

# BNews Monthly

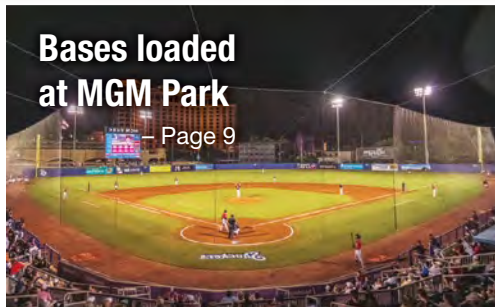
MARCH 2022

*A compendium of what's happening in Biloxi*

**Biloxi**  
established 1699

## Bases loaded at MGM Park

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## Playtime at the parks! New playground, ribbon cutting and more

— Page 8

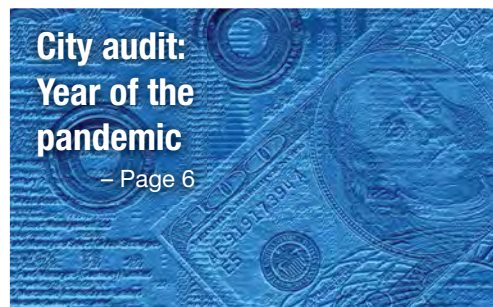


## It's easy being green Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Hibernia and grillers

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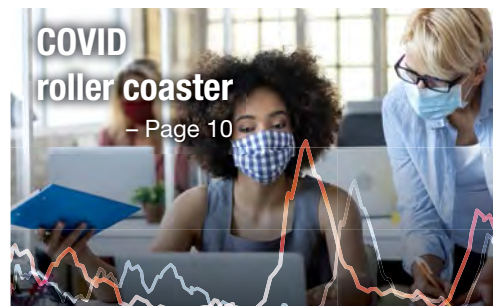
## City audit: Year of the pandemic

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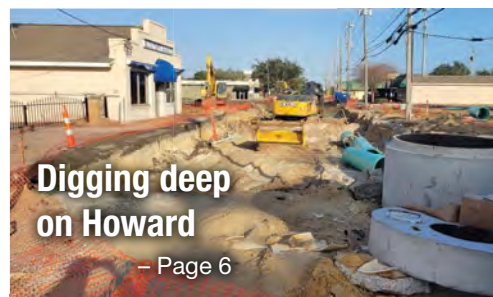
## COVID roller coaster

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## Digging deep on Howard

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## Bringing home the Biloxi Bacon

— Back in the Day, Pages 22-23



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

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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.

Email: [online@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:online@biloxi.ms.us)

# Welcome Cynthia Le, NP

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# Each Mardi Gras, Biloxi Elks serve as a reminder of what once was

This column originally appeared in this space in March 2019.

One of the many-time honored traditions of Mardi Gras - the public traditions anyway - is the customary toast to the respective Kings and Queens as they parade by the City Hall reviewing stands.

The ritual doesn't offer the pomp and pageantry of, say, the Neptune Ball or the Gulf Coast Carnival coronation, but nonetheless it's an obligatory custom. Whatever words are

proclaimed or exchanged is usually drowned out by the blare of nearby floats and crowds down the street wondering why

**Nick L. Shrimp**

the parade has paused passed albeit temporarily.

But it's a custom. Thankfully, you know it's over when the glasses are raised.

One of the things that may be lost on the occasion is the participation of a handful of tuxedoed gents. They're usually in the background, but they were there.

They represent the Biloxi Elks Lodge 606, and their presence is a reminder of the days when the stately, three-story Elks lodge stood across from Biloxi City Hall.

"The toasting was actually done from the third floor balcony of the Elks Lodge, not from City Hall," says current Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler "Chuckie" Burdine, who will be among the Elks representatives on the City Hall reviewing stand this year at toast time.

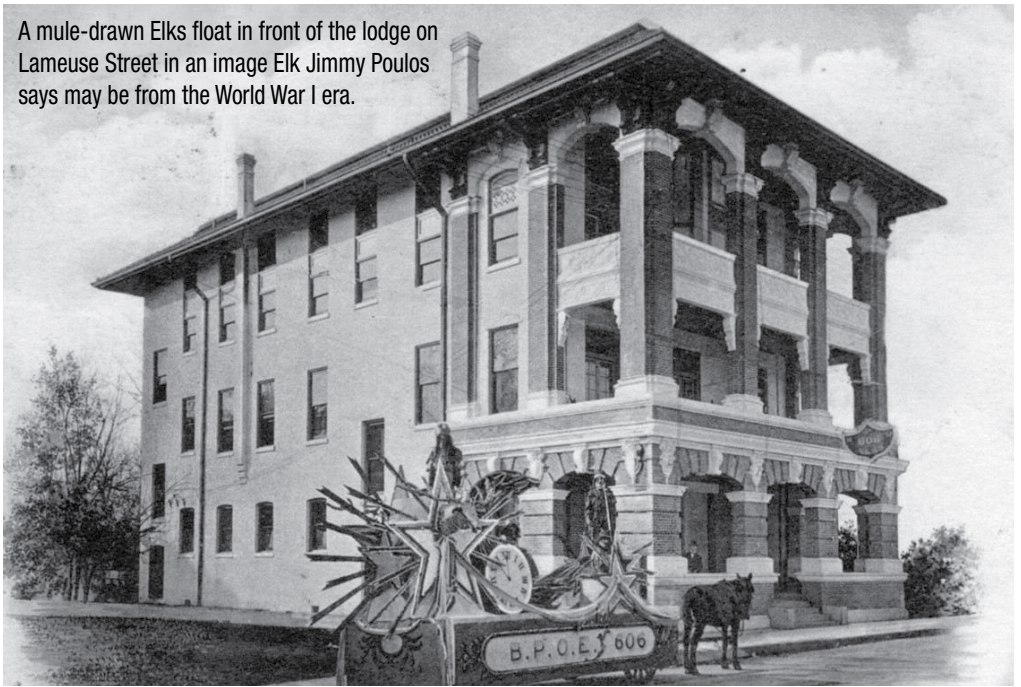
The old wood-frame building opened in 1913, after three years of construction, remembers longtime Elk Jimmy Poulos.

"All the carnival balls, any big event, this is where it would be held," Poulos said. "There was a ballroom on the third floor, and we had our meetings and other stuff on the second floor. I remember that third floor had ceilings of 25 to 30 feet high, and a metal, powder blue horseshoe-shaped balcony, which was one of the last on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

"In fact, the Elks lodge was where the people who started Mardi Gras met. They would discuss the preparations, the ball, which of course was held at the lodge, and the parade, which is where the Exalted Ruler would toast the king and queen.

"And the balls, that was a story, too," Poulos said. "They didn't have a fire escape to handle the people that were at the balls or other big events,

A mule-drawn Elks float in front of the lodge on Lameuse Street in an image Elk Jimmy Poulos says may be from the World War I era.



The queen and maids of Gulf Coast Carnival, on the reviewing stand in front of the Elks Lodge, raise a glass to the King in the early '50s.



Elks Lionel "Rocky" Sentell Jr., John Vanek and Lionel Sentell Sr. at the City Hall reviewing stand.



Hipster "FoFo" Gilich, aka The Mayor, with fellow Elks "Rocky" and Lionel Sentell, Sr.

so when they had a ball, they would get the fire department to put their ladders up to the big windows on the third floor in case there was an emergency."

For children, it was a bewildering place -- year 'round. "My Daddy and my Grandpa and my uncles would take me places when I was a kid," said Biloxi Public Works Director Billy Ray Allen. "One of the things I remember about the Elks Lodge, as, maybe a 7-year-old, was this staircase that was lined with all of these old pictures and old downtown Biloxi and the old factories, where I eventually worked growing up."

The building began losing its popularity as a venue when the Hurricane Room opened at the Buena Vista in the '60s. In 1975, it became a victim of urban renewal. The Elks moved to a beachfront site adjacent to the Biloxi City Cemetery, and their former footprint in downtown was ceded to a new downtown public library,

which, owing to its San Francisco-based architects, was said to be earthquake-resistant. Such resistance, did not cover hurricanes, however.

So the Elks Lodge was torn down and the new library was built on even higher ground a few blocks away, on Howard Avenue.

But surviving is the membership of Biloxi Elks Lodge 606, an organization that's been around 118 years, focusing on a year-round program of philanthropy that focuses on the less fortunate. And at Mardi Gras for the toast.

"Last year, I think they helped served the champagne on the reviewing stand, and when the King and Queen arrived and were toasted, I think the exalted ruler toasted as well," Burdine said. "It's an important tradition for the Elks, as an organization that has been a part of this community for so many years. And will continue to be."

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.

# \$45,000



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**Fire trucks:** This time next year, three new fire trucks should be serving the Woolmarket, Cedar Lake and North Bay area. The trucks, which will be manufactured by Pierce, replace 20-year-old models.

**Golf carts:** The Biloxi Police Department is reminding golf cart owners of the regulations governing street use. See the video and read the details at [biloxi.ms.us/golfcarts](http://biloxi.ms.us/golfcarts).

**On the road:** Get handy traffic updates through the city's free B-alert messaging service. On your cell messaging system, text BILOXI to 99411.

**In the mail:** The city's Water Department now has up to 12 free return envelopes available for water customers who pay their bill by mail. Pick up your year supply any weekday at the Biloxi Water Department, corner of Esters and Reynoir streets.

**Online:** Get the inside story on Biloxi each week in "A to Z," a video published each Friday on the city's Facebook page. Follow at [facebook.com/cobiloxi](https://facebook.com/cobiloxi).



## Deep dig on Howard Avenue

Here's the look at Howard Avenue just west of Oak where city contractor Necaise Brothers Construction is using three trackhoes to install a 30-inch PVC sewer main that will be 22 feet below ground. Also being installed are precast concrete sewer manholes about every 300 feet or at intersections. The sewer main will be set shallower, to 19.5 feet, as it moves westward toward Holley Street. The work is part of the \$42 million St. Michaels project,

which is included in the city's \$355 million Katrina infrastructure repair and replacement work. Currently, city infrastructure manager Walt Rode says, Necaise has completed \$14 million of its projected \$42 million contract. This section of Howard, by the way, should be drivable by mid-April, Rode said, the entire Necaise work is expected to be complete in late 2023.

## 2020 audit shows impact of pandemic

A newly published audit of municipal finances showed that the city's casino and sales tax revenue dropped by \$9 million during Fiscal Year 2020, the year the pandemic began.

The 177-page report, titled the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, uses graphics, bar charts and balance sheets to provide an accurate and complete financial position of the city. It's a snapshot in time from Sept. 30, 2020, nearly two years ago.

Perhaps the most important part of the report is its overview, known as a Letter of Transmittal. This 13-page summary shows 10-year trends in key municipal economic indicators: revenue from sales, gaming and property taxes; building permits and their valuations.

Said Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich in the document: "Total revenue, including casino and sales tax revenues for the fiscal year were below prior year totals by \$9 Million. Even the water/sewer revenues declined as hotel and hospitality business declined. In response to the revenue shortfalls, the City immediately canceled travel, established a hiring freeze and eliminated most capital purchases. At fiscal year end, the City was operating with over 40

personnel vacancies.

"Despite aggressive budget control, General Fund expenses exceeded revenues, which accounted for the decrease in fund balance during the period, Water/Sewer fund revenues did exceed expenses for the period.

"One bright spot was ad valorem tax collection which saw continued growth as many new homes and businesses came online during the year. Across the city, 265 new residential home construction permits were issued and 180 certificates of occupancy were issued for new homes.

"The city's bond rating remained an excellent AA- which allowed the City to refinance two general obligation bonds and significantly reduce the interest needed to pay off these bonds."

The document was prepared by Piltz, Williams, LaRosa & Co., certified public accountants.

The report – which is shared with credit-rating agencies, regulators and those interested in a detailed financial analysis of the city — also includes a section that traces the city's departmental spending over the past 10 years.

► See detailed information on city finances online at [biloxi.ms.us/finances](http://biloxi.ms.us/finances)



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**Promenade Family Practice** 3920 Promenade Parkway, Ste. A, D'Iberville, MS 39540

**Tradition Walk-In Clinic** 19289-A Saint Joseph Street, Biloxi, MS 39532

**Wal Mart Lane Walk-In Clinic** 189 C Wal Mart Lane, Biloxi, MS 39531 (COVID-19 vaccinations available)



**INDIAN**

**5**

**NATION**

**MARCH 19**

**9 AM**

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# It's playtime at parks citywide

New playground equipment is in the works for five city parks and should be in place over the next several weeks, according to Parks & Recreation Director Sherry Bell. It's part of a half-million-dollar investment in public parks citywide. Shown here is a rendering of equipment headed to the city park at Eagle Point. Similar installations are planned for a handful of other parks: Pennzoil-McManus in West Biloxi, Savarro in the Holy Land, Businessman Park on Back Bay and O'Reilly in East Biloxi.

**A preview of what's on the way:** Get a look at new playground equipment headed to city parks at the dedication of St. Mary's Park in West Biloxi. Mark your calendars for March 19, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., when Sparkling Ice presents games, a food truck, a DJ and plenty of kids.

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[MeritBiloxiERNow.com](http://MeritBiloxiERNow.com)

*If you are experiencing a medical emergency, call 911.*



# MGM Park heating up as baseball approaches

By Garrett Greene  
Biloxi Shuckers

As of March 1, there are just 38 days until the Biloxi Shuckers take the field for the 2022 season. And while a lockout has been in the headlines for Major League Baseball, fans on the Coast can lock in dates for the Shuckers as Minor League Baseball is unaffected by the negotiations at the Major League level.

There's plenty happening at the corner of Howard and Caillavet before the first pitch of a new Double-A season though. For a second time, MGM Park will host two top 25 baseball teams as the defending national champion Mississippi State Bulldogs come to the Coast to take on the Texas Tech Red Raiders in the Hancock Whitney Classic. The teams will square off for two nights in an elite mid-week series on March 8 at 6:00 pm and on March 9 at 5:00 pm. When these two squads met at MGM Park in 2020, they packed the house, and another pair of record crowds is expected this season.

High school baseball will also have its days at MGM Park in the month of March as the Battle of the Beach takes over the ballfield from March 17 through March 19.

Of course, the excitement for the Shuckers' season is already building with the announcement of Biloxi's coaching staff for 2022. Mike Guerrero, who picked up his 1,300th win as a manager in 2021,



returns for a sixth consecutive season at the helm. Under Guerrero's guidance, the Shuckers have registered a winning record in four of his five seasons in charge, including back-to-back division titles in 2018 and 2019. Chuckie Caufield

will also be back as the hitting coach, his fifth consecutive season with the team, and Nick Childs is set to be the Shuckers' pitching coach for a second straight year.

There are plenty of ways to get out to the ballpark in 2022, but the best way to ensure your spot for Biloxi home games is to join Shuck Nation, the Shuckers' season ticket program. Along with tickets to 35 games (Half Shell Membership) or 70 games (Full Shuck Nation Membership), members enjoy special perks, opportunities for unique ballpark experiences, discounted tickets and so much more. Plus, tickets for Shuck Nation members are fully flexible, meaning you can come to 35 games yourself with a Half Shell membership, or bring 34 friends to one game, or anything in between.

News will continue to pour out of the Shuckers' office over the coming weeks. The promotional schedule, individual tickets and more are still on tap as the countdown to the season continues. Information, Shuck Nation Memberships and tickets for the Hancock Whitney Classic and Shuckers' games are all available at biloxishuckers.com. Most important of all, check the calendar and get ready to be at the ballpark for plenty of entertainment and fun this summer!

Garrett Greene is Media Relations Manager and voice of the Biloxi Shuckers.  
Read more about the Shuckers at [www.biloxishuckers.com](http://www.biloxishuckers.com).

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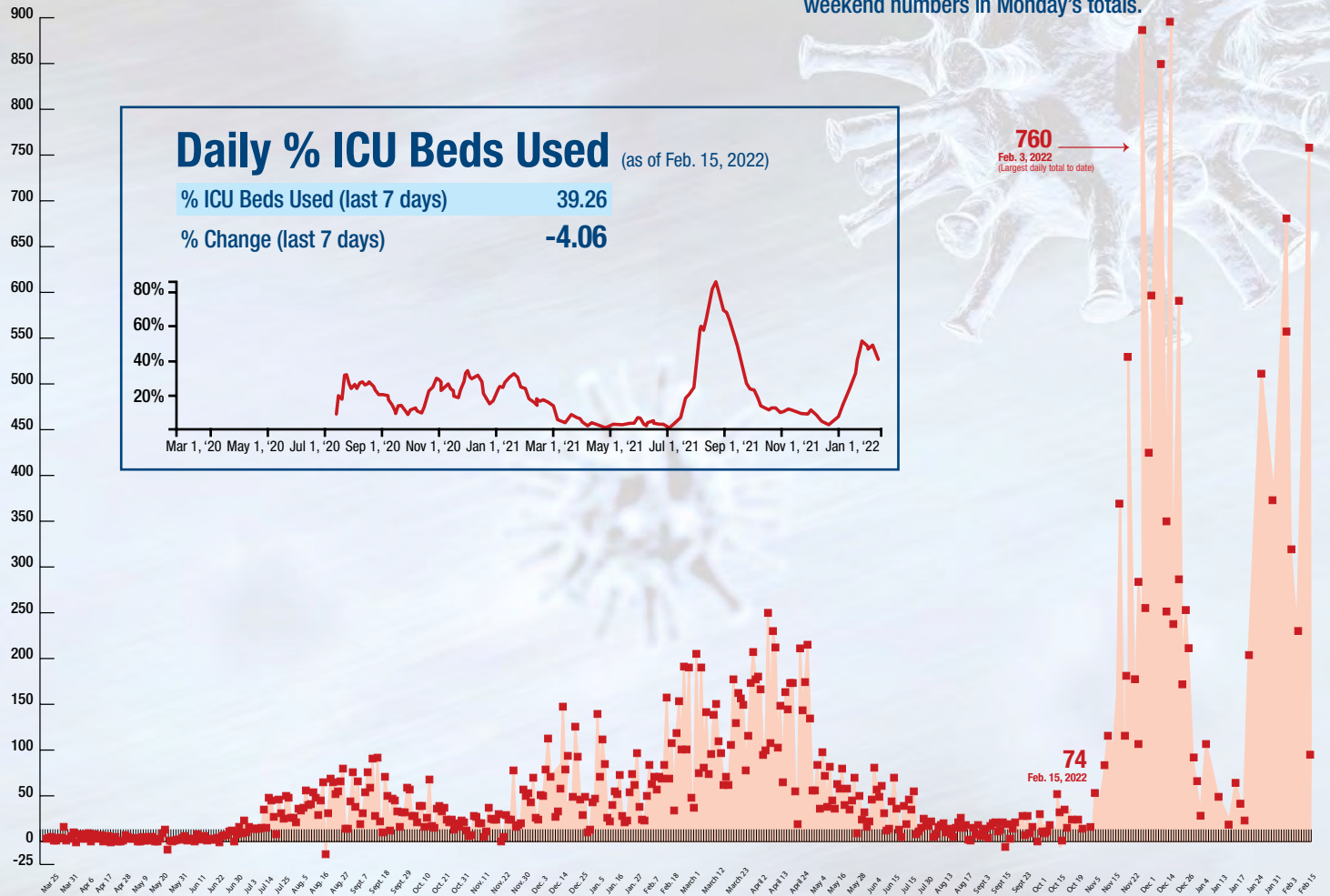
Treasure Bay  
CASINO AND HOTEL



# 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

**783,751** (as of Feb. 15, 2022)

#### Deaths

**11,772** (as of Feb. 15, 2022)

#### Fully vaccinated

**48%** (as of Feb. 16, 2022)

### Harrison County

Population: 208,080

#### Positive cases

**52,717** (as of Feb. 15, 2022)

#### Deaths

**635** (as of Feb. 15, 2022)

#### Fully vaccinated

**45%** (as of Feb. 16, 2022)

### COVID-19 Vaccinations

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



# March is a time to recognize VA Women's History

By Donna Maxwell

Women's Health Program Manager  
Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System

During March 2022, Veterans Health Administration (VHA) will celebrate national Women's History Month. The theme for 2022 is "Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope."

The campaign recognizes the thousands of women Veterans who have worked and continue to work ceaselessly as front-line workers, providing healing and hope to all. Women's History Month acknowledges the sacrifices of women Veterans and honors their unique achievements and contributions to history. This includes the brave women who served during this pandemic, either as active duty or as Veterans, and the women VA employees who stepped up to serve Veterans.

Women have a long history of commitment to healing, in different cultures of the world and as medical personnel throughout the history of the U.S. military. This March, we



## BiloxiVA TODAY

recognize and thank women Veterans and recognize their service to serve others during these unprecedented times.

Women have been healers and warriors in military activities for centuries. During World War I, women served on the front lines as nurses, ambulance drivers, and relief workers. Women supported war efforts by volunteering in organizations such as the American Red Cross. Women physicians ran their own hospital units and served in the military as contract surgeons.

More than 59,000 nurses served on the front lines in the Army Nurse Corps during World War II. They served under fire in field hospitals, on hospital trains and hospital ships, and as flight nurses on medical transport planes.

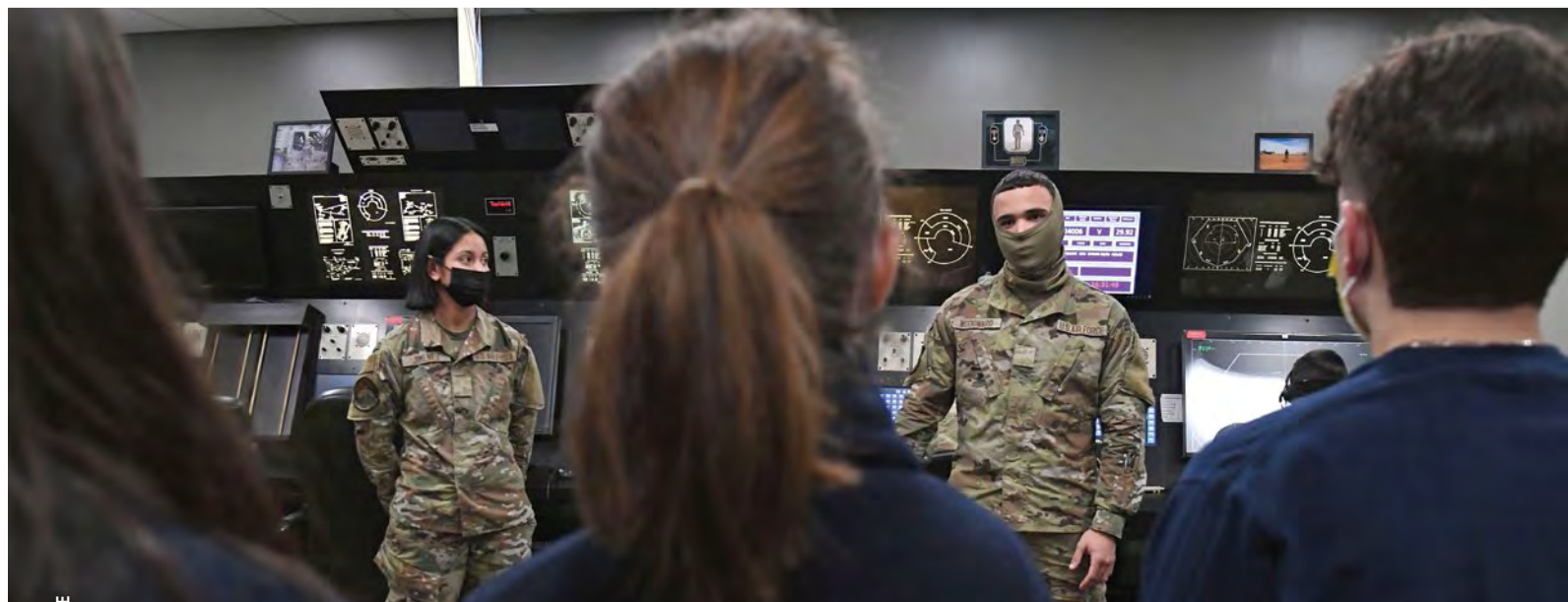
Throughout both World Wars and in the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, many women faced discrimination and criticism when they prioritized serving their country over taking care of their families. Women persisted

despite criticism. Women became leaders within their units, top physicians at hospitals, chief nurses, educators, trainers, scientists, and medical directors.

During this ongoing pandemic, VA has seen our front-line women health care workers in leadership roles at their respective facilities. They have found solutions to problems and have managed large-scale triage systems, urgent staffing, equipment and PPE ordering and national telehealth programs. Women front-line workers championed VA in distributing 8.9 million vaccine doses to more than 4.1 million people. VA will always be grateful for and proud of our front-line workers.

Women serve with the gift of compassion. As health care workers, teachers, law enforcement, community volunteers, caregivers, and more, women provide healing and hope and are a beacon of light to their families, workplaces and neighborhoods.

► 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.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY KEMBERLY GROUE

## Keesler and the junior grades

Airmen Nia Jimenez and Khalil Woodward, 334th Training Squadron students, explain air traffic control training procedures to high school students in Cody Hall during a tour at Keesler Air Force Base. The 20 freshmen from Biloxi and St. Patrick Catholic high schools were touring the base as part of the Biloxi Chamber's Junior Leadership Program.

► See more photos at [www.keesler.af.mil](http://www.keesler.af.mil)

► Watch Keesler update daily at 7:45 a.m., 1:45 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. on BTV.



# The infrastructure work in Biloxi

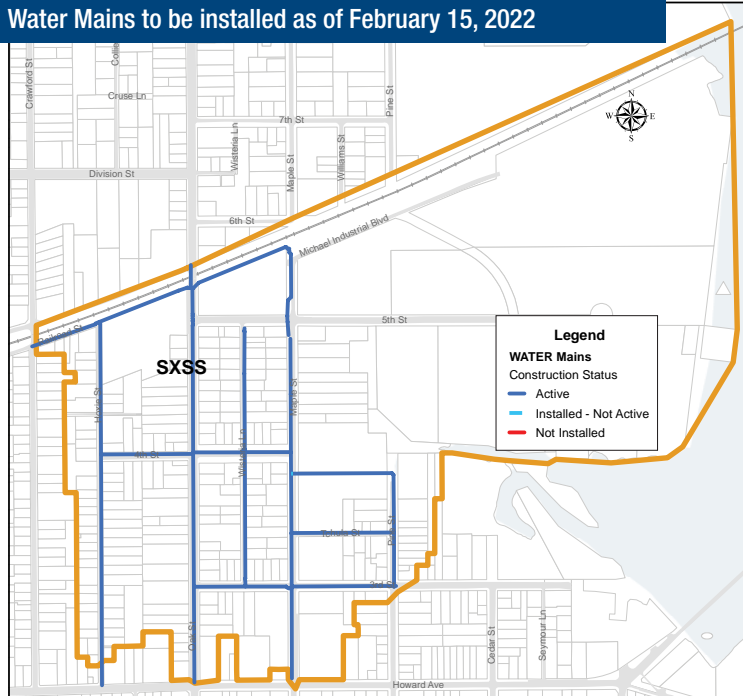
These pages contain maps show the status of the city's two major infrastructure projects now underway. The information on these maps is compiled by the city's Engineering Department, based on reports from contractors and inspectors at each site. See detailed maps and video online at [biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi/](http://biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi/).

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

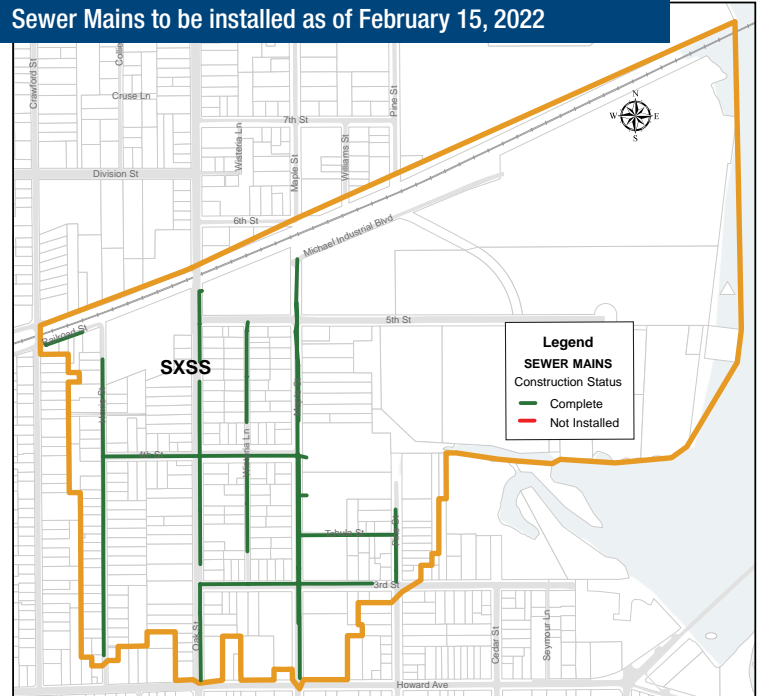
### Lane Construction Water

Water Mains to be installed as of February 15, 2022



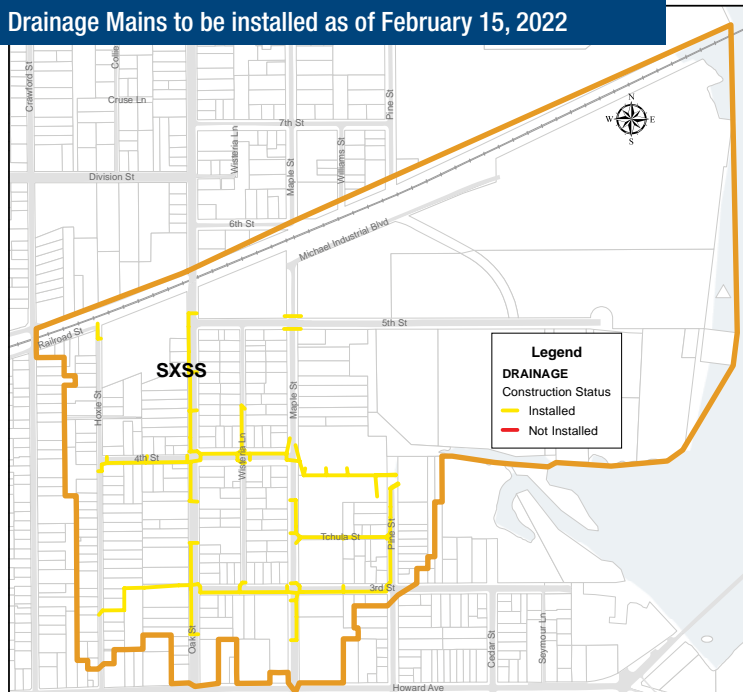
### Lane Construction Sewer

Sewer Mains to be installed as of February 15, 2022



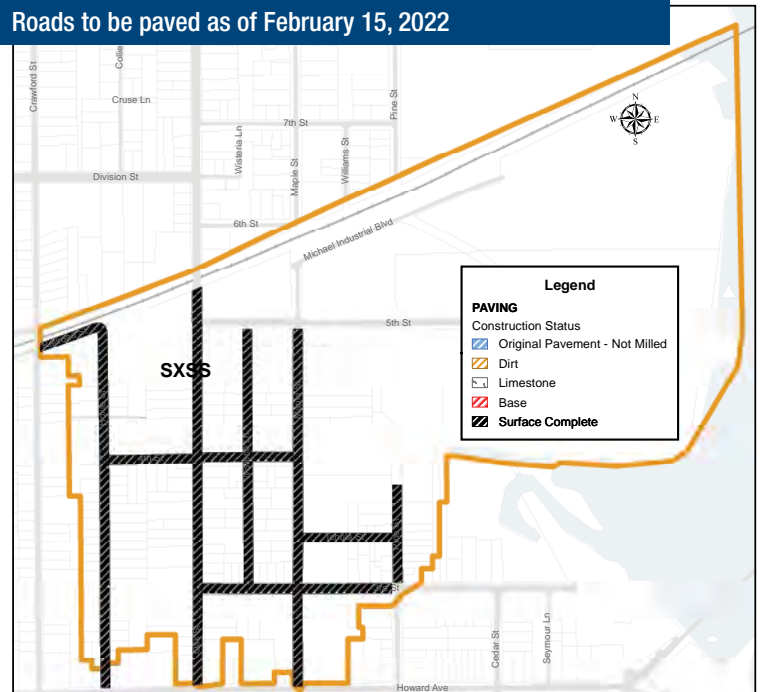
### Lane Construction Drainage

Drainage Mains to be installed as of February 15, 2022



### Lane Construction Pavement

Roads to be paved as of February 15, 2022



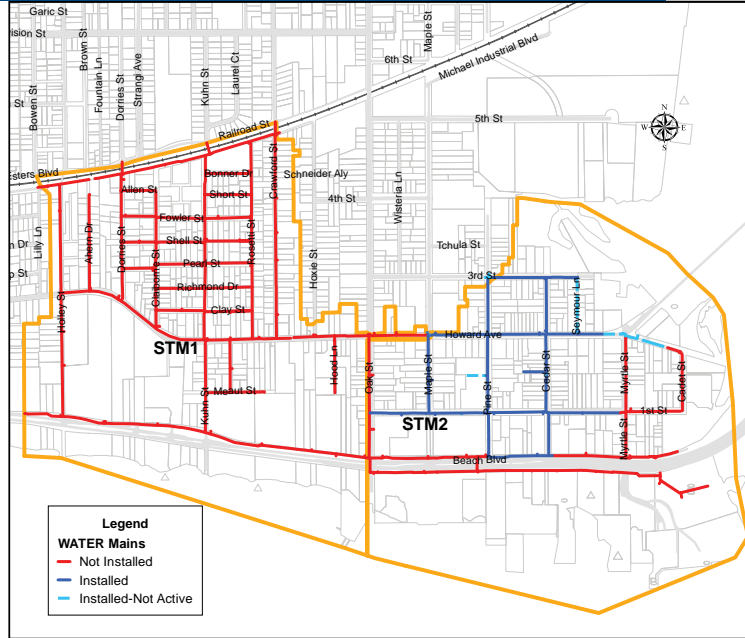


# St. Michael 1 & 2

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.

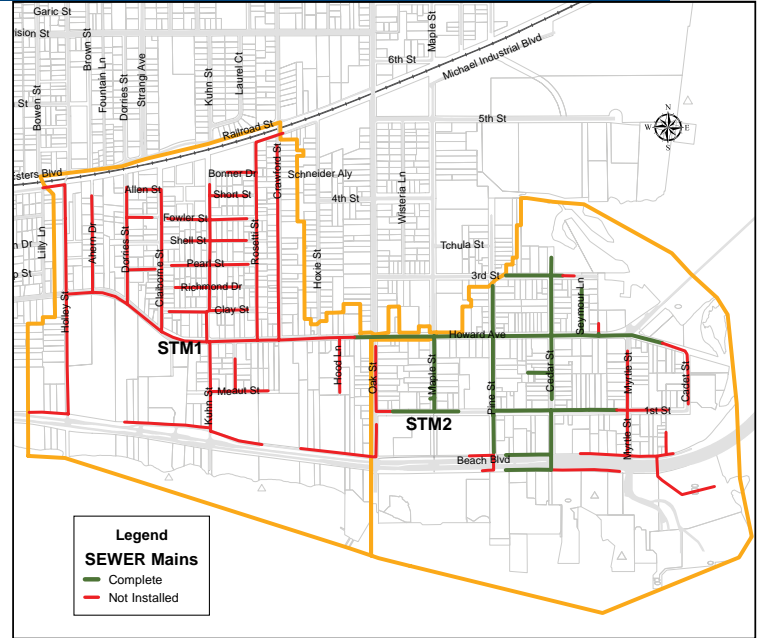
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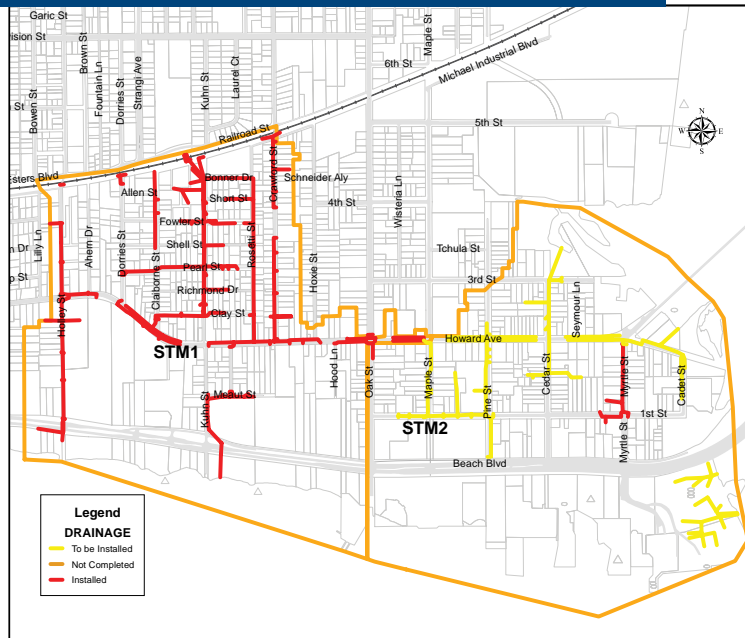
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Sewer Mains to be installed as of February 15, 2022



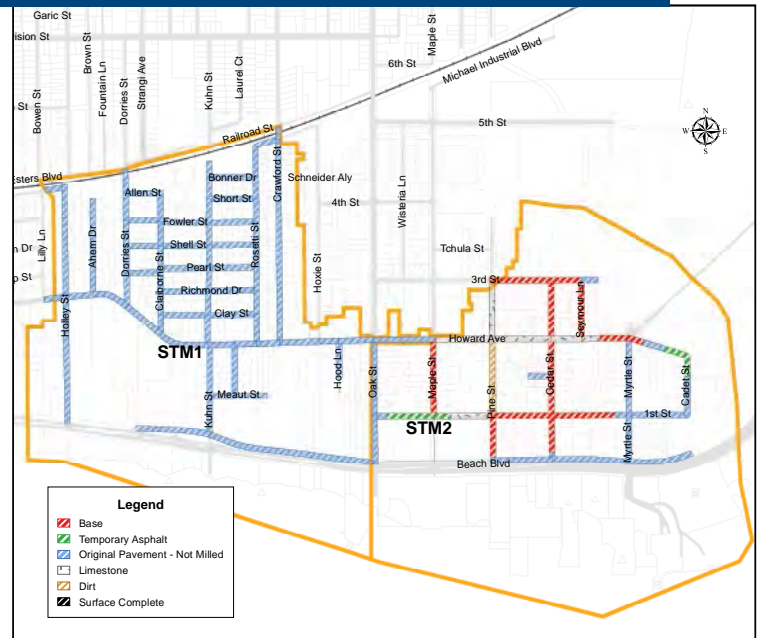
## Necaise Brothers Construction Drainage

Drainage Mains to be installed as of February 15, 2022



## Necaise Brothers Construction Pavement

Roads to be paved as of February 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.



# Random Notes



## Time capsule: Two for the road



### 'B.B. King' award, 2003

It was an annual Mardi Gras contest that had impresario Bill Holmes pulling his hair out for years, this idea of whose is bigger. But a trio of King D'Ibervilles -- Frank E. Bertucci (1994), Dave Dennis (1995) and Roy Anderson III (1999) -- made it official on March 4, 2003: "The Real 'B.B. King' Award" was presented to Keith Crosby, the affable Palace Casino Resort GM.

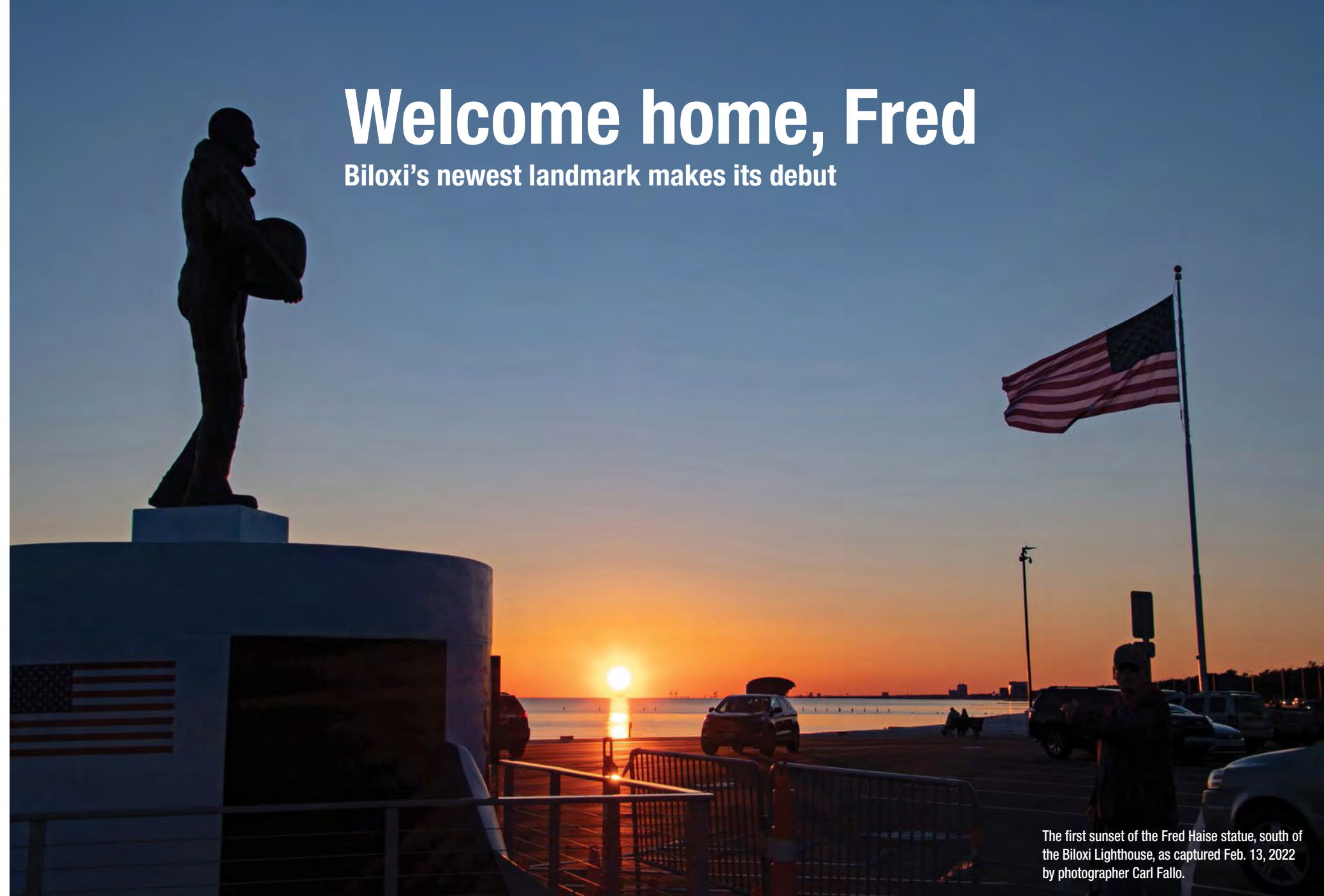
### Michael Esters, 1983

March 24 will mark 39 years since Michael Esters, Biloxi's first Black councilman, was killed after his car was struck by a freight train at the Main Street crossing. He was 31 in 1983 and had been elected only two years earlier, but his name and memory live on. When a measure was suggested to rename one of the two streets bearing his name, leaders in Ward 2 and family from near and far said the solution was easy: The roadway north of the CSX railway in East Biloxi will be Esters Boulevard North and the roadway south of the railway will be Esters Boulevard South.



# Welcome home, Fred

Biloxi's newest landmark makes its debut



The first sunset of the Fred Haise statue, south of the Biloxi Lighthouse, as captured Feb. 13, 2022 by photographer Carl Fallo.



The Lighthouse loomed large above the crowd of hundreds.



A bird's eye view of the dedication



Sculptor Mary Ott Tremmel Davidson and the original article



Fred's first moonrise, from the Biloxi beachfront, by photographer Tim Isbell.

## What they're reading: Irish edition

We turned to members of the Hibernia Marching Society for page turners:

- **Bill deBruler**  
Board Member:  
"Redemption"  
by David Baldacci.
- **Liz deBruler**  
Corresponding Secretary:  
"Triple Homicide"  
by James Patterson.
- **Debbie Darby Young**  
Board Member:  
"Atomic Habits"  
by James Clear.
- **Leonie Simmons**  
Membership Chair,  
"The Heart Mender"  
by Andy Andrews.
- **Lisa Fegan**  
Board Member:  
"Troubles In Paradise"  
by Elin Hilderbrand.

See photos, video and more at [biloxi.ms.us/Freddo](http://biloxi.ms.us/Freddo)





# No Blarney! The march of the Irish approaches

By Lydia Hilton

Hibernia Marching Society

You know what they say: Everybody's Irish on St. Patrick's Day. So get to grinning and kick up your leprechaun heels. We are! Saturday, March 12, beginning at 2 p.m.

Starting at the Biloxi Yacht Club on Beach Boulevard, we'll line the streets in the Irish tradition, "with hearts as light as a song" and "thoughts as glad as shamrocks." For two miles, there'll be a procession of music, dance, floats, throws, flags, and pageantry.

Presented by Hibernia Marching Society of Mississippi, 2022 marks our 44th year of this coastal merriment. Come out and meet this year's Grand Marshal and Colleen, Keith Crosby and Celeste Foster O'Keefe. And following closely behind them are our 2020 Grand Marshal and Colleen, Chuck Kelly and Susan Cain.

Numerous high schools across the Coast are sending their bands, dance teams, cheerleaders, and ROTC units. There'll be throws galore from decked-out floats and cars. Fofo will be there. And can you even have a parade without a fire truck? No! We love our fire departments, so we'll probably have two. There'll also be marching groups and the Shriners in their tiny cars. It's all about fun!

Making everything on the parade route all the more delectable, Grillin' on the Green is firing up the Town Green with savory eats: Ribs, brisket, and seafood. If you're licking your lips, you'll want to check that out.

I can't resist one last Irish saying: "The best things in life are the people we love, the places we've been and the memories we make along the way."

So let's make some new ones. All of us!

For membership in Hibernia Marching Society, you don't have to be Irish, just Irish at heart. Join at [hiberniamarchingsociety.com](http://hiberniamarchingsociety.com)



Festive and fun are the rules of the day



Grand Marshal Keith Crosby and Colleen Celeste Foster O'Keefe

## St. Patrick's Day Parade Route



## Cookin' on the Grillin'



It's called Grillin' on the Green and they'll be cookin' from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the Town Green, even as the St. Paddy's parade rolls by. This annual event features more than 20 grillmeisters displaying their culinary skills. You'll also find a kids zone, live entertainment and arts and crafters, but no admission or parking fees.



## Best Bets!



### St. Mary's Park gets a Sparkling makeover

St. Mary's Park, the two-acre green space on Wiltshire Boulevard in West Biloxi, will soon have a refreshed look with a new playground, swings, benches, picnic tables, signage, and trash receptacles. It's all part of Sparkling Ice's Cheers to You Program. The city, one of three in the country chosen, will celebrate the honor with a free, public ribbon cutting on Saturday, March 19 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The ribbon-cutting will include arts and crafts vendors, a DJ, a food truck, games, and a photo booth. Details: Parks office, 228-388-7170

### Get you some BBQ at Grillin' on the Green

The annual family-fun event Grillin' on the Green takes place Saturday, March 12 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the Biloxi Town Green, 710 Beach Blvd. Grilling teams, more than 20, will compete with barbecue ribs and chicken brisket for \$6,000 in cash prizes. Dozens of arts and crafts vendors, a children's play area, and live entertainment will also be part of the Biloxi Main Street event. Oh, and don't forget to get your Grillin' on the Green T-shirt, which will be on sale at the event. Details: 228-435-6339

**Charles R. Hegwood Community Market Vendor Registration**, weekdays 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., 377 Hiller Park. The market is located at the corner of Hopkins and Howard under the I-110 overpass and is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. Details: 228-388-2443, [reservations@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:reservations@biloxi.ms.us)

**Annual Gulf Coast Carnival Association Mardi Gras Parade**, March 1, 1 p.m. Admission is free. The parade begins on Main Street and ends at Howard and Reynoir. Details: 228-432-8806, [gccamg@aol.com](mailto:gccamg@aol.com), [www.gulfcoastcarnivalassociation.com](http://www.gulfcoastcarnivalassociation.com)

**Special Needs Baseball Registration**, Through March 4, Parks & Recreation Office, 377 Hiller Dr., weekdays, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Games begin March 22 and will be played every Tuesday at A.J. Holloway Sports Complex, 765 Wells Dr. Details: 228-388-7170

**First Friday and Downtown Block Party at the District Green**, March 4, Extravaganza event in March to usher in the 2022 season. Entertainment by Magnolia Bayou at 5 p.m. and Black Water Brass at 7 p.m. Details: 228-435-6339

**Mississippi Senior Olympics**, Games begin March 5, various times and locations along the Gulf Coast. For event and registration information, visit online at [www.msseniorolymp.com](http://www.msseniorolymp.com).

**Saints Shenanigans 5K/Fun Run**, March 5, 7 a.m. -noon, Hiller Park, 380 Hiller Park Dr. Nativity Blessed Virgin Mary Elementary School hosts a 5K and fun run in memory of Principal, Sister Mary Jo Mike. Registration: <https://payit.nelnet.net/form/HGJMyEh0>. Details: Jenny Baker, 228-243-0775 or [jtbaker@cctb.com](mailto:jtbaker@cctb.com)

**34th Arbor Day 5K & 1/2 Mile Run/Walk/Roll**- March 5, 9 a.m. 5K, 9:45 a.m. 1/2 Mile, Point Cadet Plaza, 121 Cadet St. Details: [www.gulfcoastrunningclub.org](http://www.gulfcoastrunningclub.org)

**Mississippi State Bulldogs Baseball vs. Texas Tech**, March 8 & 9, MGM Park, 105 Caillavet St. Tickets: \$23 available at [biloxishuckers.com](http://biloxishuckers.com)

**Irish Heritage Month**, March 8, 4:30-7 p.m. Biloxi Lighthouse, 1150 Beach Blvd. Wear your green with the Hibernia Marching Society as the Lighthouse turns green. Food will be available; music and more. Details: <https://hiberniamarchingsociety.com/>

**Seniors St. Patrick's Day Dance**, March 11, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road. Wear your green, enjoy fellowship, lunch, and entertainment. A Grand Marshal (King) and a Colleen (Queen) will be chosen by random drawing. Free admission. Open to ages 55 and older. Details: 228-388-7170 or [seniors@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:seniors@biloxi.ms.us).

## Best Bet!



### Celebrate local artists at Gallery 782

The downtown art shop Gallery 782 is celebrating 13 years as a co-op gallery and you're invited. The gala, hosted March 19 from 5:30 to 8 p.m., will include food, beverages, and one-of-a-kind artistic door prizes. Also on hand will be the local gallery artists who create items such as paintings, pottery, fused glass, ceramics, wood art, fine art, photography, metal castings, stained glass and jewelry. The event is free to attend. Gallery 782, which showcases 40 juried Coast artists, is at 773 Jackson St. Details: 228-436-7782

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

## Stay in touch

**BNews:** Welcome to the 46th 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 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

**Annual Hibernia Society St. Patrick's Day 5K Run**, March 12, pre-registration at 8 a.m., run at 9 a.m., Biloxi City Hall 140 Lameuse St. Presented by the Gulf Coast Running Club. Details: 228-380-7037 or email [director@gulfcoastrunningclub.org](mailto:director@gulfcoastrunningclub.org). Registration: <http://www.hiberniamarchingsociety.com>

**15th Annual Grillin' On The Green**, March 12, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m., Biloxi Town Green, 710 Beach Blvd. The Coast's best barbecue competition with more than 20 competitors vying for more than \$6,000 in cash and trophies! Entertainment, parade and more. Free admission. Details: 228-435-6339

**Annual Hibernia Society St. Patrick's Day Parade**, March 12, 2 p.m. Parade features bands, flag bearers, bagpipers, horse-drawn carriage with the parade Grand Marshall and Colleen, and colorful floats. Free admission. Details: 228-265-3416

**Mississippi Healthy Kids Resource Fair**, March 13, noon – 3 p.m., Vietnamese Martyrs Catholic Church, 171 Oak St. Free community event for children and families and includes health vendors and screenings, children's activities, food giveaways, COVID-19 vaccinations, and free home test kits. Details: 228-436-9999

**Bike Biloxi**, March 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 are recommended. Details: 228-435-6339

**Downtown Biloxi St. Paddy's Pub Crawl**, March 17- 19, 5-11:59 p.m., Ground Zero Blues Club, 814 Howard Ave. Pick up a punch card at the kick-off party at Ground Zero Blues Club from 4-8 p.m. on March 17 then crawl through local businesses listed on the punch card collecting punches. Turn in the card with nine punches by March 19 to be entered into a drawing for \$200 in cash and prizes. Tickets:\$5 [www.downtownbiloxi.com](http://www.downtownbiloxi.com)

**Indian Nation 5K**, March 19, 9 a.m., 1845 Tribe Drive. Registration fees: \$5 per PreK-12 student, \$10 per adult. Details: 228-435-6105

**Gulf Coast Oyster Cook-Off & Festival**, March 19, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Point Cadet Plaza, 121 Cadet St. Sixth annual Gulf Coast Oyster Cook-Off & Festival featuring a Corvette car show, Outdoor Life Show, and more. Details 228-860-5015, [www.ClearVisionent.net](http://www.ClearVisionent.net)

**St. Mary's Park ribbon cutting**, March 19, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. St. Mary's Park, 1651 Wiltshire Blvd. Sparkling Ice and the City of Biloxi will unveil a new playground in the park. Games, a food truck, and DJ will be part of the event. Details: 228-388-7170

**Gallery 782 Celebration**, March 19, 5:30-8 p.m., 773 Jackson St. In honor of 13-years as a co-op art gallery in the Biloxi Arts District, the gallery will host a gala reception. Free admission. Details: 228-436-7782

**Boss Brunch**, March 20, 12-4 p.m., Biloxi Civic Center, 578 Howard Ave. A networking brunch featuring a collaboration of like-minded women. Tickets: \$100-\$150/ Details: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/boss-brunch-tickets-253249645507?aff=ebdsporgprofile>

**Main Street Book Club**, March 24, 5:30 p.m., Boho Biloxi Social House, 871 Howard Ave. Book of the month is "The Stolen Lady" by Laura Morelli. Details: 228-435-6339

**Ward 4 Town meeting**, March 24, 5:30 p.m., Donal Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road. Free admission. Details: 228-435-6257

**Gulf Coast Women's and Bridal Expo**, March 26, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m., Edgewater Mall 2600 Beach Blvd. Free admission. Details: 228-860-5015

**Health & Wellness Fair**, March 29, 9 a.m.-noon, Dr. Frank Gruich Community Center, 591 Howard Ave. Free health fair featuring International bestselling author Ashley Robertson. Includes health screenings, community resources, door prizes, and more! Open to all ages. Details: 228-864-6274



### Biloxi Little Theatre

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

- **Clue**, March 4-6 & 11-13

### Center Stage

2670 Rue Palafox, 228-388-6258

[www.centerstagebiloxi.com](http://www.centerstagebiloxi.com)

- **The Boogie Woogie Radio Show**, March 10-20



**Beauvoir, The Jefferson Davis Home & Presidential Library**2244 Beach Blvd., 228-388-4400, [www.visitbeauvoir.org](http://www.visitbeauvoir.org)**Biloxi Lighthouse & Visitors Center**1050 Beach Blvd., 228-374-3105, [www.biloxi.ms.us](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.biloxitourtrain.com)

- Call in advance to check tour availability.

**Betsy Ann Riverboat Cruise**173 Beach Blvd., 228-229-4270, [betsyannriverboat@gmail.com](mailto:betsyannriverboat@gmail.com), [www.betsyannriverboat.com](http://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](mailto: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., 228-207-1218

**Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum**115 1st Street, 228-435-6320, [www.maritimemuseum.org](http://www.maritimemuseum.org)

- Hours of operation Monday- Saturday 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., Sunday Noon- 4 p.m.
- Summer Camp registration is now open

**Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art**386 Beach Blvd., 228-374-5547, [www.georgeohr.org](http://www.georgeohr.org)

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

**Ship Island Excursion**228-864-1014, [www.msshipisland.com](http://www.msshipisland.com)

- Ferry service to Ship Island, resumes March 25
- Private charters available year-round
- Dolphin and Sunset 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](http://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**, March 4, 11, 18, & 25. Doors open at 5 p.m.; Early Bird games at 6:30 p.m.; regular games at 7 p.m. Cash payouts and door prizes. Concessions are available and open until 8:30 p.m.
- **Sunday Charity Bingo**: No Sunday Bingo in March

**Joppa Shrine**

13280 Shriners Blvd., 228-392-9345

- **Steak Night**, March 11, 6-8 p.m. (Last ticket sold at 7:15 p.m.). Steak, potato, salad, dessert, and beverage - \$20, dine in or carry out. Steak Nights support efforts at the Shriners Hospital for Children. Details or advance orders: 228-392-9345.s
- **BUNCO** March 9, 5-8 p.m., \$10 per person, limited to 56 players, Prizes for various categories. RSVP to 228-233-4228.

**Fleur de Lis Society of Biloxi (French Club)**

182 Howard Ave., 228-436-6472

- **Seafood Dinners every Friday night in March**, 6-8 p.m. Karaoke with Kenny every Friday at 7 p.m. Call for details.

**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](mailto: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](http://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  Mardi Gras Parade Streets of Biloxi  Mardi Gras	2	3 Community Market  Morgan Wallen MS Coast Coliseum	4 Clue Biloxi Little Theatre Coast Con 44 MS Coast Convention Center Larry the Cable Guy IP Casino Joe Bonamassai Beau Rivage First Friday & Block Party The District Green Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society	5 Clue Biloxi Little Theatre Coast Con 44 MS Coast Convention Center MS Sr. Olympics Begins Gulf Coast Sts. Shenanigans 5k/Fun Run Hiller Park 34th Arbor Day 5K & 1/2 Mile Run/Walk/Roll Point Cadet Plaza Monster Jam 2022 MS Coast Coliseum Engelbert Humperdinck Beau Rivage
6 Coast Con 44 MS Coast Convention Center  Clue Biloxi Little Theatre  Monster Jam 2022 MS Coast Coliseum	7	8 Community Market  MS State vs. Texas Tech MGM Park  Irish Heritage Biloxi Lighthouse  Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	9 MS State vs. Texas Tech MGM Park  Bunco Joppa Shrine	10 Community Market  Candlebox Hard Rock  The Boogie Woogie Radio Show Center Stage 10-20	11 Clue Biloxi Little Theatre Seniors St. Patrick's Dance Snyder Center  Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge  Steak Night Joppa Shrine  Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society	12 Clue Biloxi Little Theatre Hibernia Society St. Patrick's Day 5K Run Biloxi City Hall Grillin' On The Green Biloxi Town Green St. Patrick's Day Parade Streets of Biloxi Aaron Lewis Beau Rivage Little River Band IP Casino
13 Clue Biloxi Little Theatre The Boogie Woogie Radio Show Center Stage 10-20 MS Healthy Kids Resource Fair Vietnamese Martyrs Catholic Church	14 The Boogie Woogie Radio Show Center Stage 10-20	15 Community Market Bike Biloxi Biloxi Visitors Center The Boogie Woogie Radio Show Center Stage 10-20 Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	16 The Boogie Woogie Radio Show Center Stage 10-20	17 Community Market St. Paddy's Pub Crawl Downtown Biloxi 17-19 The Boogie Woogie Radio Show Center Stage 10-20	18 St. Paddy's Pub Crawl Downtown Biloxi 17-19 The Boogie Woogie Radio Show Center Stage 10-20 Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society	19  Tribe Drive GC Oyster Cook-Off & Festival Point Cadet St. Mary's Park ribbon cutting St. Mary's Park St. Paddy's Pub Crawl Downtown Biloxi 17-19 Gallery 782 Celebration Biloxi Arts District GCMMA Hard Rock Lil Durk + Rod Wave MS Coast Coliseum
20 Boss Brunch Biloxi Civic Center  The Boogie Woogie Radio Show Center Stage 10-20	21	22 Community Market  Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	23	24 Community Market Main Street Book Club Boho Biloxi Social House  Ward 4 Town meeting Snyder Center	25 Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society	26 Gulf Coast Women's and Bridal Expo Edgewater Mall  Get the Led Out Hard Rock  Jon Dorenbos: Life is Magic Beau Rivage
27	28	29 Community Market Health & Wellness Fair Frank Gruich Center  Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	30	31 Community Market	1	2



# BTV March 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 (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!" St. Patrick's Day Feast
7:30 a.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
7:45 a.m.	Keesler update (15 min)
8 a.m.	Special Presentation: The dedication of the Fred Haise statue
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!" St. Patrick's Day Feast
1:30 p.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
1:45 p.m.	Keesler update (15 min)
2 p.m.	Special Presentation: The dedication of the Fred Haise statue
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!" St. Patrick's Day Feast
7:30 p.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
7:45 p.m.	Keesler update (15 min)
8 p.m.	Special Presentation: The dedication of the Fred Haise statue
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 dedication of Fred Haise statue

Fred Haise had his day in Biloxi with the dedication of a nine-foot statue in his likeness, and videographer August Taconi captures all of the moments in a new special presentation airing this month on BTV.

You can see the 50-minute presentation daily at 8 a.m., 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on BTV: Biloxi Television. BTV is available on Sparklight channel 56 or U-verse 99 in Biloxi or online anywhere at [biloxi.ms.us/btv](http://biloxi.ms.us/btv).

Biloxi honored its most-famous native -- celebrated fighter pilot, test pilot and Apollo 13 astronaut -- during a ceremony on Feb. 13 at the statue site, south of the Biloxi Lighthouse. The statue is a bronze likeness of a smiling Haise garbed in his astronaut suit and cradling his space helmet.

Haise, who turned 88 in November, was joined by Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich, sculptor Mary Ott Tremmel Davidson, Mississippi Power CEO Anthony Wilson and others in the program.

The ceremony also signaled the opening of the Lighthouse parking area, a popular beachfront site because of its location in the shadow of the city's signature landmark.

## A green 'Biloxi Cooks!'

Restaurateur and raconteur Bobby Mahoney guests in an encore presentation of "Biloxi Cooks!" airing daily in March. The segment, cohosted by William Sackett, features Mahoney's telling the story of Mary Mahoney's Old French House Restaurant.

See it daily at 7 a.m., 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. throughout March.

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

### Ingredients:

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

### Instructions:

#### Beef

- Place Corned Beef brisket in a roasting pan, fat side up. Sprinkle contents of seasoning packet on top of beef. Pour beer into pan until just below top of beef.
- Seal pan tightly with aluminum foil
- Place in 325 degree oven
- Cook time - 6 hours, but at end of 2 hours than 4 hours, open cover and remove ½ of liquid surrounding beef. Add liquid to cabbage.

#### Cabbage

- Cut cabbage into desired size pieces. Wash and add to tall pot. Add enough water to cover cabbage. Add tablespoon of vinegar, ½ teaspoon of ground cloves and tablespoon of salt.

- Simmer cabbage until tender adding beef braising liquid for seasoning

#### Potatoes

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





# M is for Mullet

STRIPED MULLET  
*Mugil cephalus*



▲ Biloxi Bacon

Throwing cast nets near  
the Broadwater Marina  
in 1990



SUN HERALD/MCCLEACHY COLLECTION

As we close out carnival season in Biloxi we look to the next season on the calendar. It is sometimes referred to as the Lenten Season, which is the 40 days before Easter Sunday. It is a time when our culinary habits change. Inspired by the Lenten tradition of not eating meat on Friday, there comes a yearn for seafood, and the very best can be caught in our waters.

Upon their arrival in 1699, when Monsieur Lemoyne d'Iberville and his crews came to our shores, their lives were probably saved by our manna from the sea. After months of voyaging, their ships' cupboards were bare. When they opened their portholes and saw

## Back in the Day



By Jane Shambra

an endless array of mouth-watering seafood, they must have been aghast to visualize all the buffet possibilities. **Biloxi Bacon?** A casual survey about Biloxi Bacon was completed recently and it yielded predictable results. Those who grew up in Biloxi knew exactly what Biloxi Bacon is. Youngsters and those from afar had no idea. The conversations about Biloxi Bacon truly brought back great memories as well as great fishing and culinary stories about our popular fish: the mullet! Someone even mentioned a map of Biloxi's Back Bay with a place called "Mullet Lake". Of course, the dialogue about mullet with our younger generations wandered onto other topics, including the popular mullet haircut and popular celebrities.

## Casting a net

The term Biloxi Bacon was derived from stories years ago. During the Civil War when Biloxi experienced a blockage preventing its inhabitants from receiving goods from afar, locals developed a means of surviving. With a plentiful supply of mullet, fishermen could catch and cook whatever they needed to subsidize their family's table. Mullet became known as "bacon" because this fish could be smoked and salted (just like they do for

bacon) before the days of refrigerators.

Today, we traditionally cook these fish by first drenching them in cornmeal then frying them until they are tasty and crispy.

The most popular method of catching these fish is with a cast net, a circular woven net that is cast or thrown with a special twist of the wrist into the shallow waters along our shores. Some fishermen even relate stories about catching them with a dough ball and a little fishing hook.

The special technique of cast nets, as well as weaving these nets, is of a special art handed down by Biloxi's forefathers from generations ago.

## Fun facts

Did you know that mullet have teeny tiny teeth? Some have none at all. They simply suck up their food. Mullet are called bottom feeders. They are not fussy eaters and eat tiny plants, insects, bread, leftover fish, and even pieces of fruits and vegetables. Their favorite treat is maggots! They spend the majority of their day searching for and eating food. Mullet do require rest but they have no eyelids, so their eyes are always wide open. They have exceptional vision, too!

## Gizzards and Roe

Did you know that mullet is also renowned for not only its tasty meat but also for its other edible parts? What about mullet gizzards? Mullet have gizzards, not unlike, say a chicken. For that reason, some people call them the "chicken of the sea."

Gizzards are the muscular stomach that grinds up the food along the fish's digestive tract. This edible mullet part is another delicacy and can be fried or dried to perfection.

Many years ago two young boys were



Young fishermen with their  
mullet bounty in the 1940s

arrested for catching mullet

out of season. To prove a point, their attorney cut up one of their prize mullet right in the courtroom to prove it had a gizzard and could not possibly be counted as a fish. As a result, the boys were instructed to be freed. This scenario would not likely occur today.

Another added culinary feature of the mullet is its edible roe. Roe is a delicacy and is the sacs of mullet eggs, a type of caviar.

## Jumping for joy

One special feature of the mullet fish is that they jump a lot. No one knows for certain why they act this way. Some theories include: running away from their predators, cleaning out their muddy gills, and finding a mate. Who knows for sure, but watching mullet jump is a sight to behold!

Biloxi Port Manager Larry Sablich and his crew at the Biloxi harbors confirm that they still spot mullet jumping near both the Back Bay and front beach piers. Sablich said mullet are not as noticeable as they were decades ago, but folks still come out with their cast nets in search of a good meal.

In 1984, Biloxi began an annual Biloxi Mullet Rodeo Festival. It was held in October at the Point Cadet Plaza and was sponsored by the Fleur de Lis Society and the City of Biloxi. The rodeo rules stated that only cast nets could be used. The premier mullet festival booths offered choices of oysters, hamburgers, sausage, crabs, and fresh fried mullet. There was even a contest for the fastest mullet cleaner and the fastest mullet eater. Awe, the fun that was had, all in honor of Biloxi's pop-eye mullet.

## The Mullet Brigade

Back in the day, a group of men got together and began cooking mullet for charitable events. They were affectionately called the Biloxi Mullet Brigade (sometimes referred to as the Biloxi Bacon Brigade). They would never accept any compensation for their generous time, and produced perfectly fried fish plates offering countless hours as a team, frying Biloxi bacon for fundraising events. Sadly, many of Biloxi's Brigade members have passed, including Bruce Strong, William Raymond, Ralph Lechner, Stanley Dellenger, Raymond Washer, and Kenneth Husley, just to mention a few.

Baricev's seafood restaurant off front beach in the 1960s



## Mullet on the menu

Years ago, in 1979, two popular Biloxi restaurants offered mullet on their menus: Baricev's and McElroy's. At Baricev's, customers could order a mullet entree consisting of fried Biloxi Bacon, fries, and coleslaw for only \$3.00. And, at McElroy's Harbor House seafood restaurant customers could order a plate of fresh Biloxi Bacon (fried mullet) with a baked potato and salad for only \$3.75.

McElroy's Harbor House is still nested in the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor, but Baricev's location on Central or Beach Boulevard has evolved into other sites. Baricev's restaurant was once located on the shoreline where the Biloxi Belle Casino was docked and where the Beau Rivage property is today.

## Biloxi's bowl game

The post-football season has always commenced with bowl games everywhere, including the Super Bowl and the Sugar Bowl. Did you know that once upon a time Biloxi had its own Mullet Bowl? It was a popular annual affair that was sponsored by the Biloxi Kiwanis Club for the benefit of the Biloxi Boys Club. The first Mullet Bowl was held at the Biloxi Municipal Stadium in December 1973 and featured a great competition between the pee-wee football teams. Halftime game entertainment was provided by school bands throughout the city. Admission in those days was only one dollar.

The Boys Club began as a boxing club,

originally organized by Senator Tommy Gollott, Ronald Marion, and Bruce Stewart. Today, this group has evolved into the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast.

As for that famous Biloxi Municipal Stadium, it is now the location of The Salvation Army Kroc Center on the corner of Lee and Division streets.

## The Golden fisherman

In 1977, when Biloxi first introduced its concept of the Vieux Marche to downtown Howard Avenue, a special statue of a fisherman casting a mullet net was designed by artist Harry Weeks. The statue was positioned across the street from our new Ground Zero music venue.

The purpose of this 15-foot, \$34,000 statue was to commemorate the many fishing industry families that made their livelihood in Biloxi's seafood industry history. The statue was given the name "The Golden Fisherman" because it was gilded with a 23-carat gold finish. It was constructed with phosphorus bronze and weighed about 4,000 pounds.

In the 1970s, when the city unveiled the Golden Fisherman statue, a fish fry of Biloxi Bacon was planned. It was to be the biggest fish fry in the history of Biloxi serving 10,000 pounds of mullet.

Fish dinners then cost only \$1.50. This symbol of Biloxi's hard-working fisherman and his mullet net was later moved to Point Cadet in 2002. In 2005 during Hurricane Katrina, the fisherman and his net took a tumble and received serious injuries. Today, a new Golden Fisherman stands by the Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum. This one-of-a-kind, seven-foot bronze sculpture was unveiled and dedicated in 2018. The Golden Fisherman now welcomes travelers at the foot of the Biloxi Bay Bridge.

## Mullet through time

Mullet can be found worldwide. History books tell us that the ancient Egyptians and Romans cultivated them in saltwater ponds. One interesting legend from the past tells us that the tradition of eating non-meat products, such as mullet, on Friday was actually to boost fishermen's livelihoods.

As for some local folklores, an old 1905 local legend relates a claim that eating Biloxi mullet will shoo away yellow fever. In fact, a popular journalist, Kat Bergeron, even uncovered a story from the past relating that some declared that mullet was a remedy for illness. Another promises that visitors who sample our Biloxi Bacon will always return to Biloxi for another visit.

Mullet has served many in Biloxi as a dish, a sight of flight, and as a remedy for illness. Today, they swim in the gulf and are occasionally still caught by cast nets. Biloxi's pop-eye fish continue to be a favorite for residents and visitors!



Crafting a cast net by hand in the 1950s



# BNews Monthly

MARCH 2022

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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