

BNews Monthly

FEBRUARY 2025

A compendium of what's happening in Biloxi



Prompt deadlines

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Mardi Gras previews

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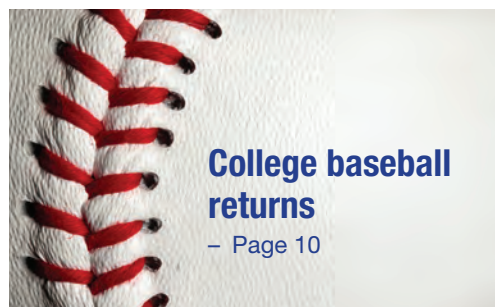
Selecting an All-Star

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February lineup

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Love is in the air

– Back in the Day,
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A Thousand Words



Glimmering
guide of Biloxi

Valentine's

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Edgewater Mall



Finish line in sight at the Sports Complex

Upgrades at the A.J. Holloway Sports Complex are nearing the finish line with a ribbon cutting set for next month.

The 68-acre site south of Popp's Ferry and Cedar Lake roads has been a vortex of activity since September 2023 when contractors J.E. Talley Construction first tackled the fields. Since then, fields have been turfed, painting has been spread, and paving has been completed, all part of the \$5.167 million project. The massive overhaul is finally nearing the finish line with a number of enhancements completed.

Improvements include:

- About 405,000 cubic feet of select backfill excavated and installed on the five baseball and four softball fields
- New parking lots added creating 120 new parking spaces
- Painting at each complex - softball, baseball, and soccer
- New subsurface drainage installed at infields and outfields of the baseball fields.
- 70,000 square feet of synthetic turf on infields and 135,000 square feet of Bermuda sod on outfields installed on the five baseball fields

- 100,000 square feet of synthetic turf, along with new subsurface drainage, installed on the infield of four softball fields
- 306,000 square feet stripped and new topsoil and Bermuda sod installed on the three soccer fields
- New black vinyl fencing installed around perimeter of the soccer complex

"Some minor repairs are in the process due to the availability of materials," said Jamie Lee, Biloxi Parks & Recreation Assistant Director. "But they should be completed by opening day."

A ribbon cutting for the reopening of the complex is set for Saturday, March 8. The ceremonial event will also feature opening ceremonies for Biloxi Youth Baseball and Softball leagues. It will be the first games played on the new fields.

March 8 Ribbon Cuttings

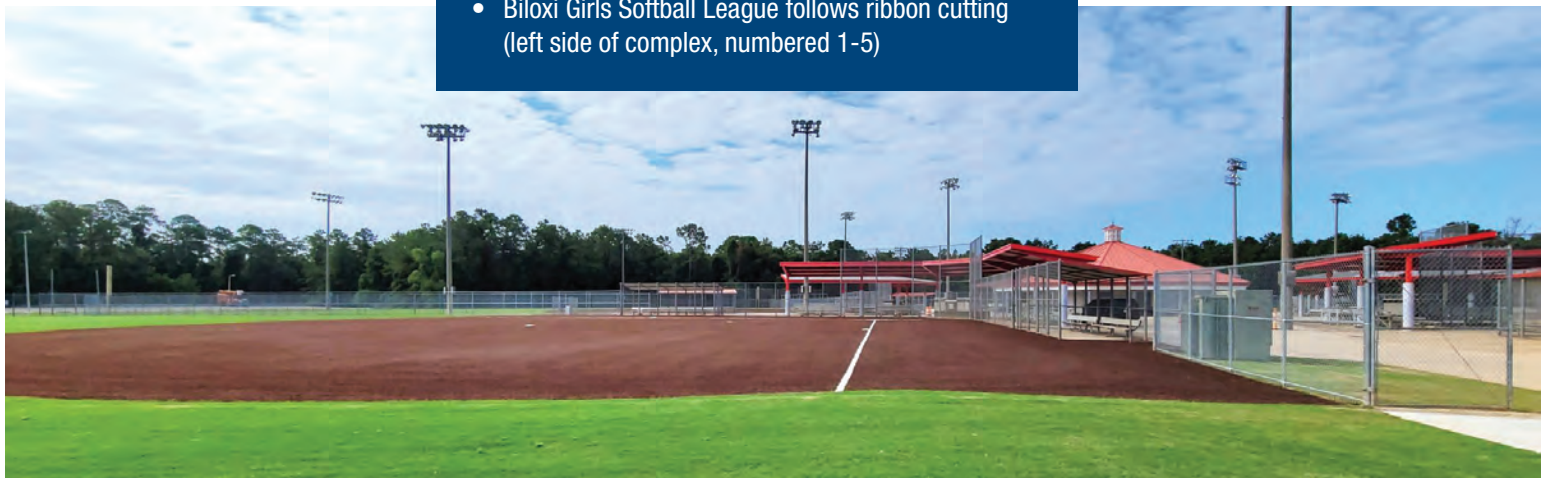
9 a.m. – Baseball Fields

- Biloxi Youth Baseball League follows ribbon cutting (right side of complex, numbered 6-10)

10 a.m. – Softball Fields

- Biloxi Girls Softball League follows ribbon cutting (left side of complex, numbered 1-5)

For field rental or reservation information, contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 228-388-7170.





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Ready to roll!

Mardi Gras celebrations continue in Biloxi!

Here is a listing of parades.

- **Children's Mardi Gras Walking Parade**, Feb. 8, 10 a.m., Downtown Biloxi. Route: Under I-110 on Howard Avenue and ends at Biloxi City Hall, 140 Lameuse St. Details: www.biloxi.ms.us/pr.
- **9th Annual Krewe of Barkloxi PAWrade**, Feb. 23, 11 a.m., Point Cadet Pavilion, 121 Cadet St. Details: 228-435-6149 or info@biloxibayareachamber.org
- **Second Liners Mardi Gras Club Parade**, March 1, 1 p.m. Route: Frank Gruich Community Center, 591 Howard Ave., to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., to Howard Ave., and back to the Gruich Center. Details: <https://www.biloxisecondliners.com/>
- **Krewe of Neptune Night Mardi Gras Parade**, March 1, 5:30 p.m. Route: Main St. to Beach Blvd., to Lameuse St., to MLK Jr. Blvd., to Howard Ave., to Porter Ave., ending at Beach Blvd. Details: <https://kreweofneptune.org/>
- **Annual Gulf Coast Carnival Association Mardi Gras Parade**, March 4, 1 p.m. Route: Main St. to Beach Blvd., to Lameuse St., to MLK Jr. Blvd., to Howard Ave., to Porter Ave., ending at Beach Blvd. Details: www.msgcca.org or 228-432-8806.

Mardi Gras

News & notes

Patience: Be sure to arrive at least an hour before the Gulf Coast Carnival Association and Krewe of Neptune parades.



Police usually shut down parade routes a half hour to an hour beforehand. Some roadways may close earlier.



People:

Police expect tens of thousands

of people in Downtown Biloxi for Neptune and Gulf Coast Carnival Association parades. Know your surroundings. Know the location of the nearest police officer.

Parking:

Park legally. Leave room for emergency vehicles to navigate narrow city streets. Do not park on the Beach Boulevard center median or near CSX railway. Do not block sidewalks. Respect private property.



Parents:

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



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

2025 Municipal election deadline reminders

For voters:

- February 18 – Earliest absentee ballots available for Primary
- March 1 – City Clerk's Office open from 8 a.m.-noon for Voter Registration
- March 3 – Primary Election voter registration deadline
- April 1 – Primary Election Day – Polls open from 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
- June 3 – General Election – Polls open from 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

For candidates:

- February 15 – Candidates must file a Statement of Economic Interest with the MS Ethics Commission (online) within fifteen days of qualifying for office.
- April 1 – Primary Election Day – Polls open from 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
- June 3 – General Election – Polls open from 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

► For more details and to see the list of candidates, visit online at biloxi.ms.us and click on Voter Information.



Nominate someone today!

Purpose:

To identify and honor individuals who have significantly contributed to the betterment of athletics in the City of Biloxi, either through exemplary performance as a player, coach, or in any supporting role of superior accomplishment.

Criteria: The following shall be considered:

1. The nominee must be retired at least three years if an athlete/competitor, or have completed at least 15 years of service as a coach or supporter of Biloxi athletics.
2. The nominee must have demonstrated good citizenship both in school and after leaving school.
3. The nominee must have contributed to the betterment of athletics in the City of Biloxi as a player, coach or any supporting role of superior accomplishment.

Procedures:

Nominees are accepted annually and reviewed by a volunteer selection committee which, by consensus of opinion, will objectively choose those to be inducted each year. Selection will be based on, but not limited to statistical performance, individual achievement, leadership, citizenship and community service. The number of inductees each year is solely the discretion of the selection committee.

Nominations made without using the proper form or lack of supporting documentation may not be considered. Nominations must include a head shot sufficient for publication. Those received without using the proper form or lack of supporting documentation may not be considered.

Deadline: Friday, June 6, 2025

► Forms available online at biloxi.ms.us/sportshalloffame, or at the Biloxi Parks & Recreation Office, 377 Hiller Drive, Biloxi.

You may also contact Director Cheryl Bell at 228-388-7170 or email sports@biloxi.ms.us.

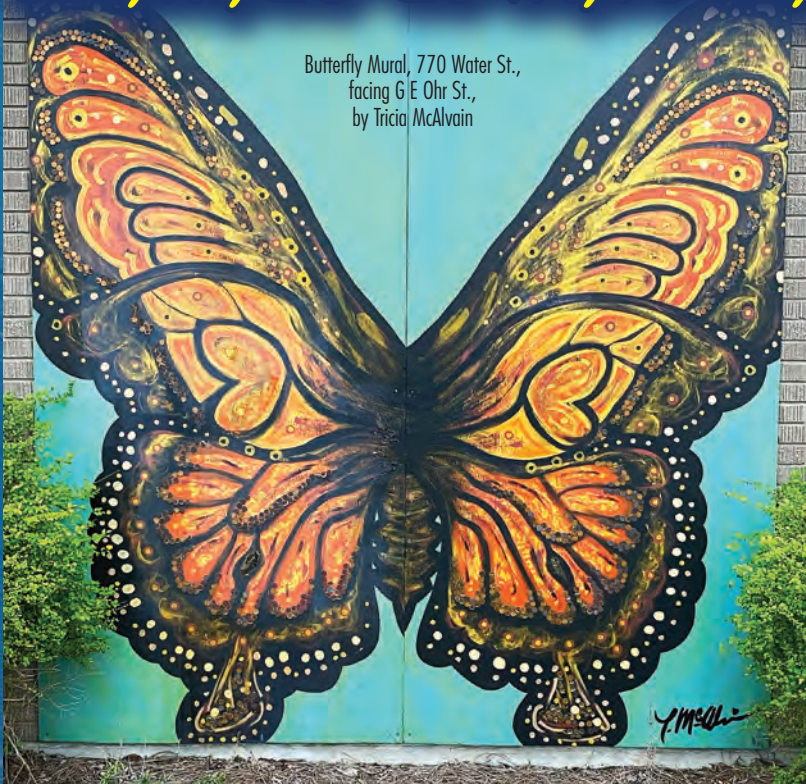
Gator Mural, 194 Bohn St.,
by Rick Dobbs



WELCOME TO
Biloxi
Y'all
ESTD 1838

Artful greetings continue downtown

Butterfly Mural, 770 Water St.,
facing G E Ohr St.,
by Tricia McAlvain

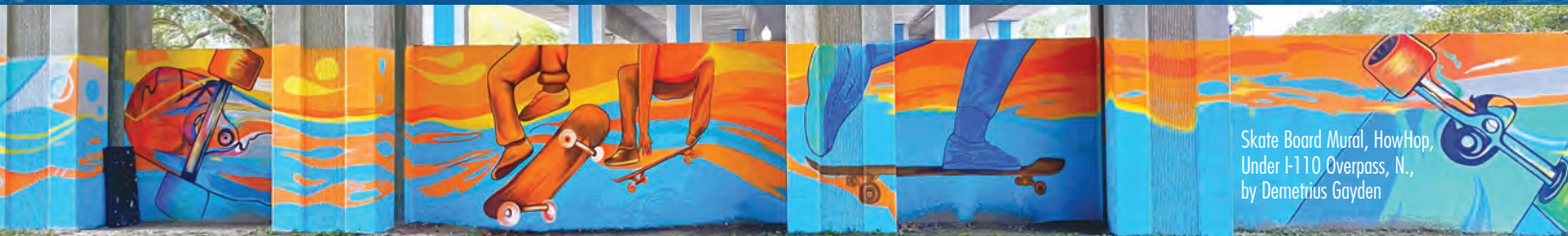


While visiting downtown, whether it be for shopping, dining, or exploring the area by foot or bicycle, artful greetings can be found throughout the area. Biloxi's Public Art Project began in 2019 by Biloxi Main Street and includes 28 murals, with four murals recently added.

The project is a series of murals downtown that highlight Biloxi's past in a colorful manner. The murals are displayed on the exterior walls of the host building and depict an event in history, a project or business that once was, an artist, a prominent person, and more.

The mural project spans roughly five miles in the downtown area. When driving, walking, or cycling, the mural route takes the art-lover through the heart of Downtown Biloxi, passing shops, eateries, museums, and historic sites.

Electrical Panel Box Mural,
800 Howard Ave.,
by Julia Reyes



Skate Board Mural, HowHop,
Under I-110 Overpass, N.,
by Demetrius Gayden

► A map listing all murals available online at biloxi.ms.us/residents/major-projects/.



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From **A** to **Z**

Insider's guide to what's happening in Biloxi

FRIDAYS



biloxi.ms.us

Bulldogs, Golden Eagles Return to Biloxi for the 2025 Hancock Whitney Classic



Tickets on sale now, games on March 11, 12, and 25 at Keesler Federal Park

By Javik Blake
Biloxi Shuckers

We're officially under 100 days until the Biloxi Shuckers' 10th anniversary season begins on Friday, April 4 at the Pensacola Blue Wahoos! Before the Shuckers open their home slate on Tuesday, April 8 against the Columbus Clingstones, Keesler Federal Park will welcome in four different college teams for the 2025 Hancock Whitney Classic.

2025 HANCOCK WHITNEY CLASSIC

The Shuckers have announced that the Mississippi State Bulldogs will return to Biloxi for the 2025 Hancock Whitney Classic on Tuesday, March 11 at 6:00 p.m. and Wednesday, March 12 at 5:00 p.m. against the Old Dominion Monarchs and Nicholls Colonels. The Southern Miss Golden Eagles will also return to Biloxi for a second consecutive season, taking on Nicholls on Tuesday, March 25 at 6:05 p.m. as part of the Hancock Whitney Classic. Gates will open an hour before both Mississippi State games and at 5:00 p.m. on March 25. Tickets are now available through the Shuckers Box Office at Keesler Federal Park and Ticketmaster. Limited suites and group hospitality spaces are also available for the games through the Biloxi Shuckers Sales Department at Keesler Federal Park. Fans are encouraged to get their tickets in advance as prices will increase on the day of the game.

"Mississippi State fans are some of the most passionate in college baseball and partnering with Hancock Whitney to continue these games is an honor," Shuckers General Manager Hunter Reed said. "We're excited to welcome the Bulldogs and their fans back for another year and showcase our ballpark to fans of Old Dominion and Nicholls. It will truly be a special series at our ballpark."

In 2024, the Shuckers welcomed over

10,000 fans for the Bulldogs' two games in Biloxi, including a sellout of 6,098 on March 12, 2024, the largest crowd ever to see a college game at Keesler Federal Park.

"Hancock Whitney is honored to join with the Biloxi Shuckers in bringing the Hancock Whitney Classic to South Mississippi," Hancock Whitney Mississippi Gulf Coast President Brent Fairley said. "This exciting series spotlights some of college baseball's finest athletes at a marquee event that creates opportunities for fans to cheer their favorite teams and players while further strengthening Coastal Mississippi's vibrant economy and deep sense of community."

In 2024, Southern Miss advanced to the finals of the Knoxville Regional before falling to the eventual national champion, Tennessee. The Golden Eagles have been a pillar of excellence in college baseball, with at least 40 wins in each of their last eight full seasons. They have also reached the NCAA Tournament in eight consecutive seasons and have advanced to Super Regionals in two of the last three years. Southern Miss infielder, Ozzie Pratt, also has ties to the Shuckers, being the older brother of Shuckers infielder Cooper Pratt.

The Golden Eagles baseball program is one of the top programs with some of the best fans in the area," Shuckers General Manager Hunter Reed said. "We're thrilled to partner with Hancock Whitney for a game featuring two terrific teams, including a talented Nicholls team. We're excited to welcome both teams back for another year and continue our great partnership with Coach Ostrander and the Southern Miss program."

2025 SINGLE-GAME TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

The Shuckers have also announced that single-game tickets are now on sale for all 69 home games at Keesler Federal Park for the 2025 season, the team's 10th-anniversary

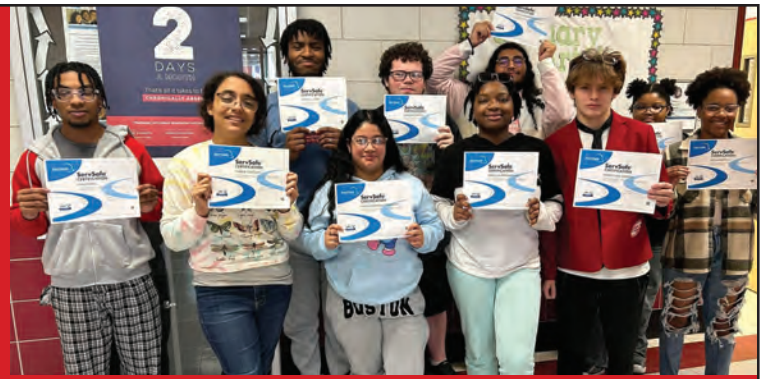
campaign. The Shuckers will begin their home slate on Tuesday, April 8 at 6:05 p.m. against the Columbus Clingstones. Marquee matchups include Mother's Day on Sunday, May 11 against the Pensacola Blue Wahoos, Memorial Day Weekend on May 24-25 against the Knoxville Smokies, the Shuckers Independence Day Extravaganza on Friday, July 4 against Pensacola and the team's special Labor Day game on Monday, September 1 against Pensacola. Fans can save up to 16% on tickets by purchasing in advance through Ticketmaster (LINK) or the Shuckers Box Office at Keesler Federal Park. Tickets range from \$9-\$33 on the lower level with a more premium all-inclusive experience available on the suite level in the Kloud7 SkyBox. The Shuckers also offer special discounts to seniors, kids, military, and first responders. These discounts are available for the Home Plate Box, Dugout Box, and Reserved Sections. Kids two and under are admitted free of charge.

CREATE YOUR OWN MINI PLAN FOR 2025

As we get closer and closer to the Shuckers' 10th anniversary season, which begins on Tuesday, April 8 at Keesler Federal Park, fans can secure their seats with a five or 10-game mini plan. Fans can create their own ticket package and choose any combination of five or ten games that best fits their schedule. The options are endless! Plans begin at \$75 for a 5-game plan and \$140 for a 10-game plan, savings of over 25% on day-of-game pricing. All mini plans include tickets for the Dugout Box at Keesler Federal Park (sections 105-112). Fans interested in purchasing more than two plans are encouraged to contact the Shuckers' sales team at sales@biloxishuckers.com or by phone at (228) 233-3465.

► For more info: 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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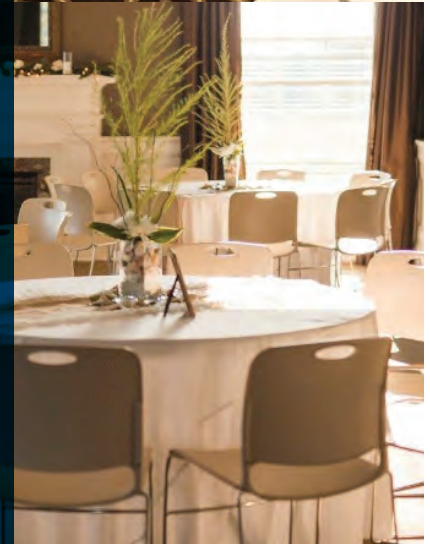
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Host your next event with us!

- A.J. Holloway Sports Complex, 765 Wells Drive (reopening soon)
- Biloxi Civic Center, 578 Howard Ave.
- Biloxi Natatorium, 1385 Father Ryan Ave.
- Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd.
- Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road
- Dr. Frank Gruich Community Center, 591 Howard Ave.
- Hiller Park Pavilion, 380 Hiller Drive
- Lighthouse Pavilion, 2520 Pass Road
- Point Cadet Marina – for tournaments, 119 Beach Blvd.
- Point Cadet Pavilion, 120 Cadet St.
- Popp's Ferry Causeway Park Pavilion, 560 Causeway Drive
- Biloxi Town Green, 710 Beach Blvd.
- Woolmarket City Center, 13034 Kayleigh Cove Drive

Visit online at biloxi.ms.us/rentals
for details on each location!

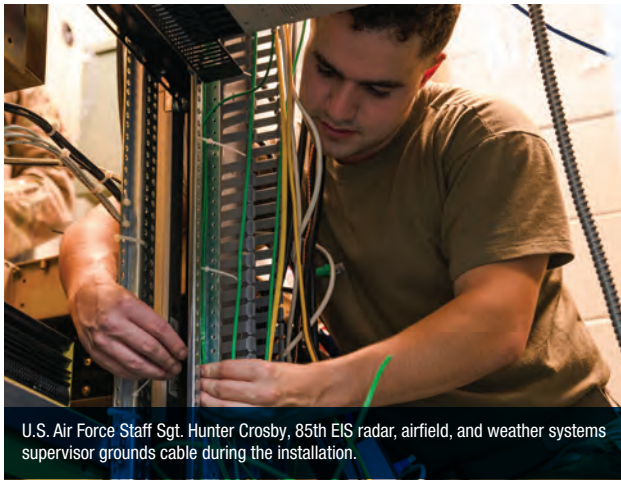


85th EIS: Elevating communication at Keesler

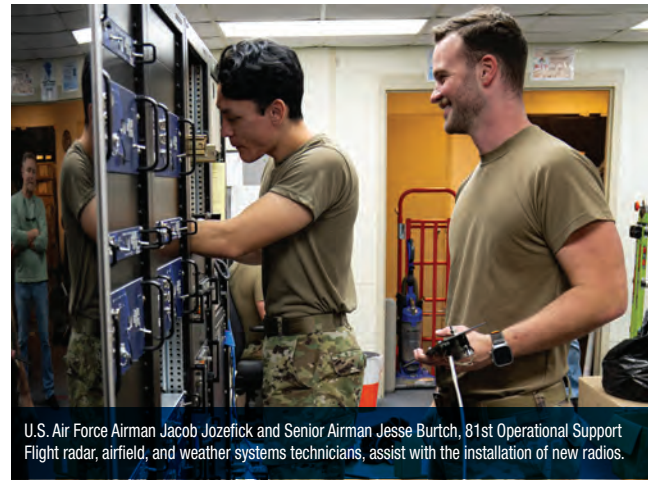
Recently, the 85th Engineering Installation Squadron made some improvements to the communication equipment at the airfield. Keesler's legacy airfield radios were upgraded to modern radios, improving range and reliability. The installation took place in December and included upgrades at air traffic control towers.

U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Trenten Walters

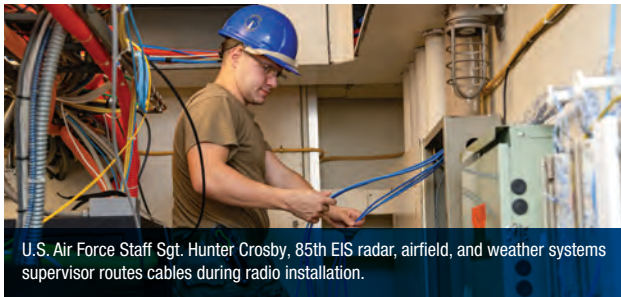
► See more photos at www.keesler.af.mil
Watch the Keesler Update daily at 7:45 a.m., 1:45 p.m., and 7:45 p.m. on BTV at biloxi.ms.us/btv



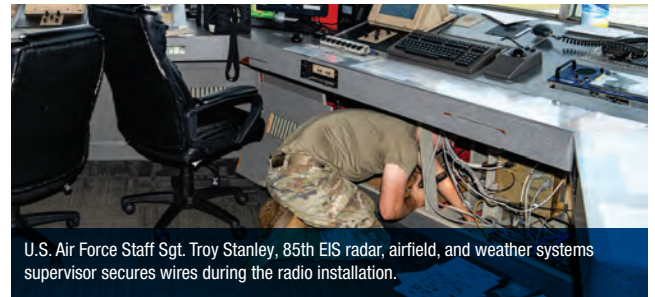
U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Hunter Crosby, 85th EIS radar, airfield, and weather systems supervisor grounds cable during the installation.



U.S. Air Force Airman Jacob Jozefick and Senior Airman Jesse Burch, 81st Operational Support Flight radar, airfield, and weather systems technicians, assist with the installation of new radios.



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Hunter Crosby, 85th EIS radar, airfield, and weather systems supervisor routes cables during radio installation.



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Troy Stanley, 85th EIS radar, airfield, and weather systems supervisor secures wires during the radio installation.

Biloxi Pulse

Biloxi Main Street PAVING the Way!

By Laurie Rosetti
Biloxi Main Street

Biloxi Main Street, the non-profit organization dedicated to revitalizing Downtown Biloxi, is embarking on a whirlwind of exciting new projects, spurred by a surge of grants and sponsorships totaling around \$200,000. With these initiatives, the heart of Biloxi is set to become an even more dynamic and welcoming destination for both locals and visitors.

One of the most transformative projects is the improvement of HowHop, a previously underused area at the intersection of Howard Avenue and Hopkins Boulevard tucked beneath the I-110 overpass. Once hidden in plain sight, this space is rapidly transforming into a vibrant hub of activity. In addition to the existing public art, Biloxi Main Street has added a burst of color by painting the large columns that support the overpass, turning them into striking visual landmarks. More art and column painting will follow, and the real game-changer will be the installation of fabulous lighting. This lighting will make HowHop a desirable spot for events like First Fridays and it will complement the nearby pickleball courts, creating an inviting atmosphere for outdoor gatherings, day or night. The lighting is set to be the pivotal element that brings new energy to the space.

Just a few blocks away, Greenhouse Alley, a previously neglected corridor between buildings on G.E. Ohr Street, is also receiving a much-needed facelift. The alley, which was once a forgotten part of



Pickleball courts under I-110 on Howard Avenue

downtown, is being transformed into an inviting, usable space. New additions, including whimsical murals and brick pavers, are already enhancing the area. Soon, additional transformative lighting will elevate the ambiance, making Greenhouse Alley a delightful space for pedestrians to explore and enjoy.

In addition to these exciting transformations, Biloxi Main Street is rolling out an array of community-focused updates. After nearly two decades of waiting, wayfinding signage is returning to Downtown Biloxi. These new signs, designed with a historic flair, will help visitors navigate the area and discover hidden gems throughout the district. This much-needed addition will ensure that no one misses out on the unique spots that make Biloxi special.

For those looking to experience the seasonal charm of downtown, new colorful banners are also in the works. These vibrant displays will help welcome guests

during Biloxi's busy event seasons—whether it's the excitement of fall festivals, the patriotism of national holidays, or the warmth of the December-January holiday season.

Biloxi Main Street is also launching a new initiative to keep downtown clean and safe. Trash-bag dispenser stations will be placed in key locations, offering an incentive program to encourage participation. Those who help clean up the area will receive a \$10 gift card redeemable at downtown businesses—a true win-win for both the community and the local economy.

These revitalization efforts are made possible by generous funding from ARPA grants, a Sparklight grant, and the Knight Foundation, ensuring that Downtown Biloxi's future is bright and full of promise. With these projects and many more to come, Biloxi Main Street is paving the way for a more vibrant, connected, and exciting downtown for all.



▲ Greenhouse Alley before improvements

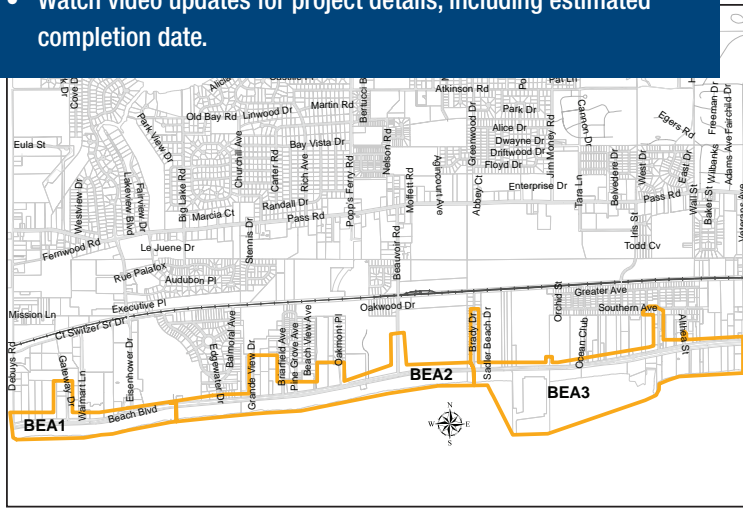
▲ Greenhouse Alley with improvements

The infrastructure work in Biloxi

Project: BEA1, 2, & 3

Adjacent to Beach Blvd. from Debuys Road to Veterans Avenue
(Contractors: Necaise Brothers Construction)

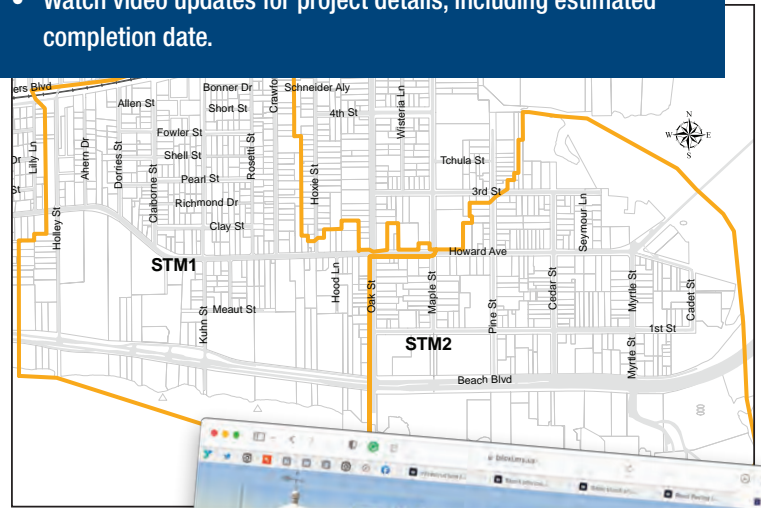
- Installation of new water, sewer, drainage
- Work began June 2022
- Watch video updates for project details, including estimated completion date.



Project: STM1 & 2

Between Holley Street & Point Cadet, south of CSX railroad
(Contractors: Necaise Brothers Construction)

- Installation of new water, sewer, drainage
- Work began Jan. 4, 2021
- Watch video updates for project details, including estimated completion date.



► See monthly update maps and videos online at biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi/.

Areawide map of infrastructure work



Random Notes



TIME CAPSULE:



Dewey Lawrence as King D'Iberville in 1958.

Honored traditions

Looking back to the Mardi Gras' 50th anniversary in 1958, King d'Iberville was Genial Dewey Lawrence, a native Biloxian and President of the Harrison County Board of Supervisors.

Mardi Gras has been celebrated in Biloxi for more than a hundred years with the first celebration taking place on March 3, 1908. The annual tradition has continued year after year bringing families and friends together to celebrate as a community with festive parties and parades winding through downtown Biloxi.

Over time, the parades grew larger and larger with the addition of more floats that also became more and more elaborate. And to this day, Biloxi Mardi Gras celebrations attract locals and visitors to line the streets for Carnival.

Members of the Mardi Gras court are draped in amazing costumes fit for royalty and are worn during the entire carnival celebration. Many of these costumes worn by past kings and queens of Mardi Gras can be seen at the Coastal Mississippi Mardi Gras Museum located at 792A Howard Ave. in Downtown Biloxi.

Photograph provided by the Lawrence family collection.



Fire Academy graduates from left to right: Derek Cooley, Cal Cossich, Landon Shotts, Carson Strickland, Brandon Sellier, Jeremy Green, Cooper Kerns, and Patrick Spurlock.

Eyes on a goal

Brandon Sellier's interest in being a firefighter began early so it was natural that he would want to attend the Biloxi Fire Department's Annual Fire Academy for Kids. Beginning in 2011 at the age of 5, Brandon attended this program and was hooked. After he aged out of the program, he and his family continued to volunteer, ensuring the success and popularity of the program.

Last month the Biloxi Fire Department announced the graduation of Recruit Class 2402. Biloxi gained eight new firefighters and one of those graduates was none other than Brandon Sellier!

The community congratulates these new firefighters as they embark on their journey to protect and serve.



Brandon Sellier, as a youngster, checking out a ladder truck while attending the Fire Academy for Kids.

New firefighter recruits must be certified as Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians within their first year, which consists of over 530 training hours. Staying prepared requires ongoing exercises while still responding to hundreds of calls per year. Every year firefighters complete over 250 hours of training through several different avenues, such as classroom, online, hands-on, and multi-company drills.



Citizen's Police Academy graduates and administrators from left to right: Capt. Jay Morgan, Robert Silvestro, Elizabeth Kelly, Joseph Carmel Jr., Michelle Johansen, Jaclyn Gautier, Krista Breeland, Gary Lipely, Sherry Shonk, Frank Dunaway, Amanda Herndon, Chief John Miller.

Sharpening the way



The Biloxi Ports and Harbors Division oversees four harbors with nearly 500 slips, seven boat ramps, seven piers, and the fishing bridge on Back Bay. The port staff monitors the condition of the piers and docks and makes arrangements for repairs as needed. Unlike all the other city departments, the port division receives no money from the city and funds itself entirely with its revenue from slip rentals and building leases. They recently added new directional signage at the Small Craft Harbor to assist visitors and boaters locate the many features available.

The Ports and Harbors Administration Building, located in the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The facility includes showers, restrooms, a laundry facility on the second floor, and Port Administration offices on the third floor.

For more information and to see a list of all the facilities managed by the Ports and Harbors Division visit biloxi.ms.us/harbors-marinas-and-piers/.



Citizens learn the police perspective

Congratulations to the latest Biloxi Police Department graduates of Citizen's Police Academy 2024-25. These citizens chose to volunteer their time to become active members of the community by completing this academy.

The Biloxi Police Department Citizen's Police Academy is designed to give citizens insight into the different divisions of the Biloxi Police Department and how the department serves the community. The program is limited to twenty-five participants and includes classroom-based teaching, a patrol ride-along, a department tour, canine demonstrations, and hands-on investigation demonstrations.

The Biloxi Police Department will continue to host this Citizen Academy every year. If you have any questions regarding future academy visit biloxi.ms.us/cpa or contact Capt. Jay Morgan, Program Coordinator, at 228-435-6204.

FEBRUARY TRIVIA

Looking back at Biloxi's history

By Jane Shambra

Who was the Mayor of Biloxi 100 years ago? John Joseph Kennedy (1875-1949) was the Mayor of Biloxi in February 1925. He presided as Mayor from 1919-1933 and was the first full-time mayor of Biloxi. He was also the proprietor of the Kennedy Hotel on Reynoir Street opposite the L & N Train depot. Ads for his establishment included that the Kennedy Hotel provided hot and cold running water in every room!

Which month of the calendar year always has the least number of days? February with 28 days in a common year and 29 days in a leap year.

Is February named after a famous Roman god of ancient times like most months? No. February was named after the ancient Roman Februalia of Atonement and Purification Festival.

What is a leap year and a leap day? A leap day is added to February every four years to keep calendars and seasons in sync. Without leap days, calendars would fall out of sync by 24 days in 100 years. The odds of being born on February 29 are about 1 in 1,461. Our next leap year will be 2028.

What is the birthstone for February? February's birthstone is amethyst, which is said to symbolize love.

Has Mardi Gras ever landed on Valentine's Day? Yes. Mardi Gras Day occurred on Valentine's Day in 1956 and 1961. Our next Mardi Gras occurring on Valentine's Day will be in 2040.

When is Groundhog Day and what is the legend of the Groundhog? According to this old 1887 Pennsylvania Dutch folklore, if Mr. Groundhog comes out of hibernation at dawn on February 2 and sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter weather. If he doesn't see his shadow, spring will come early. Records indicate that he has been a reliable weather forecaster more than 100 times through the years.

What type of animal is a groundhog? A groundhog is a woodchuck and related to the squirrel family. This stout little mammal grows to about 13 pounds and has the nickname "whistle pig" because when alarmed, they use a high-pitched whistle to warn the rest of the groundhog colony.

What was the coldest day recorded in Biloxi? Biloxi's coldest recorded temperature is listed as 1 degree on Sunday, February 12, 1899. Newspapers reported that this winter blizzard caused orange crops to freeze, birds' feet to freeze to tree limbs, and canned jars of food to burst. The nearby fish population suffered a tragic loss, as well, with mini-icebergs reported floating along rivers. Biloxi's next coldest temperature was 9 degrees reported on December 13, 1962.



Biloxi Children's Mardi Gras Walking Parade

Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025 • 10 a.m.

The City of Biloxi, Coastal Mississippi Mardi Gras Museum, and Gulf Coast Carnival Association invite all children ages 12 and younger to participate in the Biloxi Children's Mardi Gras Walking Parade. Participants may walk, bike, skate, or be pushed/pulled in strollers and wagons. (No motorized vehicles will be allowed.)

**Late registration and costume
and float sign up:**

9-9:45 a.m. at the parade start

Details: 228-388-7170 or visitor@biloxi.ms.us.



Best Bets!

Galentine's at the Museum

Ladies spend an evening at the Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art and celebrate the friendship of the amazing women in your life at Bubbles and Bonbons. The Galentine's Day event is a night filled with dancing and dining. From 6 to 8:30 p.m., participants will be able to taste and sample sweet and savory delicacies from a variety of coast restaurants and dance to tunes spun by DJ Peauxboi. The event is a fundraiser for the museum. Tickets are \$40 per person. Details: www.georgeohr.org



Mardi Gras celebrations

Celebrate Mardi Gras in Biloxi with the Parks & Recreation Department! The department will host its annual Seniors Mardi Gras Bash, open to ages 55 and older, on Feb. 21 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., and its annual Special Needs Mardi Gras Ball & Dance, open to all with physical and mental disabilities, on Feb. 21 from 6 to 9 p.m. Both events are free, take place at the Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center on Pass Road, and feature the crowning of a King, Queen, and Duke & Duchess by random drawing, Hors d'oeuvres, music, and more! Those interested in attending the Senior Bash should RSVP at seniors@biloxi.ms.us or by calling 228-388-7170. For more information on both events, contact the department at 228-388-7170.



March of Mayors Extra Table Food Collection, Feb. 1-27, Donation drop off locations: Biloxi City Hall, Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, Lopez-Quave Public Safety Center, Biloxi Visitors Center, or any Biloxi Fire Station. Biloxi is collecting one-pound bags of beans to benefit local food pantries. Biloxi Main Street will pick up large donations. Details: 228-435-6339

Clover & Kilts Fest 2025 (formally Grillin' on the Green) Accepting vendor applications through Feb. 28, Event, set for March 15 on the Biloxi Town Green, will feature, vendors, music, and more. Details: [Facebook@biloximainst](https://www.facebook.com/biloximainst), www.mainstreetbiloxi.com, or 228-435-6339

Biloxi Youth Softball Registration, Feb. 1, 9 a.m.-noon, Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road. Open to ages 5-15. Coaches needed. Details: 228-388-7170, biloxisoftball.com

Biloxi Youth Baseball Registration, Feb. 1, 9 a.m.-noon, Biloxi High School Baseball Field, 1845 Tribble Dr. (BHS Baseball Team RED/WHITE Scrimmage.) Feb. 8, 9 a.m.-noon Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road. Open to ages 4-12. Details: 228-388-7170, biloxi-youthbaseball.com



The Spectrum Screen Gala, Feb. 1, 7-11 p.m., Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050 Beach Blvd. Presented by After Hours Cinema, with special guests, Lisa London and Jennifer Moriarty. Enjoy an evening of food and music with filmmakers from around the Gulf Coast. Ticket proceeds benefit Autism Speaks. Tickets: \$25. Details and tickets: <https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/spectrumscreengala/spectrum-screen-gala>

Biloxi Fun Run, Feb. 6, 13, 20, & 27, 6 p.m., Altered Reality Brewing, 969 Howard Ave. Weekly fun runs take place on Thursdays. Open course along the scenic streets of Biloxi with 2 or 3-mile options. Walk, run, or wheel! Meet at the brewery. Free admission. Details: [Facebook@alterdrealtybrewing](https://www.facebook.com/alterdrealtybrewing)

Bubbles and Bonbons, Feb. 7, 6-8:30 p.m., Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art, 386 Beach Blvd. Grab your best gal pals for a Galentine's Day Night to commemorate and celebrate the women in your life. Enjoy tasting and sampling sweet and savory delicacies from local restaurants. Proceeds benefit exhibitions and outreach for OOMA. Tickets: \$40. Details: <https://www.georgeohr.org/event/bubbles-and-bonbons>

GCCA 13th Annual Run for the Beads 5K Run, Feb. 8, 8:45 a.m. 1-mile, 9 a.m. 5K, and 10 a.m. Beer Mile. Registration begins one hour before run, Point Cadet Plaza, 121 Cadet St. 8:45 a.m. start for 1-mile, and 9 a.m. start for 5K. Preregistration: \$20, Race day: \$25. Details: <https://www.msGCCA.org/5k-run/>

Children's Mardi Gras Walking Parade, Feb. 8, 10 a.m., Downtown Biloxi. Open to ages 12 and younger. The parade travels under the I-110 on Howard Ave. and ends at Biloxi City Hall, 140 Lameuse St. Parade theme: "In Search of Lost Legends" celebrating the wonders of the world. Registration forms available at the Biloxi Visitors Center, Biloxi Parks & Recreation Office, Coastal MS Mardi Gras Museum, and Gulf Coast Carnival Office, and online at www.biloxi.ms.us/pr. Late registration and costume and float sign up: 9-9:45 a.m. at the parade start. Details: 228-388-7170 or visitor@biloxi.ms.us



Bike Biloxi, Feb. 18, 6 p.m.; downtown bike ride. Begins at the Biloxi Visitors Center, 1050

Mississippi Sea Wolves, MS Coast Coliseum, 2350 Beach Blvd. Tickets begins at \$10 per person. Details 228-594-3700

- VS Winston-Salem Carolina Thunderbirds, Feb. 14-15, game times vary
- VS Baton Rouge Zydeco, Feb. 16 & 21-22, game times vary



Stay in touch

BNews: Welcome to the 81st 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.

BTv: Biloxi Television, city's municipal TV channel, is a mix of current events, local history and local flavor, and monthly updates. Visit online at biloxi.ms.us/btv, and on Sparklight Channel 56.

Contact:

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



Beach Blvd., and ends with refreshments and food at a downtown restaurant at cyclists' expense. Helmets and lights recommended. Details: 228-435-6339

Main Street Book Club, Feb. 20, 5:30 p.m., Jacked Up Coffee Bar, 999 Howard Ave. This month's book selection is TBD. Free admission. Details: 228-435-6339

Seniors Mardi Gras Bash, Feb. 21, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road. Open to ages 55 and older. Wear your Mardi Gras Attire! Biloxi Parks & Rec. event featuring the crowning of a King, Queen, and Duke & Duchess by random drawing, Hors d'oeuvres, music by DJ, and door prizes! Free admission. RSVP seniors@biloxi.ms.us, 228-388-7170

Special Needs Mardi Gras Ball & Dance, Feb 21, 6-9 p.m., Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Rd. Biloxi Parks & Rec. Mardi Gras-themed event open to all with physical and mental disabilities and features the crowning of a King, Queen, Grand Duke, and Duchess by random drawing, Hors d'oeuvres, door prizes, and entertainment. Details: 228-388-7170

9th Annual Krewe of Barkloxi PAWrade, Feb. 23, 11 a.m., Point Cadet Pavilion, 121 Cadet St. Presented by the Humane Society of South Mississippi. Family-friendly event with furry fun! To register your dog(s) visit www.hssm.org/events/krewe-of-barkloxi-pawrade. Details: 228-435-6149 or info@biloxibayareachamber.org



Black History Program, Feb. 25, 6-8 p.m., Frank Gruich Community Center, 591 Howard Ave. Biloxi Parks & Rec. event featuring speakers, musical selections, and food! Free admission. Details: 228-388-7170

Coming in March!

Gulf Coast Carnival Association Coronation Ball, March 3, 8 p.m., Mississippi Coast Coliseum, 2350 Beach Blvd. Witness the coronation of King d'Iberville and Queen Ixilib who will rule over Carnival for 2025! Admission is free but you must pick up a view card from the Biloxi Visitors Center or Biloxi City Hall. This year's theme: "In Search of Lost Legends." Details: www.msgcca.org or 228-432-8806



First Friday Block Party, on hiatus and will return March 7! For details, call 228-435-6339 or email mainstreet@biloxi.ms.us



Biloxi Little Theatre

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

- **American Buffalo**
Feb. 2 & 7-9

Center Stage

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

- **Butt Seriously** – By Georges Feydeau
Feb. 13-23

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

- Community-based certification program to improve child's overall well-being by age 5

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.

- Group charters available, up to 44 people
- Walk on Sails, minimum of 6 passengers, \$30/adult & \$15/child ages 3-12, check website for dates

Biloxi Shrimping Trip

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

Biloxi Tour Train

Biloxi Lighthouse Park parking lot, south of Biloxi Visitors Center, traffic light #40, 228-374-8687, biloxitourtrain.com • Call in advance for tour availability

Coastal Mississippi Mardi Gras Museum792 Howard Ave., 228-314-4747, museum@coastalmardigras.com

- Open weekdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., open Saturdays by appointment

Edgewater Mall

2600 Beach Blvd., 228-388-3424

- **Blood Drive**, Feb. 15, 12-5 p.m.
- **Blood Drive**, Feb. 24, 1-6 p.m.

Harrison County East Biloxi Senior Center461 Parker St., 228-435-4192, co.harrison.ms.us/departments/senior/services

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

KAFB Farmer's Market625 Marina Dr., 228-377-2821, BOS.81FSS.Vandenburg@us.af.mil

- First Friday of each month, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Marina Park (open to those with base access)

Kroc Center, MS Gulf Coast, The Salvation Army575 Division St., 228-207-1218, krocmscoast.com

- **Valentine's Date Night** (Ages 2 months to 12 years) Fee: \$35, Feb. 14, 4-8 p.m.
- **Valentine's Senior Social** (Free for ages 55+), Feb. 10, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **Super Sunday FREE**, Feb. 23, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum115 1st Street, 228-435-6320, www.maritimemuseum.org

Hours of operation: Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sunday, noon-4 p.m.

- **Denise McHugh**: Art Exhibit-Coastal Charm. The works of the Biloxi native will be on display in the Joe Moran Gallery, 3rd Floor, Now- March 31
- **Sea-n-Sail Adventure Camp 2025 Registration**. Now open. Camp for students ages 6-12 years, 7 weeks to choose from in June and July.

Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art386 Beach Blvd., 228-374-5547, www.georgeohr.org

Check the website for events and studio classes at OOMA!

- **Bubbles & Bonbons a Galentines Day Affair**, Feb. 7, 6-8:30 p.m., \$40
- **OOMA After Hours**, Feb. 20, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Free
- **Crafts & Drafts: Mardi Gras Edition**, Feb. 28, 5:30-7:30 p.m. (All ages), \$10

West End Hose Co. No. 3 Fire Museum1046 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**, Feb. 7, 14, 21, & 28. Doors open at 4 p.m.; Card sales at 5:30 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

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

Joppa Shrine

13280 Shriners Blvd., 601-917-1027

- **Steak Night**, Feb. 9, 6-8 p.m. Last ticket sold at 7:15 p.m. \$20, dine-in or carry out. 228-392-9345

Mississippi Coast Historical & Genealogical Society

1050 Beach Blvd. Father Ryan Room

- **Meeting**, Feb. 16, Guest Speaker, Dr. Deanne Stephens – Yellow Fever in Mississippi, 2-4 p.m. Details: 228-438-4636

Our Lady of Fatima Parish Monday Bingo

315 Tara Lane, 228-388-3887

- **Monday Bingo**, Feb. 3, 10, 17, & 24, 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 Bingo

870 Howard Ave., 228-374-1717

- **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. (Call for holiday hours) Details: 228-374-1717

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: Cheryl Bell at 228-388-7170.

City of Biloxi Senior ProgramActivities 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 StreetPromoting, 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: **first Wednesday of each month at 3:30 p.m.**; Biloxi Community Development conference room, 676 MLK Blvd. Details: 228-435-6266

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28 Community Market	29	30 Community Market	31	1 March For Mayors Extra Table Food Collection BEGINS Various Locations Softball Reg. – Donal Snyder Sr. Community Center Baseball Registration Biloxi High Baseball Field Spectrum Screen Gala Biloxi Visitors Center Live MMA & Boxing Golden Nugget PCA Rodeo MS Coast Coliseum
2 American Buffalo Biloxi Little Theatre	3 Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	4 Community Market Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	5	6 Community Market Biloxi Fun Run Altered Reality Brewing	7 Dinner & Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge Bubbles & Bonbons Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art American Buffalo Biloxi Little Theatre KAFB Farmers Market Rodney Carrington Beau Rivage	8 Run for the Beads 5k Point Cadet Plaza Children's Mardi Gras Walking Parade Downtown Biloxi American Buffalo Biloxi Little Theatre Rodney Carrington Beau Rivage
9 American Buffalo Biloxi Little Theatre	10 Valentine's Senior Social Kroc Center Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	11 Community Market Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	12 Dream Theater 40th Anniversary Tour Hard Rock	13 Community Market Biloxi Fun Run Altered Reality Brewing Butt Seriously Center Stage	14 Dinner & Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge Steak Night – Joppa Shrine Sea Wolves vs. Thunderbirds MS Coast Coliseum Butt Seriously – Center Stage Valentine's Date Night Kroc Center Biloxi Boat Show MS Coast Coliseum	15 Blood Drive Edgewater Mall Sea Wolves vs. Thunderbirds MS Coast Coliseum Butt Seriously Center Stage Biloxi Boat Show MS Coast Coliseum Gary Owen IP Casino
16 Sea Wolves vs. Zydeco MS Coast Coliseum Butt Seriously Center Stage Biloxi Boat Show MS Coast Coliseum	17 Butt Seriously Center Stage Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	18 Community Market Bike Biloxi Downtown Biloxi Butt Seriously Center Stage Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	19 Butt Seriously Center Stage	20 Community Market Biloxi Fun Run Altered Reality Brewing Main Street Book Club Jacked Up Coffee Bar OOMA After Hours Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art Butt Seriously Center Stage	21 Dinner & Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge Sea Wolves vs. Zydeco – MS Coast Coliseum Butt Seriously – Center Stage Seniors and Special Needs Mardi Gras Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center Stayin' Alive – Hard Rock	22 Sea Wolves vs. Zydeco MS Coast Coliseum Butt Seriously Center Stage Samantha Fish IP Casino
23 Super Sunday FREE Kroc Center Krewe of Barkloxi PAWrade Point Cadet Pavilion Butt Seriously Center Stage	24 Blood Drive Edgewater Mall Monday Night Bingo Our Lady of Fatima	25 Community Market Black History Program Frank Gruich Community Center Biloxi Bingo Mania Nativity Cathedral	26	27 Community Market Biloxi Fun Run Altered Reality Brewing March For Mayors Extra Table Food Collection ENDS Various Locations	28 Dinner & Karaoke with Kenny Fleur de Lis Society Friday Bingo Biloxi Elks Lodge Crafts & Drafts Mardi Gras Edition Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art Voyage/Journey Tribute IP Casino Bett Young Beau Rivage	1 Second Liners Mardi Gras Club Parade Downtown Biloxi Krewe of Neptune Night Mardi Gras Parade Downtown Biloxi



February Schedule

Sparklight 56 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)
7 a.m.	"Biloxi Cooks!" Birria Taco, The Daiquiri Shop, Beau Rivage
7:30 a.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
7:45 a.m.	Keesler Update (15 min)
8 a.m.	Special presentation: Replays of Christmas parades
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)
1 p.m.	"Biloxi Cooks!" Birria Taco, The Daiquiri Shop, Beau Rivage
1:30 p.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
1:45 p.m.	Keesler Update (15 min)
2 p.m.	Special presentation: Replays of Christmas parades
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)
7 p.m.	"Biloxi Cooks!" Birria Taco, The Daiquiri Shop, Beau Rivage
7:30 p.m.	Storytime with Gumbo Kelly (15 min)
7:45 p.m.	Keesler Update
8 p.m.	Special presentation: Replays of Christmas parades
9 p.m.	City Council meetings and other bonus public affairs programming (3 hours)
Midnight	National Anthem by Ronny Broussard (2 min)



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

Flavorful Tacos

The February episode of "Biloxi Cooks!" features a flavorful way to make tacos from The Daiquiri Shop at the Beau Rivage.

Watch the chef make the spicy and savory Mexican dish, birria tacos. Birria, a traditional Mexican stew with Guajillo and Arbol Chiles, becomes a taco when shredded cheese and corn tortillas are added to the mix. Follow along and prepare your own savory dish for an elevated taco dinner!

Watch this month's episode of "Biloxi Cooks!" all month long on BTV daily at 7 a.m., 1 p.m., and 7 p.m.



This month's recipe:

Birria Tacos

The Daiquiri Shop, Beau Rivage
(Serves 6)

Birria Ingredients:

- 4# Boneless Chuck Roast
- 1/2 Tbsp Kosher Salt
- 1/2 Tbsp Black pepper
- 2 Tbsp Olive Oil
- 12 Guajillo Chiles rinsed, steamed and seeded
- 5 Arbol Chiles rinsed, steamed
- 2 Large Roma Tomatoes
- 1/2 Medium Yellow Onion
- 1 Mexican Cinnamon Stick
- 3 Bay Leaves
- 1/2 tsp whole Black Peppercorn
- 2 cups of Beef Broth
- 5 Cloves Garlic
- 1/4 cup Distilled White Vinegar
- 1 tsp ground Cumin
- 1 tsp Dried Mexican Oregano
- 1/2 tsp Ground Cloves
- Water as needed

Taco Ingredients:

- Corn Tortillas
- 2 cups of Oaxacan Cheese shredded
- 1/2 cup white onion, diced
- 1/2 cup chopped cilantro
- Lime wedges

Instructions:

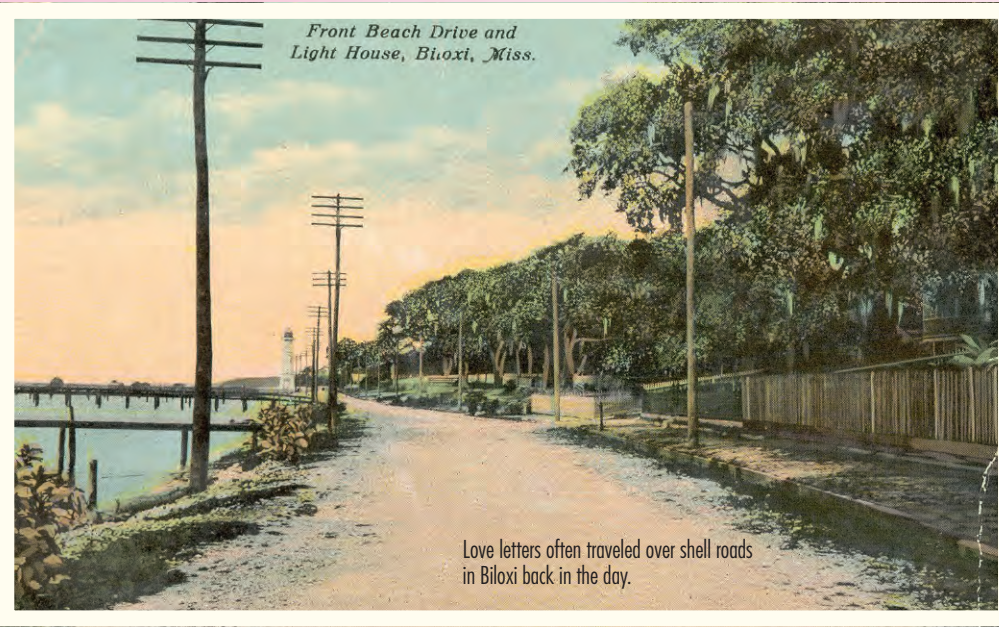
1. Season meat with salt and pepper on all sides and heat olive oil in large pot over medium-high heat.
2. Sear meat on all sides until browned. Remove pot from heat.
3. Add guajillo chiles ancho chiles, arbol chiles, tomatoes, onion, cinnamon stick, bay leaves, beef broth, white vinegar, garlic, cumin, oregano, and cloves to meat. Cover with water.
4. Bring to boil over high heat. Reduce heat to low, cover, and simmer for 3 to 3 1/2 hours until meat falls apart.
5. Transfer meat to large bowl and shred with 2 forks. Strain the leftover juice (Consomme) and separate the fat from the juice.
6. Lightly dip both sides of corn tortilla in layer of fat that you have separated, then place it in hot skillet to begin the taco.
7. Fill top half of tortilla with a generous amount of shredded cheese and shredded meat.
8. Fold tortilla in half and cook for about a minute on each side until cheese has melted. You want sides crispy and browned.
9. Pour the leftover Consomme in a bowl for dipping
10. Finish off taco with diced onion and cilantro



Love is in the Air

Biloxi's Connection with Valentine's Day

Biloxians of all ages and throughout the decades have enjoyed the celebration of Valentine's Day which is officially recognized each year as February 14. Even though February is the shortest month of the year, Biloxi's history is jam-packed with celebrations and remembrances.



Monsieur D'Iberville

The most outstanding historical event of Biloxi's February history begins with the landing of Canadian-born Monsieur Pierre Lemoyne d'Iberville and 14 of his men on our shoreline. Historical references relate that on Friday, February 13, 1699, Monsieur and his men debarked from their seaworthy, wooden sailing ship Le Marin on Ship Island and rowed northward in two smaller boats eventually arriving on our Biloxi peninsula. Where exactly might he have landed, we wonder. Through his French journals and other related documentation, many historians agree that it is likely that his first Biloxi mainland encounter was around the area of Edgewater Mall or Beauvoir. Since Monsieur writes about "some rather good oysters" at his Biloxi landing, we might assume that he and his sailing crew might have placed their first "bootprints" around Oyster Bayou which runs through the Beauvoir property.

Valentines

Valentine's Day has definitely become a celebratory tradition in Biloxi. The legend of St. Valentine became famous around the year 270 A.D. in ancient Rome in an area called Porta Valentini. There, Valentinus and Julia became close friends. His last note to Julia was signed "from your valentine." Since that time, messages of affection, love, and devotion have been exchanged around the world.

Mail delivery

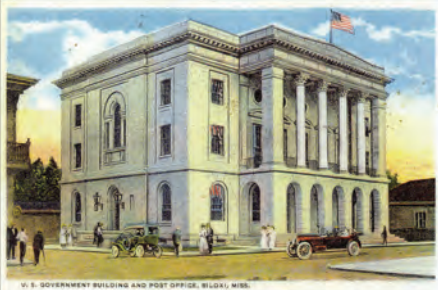
Mail delivery of paper valentines throughout Biloxi has changed drastically through the years. In the early 1900s, Biloxi's streets were coated with mud, sand, and oyster shells causing quite a challenge for love notes to be delivered. Both Pass Christian Road (now Pass Road) and Beach Road (now Hwy. 90 or Beach Boulevard) were the main east-west thoroughfares for mail

carriers to voyage via horse and buggies to deliver mail. During that time Mr. John Popp offered the services of his little ferry boat to aid in mail delivery of north-south mail transportation, in what is now considered West Biloxi and Sunkist. This route was very near the current Popp's Ferry Bridge. By that time, the mighty locomotive could also transport passengers, cargo, and mail along rail lines providing an even faster delivery service.

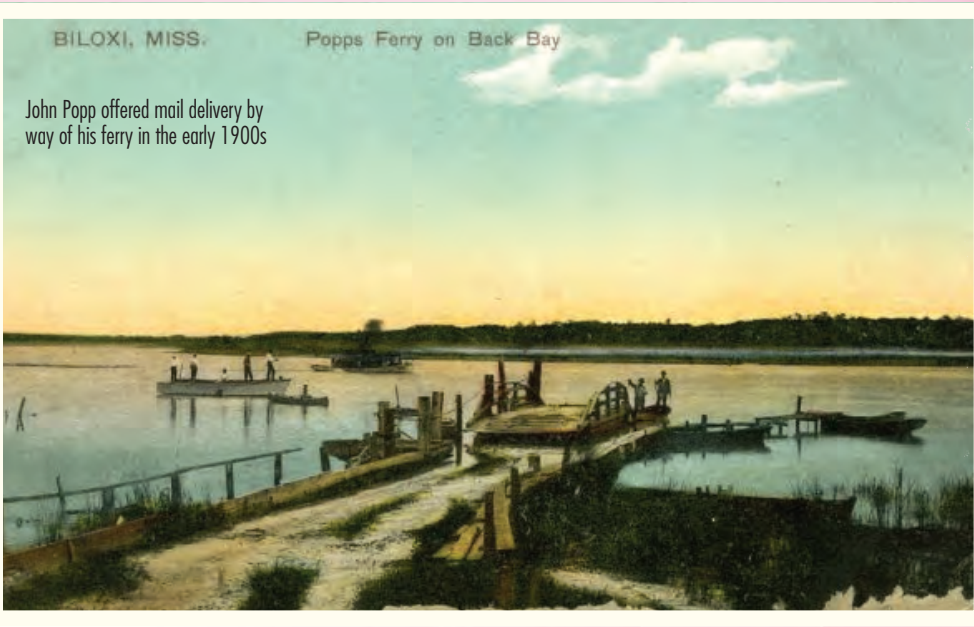
Post Office long ago and today

Years ago, our City Hall was once the place to go to connect with the community and to send correspondence to far-away places. Built in the early 1900s, Biloxians first mailed valentines at the building that we know today as the Biloxi City Hall. This sturdy structure located on Lameuse Street, was originally constructed as a U.S. Post Office, a federal building, and a customs house. It also accommodated a courtroom.

In 1959, the post office moved to the present Main Street location. There, about 700 post office box users were introduced to new combination locks as a secure mail-receiving feature. In 2023, this post office/federal building was dedicated to Biloxi fallen Police Officer Robert McKeithen.



Today's City Hall was the area post office in the 1920s.



Biloxi's connection with chocolate

Frederick W. Elmer (1847-1926) was elected mayor of Biloxi in 1891. His father Jacob Elmer was born in Switzerland and was a merchant. Their family home was located on Hwy. 90 and Magnolia Street, back in the day. Frederick grew up in Biloxi in a large family. Mayor Elmer lived in Biloxi until his death in 1926. His younger brother Augustus (1849-1906), however, ventured off and became the co-founder of Elmer's Candy Company. Today Elmer's is still a primary go-to for Valentine treats as well as Easter chocolates. This thriving chocolate company, inspired by a Biloxi native, is now located in Ponchatoula, Louisiana.

Keesler Field Telegrams

In the 1940s, before the era of cell phones and the internet, Keesler Field (Keesler Air Force Base) utilized telegrams as a popular and quick messaging system for the option of conveying love notes. Telegrams were transmitted through wires utilizing the Morse Code method of dots and dashes. This communication mode was invented in the 1830s by Samuel Morse and became a significant means of messaging for both civilian as well as in wartime efforts. In 2006, Western Union officially ended its telegram service after 150 years.

Biloxi's Romantic Interludes

Biloxi's shoreline has always provided the optimal location for romantic encounters. Its sea wall steps as well as the unique



The shoofly, pictured in 1941, offered couples a way to enjoy sunsets and breezes.

architectural feature of shooflies (porches built around huge oak trees) have given couples amazing opportunities to enjoy the awesome sunsets and breezes along the Mississippi Sound.

Romantic Poetry

In 1896, Laura Fenling Hinsdale (1845-1925) compiled a publication of poetry inspired by the history and stories of this area, "Legends and Lyrics of the Gulf Coast." One of her most memorable poems describes the legend of the "Ring in the Oak" which tells the romantic tale of a local native American maiden and her connection with the famous oak tree. That tree is still standing and is located at the southwest corner of Bellman Street and Hwy. 90. The tree and story were showcased recently by Biloxi Main Street as their 2024 Christmas ornament.

Music Waves

Decades ago, before the years of Pandora and YouTube, youngsters were inspired and entertained by romantic songs via the transistor radio utilizing invisible radio waves as its means of transmission. These small gadgets were hand-held and battery-powered. Perhaps the most memorable, recognizable song lists were produced by European groups from the 1960s and affectionately included in the "British Invasion" by bands and singers from the British Isles.

The Beatles were one the most noteworthy contributors of love songs from that era. Their top hits include "And I Love Her," "Michelle," "I Want to Hold Your Hand," "I Saw Her Standing There," and "P.S. I Love You," just to mention a



Valentine's Day Card in the 1950s



▲ The ring in the oak was the focus for one of Laura Fenling Hinsdale's romantic poems

◀ 2024 Biloxi Main Street Collectible Christmas Ornament: The Ring in the Oak

few. Biloxi is blessed with the ability to revisit those and other love songs, not only online, but at our downtown music store, Marley's Music store located on G E Ohr Street where older, prerecorded music can be re-discovered in its vinyl format, a treat for all generations.

♥ *The Love of Biloxi and its history and traditions doesn't stop with the past and the present... it continues into the future!*

BNews Monthly

FEBRUARY 2025

Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich
and the Biloxi City Council
George Lawrence • Felix O. Gines
Dixie Newman • Rodney McGilvary
Paul A. Tisdale • Kenny Glavan
David Shoemaker

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"frankly my dear"
BOUTIQUE

At Frankly My Dear Boutique, we invite you to explore our exquisite collection this Valentine's Day, where each piece is designed to capture the essence of beauty and elegance. Our curated gifts are sure to convey your love with a touch of sparkle and shine, making this occasion truly unforgettable. Visit Frankly My Dear Boutique today and find the perfect expression of your affection!