

## Labor Day Holiday Weekend

Labor Day is not a day when you labor, it is a day when you have fun. This weekend is just around the corner as families began to make plans for the Holiday weekend. Schools will be closed, so the family can have a long weekend to visit with Grandparent's or make that last short vacation. Some will be grilling and bunking down for football games, since most will playing on home turf this weekend. Ladies will find shopping discounts as fall season rolls end and summer closes out. Sounds like there is something to do for everyone this upcoming weekend. For an advent for the whole family, the City of Orange Beach is collaborating with San Roc Cay for a grand Arts and Crafts festival to make this a weekend to remember. This celebration of Artists and Their Art has attracted some of the finest Painters, Potters, Weavers, Jewelers, and Writers on the Gulf Coast. For added pleasure, there will be Live Music Friday and Saturday evenings in the SanRoc Courtyard and the Gyro Space Ride will offer thrills & fitness for all ages throughout the weekend. The Saturday afternoon Wine Tasting and Chocolate Tasting in the Delicatessen is not to be missed! Call 251-981-5423 (Jeanette Dean) or go to [www.sanroccay.com](http://www.sanroccay.com) for more information. **City services will be closed Monday, September 1 for Labor Day Holiday.**



# firefighters . . . extreme heat & recovery!

Orange Beach Firefighters were called to the scene of a building fire near Caribe Dr. in the Cotton Bayou Area. When fire department personnel arrived on scene of the late afternoon fire they found a detached garage well involved and fire had already spread to the adjacent outbuilding. Although both buildings were lost to fire damage the exposed boats in the vicinity received minor cosmetic damage. The fire was thoroughly overhauled and the scene secured. One adjacent home required ventilation as a result of the smoke. No personnel were injured during the incident and the cause of the fire is under investigation.



photos by Ken Grimes, Jr.

# inspirations . . . what inspires you?

By Glenda Beech

*"I began taking trips to Orange Beach at age twelve and developed a love for marine & wildlife . . ."*

*Larry Rackley*



Recently, during the Billfish Classics, I met a traveling tournament artist by the name of Larry Rackley of Yellowfin Gallery. Warm and intense with a shy smile, I began to talk with him about his art. Larry Rackley began taking family trips to Orange Beach at age twelve, where he developed a love for marine and wildlife, and the beauty that surrounded the Gulf of Mexico. He would sit on the docks at marinas and sketch boats as well as the daily catch coming in from the gulf. He was more than happy trading these sketches for a ride on a captain's boat in search of an opportunity to catch a fish of his own.

These sketches were the beginning of what Yellowfin Gallery has become today. It wasn't until almost 20 years later that Larry Rackley's friends and family convinced him that although never had no formal art training, he had a true natural talent and should combine this talent and passion for giving back to the community to try to make a living as an artist. In between this time, Larry graduated from Hoover High School and entered the United States Marine Corps where he served our country and continued to build his portfolio of artwork. After serving eight years in the Marine Corps Larry started and grew a successful commercial construction company until the end of 2007 at which point he made the decision to start Yellowfin and devote his life to his artwork and vision of creating a positive impact on our community. With this opportunity, Yellowfin is traveling to fishing tournaments across the country selling his art and apparel line that continues to give back proceeds at every show to The Billfish Foundation, The Coastal Conservation Association, The National Wild Turkey Federation and Ducks Unlimited of Alabama. Yellowfin will also be donating art and proceeds to the Alabama Wildlife Federation at next months AWF Cook-off at the Birmingham Zoo. Yellowfin's mission is to continue to grow and give back to Alabama's non-profit organizations thru charity events and have a significant impact on the youth who want to learn how to fish and appreciate wildlife for the betterment of our community and conservation. For more information on Larry's art, log on to [www.yellowfingallery.com](http://www.yellowfingallery.com) .

# *diversity . . . expressed by languages!*

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By Glenda Beech



**T**hanks to Rauf Bolden, Web & I.T. Coordinator for the City of Orange Beach, The City of Orange Beach Web Site can now be translated into 23 languages by using the translate link on each page. The languages supported include: Arabic, Bulgarian, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Swedish. On Friday, August 22, Rauf passed a several hour exam for an Adobe Expert Certification in Acrobat. Rauf states, "To this end, I want the City of Orange Beach Technology Systems to be the best we can afford and managed so that each end user is the most productive he or she can be. For web work, my desire is for the people of Orange Beach not to be ashamed of the appearance of their web site; it should also be functional and easy to navigate. This information age in which we live provides an opportunity for us to give documentation to our constituents in a timely manner and I qualified in Adobe Acrobat because the PDF Format is the most user-friendly document-management system on the planet".

*Rauf Bolden is  
fluent in German,  
French, Dutch  
and English . . .*



# rewards...good qualities in action!

Photos by Glenda Beech

*"In the arena of human life the honors and rewards fall to those who show their good qualities in action."*



**L - R: Ken Grimes - City Administrator, Gerry Davis, Kyle Rogers, Robert James, Joseph Rogers, Squeaky Stewart, Jeff Hartley - Utilities Director, Jeff Fresh, Rob Barnett, James Whisenant, Mayor - Pete Blalock, Tim Adams - Shop Foreman  
Not Shown: Daniel Bodine, Jason Fikes, David McCormick, Steven Coomer**

**C**ertificates of Appreciation were awarded by Mayor Pete Blalock and City Administrator, Ken Grimes recently to Jeff Hartley, Utilities Director, and his team for an outstanding job of hard work and dedication after a sewer line was interrupted by a subcontractor, causing a major leak. The leak was repaired within hours due to the dedication of these employees. The City of Orange Beach can be proud to have a team of dedicated employees to serve them.

# can you feel the thunder?

## Thunder On The Gulf 2008



Once again, the Gulf of Mexico was churning with monstrous horsepower and plenty of racing machines as the annual Thunder On The Gulf took place to outstanding crowds. With plenty of race teams in town last week, the Offshore Super Series held a good event which drew thousands to the shores and condo balconies for a weekend of premiere racing. According to Safety Director, Sam Jackson, of the Gulf Coast Powerboat Association, we couldn't have asked for a better venue and once again the city stepped up along with many major sponsors to provide an outstanding setting for some of the most powerful racing boats in the world. Seeing the helicopter ballet overhead and the rooster tails of the engines, it's a simple fact that this unique event makes Orange Beach, Alabama a little more unique with the natural race course setting and plenty of places to see and experience the gala of powerboat noise. Speed on the water this year was exchanged slightly for some new aerial flights as many of the vessels were coming out of the water around the final turn thanks to some shifty currents and winds added to the wakes already on the course. Mayor Pete Blalock adds "its great to see such strong crowds attending an event of this magnitude on our shores while also seeing plenty of out of town tags. We are especially proud of the fact that once again our city employees were able to handle intense traffic and shoulder side parking with no major problems or issues during the weekend." Great job to the Alabama Gulf Coast Sports Commission on their work in promoting the event this year. Find out more about the results at [www.thunderonthegulf.com](http://www.thunderonthegulf.com).



# neighbors giving the gift of Vision . . . .

## Orange Beach Lions Club Members and families kick off 1st Annual Rubber Duck Race at the Oasis at the Wharf

If something seems a little "quacky" around town, you may be partially right, as the members of the Orange Beach Lions Club are proud to announce the first Annual Rubber Duck Race set to take place this fall. Thousands of bright yellow ducks are ready to be adopted in the coming weeks for donations of \$5 each or three ducks for a \$10 donation. An

adoption ticket provides a specific number for each duck that will be dropped in bulk into the lazy river at the Oasis at the Wharf. The tentative race date is set for Saturday, October 18, 2008 with family fun events planned for the day of the race. The first Annual Orange Beach Lion's Club Rubber Duck Race is a unique venture for the city's only civic club now in its twenty third year of service to the resort town. According to Orange Beach Lions Club President Ken Grimes, "the rubber duck race is a great way to build camaraderie in our community with a family event that will provide funding for assistance to eye exams and eye glasses for people in need of assistance." Members of the Orange Beach



*Front Row L - R: Jim Lawson, Kelly Grimes, Ronnie Breland, Jil Walker,  
Krista Alexander, Bonnie Lee, Paul Cope, Jim Jent, John Sadlis,  
Jeanette Hammett, Marina Hammett  
Back Row L - R: Greg Duck, Iris Ethridge, Ken Grimes, Libby Sadlis,  
Saylor Hammett, Melissa Barnhill, Ann Walker*

Lions Club will be blanketing the city, seeking people to adopt these very important rubber ducks, which will be marked with sequential numbers as they float down the river, racing for plenty of prizes and cash awards. Sponsorships and donations are being accepted by members as Orange Beach become host to this unique race. Watch for more details and rules on the Annual Orange Beach Lions Club Rubber Duck Race and get ready to adopt a duck. For immediate adoption call the office of Ken Grimes at 251-981-6799 or via email to Club President kgrimes@cityoforangebeach.com to support the Lions Club efforts today.

*for your information...*

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



**Bonfires on the beach  
are illegal along  
with fireworks and other  
flammable  
materials. Open burning is  
not allowed  
in the City of Orange Beach  
according  
to City Ordinance Section 34-56.  
Questions call 251-981-6166  
or to report a fire  
call 251-981-9777.  
Todd G. Posey, Fire Marshall  
[www.obfd.org](http://www.obfd.org)**



**Report your  
manatee sighting:  
Call 866-493-5803  
Email: [manatee@disl.org](mailto:manatee@disl.org)  
Web: [www.manatee.disl.org](http://www.manatee.disl.org)**

**Storm Updates: City website at [www.cityoforangebeach.com](http://www.cityoforangebeach.com) and click on TROPICAL WEATHER UPDATES**

**Daily Beach Report: 981-SURF (7873)**

**Info Line: 980 - INFO**

**Mobile Phone Info: [www.cityoforangebeach.mobi](http://www.cityoforangebeach.mobi)**