A compendium of what's happening in Biloxi



It's true! The COVID-19 numbers are going down, down, down

New local cases of the coronavirus are being reported every day, but the fact is, as February wound down, the number of new daily cases had dropped by 50 percent and hospitalizations were trending downward as well.

The daily average of new positive tests in Harrison County had dropped to 53.67 cases a day by mid-February, down from an average of 109.71 a day two weeks earlier.

The Mississippi State Department of Health reported that 449.815 vaccinations had been

given as of Feb. 17 date. Among the sites in Biloxi were the Coast Coliseum and Walmart Super Center on C.T. Switzer Sr. Drive in West Biloxi.

"COVID vaccinations are now the light at the end of the tunnel," Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich told online State of the City audiences in mid-February. "But we continue to look at the number of new positive tests,

and the number of hospitalizations during any decision making process."

In other words, remain vigilant.

► Detailed COVID info, Pages 6-7



Voters in four wards to vote on council seats

It's municipal election year in Biloxi, and four of the seven City Council seats are being contested in the upcoming April 6 party primaries.

Incumbent Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich and Councilmembers Dixie Newman of Ward 3 and Nathan

Barrett of Ward 7 face no opposition in the upcoming elections, but party primaries will be conducted in four contested Republican races: Wards 1, 4, 5, and 6.

Three Republicans will be on the ballot in Ward 1. and two in Wards 4, 5 and 6. Nominees chosen in the primaries and independent candidates will face off in the June 8 general election.



ALSO INSIDE This month

Our shining star(s) Saluting Clark Griffith, the patriot in our midst, Page 2

Water, water

March could be a big month for the Biloxi Water Department, Page 4

The big picture

You've been hearing about infrastructure work for years, but here's the overall view, Pages 12-13

The big party

The newest downtown park is set to host a block party, Page 17

Biloxi Cooks!

It's the month of St. Patrick's Day, so there's an Irish Feast, Page 21

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Generally speaking, Clark Griffith is true blue

"What does that mean, in-famous?" Dusty Bottoms said to amigo Ned Nederlander in "The Three Amigos!"

"Oh, Dusty," Ned said, "In-famous is when you're MORE than famous. This man El Guapo, he's not just famous, he's IN-famous."

That brings us to "Brigadier" General. "Oh, Nick," Ned might say. "That's not just a general, it's a Brigadier General, which is more than a General."

And that brings us to Clark Griffith, the Air Force veteran, the civic leader, the former City Councilman, the former "Brigadier" General, and the retired (and current) three-star general (that's far more than a Brigadier General).

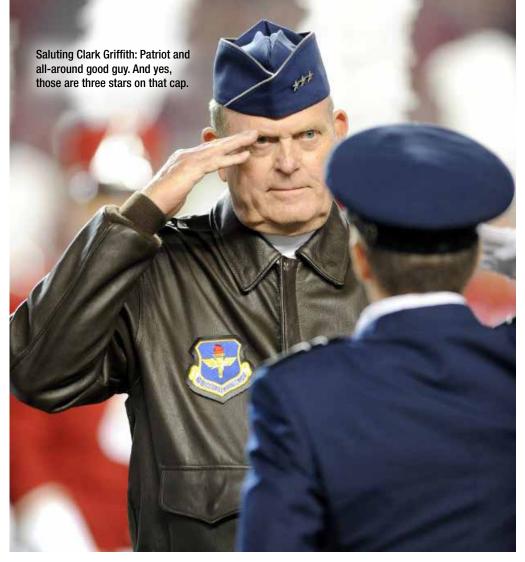
Clark, who was unceremoniously stripped of a couple of stars in this space last month, was kind enough to laugh off the miscue, but it reminds us of just how cool of a Citizen he's been over the years.

Here's a guy who in a decorated 35-year Air Force career has commanded at every level, from tactical fighter squadrons all the way up to vice commander of the Air Force's Air Education & Training Command. Seriously, 4,700 hours as a command pilot, including 280 combat missions in Vietnam, serving across the country and around the world, and when it came time to retire, he found himself in Biloxi.

As with so many military retirees – about 7,000 in Biloxi, by some counts – Clark and his wife Jean decided to take up house in Biloxi.

Over the years, civic and community leaders have pressed into service more than once, a mission he gladly accepted.

Tommy Munro – the venerable Biloxi booster and a general himself in the Mississippi National Guard – recruited Clark as one of the original members of the Biloxi Bay Businessmen's Club, which morphed into the Biloxi Bay Area Chamber of Commerce we have today.



"Here, put this on your truck," Tommy Munro said as he handed a "Things are Brighter in Biloxi" bumper sticker to Clark one day back in the '80s. "I said 'Yes, sir," the general says today with a smile.

Clark Griffith was born in Gadsden, Ala., a community that honored him years ago just as his adopted hometown, Biloxi, named him Outstanding Citizen and Volunteer of the Year and a host of other accolades it pains him to read on this page.

But it's his no-nonsense, common-sense demeanor that distinguishes him.

When issues were challenging, Clark would lean on that modest upbringing: He would look at the person across the table and say, "Look, I need you to put that in 'farmer' to me.'"

During his time on the City Council, Clark, always an engaged supporter of Keesler, was not afraid to take a position.

After the White House hotel, just down the street from Keesler's main gate, had sat dilapidated for years, Clark suggested the city give owners at the time an ultimatum: Bring it up to code, get something going, or we'll tear it down.

Through the years, mayors and governors had also pressed him into service on Keesler issues, especially to help tell the Keesler story

in an environment of military cutbacks, named BRAC, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission that sends a chill at local city halls when members are in town.

Clark cautioned leaders of development near Air Force bases, especially high-rise development that could jeopardize the base's flying mission. Losing any of the base's three primary missions – electronics training, medical or flying – would make the base "a wounded duck," Griffith used to say, "and a wounded duck is easy to kill."

Another time, as Clark was about to enter a debate over an issue, he told insiders about the facts he planned to use to win his argument. "What you do," he said with a sly smile, "is you show them the knife before you poke them with it."

In the aftermath of Katrina, as swaths of the city's neighborhoods and the Biloxi economy were devastated, Mayor A.J. Holloway turned to Clark to help lead a planning effort to rebuild Biloxi.

Once again, he answered the call, just as he did countless times, either in uniform or in civvies.

That's the great thing about Clark Griffith. He's always there. Always dependable and a man up to any task, generally speaking.

The nom de plume Nick L. Shrimp is a homage to the late Walter Fountain, original olde crab, longtime editor of the Biloxi-D'Iberville Press, and longtime Biloxi Chamber of Commerce manager.

dister BUNNY

The Easter Bunny arrives March 6 at 11 a.m.!

The bunny is available every day through April 3 for pictures.

Bunny Land is located near Dillard's.

Bunny Land hours: Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday, 12-6 p.m.

Edgewater Mall has a million square-feet of retail, restaurants and entertainment in a safe and climate-controlled environment.

> Visit us for your Spring shopping!



Four wards to host party primaries on April 6 Here are Republican and Democratic nominees for Mayor and City Council. Republican primaries will be held in Wards 1, 4, 5 and 6; no primaries will be conducted in uncontested Wards 2, 3 or 7, or for mayor. Primary election day is April 6 with runoffs, if needed, on April 27. Winners of the party primaries and independent candidates will appear on the ballot in the general election, which is June 8.

Mavor

Andrew "FoFo" Gilich (R)

Ward 1

Keith Anderson (R) Steve "Stevie" Brosh Jr. (R) Becca Vanderford (R) George Lawrence (D)

Ward 2

Felix O. Gines (D) Tracey D. Smith (IND)

Ward 3

Dixie Newman (R)

Ward 4

Robert L. Deming III (R) Rodney McGilvary (R)

Ward 5

Terry Shelton (R) Paul Tisdale (R) Sugar Stallings (D)

Ward 6

Jason A. Gibson (R) Kenny Glavan (R)

Ward 7

Nathan Barrett (R)



News & notes

Let there be light: The city is expected to soon repair lights on the Popp's Ferry Bridge. Seven of the 21 lights on the two-lane bridge are out. Meantime, at the Point Cadet fishing bridge, repairs also are in the works for lighting there.

Crossed out: It's official, the CSX rail crossings at Nixon and Dorries streets in East Biloxi have been closed and a closure at Delauney is in the offing. The three closures of the 21 crossings in the twomile stretch between Keesler and Point Cadet are to allow a new crossing as part of the Popp's Ferry Road extension in West Biloxi.

Popp's Ferry: Speaking of the Popp's Ferry extension from Pass Road to U.S. 90, the city has acquired necessary rights of way. The search for federal funding for construction about \$8 million - continues.

Seeking applicants: The city is seeking qualified applicants for a host of positions: laborers, maintenance workers, GIS technicians, electricians, dispatchers, lifeguards, a network engineer and even a Director of Engineering. The positions come with a robust benefits package. For details, click on the Human Resources link on the city website or call HR at 228-435-6259.

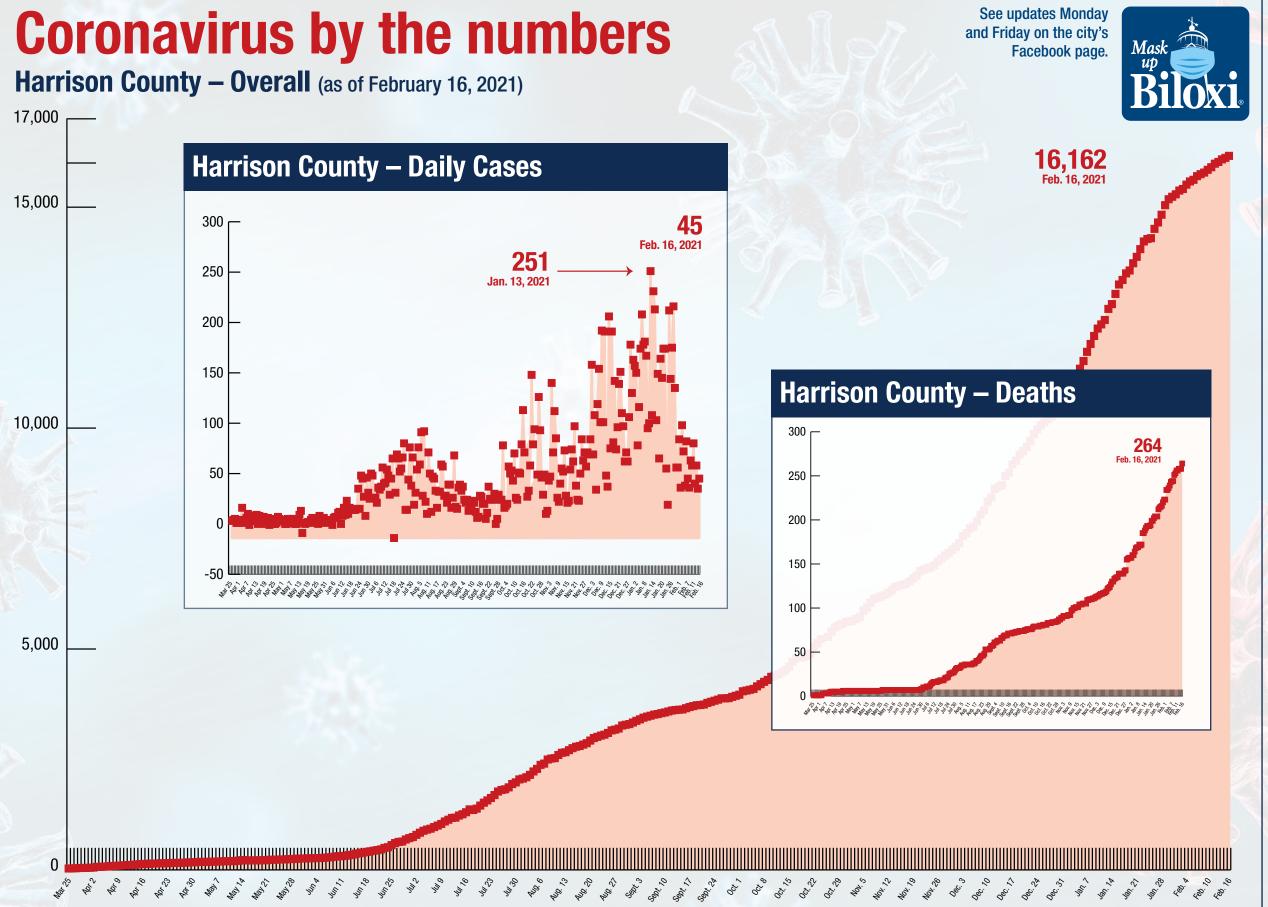
Youth sports: Biloxi Youth Baseball and Softball is set to begin practice on March 1 with games tentatively scheduled to begin March 22 at the A. J. Holloway Sports Complex. Registration has closed and safety protocols and guidelines will be in place during every practice and game. Visit the sports page on the city's website, biloxi.ms.us, for details.





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Statewide overall

Positive cases

288,714

(as of Feb. 16)

Presumed recovered

264,456

(as of Feb. 16)

Deaths

6,501

(as of Feb. 16)

Hospitalizations

572

(as of Feb. 16)

COVID-19 Vaccinations

Visit online at biloxi.ms./coronavirus-info-practical-advice/ to see links to the Mississippi State Department of Health's free drive thru COVID-19 vaccination locations, a list of local health care providers administering the vaccinations and information on how to schedule a vaccine at the Walmart Super Center pharmacy off CT Switzer Sr. Drive.

Research is still being done on the vaccination, including its duration and effectiveness to the virus variants, so everyone should continue to mask up, wash hands often, social distance, avoid social gatherings and stay home if feeling sick.

Mississippi COVID-19 Hotline: 877-978-6453

► For more details, visit online at biloxi.ms.us/ coronavirus-info-practical-advice/



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Visions of downtown development

Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich, in his State of the City presentation the other day, noted the interest in downtown Biloxi since Howard Avenue opened as a brick two-way thoroughfare. Who are we to argue? Take a look for yourself. To see what Hizzoner had to say about the state of our city, visit biloxi.ms.us/sotc2021.



Josette's, the one-time Borden's Milk location, is now being transformed into 23 high-end apartments and two commercial spaces. Scheduled to open this year. Among the names in the works: 902 Howard or The Factory.



The Magnolia Hotel on Rue Magnolia will house Fields Flights, an upscale restaurant with an oyster bar, indoor and balcony dining, a walk-in cooler for dry-aging steaks and a marble countertop bar on the second floor. Look for opening this Summer.





Crisis line provides support to Veterans around the clock

By Bryan C. Matthews Director, Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System

While all of us have seen numbers on our television or mobile device screens over this

past year – numbers of COVID-19 cases, numbers of those vaccinated, and numbers of those who have succumbed to this terrible illness – there are other numbers the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) tracks, and one in particular which my staff and I will always put first.



Twenty. That's the number of individuals who have worn the cloth of our great nation who take their own lives each day, and that's a number that Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System (GCVHCS) employees – many of them Veterans themselves – are dedicated to erasing. And during these trying times when so many of us continue seeing numbers that shock and seem never to end,



the stress and feelings of hopelessness and despair can have a significant impact on our Veterans, some of whom have a limited support network.

One of the methods the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has established is the Veterans Crisis Line, a free, confidential, 24-hour hotline for Veterans and their families or friends. Since its launch, the Veterans Crisis Line has answered more than 1.25 million calls and made more than 39,000 lifesaving rescues. To reach someone right away, Veterans can dial 1-800-273-8255 and speak with someone. Veterans can also send a text message to 838255 or start an online chat, veteranscrisisline.net, with individuals dedicated to helping our nation's heroes through difficult times.

Learning and watching for signs of concerning behavior can help Veterans and their loved ones get help. Feelings of hopelessness, anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, mood swings, or withdrawal from family and friends can indicate that a Veteran might be experiencing some issues. If you observe a Veteran demonstrating these traits, start a conversation with them. Listen, express concern, reassure the Veteran, and ask if they have access to anything that could harm them, and call for help if you feel the situation is dangerous. Then get the Veteran help; the Veterans Crisis Line can be reached at 1-800-273-8255, or if you feel the situation is difficult, take the individual to the closest emergency room or call for help.

Our Veterans are our primary concern, and our employees have all taken an oath to provide these heroes medical care with integrity, compassion, advocacy, respect, and excellence. During these times of great stress, I encourage each one of you to check in on the Veterans you know, reach out to them and tell them that they are appreciated – gestures such as these are sometimes more appreciated than we can understand.

As always, please know that we are continuing to place our Gulf Coast area Veterans first; we are dedicated to our mission and our community and remain honored to serve our Veterans and the great city of Biloxi.

This monthly column and the 15-minute program airing daily at 6:45 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. on BTV are created by the Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System manager.

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Batter up! Shuckers announce 2021 schedule

The Biloxi Shuckers have announced their 2021 schedule, which begins on the road May 4 at the Birmingham Barons for the Double-A South Opening Day, followed by a home opener on Tuesday. May 11 when the Mississippi Braves visit MGM Park.

With a later Opening Day than usual, the Shuckers will host games at MGM Park all the way through Sunday, Sept. 19.

All told, the Shuckers will play a 120game schedule with 10 home and 10 road series this season. Each home and road series will be six games beginning on Tuesday and ending on Sunday. Every Monday during the season will be an off day.

Of their 60 home games, Biloxi will host 12 games in the months of May and June, 11 in July, 14 in August and 11 in September. The Shuckers will twice have back-to-back home series with 12 games in

13 days, the first occurrence happening from July 27 to Aug. 8 with the second just two weeks later from Aug. 24



to Sept. 5.

The Shuckers will face their two closest geographical South Division opponents. the Mississippi Braves and Pensacola Blue Wahoos, over five series and 30 games each. The Braves will be their most frequent opponent at home over 18 games while

the Shuckers most frequent road trip will be to Pensacola for 18 games. The Shuckers will face their other in-division opponent, the Montgomery Biscuits, in 24 games over four series split evenly between home and the road.

The Shuckers will play two series each, one at home and one on the road, against three of the four North Division opponents.

The Chattanooga Lookouts will not match-up against the Shuckers this season. The Rocket City Trash Pandas will make their first ever trip to Biloxi Aug. 24-29, Birmingham will visit Biloxi July 6-11 and Tennessee will close out the season

at MGM Park Sept. 14-19. Game times and promotions for the 2021 season will be announced at a later date.

Full Shuck Nation Memberships, Half Shell Shuck Nation Memberships, flex plans and

> group outings for the 2021 season are available now by calling 228-233-3465, option 3. Individual game tickets will be available closer to the season.

Get tickets and more info at biloxishuckers.com



FEMA meets with city about Zeta repairs

The time-consuming process of making federally funded repairs to city facilities has begun, says Biloxi Chief Administrative Officer Mike Leonard.

In fact, Leonard reports, repairs have been ordered to begin at some facilities, such as MGM Park, U.S. 90 elevated pedestrian cross walks, and at the Point Cadet Marina offices.

Leonard and key city department and division managers met with FEMA representatives in February to discuss the scope of repairs to city buildings and facilities.

"Subsequently we completed the detailed damage inventory and provided it to FEMA," Leonard said. "We have grouped all damages into 20 projects and have selectively begun the repairs. On some facilities, such as the Biloxi Visitors Center, we await final insurance proof of loss determinations."

One of biggest federal reimbursements to the city, of course, will be the bill for debris removal, an effort that says 300,000 cubic yards of debris was hauled away. The price tag: More than \$4 million. Typically, FEMA pays 75 percent of the tab and the state pays 12.5 percent, with the remaining 12.5 percent paid by

Said Leonard: "Our debris contractor is long gone, and our city crews are working now on the remaining debris, which is mostly fence parts."



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IN MARCH

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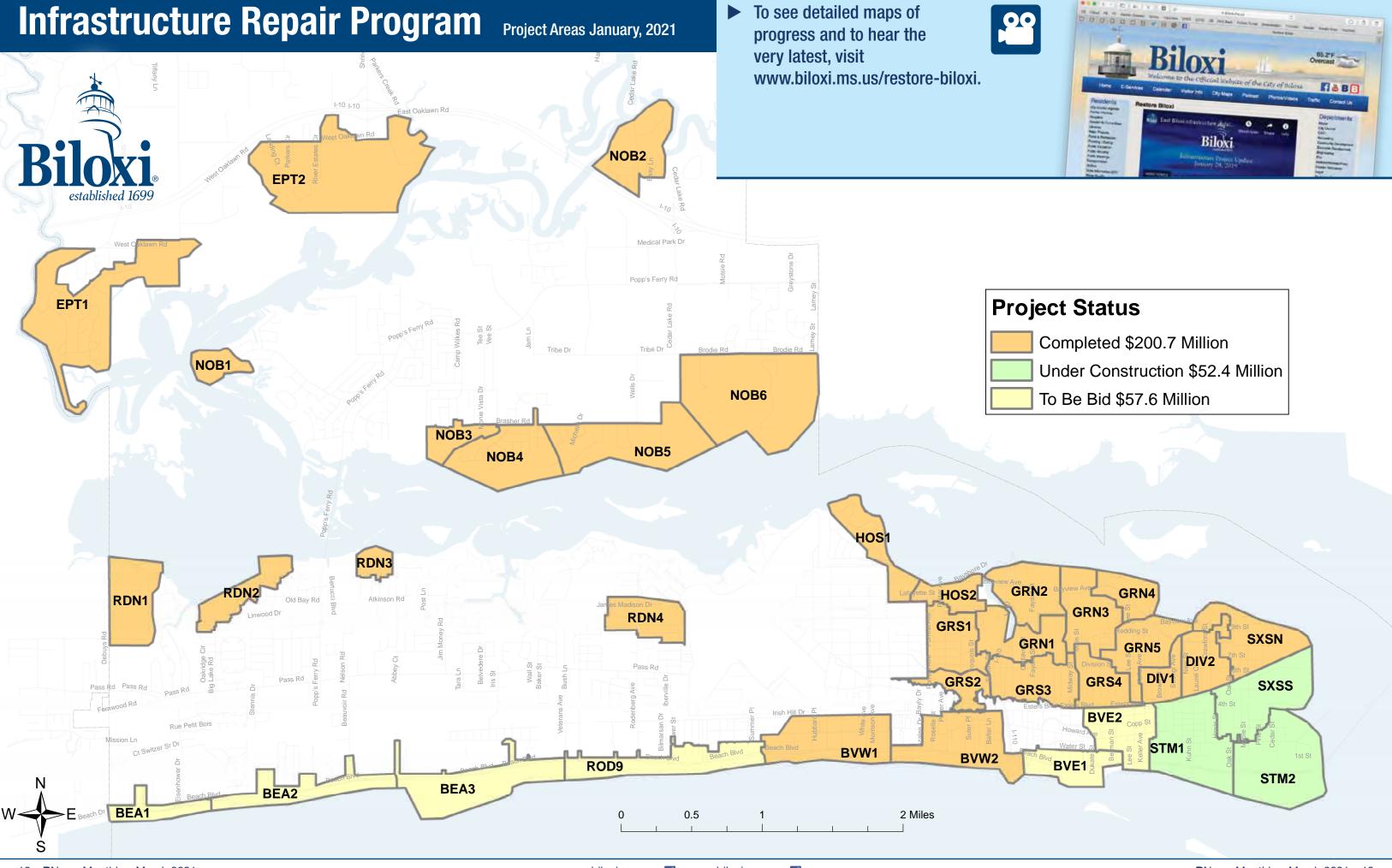
Voucher valid only on date issued and nontransferable. Valid Monday - Thursday. Holidays excluded.



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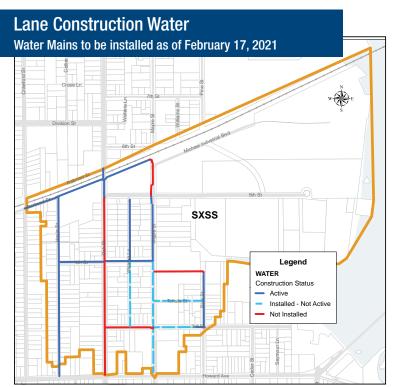


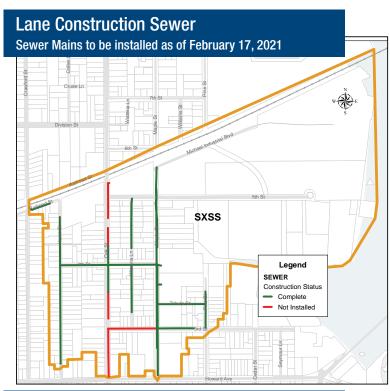
The infrastructure work in Biloxi

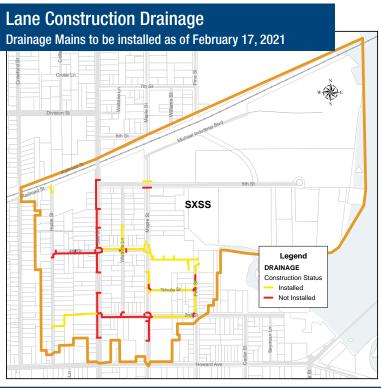
Pages 14 and 15 contain maps that show the status of the city's two major infrastructure projects now underway. The information on these maps is compiled by the city's Engineering Department, based on reports from contractors and inspectors at each site. See detailed maps and video online at biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi/.

Sixth Street South

Lane Construction in October 2019 began a \$10.5 million, 550-day project to install new water, sewer and drainage lines in a Point Cadet area south of the CSX railway. It involves three miles of roads, from the tip of the peninsula at Michael Boulevard, south to Third Street and west to Hoxie. Deadline: April 16, 2021.







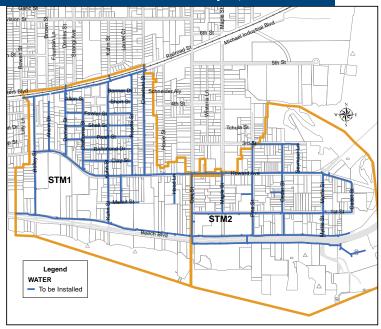


St. Michael 1 & 2

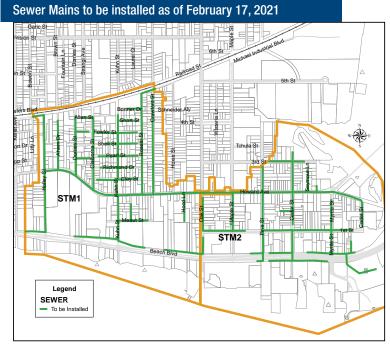
The Necaise Brothers Construction contract began on Jan. 4, 2021 with the next phase of infrastructure work in East Biloxi. The first order of business for this \$41.5-million project: installation of a new sanitary sewer on Howard, from Maple to Cadet, while maintaining access to the Palace Casino throughout construction. The Necaise work is scheduled to take 900 days.

Necaise Brothers Construction Water

Water Mains to be installed as of February 17, 2021

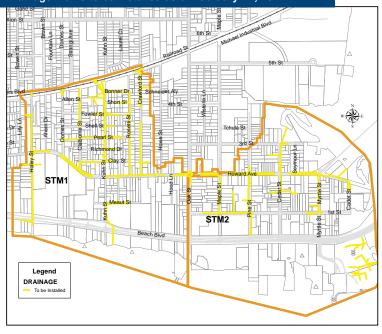


Necaise Brothers Construction Sewer



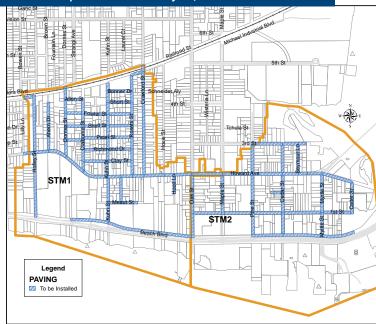
Necaise Brothers Construction Drainage

Drainage Mains to be installed as of February 17, 2021



Necaise Brothers Construction Pavement

Roads to be paved as of February 17, 2021





A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT/BUILDING DIVISION



Dear Resident:

You have received this letter because your property is in an area that has flooded several times. The City of Biloxi is concerned about repetitive flooding and has an active program to help you protect yourself and your structure from future flooding. Here are some

1. Check with the Building Division on the extent of past flooding in your area. Our Floodplain Administrator can tell you about the causes of repetitive flooding, what the City is doing about it, and what would be an appropriate flood protection level. Our Building Inspectors can visit your property to discuss flood protection alternatives.

2. Prepare for flooding by doing the following:

- Know how to shut off the electricity and gas to your house when a flood comes.
- Make a list of emergency numbers and identify a safe place to go.
- Make a household inventory, especially of contents.
- Put insurance policies, valuable papers, medicine, etc. in a safe place.
- Collect and put cleaning supplies, camera, waterproof boots, etc. in a handy place.
- Develop a disaster response plan See the Red Cross' website: www.redcross.org/services/disaster/ for a copy of the brochure "Your Family Disaster Plan."
- Get a copy of "Repairing Your Flooded Home" available within the Building Division.

3. Consider some permanent flood protection measures.

- Mark your fuse or breaker box to show the circuits to the floodable areas. Turning off the power can reduce property damage and
- Consider elevating your house above flood levels.
- Check your house for water entry points.
- Install a floor drain plug, standpipe, overhead sewer, or sewer backup valve to prevent sewer backup flooding.
- More information can be found in the "Homeowner's Guide to Retrofitting: Six Ways to Protect Your House from Flooding" available in the Building Division or visit www.fema.gov/hazards/floods/lib312.shtm
- Be aware that some flood protection measures may need a building a permit and other flood protection measures may not be safe for your type of structure, so be sure to check with the Building Division.

4. Visit the Building Division for information on financial assistance in terms of a flood insurance policy.

• Get a flood insurance policy – it will help pay for repairs after a flood and, in some cases, it will help pay the costs of elevating a substantially damaged building.

5. Flood Insurance.

- Homeowner's insurance policies DO NOT cover damage from floods. However, because the City of Biloxi participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy. This flood insurance is backed by the Federal government and is available to everyone, even properties that have been flooded.
- Any area that is NOT mapped as a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) may qualify for a lower-cost Preferred Risk Policy.
- The City of Biloxi participates in the NFIPs Community Rating System (CRS) and is at a Class 5. Therefore, all locations within a SFHA will receive a flood insurance premium reduction of 25% and all locations that are NOT within a SFHA will receive a flood insurance premium reduction of 10%.
- Some people have purchased flood insurance because it was required by the bank for a mortgage or home improvement loan. Usually these policies only cover the building's structure and not the contents. Due to the flooding that happens in your area, there is usually more damage to the furniture and contents then there is to the structure. Be sure you have contents coverage.
- Do not wait for the next flood to buy flood insurance protection. In most cases, there is a 30-day waiting period before the NFIP coverage takes effect.
- Contact your insurance agent for more information on rates and coverage.

Please contact our office for more information.

Richard Stickler, CFM Floodplain Administrator Community Development Department ● 676 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. ● P.O. Box 508 • Biloxi, MS 39533-0508 rstickler@biloxi.ms.us

Phone: 228-435-6280 Fax: 228-435-6188



Community Calendar

March 2021

Best Bets!



Party at The District Green

Downtown Biloxi's newest park, **The District Green**, will be the host to an outside, open space block party on
Friday, March 5 from noon to 9:30 p.m.
Visitors to the park, 785 Howard Ave., and event will hear live music with a few comedy segments in between, be able to consume some tasty treats from various food vendors including Pop Brothers, and sip on some beer from Fly Llama Brewing Company. Admission is free but fees apply for food and drinks. Social distancing is encouraged. Details: 228-392-1900





Biloxi Challenger League Baseball Registration, through April 6. 228-388-7170. The Biloxi Parks & Recreation Department is seeking participants for its annual Challenger Baseball League, open to all ages with disabilities. Participation is free, as well as the uniforms. Games will be played at the A.J. Holloway Sports Complex. Details: 228-388-7170

Downtown Biloxi Block Party at The District Green, 785 Howard Ave., March 5, Noon-9:30 p.m. Live music throughout the afternoon, food trucks, Pop Brothers, and beer from Fly Llama Brewing Company of Downtown Biloxi. Free admission. Details: 228-392-1900

First Friday Downtown, March 5; 5-8 p.m., Rue Magnolia/GE Ohr Street block. Join Biloxi Main Street's kick off to First Friday Downtown 2021. Live entertainment, vendors, and door prizes! Free admission. Details: 228-435-6339



Saints Shenanigans Sister Mary Jo Memorial Race, March 6, 7 a.m.; 140 Lameuse St. Participate in person or virtually for the 3rd annual fun run and

5K. All proceeds benefit Nativity BVM Catholic School students. Details: https://nativitybvm.org/saints-shenanigans-sistermary-jo-memorial-race; 228-432-2269

Joppa Shrine Steak Night, March 12, 6-8 p.m. Joppa Shrine, 13280 Shriners Blvd. Rib eye steak with all the trimmings. Takeout available. \$17 per person. Details: 228-392-9345



MARCHoftheMAYORS

March of the Mayors food donation, through March 12, various locations. The City of Biloxi is participating in the March of the Mayors food donation to benefit coast food pantries. To participate, drop off one or more cans of tuna at Biloxi City Hall, the Donal Snyder Community Center, the Lopez Quave Public Safety Center or one of Biloxi's 10 fire stations. Details: facebook.com/cobiloxi

Best Bet!





First Friday

On the evening of Friday, March 5, Downtown Biloxi will light up and businesses will open their doors for the after hours event, First Friday Downtown. The event takes place in the Rue Magnolia and GE Ohr Street area from 5 to 8 p.m. and will feature live entertainment, vendors and door prizes. The outdoor event promotes social distancing while allowing the public to take in the sights and a little shopping. Details: 228-435-6339

Adherence to CDC guidelines paramount. All events subject to change.

Stay in touch

BNews: Welcome to the 34th 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 Cantal
•	Animal Control
•	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
•	City Court
•	Code Enforcement
•	Drivers Licenses
•	Emergency Police and Fire 911
•	Garbage Collection 701-9086
•	Housing Authority
•	Human Resources
•	Mayor's Office
•	Museums Information 435-6244
•	Parks & Recreation
•	Planning Commission 435-6266
•	Public Schools
•	Streets and Drainage
•	Visitor Info 374-3105 or 1-800-BILOXI-3
•	Water Service 435-6236

Best Bet!

Citywide Easter Scavenger Hunt

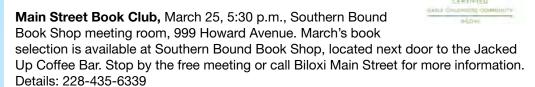
The Biloxi Parks & Recreation Department continues its Easter events in spite of the pandemic but with a little extra distance in between the participants by hosting a citywide Easter Scavenger Hunt. On Saturday, March 27 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., the public is invited to scout the city for 12 locations where candy and prize-filled Easter eggs will be hidden. Scavenger hunt clues are available on the

City of Biloxi website, biloxi.ms.us on the Parks & Recreation page, and at the recreation office at 377 Hiller Drive weekdays up until the event. If all 12 locations are discovered by a participant on March 27, a grand prize may be obtained the week following the hunt at the recreation office. Details: 228-388-7170



Third Thursdays, March 18, Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art, 386 Beach Blvd. Live music and food by **Makin' Groceries.** Free admission; donations welcomed. Details: 228-374-5547

Hop the Trail to Bunny Land, March 20, 9 a.m.-noon, Biloxi Town Green, 710 Beach Blvd. Open to ages five and younger. Details: 228-388-7170; 228-297-6808



Joppa Ladies Indoor Garage Sale & Flea Market, March 27, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Joppa Shrine Center, 13280 Shriners Blvd. Donations for the sale can be dropped off at the Shrine Temple daily except Wednesdays and Sundays. To arrange pick up, please call Candice at 239-405-4089. Details: 228-392-9345

Citywide Easter Scavenger Hunt, March 27, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., throughout the city at various parks, businesses, and facilities. Locations will have eggs filled with candy or prizes. Free admission. Details: 228-388-7170

Gulf Coast Oyster Cook-off, March 27-28, Noon-4 p.m., Point Cadet Pavilion, 121 Cadet St. Food, vendors, competitions, Corvette show, and entertainment. Admission: \$5 for adults; free for ages 5 and younger; \$20 special oyster tasting ticket. Details: http://www.gulfcoastoystercookoff.com/

Biloxi Little Theatre

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

Fridays with Fab Freddie,

BLT's Virtual Happy Hour; Fridays 6:30 p.m.

Center Stage

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

Betsy Ann Riverboat Cruise

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

· Closed until Spring

Biloxi Lighthouse & Visitors Center

1050 Beach Blvd., 228-374-3105, biloxi.ms.us - Open daily, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

• Lighthouse Tours Daily, 9-10 a.m., weather permitting

Biloxi Schooners

367 Beach Blvd., 228-435-6320, schooners@maritimemuseum.org

· Walk-on sunset sails, charters, or sails to Horn Island

Biloxi Shrimping Trip

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

· Sunset cruises, fishing trips, and three shrimping trips daily

Biloxi Tour Train

Biloxi Lighthouse Park parking lot, south of Biloxi Visitors Center, traffic light #40 228-374-8687, www.biloxitourtrain.com.

· Call in advance to check tour availability during March due to weather.

Coastal Mississippi Mardi Gras Museum

792 Howard Ave., 228-314-4747, museum@coastalmardigras.com, www.coastalmardigras.com

• Open 10 a.m.-4 p.m., closed Sundays and Mondays

Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum

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

• Sea N Sail Camp registration continues • Walk-on sails all month long!

Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art

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

- Open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- · Check website for events and studio classes at OOMA!

Ship Island Excursion

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

• Ferry service resumes spring 2021

• Private charters available year-round.

West End Hose Co. No. 3 Fire Museum

1046 Howard Ave., 435-6119/435-6200, www.biloxi.ms.us

• Historic 1937 firehouse open Saturdays 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or by appointment

Biloxi Elks 606 Lodge of Biloxi

1178 Beach Blvd., 228-374-0606

- Friday Bingo: March 5, 12, 19 & 26. Doors open at 5 p.m.; Early Bird games 6:30 p.m.; regular games at 7 p.m. Cash payouts and door prizes. Concessions available and open until 8:30 p.m.
- Sunday Charity Bingo: No Sunday Bingo for March.
- Safety protocols for bingo: six-feet social distancing, contact tracing forms to be completed, temperature taken, hands to be sanitized, and masks are mandatory by the gaming commission. Seating capacity is limited to 50 percent.

Fleur de Lis Society of Biloxi (French Club)

182 Howard Ave., 228-436-6472

• Friday night seafood dinners, 6 p.m., Karaoke with Kenny at 7:30 p.m.

Nativity Cathedral

871 Esters Blvd., 228-374-0606

Biloxi Bingo Mania – Every Tuesday night behind Nativity Cathedral; Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; Early bird begins at 6:30 p.m.; Regular games begin at 7 p.m. Proceeds benefit Nativity BVM Catholic Elementary School.

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
31	1	2 Community Market	3	4 Community Market	First Friday Downtown Biloxi Downtown Biloxi Block Party The District Green	Saints Shenanigans Sister Mary Jo Memorial Race Biloxi City Hall
		Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral			Friday Night Dinners with Karaoke Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge	
7	8	9 Community Market	10	Community Market	Joppa Shriners Steak Night 13280 Shriners Blvd.	13
		Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral			Friday Night Dinners with Karaoke Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge	
14	15	Community Market Bike Biloxi Downtown Biloxi	17 & Happy & St. Patrick's Day!	Community Market Third Thursdays Ohr-0'Keefe Museum of Art	19 Friday Night Dinners	Hop the Trail to Bunnyland Biloxi Town Green
		Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral			with Karaoke Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge	
21	22	Community Market Biloxi Bingo	24	Community Market Main Street Book Club Southern Bound Books	Friday Night Dinners with Karaoke	Joppa Ladies Indoor Garage Sale & Flea Market 13280 Shriners Blvd. Citywide Easter Scavenger Hunt Various Parks, Businesses, and Facilities
		Mania Nativity Cathedral			Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge	Gulf Coast Oyster Cook-Off Point Cadet Pavilion
Gulf Coast Oyster Cook-Off Point Cadet Pavilion	29	Community Market	31	1 Community Market	2	3
		Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral				

B TV March 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.	Inside BTV for March (5 min)				
6:10 a.m.	Infrastructure report (5 min)				
6:15 a.m.	The History of Biloxi (12 min)				
6:30 a.m.	Biloxi Public Schools (15 min)				
6:45 a.m.	Biloxi VA Today (15 min)				
7 a.m.	"Biloxi Cooks!" (20 min.)				
7:21 a.m.	Mask up Biloxi (5 min)				
7:30 a.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)				
7:45 a.m.	Biloxi By Air (15 min)				
8 a.m.	Special Presentation: Another Look Back at Biloxi				
	"Social Change in a Democracy"				
9 a.m.	City Council meetings and other 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)				
12:25 p.m.	Biloxi Public Schools (15 min)				
12:45 p.m.	Biloxi VA Today (15 min)				
1 p.m.	"Biloxi Cooks!" (20 min.)				
1:20 p.m.	Mask up, Biloxi (5 min)				
1:30 p.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)				
1:40 p.m.	The History of Biloxi (12 min)				
1:45 p.m.	Biloxi By Air (15 min)				
2 p.m.	Special Presentation: Another Look Back at Biloxi				
•	"Social Change in a Democracy"				
3 p.m.	City Council meetings and other bonus public affairs programming (3 hours)				
Evening					
6 p.m.	"Down in Biloxi," by Rockin' Ray Fournier (4 min)				
6:04 p.m.	Inside BTV for March (5 min)				
6:10 p.m.	Infrastructure report (5 min)				
6:15 p.m.	The History of Biloxi (12 min)				
6:30 p.m.	Biloxi Public Schools (15 min)				
6:45 p.m.	Biloxi VA Today (15 min)				
7 p.m.	Special Presentation: "Biloxi Cooks!" (20 min.)				
7:21 p.m.	Mask up, Biloxi (5 min)				
7:30 p.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)				
7:45 p.m.	Biloxi By Air (15 min)				
8 p.m.	Special Presentation: Another Look Back at Biloxi				
- p	"Social Change in a Democracy"				
9 p.m.	City Council meetings and other bonus public affairs programming (3 hours)				



You can view individual programs on the city's YouTube channel.

BTV: Feasts for eyes, palate

BTV has a couple of feasts for March, another look at the documentary filmed in 1950s Biloxi and, in honor of St. Patrick's Day, a "Biloxi Cooks!" that focuses on Irish fare.

"Social Change in a Democracy," which the city acquired from the National Archives, discusses the values of the democratic way of life and how citizens can work to have laws enacted to protect their way of life.

The program has a fascinating look at Biloxi – video, no photos – from the 1950s, its waterfront and City Hall, community leaders and students of the day. In fact, this month-long airing of the program is designed to help identify locations and people on screen. (Did you spot someone or a locale? Email online@biloxi.ms.us)

Producers of the documentary chose Biloxi to serve as a backdrop for a typical community. A number of locals – students, fishermen, and city leaders of the time – make cameo appearances in the documentary, which, in a page ripped from today's headlines, tells the story of the community rallying to enact laws to protect local water quality and the livelihoods of local fishermen.

In March, the presentation airs each morning and evening at 8 on BTV and each afternoon at 2.

Meanwhile, connoisseur Renny Sherman has an Irish feast and a guest for this month's special edition of "Biloxi Cooks!" You can see the program each day at 7 a.m., 7 p.m. and 1 in the afternoon. Erin go bragh!

This month's recipe: St. Patrick's Day Feast

Ingredients:

- 2 Groebel's Corned Beef Briskets (Flats)
- 1 bottle of beer
- · 2 cabbage heads
- 3 lbs potatoes, peeled and mashed
- 1 pint of sour cream
- · 2 cups of milk
- 8 oz block of cream cheese
- 1 pkg Durkee/French's Fried Onions
- 1 pkg Hormel Bacon Pieces
- 8 oz Mozzarella cheese
- Apple Cider Vinegar
- Ground cloves
- Salt
- Pepper

Instructions:

Beef

- Place Corned Beef brisket in a roasting pan, fat side up. Sprinkle contents of seasoning packet on top of beef. Pour beer into pan until just below top of beef.
- Seal pan tightly with aluminum foil.
- Place in 325 degree oven
- Cook time 6 hours, but at end

of 2 hours, then 4 hours, open cover and remove $\frac{1}{2}$ of liquid surrounding beef. Add liquid to cabbage.

Biloxi

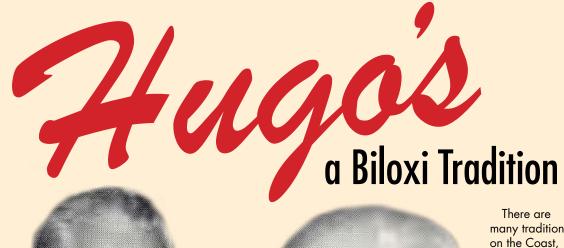
Cabbage

- Cut cabbage into desired size pieces. Wash and add to tall pot. Add enough water to cover cabbage. Add tablespoon of vinegar, ½ teaspoon of ground cloves and tablespoon of salt.
- Simmer cabbage until tender adding beef braising liquid for seasoning.

Potatoes

- Peel, boil and mash potatoes when done. Note: Instant potatoes will work, follow instructions on box.
- Add milk, cream cheese, and sour cream and whip until creamy. Add French's Onions and Hormel Bacon Pieces. Mix well; add salt and pepper to taste.
- Put potatoes in baking dish, top with Mozzarella cheese and bake alone for 45 minutes at 325 degrees.





many traditions such as the seafood festival

and Mardi Gras that includes a connection to food. Food is nutritious, it can comfort you, and it can bring

Now that our Mardi Gras season has ended and our yearn for king cakes subside, we enter into the Lenten season. Lent begins on the Wednesday after Mardi Gras, Ash Wednesday, and continues through to the day before Easter. It is a time when many focus on fasting or not eating as much and abstain from meat on Fridays. Often times, a local church fish fry or cheese pizza from a favorite restaurant would be the go-to for dinner.



Before the days of "fast food," high school students looked forward to outings at popular gathering places

after Friday night

when they would

listen to music, and

One very popular

sometimes dance.

establishment in

Biloxi's restaurant

history is Hugo's.

Founded by Hugo J.

Rungo (1909-1993)

in the 1950s, and

the place where the

said by some as

football games,

meet up with friends to eat.

Back in the Day



By Jane Shambra

Hugo Rungo and

Jayne Mansfield

French dressing-onpizza craze originated, began in an alley and grew to be the favored spot for teenagers and families for decades.

The beginning

Mr. Hugo was not a native Biloxian nor an Italian. He was, in fact, born in New York City of Polish and German parents. While stationed at Keesler Field in Biloxi, he loved our area so much he decided to make the area home after his time in the military.

First, he worked as a "mixologist" for the Buena Vista, the Tivoli, and the Avalez hotels. After some time of saving money, Mr. Hugo, observing no Italian restaurants in the area, opened a local eatery and named it Hugo's.

The pizza parlor

Pizza is what Hugo's is most remembered for. In those days, folks called it "pizza pie." Hugo's menu not only featured traditional Italian foods, such as pizza, spaghetti, and spumoni ice cream, it included breakfast, Mexican, Chinese, po-boys, and an assortment of local seafood options.

Mr. Hugo opened his first eatery in 1951 in the area between Howard Avenue and Jackson Street, where Merit Hospital now exists. He later moved to West Division Street and Porter Avenue.

In 1959, the Daily Herald newspaper advertised two locations: Hugo's Restaurant at Porter and Division and Hugo's Pizza Palace at Lameuse and Division. Hugo's Pizza Palace and Restaurant celebrated its formal opening on Saturday, March 21, 1959 and offered a new venue for parties and banquets.

In 1959, Hugo's specialties included Bar-B-Q, chili, and shrimp pizza which all had registered trademarks. He even had a catchy phrase, "Pizza is the Trend, Friend."

Although Mr. Hugo passed away in 1993, his restaurant stayed open until 2003. And, even though the building no longer stands, memories of pizza, good times, and dating at the restaurant are still remembered today!

Famous tradition

When going to a local restaurant, diners have two major decisions: Do you want your po-boy dressed and pressed? And, do you want French dressing with your pizza?

Many say the French dressing craze began at Hugo's. In fact, Mr. Hugo kept a bottle of French dressing on the tables. When Biloxi students would visit the restaurant after school, they would order a slice of pizza, and often add "liquid cheese" or French dressing on their pizza. When longtime Hugo's manager Hilda Ainsworth was asked about the craze, she was noted in an interview by saying "kids do weird things."

But did the craze really begin at Hugo's? This unusual eating tradition seems to have been born in the 1950s at Hugo's eatery: French dressing/Catalina dressing on pizza. There is no definitive day or person to give credit for our Coast tradition.

One story tells about a patron asking for a free add-on and received a squeeze bottle of dressing resulting in an amazing trend. Another storyteller relates that back-in-the-day some chefs got into an argument in Hugo's kitchen resulting in French dressing spread all over customers' pizzas. A third remembrance related a convincing story about this tradition to its beginning by Keesler airmen who frequented Hugo's on a regular basis. Finally, another version related the legend to airmen who requested liquid cheese for their pizza;

thus, a squirt bottle of French dressing was offered and it was a success. And, a few thought the tradition began when someone asked for a free add-on to their pizza, and that's the only option that was available.

The memories

Memories of Hugo's pizza goes beyond the food. Mr. Hugo's patrons were not limited to locals. Famous celebrities often visited the eatery, including Jayne Mansfield, Pete Fountain, and even Elvis Presley. And, the memories go beyond food and famous personalities. Memories of pin ball machines which paid a nickel for each winning point, was a recollection.

The man

Mr. Hugo was not only a restaurateur but an avid supporter of local sports teams. Hugo's was a regular sponsor of bowling, softball, and golfing teams. Often, Mr. Hugo was recognized for organizing tournaments which would benefit worthy causes for the needs of children in the community.

Mr. Hugo Rungo passed away in 1993 at the age of 83. Even though his building is no longer standing, the famous home-made pizza with French dressing tradition continues and so do the smiling reminiscent memories of days gone by. Pizza parlors across the Coast to this day often offer the add-on on tables and ask patrons if they wish to include this soothing liquid to their pizza order.

The survey

A casual informal survey recently reflected the French dressing tradition and memories of Hugo's.

- Many Biloxi natives that were surveyed were well aware of the custom. A few surveyors even mentioned its liking to Catalina dressing.
- Almost everyone surveyed had at least tried the topping.
- About 15 percent of the participants had never heard of putting French dressing on pizza. These participants were mostly newcomers to this area. Those with no background on the subject found the suggestion of the add-on not palatable.
- 40 percent of the participants would not engage with French dressing on their pizza.
- Almost all responders attributed this custom to Hugo's, and all yearn for another establishment just like it. Everyone remembers Hugo's and where it was located, except the youngsters of today who only have oral histories shared by family memories to reply upon. Oh, and some participants had not and do not eat pizza, at all. Imagine that!









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

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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 Visit us online at biloxi.ms.us



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