

# BNews Monthly

SEPTEMBER 2023

*A compendium of what's happening in Biloxi*



## Winning numbers

– Page 4



## Staying safe at slow speed

– Page 11



## Words from a Warrior

– Page 10



## Reaching the Goal

### Sports Complex upgrades

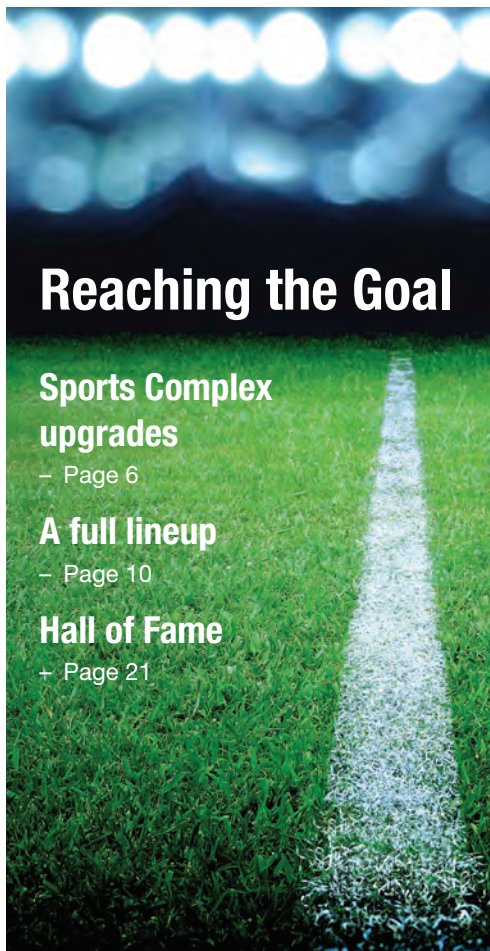
– Page 6

### A full lineup

– Page 10

### Hall of Fame

+ Page 21



## A picture paints a thousand words

– Page 2



## A firefighter's favorite on "Biloxi Cooks!"

– Page 21



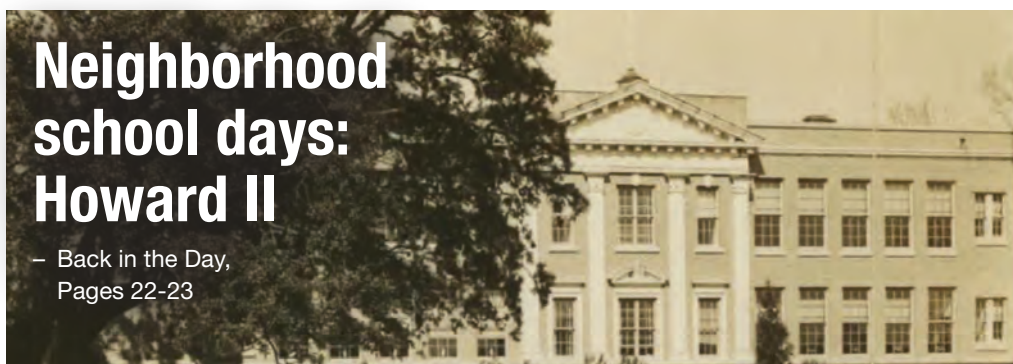
## Shuckers final stretch

– Page 8



## Neighborhood school days: Howard II

– Back in the Day, Pages 22-23



### Even more inside

A Thousand Words.....	2
Back in the Day .....	22
BTV in September .....	21
Calendar.....	17
Infrastructure maps .....	13
Keesler .....	12
Public meetings.....	19
Random notes .....	14
Shuckers .....	8



# A Thousand Words

Anticrepuscular rays  
of sunlight after a long day  
of tumultuous weather.





# Go Gold in September

September is Childhood Cancer  
Awareness Month

Show your support by  
displaying a gold ribbon.

Hendrix Branning with  
Biloxi Police Sergeant  
Jeffrey Duffield and  
K9 Zorro



[www.stbaldricks.org](http://www.stbaldricks.org)



The historic Biloxi Lighthouse  
illuminated in gold in support of the  
fight to end childhood cancer.





# Sales tax collections are record-breaking

For several months now, 28 to be exact, Biloxi has seen record sale tax collections, with July being a record-breaking month. The numbers were reported in mid-August showing more than \$1.4 million in sales tax collections in July, making it the highest reported monthly sales tax revenue in decades, possibly even in the history of Biloxi. Records continue to be set monthly with figures eclipsing the million-dollar mark for more than 28 months in a row.

“Trends continue to move in the right

**“The numbers don’t lie  
and they are up.”**

**– Mayor Andrew “FoFo” Gilich**

direction,” Mayor Andrew “FoFo” Gilich said. “Growth is taking place, bringing more people to Biloxi.”

Community Development Director Jerry Creel says that there are a number of factors that contribute to the upward trend.

“Confidence in what is happening here in Biloxi is evident,” Creel said. “Single-family home inventory has greatly increased, as well as commercial businesses and retail shops. The number of events taking place in Biloxi also contributes to people staying and shopping in our city.”

Added Gilich: “The numbers don’t lie and they are up. Our goal is to keep people coming back and to continue to make Biloxi a safe, friendly, and beautiful community that all want to enjoy.”

## East Biloxi Community Center in the offing



After years of talk and infrastructure work, a new community center in East Biloxi is closer to reality. Renderings have been created and plans are in the works for a more than 13,000-square-foot facility to be built on Lee Street south of the Salvation Army Kroc Center. The community center is estimated to cost \$3 million and includes a basketball court, restrooms, and meeting rooms.

No timeline has been set for the completion of the plans or for construction.



# Where *Real People* Still Answer the Phone

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Ball field yet to be upgraded at the sports complex

## Upgrades underway at A.J. Holloway Sports Complex

For nearly two decades, the A.J. Holloway Sports Complex has been the sports headquarters for Biloxi youths. It has been used by hundreds of athletes participating in football, soccer, softball, baseball, and cheerleading. Over the years, the considerable use of the facility has caused wear and tear. So, the city set a game plan in place and is advancing on an improvements plan.

Contractors with J.E. Talley Construction, Inc. have been awarded a \$5.16 million contract job that is set to begin early this month. The 270-day project, weather permitting, includes adding artificial turf and sod to the baseball and softball fields, regrading the soccer and football fields, upgrading the drainage and irrigation in the baseball fields, and paving and striping the park areas.

“We have seen an increased participation in youth sports over the last few years,” said Jamie Lee, Parks & Recreation assistant director. “And we have also seen an increase in teams not being able to play because of drainage issues. So, we felt now was the time to tackle this massive project.”

This is also the time for youth football and cheerleading to take place. The games are

usually played at the complex and Lee says they will continue.

“The contractors and the Parks & Recreation

Department are working together to allow play during the improvement project,” Lee said. “Work will first begin on the ballfields so that the football and cheering leagues will be able to hold their season at the complex over on the west side fields.”

The project, funded by the general obligation bonds, is made of up several phases which will overlap at times but the city is working to lessen the disruption.

According to the city’s engineering

department, which oversees the contractors, the baseball and softball fields are required to be finished by the end of February and work cannot begin on the soccer and football fields until after the first of January.

Added Lee: “There may be a little inconvenience at times but overall, this will allow for more playability for our city leagues, opening up more options and fewer rainouts.”

The A.J. Holloway Sports Complex is a 68-acre site south of Popp’s Ferry and Cedar Lake roads. The complex opened in 2003 and includes concessions stands and restrooms.



**The week that was:** Ever wonder how busy certain city departments are? Check out the weekly reports from the Fire, Police, Community Development, and Public Works departments posted each week on the city’s website. Visit online: [biloxi.ms.us/weeklyreports/](http://biloxi.ms.us/weeklyreports/)

### Charter boat rental rates:

New berthing rates for charter boats have been adopted by the City of Biloxi and they begin



Sept. 1. Charter boat owners were notified in August of the change and the need to sign a lease with the newly approved rates before the new rates go into effect. For more information, contact the Port Division at 228-374-6600.

**Trash collections:** Pelican Waste picks up residential trash and debris but there is a limit to how much they can collect weekly. So please make sure your trash follows the solid waste collection guidelines. Visit online at [hcu-ms.us/solid-waste](http://hcu-ms.us/solid-waste)

### Hurricane season

**reminder:** We are still in hurricane season. Visit online at [biloxi.ms.us/stormandflood](http://biloxi.ms.us/stormandflood) for preparation reminders, online resources, evacuation zones, and more.



**Library closed:** The West Biloxi Library has closed for renovations. A new heating and air conditioning system has been installed. Contractors are installing new carpet and replacing damaged ceiling tiles. The library is expected to reopen by the end of September.







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-Corey, Lineman



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# Cheer on the Shuckers for the Final Stretch!



Ethan Murray on "Military Wednesday" at a recent Shuckers game.  
Photo by Joshua Sumrall

Three-time Olympic medalist and seven-time world champion Brittany Reese after throwing out the first pitch during the Women in Sports celebration.  
Photo by Joshua Sumrall

## The Shuckers are set to make a playoff push and fight for a title in September

By Javik Blake  
Biloxi Shuckers

It's down to the final stretch of the 2023 Biloxi Shuckers season as we head to September! The Shuckers, looking to lock up a playoff spot for the first time since 2019, have one final homestand from September 12 to 17 against the Montgomery Biscuits.

If the Shuckers make the Southern League Playoffs, they'll host the Pensacola Blue Wahoos at MGM Park on Tuesday, September 19. If they advance to the championship series, which they did in 2015, 2018, and 2019, they'll host games two and three at MGM Park.

In August, the Shuckers made sure there were plenty of memories on and off the field. On Saturday, August 12, the Shuckers made a \$10,000 donation to Moss Point Parks and Recreation through the Heart of a Shucker Community Fund. The donation, set to help the recovery efforts after a devastating tornado hit the city in mid-June, was the largest of the 2023 season.

The Shuckers also celebrated Brittney Reese on the same night with a bobblehead giveaway presented by Keesler Federal Credit Union. Reese, a three-time

Olympic medalist, and a seven-time world champion, was honored throughout the night as the Shuckers celebrated Women in Sports. Even with the season winding down, there are plenty of opportunities to cheer on Shuckers during their final homestand and a hopeful playoff run.

On Tuesday, September 12, the Shuckers will host a Strike out the Stigma T-Shirt Giveaway presented by Gulfport Behavior Health Systems. They'll also host their final Bark in the Park night on Wednesday. The Shuckers will then celebrate Ocean Springs on Thursday with a first pitch from Mayor Kenny Holloway.

On Friday, September 15, the Shuckers will blast off with their final fireworks show of the season presented by Waste Pro on First Responders and Frontline Workers Night. The night will also include a special military flyover before the first pitch.

The Shuckers will wear special YMCA jerseys on Saturday night to be auctioned off during the game before fan appreciation day on Sunday! On Saturday night, the Shuckers will honor their final recipient of the season from the Heart of a

Shucker Community Fund.

Daily specials also highlight the final homestand. Tuesdays is Brew Crew Tuesday presented by F.E.B. Distributing, where fans can purchase a 20oz souvenir tumbler for \$12 with \$6 refills at the first and third-base Beer Gardens. Wednesday is Military Wednesday presented by Keesler Federal Credit Union. All military personnel can also receive a \$3 discount on Dugout Box and Reserved Level tickets with a valid military ID.

Fans then can kick off the weekend in style with Thirsty Thursday presented by Yuengling, Coca-Cola and Kicker108. Fans can enjoy \$2 Yuengling drafts, hot dogs and sodas with \$4 draft beer specials on Miller Lite and Coors Light. There's also the 'Thirsty Thursday Deal,' which includes a Reserved Level ticket and two drink vouchers for \$14 in advance.

The weekend continues with Shuck Yeah Saturdays and Fun Day Sundays with pregame player autographs, postgame catch on the field and a poster giveaway presented by Mele Printing. On top of it all, kids can run the bases after every game presented by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi!

► For more info: [biloxishuckers.com](http://biloxishuckers.com)

► Javik Blake 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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# Participation in city youth sports on the rise

“When we began registration for youth football and cheerleading, we set a goal of enlisting more players this year than last year,” said Cheryl Bell, Biloxi Parks & Recreation director. “We are proud to say the numbers increased from 275 to 365. That is more than a 30 percent increase in one year.”

Registration for this year’s youth leagues took place on two Saturdays in early August as it normally does. But what made the difference? Well, when youngsters walked into the Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center on Pass Road to sign up for the city leagues, they were greeted by a number of Biloxi High football players and cheerleaders.

“Partnering with the Biloxi High athletics has made a huge difference in our numbers,” Bell said. “We even had to put a call out for more coaches.”

Bell said that youth league sports are a development of school sports. It gets the children ready for school ball and shows them where they can go in sports.

The 2023 season begins this month with sixteen teams. Here is the breakdown:

- Ages 5-6, flag football – 60 players

- making up four teams;
- Ages 7-8, flag football – 65 players making up four teams;
- Ages 9-10, tackle football – 65 players making up four teams;
- Ages 11-12, tackle football – 50 players making up two teams; and
- Ages 5-12, cheerleading – 100 members.

Opening day is set for Saturday, Sept. 9 with activities at the A.J. Holloway Sports Complex, 765 Wells Drive. League games will follow on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the complex until the end of the season, which usually wraps up in late October.

In addition to the increased number of players, the Biloxi Parks & Recreation Department is bringing back its City Bowl for each of the age groups. The bowl will take place in October at the Biloxi High School Stadium where the



Biloxi High football players welcomed city youth athletes during football/cheer registration last month.

youth league players will run out of the tunnel onto the field with high football players and cheerleaders.

Information on each of the sports leagues can be found online at [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us).

► For more information on City youth sports, contact Biloxi Athletic Specialist Ronnie Seymour or Biloxi Parks & Recreation Director Cheryl Bell at 228-388-7170 or email [sports@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:sports@biloxi.ms.us).

## A Warrior's Message



“Warriors fight for something bigger than their own personal welfare. They fight with all they have to improve the world around them and the people in it.”

That was the message Biloxi Public Schools’ staff and students heard when they were welcomed in for the new school year in late July.

As all prepared for the new journey of learning, a positive and inspiring message of becoming a warrior was conveyed by internationally-acclaimed speaker and bestselling author D.J. Vanas.

Vanas, a Native American member of the Ottawa Tribe of Michigan uses Native American warrior spirit principles to encourage and motivate people to fight for something bigger.

Vanas was a Biloxi resident early in life who attended Biloxi Public Schools and made the visit to the Biloxi High School

Performing Arts Center to inspire the Biloxi Indian Nation to find its internal spirit.

Vanas spoke of teachers and events in Biloxi schools that greatly influenced him during his formative years in life. He

went on to say that some of those great teachers provided guidance that allowed him to find his inner warrior. His message was well received, and he was thanked by a standing ovation from the hundreds in attendance.

Mayor Andrew “FoFo” Gilich also attended the inspirational gathering and presented Vanas with a proclamation marking the

day as D.J. Vanas Day.

Vanas is a proud graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, a decorated Air Force captain, a renowned member of the tribal community, a bestselling author, and a revered motivational speaker.





# What to know before you roll

Low-speed vehicles, primarily golf carts, are allowed on city streets with limits of 25 mph or lower, but, before you roll down the road, your golf cart needs to be legal.

Golf carts must be inspected by the police department and must have the required safety features. The process includes an on-site inspection. After a successful inspection, the applicant must pay a \$75 fee at the police department before the annual registration sticker is installed.

## Is your golf cart legal?

First things, first. Does your golf cart or low-speed vehicle meet the requirements of being legal? Here is what police will be looking for in the way of required, functioning safety equipment:

- Headlamps
- Tail Lamps
- Stop Lamps
- Front and Rear Turn signals
- Operational Horn
- Red Reflectors (one per side, one on rear of vehicle)
- Parking Brake
- Windshield (provides eye protection for the front-seat passengers with an unobscured view)
- Vehicle Identification Number (Provided by the manufacturer, generated by the Mississippi Tax Commission)
- Seatbelts for all seating positions
- Mirrors (drivers side exterior and/or exterior passenger, interior rear view)
- Unobstructed Rear Visibility

## An important note

No golf cart or vehicle designed to go faster than 25 mph can be approved as a low-speed vehicle.

## How to register your golf cart

After verifying your safety equipment is properly functioning, set up an onsite inspection by emailing [lsvregistration@biloxi.ms.us](mailto:lsvregistration@biloxi.ms.us) or calling 228-385-3033. The police will need your name, address, and phone number.



After successful inspection, you'll go to the Lopez-Quave Public Safety Center, 170 Porter Ave., and pay a \$75 fee before the decal can be installed.

## Who can drive the golf cart

Driving a golf cart on a city street has the same standards as driving a vehicle. The driver must have a valid driver's license or valid driver's permit and proof of insurance at time of inspection and when operating golf cart.

## Where you can drive

Golf carts can only be driven on city streets with a speed limit of 25 mph or less. In some cases, you can cross a street with a speed limit higher than 25 mph. Golf carts must adhere to all rules of the road.



► Visit online at [biloxi.ms.us/golfcarts](https://biloxi.ms.us/golfcarts) for a checklist, maps, and an informative video.

## Where you cannot drive a golf cart

Golf carts are not allowed on any city street that has a

speed limit of more than 25 mph. This means no golf carts are allowed on U.S. 90. In fact, golf carts are not allowed on, over or across any interstate or state highway. This also means no golf carts will be allowed south of U.S. 90.

Golf carts are permitted to cross certain streets that exceed the 25 mph speed limit, but only for the purpose of crossing these streets, in which case the shortest traveling distance to do so shall be required at an intersection signaled by a traffic light.

## The cost

A \$75 registration fee is required annually which means decals are to be updated each year in the issue month. New decals can be obtained at the Lopez-Quave Public Safety Center.



# Pet therapy at Keesler: Creating a paw-sitive environment

By Senior Airman  
Kimberly L. Touchet  
81st Training Wing  
Public Affairs

Overall, both military men and women were nearly twice as likely to report feeling high levels of stress in their military work (39%) than in their family life (22%), according to the National Library of Medicine.

Having networks and relationships that can offer physical and psychological can help military members and their families feel a sense of belonging and community.

Keesler provides multiple resources for Airmen and their families who may need the support, including four-legged friends.

“Having a therapy animal creates connections between people where sometimes they may be hesitant to start a conversation,” said LisaMarie Mariglia, 81st Training Wing violence prevention integrator. “You can talk to your resiliency trainers and violence prevention facilitators, but some people feel a burden when they ask. Part of my job is bringing people together to be healthy, and people naturally gravitate towards other living things.”

Mariglia worked with 81st Training Wing leadership to implement a pet



Therapy dogs interact with and provide comfort to new Airmen who are adjusting to Air Force life.

US Air Force photo by Senior Airman Kimberly L. Touchet

therapy team at the wing level. She and her bernedoodle, Charlotte, conduct morale visits around base.

In addition to the wing pet therapy team, volunteers with Visiting Pet Teams of South Mississippi visit patients and staff at the Keesler Medical Center and technical training students at the Levitow Training Support Facility.

“On Thursdays, we have in-processing Airmen come to the

Levitow for Right Start, where different base organizations set up for the Airmen, and then we have the dogs here,” said Tech. Sgt. Kristen Doyle, 335th Training Squadron military training leader.

The therapy dogs are trained to interact with and provide comfort to people and help provide a sense of home to new technical training Airmen who are adjusting to Air Force life. The VPTSM Keesler pet therapy coordinator, Sandie Schlett, explained she often hears about Airmen’s pets when she and her therapy dog, Xena, are at Keesler.

“You just see people’s faces light up and it takes their mind off what’s going on for a minute, gives them a little mental break,” said Schlett.

► See more photos at [www.keesler.af.mil](http://www.keesler.af.mil)  
Watch the Keesler update daily at 7:45 a.m.,  
1:45 p.m., and 7:45 p.m. on BTv.

## Keesler Air Force Base Farmers Market



10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Marina Park  
Fridays  
–Sept. 22  
–Oct. 20  
–Nov. 17  
–Dec. 15



Visit the Farmers Market for a variety of fresh, locally grown produce, fruits, vegetables, baked goods, on-farm processed goods, plants, and more.

For inquiries, contact McBride Community Center at 228-377-2821.

Photos courtesy of the 81st Force Support Squadron Facebook page. Must have base access to visit the market. Visit online at [discoverkeesler.com](http://discoverkeesler.com).



# The infrastructure work in Biloxi

The city currently has two major infrastructure projects underway, St. Michael 1 & 2 taking place in East Biloxi and Beauvoir 1, 2, & 3 in West Biloxi along Beach Boulevard from Veterans to Debuys. Here is an update on the work.

As of mid-August, more than \$282.5 million of the more than \$355 million-dollar infrastructure program has been completed. \$39.6 million is under active construction, with \$18.3 million remaining under construction in the St.

Michael's project area and an additional \$21.3 million is under construction in the Beauvoir project area, along Beach Boulevard between Debuys Road and Veterans Avenue.

All roads east of Oak Street in the St. Michael project will have the final layer of asphalt placed. Construction will continue west of Oak Street, between Oak Street and Holley Street.

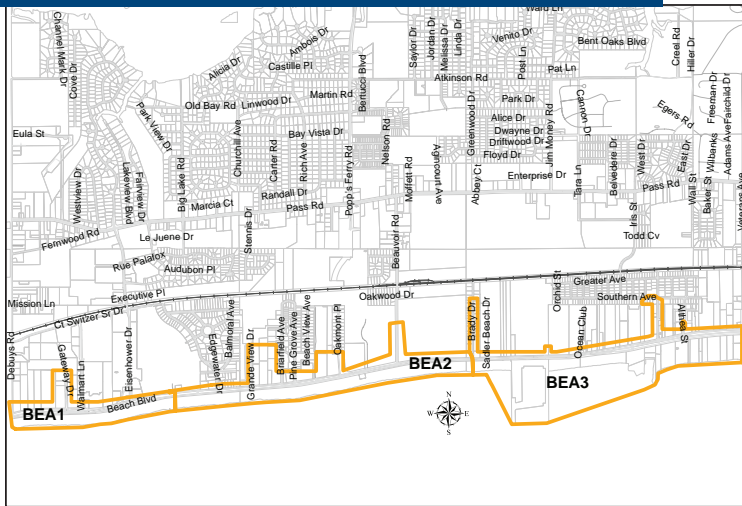
On the Beauvoir project, work on Brady Drive, the water, sewer, and drainage will

be completed in September on the south portion of Brady Drive. The south portion accounts for 85 percent of the work. Once that work is complete, Necaise Brothers Construction will move to the north portion of Brady Drive.

And throughout the month in the Beauvoir project, contractors, along with City of Biloxi and Harrison County crews, will be weed-eating and mowing the grass adjacent to Beach Boulevard in preparation for Cruisin' The Coast.

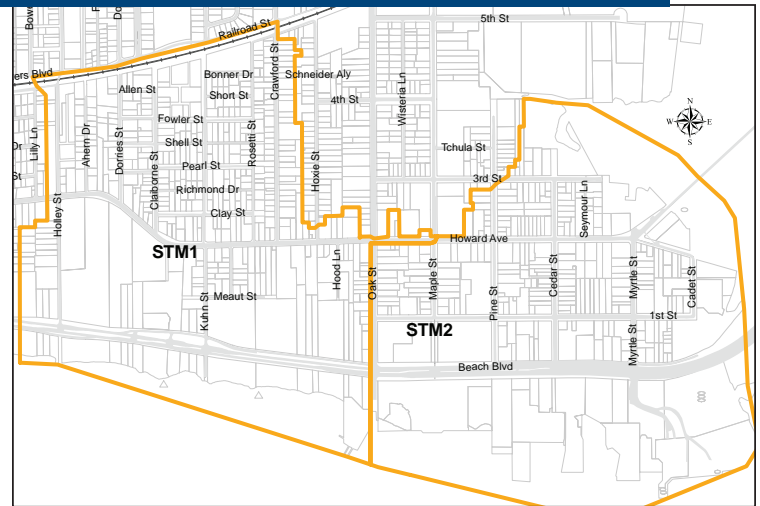
## Necaise Brothers Construction

- \$41.5 million, 900-day project install new water, sewer, and drainage lines
- Work began Jan. 4, 2021



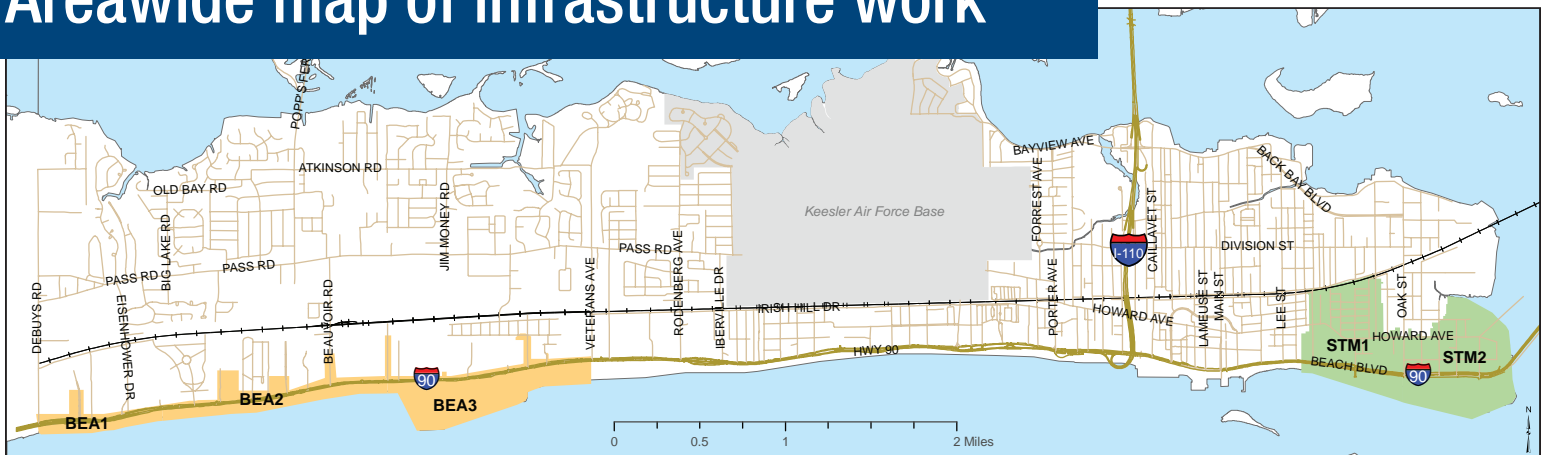
## Necaise Brothers Construction

- \$32 million, 1,080-day project to install new water, sewer, and drainage lines
- Work began July 2022



► See detailed maps and monthly update videos online at [biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi/](https://biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi/).

## Areawide map of infrastructure work





# Random Notes



## TIME CAPSULE:

### Special delivery from the seafood capital



A 1930s crew at the Biloxi Train Depot in downtown Biloxi working to load up iced seafood to be shipped all over the country. In fact, the building and opening of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad line allowed for the formation of a commercial seafood industry on the Gulf Coast. With the boat docks just a few blocks from the rail line running right through the middle of town, it didn't take long before Biloxi acquired the title of seafood capital of the world!

Photograph from the Walter Fountain Collection at Local History and Genealogy.



## Colorful past

A musician's mural with wine, coffee, and beignets on his piano might stir some questions, but for locals, it depicts a memory of the Mahoney's 24-Hour Café that stood there. Local artist Maddie Andrews created a beautiful new mural at the original site of the café. Hurricane Katrina left only a memory of good eats and good times at the café, but now there's a reflection of those good days displayed on the porch of Grants for Her on Rue Magnolia.

## Longevity awards

The City of Biloxi appreciates the dedication and service provided by its employees. Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich presented longevity awards to five employees that attended the City Council meeting on August 15. Left to right; Weston Mayley, Brandon Clark, Mayor Gilich, Susan Syverson, Ashley Coker, and Jennifer Polk. 31 City of Biloxi employees reached employment longevity milestones this year. Their names follow:

- **Five years:** Brandon Clark, Police Lieutenant; Joel England, Patrol Officer 1st Class; Jarred Fore, Patrol Officer 1st Class; Royce Lamey, Laborer; Weston Mayley, Police Sergeant; Brian Norton, Patrol Officer 1st Class; Travis Sorensen, Police Investigator; and Susan Syverson, Patrol Officer 1st Class
- **Ten years:** Ashley Coker, Deputy Court Clerk; Brooke Everett, Office Assistant III; Joshua Johnson, Public Works Supervisor; and Jennifer Polk, Commercial Building Code Inspector
- **Fifteen years:** Joseph Ewing, Engineering Inspector III; Brandon Franovich, Patrol Officer 1st Class; Thomas Friend, Patrol Officer 1st Class; Patrick Gotte, Patrol Officer 1st Class; and Jennifer Hudson, Bridgetender
- **20 years:** Billy Allen, Public Works Director; Jeremy Allen, Firefighter 3; Jeffery Burton, Utility Crewmember III; Francis Creel, Firefighter 3; Michael Denton, Fire Captain; Tracey Forehand, Safety Coord/Utility Supervisor; Thomas Gazzo, Maintenance Supervisor III; Larry Hardy, Firefighter 3; Samuel Jenner, Firefighter 3; Thomas Lizana, Public Works Superintendent; Joel Newbaker, Utility Crew Supervisor; Charles Parker, Firefighter 3 FTO; and Kevin Powell, Fire Battalion Chief
- **45 years:** William Wiley, Fire Captain





City of Biloxi Parks & Recreation  
Department presents:



Biloxi Community Market Festival  
**Sept. 7, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
corner of Howard Avenue  
and Hopkins Boulevard



City of Biloxi Senior Rock & Roll Bash  
**Sept. 29, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.,**  
Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center  
2520 Pass Road.  
Open to ages 55 and older.



Cruise Into Fall Special Needs Dance  
**Sept. 29, 6-9 p.m.**  
Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center  
2520 Pass Road.  
Open to all ages with physical  
and mental disabilities.

All events are free to attend.

For more information, call the department at 228-388-7170.  
Visit online at [biloxi.ms.us/pr](http://biloxi.ms.us/pr)





## Best Bets!

### Shrimply the best



Satisfy your seafood cravings at the Coast's annual celebration, the Biloxi Seafood Festival. The affair, hosted by the Biloxi Chamber of Commerce, will take place on the Biloxi Town Green on Saturday, Sept. 9 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Seafood will be the focal point of the event, of course, with a number of businesses serving an array of fresh dishes. There will also be a lineup of live entertainment, children's activities, and myriad vendors. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for those ages 12 and younger. Details: 228-604-0014



### 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. 9 at 5 p.m. The takes place 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, which, by the way, had 110 floors. Details: <https://runsignup.com/Race/MS/Biloxi/TunneltoTowers5KRunClimbBiloxiMS>



prizes. Free admission. Details: 228-435-6339

**First Friday Downtown Block Party**, Sept. 1, 5-9 p.m., back entrance of 923 Howard Ave. near Fly Llama Brewing. Block party featuring live music from Ambastian at 5 p.m. and Handsboro Slim Band at 7 p.m. Food and drink vendors and Fly Llama Brewing selections. Event includes a trivia contest, including

**Gallery 782 Artists Reception**, Sept. 1, 5-8 p.m., 769 Jackson St. Show is entitled "Coastal Life", by featured artists Tetiana Muller and Jeff Baldock. Free admission. Refreshments served. Details: 228-436-7782

**Biloxi Community Market Festival**, Sept. 7, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., corner of Howard Avenue and Hopkins Boulevard. Festival includes community market vendors, live entertainment, informational and demonstration booths, hourly giveaways, and themed activities. Details: 228-388-2443



**Biloxi Community Market  
FESTIVAL**

**42nd Annual Biloxi Seafood Festival**, Sept. 9, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Biloxi Town Green, 710 Beach Blvd. The one-day celebration of seafood heritage in Biloxi will feature live entertainment, arts and crafts, kids' activities, and lots of seafood from the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Admission: Adults, \$5; Children 12 and under, free. Details: 228-604-0014

**Tunnel to Towers Biloxi 5K & Climb**, Sept. 9, 5 p.m., Margaritaville Family Resort, Biloxi, 195 Beach Blvd. Run and stair climb benefiting fallen first responders, military, and gold star families. Event also includes an after-party and fireworks show. Details and registration: <https://runsignup.com/Race/MS/Biloxi/TunneltoTowers5KRunClimbBiloxiMS>

**Ainsley's Angels 6th Annual Spread Your Wings 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run**, Sept. 16, 9 a.m., Town Green, 710 Beach Blvd. Details: <https://runsignup.com/Race/MS/Biloxi/AinsleysAngelsSpreadYourWings5K>



**Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum 38th Annual \$10,000 Drawdown**, Sept. 16, 6 p.m., 115 E 1st St. Bar and buffet opens at 6 p.m. and drawdown at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$100 and admit two people. Details: 228-435-6320

**4th Annual Faery Court Masquerade Ball Court of Atlantis**, Sept. 16, 8 p.m.-1 a.m. (VIP early entry cocktail hour 7-8 p.m.), Dr. Frank G. Gruich Sr. Community Center, 591 Howard Ave. Costume or formal attire required. Fundraiser for Whisper of Hope Wildlife Rehab. Admission: VIP \$70, GA \$45, Table of 8 \$640. Details: <https://faery-ball.com>



**Bike Biloxi**, Sept. 19, 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

**Curious George, I'm a Super Saver, Biloxi Excel By 5**, Sept. 21, 10 a.m., Lopez School, 140 St. John Ave. Open to ages five and younger and their parents/guardians. Details: 228-297-6808, [susan.hunt@biloxi.schools.net](mailto:susan.hunt@biloxi.schools.net)

**48th Annual Slavic Golf Invitational**, Sept. 22-24. Mississippi Gulf Coast golf courses. Two-person best ball tournament. Three days, 54 holes, \$800 per team. Entry fee includes, lunch and drinks served on course each day, players-only shrimp boil and BBQ, players-only seafood dinner and MORE. Registration deadline: Sept. 13. Details: Register now at [www.slavicinvitational.com](http://www.slavicinvitational.com)



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



## Stay in touch

**BNews:** Welcome to the 64th 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

John Majure, Public Affairs Specialist  
jmajure@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 . . . . . 435-6280
- 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

**Main Street Book Club,** Sept. 28, 5:30 p.m., One Thirty One, 131 Lameuse St. Book of the Month: "A Lovely Condition" by Anita Blount who will be in attendance. Participation is free. Details: 228-435-6339, Lrosetti@biloxi.ms.us



**City of Biloxi Senior Rock & Roll Bash,** Sept. 29, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road. Event open to ages 55 and older and includes music by "Oldies But Goodies", door prizes, and food. Wear your 40s, 50s, and 60s attire for the special prize for best dressed. Details and to RSVP before Sept. 15: 228-388-7170

**City of Biloxi Cruise into Fall Special Needs Dance,** Sept. 29, 6-9

p.m., Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road. Open to all ages with physical and mental disabilities. Event includes door prizes and food. Free admission. Details: 228-388-7170



**Sidewalk Saturdays Downtown Biloxi,** Sept. 30, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Downtown Biloxi on GE Ohr Street/Jackson Street/Rue Magnolia. Business sales and specials, vendors, entertainment, and Sidewalk Chalk Art Contest. Free admission. Details: 228-697-3180



**Biloxi Little Theatre**  
220 Lee St., 228-432-8543,  
www.4blt.org  
• **Kinky Boots**  
Sept. 1-3 & 8-10

## Best Bet!



## Biloxi Shuckers Baseball



MGM Park,  
105 Caillavet St.,  
Admission prices start at \$8.  
Details: 228-233-3465

### Home games

- VS Montgomery Biscuits, Sept. 12-17, 6:35 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 6:05 p.m. Saturday, and 1:05 p.m. Sunday

See the full schedule, individual and Shuck Nation tickets, and promotions at biloxishuckers.com. Tickets as low as \$8.

### Center Stage

2670 Rue Palafox, 228-388-6258  
centerstagebiloxi.com  
• **Deathtrap**  
Oct. 26-Nov. 5

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

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

### Biloxi Excel By 5

Lopez School, 140 St. John Ave., 228-297-6808, susan.hunt@biloxi.schools.net  
Community-based certification program to improve child's overall well-being by age 5.

- **Orientation** (parents/grandparents/caregivers must attend prior to visiting Biloxi Family Resource Center interactive rooms): Sept. 6, 9:30-10:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.-noon; Sept. 26, 9:15-10:15 a.m.
- **Curious George, I'm a Super Saver, Biloxi Excel By 5,** Sept. 21, 10 a.m.

### Biloxi Lighthouse & Visitors Center

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

- **Lighthouse tours daily,** 9-10 a.m., weather permitting. 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](http://www.biloxitourtrain.com) • Call in advance for tour availability

**Café 871**

871 Howard Ave., 850-207-7115

- **Murder To the Max 1980s Murder Mystery Dinner Show**, Sept. 2, 7 p.m.

**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

**Harrison County East Biloxi Senior Center**

461 Parker St., 228-435-4192, [co.harrison.ms.us/departments/senior/services](http://co.harrison.ms.us/departments/senior/services)

- Open 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday

**KAFB Farmer's Market**

625 Marina Dr., 228-376-3170, [melissa.wedel.civ@health.mil](mailto:melissa.wedel.civ@health.mil)

- Open 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Marina Park, **Sept. 22**

**Kroc Center, MS Gulf Coast, The Salvation Army**

575 Division St., 228-207-1218

- **Creative Arts Academy**: Recurring weekly on Mondays

**Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum**

115 1st Street, 228-435-6320, [www.maritimemuseum.org](http://www.maritimemuseum.org)

- Open Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, noon-4 p.m.

- **\$10,000 Museum Drawdown**: Sept. 6, includes open bar, buffet, silent auction. Tickets are \$100 and admit two people

**Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art**

386 Beach Blvd., 228-374-5547, [www.georgeohr.org](http://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](http://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. 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29. Doors open at 5 p.m.; Early Bird games at 6:30 p.m.; regular games at 7 p.m. Cash payouts. Concessions available. Kitchen open until 8 p.m.

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

182 Howard Ave., 228-436-6472

- **Seafood Dinners**, Fridays at 6 p.m.
- **Karaoke with Kenny**, Fridays at 7 p.m.

**Joppa Shrine**

13280 Shriners Blvd., 601-917-1027

- **14th Annual Joppa Shrine BBQ & Sportsman's Giveaway**, Sept. 16, 10 a.m., Lunch 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Drawing begins promptly at noon. Tickets are \$20 each, call 228-392-9345
- **Steak Night**, Sept. 22, 6-8 p.m. Last ticket sold 7:15 p.m. \$20, dine-in or carry-out

**Mississippi Coast Historical & Genealogical Society**

- **Meeting & fundraiser**, Aug. 19, 11 a.m., Biloxi Fire Museum, 1046 Howard Ave. Details: 228-396-1543

**Our Lady of Fatima Parish Bingo**

315 Tara Lane, 228-388-3887

- **Bingo**, Monday nights in Parish Hall, 315 Tara Lane; doors open at 5 p.m., Early birds at 6:30 p.m., regular games at 7 p.m. Details: 228-388-3887

**The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish**

- **Biloxi Bingo Mania**, Tuesday nights behind Nativity Cathedral; 871 Esters Blvd. doors open at 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 Chorale"**, Tuesday night rehearsals, 6:45 p.m., Youth Ministry Hall of the Sacred Heart Academy Center behind cathedral. Details: 251-406-1454, [terrydalemaddox@gmail.com](mailto:terrydalemaddox@gmail.com)

**Lagniappe****Charles R. Hegwood****Biloxi Community Market**

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6 a.m.-2 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
					<b>1</b> Seafood Dinners/ Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society  Friday Bingo – Biloxi Elks Lodge  First Friday & Downtown Block Party Under I-110 on Howard Ave.  Gallery 782 Artists Reception 769 Jackson St.  Kinky Boots Biloxi Little Theatre	<b>2</b>         Kinky Boots Biloxi Little Theatre
<b>3</b>         Kinky Boots Biloxi Little Theatre	<b>4</b>   Creative Art Academy Kroc Center     Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	<b>5</b> Community Market       Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	<b>6</b>         Biloxi Excel By 5 Orientation Lopez School	<b>7</b> Community Market Festival	<b>8</b> Seafood Dinners/ Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society  Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge  Steak Night Joppa Shrine   Kinky Boots Biloxi Little Theatre	<b>9</b> 42nd Annual Biloxi Seafood Festival Biloxi Town Green    Tunnel to Towers 5k & Climb Margaritaville Family Resort  Kinky Boots Biloxi Little Theatre
<b>10</b>         Kinky Boots Biloxi Little Theatre	<b>11</b> Creative Art Academy Kroc Center     Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	<b>12</b> Community Market      Shuckers vs. Biscuits MGM Park   Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	<b>13</b>         Shuckers vs. Biscuits MGM Park	<b>14</b> Community Market	<b>15</b> Seafood Dinners/ Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society  Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge   Shuckers vs. Biscuits MGM Park	<b>16</b> Ainsley's Angels Spread Your Wings 5k Biloxi Town Green  \$10,000 Drawdown Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum  Shuckers vs. Biscuits MGM Park  Joppa Shrine BBQ & Sportsman Giveaway Joppa Shrine  Faery Masquerade Ball Frank G. Gruich Sr. Community Center
<b>17</b>         Shuckers vs. Biscuits MGM Park	<b>18</b>   Creative Art Academy Kroc Center     Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	<b>19</b> Community Market      Bike Biloxi Downtown Biloxi   Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	<b>20</b>         Guns N' Roses MS Coast Coliseum	<b>21</b> Community Market    Curious George, I'm a Super Saver, Biloxi Excel By 5 Lopez School   Slavic Golf Invitational Various Locations	<b>22</b> Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society  Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge  KAFB Farmer's Market Marina Drive  Slavic Golf Invitational Various Locations   Chicago Beau Rivage	<b>23</b>         Slavic Golf Invitational Various Locations
<b>24</b>         Slavic Golf Invitational Various Locations	<b>25</b>   Creative Art Academy Kroc Center     Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	<b>26</b> Community Market    Biloxi Excel By 5 Orientation Lopez School   Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	<b>27</b>         	<b>28</b> Community Market    Main Street Book Club	<b>29</b> Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society  Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge   Senior Rock & Roll Bash AND Cruise Into Fall Special Needs Dance Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center	<b>30</b>         Sidewalk Saturdays Downtown Biloxi    Roots & Boots 90s Electric IP Casino





# September 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
6:10 a.m.	Infrastructure report (5 min)
6:15 a.m.	Shuckers Insider
6:30 a.m.	Biloxi Public Schools (15 min)
7 a.m.	"Biloxi Cooks!" Biloxi Fire Station 10
7:30 a.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
7:45 a.m.	Keesler Update (15 min)
8 a.m.	Special presentation, Biloxi Sports Hall of Fame, Class of 2023
9 a.m.	City Council meetings and other bonus public affairs programming (2 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)
1 p.m.	"Biloxi Cooks!" Biloxi Fire Station 10
1:30 p.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
1:45 p.m.	Keesler Update (15 min)
2 p.m.	Special presentation, Biloxi Sports Hall of Fame, Class of 2023
3 p.m.	City Council meetings and other bonus public affairs programming (2 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)
7 p.m.	"Biloxi Cooks!" Biloxi Fire Station 10
7:30 p.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
7:45 p.m.	Keesler Update
8 p.m.	Special presentation, Biloxi Sports Hall of Fame, Class of 2023
9 p.m.	City Council meetings and other bonus public affairs programming (2 hours)
Midnight	National Anthem by Ronny Broussard (2 min)



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

## Newest class of the Biloxi Sports Hall of Fame honored

Nearly two dozen individuals have been inducted into the Biloxi Sports Hall of Fame and all this month, you can see the induction ceremony on BTV.

See the class and hear all about their outstanding achievements in this month's special presentation, "Biloxi Sports Hall of Fame, Class of 2023".

The presentation airs each day at 8 a.m., 2 p.m., and 8 p.m.

The presentation may also be seen online, on the city's YouTube channel.



## A year-round party dish

Biloxi Fire Capt. Jason Gable whips up a creamy, savory Cajun-style dish in this month's episode of "Biloxi Cooks!" Gable mixed up a Mardi Gras pasta and crab cakes for his fellow firefighters, a dish he says is requested often at Station 10.

See the latest episode of "Biloxi Cooks!" all month long on BTV at 7 a.m., 1 p.m., and 7 p.m.

## This month's recipe:

This month's recipe: (similar to Capt. Gable's recipe)

## Mardi Gras Pasta and Crab Cakes

Biloxi Firefighters, Station 10

See Capt. Gable's version on "Biloxi Cooks!"



### Pasta ingredients:

- 12 ounces fettuccine
- 8 tablespoons butter, divided
- 1 pound medium to large shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 teaspoon Cajun seasoning
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- 4 green onions, sliced
- 1/4 cup diced yellow pepper
- 1/4 cup diced green pepper
- 1 cup sliced mushrooms
- 12 ounces andouille sausage, sliced
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 cup diced tomato
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1/3 cup freshly grated Parmesan
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
- salt and pepper

### Instructions:

- Cook pasta in salted water according to package directions. Drain.
- While water comes to boil and pasta cooks, melt 2 tablespoons of butter in large skillet.
- Sprinkle shrimp with cajun seasoning and paprika. Cook in butter until they turn pink.
- Remove with slotted spoon and set aside.
- Add remaining butter to skillet. When melted, add onion, bell peppers, mushrooms, and sausage and cook until sausage is browned and veggies are soft.
- Stir in the garlic and tomato and cook 1 minute.
- Stir in heavy cream and simmer until thickened some.
- Add lemon juice, Parmesan, and parsley. Stir to melt Parmesan.
- Check for seasoning and add salt and pepper to taste.
- Remove from heat. Add fettuccine and shrimp and mix in.

### Crab Cake Ingredients:

- 4 tablespoons butter
- 8 ounces lump crabmeat
- 6 ounces crabmeat
- 1 tablespoons dry bread crumbs
- 2 teaspoons chopped fresh parsley
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon coarse ground black pepper
- 1 large egg
- 1 tablespoon mayonnaise
- 1/2 teaspoon hot sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon ground dry mustard

### Crab Cake Instructions:

1. Mix together crabmeat, bread crumbs, parsley, salt and pepper.
2. Beat together egg, mayonnaise, hot sauce and mustard. Combine with other ingredients and mix well.
3. Form into patties and place on a baking sheet.
4. Add half the butter to the large skillet and add the crab cakes to the skillet on medium heat, cooking for 5-7 minutes.
5. Flip the crab cakes with a flat spatula gently, add the remaining butter and cook for an additional 5 minutes.



# Neighborhood school days: Howard II

By Paige Gutierrez

☛ The first Howard II school building on Point Cadet opened in 1902. Photo from Biloxi Library Local History and Genealogy Collection.



☛ The second Howard II school, dedicated in January 1929, was designed by Biloxi's premiere architect Carl Matthes and built by local contractors Collins Brothers. Photo from MDAH Randazzo Collection.



## The first Howard II school, 1902

On November 27, 1902, a crowd then believed to be the largest ever assembled in Biloxi gathered on East Howard Avenue near Maple Street. The occasion was the laying of the cornerstone by the Grand Lodge of Masons of Mississippi for the new Howard II school on Point Cadet. *The Daily Herald* reported that “A big barbecue was held. There was a large quantity of beef, bread, butter, pickles, etc., served to the crowd on that day. It was estimated that at least 5,000 attended.”

For the next 27 years, this two-story school building served the children and families of rapidly growing Point Cadet, a neighborhood of seafood factory workers, fishermen, canneries, and related marine businesses. The many newcomers who arrived during that time included people from Croatia, known then as Slavonians, and from French-speaking parts of south Louisiana, joining families from many other diverse backgrounds, contributing to the seacoast cultural mix of Biloxi, more typical of New Orleans rather than of noncoastal Mississippi.

## The second Howard II school, 1929

By the late 1920s the school was so overcrowded that a second “Howard II” was built. On January 17, 1929, *The Daily Herald* reported “Biloxians in general and residents of the Point Cadet section in particular may be proud of their new three-story \$83,000 schoolhouse, which compares favorably with any of its size in the country, being equipped with all new features for facilitating school teaching and for the comfort and convenience of teachers

☛ Several children are barefoot in this 1937 photo of fourth graders at Howard II. Shoes were not required because some families could not afford them. Photo from Biloxi Library Local History and Genealogy Collection.



and pupils.” Over the door was carved the name “Harry T. Howard,” benefactor. Officials envisioned a long life for the new school, stating that “when Biloxi builds, she builds permanently.”

## School as neighborhood community center

The first Howard II lacked an auditorium for assemblies and performances. The second Howard II had a state-of-the-art auditorium with theatre seats, a 27-foot stage with concealed footlights, a projection booth, plush curtains, and a baby grand piano. Most importantly, it was large enough to hold community events in an era when elementary school buildings served as neighborhood community centers. With a student body of 362, the auditorium had 450 seats downstairs and 100 seats in the balcony.

Beginning in the late 1970s and 1980s Vietnamese families joined others on Point Cadet working in the seafood industry. By the early 1990s over 50 percent of the students at Howard II were Vietnamese. Howard II welcomed these newcomers. The school published a Vietnamese language newsletter for parents and provided classes in English as a second language. Staff encouraged cross-cultural understanding through hosting festive traditions at school such as the Tet New Year dragon dance and local Gulf Coast Mardi Gras customs. As for earlier generations of Point Cadet residents, Howard II served as a community center for the neighborhood. Teachers of the time described it as “a happy school.”

The 76-year-old historic building was no longer serving as the neighborhood school when it was destroyed by fire in the early hours of July 5, 2005.

☛ Dragon dancers and drummers from Biloxi's Buddhist temple on stage at Howard II, 1992. The program also included fan dancers and poetry readings. Photo by David Purdy, *The Sun Herald*.



☛ Students at Howard II react to Tet New Year's dragon at school, 1998. Photo by David Purdy, *The Sun Herald*.

☛ A dragon dances amid smoke from firecrackers on East Howard Avenue for Tet New Year celebration, 1998. Photo by John Fitzhugh, *The Sun Herald*.





# BNews Monthly

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and the Biloxi City Council  
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