

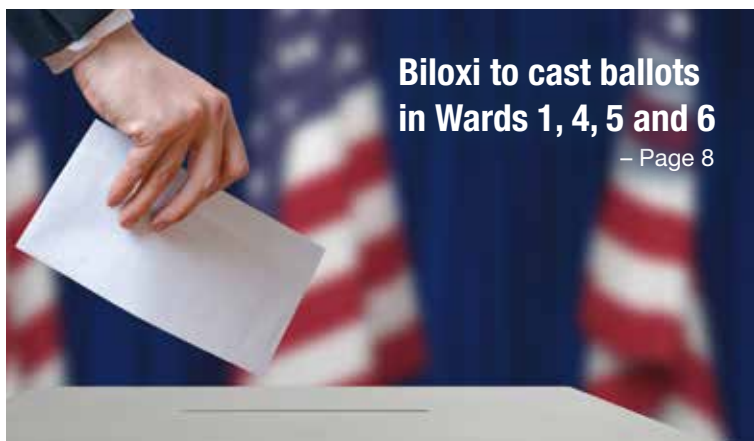
BNews Monthly

APRIL 2021

A compendium of what's happening in Biloxi



AN APRIL SHOWER OF NEWS



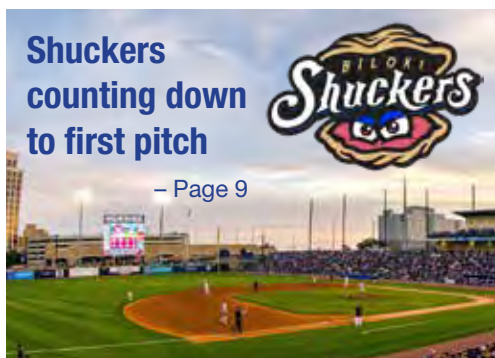
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Nick L. Shrimp



Gimme some of that oldtime politicking

Far be it from us to turn these pages political (as politics go, we're pro-Biloxi, for the record), but as Election Day nears, fondly we remember the Biloxi politicking of the past.

Blame the electronic era, namely television at the outset, then the explosion of social media, and now, of course, the waning days of the pandemic.

You just don't see the political rallies as you did in the Good Ol' Days.

What an environment it was, back in the day, when candidates would take to the podium on a stage before dozens of local voters at church bazaars and other gatherings. They were look-you-in-the-eye events, where would-be officeholders glad handed, and, depending on their station in public life, either railed for better days or praised the many benefits of the status quo.

Such gatherings typically occurred in an outdoor field, most commonly on church or school grounds amidst a collection of booths offering hamburgers, hot dogs or a seafood dish. There were cake walks, live music, dunking booths and maybe even a dice game or a row of nickel slot machines.

"Politicking or campaigning in those days was real All-American sweaty, working-hard politics," said Ted Riemann, a political strategist and gadfly from Gulfport. "It was colorful, not like it is today, mostly on social media."

It was, frankly, a matter of wholesale vs. retail campaigning.

Nonetheless, today, they say (and even no less an authority than Riemann agrees), successful candidates on the local level must wear out the shoe leather, canvassing neighborhoods, knocking on doors and listening, and making their case one on one, ever so briefly, to the person answering the door before moving to the next door.

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.



Elder statesman John Warner, on a stop at Keesler in the wake of Katrina, had the most-colorful description of the devastation.

Alas, we tip the cap to those with the gumption to put their names on the ballot, to put themselves in the arena.

In the most noble of the cases, they epitomize those storied words of Teddy Roosevelt:

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better.

"The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

To be sure, one of our favorite political anecdotes didn't even involve local politics, but a collection of powerful U.S. Senators that gathered in Biloxi.

It was a few weeks after Katrina, when Sen. Thad Cochran led a delegation of a dozen or so U.S. senators to tour the damage at federal installations along the Gulf Coast. One of the stops, of course, was Keesler Air Force Base.

The group included Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts, former VP candidate Joe Lieberman of Connecticut and Tennessee's

Bill Frist, who was Senate majority leader at the time.

Mayor Holloway, speaking to the group after lunch at Keesler, quipped that Biloxi hadn't seen this much federal power in Biloxi since the Kefauver hearings.

"Come here, Mayor," Sen. Ted Kennedy later harrumphed to Holloway, motioning for the Biloxi mayor to grab a nearby seat. "Mayor, watch out for those damn insurance companies," and he pointed to Joe Lieberman and said, "and he's from Connecticut where most of them are from."

And Virginia Sen. John Warner – a decorated veteran, former Secretary of the Navy and sixth husband of the actress Elizabeth Taylor – had a blunt assessment of the Katrina devastation. "Mayor Holloway, I'm an old man," Warner said. "I've been through three wars and five wives, but I've never seen anything as bad as this."

Erratum: How on earth we could do it, but we did. Clark Griffith's wife's name is Jean, not June as printed in this space last month. Apologies to a three-star wife. And, lastly, a reference to the Biloxi Bay Area Chamber of Commerce mistakenly said the chamber was originally known as the Biloxi Businessmen's Club. Wrong again. Today's Biloxi Bay Area Chamber of Commerce was originally known as the Biloxi Business Council. Says Wayne Hengen, one of the founders of the Biloxi Bay group: "The Biloxi Businessmen's Club is very much still in existence today and active, and I know you don't want to make any of them mad." True dat, Wayne, true dat.



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fabulous local tenants!

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- Pin Ups Spa & Boutique
- Smash Clothing
- Victoria Lynn
- Cell Craze
- Cell Max II
- Fix Tech
- Wireless Wizard
- Aqua Massage
- Basta Beauty
- Gulf Coast Mobile
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- Lee Nails
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- Gold Center
- The Gold Shop
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- Sunglass World
- The Epitome
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- Ronahi Embroidery
- MoWork
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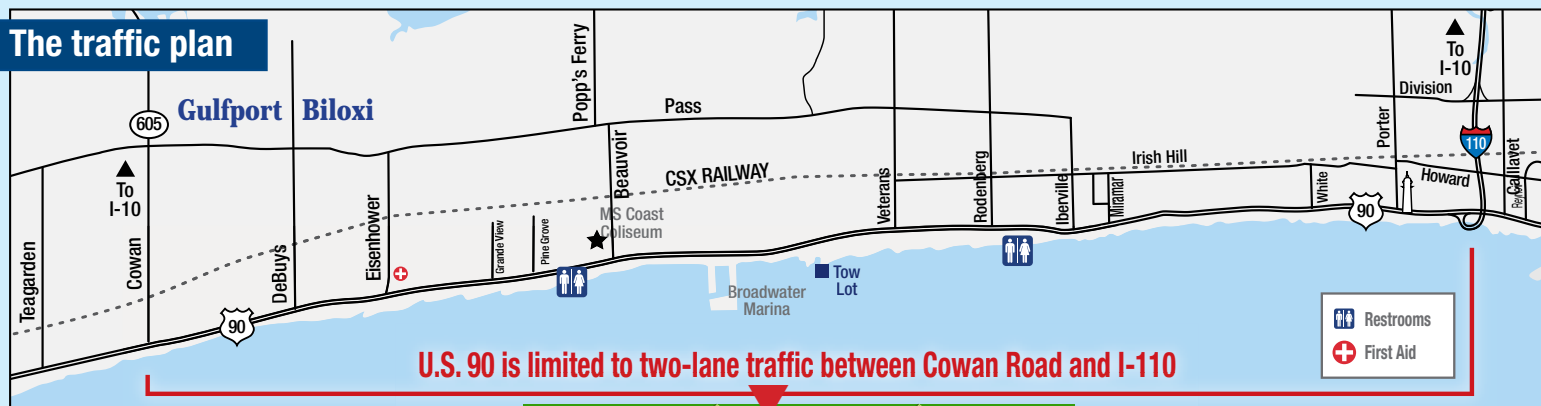
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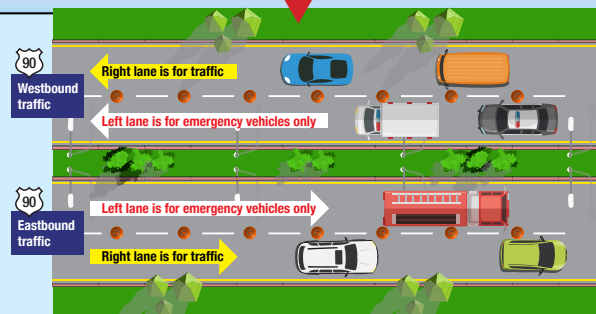
Edgewater Mall

The traffic plan



A word about “venting”

When U.S. 90 traffic approaches gridlock, motorists will be directed to 605/Cowan Road or I-110 and ultimately I-10. No turns or stopping will be permitted, you must follow directions of officers directing traffic. Process may last for 30 minutes or more.



B Get Spring Break traffic advisories

Text **BILOXI** to 99411 to receive City of Biloxi B-Alert traffic advisories.

April 9-11, 2021

Spring break – and traffic plan – in the works

Still looking for more signs of “normalcy” as the COVID-19 numbers decrease and vaccinations increase?

Spring break, the loosely organized ritual of spring in Biloxi, is coming back April 9-11, and the city is dusting off its special events traffic plan to keep traffic moving.

The plan, which typically is also used for special events throughout the year, involves traffic cones to divide lanes of U.S. 90 traffic between I-110 in Biloxi and Cowan Road in Gulfport. The cones, which will be in place on the morning of Friday, April 9 will help

police, if needed, reduce traffic to one lane – reserving the left lanes each way for emergency traffic.

“This is all about making sure traffic moves safely and that we avoid gridlock,” said Biloxi Police Chief John Miller. “We appreciate the public’s cooperation.”

As thousands of motorists and spring breakers arrive in the city for the event – numbers unknown at this writing – police will transition traffic signals into flashing mode and may prohibit left turns at major intersections.

Advisories will be relayed through the city’s B-Alert text messaging system. Text **BILOXI** to 99411 to receive the free updates.

Woolmarket City Center to formally open

A ribbon will be cut on Thursday, April 15 at 5:30 p.m. to formally dedicate the Woolmarket City Center, a facility that has been in the works for more than a year, sidelined by COVID-19 and now is ready to open its doors fully.

Refreshments and light fare will be served for the brief ceremony and the public will have a chance to tour the facility, which is at 13034 Kayleigh Cove Drive, off Woolmarket Road.

The center represents a million-dollar investment for the city and also includes the Woolmarket branch of the Harrison County Library, which formerly operated out of a small trailer before moving to its 2,000-square feet in the center in 2018. Harrison County also provided in-kind services for the city center, such as paving the



parking lot.

The community room portion of the center can accommodate 300 people typically, but COVID guidelines limit use to groups of 150 to 200, or 100 seated comfortably.

“We have chairs and round tables, a small stage, a small kitchen,” said Sherry Bell, the city’s Parks & Recreation Department director. “This venue

would be ideal for small family reunions or birthday parties or small bridal or baby showers.”

In fact, the first event scheduled for the room will take place after the public ribbon cutting, when Ward 7 Councilmember Nathan Barrett will hold a ward meeting.

For rental information – cost begins at \$200 – email reservations@biloxi.ms.us or call Tina Cowart, 228-388-2443.

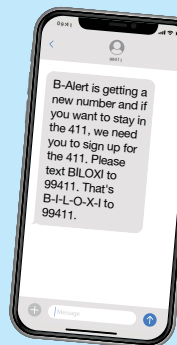
News & notes

Afternoon drive:

Motorists on I-110 are seeing heavier, slow-moving northbound traffic each afternoon from 4 to 6. Chalk it up to some of the 35,000 motorists who daily used the Fort Bayou bridge in Ocean Springs, closed until mid-May for \$20 million in upgrades.

Get the 411: More than 6,200 people have signed up at the new address for B-Alert, the city’s texting service. Sign up for free: Text **BILOXI** to 99411.

Charitable giving: Sparklight has announced \$200,000 for non-profits in the company’s 21-state footprint. Non-profits can apply in April at www.sparklight.com/charitablegiving.





Growing gratitude for nature

As recipients of the Mississippi Power Environmental Education Grants, 12 teachers are guiding students to appreciate and preserve our natural resources by developing butterfly gardens, campus-wide recycling, STEM experiments and recycle playgrounds.



Please join us in thanking and congratulating the Mississippi Power Environmental Education Grant teachers for creating brighter days ahead for our students and our environment.

Read recipients' stories at mississippipower.com.



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Coronavirus by the numbers

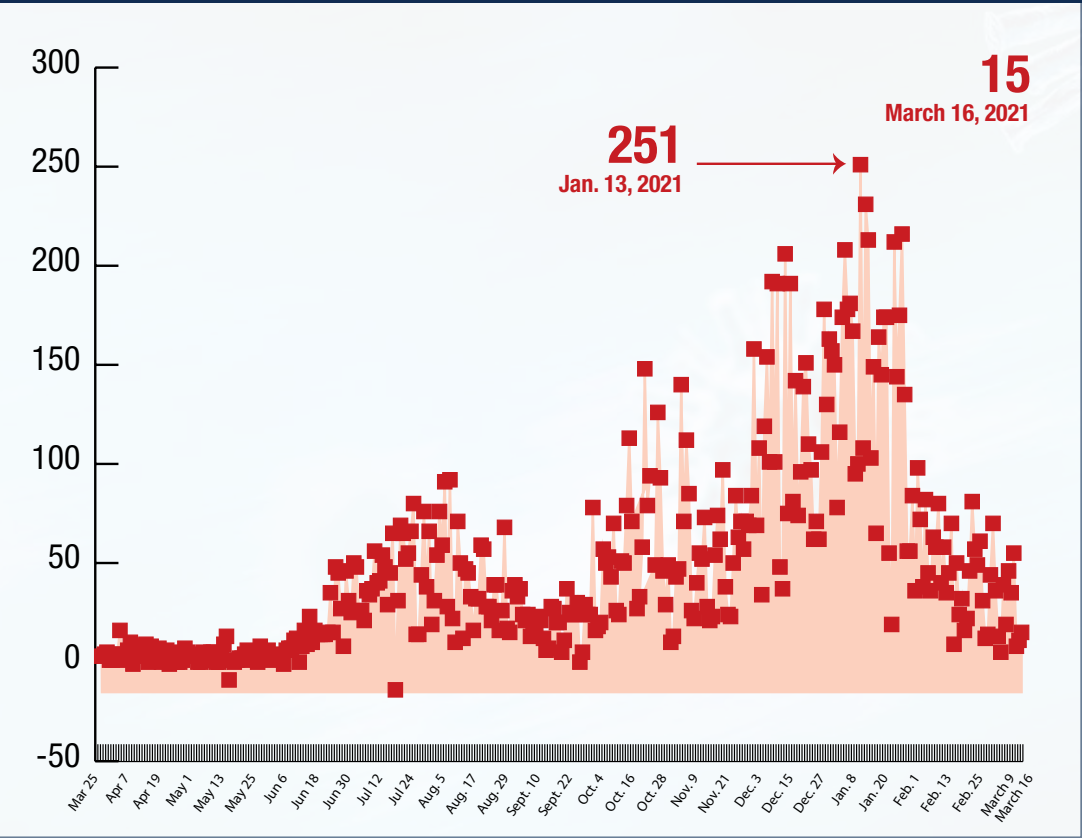
Harrison County – Overall (as of March 16, 2021)

See updates Friday
on the city's
Facebook page.

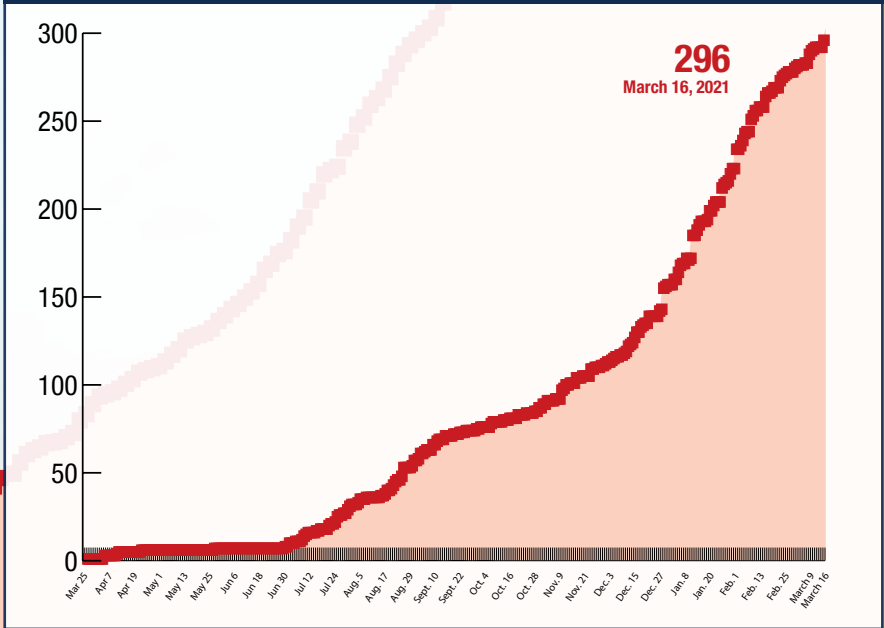


17,132
March 16, 2021

Harrison County – Daily Cases



Harrison County – Deaths



Statewide overall

Population: 2.97 Million

Positive cases

301,250 (as of March 16)

Presumed recovered

287,341 (as of March 15)

Deaths

6,929 (as of March 16)

Hospitalizations

287 (as of March 15)

Vaccinations administered

88,462 (as of March 15)

People fully vaccinated

323,819 (as of March 15)

Harrison County

Population: 208,080

Fully vaccinated

54,762

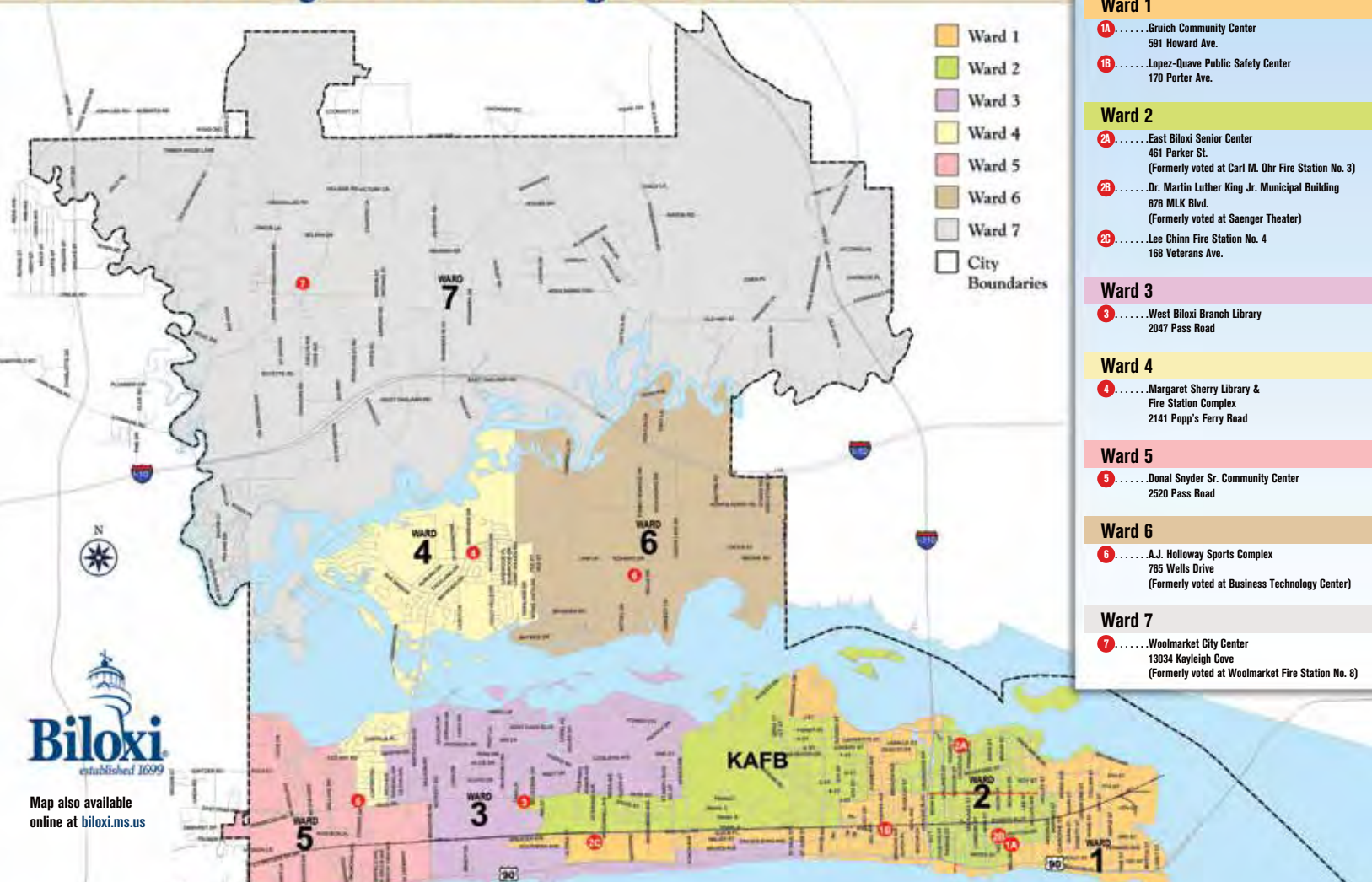
COVID-19 Vaccinations

Visit online at biloxi.ms/coronavirus-info-practical-advice/ for links to the Mississippi State Department of Health's free drive thru COVID-19 vaccination locations, and to health care and pharmacies administering the vaccination.

Mississippi COVID-19 Hotline:
877-978-6453

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

Ward lines for 2021 city elections



Four wards vote April 6 in Republican primary

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

Republican and Democratic Executive committees in February announced the qualified candidates to Biloxi Municipal Clerk Stacy Thacker.

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. In fact, Democrat incumbents George Lawrence (Ward 1) and Felix O. Gines (Ward 2), unchallenged in the primary, will not appear on the ballot until the June election.

Biloxi operates under a Mayor-Council form of government: A mayor runs the day-to-day operation of the city and policymaking councilmembers are elected from seven wards throughout the city.

The Republicans on the April 6 ballot

Ward 1

Keith Anderson
Steve "Stevie" Brosh Jr.
Becca Vanderford

Ward 4

Robert L. Deming III
Rodney McGilvary

Ward 5

Terry Shelton
Paul Tisdale

Ward 6

Jason A. Gibson
Kenny Glavan

Absentee ballots available for qualified voters

Absentee voting is now taking place weekdays through April 3 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the April 6 Republican primary.

Some registered voters are eligible to vote by an absentee ballot because of age, health, work demands, temporary relocation for educational purposes or their affiliation with the U.S. Armed Forces.

For details on whether you are eligible, contact Municipal Clerk Stacy Thacker via email at sthacker@biloxi.ms.us or 228-435-6254.

See more info on city website

The city's website has a detailed map showing ward lines, polling places and a list of candidates.

Click on Voter Information on the left side of any page online at biloxi.ms.us.

Shuckers baseball is just around the corner!

Get tickets and more info at biloxishuckers.com

By Dustin Fishman
Biloxi Shuckers

After what seems like an eternity, the Biloxi Shuckers 2021 campaign is scheduled to kick off at MGM Park on Tuesday, May 11.

When the players hit the field this season, it will be for the first time in 20 months that affiliated baseball has been played at 105 Caillavet St. The Shuckers couldn't be more excited to welcome fans back for what will be a special season.

The excitement is already brewing in the Shuckers front office, with Shuck Nation members and fans. After getting creative last summer by hosting events such as Schooner's Landing, stadium tours, and batting practice, it's fair to say that everyone is ready for the return of baseball.

Fans should keep in mind that the 2019 squad came within a game of taking home the Southern League Championship. It's also worth mentioning that the Milwaukee Brewers and Biloxi Shuckers recently agreed to extend their relationship for the next decade, securing a high caliber of baseball

on the Mississippi Gulf Coast over the next 10 years.

Many questions have flooded the Shuckers recently regarding Hurricane Zeta repairs, individual game tickets and the release of a promotional schedule.

Fans should know that the Shuckers and the City of Biloxi are working together on stadium repairs and the stadium will be back in tip top shape come opening day. Information regarding individual game tickets and the promotional schedule will be released in the near future.

Fans can expect some changes when visiting their hometown team, including reduced capacity to start the season, sanitizing stations throughout the park, digital tickets and more. But these are all necessary measures in order to ensure baseball can return to Biloxi this season.

Be sure that the Shuckers are working hand-in-hand with Major League Baseball as well as the City of Biloxi to make sure that they are operating safely and following guidelines in place to play ball this year.



2020-21 BHS Hall of Fame



Fred Haise statue to land in Biloxi for birthday weekend

The statue commemorating Biloxi native and Apollo 13 astronaut Fred Haise, which has faced challenges not unlike the space mission itself, is back on track toward a Nov. 13 dedication at its pedestal south of the Biloxi Lighthouse.

A preliminary look at the statue had been planned for April 13, 2020, the 50th anniversary of Apollo 13, but was postponed because COVID-19 and artist Mary Ott Tremmel Davidson being diagnosed with cancer.

"I must say, it's been a long road, but it's much, much better," Davidson said the other day. "I'm working away, and I must say that having this project was a wonderful positive thing. Between the cancer and the virus out there, I could have a focus. I am very grateful."

Davidson said the clay statue – an 8-foot likeness of a spacesuit-garbed Haise cradling his helmet – will arrive at a foundry in June, where it will begin a three-month process to create two sets of molds before the bronze statue is fired.

And the reaction so far? "People have told

me that it captures his image," Davidson said. "If I can do that, I will feel like it's a good job."

Plans are still in the offing for the Nov. 13 weekend; Haise turns 88 on Nov. 14. A number of community co-sponsors, headed by Mississippi Power and the Mississippi

Development Authority, are involved in the project, which commemorates Biloxi's most famous citizen. Haise, who lives in Houston today, is one of only 24 astronauts to have gone to the moon.

At the site, Hurricane Zeta damaged nearby circular ballards in an area that will be known as "the Moonwalk," but the pedestal for the statue, a six-foot tall circular concrete structure designed to represent the base of a Saturn V rocket, was unmoved.

"We're already working on dressing up that area," Mayor

Andrew "FoFo" Gilich said. "We certainly were disappointed that COVID delayed things last year, and we've prayed for Mary in the interim, but the thing to remember is this: We're doing just what Fred Haise did back on Apollo 13. You have a plan and you pivot as needed."

Btv

Get an update from sculptor Mary Ott Tremmel Davidson, see her progress, and see the history of the Fred Haise project in "Mission Update" airing daily on BTV in April, at 8 a.m., 8 p.m. and 2 in the afternoon.



Sculptor Mary Ott Tremmel Davidson shapes the torso of the 8-foot statue. Photo by August Taconi.

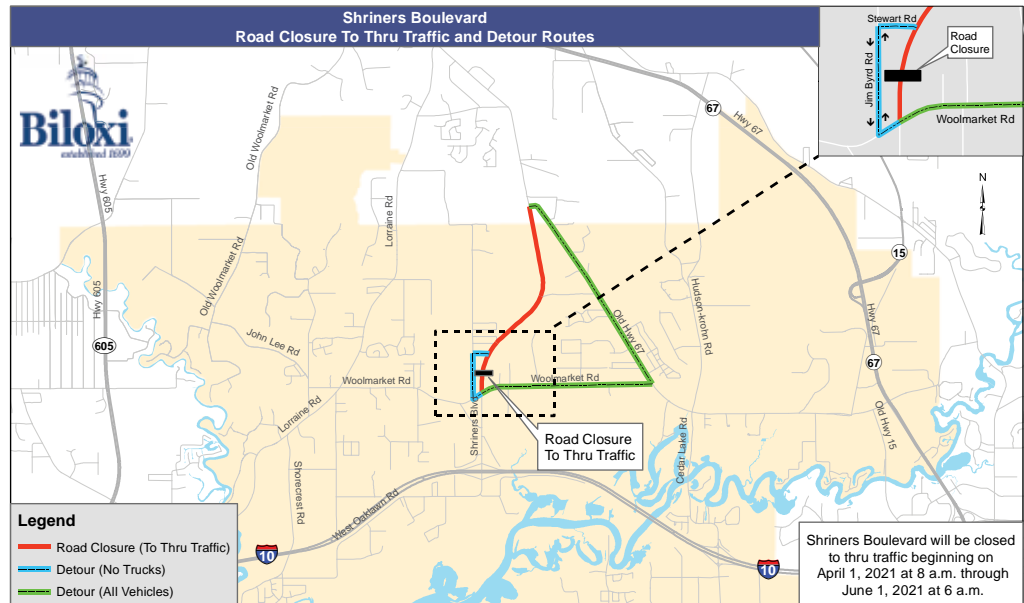
Shriners to close for huge drainage improvements

The huge drainage project that has been taking place along Woolmarket Road will cross Shriners Boulevard in April, prompting 11,000 motorists to detour off the major roadway north of Interstate 10.

The \$1.4 million project, which has seen new drainage lines installed along Woolmarket Road to Old Highway 67, will see Shriners Boulevard close just north of Woolmarket Road for as long as two months, from April 1 to June 1, but "if weather cooperates we should be finished ahead of that deadline," says Bobby Carson of the city's Engineering Department.

The work will see two culverts -- 10-foot wide by six-foot tall by 58-foot long -- placed across Shriners, which along with other work to the east of Shriners Boulevard will double the capacity to drain stormwater from new residential subdivisions in the area.

The detour route uses Woolmarket Road and Old Highway 67 to bypass the work area. The city also has constructed a temporary roadway -- for local traffic only and no trucks -- to accommodate businesses near the Shriners-Woolmarket intersection.



CITY OF BILOXI PUBLIC NOTICE

Availability of Information Relative to the City's 2021 One-Year Action Plan



Information about Biloxi's 2021 One-Year Action Plan Component of the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program is now available, as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Information includes planning, development, and implementation of the program and available documents include:

- CDBG General Program Rules and Regulations;
- Citizen Participation Plan; and
- A Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan for the City of Biloxi.



Visit the Engineering Department, 214-A Delauney St., Biloxi, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Information is available to the public for at least five years. Details: Federal programs, 228-435-6269, spickich@biloxi.ms.us

More about Biloxi's CDBG Program also can be found at biloxi.ms.us/cdbg

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Newspaper clipping inspires new novel set in early 1900s Biloxi

By Keith Wilson
Multimedia Journalist, StreetcarPR

Seafood. Pusharatas. Horse-drawn carriages. Electric streetcars. Tourists. And roadways covered in crushed oyster shells. Sounds like paradise, doesn't it?

It was reality for Biloxi in the early 1900s – a time when families who worked in the “Seafood Capital of the World” relaxed by watching their children dance in a circle to Cajun music. Now, all of that heritage and more comes together in a new novel.

Practicing law has been a passion for attorneys Candace Cox Wheeler and her husband, David, who opened their downtown Biloxi law firm Wheeler & Wheeler, PLLC in 1981.

Today, that same passion continues inside their Main Street offices, but it's Candy who will soon add published author of historic fiction to her legal resumé. Her first novel, “Cradle in the Oak,” makes its debut this month.

Wheeler's inspiration for the book came from a 1906 newspaper clipping that she found among treasures left behind by her husband's late grandmother.

“The sentence that caught my attention was: Handicapped by traveling alone across the country as a woman, she had cut her hair, donned masculine garments, and changed her name to Harry,” Wheeler explained.

But it was the rest of the article that had the fourth-generation Biloxi native hooked.

“It mentioned her determination to obtain possession of her children, who were abducted at home in Biloxi by her unfaithful husband and his young mistress, and described her journey by train to locate them,” she said.

Wheeler gives readers a chance to help this young mother “unmask” clues amid a difficult situation. The storyline also involves real-life historical characters and inklings of Biloxi's past, which sets the tone of this suspenseful read.

In writing the book, Wheeler used her imagination and a few research tools to help uncover some turn-of-the-century history from Coastal Mississippi and the East Coast of Florida. As a result, ninety real-life characters interact with fictional characters. And some names, Wheeler says, may be recognizable.

“The names, places, and events from 1906 spoke to me. I could not let that go, and I had to share what I found with others.”

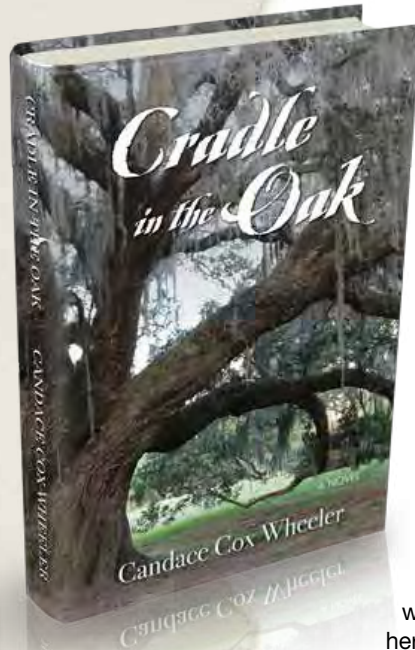
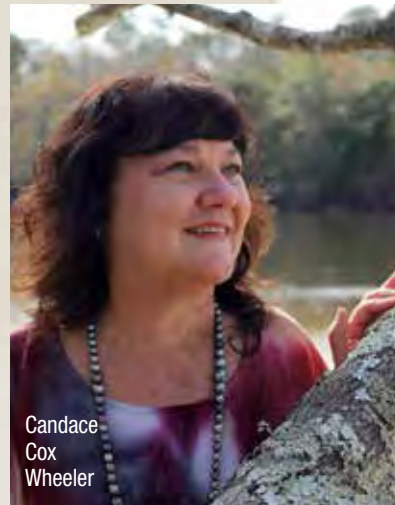
Not everything is fun and games when the heroine is forced to become a person she doesn't recognize as danger lurks before the party is over.

Wheeler has also posted 14 pictures and historical captions from that era to her fanpage on Facebook, which she hopes will let readers escape from the present as a prelude to reading her novel.

“You can enjoy a competitive regatta from the deck of the (old) Biloxi Yacht Club. You can experience a ‘close’ baseball game between the Biloxi Nine and the Mobile Seagulls,” she says.

Two book-signing events are scheduled for April 17 – the launch date set by Wheeler's publisher, Dogwood Press – 10 a.m. until noon at Hillyer House in downtown Ocean Springs, and 2 to 4 p.m. at the Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum in Biloxi.

Says Wheeler, “I feel like I've been planning a party for my cast of characters for three years, and it's finally time to invite everyone on the Coast to the party!”



Now is your chance to share our passion for service

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

As we continue headlong into what could be described as one of the most challenging public health crises we have ever faced, the Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System is continuing to charge forward, providing much-needed vaccinations to the Veteran population along the Mississippi, Alabama and Florida Gulf Coast and surrounding areas.

This has been a herculean effort, involving all areas of our health care system, and the men and women staffing our facilities – just like those across our great nation – have been working tirelessly.

This unprecedented health crisis has tested us all, and the support from our communities toward our employees and residents has been nothing short of outstanding. The



Bryan C. Matthews



BiloxiVA TODAY

partnerships we enjoy with the cities in which we live and work is a testament to the continued values we as an organization hold dear, and on behalf of our wonderful staff, I want to thank each and every one of the individuals who contribute to making our organization successful.

But as we move forward, there continues to be a growing need for medical professionals across the nation, and the GCVHCS is no exception. Our nurses, nursing assistants and other individuals involved in patient care are always looking to expand their ranks, always looking for qualified medical professionals interested in joining a staff which provides care to our nation's heroes with integrity, compassion, advocacy, respect and excellence.

As we continue to administer COVID-19 vaccinations through weekend clinics and walk-ins throughout the week, the need for qualified medical professionals continues growing; so many of our staff have worked

daily since we began our first vaccinations in January – and since this global health crisis began a year ago – and we've been augmenting our staff accordingly.

There are so many opportunities to join this diverse staff. Numerous full-time and part-time temporary opportunities are listed on the official U.S. federal employment website, <https://www.usajobs.gov/>, and I encourage those with a passion for service to others, a willingness to be part of an organization designed around our nation's heroes and wishing to make a difference in the health care of the more than 77,000 individuals the GCVHCS serves to consider our nationally-recognized organization.

These temporary positions into our hiring process represent a perfect opportunity for qualified medical professionals to engage in the COVID-19 vaccination process of the Veterans in their area. Qualified medical professionals assisting our staff during our ongoing Saturday COVID-19 vaccination clinics are needed to ensure we're continuing to provide each and every Veteran who desires a vaccination receives one.

I encourage those qualified and interested to look into these positions.

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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The infrastructure work in Biloxi

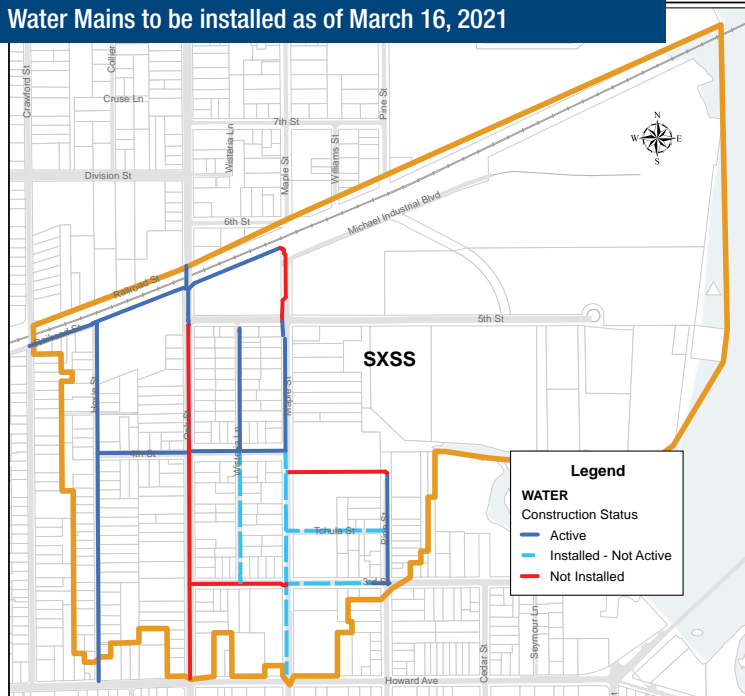
Pages 14 and 15 contain maps that show the status of the city's two major infrastructure projects now underway. The information on these maps is compiled by the city's Engineering Department, based on reports from contractors and inspectors at each site. See detailed maps and video online at biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi/.

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.

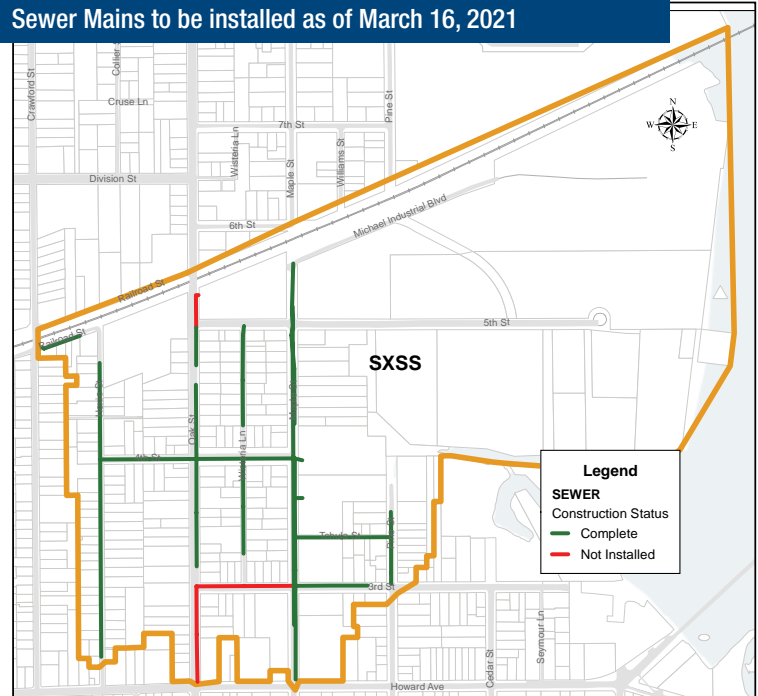
Lane Construction Water

Water Mains to be installed as of March 16, 2021



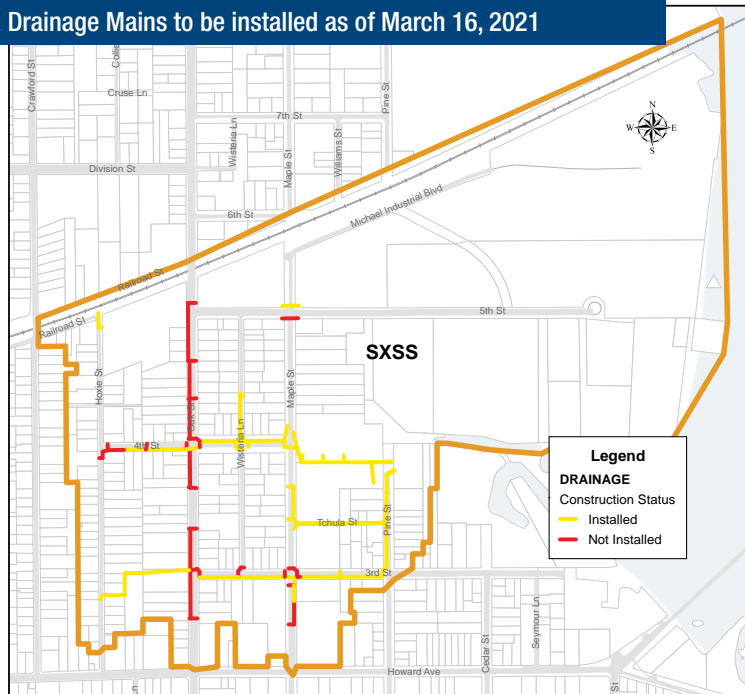
Lane Construction Sewer

Sewer Mains to be installed as of March 16, 2021



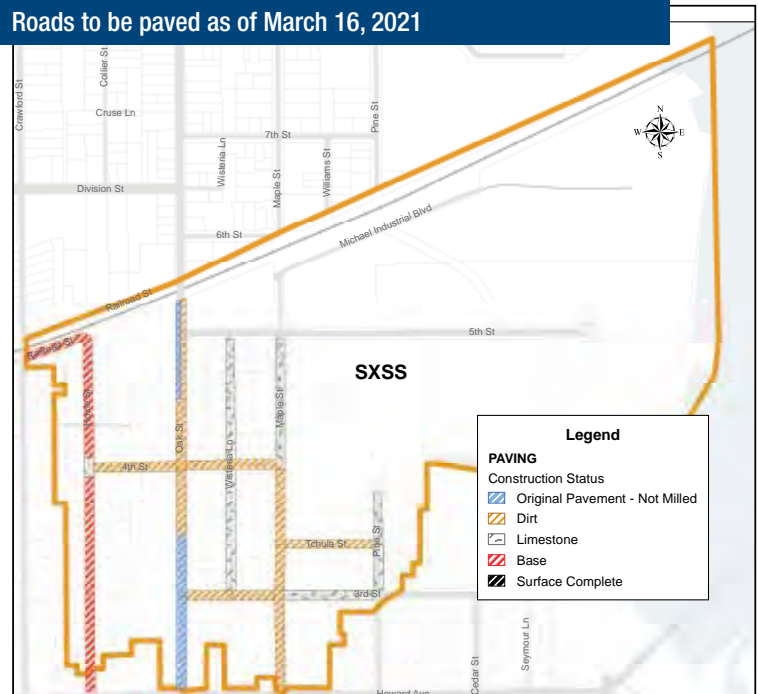
Lane Construction Drainage

Drainage Mains to be installed as of March 16, 2021



Lane Construction Pavement

Roads to be paved as of March 16, 2021

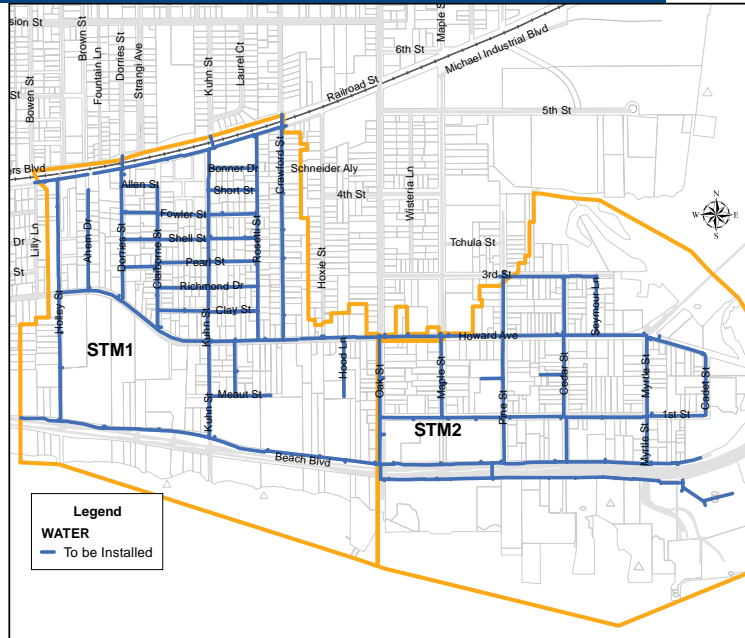


St. Michael 1 & 2

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.

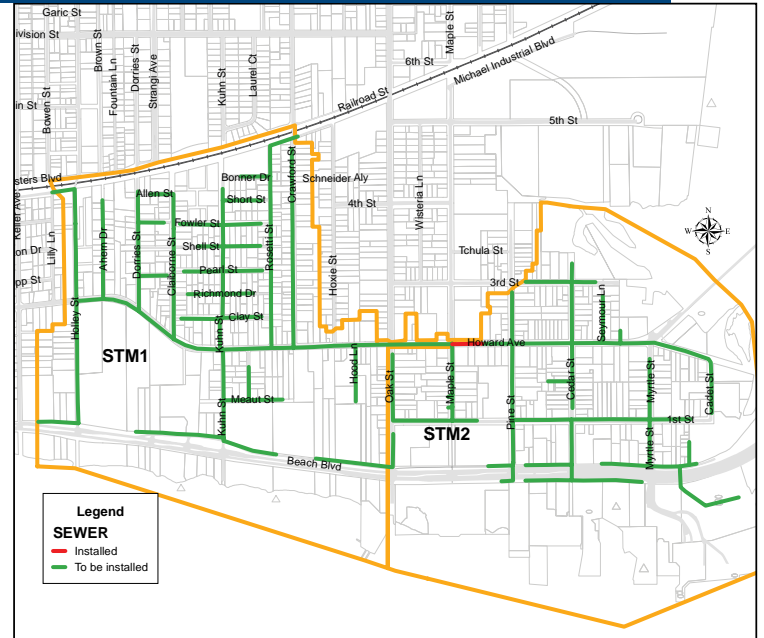
Necaise Brothers Construction Water

Water Mains to be installed as of March 16, 2021



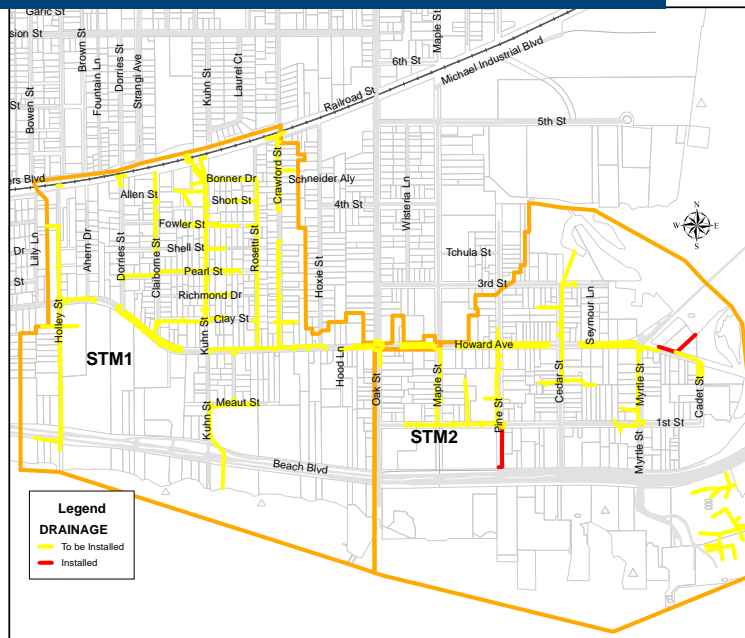
Necaise Brothers Construction Sewer

Sewer Mains to be installed as of March 16, 2021



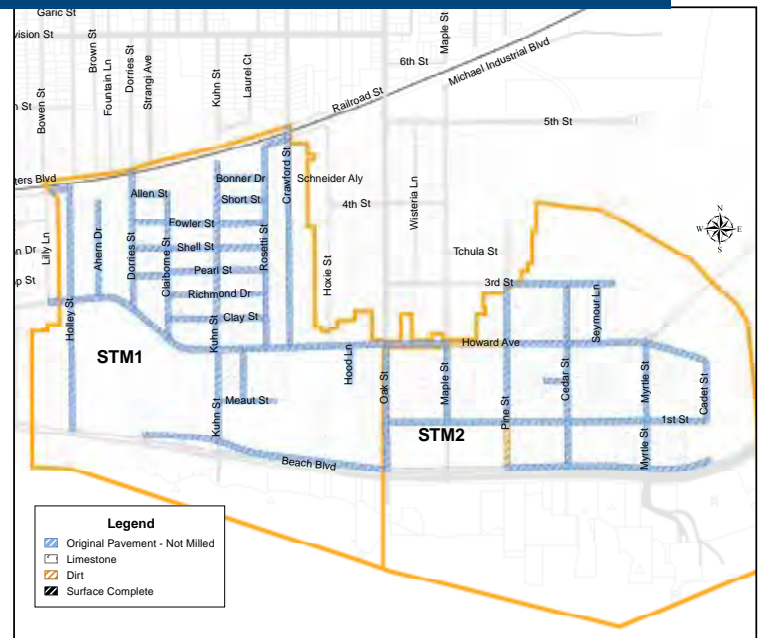
Necaise Brothers Construction Drainage

Drainage Mains to be installed as of March 16, 2021



Necaise Brothers Construction Pavement

Roads to be paved as of March 16, 2021



GET THE 99411

B-Alert is getting a new number and we need you to sign up for the 411.

B-Alert

Please text **BILOXI** to 99411.

Today 1:00 PM

B-Alert is getting a new number and if you want to stay in the 411, we need you to sign up for the 411. Please text BILOXI to 99411. That's B-I-L-O-X-I to 99411.

Biloxi

established 1699

Blue skies on the Green



It's all in the timing. It was, coincidentally, just days after Gov. Tate Reeves eased the state mask mandate that Downtown Biloxi ushered its newest outdoor gathering place, a park known as The District Green. A daylong menu of music and food filled the green space at Ohr and Howard. "We are already discussing how to keep the momentum going as we head into the warmer weather," says Bobby Gillon, director of marketing and leasing for The District on Howard Avenue.

The inaugural Random Notes

This is the first installment of a new monthly column highlighting items of noteworthiness, at random.

What they're reading: The legal eagles

A new monthly compilation for this new page, collectively known as Random Notes.

- **City attorney Peter Abide**, "Barrier Island," by John D. MacDonald
- **Gerald Blessey**, "Elvis In The Twilight of Memory," by June Juanico
- **Jane Meynardie**, Whittaker Chambers' "Witness"
- **Tere Steel**, "Queen of the Turtle Derby and Other Southern Phenomena," by Julia Reed
- **David Wheeler**, "Cemetery Road," by Greg Iles
- **Robert Harenski**, "Pieta Prayer Book: Roman Catholic Prayers for Healing, Forgiveness and Health," by Michale Gabriel

Biloxi's newest Citizen of the Year

Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich shares a moment with Retired Col. John G. Sullivan, who has been named the Biloxi Lions Club Citizen of the Year for 2020. Sullivan, shown with his wife, Bernice, was lauded for his community work, including as a regular reading hero at Popp's Ferry Elementary. Biloxi's newly minted Citizen of the Year, a resident since '72, served 27 years in the Air Force, a veteran of the Vietnam War who became an assistant to the Joint Chiefs during the Reagan era.



AN APPRECIATION

Our Keesler cousins and Col. Phyllis Luttmann

So much has been made of the Keesler-Biloxi relationship, a kinship that dates back to 1941, when the pristine establishment of the base, catapulted Biloxi's population of 17,000 to 117,000 people overnight.

"Come payday when they unleashed those soldiers onto the city, downtown was the place to be," Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich is fond of recollecting. "You could find anything happening."

Those early days have become storied, enthralling hundreds of thousands of airman over the years and capturing the attention of an array of luminaries, a spectrum that included award-winning playwright Neil Simon and crusading Sen. Estes Kefauver.



Phyllis Luttmann

Those days aside, today we often recognize those talented and valiant souls who were introduced to Biloxi through their time at Keesler. We often appreciate the thousands who decide to settle in Biloxi in their post-military life, a solid endorsement of the city's culture and allure.

One such person to become a Biloxian was retired Air Force Col. Phyllis A. Luttmann, who died March 1 at the age of 85. Phyllis was a trailblazing nurse in the Air Force and a longtime Biloxi community volunteer.

She was born and raised in Neptune, N.J., and in 1962 embarked on a 32-year career in the Air Force, where she was an award-winning leader and innovator in flight nurse training and techniques. She also served as Chief Consultant to the Air Force Surgeon General for operating room nursing.

Phyllis was a prolific writer, publishing papers in professional magazines and she developed the Air Force Operating Room Nurses Newsletter.

After serving at bases across the country and around the world, she retired from Keesler and began her years of community service in Biloxi. Phyllis volunteered on hundreds of Red Cross blood drives, assisted in national disasters, served on numerous local military boards, and was an ambassador for the Biloxi Bay Area Chamber of Commerce. In 2017, Biloxi Main Street named her Senior Volunteer of the Year and two years later the Bay chamber presented her the Wylie Enhancement Award.

Fittingly, Mayor Gilich noted the passing of one of the most esteemed "Keesler cousins" by proclaiming March 1, 2021 as Phyllis Luttmann Day.

Farewell and clear skies, Phyllis Luttmann.

Best Bet!



Mississippi Senior Olympics Registration, April – August.
Online and mail-in registration open. Games will be played in locations throughout the Gulf Coast and will be open to ages 50 and older. Fees may apply. Details: www.ms seniorolymp.org; 228-669-2582



First Friday and Downtown Block Party at The District Green, April 2, 4-8 p.m., Howard Avenue & Rue Magnolia. Live music, food trucks, beer from Fly Llama Brewing Co. and a Grown-up Easter Egg Hunt. Free admission. Details: 228-435-6339



Charles R. Hegwood Community Market Season Opening, April 6, 6 a.m.-4 p.m. Under the I-110 overpass at the corner of Howard Avenue and Hopkins Boulevard. Details: 228-388-7170

Mudbugs and music

The grounds of the Mississippi Coast Coliseum will host family fun and entertainment with tons of crawfish for the 28th annual Crawfish Music Festival, April 14-18. The event will include carnival rides, a crawfish cook-off, boiled crawfish, a food village, and live entertainment featuring Riley Green, Hardy, Blackberry Smoke, Frank Foster, Niko Moon, Trey Lewis, John Langston and more. Gate admission is \$10 (Wednesday and Thursday) and \$25 (Friday through Sunday). For more info, visit online at www.mscoastcoliseum.com or call 228-594-3700.



Ribbon-cutting for West Beach Boardwalk, April 7, 5:30 p.m., U.S. 90 at Camellia Street. The addition to the popular West Biloxi amenity will be formally dedicated during a brief public ceremony. Details: 228-435-6254

Joppa Shriners Steak Night, April 9, 6-8 p.m., 13280 Shriners Blvd. Steak Dinner, \$17; takeout available; pickup available if call before noon. Event occurs on the second Friday of each month and is a fundraiser to cover costs of transportation and lodging for patients and family members to go the Shriners Hospitals for Children in Shreveport, LA. Details: 228-392-9345

28th Annual Crawfish Music Festival, April 14- 18, Mississippi Coast Coliseum, 2350 Beach Blvd. The 2021 festival includes midway rides, a variety of foods, unique vendors, crawfish cook-off and three full days of live entertainment with legendary county music headliners. Tickets begin at \$30; event seating is limited and tickets must be purchased in pods of two or four seats. Details: www.mscoastcoliseum.com



Best Bet!



Sail away

Ply the waters of the Mississippi Sound aboard an authentic Biloxi Oyster Schooner replica. Day sailing or charters are available on the majestic white-winged queens. Group charters are available for full or half days and walk-on sails are available. Fees range from \$15 to \$30 for walk-on sails, which require a minimum of six passengers before vessels sail. Group charters for up to 44 people from \$600 to \$1,350. For more info, visit the Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum online at maritimemuseum.org or call 228-435-6320.

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

Stay in touch

BNews: Welcome to the 35th issue of BNews Monthly. It's a compendium of things you should know about your city: status reports on current and pending public works, and a calendar of community events covering the next 30 days.

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

Bmail: The city provides information about projects and events via email. Sign up at biloxi.ms.us/register.

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

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

Website: The city's website, at biloxi.ms.us, is the comprehensive digest of city information. The website also has links to the city's Facebook and YouTube platforms.

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

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

Frequently Called Numbers

Area code is 228 unless otherwise noted.

- Animal Control 392-0641
- Auto Tag/Property Tax Information . . . 435-8242
- Birth Certificates 601-576-7960
- Building Permits 435-6270
- Business Licenses 435-6247
- 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

Best Bet!

History in Motion

Re-enactors in 19th century garb, with cannons nearby, will greet visitors on the grounds of Beauvoir: The Jefferson Davis Home & Presidential Library on Saturday, April 17. It's all part of Living History at Beauvoir, which occurs the third Saturday of each month, through October, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The re-enactors will be on hand to discuss life back in the day to those touring the old soldiers home, library and memorial cemetery. Admission is charged. For more info, call Beauvoir at 228-388-4400.

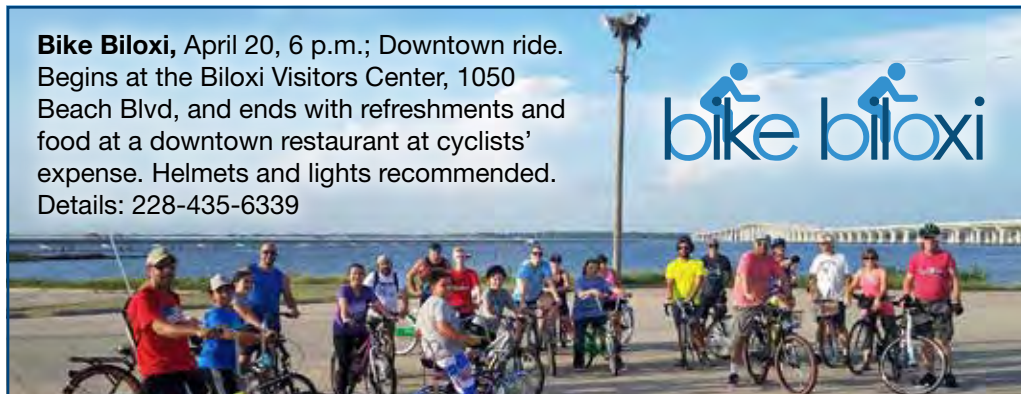


Woolmarket City Center Ribbon Cutting, April 15, 4 p.m., 13034 Kayleigh Cove. The Ward 7 Town Meeting will immediately follow. Details: 228-388-7170

Rock-N-Roll Open Car, Jeep & Bike Show, April 17-18, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Point Cadet Plaza, 120 Cadet St. Food and craft vendors with live music beginning at noon. Details: 228-860-4103

Inaugural Bethel Free Health Clinic Charity Golf Tournament, April 19, 11:30 a.m. registration; 1 p.m. tournament start; Sunkist Country Club, 2381 Sunkist Country Club Road. Fees range from \$100 to \$500. Sponsorships available. Entry deadline: April 12. Details: www.bethelfreeclinic.org/golf-tournament/

Bike Biloxi, April 20, 6 p.m.; Downtown ride. Begins at the Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd, and ends with refreshments and food at a downtown restaurant at cyclists' expense. Helmets and lights recommended. Details: 228-435-6339



Main Street Book Club, April 22, 5:30 p.m., Southern Bound Book Shop meeting room, 999 Howard Ave. April's book selection, "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo," is available at Southern Bound Book Shop located next door to Jacked up Coffee Bar. Stop by at the free meeting or call Biloxi Main Street for more information. Details: 228-435-6339



Coast Young Professional's Annual Walking on Water Bridge Walk & Canned Food Drive, April 24, 8-10 a.m., Biloxi Bay Bridge. Walk begins on the Ocean Springs side and ends on the Biloxi side. Free to attend. Details: email lindsay@mscoastchamber.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

Beauvoir, The Jefferson Davis Home & Presidential Library

2244 Beach Blvd., 228-388-4400, www.visitbeauvoir.org

- **Living History**, Performances monthly, every third Saturday; 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. Admission ranges: \$5.50 to \$12.50; Age 5 and younger, free; Guided tours: \$75 to \$125
- **"Meet the Spirits,"** April 17; 6 p.m. until midnight.

Betsy Ann Riverboat Cruise

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

- Hibachi Dinner Cruise, Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday; 6:30 p.m.

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 Schooner Pier

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

- 2021 Sea & Sail Camp registration now open
- Art Opening for "Mississippi Sound Heritage" by William Colgin; April 22; 5:30-7:30 p.m.; Joe Moran Gallery

Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art

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

- **Yoga Under the Oaks & Pure Juice 101**, Tuesdays; 5:30-6:30 p.m. \$15
- **Game night** with drink specials & tasting menu by Makin' Groceries, First Thursday every month; 4-7 p.m.
- **Live music with tasting menu, Third Thursday**, monthly; 5:30 -7:30 p.m.
- Check the website for more 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**: April 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30. 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 April.
- **Safety protocols for bingo**: Six feet social distancing, contact tracing forms to be completed, temperature taken, hands to be sanitized, mask are mandatory by the gaming commission.

Fleur de Lis Society of Biloxi (French Club)

182 Howard Ave., 228-436-6472

- **Seafood Dinners every Friday night in April**, 6-8 p.m. Karaoke at 7 p.m.

Nativity Cathedral

871 Esters Blvd., 228-374-0606

- **Biloxi Bingo Mania** – Tuesday night behind Nativity Cathedral; Doors open 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.

MS Gulf Coast Coliseum

228-594-3700

- April 8 – **Brian Regan Comedy**
- April 15-17 – **Vicari Classic Car Auction**
- April 8-11 – **Disney on Ice Dream Big**

Lagniappe

Charles R. Hegwood

Biloxi Community Market

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

City of Biloxi Senior Program

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

Biloxi Libraries

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

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


Biloxi Main Street

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



City of Biloxi Public Meetings

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30 Community Market Yoga Under the Oaks Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	31	1 Community Market Game Night with Makin' Groceries Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art	2 First Friday Downtown Biloxi Downtown Biloxi Block Party The District Green Friday Night Dinners with Karaoke Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge	3
4	5	6 Season Opening  Yoga Under the Oaks Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	7 Ribbon Cutting Boardwalk at Camellia Street	8 Community Market Disney on Ice MS Coast Coliseum Brian Regan Comedy MS Coast Coliseum	9 Disney on Ice MS Coast Coliseum Joppa Shriners Steak Night 13280 Shriners Blvd. Friday Night Dinners with Karaoke Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge	10 Disney on Ice MS Coast Coliseum
11 Disney on Ice MS Coast Coliseum	12	13 Community Market Yoga Under the Oaks Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	14 Crawfish Music Festival MS Coast Coliseum	15 Community Market Crawfish Music Festival -and- Vicari Auto Auction MS Coast Coliseum Woolmarket City Center Ribbon Cutting Third Thursdays Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art	16 Vicari Auto Auction MS Coast Coliseum Crawfish Music Festival MS Coast Coliseum Friday Night Dinners with Karaoke Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge	17 Vicari Auto Auction MS Coast Coliseum Crawfish Music Festival MS Coast Coliseum Rock-N-Roll Open Car, Jeep & Bike Show Point Cadet Plaza
18 Crawfish Music Festival MS Coast Coliseum Rock-N-Roll Open Car, Jeep & Bike Show Point Cadet Plaza	19 Inaugural Bethel Free Health Clinic Charity Golf Tournament Sunkist Country Club	20 Community Market Bike Biloxi Downtown Biloxi Yoga Under the Oaks Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	21	22 Community Market Main Street Book Club Southern Bound Books	23 Friday Night Dinners with Karaoke Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge	24 CYP Walking on Water Bridge Walk and Canned Food Drive Biloxi Bay Bridge
25	26	27 Community Market Yoga Under the Oaks Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	28	29 Community Market	30 Friday Night Dinners with Karaoke Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge	1

BTV April 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 April (5 min)
6:10 a.m.	Infrastructure report (5 min)
6:15 a.m.	Old photos of Biloxi (15 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.	Mission Update: Checking in on the Fred Haise statue (1 hr)
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.	Old photos of Biloxi (15 min.)
2 p.m.	Mission Update: Checking in on the Fred Haise statue (1 hr)
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 April (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.	Old photos of Biloxi (15 min.)
8 p.m.	Mission Update: Checking in on the Fred Haise statue (1 hr)
9 p.m.	City Council meetings and other 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.

The long and winding road of the Fred Haise statue

Videographer August Taconi, who has chronicled the progress and challenges of creating the Fred Haise statue, drops in on sculptor Mary Ott Tremmel Davidson for a progress report on what will be a new community landmark when it is dedicated in November.

Taconi's new Mission Update, which airs three times daily in April, is one of the new programs on BTV in April.

Creation of the statue, which will be set atop a replica of a Saturn V rocket south of U.S. 90 near the Biloxi Lighthouse, has faced its set of challenges, not unlike the Apollo 13 mission of 51 years ago this month.

When the statue is dedicated, by the way, sculptor Mary Ott Tremmel Davidson will have statues of two explorers – Pierre LeMoyne D'Iberville and Fred Haise – on U.S. 90 at the Biloxi Lighthouse.

Taconi's new Mission Update, with fresh news from the sculptor, also includes background on the overall project, which is co-sponsored by the city, Mississippi Power and the Mississippi Development Authority.

Also on BTV in April, you'll also find a new lineup of stories on "Storytime with Gumbo Kelly," a new report from the Biloxi VA, and, hopefully, an update from Biloxi Public Schools.

Also appearing this month is a compilation called "Old Photos of Biloxi," a continuous stream of – wait for it – old photos of Biloxi.

Cooking up a favorite. Again

It's become a Lenten staple since its debut on "Biloxi Cooks!" back in January, so we take another look at "Fire House Fish and Shrimp Tacos, with Coleslaw and Pico de Gallo."

Lent, of course, is winding down as Easter Sunday approaches, but you can continue to savor the flavor of Fire House Fish and Shrimp Tacos all year long.

Preparing the dish are Biloxi Firefighters Josh McGoey, Connor Kelly, Morgan Howe and Chris Denton.

Coleslaw

Ingredients:

- 1 small head of green cabbage
- 1 small head of red cabbage
- 4 carrots
- 1 medium yellow onion
- 1 cup of mayo
- 1/4 cup of mustard
- 2 teaspoons of apple cider
- 1 cup of sugar
- Teaspoon pepper
- Teaspoon cayenne
- Salt

Instructions:

- Mix ingredients in bowl and refrigerate
- Longer refrigeration, the juicier

- Cheese
- Sour Cream
- Yum Yum sauce

Instructions:

- Heat griddle or skillet
- Soak fish in bowl of melted butter
- Soak the shrimp in bowl of melted butter
- Cook fish and shrimp for 3-4 minutes on each side
- Coat with Zatarain's blackened seasoning while cooking
- Heat tortillas
- Slice avocado
- Build taco by adding fish and or shrimp, cheese, sour cream and yum yum sauce

Fish & shrimp tacos

Ingredients:

- Fish
- Shrimp
- 2 sticks of melted butter
- Zatarain's blackened seasoning
- Tortillas
- Avocado

Pico de Gallo

Ingredients:

- 4 tomatoes
- Cilantro
- 2 onions
- 1 lime

Instructions:

- Cut and mix together in bowl



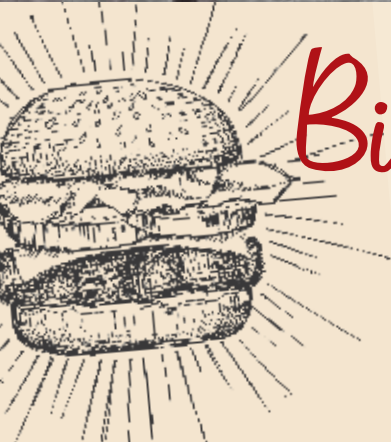
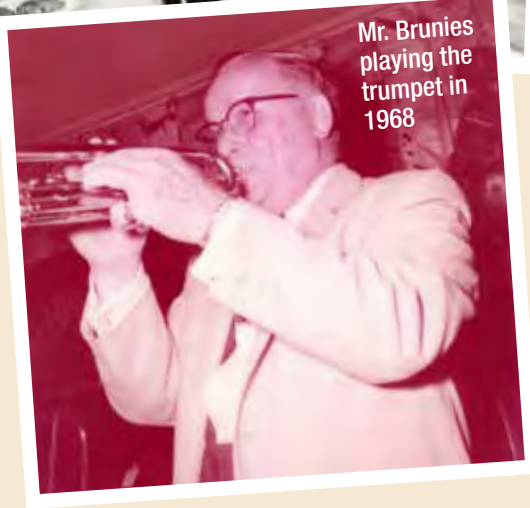
Abbie's Little Diner in 1957



Brunies porch, Home of the Burger-Burger



Mr. Brunies playing the trumpet in 1968



Birth of the Biloxi Burger, from Abbie's to Burger, Burger

Back in the Day



By Jane Shambra

The cuisine of our early settlers included alligator, rabbit, deer, bear, seafood, and fowl, which was cooked by roasting or boiling of the catch of the day by way of an open flame. The process of grounding meat into a patty and placing it between two slices of bread as a savory meal was not envisioned by Monsieur Lemoyne D'Iberville.

In fact, the hamburger was said to have been first created in the New World in the mid-1800s when Dr. James Henry Salisbury of New York created a lean meat diet for patients suffering from anemia, rheumatism and gout. Thus, the Salisbury Steak was born.

Early Biloxi Burgers

The first hamburgers in Biloxi were bunless. They were served uncovered on a plate and were simply called "hamburger steaks."

As American foods became less formal and workers and tourists needed more portable food selections, the hamburger became a tasty and desired dish.

One of the first popular hamburger restaurants to settle in Biloxi was called The Hamburger King. In 1927, it was located on Howard Avenue between Magnolia and Delauney streets in an area now known as G.E. Ohr Street. It was situated right in the middle of downtown Biloxi. Their menu included "real hamburgers," hot dogs, sandwiches, and homemade pies.

Also around 1927, another hamburger restaurant opened in Biloxi under the direction of jazz pioneer Albert "Abbie"

Brunies (1900-1978) and his wife Mildred Anderson Brunies (1908-1990). Abbie was an accomplished and renowned jazz musician. The establishment was called Abbie's Little Diner for about 30 years and became one of the most famous restaurants in Biloxi.

The diner was located at the end of Benachi Avenue near Lasalle Street in the Bay Terrance section of Biloxi.

Before the Biloxi Burgers

Mr. Brunies didn't always cook hamburgers. He began playing trumpet (cornet) at the age of 12. He was born in New Orleans in 1900 to Henry Brunies and Elizabeth Lotz of Swiss and German descent. One of his famous jazz bands was titled the Albert Brunies Halfway House Orchestra. This Halfway House was actually a jazz club that was named for its location in New Orleans, half way between the French Quarter and Lake Pontchartrain.

His recordings were released on many record labels including Columbia and Ohkey records. His band produced more than 20 recordings between 1925 and 1928. The famous Halfway House hosted a farewell dance in February 1927.

Back in day, there was no television, and music was available through radio stations nationwide. Way before the days of text messaging and beeper messaging, someone

could send a special song request to Mr. Brunies' orchestra via a Western Union telegram message.

Biloxi's first radio station was located in the Buena Vista Hotel, approximately where our baseball stadium is today.

Legend has it that one of Abbie's eight recordings for Columbia records was accomplished with his brother Merritt on the roof of the Buena Vista Hotel.

Abbie's Little Diner

Abbie's Little Diner was a tiny restaurant on Benachi Avenue just about a block off Biloxi's Back Bay. It began with a dream and, by 1946, it became one of Biloxi's lasting memorable eating establishments. It was about the size of a closet and catered to nearby students at Notre Dame High School.

Sandwiches were a specialty at the diner. The most popular one was their invention of the 18-inch hamburger called the "Burger Burger." It was served on po-boy bread, covered with a tasty secret brown sauce, dressed with yellow mustard and chopped raw onions. Traditionally fries and a Barq's root beer accompanied this glorious treat.

In 1949, when bubble gum had raged to popularity, the Brunies would also sell gum, drawing an even larger crowd to include the younger folks.

An interesting detail about Abbie's Little Diner was the counter where a couple of coins appeared to be astray. When one tried to touch them, swipe them or pick them up, they would find them immovable.

During the holiday season, the diner would close from Christmas through New Years to allow employees time to spend with family.

In 1987, the diner was sold and would soon begin a new journey as a popular burger establishment in Biloxi.

Burger Burger

Martha Ann Ebberman, a Biloxi native, visited Abbie's Little Diner often and when an opportunity came up in 1987, she brought the diner and the trademark recipe. Martha kept the diner open, serving the favored Burger Burger until 1993.

She did, however, continue serving Burger Burgers through a restaurant in Ocean Springs. Years later, a conversation between Martha and Biloxi businessman Jamie Sablich led to establishment of a new restaurant in Biloxi.

The treasure of Abbie's Little Diner now lives on at Burger Burger, located at 1039 Howard Avenue. The grand-opening of the restaurant was celebrated in January of 2001 and today still operates in the same building, just northeast of the Lopez-Quave Public Safety Center.

This quaint, comfortable little house takes us back to a time when all-wood buildings would be filled with that wonderful atmosphere, great conversation, and, of course, one of the best burgers, sandwiches and breakfast choices in all of Biloxi.

Burger Burger offers daily lunch specials such as Iced Tea served with red beans and rice, sausage, fried pork chops, baked chicken, meatloaf, country fried steak, spaghetti and meatballs and more.

This hidden gem is the place to go for home cooked breakfast and lunch options, where both locals and visitors can "pass a good time."

Burger Burger is truly an icon of Biloxi's resilience and resolve, enduring hurricanes, drastic street reconstruction, and the unexpected pandemic.

Thank you, Burger Burger for keeping the Spirit of Biloxi alive and well.

Looking to learn more about Abbie's and Burger Burger? Visit the Local History and Genealogy Department of the Biloxi Library at 580 Howard Avenue, next to the Biloxi Civic Center.

As a matter of fact, Abbie Brunies' famous accomplishments were recently brought to life through a recent donation of memorabilia to the department.



BNews Monthly

APRIL 2021

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and the Biloxi City Council
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