

# BNews Monthly

MAY 2021

*A compendium of what's happening in Biloxi*



## MAY-BE TIME FOR FUN?



### Fore!

**Golf carts soon to roll  
on neighborhood streets**

– Page 6



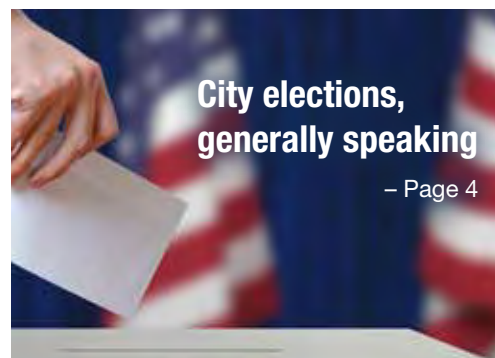
### The Buena Vista site: Diamonds are forever

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# You just never know what you're going to hear

## Notes, quotes and anecdotes:

\*\*\*

It's always interesting to see and hear what the voters have to say, and every so often a gem or two rises atop the mass of the great unwashed.

You expect the office seekers and certainly the office holder, at least in some cases, to have the gift of gab, the telekinetic image, quick with a quip, and comfortable in front of the unblinking camera.

But it's the residents, the taxpayers, the voters who sometimes have the most colorful of comments.

Weeks ago, a councilmember was announcing that the city's water bills were dropping slightly – yes, dropping – when a passionate citizen chimed in with a recurring question: "What's with this HCUA line on my bill? And how long am I going to have to pay that?"

The councilmember explained the debt service item, noted that Biloxi has the lowest rates of any city around, and asked rhetorically: "Do you know what they're paying in Ocean Springs?" (For the record, it's about

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.



\$44 in Biloxi vs. about \$67 in Ocean Springs.)

But the resident wasn't having any of it. Said he: "I don't care what they're paying in Ocean Springs. I live in Biloxi."

\*\*\*

Fewer than 1,700 of the city's 29,000 registered voters turned out for the primary elections the other day. One could find several reasons for the light turn out.

Only four wards were voting: Wards 1, 4, 5 and 6, but the biggest reason for the sparse turnout was the absence of a mayor's race.

A Biloxi mayor's race, a hotly contested mayor's race, generates as much as a half-million dollars in advertising, which generally engages the masses. In other words, people get out to vote.

Largest turnout for a municipal election in recent times goes back to 2001, when 9,966 turned out for Holloway vs. Gilich.

\*\*\*

"FoFo" Gilich, as de facto head of the Slavonian Lodge, years ago was explaining to the assembled membership plans to pave for parking a grassy field next to the lodge building on Myrtle Street.

"What about the holes?" a member asked.

Said the future mayor: "We'll pave those, too."

\*\*\*

And then there was Jerry Morgan, the affable and seasoned director of the Public Works Department during the Holloway era.

"We've got a few street lights burned out on Highway 90," a councilmember observed one day during a meeting.

"Yes," Morgan said, "but only at night."

\*\*\*

Memorable quotes:

"Give peace a chance," FoFo Gilich, on the desire, generally, to avoid lawsuits.

"We're healthy, not wealthy," A.J. Holloway, on city finances.



# SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

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Whether you plan to grab-and-go or sit-and-savor,  
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## 'I can't stand the rain'

By mid-April more than 11 inches of rain had fallen in Biloxi, more than double the normal amount for the month, inundating major drainage projects on Shriners Boulevard (above) and at other sites. In fact, on April 15 more than 4.7 inches of rain fell, eclipsing in one day the typical average for April, 4.6 inches.



## Woolmarket City Center:

The ceremonial cutting of the ribbon for Woolmarket's newest facility has taken place and the center is now open for rental. It's off Woolmarket Road, on Kayleigh Cove, and features a public library, and a community room that has a stage and small kitchen. Rental info: 228-388-2443

**Ring, ring:** The Biloxi Police Department has joined Ring Neighbors social media app allowing residents to share images of criminal or suspicious activity with the police department. Details: Capt. Brian Dykes, bdykes@biloxi.ms.us

**Crime data:** The City of Biloxi's website has a link to crime data throughout the city. Just go to biloxi.ms.us and click on Crime Mapping. There, you will see data by date, area, types of crime committed, and crime rates. You can even set up notifications for your home or office.

**Retirement:** Biloxi City Council Clerk Karen "Lucy" Brashier has retired from the City of Biloxi after serving for more than 37 years. Keri Campbell has been appointed as new council clerk.

**Heavy traffic for a little longer:** Traffic has been heavier during the afternoon drive on I-110, partly because of the temporary closure of the Fort Bayou bridge in O.S. The bridge closure, which began March 14, has been extended from mid-May to late May.

## Candidates set for June 8 election

The party nominees have been established and balloting for the city's mayor and City Council takes place citywide on June 8 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Contested races are taking place in Wards 1, 2 and 5.

Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich and Councilmembers



Dixie Newman of Ward 3, Robert L. Deming III of Ward 4, Kenny Glavan of Ward 6 and Nathan Barrett in Ward 7 appear on the ballot as unopposed.

Gilich, Newman and Barrett also were unopposed in the Republican primary and Deming and Glavan outpolled challengers. Democrats George Lawrence and Felix Gines faces challengers in the upcoming general election.

**Polling places changes:** Two polling places have changed for the 2021 municipal elections. In Ward 2, those who formerly voted at the Carl M. Ohr Fire Station No. 3 will now vote at the East Biloxi Senior Center, 461 Parker St. In Ward 7, those who formerly voted at the Woolmarket Fire Station No. 8 will now vote at the Woolmarket City Center, 13034 Kayleigh Cove.

**Key dates:** May 10 is the deadline to register to vote. June 5 is the last day for in-person absentee voting and the municipal clerk's office will be open from 8 a.m. to noon that day. And, of course, the election itself is June 8, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Need more info?** A map of polling places is on the city website. Click on Voter Information on left side of any page. You can contact Municipal Clerk Stacy Thacker at sthacker@biloxi.ms.us or 228-435-6254.

## The candidates

### Mayor

Andrew "FoFo" Gilich (R)

### Ward 1

Keith Anderson (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)

### Ward 5

Sugar Stallings (D)  
Paul Tisdale (R)

### Ward 6

Kenny Glavan (R)

### Ward 7

Nathan Barrett (R)



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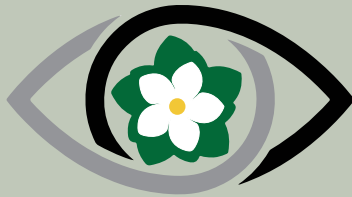
## Biloxi Public School District

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"From our terrific elementary music teachers who work with our young students through our performing ensembles at Biloxi High School, we have a terrific and comprehensive slate of programs to offer and something we can all be proud of. GO BILOXI!"

**Travis Coakley,**  
Director of Fine Arts



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# Golf carts get green light in neighborhoods

Low-speed vehicles such as golf carts will be allowed on Biloxi roadways that have a speed limit of 25 mph or less in a new city ordinance, and plans are in the offing to set up an inspection and permitting process in the Biloxi Police Department.

A few things to know up front: The low-speed vehicles, which must be electric and travel no more than 25 mph, will not be allowed on major thoroughfares, such as U.S. 90, Pass Road or any other street where the speed limit is more than 25 mph.

“The biggest thing for people to know is that these carts must be street legal, inspected, insured and operated by a licensed driver,” said Capt. Brian Dykes of the Biloxi Police Department. “You can’t just let your kids hop in the cart and drive down the street to a friend’s house. In fact, if that were to happen, both the unlicensed driver and their parents are subject to being

## A few things to know up front:

The low-speed vehicles which must be electric and travel no more than 25 mph, will not be allowed on major thoroughfares, such as U.S. 90, Pass Road or any other street where the speed limit is more than 25 mph, and the vehicles must be operated by a licensed driver, inspected and insured.



► See the map online at [biloxi.ms.us/golfcarts](http://biloxi.ms.us/golfcarts)

ticketed.”

The move in April by the City Council

to OK the low-speed vehicles follows statewide enabling legislation to allow their limited use on public thoroughfares.

Although prohibited on busy streets, the carts will be allowed across certain streets with a speed limit higher than 25 mph, solely to cross by means of the shortest distance possible. No carts will be allowed south of U.S. 90.

The carts also must have lights, turn signals, reflectors, a parking brake, a windshield, exterior and rear-view mirrors, a horn, seatbelts and a VIN number.

Once all guidelines are in place, around mid- May, those seeking registration may visit the Lopez-Quave Public Safety Center at 170 Porter Ave., and pay a \$75 registration fee. Operators will receive a map showing legal operating areas, a decal and a registration number for their cart. Registration will be valid for one year.



# WAHOO'S

## POOLSIDE BAR & GRILL

# OPEN DAILY

## STARTING MAY 10!

Sunday - Thursday 11 AM - 9 PM

Friday & Saturday 11 AM - 10 PM

### DINNER SPECIALS

4 PM - 8 PM

#### TACO TUESDAYS

Trio of pulled pork tacos topped with southwestern slaw.  
Served with tortilla chips, salsa and a frozen margarita.

**\$18**

#### WEDNESDAY SHRIMP BOIL

3 lbs. of boiled shrimp, corn and potatoes.

**\$20**

#### THURSDAY CRAWFISH BOIL

5 lbs. of boiled crawfish, corn and potatoes.

**\$20**

### HAPPY HOUR

MONDAY - THURSDAY • 4 PM - 5 PM

#### HAPPY HOUR TACOS

Blackened shrimp tacos topped with southwestern slaw.

**3 for \$5**

#### BEER BUCKET SPECIAL

All specials start May 10.

LOCATED AT

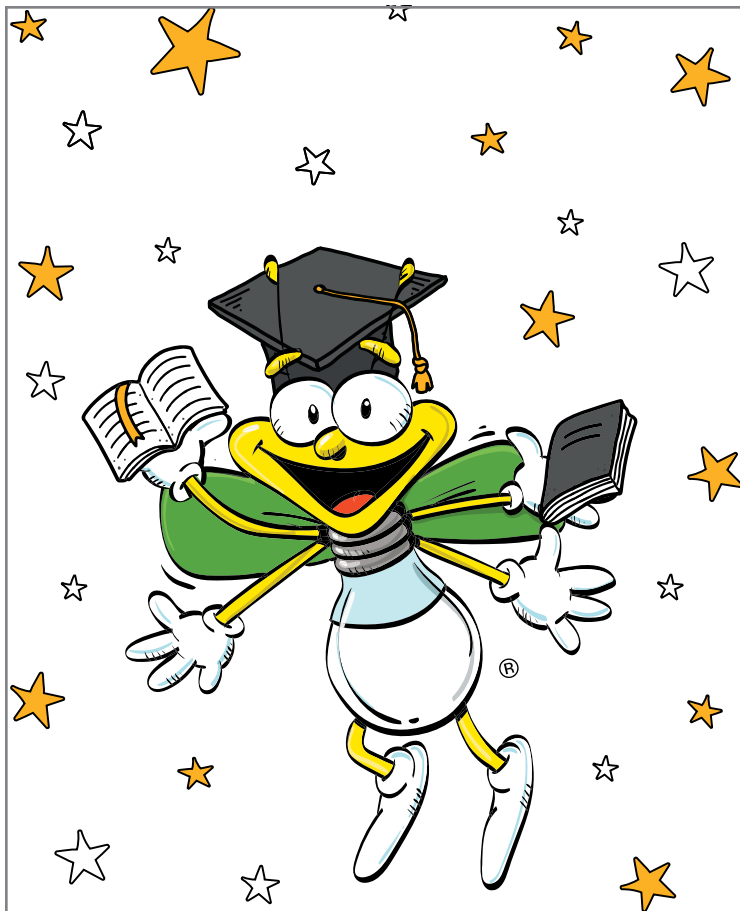


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# CONGRATS

# 2021

# GRADUATES

We recognize the dedication of this year's graduates and celebrate their well-deserved accomplishments. Please join us in honoring the class of 2021 and wishing them the brightest of days ahead.



## Mississippi Power

# Shuckers return to MGM Park on May 11

By Garrett Greene  
Biloxi Shuckers

In 1995, Michael Jordan put out arguably the most famous two-word press release in history, simply announcing “I’m Back” in his return to the Chicago Bulls. During his time away from basketball, Jordan had spent the summer playing baseball for the Birmingham Barons, the team the Biloxi Shuckers will face to open up their season on May 4. So in the spirit of “His Airness,” the Shuckers would like to make a slight modification for a release of their own:

**We’re Back.**

Back in the ballpark getting ready for Opening Night at MGM Park on May 11. Back to the sights and sounds of the game that we love. And most importantly, back to that sound we all love: the roar of the crowd.

The 2021 season will look a little different than the previous five played in Biloxi. Instead of 140 games culminating on Labor Day, the Shuckers will play 120 games, stretching to September 19. Biloxi no longer plays in the Southern League, but instead the Double-A South. Hang with it for a while, we’re pretty sure it’s a working title.



The format of the league will be very similar to its predecessor. The Shuckers will play the Pensacola Blue Wahoos, the Mississippi Braves, and the Montgomery Biscuits. A lot, as a matter of fact. Seven of their 10 homestands during the campaign will be against those three teams. But the team will also play the Birmingham Barons, the Tennessee Smokies and yes, the Rocket City Trash Pandas, who will come storming into Biloxi from the Shuckers’ old haunts in the Huntsville area.

It’s highly likely that the Shuckers parent club, the Milwaukee Brewers, will send their

last three first-round picks to Biloxi in 2021. Brice Turang (2018) should start the season with the team, while former Mississippi State southpaw Ethan Small (2019) will either begin the season in Biloxi or arrive very quickly. And 2020 first-round pick Garrett Mitchell impressed in his debut at Spring Training with the Brewers and appears to be on a fast track through the organization.

The repairs to the ballpark sustained during Hurricane Zeta are nearing completion, and as a bonus for 2021, the right field video board at MGM Park is getting a makeover, with a new high-definition board going onto the structure that towers over the right-field berm.

And finally, the Shuckers are committed to providing a safe, clean and most importantly, fun environment for the 2021 season. Keep your eyes open for single game tickets and promotions, they are coming soon. If you’d like to secure a spot at the ballpark, contact the Shuckers front office to sign up for a Shuck Nation Membership or purchase a flex plan.

We’ve missed you, Biloxi. And we can’t wait to have you back at the ballpark. Stay safe and we’ll see you on Opening Day!

► Get tickets and more info at [biloxishuckers.com](http://biloxishuckers.com)



**Tuesday May 11**  
with Post Game Fireworks  
Presented by





**228-233-3465**  
**BILOXISHUCKERS.com**



## CITY OF BILOXI PUBLIC NOTICE

### Notice of Public Hearings & Public Service Applications 2021 Community Development Block Grant Action Plan

The City of Biloxi will receive a 2021 CDBG Entitlement Grant of \$445,920 and anticipates generating program income of \$170,271 for 2021 activities, based on previous years' resources.



The city will conduct two public hearings to give Biloxi residents opportunity to:

- Present oral or written input about City housing, community development and supportive housing needs; and
- Participate in development and implementation of the 2021 CDBG Action Plan, a component of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan.

Hearings will be in the Community Development Auditorium, at 676 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 25, 2021 and Tuesday, June 22, 2021.

Residents are urged to attend, particularly low, very low, extremely low income and public housing residents, minorities, and those with mobility, visual, and hearing impediments. If special accommodations are needed for hearings, contact the city's Federal Programs Manager at least 72 hours beforehand at 228-435-6269 or [spickich@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:spickich@biloxi.ms.us).

Applications for **PY2021 CDBG public services funds** will be available on the city's website [www.biloxi.ms.us/cdbg](http://www.biloxi.ms.us/cdbg) on **May 3, 2021** for agencies to complete and submit before the **4 p.m., June 1, 2021 deadline**. Information about the application process and eligible use of funds is available online.

Information about Biloxi's CDBG Program also can be found at [biloxi.ms.us/cdbg](http://biloxi.ms.us/cdbg)

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DINNER WITHOUT CRAB	\$17.99	\$15.99	\$14.99	\$16.99

WITH PLAYERS' CARD PLUS TAX

\*Crab not available for lunch to go or takeout.



## Telehealth Appointments Now Available



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Cedar Lake – 228-392-7760  
Promenade – 228-456-0173  
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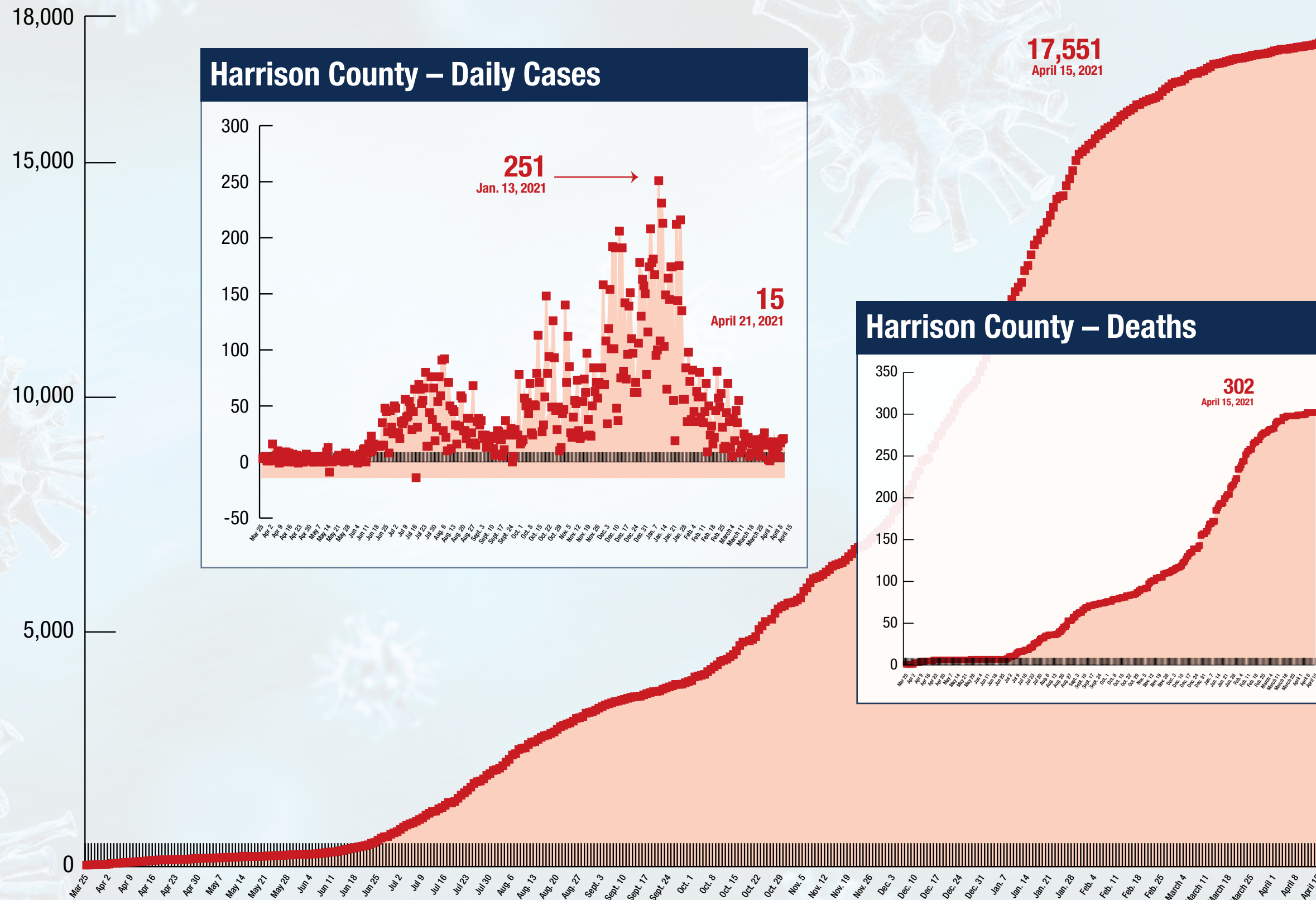
[www.MyMeritDoctor.com](http://www.MyMeritDoctor.com)



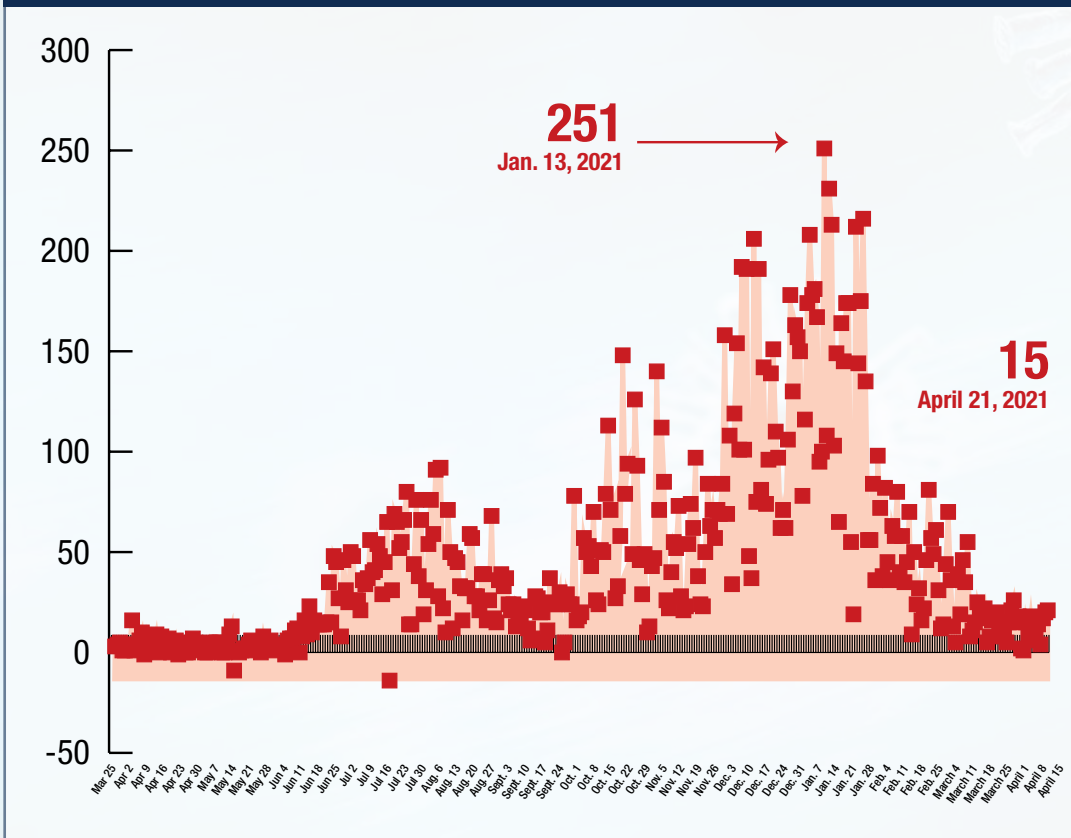
# Coronavirus by the numbers

**Harrison County – Overall** (as of April 15, 2021)

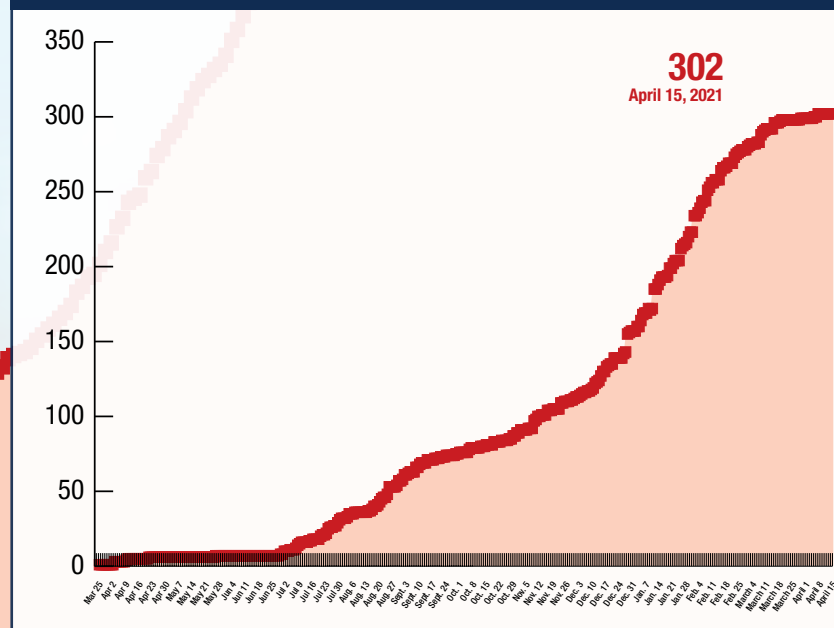
See updates Friday  
on the city's  
Facebook page.



## Harrison County – Daily Cases



## Harrison County – Deaths



## Statewide overall

Population: 2.97 Million

### Positive cases

**308,521** (as of April 15, 2021)

### Presumed recovered

**297,362** (as of April 12, 2021)

### Deaths

**7,127** (as of April 15, 2021)

### Hospitalizations

**174** (as of April 14, 2021)

### Vaccinations administered

**1,156,049** (as of April 15, 2021)

### People fully vaccinated

**323,819** (as of April 15, 2021)

## Harrison County

Population: 208,080

### Vaccine with at least one dose

**53,723** (as of April 15, 2021)

## COVID-19 Vaccinations

Visit online at [biloxi.ms.gov/coronavirus-info-practical-advice/](https://biloxi.ms.gov/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.gov/coronavirus-info-practical-advice/](https://biloxi.ms.gov/coronavirus-info-practical-advice/).



# Storm season expected to be an active one

The early prediction is in: The 2021 Atlantic hurricane season is forecast to be more active than usual, according to an outlook by the Colorado State University Tropical Meteorology Project.

The group predicts 17 named storms, eight hurricanes and four major hurricanes. A major hurricane is one that is a Category 3 or higher (115-plus-mph winds) on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale.

Though the official Atlantic hurricane season runs from June through November, storms can occasionally develop outside those months, as was the case in the previous six seasons and 10 of the past 18

seasons since 2003. In 2020, Tropical storms Arthur and Bertha each formed in mid- to late May.

The CSU outlook is based on roughly 40 years of statistical factors combined with data from seasons exhibiting similar features of sea-level pressure and sea-surface temperatures in the

Atlantic and Eastern Pacific oceans.

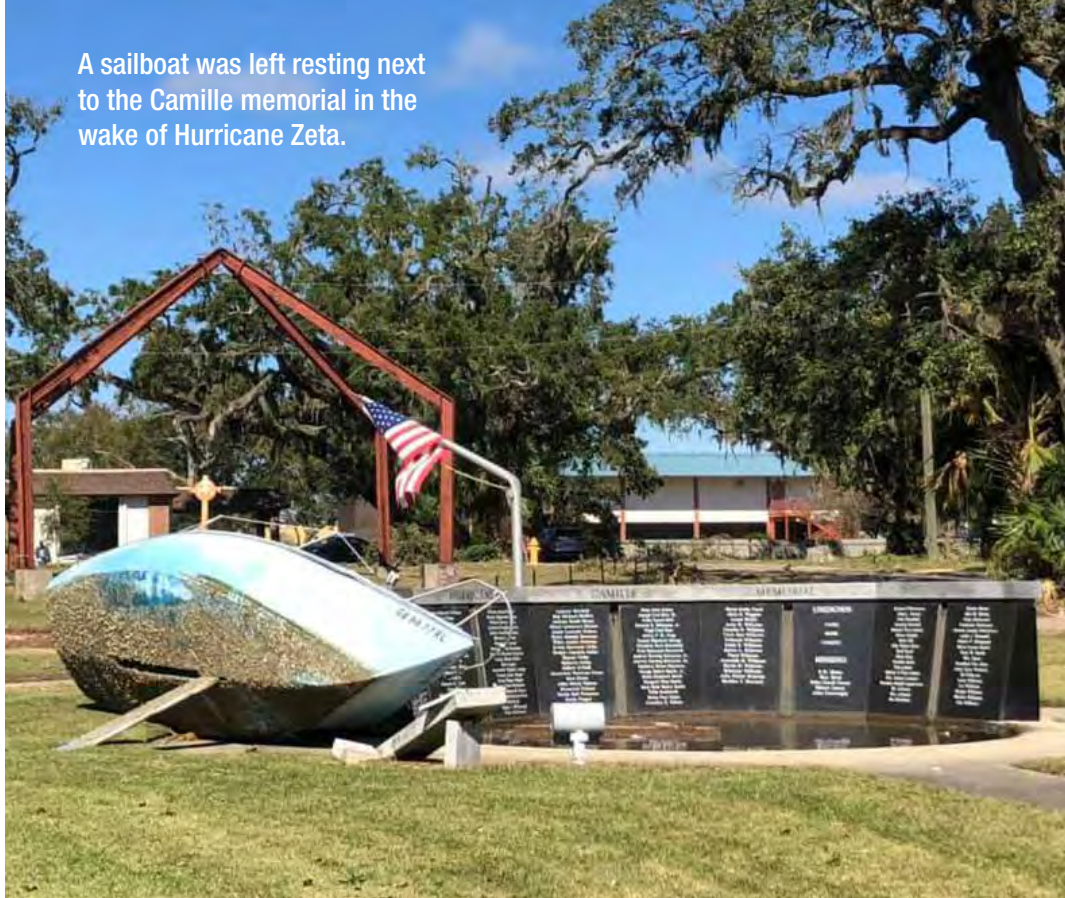
Colorado State's forecast is in line with a prediction released in March by AccuWeather, the private forecasting service, which said to expect seven to 10 hurricanes, with three to five reaching major strength.

Early season forecasts have varied in accuracy. Last year Colorado State's April forecast called for eight hurricanes for a season that would produce 13. But the previous year, the April forecast was pretty close, predicting five hurricanes for a season that would produce six. And the year before that, the prediction called for seven hurricanes, and the season produced eight.

Forecasts released closer to the season's start date tend to be the most accurate. Colorado State and other forecasters will be releasing updated outlooks, including ones before the season's peak begins in August.

The 2020 season got off to an early and rapid start with a record nine named storms from May through July. It ended late, with two major hurricanes in November for the first time on record and at a time when the season

A sailboat was left resting next to the Camille memorial in the wake of Hurricane Zeta.



is normally winding down. The season was so active that the 21-name rotating list was exhausted and the Greek alphabet was used for only the second time (the first time was in 2005).

A record 11 storms made landfall in the U.S. in 2020, including six hurricanes: Hanna, Isaias, Laura, Sally, Delta and Zeta. That's well above the average of one to two hurricane landfalls each season, according to NOAA's Hurricane Research Division.

"We anticipate an above-average probability for major hurricanes making landfall along the continental United States coastline and in the Caribbean," said Phil Klotzbach of Colorado State. "As is the case with all hurricane seasons, coastal residents are reminded that it only takes one hurricane making landfall to make it an active season for them. They should prepare the same for every season, regardless of how much activity is predicted."

Despite the 2020 season, there isn't necessarily a strong correlation between the number of storms or hurricanes and U.S. landfalls in any given season. One or more of the 17 named storms predicted to develop this season could hit the U.S. or none at all. Some past hurricane seasons have been inactive but included at least one notable landfall.

The 1992 season produced only six named storms and one subtropical storm. However, one of those named storms was Hurricane Andrew, which devastated South Florida as a Category 5 hurricane.

## No more Greek names, says naming organization

The World Meteorological Organization's Hurricane Committee, the group that comes up with the annual names of storms, has announced that the Greek alphabet will no longer be used because it creates a distraction from the communication of hazard and storm warnings and is potentially confusing.

The group, which said it would use a supplemental list of names A-Z (excluding Q, U, X, Y and Z), also announced it has retired the names Dorian (2019) and Laura, Eta and Iota (2020) from the rotating lists of storm names.

The retired names are part of a list of 93 storm names that have been retired because the storms were so deadly or costly that using the name again would cause confusion. Typically, the list of names repeats every six years.

The 2020 season showed a number of shortcomings with the use of the Greek alphabet. In fact, the committee said, too much attention was focused on the Greek alphabet, detracting from the needed impact and safety messaging. Additionally, some Greek alphabet names caused confusion in translation into other languages, and the pronunciation of several of the Greek letters (Zeta, Eta, Theta) are similar and occur in succession. In 2020, this resulted in storms with similar sounding names occurring simultaneously.

The annual name list has been exhausted on two occasions during the past 15 years, and it is likely that this will occur again in the future.



# Celebrate Memorial Day virtually with the Biloxi VA

As we approach one of the most celebrated American holidays later this month, our focus will continue ensuring our Veterans, their caregivers and our employees remain safe.

Memorial Day has a deep meaning to us, as well as to the thousands of Biloxi community members who have embraced our organization. We're privileged to be in close proximity to the National Cemetery Administration's Biloxi National Cemetery, and we've historically commemorated and honored the sacrifice of those who have given their lives for our great country.



Bryan C. Matthews

Last year's event was virtual, and as the NCA's Biloxi National Cemetery also follows both CDC and VA recommendations and guidelines, there will not be a public ceremony this year. The NCA will permit volunteers to place flags at gravesites while adhering to guidelines designed to limit exposure to and spread of COVID-19, however, Biloxi National Cemetery staff will host a small wreath-laying



## Biloxi VA TODAY

ceremony for invited guests.

I encourage each of you to watch this on the GCVHCS' Facebook page. Other ways our community can become involved in Memorial Day events include visiting the Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM) page, <https://www.vlm.cem.va.gov/>.

This wonderful project was launched in 2019 and contains basic information such as dates of birth and death, military branch, rank held, conflicts in which the Veteran served, and highest decoration received. The site also includes headstone/marker photographs and mapped locations for many Veterans' graves, with more being added every day. Only Veterans or Servicemembers interred in a VA national cemetery have a VLM page.

Last year, family, friends, and visitors gained the ability to leave "Tributes" or comments on a Veteran's personal page. This year, visitors to VLM will be able to submit photos and biographical summaries of a Veteran's life,

along with historical documents such as award citations, letters, and newspaper clippings. Another feature will allow visitors to follow their Veteran's page and receive email alerts when new content is posted.

If you're again unable to physically visit a VA National Cemetery this Memorial Day due to the pandemic or any other reason, using VLM is a virtual respectful way to honor your Veteran.

Whatever you and your loved ones have planned this Memorial Day, take a moment to reflect on the men and women who have given the ultimate sacrifice for the nation we all hold dear.

► Stream the Memorial Day celebration LIVE at <https://www.facebook.com/VAGulfCoast>



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.

**This FEMA-mandated notice helps keep Biloxi flood insurance rates low.**

## Do You Have Flood Insurance?

It's that time of year again. Hurricane season is just around the corner, and the City of Biloxi is recommending that you purchase flood insurance. Here are a few facts that should move you to action:

- Everyone is vulnerable to flooding. More than 20 percent of the claims in the National Flood Insurance Program are from outside identified flood zones, and claims outside the flood risk area account for a third of disaster assistance for flooding.
- It takes 30 days for a flood insurance policy to take effect, and policies will not be sold when a hurricane is in the Gulf.
- In a high-risk area, your home is more than twice as likely to be damaged by flood than by fire.

The City of Biloxi encourages you to call your insurance agent and buy flood insurance.

Questions? Contact Rick Stickler or Kristin Greger with the City of Biloxi, 228-435-6280.

[rstickler@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:rstickler@biloxi.ms.us) [kgreger@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:kgreger@biloxi.ms.us)



B Smart: Scan to visit the city's online Storm & Flood Preparedness section.



# The infrastructure work in Biloxi

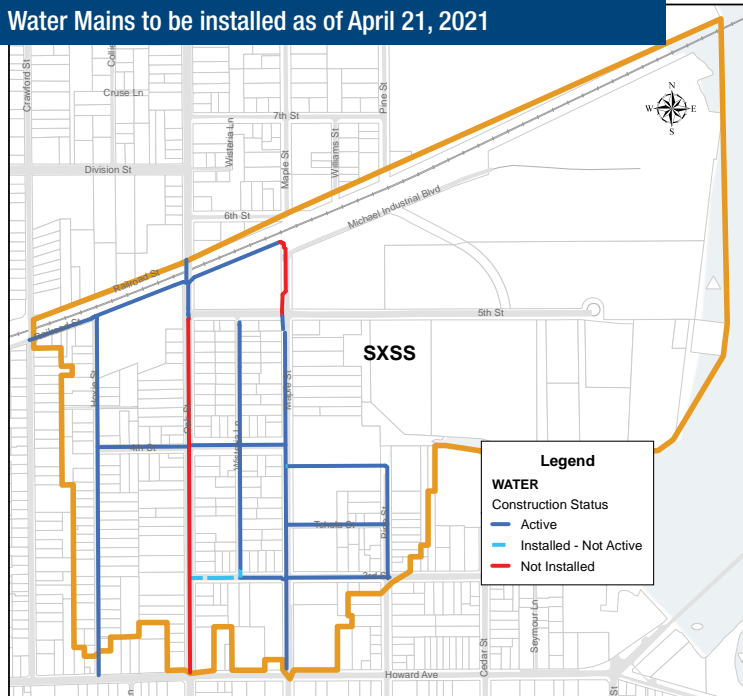
Pages 14 and 15 contain maps that show the status of the city's two major infrastructure projects now underway. The information on these maps is compiled by the city's Engineering Department, based on reports from contractors and inspectors at each site. See detailed maps and video online at [biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi/](http://biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi/).

## 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.

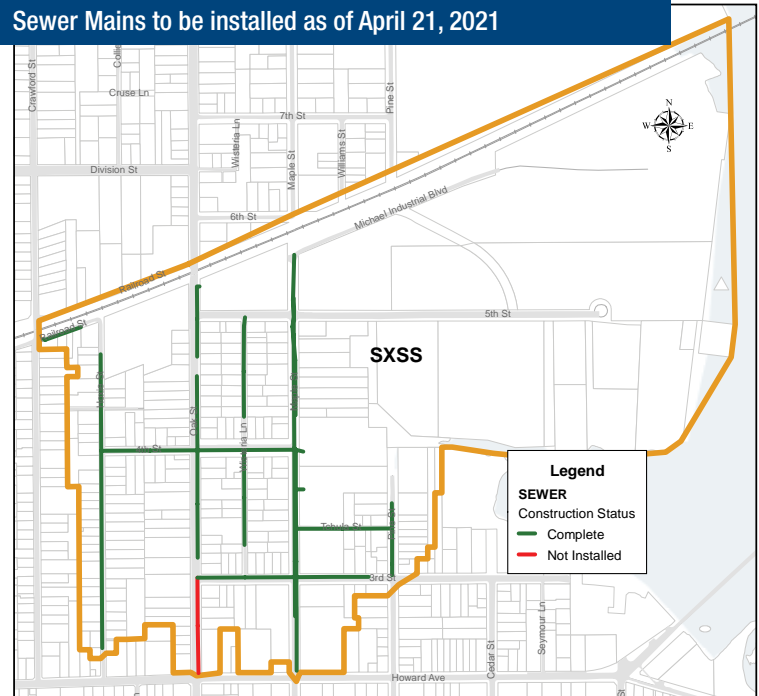
### Lane Construction Water

Water Mains to be installed as of April 21, 2021



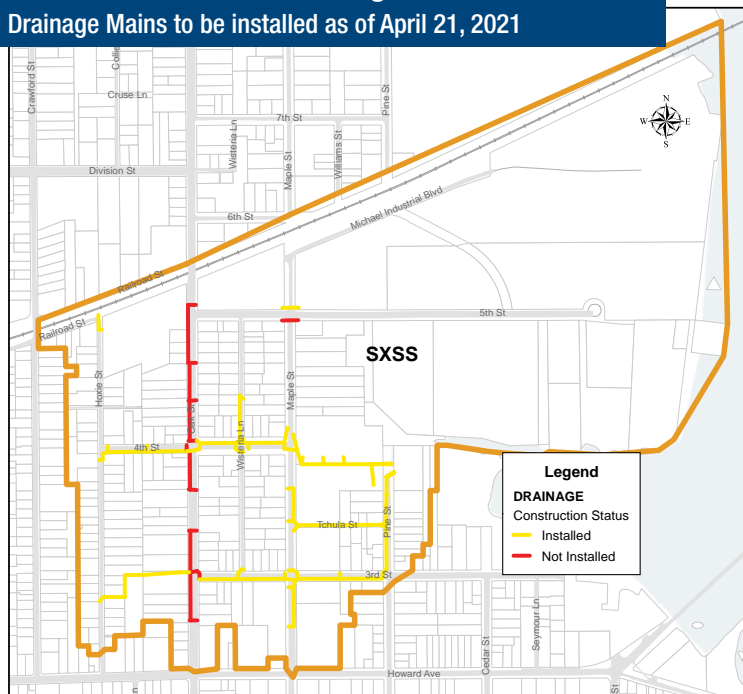
### Lane Construction Sewer

Sewer Mains to be installed as of April 21, 2021



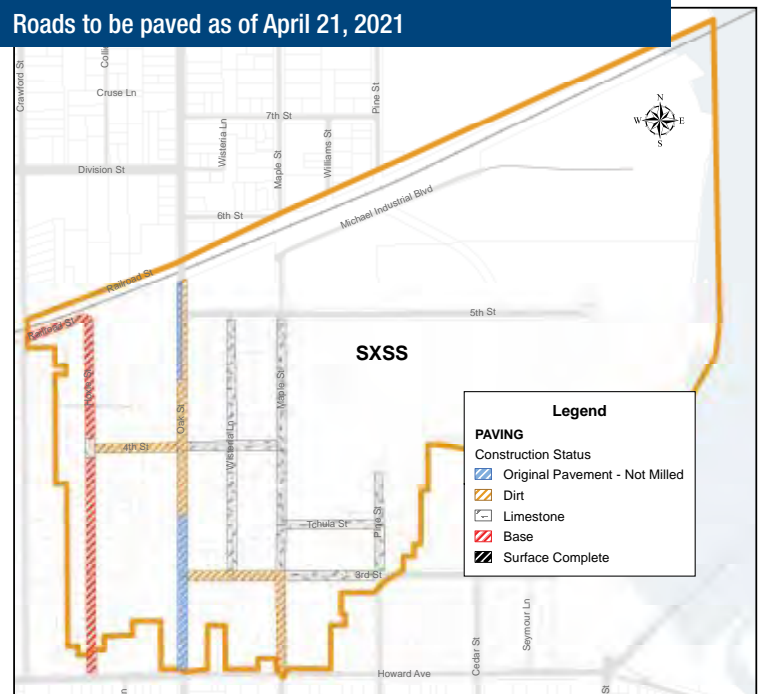
### Lane Construction Drainage

Drainage Mains to be installed as of April 21, 2021



### Lane Construction Pavement

Roads to be paved as of April 21, 2021

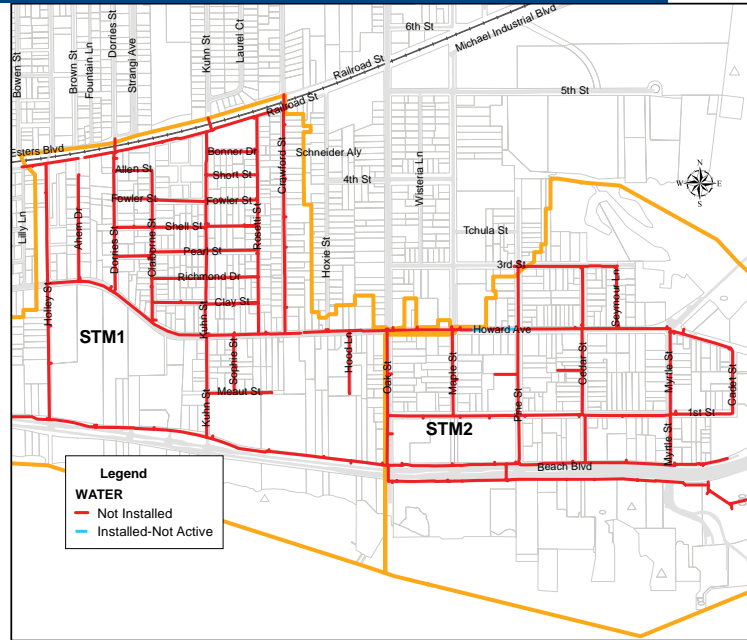


# St. Michael 1 & 2

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.

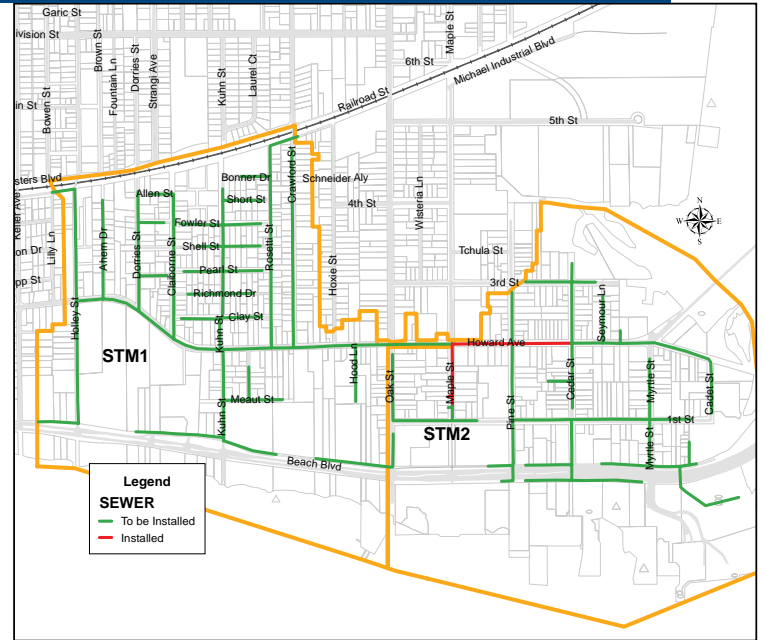
## Necaise Brothers Construction Water

Water Mains to be installed as of April 15, 2021



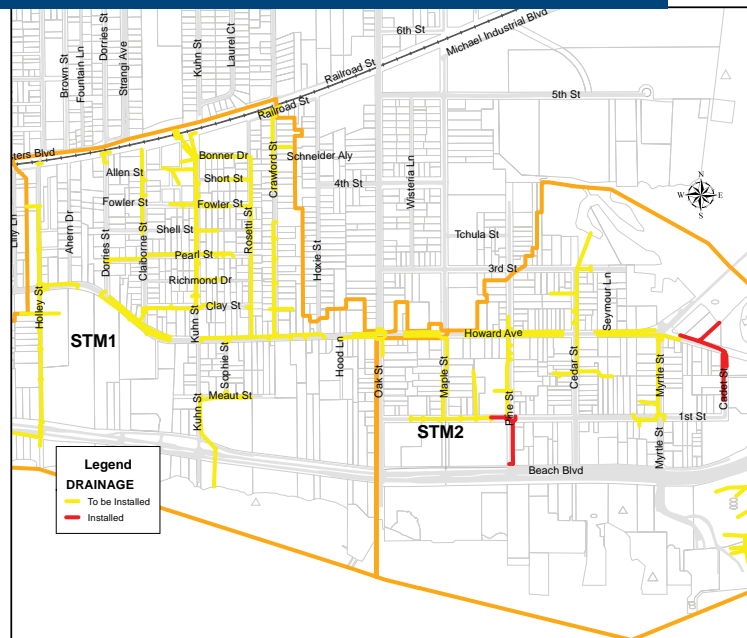
## Necaise Brothers Construction Sewer

Sewer Mains to be installed as of April 15, 2021



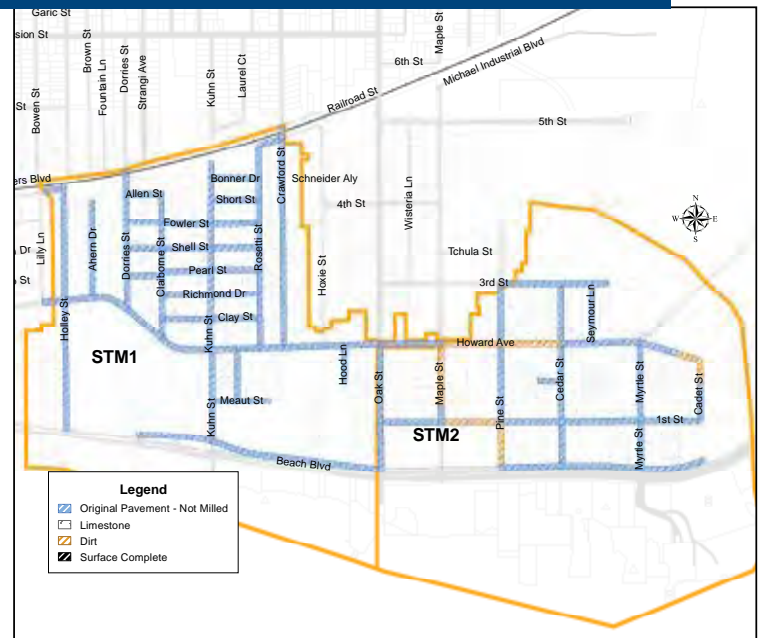
## Necaise Brothers Construction Drainage

Drainage Mains to be installed as of April 15, 2021



## Necaise Brothers Construction Pavement

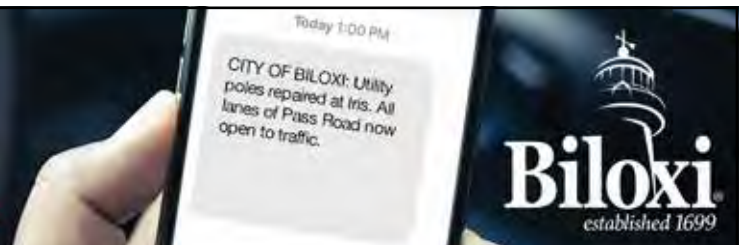
Roads to be paved as of April 15, 2021



Get the 411 on traffic

**B-Alert**

Text BILOXI to 99411  
for timely traffic updates.







## Biloxi native snags Grammy

"Behind every Beyonce, Chaka Kahn and Luther Vandross, there was a music teacher," says Dr. Jeffrey Murdock, a Biloxi native and 1999 Biloxi High School graduate, and at this year's Grammy Awards, the Biloxian had his moment to step out front. Murdock, associate professor of Music Education at the U of Arkansas, was named Music Educators Grammy award winner.



## Della McCaughan: She uncovered the Keegan's Bayou mullet mystery

Leave it to Errol Bradley, the world-class raconteur, to have a great Della McCaughan memory.

McCaughan, who died Feb. 4 at the age of 92, was a teacher in the Biloxi Public School System for 44 years, and, according to her obituary, was the first person in the nation to teach marine biology at the high school level. Additionally, she wrote the first textbook to be used for that purpose.

Says Bradley, a former McCaughan pupil: "There was an issue back in the day over at Keegan's Bayou, you know, the bayou right next to the Keegan's Bayou Wastewater Treatment Plant.

"The local fisherman and residents were concerned about the mullet in the bayou," Bradley recalls. "They were jumping into pilings, jumping on piers. It was not a normal mullet jump. They were very erratic.

"So they did some investigating, and they called in the renowned marine biologist Della McCaughan. She did some study and came to the conclusion that the mullet had toilet paper over their eyes."



## Gumbo Kelly: It's all good

Gumbo Kelly, the storytelling children's librarian who created the Causeway Critters, is on the mend after aortic valve replacement with root enlargement and double bypass surgery. Phew. Although the artist formally known as Kelly Derouen was sidelined briefly, her monthly collection of animated stories, with her stoic and deliberate narration, highlights the BTB schedule three times a day each month.

And now, she says, she's ready to get back to the drawing board – and dinner table. "Everything sounds good," she says: "pho, fried shrimp, even fried chicken livers." Ugh.

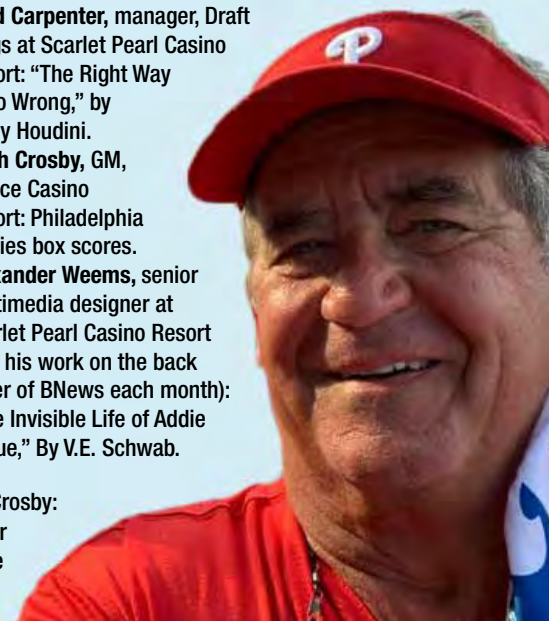


Gumbo Kelly and her cast of critters

## What they're reading: Casino honchos

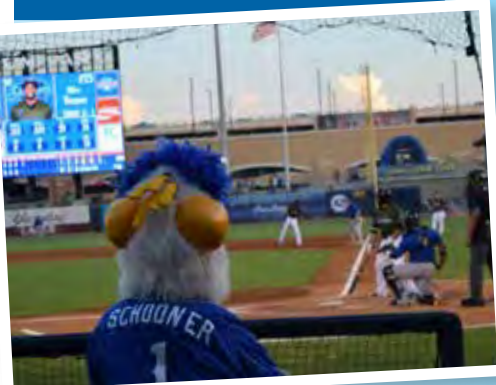
- **Ben Koff**, VP of marketing, Scarlet Pearl Casino Resort: "Roll the Bones: The History of Gambling," by David G. Schwartz.
- **Jim Brown**, F&B director, Palace Casino Resort: "The Rooster Bar," by John Grisham.
- **Brad Carpenter**, manager, Draft Kings at Scarlet Pearl Casino Resort: "The Right Way to do Wrong," by Harry Houdini.
- **Keith Crosby**, GM, Palace Casino Resort: Philadelphia Phillies box scores.
- **Alexander Weems**, senior multimedia designer at Scarlet Pearl Casino Resort (see his work on the back cover of BNews each month): "The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue," By V.E. Schwab.

Keith Crosby:  
A Major  
League  
reader





## Best Bets!



## Shuck Yeah!

**Let's play ball!** After a year on deck because of COVID-19, the Biloxi Shuckers launch the 2021 season on May 4 at Birmingham before hosting the first home game of the season on May 11 when the Mississippi Braves visit MGM Park. The Shuckers will host 60 games with two dozen home games in May. For ticket and promotion information, visit [biloxishuckers.com](http://biloxishuckers.com).

## On the Catwalk

The Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art will host the Catwalk Under The Oaks on Friday, May 21 from 6 to 10 p.m. at the museum. The event, a fundraiser, is a high-end fashion show where industrial chic meets contemporary art. New York designer Sariah Park will be part of the event, along with 30 models sporting elaborate floral headdresses strutting the catwalk. Overhead, yes, on the ceiling, will be artwork from Contemporary Indigenous Artist Mona Cliff. Signature cocktails, The Glamazon and The Diva, will also be spotlighted. Tickets begin at \$100. Visit online at [georgeohr.org](http://georgeohr.org) for more information.

**Annual Mississippi Gulf Coast Historical and Cultural Exposition**, April 30-May 1; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. Cultural and heritage groups will offer exhibits, demonstrations, lectures and fun. Free admission. Details: 228-435-6244, [braymond@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:braymond@biloxi.ms.us)



**Biloxi Lighthouse Arts & Crafts Fair**, May 1, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. Free tours of the Biloxi Lighthouse all day along with family activities. Also, arts and crafts vendors on the first floor and on the front lawn of the center. Details: 228-435-6244; [braymond@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:braymond@biloxi.ms.us)



**City of Biloxi Summer Camp Registration for Popp's Ferry & North Bay schools**, May 1, 9 a.m. to noon, Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road. Open for ages 5 to 12. Biloxi residents only. Fees apply. Documents required

during registration. Details: 228-388-7170

**City of Biloxi Summer Camp Late Registration**, May 3-14, 8 a.m. 4 p.m., Biloxi Parks & Recreation Office, 377 Hiller Dr. Open for ages 5 to 12, in-city and out-of-city residents, with camps at Popp's Ferry, North Bay and North Woolmarket Middle schools. Fees apply. Documents required during registration. Details: 228-388-7170

**Mississippi Senior Olympics**, May 4-22.



Various times. Open to ages 50 and older. Games played in locations throughout the Gulf Coast. Fees may apply. Details: [www.mseniolymp.org](http://www.mseniolymp.org); 228-669-2582

**35th Annual Gorenflo's Cobia Tournament**, May 1-2, Point Cadet Marina, 119 Beach Blvd. Fishing tournament for cash prizes. Details: 228-432-7387; [www.gorenflostackle.com](http://www.gorenflostackle.com)

**Second Annual Officer Robert McKeithen Memorial Blood Drive**, May 6, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd., 2nd floor. Details: 228-385-3033 or visit [vitalant.org](http://vitalant.org) and enter sponsor code biloxipolicedept.

## Best Bet!



## A cultural blessing

For generations, Biloxians have celebrated their deep ties to the seafood industry with the annual Biloxi Blessing of the Fleet. And they will do it again on May 30 at 2 p.m. in the Biloxi channel. The blessing, an Old Country tradition that began here in 1929, marks the beginning of the shrimp season and invokes a safe and prosperous season. The ceremonial wreath dropping takes place at 2 p.m. just south of the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor. Boats line up in the west end of the Biloxi Channel, south of the Biloxi Lighthouse, and parade east. All shrimp and recreational boats are invited to participate. Cash prizes will be awarded. For more information, visit Biloxi Blessing on the Fleet on Facebook.

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



## Stay in touch

**BNews:** Welcome to the 36th 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](mailto:kmiller@biloxi.ms.us).

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

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

**B-Alert:** For text advisories on traffic and severe weather, text BLOXI to 99411.

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

Vincent Creel, Public Affairs Manager  
[vcreel@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:vcreel@biloxi.ms.us)

Cecilia Dobbs Walton, Public Affairs Specialist  
[cdobbswalton@biloxi.ms.us](mailto: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

**First Friday and Downtown Block Party at The District Green**, May 7, 4-9 p.m., Howard Avenue & Rue Magnolia. Live music by Rhythm & Rain and Gram Rea & Ty Taylor. Also featuring food trucks, beer from Fly Llama Brewing Company, and "Musical Bingo" with prizes. Free admission. Details: 228-435-6339

**Bike Biloxi**, May 18; 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



**2021 Biloxi Blessing of the Fleet Poster unveiling**, contestant introduction, Live streamed, May 19; 6 p.m. [Facebook.com/biloxiblessingms](https://www.facebook.com/biloxiblessingms). Details: 228-435-6339

**Biloxi Bay Area Chamber State of the City luncheon**, May 20, Beau Rivage Magnolia Ballroom. Doors open at 11 a.m.; program at 11:30 a.m. Tickets, \$50 per person by May 13. Details: 228-435-6149.

**Bicycle Safety Rodeo & Bike Ride**, May 22, 10:30 a.m., Biloxi Lighthouse Park, west of Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. Details: [mainstreet@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:mainstreet@biloxi.ms.us), 228-435-6339

**Main Street Book Club**, May 26; 5:30 p.m., Southern Bound Book Shop meeting room, 999 Howard Ave. May's book selection, "The Authenticity Project," is available at Southern Bound Book Shop, located next door to Jacked Up Coffee Bar. Stop by the free meeting or call Biloxi Main Street for more information. Details: 228-435-6339

**Coronation of 2021 Shrimp King and Queen**, May 29; 5:30 p.m. Live streamed. Join the Biloxi Blessing of the Fleet Committee as they preside over the crowning of the 2021 Shrimp King and Queen. This year's event is not open to the public but you won't miss a thing if you follow Biloxi Blessing of the Fleet on Facebook. Details: 228-435-6339

**92nd Annual Biloxi Blessing of the Fleet**, May 30; 2 p.m., Biloxi Channel. Boats line up in the west end of the Biloxi Channel, south of the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor, and parade east in the Biloxi Channel. The ceremonial wreath dropping takes place at 2pm. Viewing along the beach from the Biloxi Lighthouse to the Biloxi Bay Bridge. Details: [Facebook.com/biloxiblessingms/](https://www.facebook.com/biloxiblessingms/)



### Biloxi Little Theatre

220 Lee St., 228-432-8543, [www.4blt.org](http://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](http://centerstagebiloxi.com)

### Beauvoir, The Jefferson Davis Home & Presidential Library

2244 Beach Blvd., 228-388-4400, [www.visitbeauvoir.org](http://www.visitbeauvoir.org)

- **Living History**, Performances monthly, every third Saturday; 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. Admission ranges: \$7.50 to \$12.50
- **"Meet the Spirits,"** May 15; 6 p.m. until Midnight. Admission: \$30 per person

### Betsy Ann Riverboat Cruise

173 Beach Blvd., 228-229-4270, [betsyannriverboat@gmail.com](mailto:betsyannriverboat@gmail.com), [bestyannriverboat.com](http://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](http://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](mailto: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.

## 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  
 • Registration for 2021 Sea & Sail Camp now open  
 • Book Signing – May 18; 6 p.m. Authors Ashley Oliphant and Beth Yarbrough will be on hand to sign their new book, “Jean Laffite Revealed”

## Ohr-O’Keefe Museum of Art

386 Beach Blvd., 228-374-5547, www.georgeohr.org  
 • **Catwalk Under the Oaks** (spring fundraiser) May 21; 6-10 p.m., IP Casino Resort Spa, 850 Bayview Avenue. Tickets start at \$100.  
 • **Yoga under the Oaks & Pure Juice 101**, every Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.  
 • **Game night with drink special & tasting menu**, First Thursday of every month; 4-7 p.m.  
 • **Live music with tasting menu**, Third Thursday of every month; 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 to Ship Island resumes MAY 15! • Private charters available year-round.  
 • Dolphin and Sunset Cruises available.

## 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**: May 7, 14, 21, & 28. Door 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 May.  
 • **Safety Protocols for Bingo**: Seating capacity is limited to 75% occupancy, 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 May**, 6-8 p.m. Karaoke at 7 p.m. Call for details.

## Joppa Shrine

13280 Shriners Blvd., 228-392-9345  
 • **Military Collectible Show**, May 1; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: \$7  
 • **Harrison County Gem and Mineral Show**, May 15-16; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free admission.  
 • **No Steak Night in May**; will resume on June 11

## The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

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  
 • May 1-2 – **Annual Home Show**  
 • May 1-2 – **Monster Truck Jam**

## Lagniappe

### Charles R. Hegwood

### Biloxi Community Market

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

### City of Biloxi Senior Program

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

### Biloxi Libraries

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

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

### Biloxi Main Street

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



### City of Biloxi Public Meetings

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



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Community Market  Yoga Under the Oaks Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art  Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Community Market	<b>30</b>  Mississippi Gulf Coast Historical and Cultural Exposition Biloxi Visitors Center  Friday Night Dinners with Karaoke Fleur de Lis Society  Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge	<b>1</b> Military Collectible Show Joppa Shrine  Historical and Cultural Expo AND Biloxi Lighthouse Arts & Crafts Fair Biloxi Visitors Center Home Show/Monster Trucks MS Coast Coliseum Summer Camp Registration Donal Snyder Center Cobia Tourney - Point Cadet John Michael Montgomery IP Casino
<b>2</b>  Gorenflo's Cobia Tournament Point Cadet Marina  Home Show AND Monster Truck Jam MS Coast Coliseum	<b>3</b>  Summer Camp Late Registration through May 14 Parks & Rec Office	<b>4</b> Community Market  Yoga Under the Oaks Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art  Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Community Market  Officer Robert McKeithen Memorial Blood Drive Biloxi Visitors Center  Game Night with Makin' Groceries Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art	<b>7</b>  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	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Community Market  Shuckers vs. Braves MGM Park  Yoga Under the Oaks Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art  Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	<b>12</b>  Shuckers vs. Braves MGM Park	<b>13</b> Community Market  Shuckers vs. Braves MGM Park	<b>14</b>  Summer Camp Late Registration Last Day Parks & Rec Office  Shuckers vs. Braves MGM Park  Friday Night Dinners with Karaoke Fleur de Lis Society  Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge	<b>15</b> Meet the Spirits Beauvoir  Shuckers vs. Braves MGM Park  Harrison County Gem and Mineral Show Joppa Shrine
<b>16</b>  Shuckers vs. Braves MGM Park  Harrison County Gem & Mineral Show Joppa Shrine	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Community Market  Bike Biloxi Downtown Biloxi  Book Signing Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum  Yoga Under the Oaks - OOMA  Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	<b>19</b>  2021 Biloxi Blessing of the Fleet Poster unveiling, contestant introduction Facebook Live Stream	<b>20</b> Community Market  Biloxi Bay Area Chamber State of the City luncheon Beau Rivage Magnolia Ballroom  Third Thursdays Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art	<b>21</b>  Catwalk Under The Oaks IP Casino  Friday Night Dinners with Karaoke Fleur de Lis Society  Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge  Mom's Night Out Beau Rivage	<b>22</b>  Bicycle Safety Rodeo & Bike Ride Biloxi Lighthouse Park, west of Biloxi Visitors Center
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Community Market  Shuckers vs. Wahoos MGM Park  Yoga Under the Oaks Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art  Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	<b>26</b>  Shuckers vs. Wahoos MGM Park  Main Street Book Club Southern Bound Books	<b>27</b> Community Market  Shuckers vs. Wahoos MGM Park	<b>28</b>  Shuckers vs. Wahoos MGM Park  Friday Night Dinners with Karaoke Fleur de Lis Society  Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge	<b>29</b>  Shuckers vs. Wahoos MGM Park  Coronation of 2021 Shrimp King and Queen Facebook Live Stream
<b>30</b> Blessing of the Fleet Biloxi Channel  Shuckers vs. Wahoos MGM Park	<b>31</b>					

# BTV May Schedule

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

Morning	
6 a.m.	"Down in Biloxi," by Rockin' Ray Fournier (4 min)
6:04 a.m.	Inside BTV for May (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.	Special presentation: Postcards and images of Old Biloxi (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.	Special presentation: Postcards and images of Old Biloxi (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 May (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: Postcards and images of Old Biloxi (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.

## Bubba is cooking this month on BTV

David "Bubba" Mattina, longtime Biloxi nightlife impresario, turns up in the Jazzeppi's kitchen this month on the latest episode of "Biloxi Cooks!"

Mattina, while overseeing the preparation of "Veal Genovese," discusses the popularity of a host of long-gone Biloxi nightspots: The Sports Page, Amelia's, David M's Take 2, David M's Spinnaker Run, and, lest we forget, Oscar's.

See the latest episode of "Biloxi Cooks!" each day in May at 7 a.m., 7 p.m. and 1 in the afternoon.



David "Bubba" Mattina

## Postcards, photos and more

There's a new crop – an old crop, actually – of Biloxi postcards and photos running on BTV this month, and it's an hour-long presentation.

The trip down memory lane begins daily in May at 8 a.m., 8 p.m. and 2 in the afternoon.



## 'Biloxi VA Today,' Gumbo, council and more

The May BTV lineup also includes a host of updates monthly figures: "Storytime with Gumbo Kelly," "The Biloxi VA Today," and replays of Biloxi City Council meetings.

You can see BTV in Biloxi on Sparklight 56 or Uverse 99 (follow the prompts), from anywhere at [biloxi.ms.us/btv](http://biloxi.ms.us/btv).



## This month's recipe: Veal Genovese

See it prepared on Biloxi Cooks! this month.

### Ingredients (one serving):

- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 oz Madeira Wine
- 6 shoots of asparagus
- 3 sliced mushrooms
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Italian bread crumbs
- 1 oz olive oil
- Angel hair pasta

- Heat olive oil in a saute pan, add veal and pan fry until golden brown

### Sauce:

- Cook heavy cream until a smooth sauce
- Add wine, asparagus, mushrooms and cook for 5 additional minutes

### Instructions:

#### Veal:

- Tenderize and bread in Italian bread crumbs

#### Angel hair pasta

- Cook according to package

Serve veal and sauce over pasta





# The views change, but diamonds are forever

While traveling through Biloxi's highways, waterways, and sidewalks, we often encounter that recurring question: "What used to be on this spot or how did that come about?" Many tourists, residents, and previous Keesler airmen frequent the Local History and Genealogy Department trying to figure out what was where, where was what, and how did that happen Back in the Day.

## Back in the Day



By Jane Shambra

### Batter Up Biloxi

May 4 marks the return of this year's long awaited Shuckers baseball games at the MGM Park. Although previous Shuckers games began a little earlier, the COVID-19 restrictions prompted a little delay in the current season.

It all began back in 2014, when a Minor League Baseball team set its sights on Biloxi,

Miss. Then in November of that same year, a name for Biloxi's minor league baseball team was formally announced at the Saenger Theatre amid much fanfare and celebration. The winner had been selected from six finalists. Shuckers was the winning name!

But, why do we call our team "The Shuckers"? What's a shucker, anyway? Back in the Day, Biloxi's shoreline was once lined with seafood factories where hard-working families provided the labor force for the harvesting, processing, and exportation of our renowned scrumptious seafood.

Abundantly found in waters along our shoreline, oysters provide not only food for our own residents, but produced an industry that was desired worldwide. Fisherman would board their boats such as white-winged schooners, and ply the waters for seafood. Their bounties were sold fresh to locals or taken to canneries which provided an additional method by preservation for our seafood products.

Thus, in 1903, Biloxi was lauded with the title "The Seafood Capital of the World." Factory workers prepared popular seafood which included shrimp, crabs, and oysters. The shuckers were the oyster industry workers who carefully pried open the hard shells of the harvested bivalve mollusks with special knives, a technique which is still used today.

### Flourishing hotels

The roaring 20s was a great time for American economy on the Coast. The Tivoli Hotel to the east and the Edgewater Gulf Hotel to its west (all along U.S. 90) were built during that decade, just before the depression and the stock market troubles.

Other thriving hotels during that decade included the Avalez, the White House Hotel, and the Hotel Biloxi. Travelers had several options for transportation: the motor car, the pleasure boat, and the popular train. With Biloxi's nearby train depot, harbor, and improved Beach Boulevard, travelers had easy access to our famous hotel destinations.

### Buena Vista

Before the days of downtown Biloxi Baseball, the square block was occupied by a famous hotel: The Buena Vista, Spanish for good view, was a massive hotel designed in 1923 by Biloxi's own Carl Matthes. Mr. Matthes's original design drawings depicts a grand four-story concrete structure with a basement. (Imagine a basement in south Mississippi!) He even designed a little penthouse on top the roof.

Following the Spanish motif, the original architectural plans show detailed archways for both windows and doorways throughout the hotel. The lot size of the complex was described as 165 feet by 400 feet in depth and included a greenhouse for nurturing its special plants on the north side.

Perfectly matched grained wooden pine

floors were found throughout the hotel along with "easy chairs," cozy fireplaces, and rugs to provide warmth in the winter months. This amazing flooring provided an astounding opportunity for dancing which was accompanied by live orchestras.

The Buena Vista Hotel complex also included residences for workers as well as a covered garage.

Opening day for the Buena Vista Hotel was July 4, 1924 with a budget of \$400,000. Special amenities complimented the tourist's yearn for comfort and pleasure, such as a barber shop, a pool, and a walking pier jutting out from the beachfront just south of the hotel property.

Legend has it that this hotel hosted tremendous opportunities for gambling. Even though laws then didn't permit gambling, folks arrived from miles around to take their chances.

For a short time, iconic Jazz clarinetist Pete Fountain (Pierre Dewey LaFontaine Jr., July 3, 1930 – August 6, 2016), was once an owner of the Buena Vista Hotel.

One famous section of the hotel was the Marine Room, remembered for its cocktail lounge and dancing venue.

The Buena Vista often hosted gatherings for large conventions and competitions. The annual Miss Hospitality beauty contest was held at the hotel, complete with interviews, judging, special luncheons, and parties.

The location of the hotel did not protect it from hurricanes. Pictures back in the day show debris piles lacing the Buena Vista's property.

Keeping with Biloxi's resiliency, the forces of nature did not halt prosperity. Instead, after each hurricane, clean-ups and repairs went underway quickly and progress continued.

A closer look at postcards and photos show an added feature to this property: a television antenna. There were no cell towers then, for sure! Years ago, WLOX-TV actually transmitted its signal live from the Buena Vista property.

The life of this fine facility changed over time. It was utilized into the 1980s. In 1991, a mysterious fire destroyed much of the main building. Soon after that, in 1992, gambling was legalized, and the property began a new evolution.

The buildings were torn down in 1993 to make way for ultra-modern gambling and entertainment venues.

Since its opening in 1999 the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino has occupied the area where the south side of the old Buena Vista hotel once thrived; while our MGM Park proudly continues to entertain guests where the original Spanish-style Buena Vista hotel designed by Carl Matthes once stood.

### Looking Up

Biloxi has recently added two new overhead pedestrian walkways crossing over Hwy. 90. This feature is not new to the area. As the Buena Vista hotel grew and expanded south of the highway, a similar walkway was added to provide a safer, more picturesque way to walk from the northern to the southern side of its Buena Vista properties.

The writer is manager of the Local History and Genealogy section of the Biloxi Public Library. Email her at [jane.shambra@gmail.com](mailto:jane.shambra@gmail.com).



Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich  
and the Biloxi City Council  
George Lawrence • Felix O. Gines  
Dixie Newman • Robert L. Deming III  
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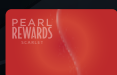
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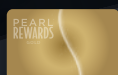
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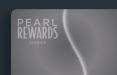
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