numbers average continued to spike with new cases daily and new deaths. In fact, the Mississippi State Department of Health reported as many as 402 new cases in one day, on May 22.

However, one local healthcare leader believed that Biloxi and south Mississippi had seen its peak in April.

"We saw the curve earlier here in the state of Mississippi than other parts of the state saw that curve," says Tom McDougal, CEO of Merit Health in Biloxi, "so we are on the down side of that curve earlier than other parts of the state. Now could we have a resurgence? Could we have a second peak? Could we have a third peak?" That's a possibility, he says, but it's not expected until the fall or next winter.

Meanwhile, seven of the eight casinos in Biloxi re-opened on May 21, with the largest, the Beau Rivage, opening June 1.

The city had unveiled its Opening Up Biloxi Again plan – safety protocols for businesses and customers on May 1 – and the mayor conducted several meetings that included retailers,



Mayor Gilich shares a laugh with Bishop Louis F. Kihneman of the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi during a meeting with clergymembers ahead of church opening.

restaurateurs, hair salon operators, attractions operators, clergy members, fraternal organizations and those wishing to operate summer camps for children.

By mid-May, the governor had given most the green light to operate, with guidelines,

and many in the public, armed with stimulus money, were ready, retailers said.

"It's been unbelievable," Edgewater Mall Manager Terry Powell reported near the end of May. "There's a tremendous pent-up demand. All of our stores are reporting huge numbers, two and three times what they normally do on a good day, and we're able to accommodate this business while still respecting social distancing guidelines. That's a huge testament to our store managers, employees, and, of course, our loyal customers."

Non-emergency city offices, after being closed to walk-in traffic for a month, opened their doors, with guidelines in effect, the day after Memorial Day Weekend. However, the Biloxi Water Department office on Main Street will remain a drive-through only at this time.

The Donal M. Snyder Sr. Center Community Center is not expected to open until the end of June, as workers are replacing the chiller for the air-conditioning system and refurbishing both the lap and therapy pools. The city hoped to be able to open the Natatorium the first of June. Crews had been conducting maintenance and repairs at the facility as well.

About this issue

This abbreviated issue does not include the monthly Community Calendar or infrastructure progress maps because of coronavirus-prompted restrictions. Information is accurate as of May 22.

Storm Prep: Part 1

- Hurricane season is from June 1-Nov. 30. Find storm names, what to do and when to do it, flood zone info and more, Pages 6-11
- See storms through the years, Back in the Day, Pages 14-15



Tern around

The small shoreline bird overpowered a bulldozer, and an old car wash in north Biloxi turns sweet, Page 4



Shuckers in a daze

Garrett Greene has tales of the weird and bizarre from Shuckerville, Page 12

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Nick L. Shrimp



It's all about perception at this point

"Let me tell you about people in Biloxi," David Staehling said more than once. "They believe two things. They believe what they read in the Daily Herald, and they believe what they want to believe."

Of course, Staehling – a former CAO at City Hall during the Holloway era and a banking-and-finance guy – was speaking from the analog era, a different era indeed but colorful nonetheless.

Word nowadays spreads – goes viral, in fact – at the speed of light, with a Tweet or Facebook post popping up on screens of Great Americans across the country, all in a matter of minutes in some instances.

So it is in this era in which we live. What to believe? Can I do this? Can I do that? Someone said this and someone said thus.

And then there's the don't-tread-on-my-rights crowd. "You want to protest something," Hizzoner chortled the other day, "protest the 1 percent who are not doing the right thing."

Or as Staehling would put it back in the day: "There's always somebody who wants to climb up a tree and show their a--."

But to be sure, we've certainly arrived at a pivotal point, the balance of public health and capitalism, for many. For some it is not so much of a balance as a "battle" of "my" rights vs. the overreaching government perpetuating an affront to the very way of life upon which this country was founded.

What to believe in the digital age?

What it's going to boil down to, as it nearly always does, is this: Personal responsibility. It's up to you, actually.

The government, those duly elected individuals on the local, state and federal levels, armed and limited by the perceptions of the Constitution, have suggested, requested and at times demanded the citizenry curtail many activities heretofore viewed as everyday life. Unprecedented, certainly to the extent viewed today, but probably just as foreign when it was done locally during the Spanish Flu Epidemic



generations ago.

You never know when these things are over, it seems, until they are over. That observation notwithstanding, the deep freeze is beginning to thaw, with government relaxing conditions while issuing guidelines to move forward.

Everyday life involves a buck changing hands, being passed perhaps. Bills being paid. Rent being collected. Life to be lived. One way or another.

Of course, it's now going to be up to the perceptions embedded in the public. Is it safe? Lest we forget, it really was not the government that closed the country and created the calamity. It was the pandemic. The facts. The data from around the digital world. Government didn't start it and government cannot end it. That's going to take a vaccine. There will be a



David Staehling
"Snapperhead"

day when the Nixonesque victory pose will be en vogue. Victory with a vaccine.

Until then, there's the advice. The advice that has introduced "social distancing" and "contact tracing" into the vernacular. Everyone's heard it, not everyone's heeded it.

Those businesses and those individuals who do the right thing will prosper. Those who invest in safety and either follow or exceed guidelines will create a sense of security in their clientele.

I get the thing about rights, a mentor said the other day. "That's your right to play Russian roulette, but don't point the gun at me. Your actions have consequences for others, including me and my family."

If you're in a place where you feel uncomfortable, limit your visit. If you speak up, do it dispassionately, tactfully. It ain't always easy.

In Staehling language: "Don't be a Snapperhead. You'll be my hoss from across whether you win a race or not. And end this column. It's as long as the Dead Sea Scrolls."

EDGEWATER MALL PRESENTS

Mystery of the Sea

Sand Sculpture Exhibit

June 9-19, 2020
In front of JCPenney

The sculpting team will work June 9-19 constructing the sculpture entirely from sand. The completed sculpture will be on display at Edgewater Mall through at least September.

Everyone is invited to watch as these talented professionals build a beautiful, 75-ton sculpture in only 10 days. Bring the family!

New this year, hidden items will be sculpted into the sand sculpture to make the exhibit interactive for guests!



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Edgewater Mall



DRC meetings re-open with a sweet project

The Community Development Department resumed its weekly Development Review Committee meetings with developers in May, and the first project out of the gate at that first meeting, says Jerry Creel, was a sweet one.

A defunct car wash at Popp's Ferry Road and Vee Street is being transformed into a Shipley's Doughnut Restaurant, also offering drive-through service. The Development Review Commission approved the application, and construction plans are now being reviewed.

"We've said all along that we were not going to stop

construction. It can be done safely," says Creel, whose Community Development Department has issued about \$10 million in construction permits over the past couple of months. "But the fact is, the DRC, Planning, and Architectural and Historical Review Commission meetings are crucial to keep things moving."

In fact, Creel said, agendas are already filling up for Planning Commission and AHRC meetings, which will resume in mid-June. All of the meetings will be conducted in the auditorium at the Community Development Department and will involve social distancing.



West Beach Boardwalk makes a tern

The small-but-spirited Least Tern has done something the coronavirus couldn't do: It's shut down part of a city project.

Workers on the West Beach Boardwalk expansion between Veterans and Camellia avenues had to move to another part of the mile-long project after a Least Tern nest was found adjacent to a piece of earthmoving machinery. The terns, which often create a dozen or so colonies of nests along Coast beaches this time of year, have also established a colony near the work area.

"We notified the U.S. Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and we were able to work in other areas of the mile-long project," said City Engineer Christy LeBatard, whose department is overseeing the \$885,000 tidelands-financed project. "A representative of the Audubon Society is monitoring the birds and



the work, and making sure that the birds are able to nest in relative peace."

The project, which will see a new boardwalk from Veterans Avenue to Camellia Avenue, is still expected to be completed in time for Cruisin' the Coast, LeBatard said.

The terns, which breed and nest on the beaches this time of year, are migratory birds that need to be taught by their parents to fish and then to migrate back to Central America and Mexico.

"We're being told that the ones by the boardwalk are expected to move on by the end of June," LeBatard said. "We don't envision any delays in the project, and we ask the public to keep an eye out for the terns as they walk the beach. Areas are roped off with signage for the nesting areas, but birds can't read and they may nest outside of a marked area."

► See major projects status, biloxi.ms.us/residents/major-projects/

- **Be prepared:** Every weekday afternoon the city publishes "Be Prepared," a coronavirus informational report. You can see the video and accompanying charts on the city's Facebook platforms, YouTube channel, city website and on BTV. Find it online between 3 and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and on BTV at 9 a.m., 3 p.m., 9 p.m. and 3 a.m.
- **Community Calendar:** The monthly calendar will return to BNews Monthly in July. Deadline to submit details for July community events in Biloxi is the 10th of June. Details – including name of the event, date, time, location, one- or two-sentence description, admission fee, phone number or web address – should be emailed to Kay Miller, downtown services manager, at kmiller@biloxi.ms.us.
- **Opening guidelines:** The Opening Up Biloxi Again guidelines for businesses and customers were mailed to everyone in Biloxi on May 1, and an updated version is online now. To see the guidelines, visit the coronavirus page on the city's website, <https://biloxi.ms.us/coronavirus-info-practical-advice/>.
- **Development meetings:** A host of public meetings, set to take place in the auditorium at the Community Development Building on MLK Boulevard, will resume this month: Community Court, June 10; Planning Commission, June 18; and the Architectural and Historic Review Commission, June 25. The Development Review Committee began meeting in May. All public meetings follow social distancing and gathering guidelines and will have limited attendance.



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Think ahead on evacuations, storm shelters

One of the toughest decisions that residents may have to make when a storm approaches is whether they should evacuate their property and possessions for either a local shelter or out-of-town accommodations.

Depending on the severity of the storm, that decision can be made for those in low-lying areas: Local authorities may order a mandatory evacuation.

In Harrison County, as many as 10 hurricane shelters can be activated in times of peril. A shelter should be refuge of last resort, but residents need to be aware of several factors if they are considering seeking refuge in a shelter.

The decision to open a shelter is usually based on the intensity of a storm and where it is expected to make landfall. Local Emergency Management leaders make the decision to open shelters in coordination with the American Red Cross, and the public is notified through the media.

The shelter sites can vary from year to year and storm to storm.

"The type of weather event, the direction of a storm and rising tides are just a couple of the factors that go into activating a shelter," says Biloxi Emergency Manager Nicholas Geiser, a battalion chief in the Biloxi Fire Department. "The number and location of shelters that are needed to be activated during an event, also have to be considered."

If you think you may seek refuge in a shelter, some points to consider:

- Bring enough food and water for at least the first day.
- Bring your own blankets and other personal needs. Cots cannot be guaranteed.
- No pets at typical shelters (check with the local humane society); no firearms, alcohol or tobacco products are allowed.
- Public transit systems – buses and taxis – will stop operating when sustained winds reach 35 mph.
- If you have an infant, bring an adequate supply of diapers and formula.
- If you or a member of your family is on a special diet, bring the necessary food.
- If you are on prescription medication, try to have a two-week supply of medication.

If you're thinking about evacuating, be familiar with evacuation routes. Traffic may be delayed by bridges opening to marine traffic. Bridges, by the way, will not open for marine traffic when sustained winds reach 35 mph.

And, finally, if you encounter a flooded roadway - in times of peril or on a typical day, remember the oft-repeated advice:

"Turn around, don't drown."

Heed the call

Network of sirens sounds the alarm when danger threatens

Biloxi has a system of 10 siren towers to help alert residents to impending danger, such as a tornado and hurricanes.

The City of Biloxi will conduct a test of the hurricane sirens on the first and last day of hurricane season. The minute-long, citywide tests will be at noon.



OK, here's the lineup of 2020 storm names

Who's to say there's not another Camille, Katrina or even Nate in the group? Which name will gain notoriety this year, or merely be lost to the ages?

There's no telling at this point, which is why preparation is the key.

Those points notwithstanding, here's the lineup of storm names for the 2020 Hurricane Season, which runs from June 1 to Nov. 30:

Arthur	Hanna	Omar
Bertha	Isaias	Paulette
Cristobal	Josephine	Rene
Dolly	Kyle	Sally
Edouard	Laura	Teddy
Fay	Marco	Vicky
Gonzalo	Nana	Wilfred

If all names are exhausted before the end of the season, the Greek alphabet is used.

By the way, don't expect to see the names Katrina, Camille, Isidore, Gustav, Nate or a host of others used in the future.

While the World Meteorological Organization, which compiles the list of storm names, has been known to repeat a name after seven years, those storms that have been deemed so deadly or costly are retired to avoid confusion or insensitivity.

And the common denominator among Katrina, Camille, Isidore, Gustav and Nate? They all caused damage in Biloxi.

What you can expect to see when a storm threatens

Residents of Biloxi can plan on seeing a constant flow of information regarding weather bulletins and advice this hurricane season, as well as early warnings about storms. Here are key timelines to remember, but remember that these timelines could be revised, based on the size and scope of the storm:

• 72 hours before landfall

If Biloxi is in the probability cone, expect to see a recommended evacuation announcement.

• 48 hours before landfall

If Biloxi is in the probability cone, expect to see a mandatory evacuation order for Category 1 to 3 Evacuation Zones, which includes all areas south of the CSX railway, the Biloxi peninsula east of I-110, and all flood prone areas along Back Bay of Biloxi, low-lying areas, and area rivers and tributaries. (See map on Page 11.) At this point, casino resorts are expected to close.

• 36 hours before landfall

If Biloxi is in the probability cone, expect to see a mandatory evacuation order for Category 4 to 5 Evacuation Zones, to include all areas south of I-10 and all flood-prone areas along Back Bay of Biloxi, low-lying areas, and area rivers and tributaries. (See map on Page 11.)

What you can do now

Don't wait until a tropical depression or hurricane is in the Gulf to begin preparing. There are steps you can take now. See the list on Page 10.

More info

- Sign up for B-Alert by texting BILOXI to 888777. You'll get advisories via text messages.
- To see evacuation zones and evacuation routes, see map on Page 11.
- Information also will be available via city Bmail (sign up at biloxi.ms.us), and through a recorded message on the City of Biloxi Storm Info Line: 228-435-6300.



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It's illegal to sweep lawn clippings into the street

Chances are, you've seen it done or even done it yourself: You cut your lawn, rake up the trimmings and pile them near the curb in front of your home. Or, you'll sweep the trimmings into the street, where you hope they'll be carried away by the wind.

These two scenarios result in one of the biggest causes of flooding in the city – blocked storm drains.

These careless or unthinking actions negate the millions of dollars in improvements that the

city is making citywide to drainage systems.

Piling leaves at the curb or sweeping trimmings into the street means that they will eventually find their way into the city's storm drains. Either bag the leaves for pickup or compost them. A stopped-up storm drain or ditch cannot carry run-off water as it is intended to do. When it rains, that water can flood streets, your property or your neighbor's property.

It's actually a violation of city ordinance to

dump any material into storm drains, ditches, culverts, streams or waterways (Sec. 9-1-15, Code of Ordinances, 1992).

If you see anyone dumping debris into storm drains, ditches, culverts or streams, please contact the Public Works Department at 228-435-6271, or online at publicworks@biloxi.ms.us, or the Code Enforcement staff in the Community Development Department at 228-435-6270 or online at dking@biloxi.ms.us.

Be sure to get a building permit before construction

When you or a licensed contractor make repairs or alterations to your property, those repairs should be in compliance with established building codes. This ensures that

work is up to code and will be able to withstand most weather conditions.

To make sure that your plans are within code, a building permit must be obtained from the City of Biloxi Building Division before you build, alter, re-grade or fill on your property. New buildings in the floodplain must be protected from flood damage. Biloxi's building code requires that new buildings must be elevated to the base flood elevation, plus 1 foot.

The code also requires all additions and 'substantial' improvements or repairs from damage to a building be treated as new construction. A substantial improvement or repair is one in which the value of an addition, alteration, repair or reconstruction project exceeds 50 percent of the total value of the existing building.

Before you begin a project, contact the

Building Division at 228-435-6270 or online at building@biloxi.ms.us. Qualified staff can help make sure that your project complies with building codes. Biloxi is currently under the 2012 International Building Code, and the 2014 National Electrical Code.

Contractors must have city license

Property owners are warned to beware of transient contractors who typically set up shop in the wake of disasters such as a major hurricane or tornado.

Ask to see the person's City of Biloxi license card, which is required to do business in this city.

Do not pay any money in advance. Do not sign any contracts. And do not pay any money until the work has been inspected and approved by a city inspector.

If you have any questions or concerns, call the Community Development Department at 228-435-6280.

A ride out of harm's way

Coast Transit is ready to assist needy residents when an evacuation order is issued. If you need evacuation transportation, known as "Demand Response," it's free, but you must register to get a ride to a local shelter. Call CTA at 228-896-8080. Registration is easy: Your name, address, phone number and any special needs. You'll get all of the info you need.



Federal agencies encourage residents to use direct deposit

In those critical days after Hurricane Katrina, the U.S. Treasury Department worked with the Social Security Administration to get displaced Social Security and other federal benefit checks to recipients, as quickly as possible.

But those who already were using direct deposit had immediate access to their funds from virtually anywhere, thanks to ATMs and financial institution networks.

That's why the Treasury and the Federal Reserve Banks – through Go Direct – are urging Social Security check recipients who live along

the Gulf Coast to switch to direct deposit.

The recommendation, offered in light of devastating hurricanes, is aimed at ensuring citizens receive their federal benefits without disruption.

Go Direct makes it easy to sign up for direct deposit. People can sign up by calling the toll-free Go Direct helpline at (800) 333-1795 or by visiting www.GoDirect.gov to sign up online. To learn more about Go Direct, visit www.GoDirect.gov.

Stay tuned for more storm information

The National Weather Service monitors hurricane and storm activity, and issues official bulletins to local and regional TV and radio stations. Since television coverage may be interrupted by power outages, you should also have a battery-operated radio to follow emergency advisories. It is vital that you monitor these weather broadcasts, especially as a storm approaches.

Additionally, the City of Biloxi relays vital information on a regular basis. The current temperature, conditions and forecast are displayed 24/7 at the top corner of the city's website at biloxi.ms.us.

Sign up to receive timely text alerts by texting BILOXI to 888777. Sign up for the Bmail by visiting biloxi.ms.us/register.

At right is a list of local outlets where you can obtain information.

Television
WLOX-TV 13
WXXV-TV 25
The Weather Channel

Radio-FM
WQYZ 92.5
WMJY 93.7
WJZD 94.5
WZNF 95.3
WUJM 96.7
WCPR 97.9
WKNN 99.1
WGCM 102.3
WBUV 104.9

WXRG 105.9
WXYK 107.1
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WGCM 1240
WROA 1390
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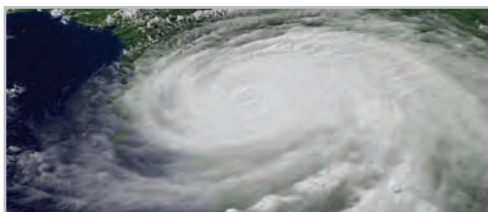


What to do and when to do it

DURING A HURRICANE WATCH

(A Hurricane Watch is issued when there is a threat of hurricane conditions within 24-36 hours.)

- Listen to a battery-operated radio or television for hurricane progress reports.
- Check emergency supplies.
- Fuel car.
- Bring in outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, toys, and garden tools and anchor objects that cannot be brought inside.
- Secure buildings by closing and boarding up windows. Remove outside antennas.
- Turn refrigerator and freezer to coldest settings. Open only when absolutely necessary and close quickly.
- Store drinking water in clean bathtubs, jugs, bottles, and cooking utensils.
- Store valuables and personal papers in a waterproof container on the highest level of your home.
- Review evacuation plan.
- Moor boat securely or move it to a designated safe place.
- Take pre-storm pictures of house and contents.



- glass doors.
 - Keep a supply of flashlights and extra batteries handy. Avoid open flames, such as candles and kerosene lamps, as a source of light.
 - If power is lost, turn off major appliances to reduce power “surge” when electricity is restored.
- If officials indicate evacuation is necessary:
 - Leave as soon as possible. Avoid flooded roads and watch for washed-out bridges.
 - Secure your home by unplugging appliances and turning off electricity and the main water valve.
 - Tell someone outside of the storm area where you are going.
 - If time permits, and you live in an identified surge zone, elevate furniture to protect it from flooding or better yet, move it to a higher floor.
 - Take pre-assembled emergency supplies, warm protective clothing, blankets and sleeping bags to shelter.
 - Lock up home and leave.

DURING A HURRICANE WARNING

(A Hurricane Warning is issued when hurricane conditions – winds of 74 mph or greater, or dangerously high water and rough seas – are expected in 24 hours or less.)

- Listen constantly to a battery-operated radio or television for official instructions.
- If in a mobile home, check tie-downs and evacuate immediately.
- Bring outside pets inside and provide shelter for farm animals.
- Avoid elevators.
- If at home:
 - Stay inside, away from windows, skylights, and

them immediately to the power company, police, or fire department.

- Enter your home with caution. Beware of snakes, insects, and animals driven to higher ground by flood water.
- Open windows and doors to ventilate and dry your home.
- Check refrigerated foods for spoilage; if electricity is off, keep refrigerator and freezer closed as much as possible.
- Take pictures of the damage, both of the house and its contents for insurance claims.
- Drive only if absolutely necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges. Refrain from sightseeing.
- Use telephone only for emergency calls.
- Inspecting utilities in a damaged home:
 - Check for gas leaks. If you smell gas or hear blowing or hissing noise, open a window and quickly leave the building. Turn off the gas at the outside main valve if you can and call the gas company from a neighbor's home. If you turn off the gas for any reason, it must be turned back on by a professional.
 - Look for electrical system damage. If you see sparks or broken or frayed wires, or if you smell hot insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker. If you have to step in water to get to the fuse box or circuit breaker, call an electrician first for advice.
 - Check for sewage and water lines damage. If you suspect sewage lines are damaged avoid using the toilets and call a plumber. If water pipes are damaged, contact the water company and avoid the water from the tap. You can obtain safe water by melting ice cubes.
- Generally, utility companies restore services lost during major storm events first to public service providers, such as hospitals, water systems and public safety agencies.

AFTER THE STORM

- Stay tuned to local radio for information.
- Help injured or trapped persons.
- Give first aid where appropriate.
- Do not move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of further injury. Call for help.
- Return home only after authorities advise that it is safe to do so.
- Avoid loose or dangling power lines and report

Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1 | – 74-95 mph |
| 2 | – 96-110 mph |
| 3 | – 111-130 mph |
| 4 | – 131-155 mph |
| 5 | – greater than 155 mph |

Spanish and Vietnamese translation available online.

Need More Info?

- To read FEMA's answers to frequently asked questions about repairing significantly damaged properties in flood zones, visit biloxi.ms.us.
- To read FEMA's "Homebuilder's Guide to Coastal Construction," which provides technical guidance and recommendations concerning the construction of coastal residential, visit biloxi.ms.us.
- Those with other questions can call the Community Development Department at 228-435-6280 or e-mail building@biloxi.ms.us.

The strange, odd and downright head-scratching daze of the Shuckers

By Garrett Greene
Biloxi Shuckers

If you're like me, things are feeling a little... bizarre right now. And that got me thinking – what are some of the weirdest and most bizarre instances of baseball madness that have happened to the Biloxi Shuckers in their five-year history? The result took me to high scoring games, terrible defense and a broken belt.

First up is the terrible, no-good day at the ballpark for righty Angel Ventura. It was the first start of the season for Ventura on April 10, 2017, and the native of the Dominican Republic took a 1-0 lead to the bottom of the first inning in Montgomery. The fun ended there for Ventura as he gave up 11 runs in the next two innings. The catch – none of the runs were earned due to SIX errors by the Shuckers, part of a nine-error day by Biloxi. When the dust settled, Ventura carried a sterling 0.00 ERA into his next start while the Shuckers fell 13-6.

From errors to double plays, Biloxi hit into six double plays on the same day, April 10, in 2016. Starting in the second inning, the Shuckers hit into a twin-killing in six consecutive frames. The craziest part though, is that Biloxi would snap out of their double play funk and score five runs in the eighth, coming back to top the Chattanooga Lookouts 8-5.

Next up, the case of the broken belt. Right-hander Braden Webb was the starting pitcher for the Shuckers on August 31, 2018 against Birmingham, and while he was warming up for the fourth inning, Webb's belt snapped. There wasn't enough time for the starter to head to the clubhouse, so manager Mike Guerrero went out to the mound and gave Webb HIS belt. Wearing the manager's belt, Webb struck out six batters in a row and seven of the next nine hitters he faced. After the game, Webb claimed frequent trips to the rosin bag helped with his command, but we all know the manager's belt was the real secret that night.

And finally, there is the second craziest game I've ever been a part of in my short time in baseball. It happened on July 27, 2018 in Jackson, Tenn. A brief scene setter. It's Friday night and the Shuckers are finishing up a

Shuckers Manager Mike Guerrero would give you the belt off his waist.



five-game series at the Ballpark at Jackson with an overnight bus ride to Pensacola, FL once the game concludes, a trip that takes about seven hours. It was a tight game going into the eighth inning against the Generals, and Luis Aviles Jr. hit a two-run homer to give Biloxi a 6-4 lead in the frame.

What followed in the ninth inning was one of the most indescribable experiences of my life. Former Major Leaguer Brian Ellington took the mound for Jackson and proceeded to walk three batters, hit three batters, uncork two wild pitches, record two outs and give up a three-run homer. Ellington exited the game with the bases loaded and four runs already charged to his record. The righty threw 33 pitches, just nine of them for strikes.

Catcher Jose Queliz entered the game

to face Corey Ray, who proceeded to crush a grand slam. The scoring mercifully came to a conclusion after Lucas Erceg drove in another run, giving Biloxi a 15-4 lead. It didn't end there though, as Jackson scored three runs in the home half of the ninth to bring the final score to 15-7 in a game that took three hours and 26 minutes. This meant the bus didn't depart Jackson until nearly 11 p.m. and the sun was already up when we rolled into Pensacola at 6:30 a.m., just in time to catch breakfast at the hotel.

These are just a few of the many downright odd occurrences that baseball has gifted Shuckers fans over the years. Here's to hoping we're talking about strange bounces and "How did THAT happen?!?" moments again at MGM Park very soon.

www.milb.com/biloxi





June Schedule

Sparklight 56; Uverse 99 (follow prompts) or at biloxi.ms.us/btv

Morning	
6 a.m.	"Down in Biloxi," by Rockin' Ray Fournier (4 min)
6:04 a.m.	A Day in the Life of Biloxi (9 min)
6:13 a.m.	Biloxi Builders and Visionaries (8 min)
6:21 a.m.	Biloxi Today (3 min)
6:25 a.m.	Infrastructure video (5 min)
6:30 a.m.	Biloxi Public Schools (15 min)
6:45 a.m.	Keesler Air Force Base (15 min)
7 a.m.	Edgewater Mall (25 min)
7:30 a.m.	RU Ready? (1 hr 15 min)
8:45 a.m.	The History of Biloxi (12 min.)
9 a.m.	City Council meetings and bonus public affairs programming (3 hours)
Afternoon	
Noon	A vintage vignette: "America's Riviera," B&W, 1950s travelogue (9 min)
12:10 p.m.	A vintage vignette: "America's Riviera," 1960s travelogue (14 min)
12:30 p.m.	Edgewater Mall (25 min)
1 p.m.	RU Ready? (1 hr 15 min)
2:15 p.m.	The History of Biloxi (12 min)
2:30 p.m.	The Croatian Influence on Biloxi (12 min)
2:45 p.m.	Pucharatas (4 min)
2:50 p.m.	Builders and Visionaries (8 min)
3 p.m.	City Council meetings and bonus public affairs programming (3 hours)
Evening	
6 p.m.	"Down in Biloxi," by Rockin' Ray Fournier (4 min)
6:04 p.m.	A Day in the Life of Biloxi (9 min)
6:13 p.m.	Biloxi Builders and Visionaries (8 min)
6:21 p.m.	Biloxi Today (3 min)
6:25 p.m.	Infrastructure video (5 min)
6:30 p.m.	Biloxi Public Schools (15 min)
6:45 p.m.	Keesler Air Force Base (15 min)
7 p.m.	Edgewater Mall (25 min)
7:30 p.m.	RU Ready? (1 hr 15 min)
8:45 p.m.	The History of Biloxi (12 min)
9 p.m.	City Council meetings and bonus public affairs programming (3 hours)
Midnight	National anthem by Ronny Broussard (2 min)



You can view individual programs on the city's YouTube channel. Go to the city website at biloxi.ms.us and click on the YouTube logo at top right.

Keesler moves forward with diligence, carefully

By Col. Heather W. Blackwell

Commander, 81st Training Wing, Keesler

I hope this finds you healthy and safe! I wanted to provide you a quick update on Keesler and what we're doing to move forward with confronting the COVID-19 virus.

Since the beginning of this crisis, our Keesler Medical Center has helped ensure we stay ahead of the spread of this virus. With advice from our Medical Center's Public Health Officials, Keesler has been very aggressive with mitigation measures against the COVID virus. Those measures have paid off.

We have been able to keep our numerous populations healthy while sustaining our training mission, taking on new missions, keeping our aircraft flying and keeping our hospital operational. As overall cases level off, we now have decision space to diligently bring back functions across the base relative to our priorities and risk tolerance.

Attempting to recover the base and continue mission operations while the crisis is still an evolving threat makes for a complicated "planning-execution-monitoring" cycle; however, if we do this slowly and deliberately we can bring back capabilities while keeping all Keesler's populations safe, and ensuring we remain a good community partner.

There are a few hot-button mitigation measures that get all the attention on social media. In actuality, Keesler implemented a total of 210 mitigation measures to slow the spread of the virus. As our Recovery Working Group (RWG) examines all 210 measures, they will recommend removing mitigation measures based on:

- Mississippi, DoD, and National Guidance
 - Current rate of positive COVID cases per day over a two-week period (locally and on Keesler)
 - Keesler Priorities: People, Mission, Community
 - The COVID Risk Index associated with each measure
- For example, one item the RWG recommended we bring back was the golf course. If we reopened the golf course and let it operate the exact same way it did before, the COVID Risk Index was high. However, we can reduce the COVID Risk Index to low if we put measures in place.

The decisions we make on Keesler will align with the local community. As we move forward, ensuring we partner with the community is also important to me.

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
- Citizen services (streets, lights) 435-6271
- City Council 435-6257
- City Court 435-6125
- Code Enforcement 435-0841
- 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

Hurricanes

Names, planes and claims to fame




French vessel cannons salvaged in the late 1800s once sat north of U.S. 90 and can now be seen south of U.S. 90 in Guice Veterans Memorial Park, near the Small Craft Harbor.



Fierce hurricanes, just like pandemics, have been with us through the annals of history. Even though many records have not survived the wrath of these storms, we do however have documentation of past encounters.

Back in the Day



By Jane Shambra

We know that in 1503 Christopher Columbus penned an encounter with a horrific hurricane while traveling through the Caribbean Sea. In August 1717, a destructive hurricane split Dauphin Island in two parts; and, in 1722 French Inspector-General D'Artaguiette described his encounter with a massive hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico. It is believed that this is the hurricane that destroyed the French ship that sank in Biloxi's Back Bay.

In 1892 the French vessel was discovered by a local 25-year old oyster tonger, Eugene Tiblier. Cannons from the vessel were salvaged and are still with us today. The four cannons are mounted on a slab of concrete that can be seen adjacent to the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor in the Guice Veterans Memorial Park.

Hurricane season

Officially, the hurricane seasons ranges from June 1 through November 30. Living on the Coast, we all know that weather issues for boaters as well as folks on the mainland can formulate throughout the year. Since this season has already begun, one should make mental as well as physical preparations in anticipation of one of these "unwelcomed guests."

The City of Biloxi utilizes its sirens to warn residents of oncoming tornados and hurricanes, as well as its text alerts utilizing its 888777 address and email and Facebook alerts. Media reports, such as television, radio, and internet sources offer additional guidelines.

Back in the day black and white television broadcasts were not available 24 hours a day. Many had to rely on a little battery operated transistor weather radio to listen to hourly weather bulletins.

Naming monsters

Hurricanes usually occur every year and decades ago they were tracked by the year they occurred in. Over time as more storms appeared, naming by year created confusion.

In 1953, the United States begin naming the storms in alphabetical order using female names. Alice, Barbara, Carol, and Dolly were first on that list. Names beginning with X, Y, and Z were not utilized.

Beginning in 1979, hurricane names were

prepared alternating gender beginning with Ana, Bob, Claudette, David and Elena and included English, French, and Spanish names.

In 2005, the most active season recorded was the year of Hurricane Katrina, the list ran out and meteorologists had to resort to using the letters of the Greek alphabet to continue naming these monsters. Names of storms which cause extreme devastation are never utilized again. Rest assured, hurricanes Audrey, Betsy, Georges, Camille, Katrina, or Gustav will never visit us again.

Flying high and proud

When storms do visit, the renowned Hurricane Hunters fly into the tropical storms and hurricanes to collect weather data. Biloxi is honored to be host of the Hurricane Hunters, officially known as the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron. The squadron is stationed at Keesler Air Force Base, formerly known as Keesler Field.

In fact, they are the only operational unit in the world flying weather reconnaissance on a routine basis.

It all began in 1943, when two Army Air Corp pilots challenged each other to fly through a hurricane. The first flight was on July 27, 1943 when Maj. Joe Duckworth flew a propeller-driven single-engine plane into the eye of a hurricane.

In 1944, the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron was activated, a component of the

403rd Wing. Their mission is to "recruit, organize, and train assigned personnel to perform aerial weather reconnaissance." They monitor storms and hurricanes in the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, Gulf of Mexico and Central Pacific Ocean as well as winter storms off both the Eastern and Western coasts of the United States. Equipped with meteorological and other special data-equipment, crews utilize special WC-130J aircrafts.

Spherical creations

Have you ever heard of hurricane drift balls? These revolutions have nothing to do with Mardi Gras! Actually, they are a fascinating phenomenon much like a relic in time from a science project.

Basically, these aquatic, spherical objects have appeared after Coast hurricanes and were deposited on our sand beaches. They are much like the tumbleweed which are seen in the desert. These balls begin with a small simple core, such as a twig or cigarette butt. The churning wave action of the horrific waters forces allows this tiny object to collect pieces of grasses, litter, and other non-organic matter. You can see a preserved hurricane ball at the Biloxi Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum.

Lines above sea level

Have you ever wondered how high the water got in different areas during Hurricane Katrina? Well, in 2007 the Biloxi Community Development Department devised a credible listing of over 70 locations within the city limits where standing water from Hurricane Katrina could be identified. These are known as water lines.

City Public Works crews measured and painted sky blue stripes on utility poles marking these levels. Some of the highest levels were recorded at approximately 18 feet at the corner of U.S 90 and Caillavet Street and at Lee Street along U.S. 90.

An official list of "Hurricane Katrina Standing High Water Marks" can be found online at <https://biloxi.ms.us/pdf/kwatermarks.pdf> and images may be seen at <https://biloxi.ms.us/Gallery/06152010/>.

Scales of a different kind

Years ago, the word scale had a totally different meaning. It may have been associated with catching and cleaning fish, mailing a parcel post package at the post office, or weighing fresh okra at Jitney Jungle for gumbo. In the early 1970s came another type of scale, this one having nothing to do with food.

Herbert Seymour Saffir (1917-2007), a structural engineer and Robert Homer Simpson (1912-2014), a meteorologist, devised the

Saffir-Simpson Scale. This scale does not measure hurricane damage. It simply rates hurricanes on the maximum sustained surface wind speed for a duration for at least one minute. The following categories reflect sustained wind speed:

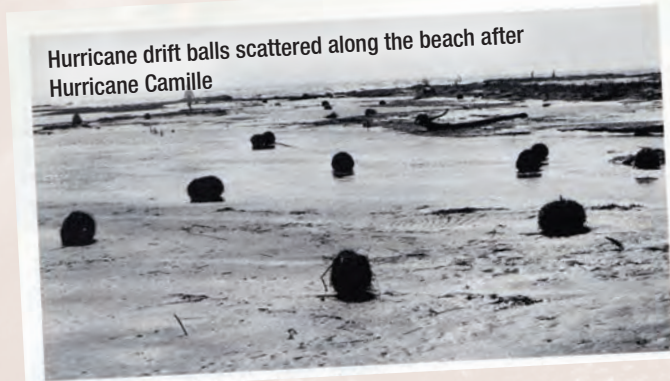
- Category One 74-95 mph
- Category Two 96-110 mph
- Category Three 111-129 mph
- Category Four 130-156 mph
- Category Five 157 and higher

So now when you hear about hurricane categories 1 to 5 rating for a hurricane's strength, you will know how that came about.

Getting ready genealogically

When a hurricane warning is issued, folks scurry to stores to purchase items like bottled water, non-perishable food, and even manual can openers! Clothing, medicines, fuel, and personal items are also on the list. But, don't forget your Genealogy Disaster Kit! These are the precious things from your family history that cannot be replaced and include photos, family history research and mementos like your grandfather's Purple Heart medal and grandma's recipes.

Scan your collection to a thumb drive or save your photos and research to the electronic cloud. When evacuating, it will be a lot easier to travel with than bulky photos albums and boxes of papers.



Geologist examines a spherical drift ball left by Hurricane Camille

Photos courtesy of the Biloxi Public Library.



The writer is manager of the Local History and Genealogy section of the Biloxi Public Library. Email her at jane.shambra@gmail.com.

BNews Monthly

JUNE 2020

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and the Biloxi City Council
George Lawrence • Felix O. Gines
Dixie Newman • Robert L. Deming III
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