

BNews Monthly

FEBRUARY 2022

A compendium of what's happening in Biloxi



COVID rages on

– Page 12



The march to Mardi Gras

See the lineup, maps and tips to enjoy

– Page 20

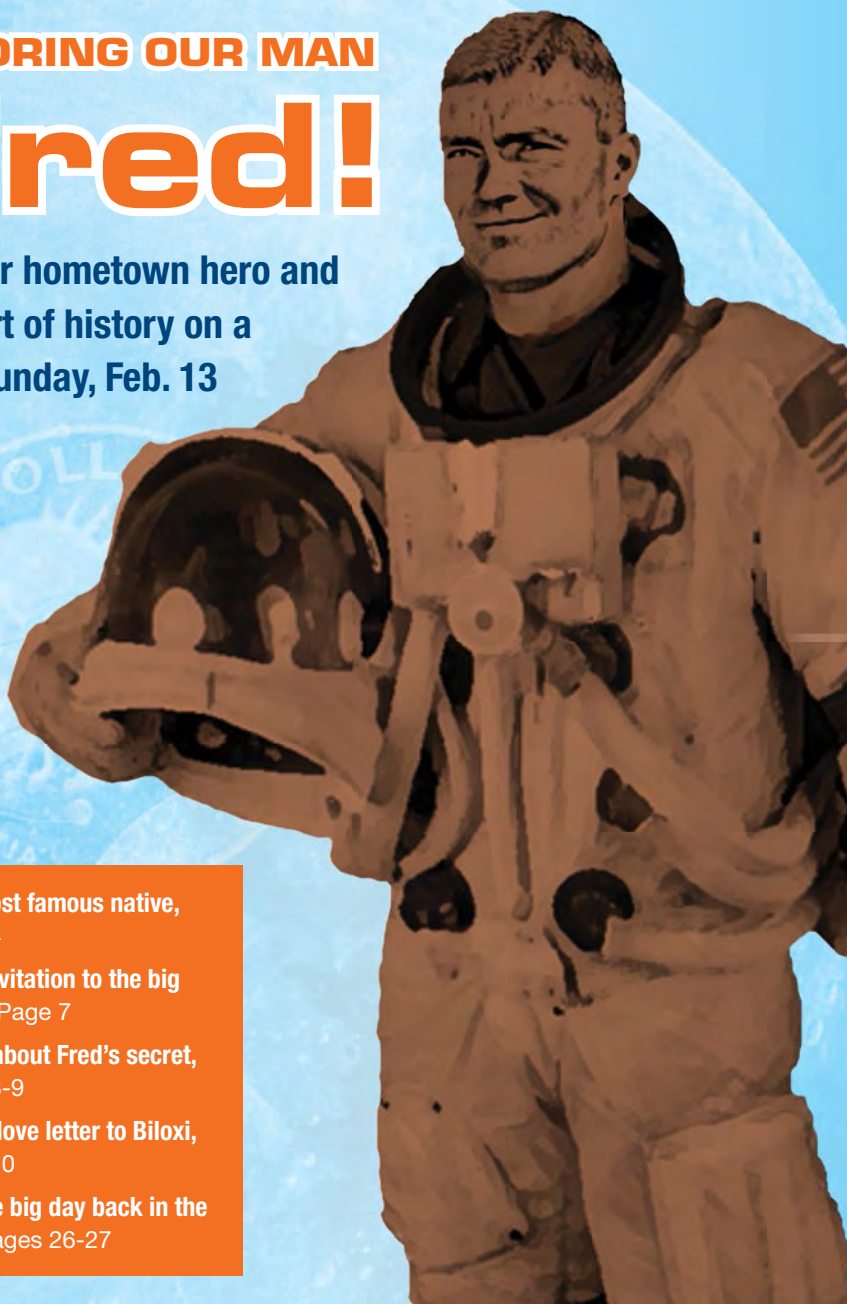


HONORING OUR MAN

Fred!

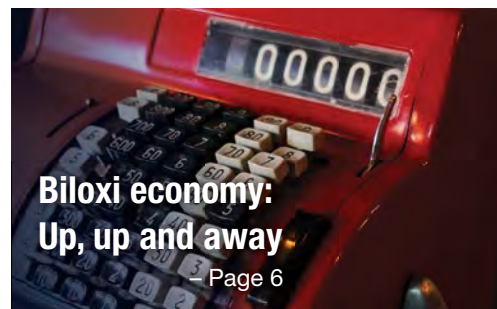
Meet our hometown hero and be a part of history on a super Sunday, Feb. 13

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- Fred's love letter to Biloxi, Page 10
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Biloxi economy: Up, up and away

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

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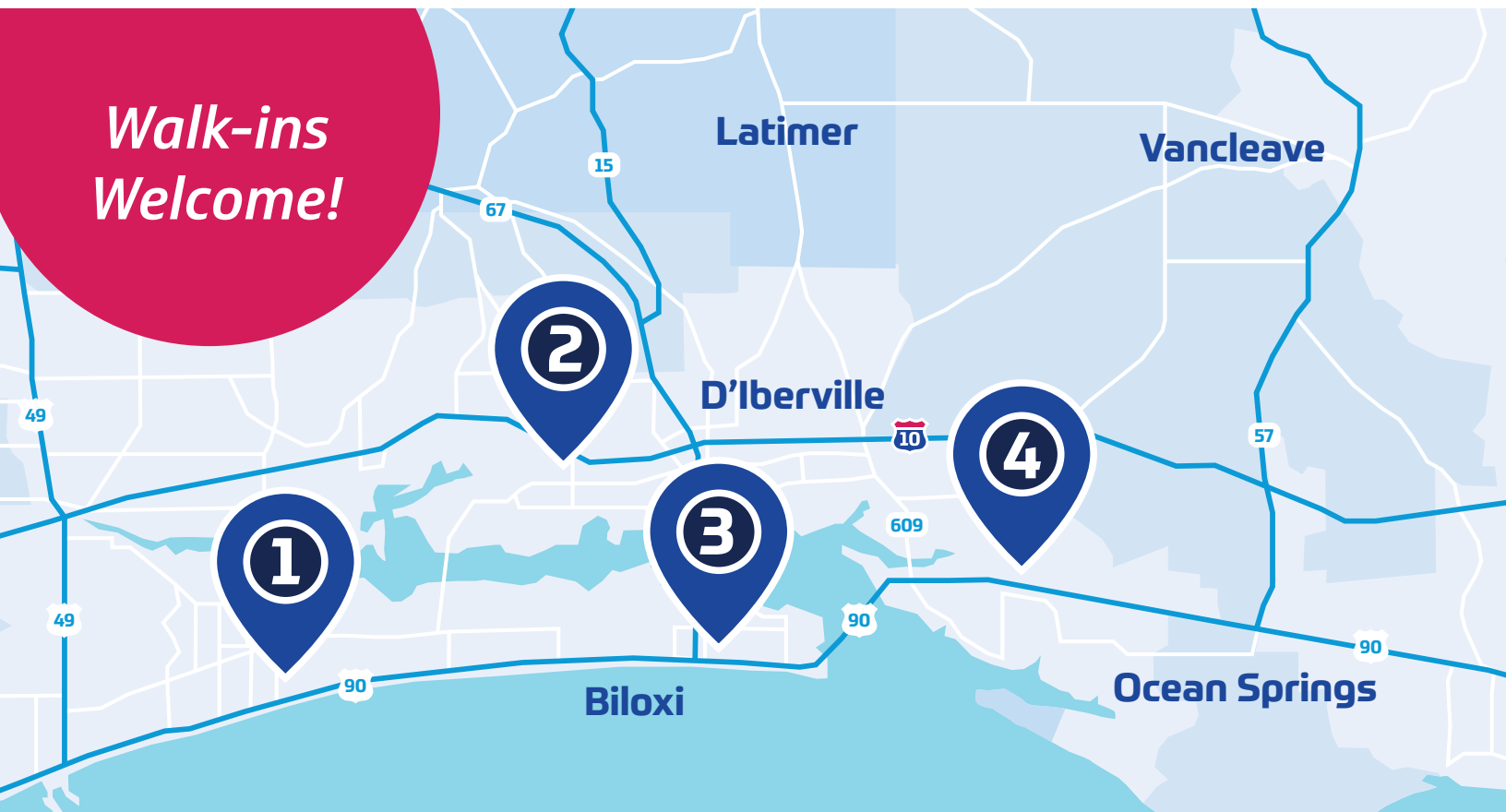
For B-Alerts, text
BILOXI to 99411

BNews Monthly, the City of Biloxi's monthly newsmagazine, is printed and mailed to everyone in Biloxi by the first of each month. It is also available online and at city facilities.

The city's Public Affairs Division (Manager Vincent Creel, Specialist Cecilia Dobbs Walton) is responsible for BNews, with cooperation and support from city departments and partner agencies. BNews is underwritten each month by the civic-minded advertisers on these pages, whose messages reach all Biloxi residents and businesses.

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Edgewater Mall

Quick! Who is the most famous Biloxian?

This column was originally published in this space in July 2019.

The words of our friend Police Chief John Miller occupied this space last month, an eloquent and inspirational tribute to fallen officer Robert McKeithen. The heartfelt ode was actually an amplification of the chief's eulogy from the officer's funeral.

Robert McKeithen was an everyday hero, Chief Miller noted, and we should also look inward and strive to be such a hero. We were delighted to have Chief Miller's words on this page, and, coincidentally,


Nick L. Shrimp

we'd been considering ("coagulating" in "FoFo" speak) a similarly thought-provoking pursuit.

Alas, our discourse is far from lofty or cerebral. Instead, we'd envisioned a discussion sparked by the question: "Who is the most famous person in Biloxi's history?"

An easy, convenient answer could be Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville, the French explorer who, while charged with locating the mouth of the Mississippi River, landed an expedition of 14 men on Feb. 13, 1699 on present-day Biloxi, guided, some say, by the street lights at Edgewater Mall.

Edward Barq, the French educated and New Orleans-born chemist who moved to Biloxi in 1898, purchased the Biloxi Artesian Bottling Works, and a few years later, introduced Biloxi and the world to Barq's Root Beer, "a cultural favorite." And, yes, "It's good."

Certainly, those two come to mind as having made their marks, but, as Fire Chief and Biloxi-lore lover Joe Boney quickly noted, "How could you top going to the moon?"

Yes, Fred Haise, the Back Bay-born, Biloxi-educated youngster who would become one of 24 people in the world to have gone to the moon. His heroic endeavors on Apollo 13 -- NASA's most successful failure -- captivated the world at the time and decades later in an excellent Ron Howard film.

Fred, of course, went on to work in the early days of the space shuttle program, had a career in the aviation industry, and today continues to be popular on the speaking circuit, usually promoting the Infinity Space Center in Hancock County or advocating STEM courses in classrooms.

While Fred's achievements were on an out-of-this-world stage, we've seen a healthy stream of notables in our midst, from way back when to today.



Fred Haise 1966

"Our little city, with its French colonial roots," according to one cherished city video vignette, "has always been home to dreamers, artists, visionaries and other independent souls."

"Biloxi's Builders and Visionaries," one of the collection of high-quality videos the city produced for the Biloxi Visitors Center and now online, notes that Jefferson Davis was a Biloxi resident when he penned "The Rise and Fall of the Confederacy," a century later, Dr. Gilbert R. Mason established himself as a Civil Rights icon for his efforts in desegregating Biloxi beaches and Biloxi Public Schools. Dr. Mason, of course, became legendary in Biloxi, to the point of having a section of U.S. 90 in his memory. (Which makes us wonder: Whatever happened to the Fred Haise Boulevard designation on a portion of U.S. 90?)

Typically, you don't have to look far to spot the famous names of Biloxi's past and present. Streets and other landmarks call attention to individuals who made tremendous impacts on the Biloxi we know today: Lopez, Gorenflo, Howard, Caillavet, Reynoir, Elder, and on and on. Need more? Check out the names on the base of the modern-day Golden Fisherman at the Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum.

Then there's George Ohr, "sufficiently inspired

to proclaim himself as the greatest potter who ever lived," modernist painter Dusti Bonge, and, what about artist Joe Moran?

No such conversation about famous Biloxians should overlook modern-day suggestions. World War II ace, businessman, politician and philanthropist Jerry O'Keefe should certainly be included. How about A.J. Holloway, football player turned long-term mayor? Or those individuals from the private sector who helped advocate legalized dockside gaming, and, of course, those who tested political waters a year before with cruises to nowhere.

It could easily be a voluminous list, this compilation of famous individuals in Biloxi's history. For that matter, consider the fun of an infamous list -- you know, "better than famous."

It's fertile ground, this Biloxi of ours, an area that some say was once called "the great state of Biloxi because it insisted on going its own way."

Adds Visions and Builders of our little city: "The intoxicating, natural world, combined with the broad ethnic mix of cultures and people help make Biloxi different from other cities. It's a magical and seductive place." And who are we to argue, famous or infamous.

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.

*Minutes still
matter in an
emergency.*



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[MeritBiloxiERNow.com](https://www.meritbiloxi.com/ERNow.com)

If you are experiencing a medical emergency, call 911.



MAKING HISTORY! AGAIN!

Biloxi sees record-breaking sales-tax collections

"All the trends are in the right direction: Up," says Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich after reviewing the record-sales tax collections in Biloxi for Calendar Year 2021.

The city's Community Development Department, which oversees construction, land-use and zoning, reported that Biloxi saw a record \$13.8 million in sales tax collections from January to December 2021, with monthly figures eclipsing the million dollar mark for a record 10 months.

The 2021 calendar year figures are nearly a 24 percent increase over Calendar Year 2020.

The news arrives just months after the city announced the Fiscal Year 2021 --which runs from Oct., 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021 -- saw \$1.02 billion in gross-gaming revenue, the highest yearly total since legalized gaming began in Biloxi in August 1992.

Taxes on gaming and sales typically account for two-thirds of the city's annual operating revenue, followed by property taxes.

Said Gilich: "Our goal now, and it's the same thing that we said when we saw that record-breaking gaming revenue, is to keep people coming back, to keep making the quality-of-life and quality-of-place improvements that you would expect to see in a community with a vibrant economy. When it comes to the Biloxi economy, if I were a betting man, I'd take the over."

► See sales-tax trends at biloxi.ms.us/salestax
See gaming trends at biloxi.ms.us/gaming

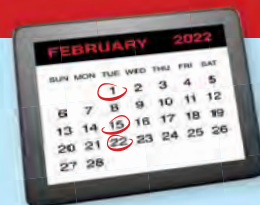
2021: A record-breaking year

January	.....\$1.02 million
February	.....\$889,056
March	.....\$916,947
April	.....\$1.22 million
May	.....\$1.21 million
June	.....\$1.28 million
July	.....\$1.32 million
August	.....\$1.39 million
September	.....\$1.07 million
October	.....\$1.16 million
November	.....\$1.22 million
December	.....\$1.09 million

\$13.8 million

Source: Community Development Department

News & notes



Council meeting times:

The City Council, which for years has had its first-Tuesday-of-the-month meeting at 6 p.m., is also making the third meeting at 6 p.m. for February and March. The schedule: Feb. 1 and 22 and March 8 and 22 at 6 p.m.; Feb. 15 and March 15, 1:30 p.m. See agendas and watch meetings each week at biloxi.ms.us.

Cemetery lots: Some 60 cemetery plots -- 10-foot-by-10-foot parcels at \$2,500 each -- will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact Municipal Clerk Stacy Thacker, 228-435-6254 or sthacker@biloxi.ms.us. See the site plan at biloxi.ms.us/cemetery.



Popp's bridge lights:

Expect to see Mississippi Power workers repairing and upgrading the nearly two dozen lights on the Popp's Ferry bridge this month. If all goes well, work should be completed over a couple of days. Next up: repairs to patches of dark areas on U.S. 90.

Second trash cart:

Residents, if you are in need of a second trash cart, order from Waste Management, 228-701-9086. It's \$32.52 a year.

Final salute: For a look at the career of Robert Burriss, the renowned crime scene investigator and former department chaplain who died Dec. 29, 2021, visit biloxi.ms.us/burriss.

Mississippi Power Presents: Honoring a Biloxi Hero

Fred Haise

You're invited

Feb. 13, 2022, 1:13 p.m.

Statue Dedication

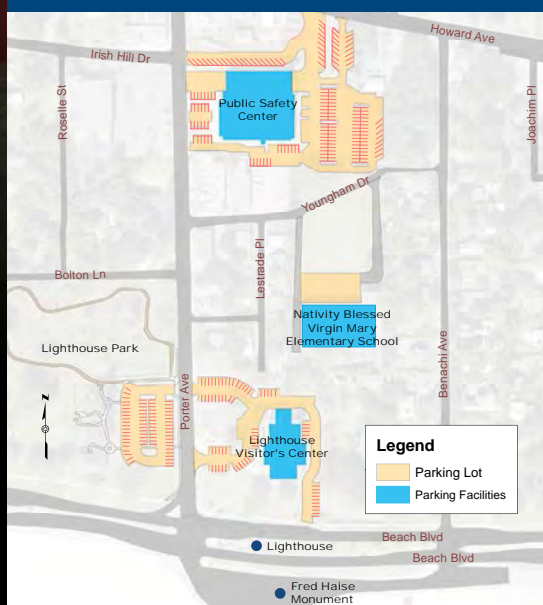
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Parking near the Biloxi Lighthouse



The life and times of Fred Haise

BY LACY THOMPSON
STENNIS SPACE CENTER

Fred Haise laughs like someone who has discovered the secret – that every day is a gift to be enjoyed. It is not even necessary to hear him laugh to realize this. Just seeing a photo of him in full-face delight is enough.

He has seen behind the curtain. He knows the joy of being alive. At 88, it is more than just the fact that he has enjoyed a full life. One easily could say Haise has enjoyed multiple lives – as a fighter pilot, research pilot, celebrated astronaut, aerospace executive and, eventually, inspirational paragon.

He wears the lives comfortably, like the retired victor moving in the ease of his own experiences and remembrances, a sentiment Haise likely would decline to consider. He is, after all, an engineer, mainly given to analyzing, calculating and reasoning instead of speculation and hypotheticals.

Then – you hear him laugh.

Fred Wallace Haise Jr. was born in Biloxi in November 1933. The city, before the mini-population boom that would come with the arrival of World War II and Keesler Air Force Base, had little more than 15,000 residents,

Haise attended local schools – Gorenflo Elementary and Biloxi High. He finished high school two years early and headed to Perkinston Junior (now Mississippi Gulf Coast Community) College to study journalism. “My initial interest in journalism developed through work on the Biloxi High School newspaper as sports editor, followed by two years at Perkinston as sports editor and editor of the Bulldog Barks,” he said.

Before his selection as an astronaut, Fred Haise was a research pilot at two NASA facilities.

That training was interrupted by the Korean War and Haise’s interest in serving his country. “My father advised me to become a commissioned officer if I joined the military,” he said. “The only program that fit, being 18 years old with only two years of college, was the Naval Aviation Cadet Program that led to becoming a naval aviator.”

Haise had never even flown on a plane. Nevertheless, he enlisted in the program. “Almost from my first flight, I knew that I loved flying,” he said. “That led me to a career in aviation and space.”

After training, Haise was a Marine Corps fighter pilot until 1956. In the ensuing decade, he earned a bachelor’s degree in aeronautical engineering from the University of Oklahoma, served in the Oklahoma Air National Guard, was recalled to Air Force service during the Berlin Crisis, graduated as the most outstanding student in Class 64A at the Aerospace Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base and flew as a research pilot at NASA’s Lewis (now Glenn) Research Center, as well as a civilian research pilot at NASA’s Flight Research Center at Edwards.

The experiences allowed Haise to fly multiple aircraft. In fact, through his life, he would accumulate more than 9,000 hours of flying time, including more than 6,000 in jets.

All that flying did not lead immediately to an interest in space. “I was certainly aware of the Mercury Program and even got to meet some of the original seven astronauts when they came to Lewis for training,” he recalled. “At that time, it was not clear there

would be anyone flying into space beyond Mercury. It wasn’t until the announcement by President Kennedy of going to the Moon and the emergence of the Gemini and Apollo Programs that I became interested in joining the space program.”

Haise was one of 5,000 to apply as a member of NASA’s Astronaut Group 5. After testing, medical exams and interviews, he emerged as the highest-scoring applicant of all and was one of 19 astronaut candidates chosen.

After training, Haise was on the Apollo 8 backup crew, the first mission to travel around the Moon. He was scheduled to be on the Apollo 11 crew with Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin. However, Michael Collins had been withdrawn from an earlier mission because of illness and was shuffled down to Apollo 11 after his recovery, moving Haise to backup again.

The chance to fly to space finally came with Apollo 13, with commander Jim Lovell and command module pilot Ken Mattingly. However, the mission would launch with backup command module pilot Jack Swigert replacing Mattingly, who had been exposed to the measles.

The flight proceeded as expected until 56 hours in, when an oxygen tank created a

crisis that would hold the world spellbound for the next four days. Haise was in the lunar module at the time of the incident. When he made it to his command module seat, he saw oxygen tank No. 2 was gone. “The strongest emotion for me was right after the explosion when I first surveyed the instrument panel and confirmed that we had lost oxygen tank No. 2,” he said. “I knew without referring to the mission rules that this called for an abort (of the lunar landing). I was sick to my stomach with disappointment, realizing that all the training I had done to fly Apollo 8, 11 and 13 was wasted.”

Despite the well-documented drama to follow, Haise said he was never concerned about a return to Earth. “I never felt that we would not have a chance to attempt a re-entry,” he said. “The environment was wearing (however), as we had to live in a damp, mid 30-degree crew cabin for four days without adequate clothing.”

During their trip around the Moon and back to Earth, the crew had to perform a number of emergency procedures. “The training on my prior missions only came into play where the procedures were the same for Apollo 13,” Haise noted. “Most of our workarounds for Apollo 13 were unique. Real-time workarounds developed by Mission Control and contractors saved the day.”

General aviation experience helped the astronauts most, Haise explained. “I think the general ability to deal with the unexpected or with handling failures goes back to my aviation experience over the years from 1953,” he said. “I have been on fire several times, once receiving burns over 65 percent and spending three months in a hospital. I have had experience with engine failures and other more minor system failures over the years.”

As the spacecraft circled the dark side of the Moon, Haise and Swigert peered out the windows for their first close look at the lunar surface. “One of the two things that was unique with my spaceflight experience were the views out the window, both from low-Earth orbit, as well during the passage to and from the Moon and, in particular, our brief look at the backside from an altitude of a little over 130 miles,” Haise said. “I was impressed with how much more rugged the backside looked without any of the large dark areas (mares) seen on the front side from Earth.”

After circling the Moon, Haise was able to glimpse the Fra Mauro region where he and Lovell had been scheduled to land. Recalled Haise, “I did not feel any added disappointment as I viewed the area.”

He takes the same view when asked to glean lessons from the experience. “I don’t think there were any new lessons from Apollo 13 (compared to other missions) as to the importance of training or being prepared and having teamwork to work through unplanned circumstances,” he said. “All missions had to deal with problems. In fact, both Apollo 14 and 16 almost aborted their landings.”

Haise remained with NASA for nine years after Apollo 13. He was on the Apollo 16 backup crew and was to command Apollo 19, until the mission was canceled. He subsequently commanded three of five free flight test missions for the Space Shuttle Program, demonstrating the aerodynamic design and landing capability of the new vehicle. He was scheduled to fly a shuttle mission, but it became clear rollout of the new vehicle would be delayed. Haise subsequently left NASA in 1979 to become a Grumman Aerospace executive, retiring in 1996.

The Biloxi native was inducted into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame in 1997. In December 2009, NASA presented him the agency’s Ambassador of Exploration Award, recognizing his role as a spokesperson for space.

Haise has remained a staunch supporter of Stennis Space Center, which he first visited as a rookie astronaut. He also has been a tireless advocate for INFINITY Science Center, the official visitors center for Stennis. “Aviation, space and science museums are important for the knowledge imparted to young and old,” he said. “For the young, it is possible the interesting things they see and learn about will inspire them to make the most of the talent with which they are blessed.”

Decades removed, Haise no longer lives on the Gulf Coast. However, there is no doubt he still resides in the area, bigger than life for all to know.



There is one photo of Haise and his Apollo 13 crewmates that commands attention. After splashdown, they had been delivered to the nearby USS Iwo Jima. They are being greeted by U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Donald C. Davis, commander of Recovery Task Force. Ship crew members are everywhere to catch a glimpse.

Lovell is nearest the admiral, flanked by Swigert, both with full smiles. Haise is at the foreground end of the line, looking to his right, his hand raised in greeting to welcoming sailors. A small smile plays on his face and in his eyes. One can just tell – he knows a secret.

A love letter to his Biloxi

Our hometown hero recalls the simple life, before he took off

This excerpt from Fred Haise's forthcoming autobiography, "Never Panic Early: An Apollo 13 Astronaut's Journey," (Smithsonian Books), was originally published in BNews in April 2020.

Growing up in Biloxi gave me a great start on my career ahead in the Marine Corps, as a NASA Test Pilot and Astronaut, and as an Aerospace Executive.

Life was simple and safe with lots of friends. I ran to school at Gorenflo Elementary and either brought a brown

bag or ran home for lunch. I was allowed to stay after school playing with friends until dusk, climbing trees or hunting for tadpoles in the drainage creek running through the south end of the school yard.

I moved up to a bicycle in junior and high school and started work at 12 years old as a "paper boy" for the Biloxi Gulfport Daily Herald. I had Route 16, which covered from Main to Croesus Street and from Howard Avenue to the Beach Boulevard with about 170 customers. The newspaper owner, Mr. E.P. Wilkes, gave me my first lessons in responsibility for running my own little business with about 170 customers, to earn about \$17 a week. Mr. Wilkes was also my Boy Scout leader and scouting provided a lot of those character traits that stood me well on Apollo 13.

I spent lots of time in the water swimming, fishing, crabbing, and floundering. With my Dad and I casting a net, we enjoyed many mullet dinners. My Dad and I also enjoyed fishing in the Pascagoula River and even ventured in our wood skiff

with a 5 horsepower outboard to Horn Island.

I got interested in journalism through being the Sports Editor of the Biloxi High Tide and went on through two years at Perkinston Junior College to be Sports Editor and Editor of the Bulldog Barks. But the Korean War made a drastic turn in my aspirations when I became a Naval Aviator. From when I first flew I knew that my future was going to be in aviation.... Space hadn't arrived yet.

My subsequent paths involved a lot of moves over the next 45 years that took me away from the Mississippi Coast. But I always came back at every opportunity to visit with my family. My mother and sister Brenda Johnston still live on Haise Street, which used to be Church Street.

I feel very blessed and humbled by the honors my hometown is planning for me to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 13 mission. It's a mission that Mississippi played a role in our success, with the rocket engine testing at Stennis Space Center and more than a dozen Mississippi State grads who served in Mission Control.

Fred



Fred in 1966



Fred today



Rendering of the Fred Haise statue, which will be dedicated in a public ceremony on Sunday, Feb. 13, at 1:13 p.m., south of the Biloxi Lighthouse.

See more about the creation of the Fred Haise statue and hear from sculptor Mary Ott Tremmel Davidson in "The Fred Haise Statue: The Final Countdown," airing daily in February, at 8 a.m., 8 p.m. and 2 each afternoon on BTv.

"Only those who will
risk going too far
can possibly find
out how far it is
possible to go."

– T.S. Eliot

Fifty years ago, three men embraced
risk not realizing how far they
would go. We commemorate
the Apollo 13 flight and
celebrate the adventurous
spirit of Fred Haise, a
Biloxi native and Apollo 13
Lunar Module Pilot. His
experience illuminates
the opportunities
in STEM education
and inspires future
generations of
explorers to reach
for the stars.



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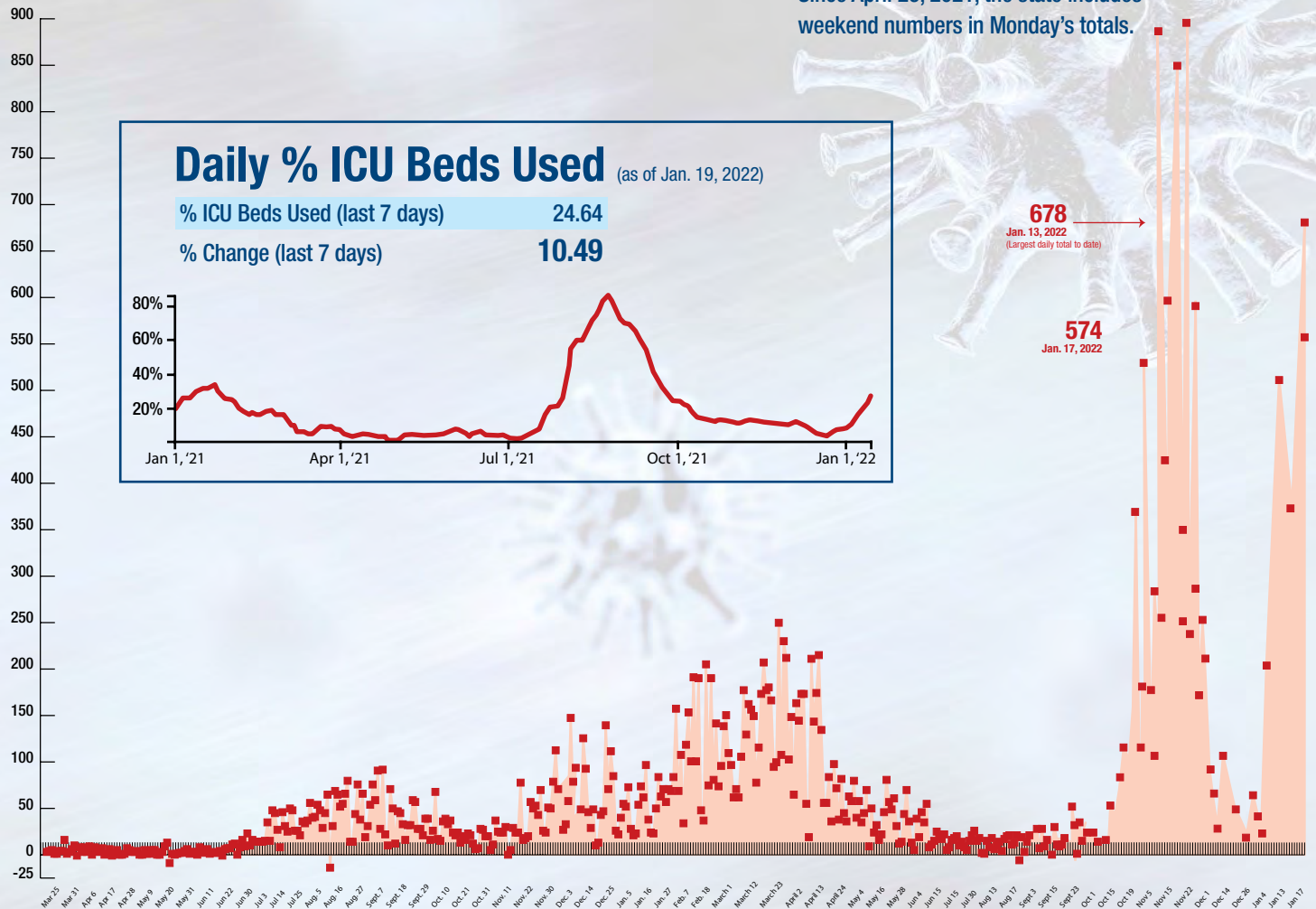
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Coronavirus by the numbers

Harrison County – Daily Cases

Since April 26, 2021, the state includes weekend numbers in Monday's totals.



Statewide overall

Population: 2.97 Million

Positive cases

657,084 (as of Jan. 17, 2022)

Deaths

10,642 (as of Jan. 17, 2022)

Fully vaccinated

45% (as of Jan. 19, 2022)

Harrison County

Population: 208,080

Positive cases

42,914 (as of Jan. 17, 2022)

Deaths

575 (as of Jan. 17, 2022)

Fully vaccinated

44% (as of Jan. 19, 2022)

COVID-19 Vaccinations

Visit online at biloxi.ms.us/coronavirus-info-practical-advice/ for links to COVID-19 vaccination locations.

Mississippi

COVID-19 Hotline:
877-978-6453



See updates Friday on the city's Facebook page.

Data reported by Mississippi State Department of Health.

Welcome TO MEMORIAL



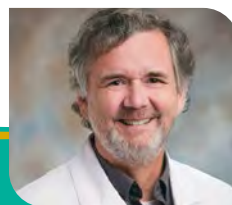
Magdy Mikhail, MD



Laura Sanford, DO



Mitchell Sanford, DO



Timothy Sanford, DO



Tracy Sanford, DO



Molly Brown, FNP-C



Robyn Hudson, FNP-C



Michelle Thomas, FNP-C



Chelsey Windham, FNP-C

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Lakeview Multispecialty 3680 Sangani Blvd., Suite H2, D'Iberville (228) 822-6270

Tommy Munro Multispecialty 971 Tommy Munro, Suite C, Biloxi (228) 822-6460

Cowan Road Multispecialty 1107 Cowan Road, Gulfport (228) 822-6470



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WITH PLAYERS' CARD PLUS TAX
*Crab not available for lunch to go or takeout.





Boaters beware

Here's the location of the new 90-acre reef, south of the Point Cadet Marina. Waters at the reef are as shallow as two feet at low tide.

New reef established north of Deer Island

Biloxi is now home to one of the newest and most-accessible reef projects on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

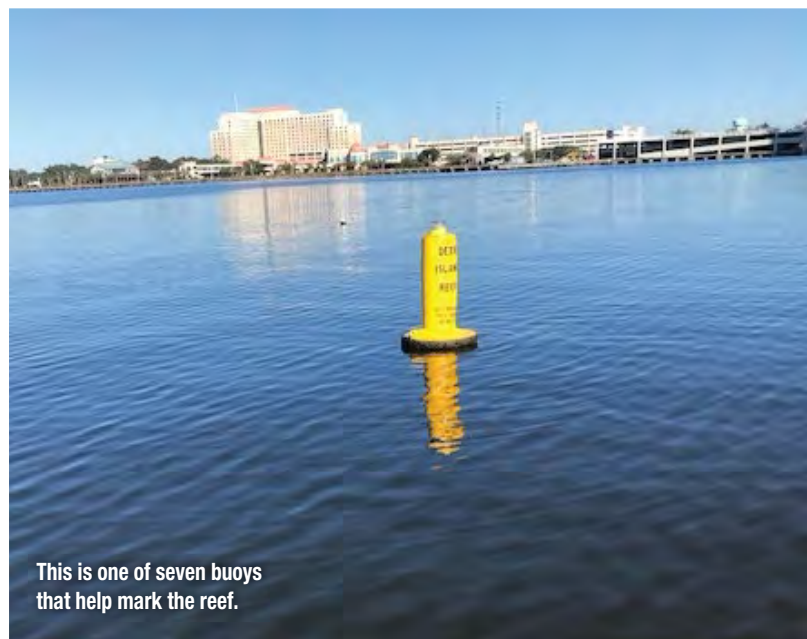
The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality completed construction of the 90-acre Deer Island subtidal reef in early 2021, using Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration funds.

Scientists say the goal of the project is to “restore secondary benthic productivity.” For fishermen, that means it’s a nursery for oysters/bivalve mollusks, shrimp and crabs. It’s part of an overall effort to address natural resources damage from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

The reef is located between Deer Island and East Biloxi, with a minimum 200-foot offset from the federal navigation channel. The project footprint includes relict historic oyster reefs as well as Joe Thornton Hull reef.

The reef was constructed using crushed limestone generally 1-inch-by-4 inch in diameter, which was selected to provide a greater surface area for shellfish spat attachment and growth.

Designed to mimic a natural reef for enhanced productivity, the reef was meticulously constructed in irregular ridges with varying height profiles (0 to 3.0 feet above the bottom), providing spaces used for cover and forage habitat for crustaceans, fish and other aquatic species.



This is one of seven buoys that help mark the reef.

The minimum clearance of the reef at mean lower low tide is 2 feet. In addition to the four yellow flashing lighted buoys installed at the four corners of the reef, as required by the U.S. Coast Guard, three additional yellow buoys were installed along the northern boundary of the reef to ensure that boaters can clearly see the limits of the reef.

MDEQ plans to monitor the reef for a period of five years to evaluate the success of the design and newly created habitat.

We celebrate our culture of diversity and inclusion

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

There are numerous diverse heritage months each year, and with February being recognized as Black History Month, we celebrate the Black men and women who broke history and continue to inspire us today.

The concept of fair and equal treatment for every Veteran coming through our doors, for every one of our more than 2,700 employees at our five locations from Biloxi to Panama City Beach, Fla., is at the very core of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs philosophy, and something we at the Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System champion.

This year's nationally recognized Black History Month theme of Black Health and



BiloxiVA TODAY

Wellness is of special meaning to us here at the GCVHCS; as one of the largest area health care providers and with a mission to care for every service member who has "borne the battle."

Today, and throughout February, please take time to reflect on the sacrifices and struggles endured by so many to gain the equality we experience today. Our military was first integrated in 1948, and the Veterans we serve today served in a diverse and integrated military and are familiar with the importance of diversity. The VA and its employees also recognize the importance of diversity as an integrated Health care system. The diversity of our Veteran population is mirrored through the diversity of our staff, and we have continually striven to increase

our minority hiring initiatives to ensure the men and women providing the health care on which we pride ourselves are reflective of the society in which we live.

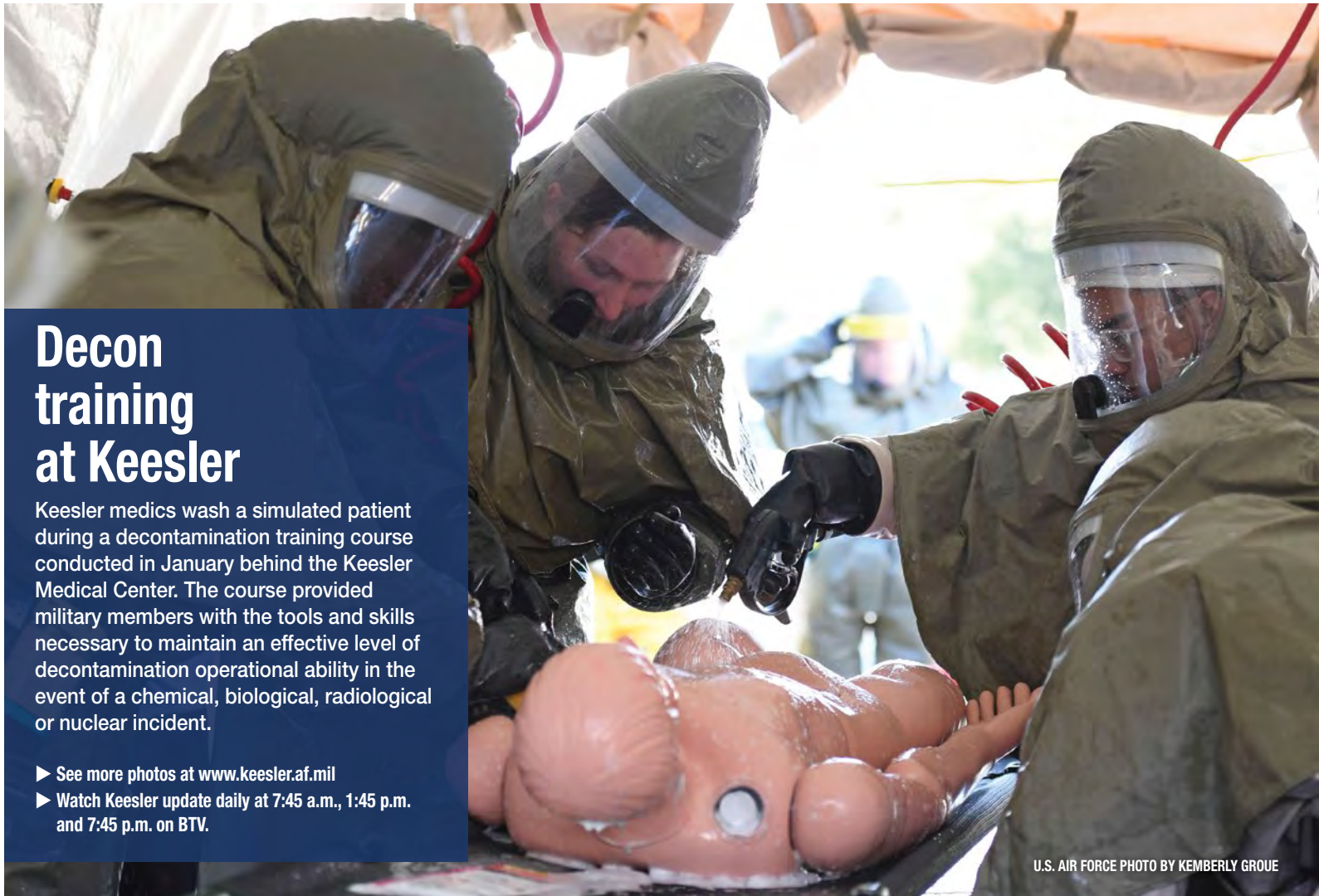
Across the VA, employees from every racial and ethnic group enjoy opportunities to serve our Veterans through various rewarding and fulfilling careers and take pride that we serve as one. We will continue to serve together, and the Veterans we serve should expect no less.

Let us continue to celebrate the diversity of our Veterans and employees not only during nationally recognized heritage observances but every day and remain committed to our mission, to our Veterans and staff, and our communities.

► 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 Public Affairs Division of the Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System.



Bryan C. Matthews



Decon training at Keesler

Keesler medics wash a simulated patient during a decontamination training course conducted in January behind the Keesler Medical Center. The course provided military members with the tools and skills necessary to maintain an effective level of decontamination operational ability in the event of a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear incident.

- See more photos at www.keesler.af.mil
- Watch Keesler update daily at 7:45 a.m., 1:45 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. on BTV.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY KEMBERLY GROUE

The infrastructure work in Biloxi

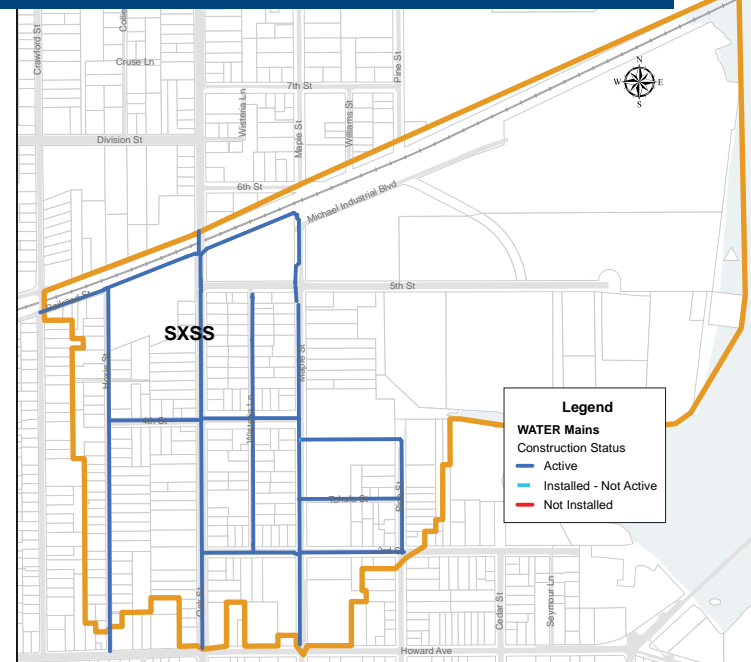
These pages contain maps show the status of the city's two major infrastructure projects now underway. The information on these maps is compiled by the city's Engineering Department, based on reports from contractors and inspectors at each site. See detailed maps and video online at biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi/.

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, Aug. 14, 2021, Aug. 29, 2021, mid-September, Nov. 17, Dec. 31, Jan. 31, 2022. Punch list items being completed.

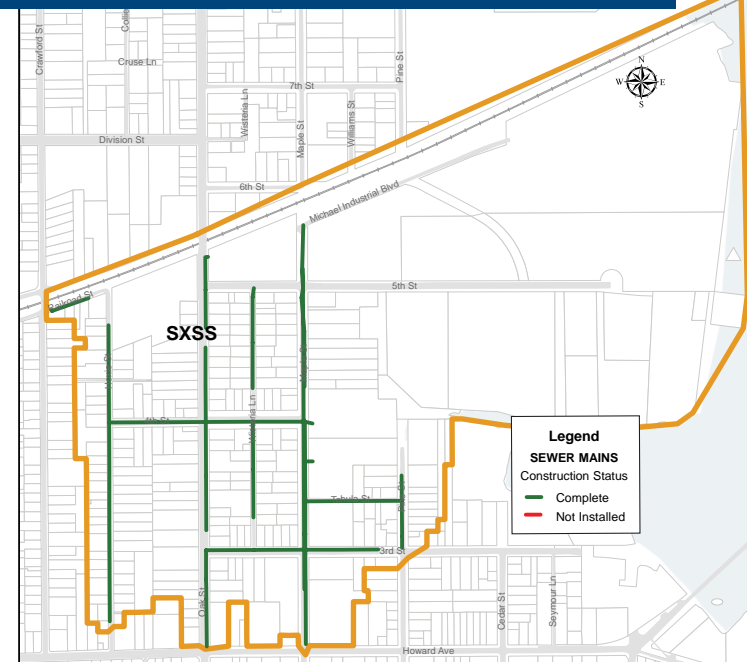
Lane Construction Water

Water Mains to be installed as of January 15, 2022



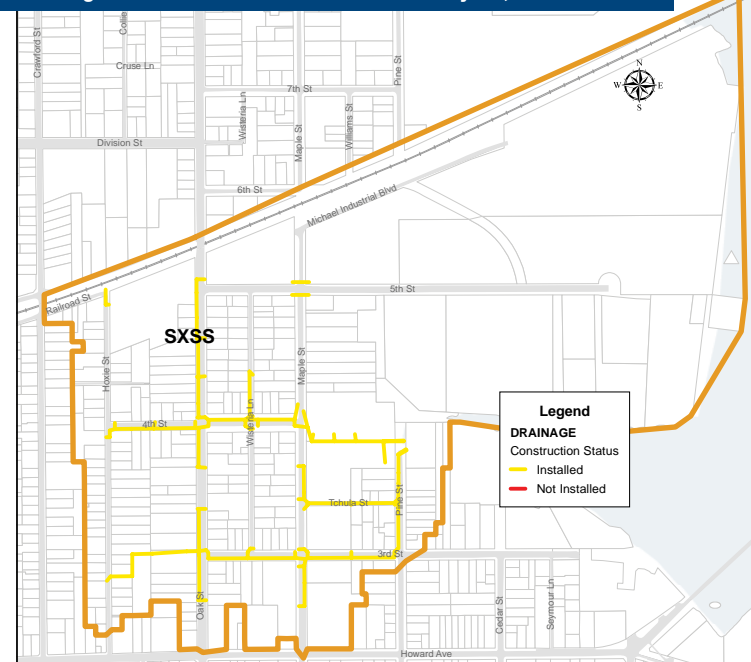
Lane Construction Sewer

Sewer Mains to be installed as of January 15, 2022



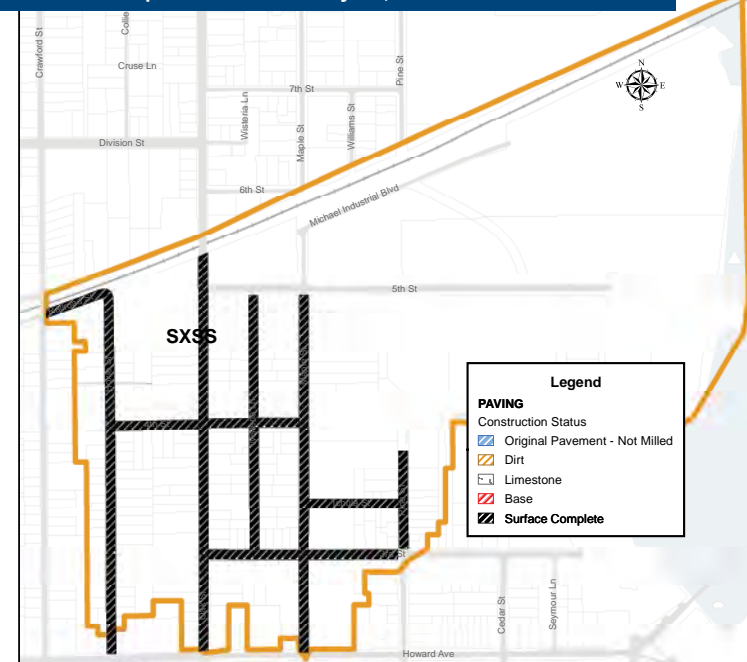
Lane Construction Drainage

Drainage Mains to be installed as of January 15, 2022



Lane Construction Pavement

Roads to be paved as of January 15, 2022

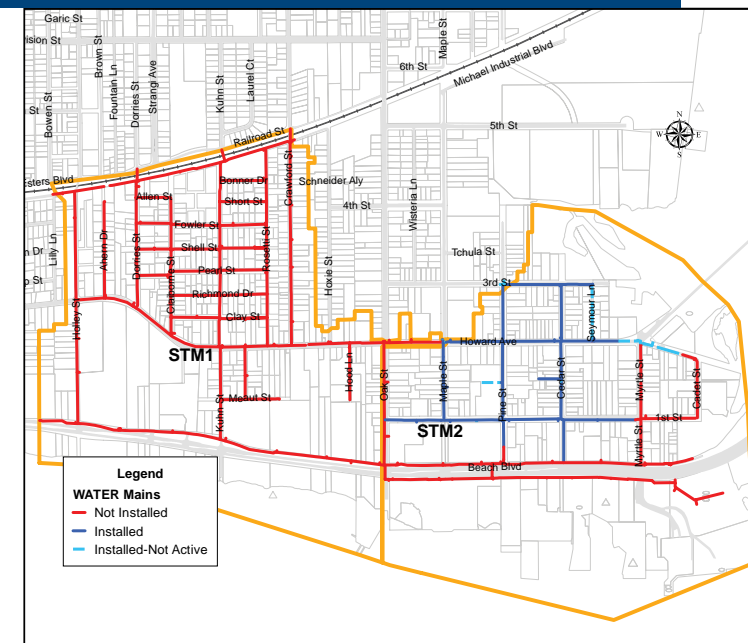


St. Michael 1 & 2

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.

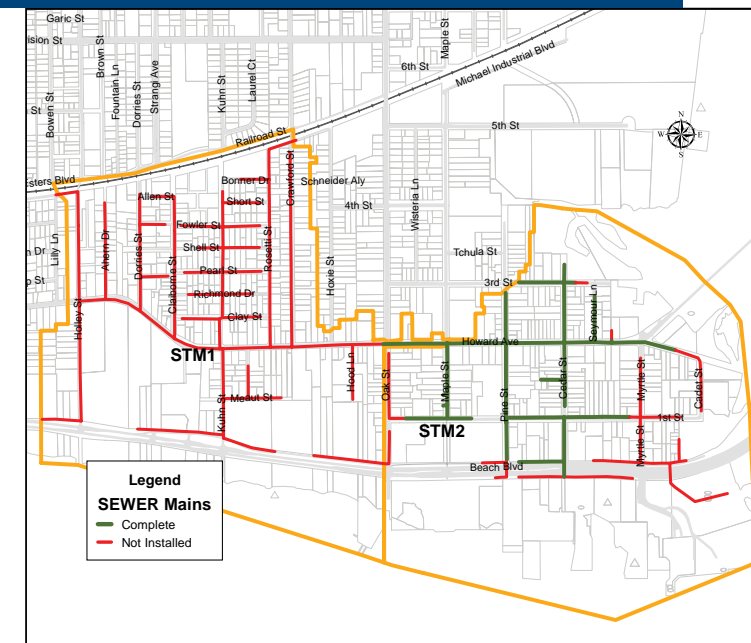
Necaise Brothers Construction Water

Water Mains to be installed as of January 15, 2022



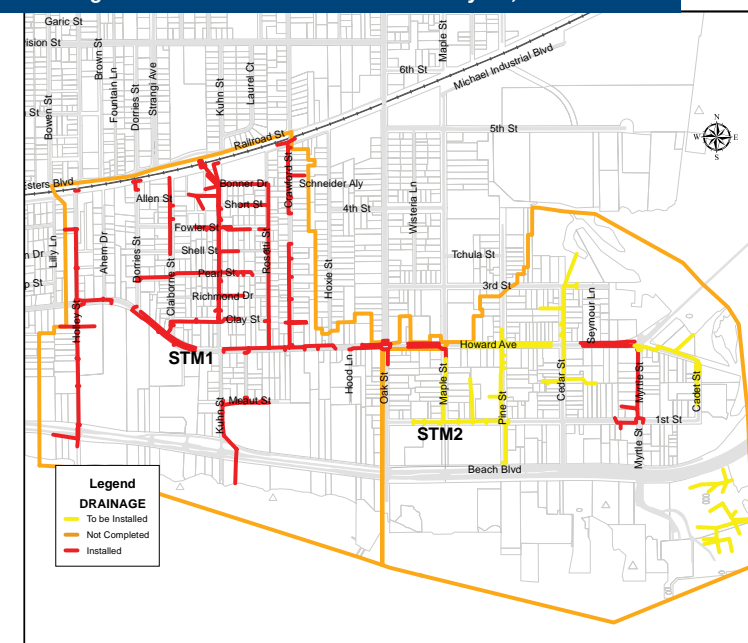
Necaise Brothers Construction Sewer

Sewer Mains to be installed as of January 15, 2022



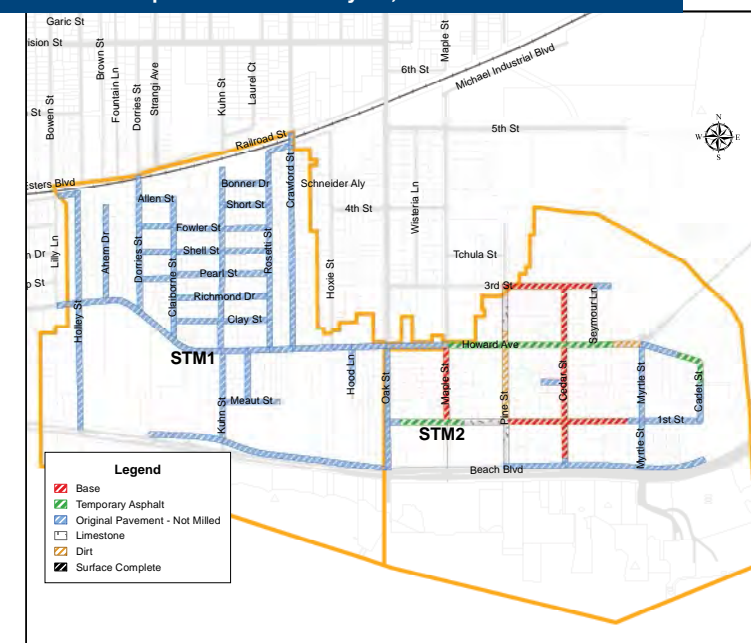
Necaise Brothers Construction Drainage

Drainage Mains to be installed as of January 15, 2022



Necaise Brothers Construction Pavement

Roads to be paved as of January 15, 2022



Get the 411 on traffic

B-Alert

Text BILOXI to 99411
for timely traffic updates.

Today 1:00 PM
CITY OF BILOXI: Utility
poles repaired at Iris. All
lanes of Pass Road now
open to traffic.

Biloxi
established 1699

Random Notes



Time capsule: Feb. 13, 1999

It was on Feb. 13, 1999, the 300th anniversary of the founding of Biloxi, when sculptor Mary Ott Tremmel Davidson, left, unveiled her statue of Pierre LeMoyne D'Iberville, the French explorer who, while searching for the mouth of the Mississippi River, founded Biloxi. The statue, which stands outside the Biloxi Visitors Center, was a project of the Biloxi Chamber of Commerce as part of the city's months-long Tricentennial celebration. Gathering shortly after the dedication of the statue were, from left, sculptor Mary Ott Tremmel Davidson, D'Iberville re-enactor Edmond Boudreaux, Biloxi Chamber president Dennis Burke, project chair Mary Nichols, statue committee member Jeannette Romero, Tricentennial Commissioner Adele Lyons, and re-enactor Dr. Pat Smith.



Biloxi Municipal Government, 101



Mayor Gilich makes a point with students before the obligatory selfies (below right) in the mayor's office.

They'd seen the documentary "The Croatian Influence on Biloxi" the night before, and when the Junior Leadership Class came to City Hall the next day, they saw the general article, Biloxi Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich. The class of ninth graders from Biloxi High School and St. Patrick's Catholic High School heard a brief overview of Biloxi and municipal government during the session. Other sessions spotlighted educators, cultural diversity, medical and military influences on Biloxi, and potential careers. "This is one of the most-fulfilling programs we do," said Biloxi Chamber Director Rachael Kiesling of the program, now in its 25th year. "You can see a direct impact of the work. You see kids come out of their shells. They find themselves sitting next to kids they've never sat next to, eating foods they've never eaten. There's networking between the students and the two schools, and they're learning about their community."



GCCA King John Atherton: He's a well-read sovereign.

What they're reading: Carnival edition

It's Mardi Gras time, so we turned to members of Gulf Coast Carnival Association and the Krewe of Neptune to see what they've been reading in the off-season.

- **Chet Landry**, Krewe of Neptune officer and Krewe of Hera King Zeus XXXIII: "Jump" by Steve Harvey; "Addicted to Outrage" by Glenn Beck.
- **Greg Eleuterius**, Krewe of Neptune board member: "The Storyteller: Tales of Life and Music," by Dave Grohl.
- **Kenny Glavan**, Neptune board member and King Neptune XXVIII: "Doc: The Life of Roy Halladay," by Todd Zolecki.
- **John Atherton**, 2020 King d'Iberville CXII: "On the House: A Washington Memoir," by John Boehner; "Andrew Jackson Higgins and the Boats that Won World War II," by Jerry E. Strahan; and "Payton and Brees: The Men Who Built the Greatest Offense in NFL History," by Jeff Duncan.
- **Keith A. Williams**, Gulf Coast Carnival Association chairman, 2018 King d'Iberville CX, GCCA Duke 2013 and GCCA Captain 2001-2002, Revelers Board member, Revelers Duke 2011, Les Cavalier Duke 2011 and King of Athena 2011: "Row the Boat: A Never-Give-Up Approach to Lead with Enthusiasm and Optimism and Improve Your Team and Culture," by Jon Gordon and P.J. Fleck.
- **Keith Wade**, Gulf Coast Carnival Association Lieutenant of Carnival, 2020-2022: "A Higher Loyalty: Truth, Lies, and Leadership," by James Comey.

MARDI GRAS parades are ready to roll

Here's your guide to the parades

- **Children's Mardi Gras Walking Parade**
Saturday, Feb. 19 at 10 a.m.
- **Krewe of Barkloxi Parade**
Sunday, Feb. 20 at Noon
- **Neptune Mardi Gras Parade**
Saturday, Feb. 26 at 5:30 p.m.
- **Gulf Coast Carnival Mardi Gras Parade**
Tuesday, March 1 at 1 p.m.
- **No Second Liners Mardi Gras Club parade because of COVID-19.**
- **Mardi Gras safety tips:**
biloxi.ms.us/mardigrassafetytips

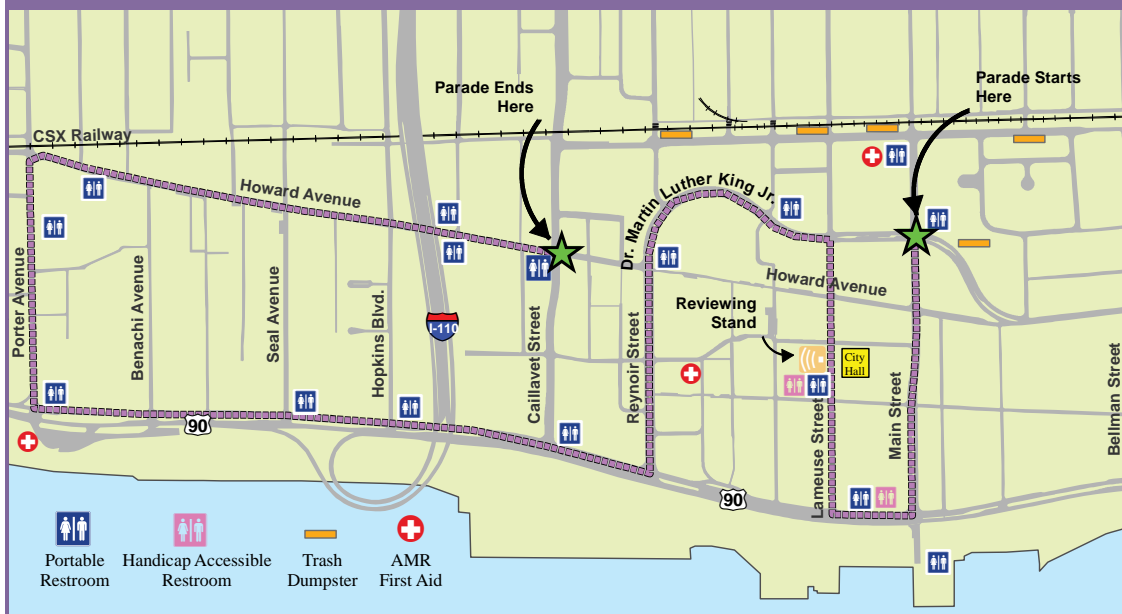
Children's Mardi Gras Walking Parade



Neptune Mardi Gras Parade



Gulf Coast Carnival Mardi Gras Parade



News & notes

Patience: Be sure to arrive at least an hour before Gulf Coast Carnival Association and and Krewe of Neptune parades. Police usually shut down parade routes about a half hour beforehand. Some roadways may close earlier. Be patient after the parade as traffic may be heavy and slow-moving.

People: Police expect large crowds in Downtown Biloxi for Neptune and GCCA parades. Know your surroundings. Know the location of the nearest police officer. They are there to protect and help.

Parking: Park legally. Leave room for emergency vehicles to navigate narrow city streets. Do not park on U.S. 90 center median or near CSX railway. Do not block sidewalks. Respect private property.

Parents: Have a plan for your children. Talk to them about safety -- before, during and after the parade. Know what they are wearing, and put your name and contact info in their pocket.

Pets: No pets should be at a Mardi Gras parade, unless they are in the parade. Also, no glass containers.

T-Shirts: Looking for a Mardi Gras T-shirt? The Biloxi Visitors Center is selling long-sleeve shirts for \$25.

Best Bets!



Parading in Biloxi

Let the good times roll throughout Biloxi this month with parades for Mardi Gras and MLK. On Sunday, Feb. 6, at 11 a.m., the MLK parade will roll in Downtown Biloxi along MLK Jr. Boulevard before filing into MGM Park for the Battle of the Bands. Then on Saturday, Feb. 19 at 10 a.m., the annual Children's Mardi Gras Walking parade will step along Howard Avenue to Biloxi City Hall. On Sunday, Feb. 20 from noon to 3 p.m., tails wag around the Biloxi Town Green for the annual Krewe of Barkloxi Pawrade, and on Saturday, Feb. 26 at 5:30 p.m., the Krewe of Neptune night parade rolls in Downtown Biloxi. The big day, Fat Tuesday, March 1 sees Gulf Coast Carnival Association roll. Hundreds of floats and throws will travel downtown streets beginning at 1 p.m. See the maps on Page 20.

Coronation

King D'Iberville and Queen Ixolib and the Royal Court will be formally introduced to the public during the Gulf Coast Carnival Association's coronation ball, on Lundi Gras, Monday, Feb. 28 at 8 p.m. at the Coast Coliseum. The two rulers and court will reign over Carnival 2022. A viewing card is needed to attend the event, and you can pick up the free cards at the Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd., or at Biloxi City Hall, 140 Lameuse St. For more info, call the GCCA at 228-432-8806.



Grillin' On The Green 2022, now accepting vendors and grill teams for festival on March 12. Deadline to apply: Feb. 28. Call after the deadline to check availability of space. For an application and to review guidelines and rules of competition, visit www.mainstreetbiloxi.com or call 228-435-6339 to apply by phone.

Grillin' On The Green 2022 T-Shirt Design Contest now open! Deadline for submission is Feb. 4. For an application and contest rules, visit www.mainstreetbiloxi.com. Details: call 228-435-6339

First Friday and Downtown Block Party at The District Green, on hiatus until March 4. Join the party on the first Friday of the month from 4-9 p.m. with live entertainment, vendors, fun games with prizes, local food trucks and Fly Llama Brewing beverages! Details: 228-435-6339 or email: mainstreet@biloxi.ms.us

Baseball & Softball Online Registration, open until all teams are full. Baseball registration is open to ages 4-16 and softball is open to ages 5-16. Games begin in March at the A.J. Holloway Sports Complex, 765 Wells Drive. Fees range from \$30 to \$90. Details: 228-388-2483

Martin Luther King, Jr Coastwide Celebration, Feb. 3- 6. Feb. 6, 11 a.m. parade (East Biloxi), noon Battle of the Bands (MGM Stadium, 105 Caillavet St.). Full event details: www.mlkcoastwide.com

Unveiling of the Fred Haise statue, Feb. 13, 1:13 p.m., South of the Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. Be a part of the celebration that's been 52 years in making, honoring Biloxi Native Fred Haise, fighter pilot and space pioneer. Details: 228-435-6254



Bike Biloxi, Feb. 15, 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

Best Bet!



To infinity and beyond

On Feb. 13 at 13:13, or 1:13 p.m., the community will honor its most famous native, Fred Haise, with a public ceremony south of the Biloxi Lighthouse. All are welcome to witness the unveiling of the city's newest landmark, the larger-than-life statue of the larger-than-life Fred Haise, former Apollo 13 astronaut, fighter pilot and all-around great guy. Join Freddo, Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich, Mississippi Power CEO Anthony Wilson and others for the historic event, which will include the MGCCC Band of Gold and Perkettes. For more info, call 228-435-6254.

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

Stay in touch

BNews: Welcome to the 45th 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 BLOXI to 99411.

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

Children's Mardi Gras Walking Parade, Feb. 19, 10 a.m., Downtown Biloxi. Open to ages 12 and younger. Parade travels from under the I-110 on Howard Avenue and ends at Biloxi City Hall, 140 Lameuse St. Registration forms available at the Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. Late registration and costume and float sign up: 9 to 9:45 a.m. at the parade start. Details: 228-374-3105 or visitor@biloxi.ms.us



5th Annual Krewe of Barkloxi PAWrade, Feb. 20, 12-3 p.m. Biloxi Town Green, 710 Beach Blvd. Presented by the Humane Society of South Mississippi. Admission is free; vendors and sponsors \$50-\$250. This family-friendly Mardi Gras parade for dogs begins at the Biloxi Town Green and includes activities. To register your dog(s), visit www.hssm.org/events/krewe-of-barkloxi-pawrade. Details: 228-435-6149

Main Street Book Club, Feb. 24, 5:30 p.m., Jacked Up Coffee Bar meeting room, 999 Howard Ave. This month's book selection is "Cradle In The Oak" by local author Candace Wheeler. Books are available at the Biloxi Main Street Office, 932 Howard Ave. Details: 228-435-6339

Krewe of Neptune Night Mardi Gras Parade, Feb. 26, 5:30 p.m. This year's theme: "The Krewe, The Myth, The Legend". Parade route: Main Street north of MLK, travels south on Main to U.S. 90, west to Lamuese, north to MLK Jr., west to Howard, north on Caillavet, ending at Bayview Avenue. Details: <https://kreweofneptune.org/>



Gulf Coast Carnival Association Coronation Ball, Feb. 28, 8 p.m., Mississippi Coast Coliseum, 2350 Beach Blvd. Witness the coronation of King d'Iberville and Queen Ixolib who will rule over Carnival for 2022! Admission is free but you must have a viewing card, available at the Biloxi Visitors Center or Biloxi City Hall. This year's theme: "Dancing Around the World". Details: www.msgcca.org or 228-432-8806

Annual Gulf Coast Carnival Association Mardi Gras Parade, March 1, 1 p.m. Parade route begins at Main Street and MLK Jr. Blvd., travels south on Reynoir Street, west on U.S. 90, north on Porter, east on Howard, and ends at Caillavet. Details: www.msgcca.org or 228-432-8806



Biloxi Little Theatre

220 Lee St., 228-432-8543, www.4blt.org
 • **Clue**, March 4-6 & 11-13, 2022
 • **All Shook Up:** A Jukebox Musical featuring the songs of Elvis Presley, April 8-10 & 14-16

Center Stage

2670 Rue Palafox, 228-388-6258
www.centerstagebiloxi.com
 • **The Boogie Woogie Radio Show**, postponed until March. Check website for details.

Beauvoir, The Jefferson Davis Home & Presidential Library

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

- **Annual Pilgrimage to the Tomb of the Unknown Confederate Soldier.** Feb. 12, 11 a.m. Admission: \$12.50 Adults, \$10 Seniors/military, \$7.50 ages 6-18 years, and free for ages five and younger
- **Meet the Spirits**, February 26

Biloxi Lighthouse & Visitors Center

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

- **Lighthouse tours daily** 9 to 10 a.m., weather permitting; Admission: \$5 for ages 12 and older; \$2 for ages 6 to 11; free for ages 5 and younger

Biloxi Schooner Pier

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

- Walk-on sunset sails: Admission: \$30 adults; \$15 ages 3-12
- Group charters, up to 44 people also available

Biloxi Shrimping Trip

693 Beach Blvd., 228-392-8645, www.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.

Betsy Ann Riverboat Cruise

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

- Hibachi Dinner Cruises, Historical & Ecological Tour, Live Music Sunset Cruises, Sunset Eco Tours, Twisted Tiki Tour and private charters available

Coastal Mississippi Mardi Gras Museum

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

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

Kroc Center, MS Gulf Coast, The Salvation Army

575 Division St., 228-867-6541

Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum

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

Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art

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

- Check the website for more events and studio classes at OOMA!

Ship Island Excursion

228-864-1014, www.msshipisland.com

- Ferry service to Ship Island, resumes March 25
- Private charters available year-round
- Dolphin watching cruises begin March 11

West End Hose Co. No. 3 Fire Museum

1046 Howard Ave., 228-435-6119/228-435-6200, www.biloxi.ms.us

- Historic 1937 firehouse open Saturday 9 a.m.- 2 p.m., or by appointment

Biloxi Elks 606 Lodge of Biloxi

1178 Beach Blvd., 228-374-0606

- **Friday Bingo**, Feb. 4, 11, 18 & 25. 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, open until 8:30 p.m.
- **Sunday Charity Bingo**: No Sunday Bingo for February

Joppa Shrine

13280 Shriners Blvd., 228-392-9345

- **Steak Night**, none in February due to Mardi Gras balls
- **Ladies of Joppa BUNCO (Ages 21 and over only)**, Feb. 16, 1 p.m. \$10 to play, cash prizes. No food or snacks will be available, limited to 56 players.

Fleur de Lis Society of Biloxi (French Club)

182 Howard Ave., 228-436-6472

- **Karaoke with Kenny**, every Friday at 7 p.m.

Mississippi Coast Mustang Club Meeting

- Feb. 3, 6-8 p.m. at Sal & Mookies, 110 Lameuse St.
- Next show: March 12 at Edgewater Mall, 2600 Beach Blvd.

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

871 Esters Blvd., 228-374-6472

- **Biloxi Bingo Mania**, Tuesday nights 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.

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.
- **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.; Biloxi Community Development auditorium, 676 MLK Blvd. Details: 228-435-6266

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1 Community Market Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	2	3 Community Market MLK COAST-WIDE CELEBRATION 3rd - 6th MS Coast Mustang Club Meeting Sal & Mookies	4 Grillin' T-shirt contest deadline Big & Rich Beau Rivage Josh Turner IP Casino Skid Row Hard Rock Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society	5 MLK COAST-WIDE CELEBRATION 3rd - 6th
6 MLK COAST-WIDE CELEBRATION Parade and Battle of the Bands	7	8 Community Market Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	9	10 Community Market Champagne & Sparkling Wine Dinner Biloxi Boat Show Palace Casino	11 Biloxi Boat Show MS Coast Coliseum Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society	12 Biloxi Boat Show MS Coast Coliseum Deon Cole Beau Rivage Annual Pilgrimage Beauvoir
13 Biloxi Boat Show MS Coast Coliseum Unveiling of the Fred Haise Statue Biloxi Visitors Center	14 Valentine's Dinner Palace Casino	15 Community Market Bike Biloxi Biloxi Visitors Center Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	16 Bunco Joppa Shrine	17 Community Market MJ Live Hard Rock	18 America IP Casino Mom's Night Out Round 2 Beau Rivage Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society	19 Children's Mardi Gras Walking Parade Downtown Biloxi
20 5th Annual Krewe of Barkloxi PAWrade Biloxi Town Green	21	22 Community Market Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	23	24 Community Market Main Street Book Club Southern Bound Books	25 Beatles Tribute Beau Rivage Reba MS Coast Coliseum Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society	26 Krewe of Neptune Mardi Gras Parade Streets of Biloxi Rock of the 70s IP Casino Meet the Spirits Beauvoir
27	28 Grillin' vendor, grill teams deadline Gulf Coast Carnival Asso. Coronation Ball MS Coast Coliseum	1  Mardi Gras Parade Streets of Biloxi Mardi Gras	2	3	4 Clue Biloxi Little Theatre	5 Clue Biloxi Little Theatre



February 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 (6 min)
6:10 a.m.	Infrastructure report (5 min)
6:15 a.m.	"History of Biloxi" (13 min)
6:30 a.m.	Biloxi Public Schools (15 min)
6:45 a.m.	Biloxi VA Today (15 min)
7 a.m.	"Biloxi Cooks!" Cooking crawfish with Sean Desporte
7:30 a.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
7:45 a.m.	Keesler update (15 min)
8 a.m.	Special presentation: Fred Haise statue: The final countdown
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!" Cooking crawfish with Sean Desporte
1:30 p.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
1:45 p.m.	Keesler update (15 min)
2 p.m.	Special presentation: Fred Haise statue: The final countdown
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 (6 min)
6:10 p.m.	Infrastructure report (5 min)
6:15 p.m.	"History of Biloxi" (13 min)
6:30 p.m.	Biloxi Public Schools (15 min)
6:45 p.m.	Biloxi VA Today (15 min)
7 p.m.	"Biloxi Cooks!" Cooking crawfish with Sean Desporte
7:30 p.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
7:45 p.m.	Keesler update (15 min)
8 p.m.	Special presentation: Fred Haise statue: The final countdown
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.

See the making of the Haise statue

Videographer August Taconi, who has chronicled the Fred Haise statue progress from Day 1, has an update in "Fred Haise statue: The Final Countdown," a documentary airing as a special presentation this month on BTV.

In addition to interviews with Fred and sculptor Mary Ott Tremmel Davidson, Taconi traveled to Inferno Art Foundry in Union City, Ga., to see the casting of the eight-foot likeness of the Biloxi native who gained worldwide fame as one of the three members of the Apollo 13 crew in 1970.

See "Fred Haise statue: The Final Countdown" daily in February on BTV at 8 a.m., 8 p.m. and 2 p.m.

Crawfish: Cooking with Sean

Sean Desporte, the Biloxi seafood market and restaurant owner whose family name is synonymous with seafood in Biloxi, has advice on how to boil crawfish for your Mardi Gras gathering in this month's episode of "Biloxi Cooks!"

Desporte, owner of Desporte Seafood on Caillavet Street, walks even the novice through the steps in a program that airs daily at 7 a.m., 7 p.m. and 1 p.m. throughout January.

This month's recipe: How to prepare, boil crawfish

General info:

Buy your crawfish live right before you plan to boil for the best results. You will need about 3 to 5 pounds per guest, if they are the main course of the meal.

Pot:

Your boiling pot should hold two quarts of liquid for every pound of crawfish you're boiling. Of course, have a gas or propane burner big enough to hold your pot of choice and an ice chest large enough to hold your crawfish.

Clean the crawfish:

Clean the crawfish thoroughly by rinsing them in fresh cool water. Use an ice chest.

The boil:

Use a boil that's packed with spices that are found in the best Cajun cuisines such as chili powder, red pepper and garlic.

The actual boiling:

1. Fill your pot halfway with water, just enough to cover the crawfish you'll be adding in step 4.
2. Add a good seafood boil and make sure to stir to combine.
3. Light your burner and wait for the water to begin boiling.
4. Add the crawfish once the water is rapidly boiling, then cover them with a lid. Wait for the water to return to a boil.
5. Let them boil for no more than 3 minutes. They'll continue to cook as you remove them and season in next few steps.
6. Sprinkle a light layer of seafood boil into your clean ice chest. Add your boiled crawfish and then add another layer of seasoning on top. Make sure that you do it in increments, typically 1 pound of seasoning for every 15 pounds of crawfish.
7. Close your ice chest and shake it to thoroughly mix everything together.
8. Keep the ice chest closed for around 15 minutes and let the flavors mix together/settle.
9. Serve.



Biloxi's Tribute to Fred Haise

In honor of the City of Biloxi's celebration and statue dedication of Fred Haise, Biloxi Native, astronaut, and fighter pilot, let's take a look at his years in Biloxi and the honors bestowed on Biloxi's hero.

Fred Wallace Haise Jr. was born in Biloxi to Lucille and Fred Haise Sr. on Nov. 14, 1933. The 1940 Census confirms that Fred, age 6, was living with his parents on Church Street, and his dad was a mechanic for the U.S. Veterans Facility.

As a youngster, Fred was nicknamed "Pecky," which he acquired when he became a woodpecker in an elementary school play.

Fred's schooling began in Biloxi where he attended Sacred Heart Academy, Gorenflo Elementary, Howard I Elementary, and Biloxi Junior and Central High schools.

Having excelled academically, Fred was able to graduate early, at age 16. After graduation in 1950, he went to

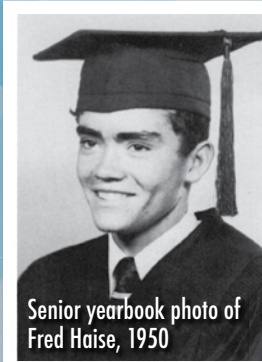
Perkinston Junior College and the University of Oklahoma where he received a Bachelor of Science with honors in Aeronautical Engineering. This accomplished student also received a doctorate of science from Western Michigan University and attended Harvard Business School.

Fred's military career included service in the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air National Guard. He accumulated at least 9,300 hours of flying time, including 6,200 hours in jets.

The early days

Fred was an accomplished Biloxi Boy Scout, a member of the Wilkes' Troop 212 group, where he learned the motto "Always Be Prepared." This training and dedication came in handy during the trials and tribulations of his Apollo 13 voyage.

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



Write on

Fred's apparent first calling was to be a journalist. Located in the Biloxi Library, there is a very delicate Biloxi High School Hi-Tide newspaper with our hero's name clearly printed as the 1948 Sports Editor.

He even worked as a paperboy six days a week for the Daily Herald newspaper.

While in high school and on college vacations, Fred continued to work for the newspaper.

A little-known fact about his Apollo 13 flight is that he carried along a tiny edition of the Daily Herald in one of his space suit pockets. He specifically chose the July 21, 1969 publication since it reported the first landing on the moon.

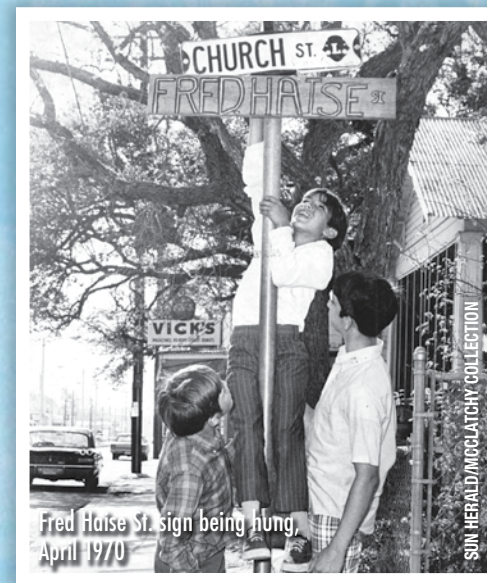
I wonder where that souvenir is today!

Street signs

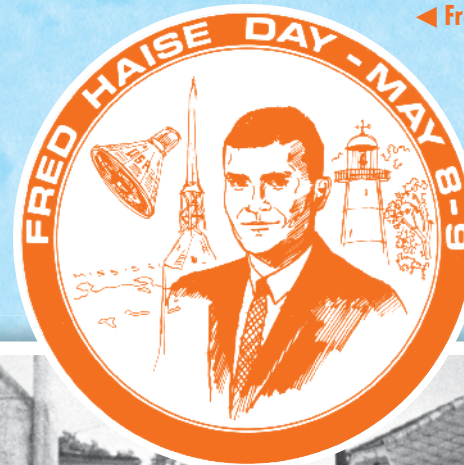
In April 1970, three Biloxi youngsters, Dann and Darel Balius and Stan Dellenger, manufactured their own street sign, Fred Haise St. and hung it below the existing "Church St." sign, the street where the Haise family was reared. This inspired many projects.

On May 11, 1970, Biloxi City Council officially changed Fred's hometown street from Church St. to Haise St.

Likewise, the City also honored our beloved astronaut by renaming Central Beach between Main and Porter to Fred Haise Blvd. These



street signs stayed in place until the latter 1980s when that section of Hwy. 90 was assigned the designation of West Beach Blvd.



Fred Haise Day

Fred Haise Day

By mid-April 1970, the Biloxi Chamber of Commerce, under the direction of Emile Fallo Jr., Walter Fountain, Jake Mladinich, and Steve Sekul, organized a committee responsible for coordinating all special "Welcome Home" events along the Coast.

Our Biloxi hero arrived from Houston at Keesler Air Force Base on the evening of May 7, 1970 in a special NASA plane.

The City of Biloxi declared Fred Haise Day, which actually lasted two days – May 8 and 9 - with multiple celebrations including a parade, a banquet, special visits to schools, speeches, and meetings with dignitaries.

A special emblem was also designed to commemorate Fred Haise Day.

Then Mayor Danny Guice joined forces with Keesler AFB officials in a formal ceremony welcoming Fred's return home. Keesler hosted an official ceremony which included music by their 502nd Air Force Band.

The two-hour parade was held on Saturday,

May 9 and began near Central High School and travelled west on Howard to Main, then voyaged to Beach Blvd. where it continued westerly from there. Along the route, Haise stopped at City Hall, for a special celebration hosted by Mayor Guice.

It was televised live and in color by WLOX-TV-13 as well as via WLOX radio station 1490. In those days, the station's motto was "Be Sure and Stay Tuned."

Our hero also scheduled a special visit to the Keesler Hospital where he visited the bedsides of American service men and women who had been wounded in Vietnam.

The Big Screen

In 1995, the award-winning movie Apollo 13 was released by Universal City Studios, twenty-five years after Fred's historic flight into outer space.

This 2 hour and 20-minute film was directed by Ron Howard, with Bill Paxton starring as our Biloxi astronaut and accompanied by Tom Hanks, Kevin Bacon, and Gary Sinise.

Biloxi's United Artists Surfside 4 theater offered this PG rated film. Once upon a time, this theater was located between Hunan's Chinese Restaurant and Eckerd's Drug Store on Hwy. 90 (then called West Beach). During that year, The Sun Herald newspaper only advertised three general movie theaters within the city limits, not including the Saenger Theatre which had already been designated as a theatrical arts locale.

The movie has left an everlasting quote that we will all remember: "Houston, we have a problem", uttered by astronaut Jim Lovell. In actuality, the official NASA tape recorded "Ahh, Houston, we've had a problem". There is not much of a difference in the wording, but the scary message remains the same.

Today, this Apollo 13 movie is available for streaming online as well as on DVD (released in 1998) and at many of the Harrison County Libraries.

Upon Apollo 13's return to the earth, Biloxians weren't the only ones celebrating. The landing of the Apollo 13 aircraft was certainly a cliffhanger worldwide. People across the globe were glued to their televisions and radio stations awaiting the hopeful news of a safe return to planet earth. Church bells rang everywhere, and even Pope Paul VI in Rome was prayerfully tuned in as he watched Fred's successful splashdown.

More on Fred

- See more on Fred Haise on the city website, biloxi.ms.us/Freddo
- Watch "The Fred Haise Statue: The Final Countdown," on BTV at 8 a.m., 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.



▲ Keelser AFB welcoming Fred Haise in 1970

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

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