

Orange Beach

Community News

www.cityoforangebeachblog.com

Orange Beach, Alabama

June 4, 2007

by Ken Grimes, Jr.

Tourists have invaded Pleasure Island and we couldn't be happier around these parts as the first sign of true normalcy is cars moving on the highways and lines outside restaurants and retail shop doors. June arrived in nice fashion following a good Memorial Day holiday and as schools let out for the summer break, families arrived to vacation here on our sugar white shores. We cannot stress enough the importance of water safety and protection as you hit the beaches or boats this summer. Keep in mind all precautions and be conscious of your surroundings. Several drownings occurred recently in the region and those entering the water should know how to maneuver and understand the ever-changing currents and tides. Public safety personnel can only do so much as it is up to the swimmer or boater to proceed as their own risk. Enjoy our natural beauty and be safe. Remember, a good source of info for anyone hitting the water or beaches is the Daily Beach Report by calling 981-SURF for an up to date look at weather, tides, beach surf conditions and more. Thanks to the Orange Beach Parks and Recreation for providing this quality service to our public.



Water safety around Orange Beach begins with understanding the NO WAKE Zones marked in the various bayous, channels and coves. The Alabama Marine Police and Orange Beach Marine Police strictly enforce water related ordinances so be sure you understand the zones, have appropriate safety equipment on board and don't drink and drive. Have a Safe Summer in Orange Beach!

The Northwest Florida Blood Center held a blood drive this week in front of Orange Beach City Hall which netted 43 total units of blood. As summer comes to full speed the need for blood is high and you are encouraged to donate when you can at such community based drives. For more information call Marie Knight at (850) 572-3373 to find a location to give this month.



If the a smell of a handmade premium cigar and the feel of soft, cool leather sofas is your thing then you have got to stop by Our Cigar Bar at the Wharf. Located on the ground level overlooking the waterway, Our Cigar Bar has a full line of premium cigars along with a full service bar. This cigar aficionado's little nook is the perfect place to relax while the family shops for bathing suits, jewelry or beads. Jim and OJ Taranowski have been around the island for a while and finally brought this dream to reality in hopes of offering a unique, upscale offering

of the quality tobacco products. Find out more by calling 251-224-1687 and pick out your place to unwind and watch the sunset. Keep your eyes out for new shoppes opening daily at The Wharf in Orange Beach.

41st Annual O B Volunteer
Fire Department Bar BQ
Saturday, June 9
Call 981-6166 by the pound





Continued. . .

Orange Beach, Alabama

There are too many cars. . . the speed limit is too low . . . where can I catch a bus? These are common questions that are followed by plenty of suggestions related to public transit around our region. The South Baldwin Public Transit Coalition is holding a series of community outreach meetings to gather input and suggestions to numerous transportation topics. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, June 12 at Orange Beach City Hall from Noon to 3pm for such a public meeting. No reservation are required and all ideas and input are welcome as the discussion will entail current and future needs, how rising gas prices affect transportation options, and visioning for the perfect public transit system. For info you can contact L'Tryce Slade at 866-925-5742 or just attend the workshop on June 12.



Camp OB Outfitters kicked off this week with a good attendance and plenty of fun activities while learning about the bible and Jesus' love for them at First Baptist Church of Orange Beach. There is still time to register for the middle school age camp called "The Bridge" from June 11-15th from 9am to 3pm. The Bridge is for students who have completed fifth grade through eighth grade. A \$20 registration fee is required for The Bridge. To find out more about camps at First Baptist or to register call 981-4288. Orange Beach Parks and Recreation has a lot to offer young people this summer from golf, marksmanship and art lessons to programs like Eco Rangers Science Camp and the Summer Music Theatre. Find out more by calling 981-6028 today. Nominal fees are charged for participants and they vary by program!



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The inaugural "Mudbugs and Music" was held last weekend at the Orange Beach Sportsplex brought to you by the Maidens in Pink Stilettos. The event had good attendance and



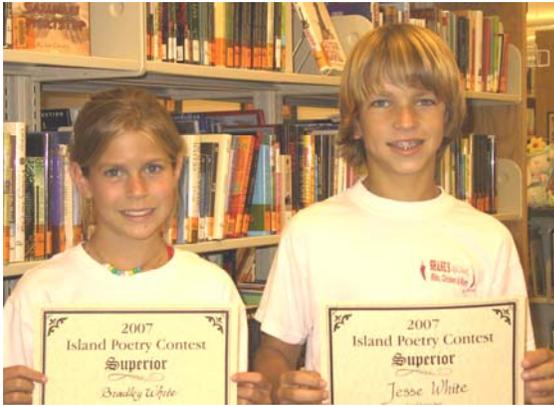
was an excellent kickoff to raising money for their selected charity, the Juvenile Arthritis Foundation. It really was a Cajun twist to a crawfish day in Orange Beach. Peace Lutheran Church hosted soprano Colette Boudreaux at the worship service on June 10th. The church is located just off the Foley Beach Express at 8250 Roscoe Road, one-half mile south of County Road 12. Boudreaux, is in the master's program at Manhattan School of Music in New York and recently made her debut at Carnegie Hall. For more information about the performance and other events, call the church at 251-974-2545.



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Continued. . .

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Caroline White and brother Jesse White display two of their families three certificates for first place in the Second Annual Island Poetry Contest through the public libraries. Over 90 entries were received for the contest representing all grade levels. First Place winners received \$50 each. Find out more at www.orangebeachlibrary.org

Smell that delicious aroma? Locals know the smell of the famous Orange Beach Volunteer Fire Department Bar BQ which was held on Saturday, June 9th at the Orange Beach Community Center. A great event to dine in or drive through with plates and sandwiches. What family has not tried the takeout by the pound, just pull around the Recreation Center and flow through the drive through with plenty of pounds of Boston butts cooked to perfection on the Fire Departments mega grill. The mega grill will heat up early Friday morning of this week and cook round the clock to bring those butts to a sensuous taste of perfection. Chief Forney Howard welcomes you to the picnic and has put the word out for people to get there early as the food always runs out shortly after lunch. Freeze a pound for a dinner next month when all the relatives arrive at the beach. Proceeds stay right here in Orange Beach and are used for great causes by the OBVFD Board. Great job to all volunteers and to the Ladies Auxiliary and full time firemen on the 41st Annual OBVFD BarBQ. There was a slight overage due to a late thunderstorm on Saturday so call 981-6166 to see if any is frozen and available for purchase at this time.

The big AC Celebrity Weekend is just weeks away and will bring many big time athletes to town all of which share a common thread in sharing their love of Jesus Christ. Check out the event set for June 28-July1 online at www.accelebrityweekend.com. Proceeds will benefit the ministries of Jeremiah Castille and Shaun Alexander, hence the AC, the program is organized by Steve and Vivian Hanich, owners of Sidelines Sports Collectibles at San Roc Cay. For additional info call 251-981-9790.

AC Celebrity Weekend

Beyond card playing and line dancing a lot is going on at the Orange Beach Adult Activity Center and you can find out more by calling 981-3440. A brief presentation regarding "Senior Citizens Fall Prevention and Around the Home Fire Safety" will be made by the Orange Beach Fire Department on June 25 from 11am – 2pm at the Orange Beach Adult Activity Center on Canal Road. This is an informative and helpful way to become more conscious of the possibilities of falling or trip hazards in the home as we age in years. Take a step toward preparedness by calling Carolyn Vines at 251-981-3440 to reserve your spot for the luncheon or call Orange Beach Fire Marshal Todd Posey at 251-981-6386. Lunch will be provided by the Fire Department.

Congratulations go out to all the Orange Beach girls softball teams who competed last weekend in the Northwest Florida Girls Softball Alliance All Star tournament. To say that some great competition is out there in the panhandle might be an understatement. All three teams gave it their all but fell short in the end as the double elimination tournament was over after six games. Keep your heads held high and keep working to improve as Orange Beach has proven to have the best sportsmanship and class instilled in its young athletes. Got some news around Orange Beach? Let us know what's going on by sending your community news to kgrimes@cityoforangebeach.com and be sure to log onto www.cityoforangebeach.com



OB 10U All Stars end the season with smiles

Bradley Byrne Assumes Post as Chancellor of the Alabama College System

Mr. Bradley Byrne assumed his post as chancellor of the Alabama College System, signing a three-year contract. The Alabama State Board of Education voted on May 10 to appoint Mr. Byrne as its permanent chancellor. Ms. Joan Davis, who was appointed acting chancellor to replace former interim chancellor Dr. Renée Culverhouse, will work with Mr. Byrne to achieve a smooth transition and will resume her full-time duties as general counsel and vice chancellor for legal and human resources of the Alabama College System.



Mr. Byrne received his undergraduate degree from Duke University, magna cum laude, and his law degree from the University of Alabama School of Law. He has practiced law for more than 25 years, primarily in the areas of business and employment litigation. From 1994 to 2002, he served as the representative of District I on the Alabama State Board of Education. In November 2002, Mr. Byrne was elected to the Alabama State Senate, where he served on the Education Committee. Byrne adds "I am looking forward to spending the next few years working with the State Board of Education and the employees of the system to deliver the highest quality services we can to the people of this state. While I know there are and have been some problems, I am confident that we will solve them and I am looking forward to this opportunity to serve the people of Alabama."

The Alabama College System includes 22 comprehensive community colleges, 4 technical colleges, Athens State University, extensive workforce training initiatives, and adult education programs. Last year, more than 284,000 people were served by the programs of the Alabama College System.

Governor Riley Praises Hiring of New Chancellor

Governor Bob Riley made the following comments about the hiring of Bradley Byrne as the new chancellor of the state's two-year college system. The State Board of Education voted to approve Byrne's contract on Thursday morning. "Alabama is fortunate to have someone of Bradley Byrne's character and philosophy serving in this position. Our two-year college system is critically important to the continued growth of our state. The new chancellor understands this and will do a fantastic job."

The ribbon cutting for Dolphin Queen Cruises in Orange Beach was recently held at Bear Point. Captain Lori DeAngelis, owner of Dolphin Queen Cruises in Orange Beach, describes this special cruise. "We offer an intimate dolphin encounter for you and your family. Through my years of service, I have found my guests want a private experience. I share my love of dolphins with my guests through stories and education." As a member of the Alabama Dolphin Rescue Network, Captain Lori shares her love for the dolphins with you and will personally introduce you to each dolphin that comes to the boat. Dolphin Queen Cruises provides a top-notch experience with dolphins, no matter what time of day by offering Sunset Tours and Back Bay excursions. A Dolphin Queen Cruise is the perfect romantic touch for an anniversary or honeymoon. To learn more about Dolphin Queen Cruises and how to reserve your ultimate Dolphin Encounter, please visit the website at www.dolphinqueencruises.com or call 1-251-747-3290.



Photo: Front Row L-R: Jana Davis, Maria Nicdao, Lauren Benton, Captain Lori DeAngelis, Mike DeAngelis, Josey Rochester, Renee Goodall, Mark Berson, Kurt Bush, Marsha Bradley, Raymond Lowe. Back Row L-R: Allen McElroy, Mitch Bradley, Dawn Rochester, Cecil Kline, Pat Jones, Teresa Jones, Ryan DeAngelis, Southern DeAngelis, Steven Hobart, Nicole DeAngelis, Eric DeAngelis, Kylee, DeAngelis, Mark Hardage, Patty Link.

A Last Look at Orange Beach this week . . .



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Heritage First Bank opened this month at 24847 Commercial Avenue (facing Canal Road) in Orange Beach. The bank is the newest addition to the Alabama Gulf Coast's financial partners making an investment of their own in our community. For more information about the bank contact Sharon Mazingo at 251-981-5600.



AGC CoC



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Turquoise Place west tower continues to rise and has quickly become a major landmark in Orange Beach. As one of the tallest structures on the Gulf Coast, the first tower has gone vertical at a rapid pace. Locals have learned to appreciate the construction crane as public art in motion as the beach skyline is dotted with these monstrous one legged birds. Keep your eyes open for the completion of this phase of Turquoise Place.

Balloons in Baldwin County Are A Blast!



www.southbaldwinchamber.com

SBCoC

Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival

Date: 6/15/2007 -- 6/17/2007

Time: 9:00:00 AM -- 10:00:00 PM

Location: Foley Soccer Complex Hwy 98W

Website: www.gulfcoastballoonfestival.com

Great family-oriented event! Food, live entertainment, arts & crafts, farmer's market.

Free parking and admission! Hot air balloons fly morning and evening (weather permitting). Check web sites for more detailed information on this unique event in south Baldwin County.

