

BNews Monthly

SEPTEMBER 2022

A compendium of what's happening in Biloxi



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Twenty-eight members inducted into the Hall of Fame

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BILOXI
SPORTS HALL OF FAME



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What's my name?

It was 30 years ago this Labor Day when Biloxi found itself with three dockside gaming operations: the Isle of Capri, which opened Aug. 1, 1992 and within weeks was followed by the President and Biloxi Belle. Many had a hand in the journey to that seminal moment in Biloxi's history and future. Here are a few names, a few memories, and a name that should be enjoying it all.

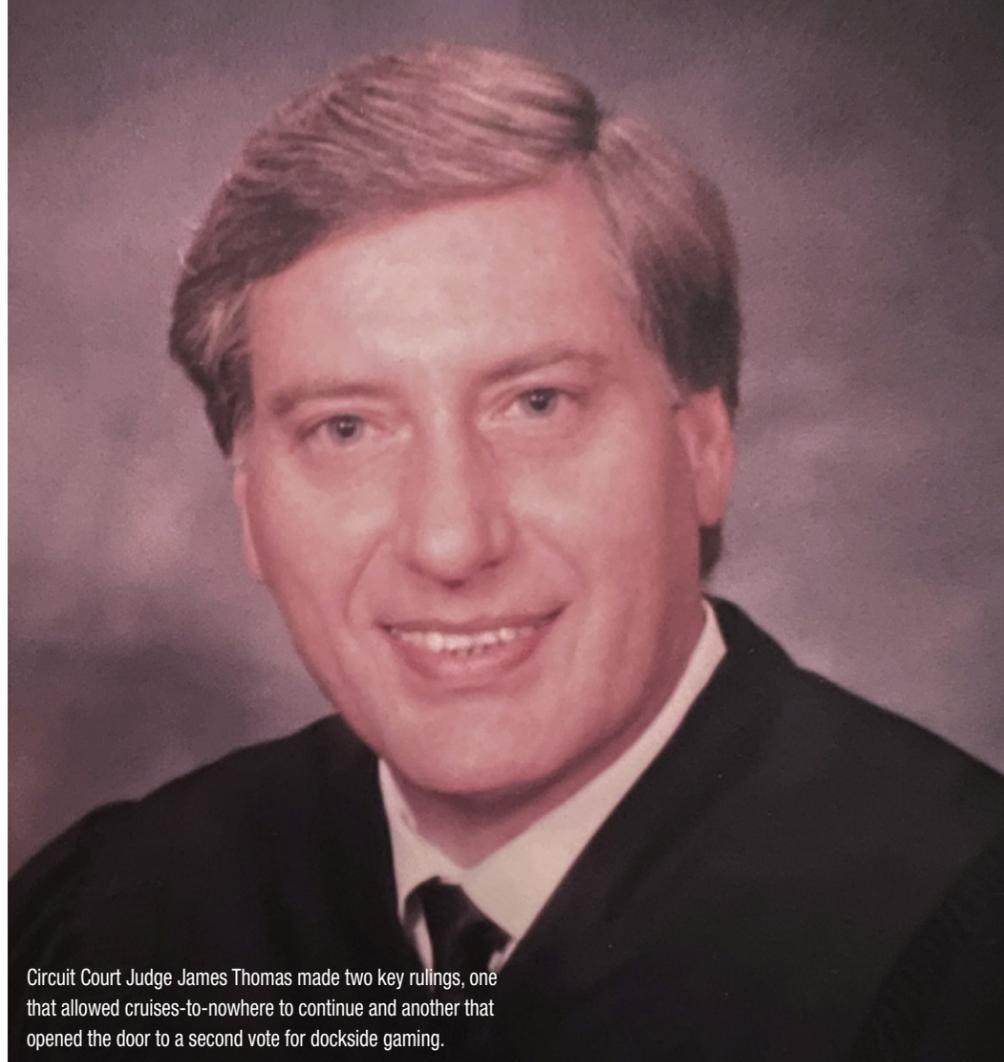
There were rounds of plaudits and recollections — some accurate, some not so accurate — the other day to mark the 30th anniversary of casino gaming in Mississippi. The first dockside gambling operation opened three decades ago in Biloxi on Point Cadet.

Truth be told, politicians, save for a brave few locally and in the Delta, kept the issue at arm's length in the years-long run up to opening day.

Some did not duck the issue.

Harrison County Circuit Court Judge James Thomas made two key rulings in those early days. First, he issued a temporary restraining order enjoining the state and law enforcement agencies from seizing gaming equipment off a foreign-flagged vessel, the Europa Star, a cruise vessel operating out of Biloxi's Point Cadet Marina.

(Interestingly, during those court proceedings, the sheriff at the time, Larkin I. Smith, who had succeeded Howard L. Hobbs and would later represent South Mississippi in Congress, sat not at the table with the state Tax Commission, but in the nearby jury box. Said gaming attorney Michael Cavanaugh: That was like a signal to the judge: "Hey, I don't have a problem



Circuit Court Judge James Thomas made two key rulings, one that allowed cruises-to-nowhere to continue and another that opened the door to a second vote for dockside gaming.

with what they're doing.")

The state, as they're wont to do, appealed to the Supreme Court, which declined to enter the fray. So the games went on.

The excitement over this vessel and its cruises was beginning to make an impact on the Biloxi economy, where hotels were languishing and snowbirds had started migrating to locales such as Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and the completion of Interstate 10 gave those from the West easier access to the clearer waters of Florida. There was no need to detour onto U.S. 90.

Two other names should be remembered as well: Bob Dearing of Natchez and Rep. Sonny Meredith of Greenville. Their visions of dockside paddle wheelers plying the Mississippi River, a flashback to a bygone era, is what got the ball rolling. Every county along the Mississippi River would have a chance for a local vote on gaming. A little later, the three Coastal counties were allowed to tag along and have their own votes.

And as fate would have it, Judge Thomas was to play another key role in the evolution of gaming.

When the initial dockside referendum failed, Thomas listened to arguments from the group Taxpayers for Majority Rule, a contingent of Biloxians from a city that

had seen the success of the Europa Star (and later LA Cruise) and where voters had expressed overwhelming support for dockside gaming.

The argument presented by Majority Rule attorney Gerald Blessey, the former Biloxi mayor: Harrison County has two judicial districts, two county seats essentially, and, as Biloxi is in the Second Judicial District, where gaming was overwhelmingly approved, the people have spoken. Put plainly, the Second Judicial District of Harrison County, from DeBuys Road eastward, should be viewed as its own county.

Thomas, at the conclusion of the arguments between Biloxi and those west of DeBuys Road, didn't reject the premise. Instead, he took the measure under advisement, which, as then-Biloxi Mayor Gerald Blessey recalls, "was just what we wanted." That possibility, Blessey said, "brought our friends to the table for a second vote."

The list of names of those who worked to lay the foundation for today's industry would be legion. Everyone had a role, especially in the grassroots business community. But, in the end, it's like Tommy DeVito says in "Jersey Boys": "Everybody remembers it the way they need to, right?"

The Top 20 gaming markets in the country.

Market	States	2021 Revenue	Last Ranking	Market	States	2021 Revenue	Last Ranking
1 Las Vegas Strip	NV	\$7.05B	1 —	11 Reno/Sparks	NV	\$889M	12 ↑
2 Atlantic City	NJ	\$2.57B	2 —	12 Kansas City	MO/KS	\$861M	13 ↑
3 Chicagoland	IL/IN	\$2.01B	4 ↑	13 Poconos	PA	\$849M	14 ↑
4 Baltimore-Washington DC	DC/MD/WV	\$2.00B	3 ↓	14 Lake Charles	LA	\$843M	11 ↓
5 Gulf Coast	MS	\$1.61B	5 —	15 Black Hawk/Central City	CO	\$812M	16 ↑
6 New York City	NY	\$1.46B	8 ↑	16 Downtown Las Vegas	NV	\$731M	19 ↑
7 Philadelphia	PA	\$1.40B	6 ↓	17 Tunica/Lula	MS	\$696M	17 —
8 Detroit	MI	\$1.29B	10 ↑	18 Cincinnati	OH/IN	\$655M	18 —
9 St. Louis	MO/IL	\$1.03B	7 ↓	19 Shreveport/Bossier City	LA	\$646M	15 ↓
10 Boulder Strip	NV	\$967M	9 ↓	20 Pittsburgh/Meadowlands	PA	\$630M	N/A

*Market revenue includes contributions from electronic gaming devices, table games, and land-based sports betting. SOURCE: VIXIO GamblingCompliance, State Gaming Regulatory Agencies

My name is Biloxi

If there's a name that should be having its day in the sun on a milestone day, this point in time when we mark 30 years of dockside gaming, legalized dockside gaming, it's the name Biloxi.

The people of Biloxi have seen their hometown's name dragged through the mud, the Mississippi Mud, over the years, sometimes fairly, sometimes not so fairly.

In fact, the country will get to more treatments over the next few months, with the release of "The Burial," a major Hollywood motion picture that portends to tell the story of Jerry O'Keefe's multi-million-dollar takedown of the Loewen Group. And in the wings, with a publication date of Oct. 18, is the latest from John Grisham, "The Boys of Biloxi." The synopsis promises "everything from "gambling, prostitution, bootleg liquor, and drugs to contract killings." But wait, there's more: "The vice was controlled by a small cabal of mobsters, many of them rumored to be members of the Dixie Mafia."

Fertile ground for John Grisham. Can a Hollywood blockbuster be far behind?

All you can ask for on these things is fair treatment. Over the years, the portrayal of Biloxi has been sometimes fair, sometimes not so much. Some of the wounds, to be sure, were and remain self-inflicted.

Jack Nelson, the Biloxi native who went on to become a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer, once said that for years his beloved hometown's laissez-faire approach to life had spurned government regulation of almost any kind.

Today, Biloxi is essentially the No. 5 gaming market in the country, right there behind the Las Vegas Strip, Atlantic City, Chicagoland, and Baltimore-Washington D.C. And right ahead of New York, Philadelphia, Detroit, and St. Louis, and the Boulder Strip.

Cool. Biloxi listed among the best-known cities in the country. But it's NOT. It's "Gulf Coast" at No. 5, without the benefit of even a state designation much less a city name in the title. Even Tunica, No. 17 on the list and falling, gets its own billing as Tunica/Lula.

In fact, virtually every one of the Top 20 gaming markets has a city name in its title. (OK, we cede the Poconos as another exception.)

The American Gaming Association, which publishes an otherwise outstanding State of Gaming report each year, ought to take steps to correct this.

The title, as it does in virtually all other gaming markets, should clearly establish for the reader the location of a particular

market. Gulf Coast? That could be anywhere from Florida to Texas. Consider the "Gulf Coast" designation at No. 5 is composed of 12 casinos; eight of them are in Biloxi.

The "Gulf Coast" generated \$1.61 billion in gross gaming revenue last year, at the same time that Biloxi was reporting \$1.02 billion in gross gaming revenue from its eight casinos.

Almost half of the 16,239 hotel rooms on Coastal Mississippi (there's a name) are in Biloxi.

It's not like Biloxi isn't a known commodity, given the generations of patronage, the untold hundreds of thousands who have passed through that 75-year-old turnstile known as Keesler Air Force Base, and, lest we forget, the cultural climate and long history of tolerating nefarious individuals and their pursuits.

No, at this 30th-anniversary milestone, and beyond, frankly, the name "Biloxi" should be getting its due. To think that despite our best efforts, our community, our Biloxi/Coastal Mississippi gaming market is one of the Top 5 in the country. It's time for those folks to take a bow. Biloxi/Coastal Mississippi. Now there's a name that makes sense for this gaming market. Who could argue with that?

C'mon, AGA, make it happen. Give Biloxi and Biloxians their due, and, yes, we're on Coastal Mississippi.

--N.L.S.

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.



Lighthouse pier improvements continue to progress

“It’s on the radar,” Mayor Andrew “FoFo” Gilich said of the rebuilding of the Lighthouse Pier during a recent Breakfast with the Mayor event. But what does that mean? What is the status of the project?

“Zeta, COVID, inflation, and supply chain issues are all factors recently affecting the rebuilding of the pier,” Mayor Gilich said. “But we will build back better, by doing something different.”

The difference is the design. The new pier will be built stronger with concrete pilings and flow-through decking with a protective rock jetty, a 360-foot stone breakwater to keep sand from moving one way or the other. The design is complete and working its way through the approval process.

A big part of the project is the permitting process.

“We recently held a public hearing with DMR for their

permit and no one voiced a complaint,” said Bobby Weaver, Senior Project Manager with Seymour Engineering, the firm overseeing the project. “That permit should be forthcoming and we are working with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers on a permit with them. I believe we may still be a few months away on that permit.”

In the meantime, the city continues to work with state, federal, and local agencies to move the progress along. In August, the Harrison County Board of Supervisors approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Biloxi regarding the maintenance of any future erosion that may be seen after the completion of the new pier.

According to Weaver, the overall project plans and specifications are about 70 percent complete. No construction date has been set.



Division Street improvements expected to be complete by the end of the year

In August, contractors with Lamey Electric worked to replace the traffic signals and utilities on Division Street at the I-10 exit ramp. This work is part of the street widening project where one lane in each direction will be added with bicycle lanes. New street lights are expected to be installed in October. The Division Street work is expected to wrap up in November.

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Edgewater Mall

Biloxi Sports Hall of Fame adds to its outstanding list

The Biloxi Sports Hall of Fame has grown by twenty-eight.

More than two dozen members were recently added to the Biloxi Sports Hall of Fame during a reception on Aug. 28. The classes of 2022, 2021, and 2020 were honored by family, friends, and city officials and leaders at the Biloxi Civic Center. COVID-19 caused the 2021 and 2020 inductee ceremonies to be postponed until this year.

The hall of famers includes retired athletes, coaches, and individuals who contributed to the betterment of athletics in Biloxi or played a supporting role of superior accomplishment to Biloxi athletics.

2017 inductee John Hankins was also



honored during the Aug. 28 reception. He was unable to attend the 2017 reception because of an illness.

The new inductees shared stories about their outstanding athletic achievements, reconnected with former teammates, coaches, and supporters, and enjoyed dinner with all in attendance.

Each year, the City of Biloxi honors the athletic accomplishment of individuals by inducting them into the Biloxi Sports Hall of Fame.

Anyone interested in nominating someone for the Biloxi Sports Hall of Fame should visit online at biloxi.ms.us/sportshalloffame for details, including qualifications.

— 2022 Inductees —

Kevin Brosh
Charles W. Burdine Jr.
Linda Barnes Carney

George Croncich
Gerald Jacobs
Michael Kovacevich

Bobby Miguez

— 2021 Inductees —

Lloyd Burbridge
Brenda Booth Tillman
Gerald Wallace Chatham

A.J. Giardina
Anna Marie Gines
Bobbie Booth Lonberger

George "Bubba" Misko
Deborah Mitchell
Thomas Stanley Jr.

— 2020 Inductees —

Elton J Bienvenue Sr.
Vincent Pete Bosarge
Kevin Burdine
James Perry Carson

Glenn Corso
Kenneth Lee Fairley
Kevin Felsher
Harry J Kostmayer Sr.

Doran Major
Jereld Nunley
David Shelby

Call Public Works: The City of Biloxi Public Works Department is responsible for water, sewer, municipal building maintenance, streets and drainage, signs, construction and bridge maintenance, and rights-of-ways. If you need assistance in any of those areas, call the department at 228-435-6271.

Missing street sign: If you notice a road sign is missing or damaged, please report it to Biloxi's Citizen Service Representative at 228-435-6271 or cross@biloxi.ms.us.

Council video recordings: All Biloxi City Council meetings are streamed live and recorded, both can be accessed from the city's website, biloxi.ms.us. Just click on the LIVE button at the top right to watch the live stream and visit the city's YouTube channel to watch the recording.



Biloxi A to Z: The City of Biloxi Public Affairs Division records a weekly update called Biloxi A

to Z. The recording includes a recap of happenings, the latest COVID-19 case numbers, a weekend preview, and a moment of Zen. The videos are posted Fridays on the City of Biloxi Facebook page and the city's YouTube channel.

Hurricane season: Don't let your guard down just yet. Hurricane season runs through Nov. 1, and even torrential downpours can cause street flooding and other issues. Know how to prepare at biloxi.ms.us/prepare.

- ▶ See dozens of photos of this year's event on the City of Biloxi Facebook page.
- ▶ See a recording of the event on the City of Biloxi YouTube page.

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Photo Credit: Mike Krebs

Shuckers finish out the season in style

By Garrett Greene
Biloxi Shuckers

As the calendar turns to September, the Biloxi Shuckers 2022 campaign is closing in on its conclusion.

The Shuckers have just one more remaining home stand, stretching six games against the Mississippi Braves from Tuesday, September 6 to Sunday, September 11. The final homestand includes the last T-Shirt Tuesday of the year, paired with the Shuckers' 'Strike Out the Stigma' suicide awareness game. There's also the final Fireworks Friday of the year presented by Pine Belt Dermatology on September 9, and the Shuckers will be recognizing our local First Responders and Frontline workers throughout the game.

Finally, the Shuckers will play their final regular season home game on Sunday, September 11, with Fan Appreciation Night and the auction of the Shuckers' military jerseys that the team has worn over the last two seasons.

The Shuckers have also teamed up with Humana to host a canned food drive during the final game of the season that will directly benefit the Biloxi VA Food Pantry, and fans are encouraged to arrive at the ballpark with donations in hand. It's the final chance to catch a Biloxi team that has provided so many exciting moments in 2022, unless you want to come cheer loudly for the Shuckers in Pensacola from September 13 - 19 at



Blue Wahoos Stadium. All traveling fans will be welcomed with open arms!

While a playoff berth seems unlikely for the 2022 Shuckers, it's a team that has written its name into the record books and featured some remarkable players. At various points, the Shuckers had the top three prospects in the Brewers' organization on their roster, with Sal Frelick, Joey Wiemer and Garrett Mitchell teaming up in the outfield. They also started the 2022 season with the best record in franchise history, winning their first seven games in a row and eight of their first nine.

Biloxi also enjoyed a breakout season from a newcomer to the system with Jakson Reetz blasting 22 home runs in just 64 games with the Shuckers, the second most home runs hit in a single season in franchise history.

Speaking of home runs, the Biloxi Bombers lived up to their moniker in 2022. On Saturday, May 14, Biloxi

combined to hit five home runs in a game, only to top it the following day by launching six homers in an 8-3 win over the Birmingham Barons. Plus, Biloxi is on pace to break their single season record for home runs hit.

The Shuckers yet again made MGM Park a fortress in 2022, going 34-21 at their home ballpark heading into the final two home series of the year. Biloxi has lost just one series at home all season, and a good chunk of their wins have been in walk-off fashion.

Biloxi has posted an incredible 11 walk-off wins, including a wild pitch in the 11th inning as part of a sweep of Montgomery, a walk-off two-run homer down by a run against Mississippi in late June, and a walk-off single by Frelick. But the most incredible finish had to be on July 31 when Andruw Monasterio launched a walk-off grand slam to down the Biscuits, the first walk-off grand slam in Shuckers' history.

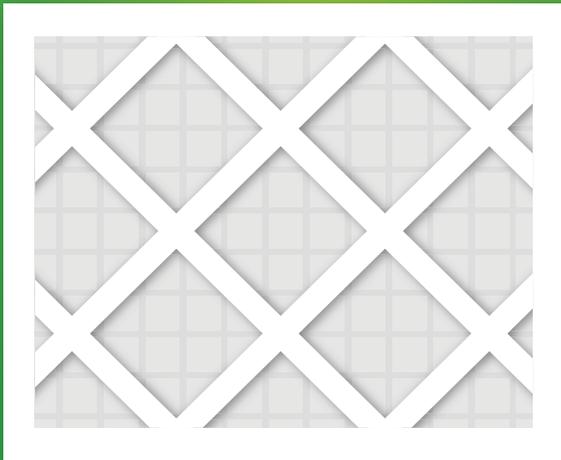
Just because the season is coming to a close, it doesn't mean MGM Park is locking up until next April. Stay tuned for events at the ballpark, especially if you're a Shuck Nation member, and be sure to reach out to the Shuckers if you'd like to join Shuck Nation or host an off-season event at the ballpark.

Most importantly of all, come out and catch one more game with the boys of summer and cheer on your hometown team in our final series of the 2022 season!

Garrett Greene is the Media Relations Manager and voice of the Biloxi Shuckers. See "Shuckers Insider" daily on BTV at 6:15 a.m. and 6:15 p.m.

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Finding Home Beyond Four Walls



Rebecca Jeffries

Writer/Senior Living Professional

"I'm not leaving my home!" she insisted, and walked back into the kitchen, leaving her daughters looking at each other helplessly. Their mother had been so proud of the forever home she and their father had built together. She kept it immaculately. It's glory days saw parties, card games, baby showers, grandkid sleepovers, holiday dinners, and most often the casual cup of coffee brewed for a conversation with a friend over the kitchen table. Now, their mother lived in the house alone and really struggled to keep it up.

The sisters worried about their mother, but most of all they missed her. They missed the light in her eyes and the news about one friend or another. They missed her infectious laugh and her funny remarks. They knew it was time to do something, that the house was too much for their mom.

So many families experience this interaction, or something similar. During our working years, we build homes we love and enjoy, suited to our tastes and lifestyles. Often, as our lifestyles and abilities change with age, our houses no longer suit our needs and yet, we struggle with strong attachment to the place we've called home. We forget that houses cannot love us back, pick us up when we fall, or provide company when we are lonely.

Fortunately, options such as assisted living provide rich opportunities for friendship, memory making experiences, and peace of mind. Once parents have an opportunity to process the emotions that come with the decision to downsize, they almost always find joy at the end of their adjustment.

Fast forward a few months, and we find our daughters sitting in the café having a cup of coffee with their mom and her new friends. The tears and frustration of that first conversation are forgotten as they share laughs and talk about the upcoming evening event, including what they all plan to wear. Their mother's humor and personality shine as she regales her friends with stories from the girls' high school years. Assisted living has given them and their mother the chance to experience life in a new way.

Houses are structures in which we live and store our belongings. A home, after all, is where we feel loved, find joy, share meals, and experience life. Even after losing the ability to keep a house, home can still be found. Every day at The Blake, we see residents find home. In the happy greeting from friends at the lunch table, calls or visits from their neighbors to check in when a resident misses an event, old friends finding each other again after many years, or the satisfaction of attending an art class and finishing a painting, residents experience a sense of home and belonging that they couldn't have had alone in a house.

If someone you love is struggling in their house, give us a call and let us help them discover if there may be a home for them at The Blake.

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a personal tour

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1651 Popps Ferry Rd
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Coronavirus by the numbers

Statewide overall

Population: 2.97 Million

Positive cases

896,300 (as of Aug. 15, 2022)

Deaths

12,733 (as of Aug. 15, 2022)

Fully vaccinated

48% (as of Aug. 15, 2022)

Harrison County

Population: 208,080

Positive cases

60,690 (as of Aug. 14, 2022)

Deaths

683 (as of Aug. 15, 2022)

Fully vaccinated

50% (as of Aug. 15, 2022)

COVID-19 Vaccinations

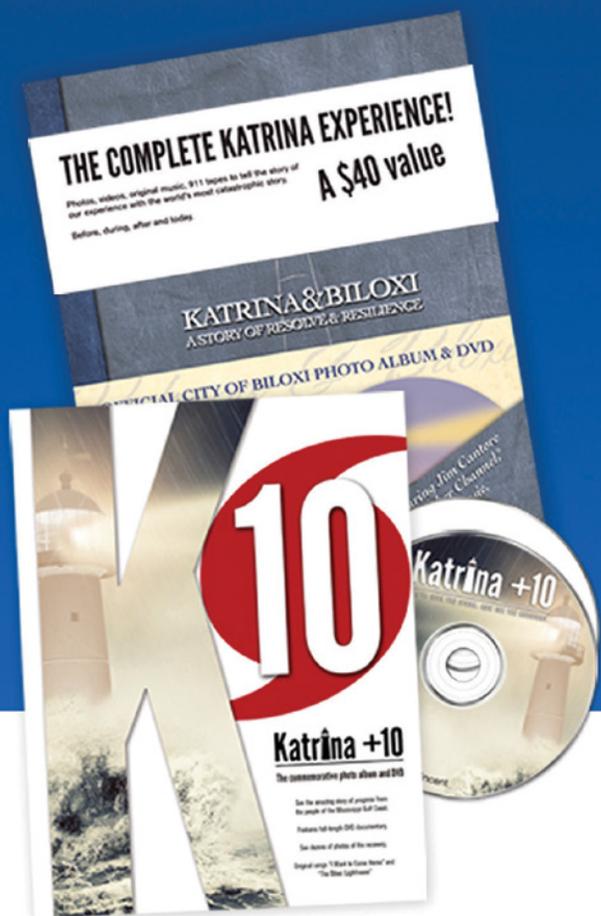
Visit online at biloxi.ms.us/coronavirus-info-practical-advice/ for links to COVID-19 vaccination locations.

Mississippi COVID-19 Hotline:
877-978-6453



See updates Friday on the city's Facebook page.

Data reported by Mississippi State Department of Health.



There's only one definitive Katrina story on the market.

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Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum | Biloxi Visitors Center

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What you need to know about your trash

Harrison County Utility Authority and Pelican Waste & Debris want to make Biloxi residents aware of what is trash or rubbish and how to dispose of it.

Here are some explanations and guidelines.

What is considered trash or rubbish?

Bulky Trash - Items too bulky or heavy to fit in the garbage cart such as furniture, TVs, large household items, homeowner-generated remodeling debris, mattresses, water heaters, carpet, fencing, lumber, etc. Do not bag these items.

Yard & Woody Waste- Such as brush piles, tree limbs and shrub pruning. Do not bag these items; place them loose at the curb for collection.

Bagged leaves & Grass - Bagged leaves and grass should not be mixed with bulky trash or yard and woody waste. Do not place in garbage carts. Also note that yard waste, leaves and grass left in old garbage cans will not be collected.

Bulky White Goods - Stoves, washers, dryers, refrigerators, other large appliances. CFC must be removed and

tagged by a licensed company.

How do I put my trash or rubbish out?

Bulky trash, yard and wood waste, leaves and grass should be placed next to each other but not mixed together. No household garbage, loose or bagged, are included in trash pickup services.

Empty and dried up latex paint cans with the lids off can go into your garbage cart. Please dry out any liquid latex paint in cans first before placing in garbage cart.

How to dry out latex paint:

If there's an inch or less of paint in the can, remove lid and let paint dry. If there's more than an inch of paint in the can, mix paint with cat litter, stir and let dry before placing in the garbage cart.

What cannot be picked up?

No Contractor's Trash - Large trees and woody waste placed at the curb by a tree service or contractor will not be picked up. It is the responsibility of the tree service to haul away the cut trees and limbs. If the contractor refuses or fails to do so, the homeowner must haul away the material. Also,

landlord renovations to rental property is a commercial waste activity. Pelican Waste & Debris will not pick up this type of waste. Landlords must contact a waste company and rent a dumpster for construction debris disposal.

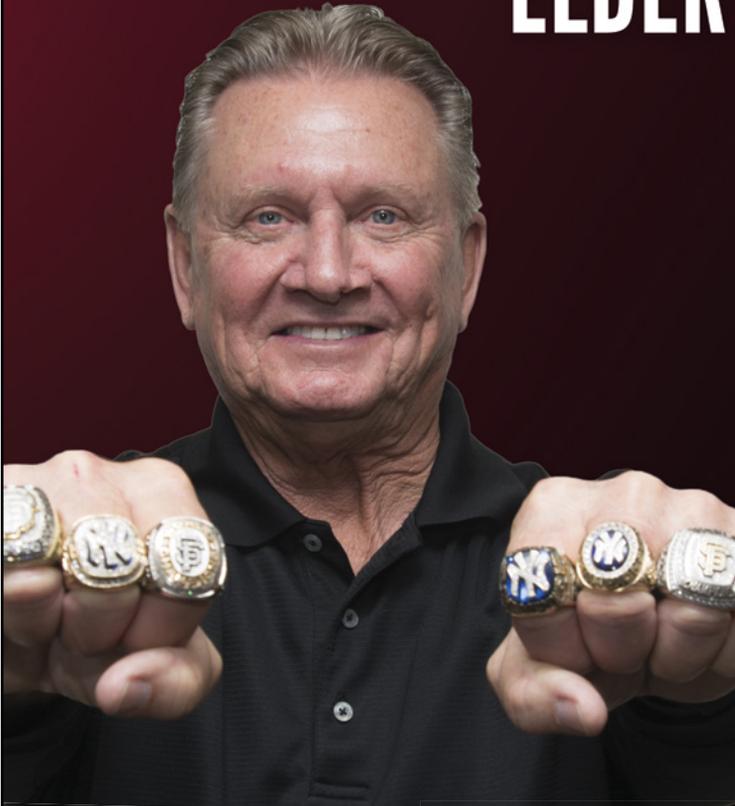
No Hazardous Waste or Tires Allowed - No household hazardous waste can be placed in carts or at the curb (paint, chemicals, thinner, batteries, electronics, tires, etc.). Go to the HCUA website (www.hcua-ms.us) for drop off events and downloadable charts of businesses that accept household hazardous waste year-round.

No Oil Paint - Oil paint cannot be put out for pickup, as opposed to latex paint that can be picked up (see above). It is hazardous and should be safely disposed of at monthly Household Hazardous Materials Collection Days, held the second Saturday of each month. Visit www.hcua-ms.us for details.

▶ For more information, call Pelican Waste at 228-701-9086 (Option 2) or HCUA at 228-868-8752

BILOXI FIRST PRESENTS
18TH ANNUAL ROAST
PETER ROY

ELDER



**THURSDAY
OCT. 20
6 PM**

**IP CASINO
RESORT SPA**

\$50 - INDIVIDUAL TICKET

\$250 - PATRON

ADMITS 2, PATRON SEATING, PROGRAM RECOGNITION

\$1,000 - CORPORATE PATRON

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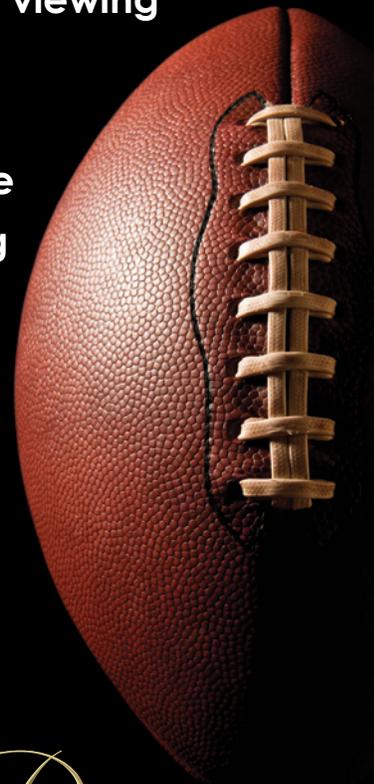
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more, plus,

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VA to offer more assistance for toxic exposure

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

As many of you are no doubt aware, the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022 - commonly known as the PACT Act - was signed into law in early August. This is a monumental moment, and I wanted to take the opportunity to provide you with an overview of what this legislation means for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and



— more importantly — for the Veterans, families, caregivers, and survivors we serve.

This legislation will empower us to provide much-needed benefits and care to

millions of Veterans who were exposed to toxic substances and other military



Biloxi VA TODAY

environmental hazards while fighting for our country. Specifically, the PACT Act will:

- Empower VA to deliver benefits to Veterans living with more than 20 toxic exposure-related conditions and to their survivors;
- Make generations of Veterans eligible for VA health care, while increasing care for many more;
- Ensure that every enrolled Veteran receives an initial toxic exposure screening at VA and follow-up screening at least every five years;
- Increase VA research on toxic exposure;
- Give VA tools to hire and retain employees and modernize over 30 facilities; and

- Solidify our new, expedited process for establishing presumptions of service connection for toxic exposure-related conditions.

Together, these changes will help us accomplish our top priority: getting Veterans timely access to the world-class care and benefits they have earned and deserve.

In the coming weeks and months, we will constantly be communicating about the impact of this law on VA and those we serve. For Veterans and our other beneficiaries, information about the PACT Act can be found at www.VA.gov/PACT — a one-stop shop for key PACT Act information and services.

The bottom line is that the PACT Act is a great step forward for Veterans and VA. Our mission is to serve Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors as well as they have served us — and this legislation will help us do exactly that.

Thank you for allowing us to be part of this wonderful community.

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

Civic leaders tour Peterson Space Force Base, U.S. Air Force Academy

By Lt. Col. Marnee A. C. Losurdo
403rd Wing Public Affairs

Twenty-four civic leaders from Mississippi joined 403rd Wing leaders on a community relations tour, commonly referred to as a Civic Leader Tour, to Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado.

Civic leader tours provide members of the Mississippi Gulf Coast community an opportunity to visit other bases and learn about their missions. This year's tour featured the 302nd Airlift Wing and U.S. Air Force Academy and was held in August.

"These trips provide our community leaders an invaluable experience that furthers their understanding of the Department of Defense, U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Air Force Reserve," said Col. Stuart Rubio, 403rd Wing commander, and the tour's host. "This trip provided insight into different mission sets, what Reserve Citizen Airmen accomplish daily in support of our nation, as well as how the Air Force prepares future leaders."



Col. Stuart M. Rubio, 403rd Wing commander, introduces his son, Ashton, who is in his sophomore year at the U.S. Air Force Academy, to the Biloxi Mayor Andrew "Fo Fo" Gilich (middle), Wendy Fayard, administrative assistant to the Mayor of D'Iberville (left), and Ted Rivera, 81st Training Wing Public Affairs (right) at the academy Aug. 12, 2022. Photo credit: U.S. Air Force photo by Lt. Col. Marnee A.C. Losurdo.

▶ See more photos at www.keesler.af.mil

▶ Watch the Keesler update daily at 7:45 a.m., 1:45 p.m., and 7:45 p.m. on BTM.



Photo Credit: Bruce Kircoff

Beyond Live Oaks: Trees for the Biloxi Urban Forest – Part 1

By Biloxi Tree Committee in coordination with City Arborist, Eric Nolan

Did you know that all species of oak, except water oak, are protected to some degree by Biloxi's Land Development Ordinance? Trees beautify and shade property, and increase its economic value.

Live oaks, *Quercus virginiana*, are clearly Biloxians' most highly valued and cherished species, but there are many lovely and worthwhile oak species suitable to our ecology. Besides the many benefits to humans, numerous animal species depend on oak trees. Butterflies and moths rely on our oak varieties, and they support the over 300 bird species that make South Mississippi an important birding destination.

In this article, we are providing information on a few oak species you might consider for your own urban garden, or perhaps find already growing there. Unless otherwise indicated, the information and quoted material in this article come from "Mississippi Trees" by John D. Hodges, David L. Evans, and Linda W. Garnett, a publication of the Mississippi Forestry Commission. This book is an excellent source of information.

Sand Live Oak—*Quercus geminata*

The Sand Live oak, or *Quercus geminata*,

is similar to the Live oak, *Quercus virginiana*, but with important differences.

Geminata reaches maturity much more quickly than the live oak, in just a couple of decades. The Sand Live oak reaches about 50 feet and survives only fifty years or so. The Sand Live oak's more modest dimensions and fast growth rate make it a highly suitable tree for smaller Gulf Coast sites where shade is desired. *Geminata* loves full sun, and prefers our dry, sandy soils; it is salt tolerant, so it does well in oceanfront landscapes.

To determine whether your tree is a Sand Live oak or a Live oak, (notwithstanding the cross-pollination that occurs) look at the leaves. The leaves of *Geminata* are quite leathery in texture, thicker than those of the Live oak, and are distinctly convex. Many fine examples of these trees can be found in the River Place neighborhood in West Biloxi.

In our opinion, the street trees along Benachi Street may be Sand Live Oaks. If you want the look of a Live Oak in your yard, but do not have the area or the time to wait for a Live Oak to mature, this is the tree for you.

White Oak—*Quercus alba*

In the urban landscape, the deciduous



Photo Credit: Wood-database.com

White oak is valued for its "broad, round crown, dense foliage and red to violet-purple fall color," making it an excellent shade tree with an ornamental aspect.

The leaves of the White oak are beautiful and elaborate, featuring seven to nine deep, rather complex lobes. The White oak grows slowly at a rate of about 20 feet per year until it reaches 60 to 100 feet at maturity, and a trunk diameter of three to four feet.

The bark is "scaly to irregularly platy or blocky." This tree is "moderately" tolerant of drought. Preferring a course, deep, moist, well-drained, and slightly acidic soil, it grows everywhere in Mississippi with the exception of the Delta. Its roots are very sensitive to compaction. Blue jays, red-headed woodpeckers, quail, and turkey are among the species that consume its acorns.

For guidance, call the Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service at their office on Popp's Ferry Road at 288-388-4710.

Visit the Tree Committee webpage at
biloxi.ms.us/tree-committee/.

The infrastructure work in Biloxi

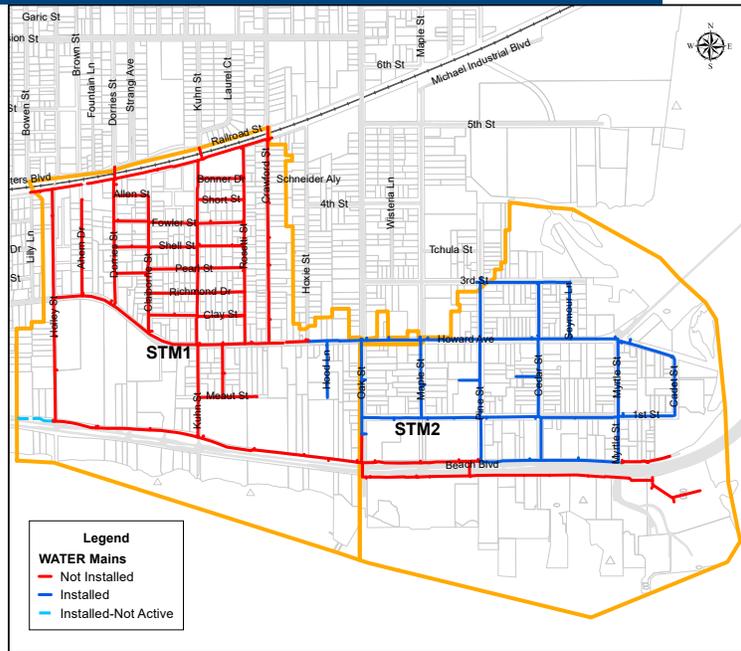
These pages contain maps showing the status of the city's two major infrastructure projects now underway. The information on these maps is compiled by the city's Engineering Department, based on reports from contractors and inspectors at each site. See detailed maps and video online at biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi/.

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.

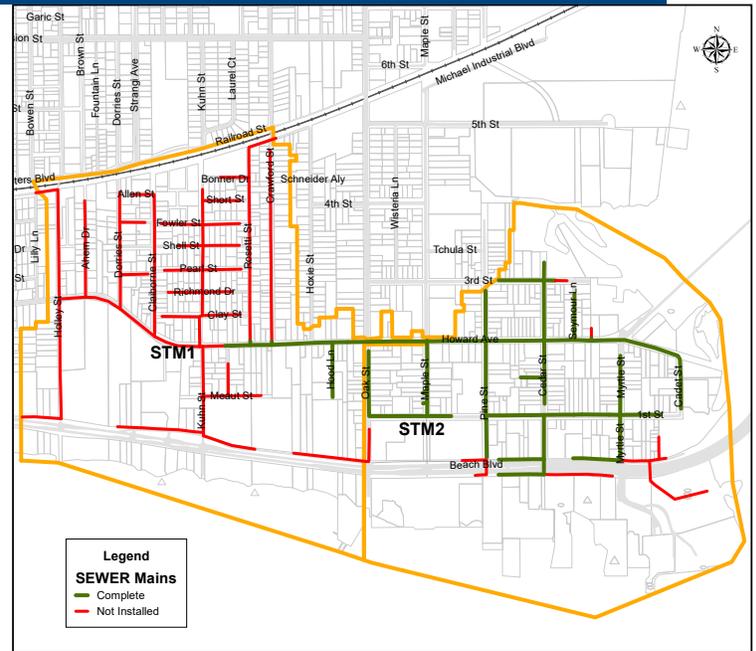
Necaise Brothers Construction Water

Water Mains Installed as of August 15, 2022



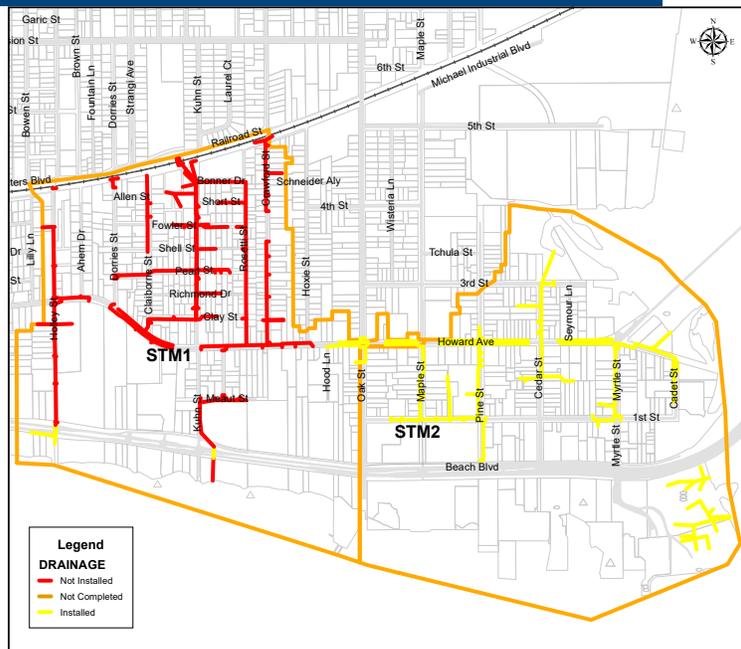
Necaise Brothers Construction Sewer

Sewer Mains Installed as of August 15, 2022



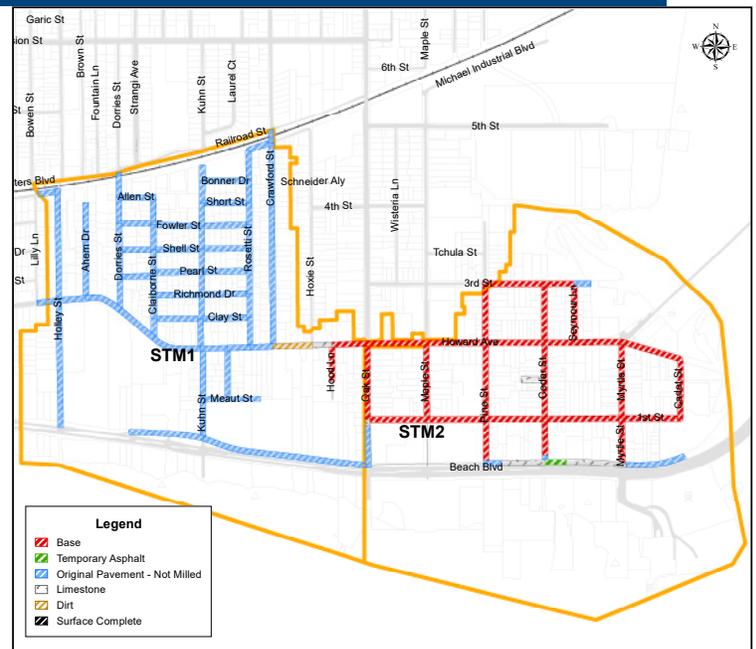
Necaise Brothers Construction Drainage

Drainage Installed as of August 15, 2022



Necaise Brothers Construction Pavement

Paving Installed as of August 15, 2022

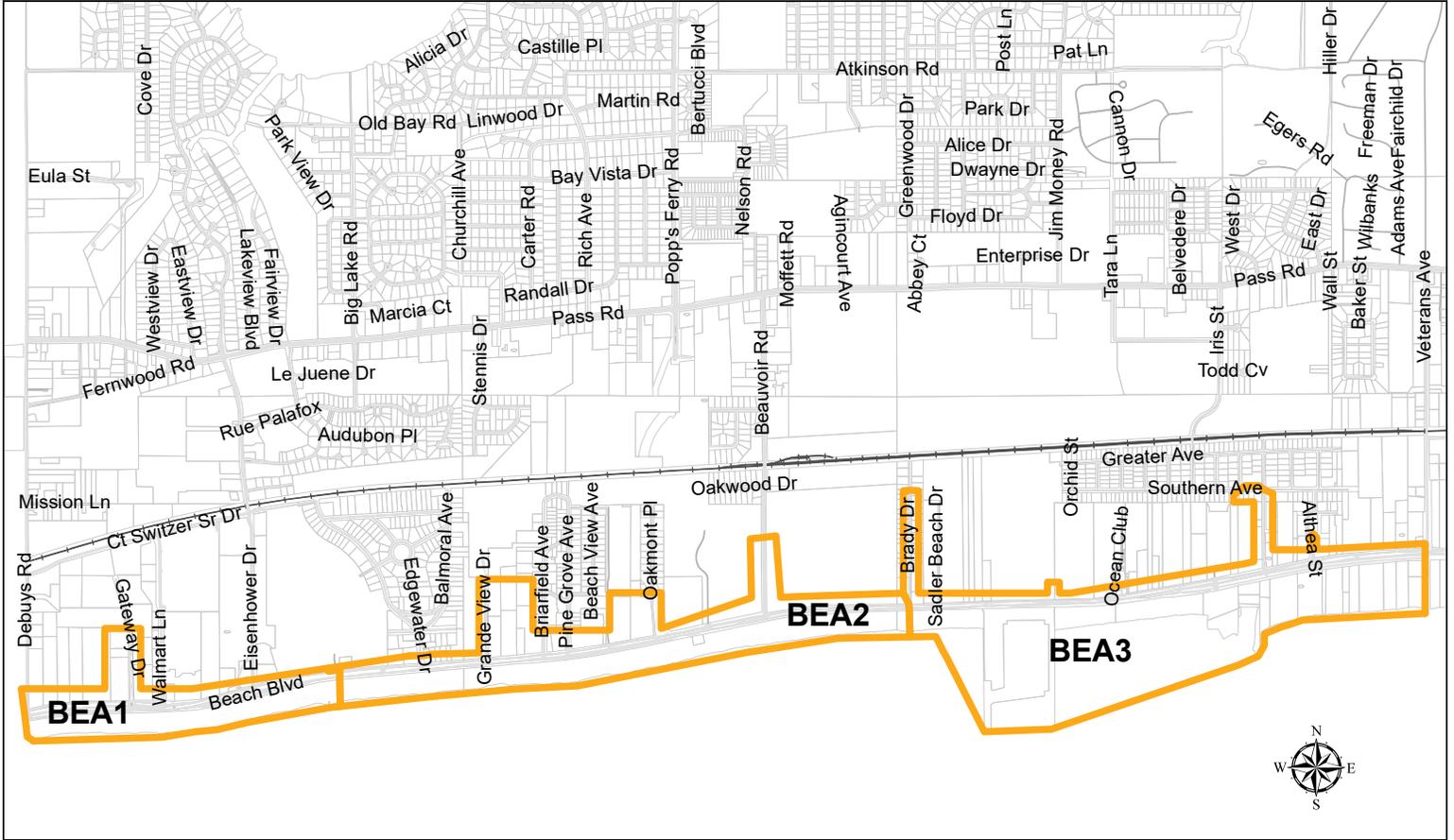


Beauvoir 1, 2, & 3

Necaise Brothers Construction has been awarded the contract, a \$32 million, 1,080-day project to install new water, sewer and drainage lines in West Biloxi, along U.S. 90 from Veterans to Debuys. The work began in July 2022.

Necaise Brothers Construction

Water, sewer, drainage work to come



Get the 411
on traffic

B-Alert

Text Biloxi to 99411
for timely traffic updates.



Random Notes



Time capsule: Elvis & June June 1956



Elvis and June Juanico, whom Damon Runyon Jr. wrote was "a blue-eyed girl built on the order of the Mississippi River—long and with lots of curves."

Watching the "Elvis" movie now playing in theaters, you wouldn't be hardpressed to imagine Col. Tom Parker barking to Elvis back in the summer of July '56: "Get over to that New Orleans radio station and quash those rumors coming out of Biloxi." Elvis, then a 21 year-old and on the cusp of superstardom, had met June Juanico, then 17, while performing at the Keesler airmen's club, June wrote in 1997 in "Elvis: In the Twilight of Memory." Media reports characterized June as EP's first love, but the mild-mannered Elvis was setting the record straight in a fascinating, four-and-a-half minute interview recorded by WNOE. "I was in Biloxi and I heard on the radio where I was supposed to be engaged," he told the radio audience. "I came over here to see who I was supposed to be engaged to," dismissing the notion. Check out damage control from back in the day at biloxi.ms.us/elvis.

Erratum: The August time capsule about Ralph Engelstadt misidentified the operators of IP. Boyd Gaming operates IP.

Ellzey's Hardware, for more than 60 years a mainstay in downtown Biloxi



Ellzey's: A soft spot for hardware

For more than 60 years, since 1960, in fact, Ellzey's Hardware has been a mainstay in downtown Biloxi, an old-fashioned, family run hardware store located under the emblematic cupola and broom-riding witch, at Lameuse and Howard.

And, now, some traveling music, please.

"I want to be able to do some traveling, go see my grandbaby and be able to run my life, instead of a business running my life," said Ellzey's co-owner Sandra Ellzey Cannette, who left the door open to future business at the iconic Peoples Bank-owned site, adding: "I'm going to miss my customers, I'm going to miss the feedback I get from them. It's enriched my life and made me feel like I've had a purpose."



Sandra, grandbaby Brandon Breal and husband Lee Cannette

Jane Shambra, 'our Google'



Mayor Gilich makes a presentation to Jane Shambra.

History is influencing many of the engagement efforts you're seeing in Biloxi today, whether downtown, along the beachfront or on Back Bay, and anytime a question arose about the days of old, especially photographic evidence, Mayor Gilich had the answer: "Reach out to our Google, Jane, and see what she can dig up."

In recent years, Jane Shambra, who retired the other day as head of the Genealogy and Local History Division at the Biloxi Public Library, had expanded her platform to include imaginative presentations to civic groups, serving as a period-garbed re-enactor, and, of course, penning the popular monthly "Back in the Day" column in this newsletter. Well done, Jane.

What they're reading: Labor Day edition

With Labor Day in mind, we turn to some of those whose vocations know few holidays:

- **Lt. Jason Guich, Biloxi Police Department Criminal Investigations Division:** "Heat 2," by Michael Mann & Meg Gardiner.
- **Andrew Callender, BPD Criminal Investigations Division:** "Mississippi Mud," by Edward Humes.
- **Firefighter Bryan Williamson, Biloxi Fire Department:** "False Flag," by Jack Slater.
- **Firefighter Bradley Blaylock, BFD:** "Can't Hurt Me," by David Goggins.
- **Gen Brace, BPD Finance Division:** "Mental Hygiene, Vol. III," July 1924.
- **John Majure, BPD Chief's Office:** "Life on the Mississippi," by Rinker Buck.
- **Jennifer Windom, BPD Criminal Investigations Division:** "Fear No Evil," by James Patterson.





BILOXI FIREMAN'S DAY PARADE!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

2:00 PM

Hosted by:

City of Biloxi

WEHCO#3 Biloxi Fire Museum

Biloxi Fire Department

Lineup begins at the corner of Lameuse and Water streets. The procession proceeds north to Howard Avenue and travels west on Howard to the WEHCO#3 Biloxi Fire Museum at 1046 Howard Ave.

Open House will be held at the museum immediately following the parade until 4:00 pm.

Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and drinks will be served.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

For more information:

Email: biloxifiremuseum@gmail.com

Biloxi Fireman's Day Parade, Sept. 18, 2 p.m., Howard Avenue. The parade will begin at the corner of Lameuse and Water street, travel north to Howard Avenue, and west on Howard to the WEHCO#3 Biloxi Fire Museum, 1046 Howard Ave. An open house will be held at the museum immediately following the parade until 4:00 pm. Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and drinks will be served. Details: biloxifiremuseum@gmail.com.

Best Bets!



Shrimply the best

Satisfy your seafood cravings at the Coast's annual celebration, the Biloxi Seafood Festival. The two-day affair, hosted by the Biloxi Chamber of Commerce, will take place on the Biloxi Town Green on Saturday, Sept. 10 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 11 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Seafood will be the focal point of the event, of course, with a number of business serving an array of fresh dishes. There will also be a lineup of live entertainment and myriad vendors. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for those ages 12 and younger. Details: 228-604-0014.

Biloxi Shuckers Baseball, MGM Park, 105 Caillavet St., Admission prices begin at \$8. Details: 228-233-3465

• **VS. Mississippi Braves**, Sept. 6-11

First Friday and Downtown Block Party, Sept. 2, 5-9 p.m., The District Green, 785 Howard Ave. The event features arts and craft vendors, activities, and entertainment by Casual & the Uptights at 5 p.m., and Ty Taylor & the Kinfolk at 7 p.m. Free admission. Details: 228-435-6339

Biloxi Community Market Festival, Sept. 6, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Corner of Howard Avenue and Hopkins Blvd. The festival includes community market vendors, live entertainment, informational and demonstration booths, hourly giveaways, and themed activities. Details: 228-388-2443

7th Annual Tunnel to Towers Biloxi 5K Run/Walk, Sept. 10, 5 p.m. Margaritaville Family Resort Biloxi, 195 Beach Blvd. A run, walk and climb to honor fallen firefighter Stephen Siller and his FDNY brothers that lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001. Details: <https://runsignup.com/Race/MS/Biloxi/TunneltoTowers5KRunClimbBiloxiMS> or email Biloxi@t2t.org

41st Annual Biloxi Seafood Festival, Sept. 10, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and Sept. 11, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Biloxi Town Green, 710 Beach Blvd. A celebration of seafood heritage in Biloxi. The event features live entertainment, arts and crafts, kids' activities, and lots of seafood from the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Admission: Adults, \$5; children 12 and under are free. Details: 228-604-0014

Bike Biloxi, Sept. 16, 6 p.m., downtown bike 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

Biloxi Soccer Registration, Sept. 17, 9 a.m.-noon, Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road. Registration is open to ages 4-7 (must be 4 by 7/31/22). Fees range from \$30-\$75. Register online at biloxisoccer.net. Details: 228-388-2483, or sports@biloxi.ms.us

Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum 37th Annual \$10,000 Draw Down, Sept. 17, 6 p.m., 115 E 1st. St. Bar & buffet opens at 6 p.m., and drawdown at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$100 and admit two people. The silent auction will be online this year and can be found at www.event.gives/msimdrawdown22. Details: 228-435-6320

Best Bet!



Draw! It's Seafood Museum time

The Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum will conduct its 37th Annual \$10,000 Drawdown on Saturday, Sept. 17. The affair, the museum's major fundraiser of the year, will be at the museum, 115 1st St., and will begin with cocktails and a seafood-galore-and-more buffet at 6 p.m., followed by the drawdown beginning at 7 p.m. Also part of the event: an online silent auction with in-person bidding during the event, an open bar, a split-the-pot, and a chance to win \$10,000. Tickets are \$100 and admit two to the drawdown. Details: 228-435-6320.

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

Stay in touch

BNews: Welcome to the 52nd 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 228-435-6336.

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

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

Frequently Called Numbers

Area code is 228 unless otherwise noted.

- Animal Control 392-0641
- Auto Tag/Property Tax Information 435-8242
- Birth Certificates 601-576-7960
- Building Permits 435-6270
- Business Licenses 435-6247
- Citizen services (streets, lights) 435-6271
- City Council 435-6257
- City Court 435-6125
- Code Enforcement 435-0841
- Drivers Licenses 396-7400
- Emergency Police and Fire 911
- Garbage Collection 701-9086
- Housing Authority 374-7771
- Human Resources 435-6259
- Mayor's Office 435-6254
- Museums Information 435-6244
- Parks & Recreation 388-7170
- Planning Commission 435-6266
- Public Schools 374-1810
- Streets and Drainage 435-6271
- Visitor Info 374-3105 or 1-800-BILOXI-3
- Water Service 435-6236

Best Bet!

Run, walk and climb to honor our brave

The annual Tunnel to Towers 5K Run and Climb, which honors the sacrifices of our first responders and military, takes place on Saturday, Sept. 10 at 5 p.m. The event is at the Margaritaville Family Resort and includes a 5K, and if desired, a climb of 110 floors, symbolic of the 110 floors in the World Trade center. The event was created in honor of Firefighter Stephen Siller who made the ultimate sacrifice when saving lives on Sept. 11, 2001 at the World Trade Center. Details: <https://runsignup.com/Race/MS/Biloxi/TunneltoTowers5KRunClimbBiloxiMS>.



Main Street Book Club and Book Signing, Sept. 22, 5:30 p.m., 1050 Beach Blvd. Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. Join the September Book Club for a meet & greet with author Candice Wheeler and hear her inspirations for her new book "Squall in the Gulf." Refreshments will be served. Free admission. Details: 228-435-6339

2nd Annual Gulf Coast Shrimp Tasting Festival, Sept. 24, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Point Cadet Plaza, 121 Cadet St. Food, arts & crafts, a Broncos and Mustangs Car Show, and a gulf coast shrimp cook-off will be part of the event. Admission: \$5-\$25. Details: www.clearvisionent.net

3rd Annual Faery Court Masquerade Ball, Sept. 24, 7 p.m.- 12 a.m., Beauvoir, Jefferson Davis Home & Presidential Library, 2244 Beach Blvd. Costume or formal attire required. The event is a fundraiser for Whisper of Hope, wildlife rescue. This immersive event is based on Venetian tradition, fantasy stories, Celtic Faery, and goblin lore. All realms across time are invited to the Autumn Queens' Faery Court Masquerade Ball. Open to ages 18+. Admission charged. Details, including ticket information: <https://faery-ball.com/>

Joppa Shrine Indoor Yard Sale, Sept. 24, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Joppa Shrine Center, 13280 Shriners Blvd. Indoor yard sale hosted by the Ladies of Joppa Shrine. Details: 228-392-9345

Bunco for Bethel, 4 a Cause, Sept.25, 1 p.m., Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. Bunco 4 a Cause is \$25 per person. Tickets reserve your seat and include Bunco, food & a door prize ticket. Cash prizes will be given for: Most Buncos, Most Wins, & Second Most Wins. This event benefits Bethel Free Health Clinic. Details, including ticket information: bethelfreeclinic.org or from a board member, 228-594-3640

Rock & Roll Senior Citizen Bash, Sept. 30, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Donal M. Snyder Sr. Center, 2520 Pass Road. Open to ages 55 and older and includes oldies-but-goodies music provided by DJ, and door prizes. Details, and to RSVP by Friday, Sept. 23: 228-388-7170, or seniors@biloxi.ms.us



Biloxi Little Theatre

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

- **Rock of Ages,** Sept. 1-3 & 8-11
- **I Dreamed A Dreamgirl,** Sept. 17

Center Stage

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

Beauvoir, The Jefferson Davis Home & Presidential Library

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

- **Meet the Spirits,** Sept. 10, 6 p.m. Admission: \$30 per person
- **Living History at Beauvoir,** Sept.17, Admission charged based on ag
- **3rd Annual Faery Court Masquerade Ball,** Sept. 24, 7 p.m. Admission: \$5-\$25 per person

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

Biloxi Schooners

367 Beach Blvd., 228-435-6320, schooner@maritimemuseum.org. Open 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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

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 for tour availability

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

- Hours of operation: Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., Sunday, noon – 4 p.m.
- **37th Annual \$10,000 Drawdown on September 17**, 6 p.m. Tickets on sale now.

Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art

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

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

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 Saturdays 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or by appointment

Biloxi Elks 606 Lodge of Biloxi

1178 Beach Blvd., 228-374-0606

- **Friday Bingo**, Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30. 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 available. Open until 8:30 p.m.

Fleur de Lis Society of Biloxi (French Club)

182 Howard Ave., 228-436-6472

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

Joppa Shrine

13280 Shriners Blvd., 228-392-9345

- **Steak Night**, Sept. 9, 6-8 p.m. (Last ticket sold 7:15 p.m.) \$20, dine in or carry out
- **13th Annual BBQ & Sportsman's Giveaway**, Sept. 17, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. \$20, dine in only

Mississippi Coast Mustang Club

- **2nd Saturday Cruise-In**, Sept. 10, 6-9 p.m., Edgewater Mall, 2600 Beach Blvd.

Mississippi Coast Historical & Genealogical Society

- **Membership Drive**, Sept. 2, 5-9 p.m., The District Green, 785 Howard Ave.
- **Meeting**, Sept. 17, 11 a.m., Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd.

Our Lady of Fatima Parish

315 Tara Lane, 228-388-3887

- **Monday Night Bingo**, Sept. 12, 19, & 26. Doors open at 5 p.m.; Early birds at 6:30 p.m.; regular games at 7 p.m.

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

871 Esters Blvd., 228-374-6472

- **Biloxi Bingo Mania**, Tuesday nights behind Nativity Cathedral, 871 Esters Blvd. Doors open 5:30 p.m.; Early bird games at 6:30 p.m.; regular games begin at 7 p.m. Proceeds benefit Nativity BVM Catholic Elementary School. Details: 228-374-6472
- **Gloria in Excelsis-Community Choral Society**, Rehearsal every Tuesday 6:30-8 p.m. 870 Howard Ave. Open to all interested singers. Details 251-406-1454 or terrydalemaddox@gmail.com

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
		Community Market		1 Community Market Rock of Ages Biloxi Little Theatre	2 Rock of Ages Biloxi Little Theatre Membership Drive MS Coast Historical & Genealogical Society First Friday & Block Party The District Green Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge Seafood Dinners / Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society	3 Rock of Ages Biloxi Little Theatre
4	5	6 Community Market Biloxi Community Market Festival Howard Ave/Hopkins Blvd Shuckers vs. Braves MGM Park Biloxi Bingo Mania / Gloria in Excelsis-CCS Nativity Cathedral	7 Shuckers vs. Braves MGM Park	8 Community Market Rock of Ages Biloxi Little Theatre Shuckers vs. Braves MGM Park	9 Rock of Ages Biloxi Little Theatre Jurassic Quest MS Coast Coliseum Shuckers vs. Braves MGM Park Steak Night Joppa Shrine Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge Seafood Dinners / Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society	10 Rock of Ages Biloxi Little Theatre Jurassic Quest & Lynyrd Skynyrd MS Coast Coliseum Shuckers vs. Braves MGM Park 7th Annual 5K Run/Walk Margaritaville 41st Annual Seafood Festival Biloxi Town Green Meet the Spirits Beauvoir 2nd Saturday Cruise-In MS Coast Mustang Club
11 Rock of Ages Biloxi Little Theatre 41st Annual Seafood Festival Biloxi Town Green Jurassic Quest MS Coast Coliseum Shuckers vs. Braves MGM Park	12 Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	13 Community Market Biloxi Bingo Mania / Gloria in Excelsis-CCS Nativity Cathedral	14	15 Community Market	16 Cheap Trick Hard Rock Live Bike Biloxi Downtown Ride Biloxi Visitors Center Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge Seafood Dinners / Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society	17 I Dreamed A Dreamgirl Biloxi Little Theatre Soccer Registration Snyder Center Living History Beauvoir Kenny Wayne Shepard IP Casino Carbonaro: Lies on Stage Beau Rivage 37th Annual Drawdown Maritime & Seafood Ind. Museum 13th Annual BBQ Joppa Shrine Meeting MS Coast Historical & Genealogical Society
18	19 Meet the Spirits Beauvoir Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	20 Community Market Biloxi Bingo Mania / Gloria in Excelsis-CCS Nativity Cathedral	21	22 Community Market Main Street Book Club Biloxi Visitors Center	23 Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge Seafood Dinners / Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society	24 Indoor Yard Sale Joppa Shrine Air Supply IP Casino 2nd Annual Gulf Coast Shrimp Tasting Festival Point Cadet Plaza 3rd Annual Faery Court Masquerade Ball Beauvoir
25 Bunco for Bethel, 4 a Cause Biloxi Visitors Center	26 Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	27 Community Market Biloxi Bingo Mania / Gloria in Excelsis-CCS Nativity Cathedral	28 Shinedown MS Coast Coliseum	29 Community Market	30 Rock & Roll Senior Citizen Bash Snyder Center Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge Seafood Dinners / Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society	1

BTV September 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
6:10 a.m.	Infrastructure report (5 min)
6:15 a.m.	Shuckers Insider
6:30 a.m.	Biloxi Public Schools (15 min)
6:45 a.m.	Biloxi VA Today (15 min)
7 a.m.	"Biloxi Cooks!" at Makin' Groceries
7:30 a.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
7:45 a.m.	Keesler update (15 min)
8 a.m.	Special presentation: "Old Biloxi Photos, Volume 1," "Postcards from Biloxi"
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!" at Makin' Groceries
1:30 p.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
1:45 p.m.	Keesler update (15 min)
2 p.m.	Special presentation: "Old Biloxi Photos, Volume 1," "Postcards from Biloxi"
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
6:10 p.m.	Infrastructure report (5 min)
6:15 p.m.	Shuckers Insider
6:30 p.m.	Biloxi Public Schools (15 min)
6:45 p.m.	Biloxi VA Today (15 min)
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8 p.m.	Special presentation: "Old Biloxi Photos, Volume 1," "Postcards from Biloxi"
9 p.m.	City Council meetings and other bonus public affairs programming (3 hours)
Midnight	National Anthem by Ronny Broussard (2 min)

Old photos, postcards tell the story of Biloxi this month on BTV

"Grab some popcorn and an ice-cold Barq's Root Beer and settle back for a nostalgic trip through the decades," videographer Renny Sherman says of this month's special presentation on BTV, encores of "Old Biloxi Photos, Volume 1" and "Postcards from Biloxi."

The programs, at 13 minutes and 16 minutes, will air back-to-back-to-back at 8 each morning and evening on BTV in September. It also airs at 2 p.m.

About 500 images are used in the two programs, on screen for about five seconds each, and set to music.

"These compilations of vintage images will bring you back through history to Biloxi's Golden Years," Sherman said. "They chronicle the birth of our seafood and tourism industries and feature many of the iconic structures that are uniquely Biloxi. So, yes, grab some popcorn and an ice cold Barq's Root Beer and settle back for a nostalgic trip through the decades."

Makin' Groceries for Biloxi this month

Plant-based cuisine is growing in popularity and this month on "Biloxi Cooks!", Makin' Groceries owner Lauren Turner dishes out a healthy summer treat, Peach Tart.

From the restaurant kitchen, Lauren shows how to make the gluten-free, vegan dessert from fresh, local ingredients.

Makin' Groceries is a plant-based café located in downtown Biloxi on Howard Avenue. The restaurant is open for breakfast and lunch and also offers family meal prep service and catering.

Lauren Turner is scheduled to prepare shrimp and grits on the September edition of "Biloxi Cooks!". The program airs at 7 a.m., 7 p.m. and 1 in the afternoon daily throughout the month.

This month's recipe

Summer Peach Tart *(vegan with gluten-free modifier)*

Makin' Groceries – 871 B Howard Ave.

Ingredients (one serving):

- 1 1/2 cups plus 2 tbsp. all-purpose flour *(can sub almond flour or GFAP gluten-free)*
- 3/4 tsp. kosher salt
- 3/4 cup plus 1 tsp. sugar
- 1/2 cup plant butter
- 2 tbsp. plant milk
- 1/2 tsp. almond OR vanilla extract
- 2 tbsp. cold, plant butter
- 3-5 ripe peaches, pitted & thickly sliced (about 1/2-inch wide)

Instructions:

- 1. For the crust:** Mix 1 1/2 cups of flour, 1/2 cup melted plant butter, plant milk, salt, and teaspoon of sugar, and vanilla extract to combine, press in tart pan
- 2. Slice peaches** (can sub blueberry, pear, any soft fruit) in 1/2 inch slices and arrange in pressed crust.
- 3. Filling:** mix 3/4 cup sugar plus two tablespoons of flour (add more flour for "juicier" fruit) with two tablespoons of cold butter by hand until small pebbles form. Sprinkle over arranged peaches.
- 4. Bake** until golden and bubbly 35-45 minutes in a preheated 375° oven.
- 5. Serve** with your favorite ice cream or whipped topping. ENJOY!



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



▲ Bathing beauties in Biloxi

▶ Scenes on the Biloxi Golf Club

▲ T-Rex and the Biloxi Amusement Park

A DAY IN Biloxi life OF YESTERYEAR

This column originally appeared in this space in September 2021.

History has shown us that things evolve, especially when it comes to the way we do things. Rather it be because of natural disasters or economic changes, life back in the day was and looked different. The school year began after Labor Day, beach access was provided by concrete steps and spare time was often centered around places to visit for entertainment,

many of which are either no longer here, or have been changed in appearance. Here is a sampling of yesteryear.

High school daze

Found memories and stories are often centered around fun times that were had in

school. Decades ago, schools in Biloxi began in September, just after Labor Day.

One of the most photographed Biloxi schools was that of the old Biloxi Central High School, once situated on the northeast corner of Howard Avenue and Bellman Street. Construction began in 1912 and was open to students for the 1913-14 term. This old high school was devastated by Hurricane Katrina, but a new library and civic center now rest in its place.

Biloxi's first Catholic High School, once known before Hurricane Katrina as the Dantzer House, was situated where the Biloxi Visitors Center is today. It was operated by the religious Brothers of the Holy Cross. The first graduating class in May 1944 lauded Russell A. Quave as the valedictorian.

Nichols High School served Biloxi's African-American community and was named in honor of Principal Marshall Franklin Nichols, Sr. who was the institution's leader until his death in 1945; at which time he was succeeded by his wife Mrs. Fannie Nichols.

Mrs. Nichols insisted on quality education. The old address for the school was once

listed as 950 Bellman St., just north of Roy Street. Later this portion of Bellman Street was renamed Nichols Drive.

Schools then and now not only provided education and preparation for adult life, but they also hosted countless sporting events, sock hops, plays, concerts, and graduation exercises. Many students even paired up with their "first loves" during their high school days, and even chose to conduct the "I Do" ceremonies with their high school sweethearts.

Arena of fun

Built in the 1970's, the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center is situated on a large parcel of land on Hwy. 90 just west of Beauvoir Road. Back in the late 1800's, Dr. Alfred Clay operated a WAIF home there, an orphanage for all-age children from far and near.

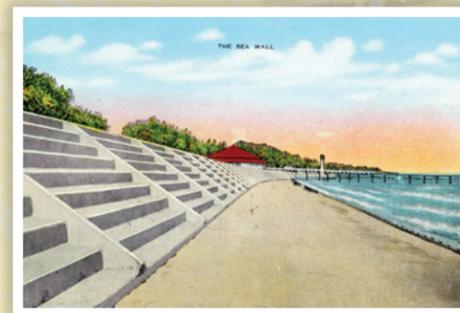
Through the decades, the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center has housed countless entertainment events including concerts, fairs, car shows, sports events, graduations, and has even provided unique ice-skating opportunities for the public for a minimal fee.

Elvis Presley was originally scheduled to be the star at the dedication of the Coliseum's November 1977 grand opening ceremony, but his untimely death on August 16, 1977 halted the planned agenda. Instead, Charley

Pride, award-winning country music star and Mississippi native, hosted the dedication to a crowd of more than 11,000, one of the largest attended events during that time.

Steps to the sea

In the 1920's, the seawall was constructed throughout Biloxi along the fringe of our present busy Hwy 90. This sturdy reinforced concrete edifice offered opportunities for crabbing, viewing sunsets, and lots of romantic interludes.



▲ Steps to the sea

Hobart D. Shaw was the design and supervising engineer for the Harrison County project. It was completed in 1928 at an estimated cost of \$3,400,000 and was funded by a gasoline tax. Its dedication was May 10, 1928 and featured movie star Johnny Weissmuller, who play Tarzan and was also an Olympic swimmer.

In fact, these concrete stairs are still along the beach but have been covered up by sand.

Frocking in the waves

Biloxi's many waterways and hotel pools offered countless opportunities for swimming. Whether it was for competition, family outings, vacations, or simply for fun, our shoreline prompted those of all age groups, all walks of life, and even those from afar to cool off on hot days.

Sand beaches and elevated piers provided ample opportunity to access the warm waters of the Mississippi Sound. It is interesting to note the variety of bathing attire throughout the decades.

Hole in one

Biloxi has hosted many golfing tournaments through the years. Not only have locals appreciated this leisurely activity, but visitors have traveled to Biloxi just to partake in our amazing choices of venues for this sport.

Popular courses in the past included the Edgewater Gulf, Broadwater (known as the Sun Course), Par Three on Popp's Ferry Road, Sunkist Country Club, and the Biloxi Golf Club (located on Keesler's Naval reserve park grounds) which was later conveyed to Keesler Air Force Base and utilized as the Officers Club.

Golfing wasn't always limited to adults. For years, families could visit the Biloxi Amusement Park on Beach Boulevard where the game of Magic Golf was offered for all ages. It was located between Travia Street and Veterans Avenue where the iconic green T-Rex dinosaur once stood tall. This exact location was reported to be utilized for scenes of the Fall 1990 filming of Denzel Washington's "Mississippi Masala" (1991) movie.

Church of the Redeemer

Even though the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer was destroyed by the wrath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, its memories of the past live on. Churches are not only places for prayer, but they also serve as gathering places to hold celebrations such as weddings.

This church was originally built on the corner of Howard and Nixon streets but was moved in 1891 to its last location at Bellman and Hwy. 90. On Aug. 17, 1969, the infamous Hurricane Camille destroyed the original structure and a new one was built. You may remember the bell tower that was left and stood on the property for many years. Sadly, Hurricane Katrina destroyed the structures.

That Hwy. 90 parcel is remembered for several other pastimes, as well. Beginning in the 1970's, an annual blessing of animals was held on the church lawn, a tradition that continued through the years. In the 1990's, families and school field trips would go "pumpkin hunting" there to shop for the perfect jack-o-lanterns and/or pies for the fall season.

Today, we can still visit the Hurricane Camille memorial at that location, which commemorates 131 victims lost during that tragedy.

Keesler Field

Keesler Air Force Base wasn't always as we know it today. In the 1800's, it was a mere

forest and originally allocated as a "Naval Reserve Park," to remain timberland for wood in the event the government needed to construct wooden boats for wartime efforts.

Then in the early 1940s, that same section of Biloxi's peninsula had a municipal airport, a golf course, a ballpark, and even a zoo! Old maps in the Local History Library label this property as "The Naval Reserve Park - the Army Air Corps Station No. 8."

You may have heard Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich talk about the tents along the property. Well, Keesler's first troops were housed in 650 tents, while its permanent structures were being constructed.

This year, Keesler Air Force Base is celebrating its 70th birthday in Biloxi. Its rich history includes training, community service, and home of the famous Hurricane Hunters.

Shopping indoors

In 1963, Biloxi's enclosed shopping mall opened up along Hwy. 90 with its first tenants to include Godchaux's, Gayfers and J.J. Newberry. Over the years, the center has seen expansions, demolition and more expansions.

Sears opened in 1972, J.J. Newberry closed in 1979 and became JCPenny. By 1991, the Edgewater Mall included an interesting assortment of retail outlets, including restaurants, shoe and clothing stores, a movie theater, a pet store, an arcade and even a kite store.

The Wind Ventures Kite Shop sold fancy, colorful kites. In those days, beachgoers and travelers along Hwy. 90 were always amazed at the parade of "ginormous" kites soaring above the beach just south of the mall.

Biloxi's pastimes of today have evolved into even greater choices for fun, including Friday fireworks, professional Shuckers baseball games, state of the art outdoor go-kart racing cars, fancy high-tech video arcades, and even axe throwing for adults. And more are on the way!

▼ Edgewater Mall inside, Back in the Day



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BNews Monthly

SEPTEMBER 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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