

October 2, 2006

by Ken Grimes, Jr.

From record setting fish to fall festivals it is apparent that Orange Beach has a lot of buzz going on around town. It seems that we are in that "shift season" and the calendar proves the "shift season" is here. What is the shift season you ask? That is the time of year just after Labor Day when the community events hit the schedule and local boards and groups do there fundraisers. The shift comes as tourist events and activities slow and the daily operations change to serve more of the local community needs. Good examples of this are the many upcoming events around Orange Beach and Pleasure Island that could never be pulled off during the summer season. Thanks to the many people who volunteer and work hard to make all the community events a big success. Here's to a good Shift Season!

Orange Beach has made international news as a new record setting swordfish was caught a few weeks ago by Del Sawyer on the Sea Reaper III. Captain Randy Howland and Robby Griffiths led the catch and brought it back to Orange Beach with a new record after nearly four hours of reeling it in. Weighing in at 448 pounds, the monster fish was snagged seventy miles southwest of the Orange Beach shores. Breaking the previous record of 350 pounds, the Sawyer family is all smiles. For great photos of the swordfish log onto www.orangebeach.ws and see for yourself what is lurking in our deep waters. Great job to Ken Cooper, developer of the website, for bringing these images for all to see Orange Beach from a slightly different angle.

The Community Hospice of Baldwin County board and volunteers will host a Wine * Cheese* Chocolate Event to be held on Thursday, October 5, 2006 at the Hotel Magnolia in Foley from 5pm to 7pm. A donation of \$15 will start the sampling and will be used to benefit charity hospice care. The event will feature wines provided by J/D Winery, tasty cheeses and crackers, and rich, dark chocolates. The art auction will feature a group of Foley's finest artists. Raffle tickets are being sold by friends of the Community Hospice for a weekend at an Orange Beach condo. Community Hospice is a locally owned not-for-profit organization dedicated to provide compassionate care for patient and families as they face life changing situations. For additional information, call 943-5015.



For more photos of the record setting catch log onto www.orangebeach.ws and see for yourself how big this fish is. Photos courtesy of the site.



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Orange Beach, Alabama

Getting ready for some tasty shrimp at the upcoming Shrimp Festival? Maybe its time to try your luck at winning a Mercedes that will be drawn for at the festival as ReMax of Orange Beach is taking chances for \$100 each on a 2007 Mercedes Benz C230 to be given away on Sunday, October 15th at 2pm. Proceeds benefit the Children's Miracle Network and tickets can be purchased by calling 981-2400 or stop by the ReMax Stage at Shrimp Festival. Way to go ReMax of Orange Beach and McConnell Automotive on the contest.



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 8-14, 2006



Keeping Orange Beach safe is the top priority for members of the Orange Beach Fire Department. Fire Prevention Week is set for October 8-14 and this year's mission statement is "Prevent Kitchen Fires, Watch What You Heat". Fire Marshall Todd Posey wants to encourage residents of Orange Beach to go online at www.obfd.org and click the home inspection checklist to be sure your home is safe to possible fire ignitions. Be sure to teach your children about fire safety during this time.

Golfers and duffers alike, get ready. Several great golf outings are coming up that benefit the local community. First is the Orange Beach Lions Club Annual Tournament held at Gulf State Park Golf Course on Saturday morning, October 28 at 8am. Simply arrive before 8 to get a time and register at the club house as golfers hit the course for a good cause. Sponsorships are available by contacting any member of the Orange Beach Lions Club or by calling Paul Cope, President of the club at 952-5308. Lions Club meets the first and third Wednesday at Lesters on Canal Road at noon and encourages interested people to stop by and find out more about the Lions. The next tournament is the Zoolabration Golf Tournament benefiting the Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo. Teeing it up at Peninsula Golf Course on Wednesday, November 8, the zoo board of directors will send them off with a shotgun start at 11am. Registration is \$105 per person to play and Sponsorships are available for \$100 each. Zoolabration Chairman, Richard Crawford has put together an excellent tournament and information is online at www.alabamagulfcoastzoo.com.

Get out that box of decorations and scary stuff as Halloween is just around the corner. Many community activities will be on the calendar starting with Boo At The Zoo on Thursday, October 19, from 4pm till dark. This is a unique and fun advertising opportunity for local businesses and a great time to bring the kids to the zoo in costume. Call Crystal Alexander at 967-3323 for more details. Boo at the Zoo is always a family fun event that benefits "the Little Zoo" even though it has been cancelled for two years straight following storm damage. Help them bring back the Boo At The Zoo this year. Another Zoo fundraiser in Orange Beach is the Pleasure Island Kiwanis Club's Annual Casino Night coming to Live Bait 2 on Thursday, October 26 with doors opening at 6pm. See any member of the Pleasure Island Kiwanis Club for tickets.

"BOO AT THE ZOO" OCTOBER 19TH 4PM UNTIL ...?



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Orange Beach, Alabama

Next up will be the Orange Beach Ladies Fire Auxiliary Halloween Carnival on Saturday, October 28 from 5pm till 9pm. Filling the park behind Orange Beach City Hall, games, booths, inflatables and more will be



This "Ape" visitor to Orange Beach was too real, even for us locals

center stage for younger kids. Come in costume and enjoy the fun as residents and guests of our city will have a ghoulishly fun time in front of Fire Station One. Thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary for putting together another great Halloween Carnival. The group is also sponsoring a Chili and Cornbread To Go dinner at the Orange Beach Community Center on Thursday, October 5 starting at 4pm. Plates are \$5 each and its drive through only but hey, it beats having to cook at home. Stop by and pick up a bowl of the good, homemade chili for a good cause.



Halloween Carnival fun in 2005

Hunting season is nearly here and the weather is about to bring that chill to the morning air. Are you a new hunter and need to learn more about the sport? This is your last chance for the Hunters Education Course and Field Day which is set for Saturday, October 14th and the class is a requirement to purchase a hunting license. Call 981-6028 to register.

Before you head out to the Gulf Shores High School homecoming on Friday, November 3rd, stop by Orange Beach Elementary School for its Fall Festival. The PTO has worked up a great slate of activities, games and raffles for all to enjoy. The Fall Festival is a major fundraiser for the PTO and Shirley Lowe, President says she will guarantee everyone has a good time. Another simple way to support the school is to stop by that afternoon and drive the Dodge vehicle around the block as each driver will get \$5 donated directly to the school by Dodge. There is no sales pitch and you simply test drive the product presented by Dodge. In fact, bring a friend or neighbor to add up those Lincolns . . .bills not cars. Mark those calendars for these upcoming Shift Season events.

Bridge Scores for Tuesday, September 26th from the Orange Beach Bridge Club:
1st: Bette Taylor; 2nd: Barbara Martin; 3rd: Barbara Gingras and for
Thursday, September 28th: 1st Joanne Thompson, 2nd Pat Trelford, 3rd Ed Borman.
The Bridge Club on Tuesday was held at the home of Mr. Randy Laney in Fairhope who served a wonderful lunch and the Bridge Group had a great time according to our sources. Join the fun by calling 981-3440.



One final note to the readers of our local newspaper the Islander. On behalf of the City of Orange Beach and our many residents and city staff, we want to say "Thank You" to Clayton Wallace who served as Editor of the Islander for the past six years or so. Clayton is a local product of Gulf Shores and Orange Beach and has covered the tremendous growth of our community during his tenure. It's tough being in an editorial role and for the headaches and heartaches that go with such a job we say, great job for keeping our citizens abreast of the news. Clayton is moving on in his career and we wish he and Kelly the best. Also to Alton Wallace we bid a fond farewell and say thanks for the hard work in covering Orange Beach and our good and not so good news. Best of luck guys.

Got some news around Orange Beach? Let us know what's going on by sending your community news to obecon@gulfnet.com .

www.cityoforangebeachblog.com

2006 Southeastern Conference Women's Soccer Championship Tournament

November 1 - 5, 2006

Orange Beach Sportsplex

Canal Road (Hwy. 180), Orange Beach, Alabama

Quarter Finals - Wednesday, November 1

12:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Semi Finals - Friday, November 3

5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

SEC Championship Game

Sunday, November 5, 3:30 p.m.

General Admission

Adults \$5.00

Youth \$3.00

Youth in soccer
uniforms or with
Coach admitted free!

For more information contact -

City of Orange Beach
Parks & Recreation Department
251-981-PLAY
www.obparksandrec.com

