

December 4, 2006

by Ken Grimes, Jr.



Twinkling lights, bright glistens on the roadside and on the front lawns of neighbors about town. Oh yes, the Christmas season is here and many neighborhoods are getting in the act of holiday decorating. Personally I have spent quite a bit of time getting those little bulbs replaced and putting in the tiny little fuses that come in the pack of stuff nobody keeps. Up and down the stairs into the attic. Unbox the ornaments and look for those little hooks you remember buying last year for half price. What about the stockings? Those custom embroidered ones with the kids names on them, can't seem to find that box! Does any of this sound familiar? I hope it does as this summarizes my family's past two weeks. All in all to sit back on a cold night like this week and just watch the memories shine and shimmer on the tree. To see cars pull by outside and stop to look just a few seconds longer. Priceless. . . the commercials say!

Bayou Place subdivision off Cotton Bayou Drive is getting in the act. Reports are that Captains Cove is hustling it up and even a drive down Perdido Beach Boulevard past all the Phoenix units (great job Brett Robinson staff) which are looking great this year. Take a look at First Baptist Church's Nativity out front or swing by City Hall for some great lights. Get out those tangled strings and put up a few candles and a wreath. Help a neighbor set up a few and then be sure to drive the family around and check it out. Christmas is about "Peace on Earth" and sharing our memories at a church special or just a gathering of friends.



Making a wake down the Waterway was around 22 vessels all decked out for the Nautical Night of Lights boat parade. The reflection of the boats was incredible as great time was made in the trek from Lulu's to Calypso's as the participants were showcasing their efforts in decorating. Great job to the Chamber staff and volunteers in making the event another special night for residents and guests of Orange Beach.

Holiday music is filling the air around Orange Beach and there are many opportunities to just sit and enjoy the melodies of the season. One such event is the Christmas Celebration with the Voices of Mobile hosted at First Baptist Church Orange Beach on Sunday night, December 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 6pm. The Voices of Mobile are students from the University of Mobile who are bringing this special presentation to our community. First Baptist Church is located next to Waterfront Park on Canal Road, just look for the beautiful nativity lighting on the front lawn.

The United Methodist Women's organization of Orange Beach United Methodist Church will have their annual Christmas Cookie Extravaganza Saturday morning, December 16<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9a.m. in the church fellowship hall. Everyone in the community is urged to come by the church and stock up on homemade Christmas goodies. Proceeds will go to various mission projects of the OBUMW. Don't miss this great event! The church is located at 28751 Canal Rd. on the east end of the island. For more information call Ann Boling at 974-3048.

The Friends of the Orange Beach Library Christmas Open House will be held on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from noon until 6pm. Stop by the Library on Canal Road and enjoy refreshments and friendly faces all afternoon long. The Bear Point Civic Association will hold its annual Christmas Open House on December 9, 2006 from 6 to 8 p.m. at its facility on Bay La Launch Avenue. The event will highlight a visit with Santa and his Elf for the children, refreshments, decorations and door prizes. The public is invited to celebrate the season with the residents of Bear Point and the Civic Association. Everyone is welcome to attend according to Judy Moore at 981-5734.

When doing that holiday shopping, pick up a few extra toys for a special young person in town. The Orange Beach Fire Dept. Ladies Auxiliary has begun their annual Christmas drive for families of Orange Beach in need of a little extra support. Non-perishable food and toys may be dropped off at Winn Dixie in Orange Beach or at the Fire Station #1 behind city hall on Orange Beach Blvd. All donations need to be received by Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> to be included and packaged for select families with children. Approximately 30 families were provided with food, toys and clothing for Christmas in 2005. For monetary donations or for more information call 981-6280 or 974-5832.

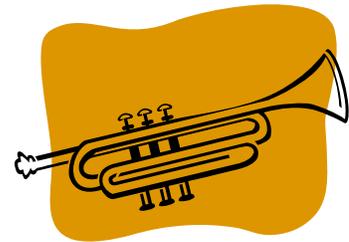
The Starlight Theatre in partnership with the City of Orange Beach Recreation Department presents Annie, Jr. on December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Orange Beach Recreation Center. Many local up and coming actors and actresses will perform so be sure to give them your support. For info or tickets call 752-1336. Orange Beach Elementary School PTO President Shirley Lowe invites the community to attend a special Art Show at the school on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. The showing is presented by the PTO and is a great last chance to get that special one of a kind gift for the big day.



Reaching into the community and growing in membership to stand by the motto, "We Serve" is the Orange Beach Lions Club. In a recent ceremony, Bob Olson led the induction of three new members to the club at a regular meeting at Lester's. Members being pinned included myself, Ken Grimes, Jr. sponsored by Scott Hardee; Jim Lawson, Jr. sponsored by Ken Grimes; and John Sadlis sponsored by Keith Lee. Lions Club President Paul Cope welcomed the new members and encouraged everyone to continue working hard to serve Orange Beach.



The bands at our area schools are working together as they grow and mature. In fact the Gulf Shores Middle and High School bands are joining together! The Middle School has been invited by the High School to join them on a trip to Disney World to perform in the Dynamic Music Festival. That means fund raisers are being put into action to secure the means to travel to Orlando, Florida. The band have already held car washes and sold poinsettias as well as sponsored parents nights out. The next activity is a concert by the bands on December 12<sup>th</sup> at the Erie Meyer Civic Center. During the concert they plan a silent auction set up at the entrance. A babysitting service is planned at the high school on December 16<sup>th</sup> from 9am-5pm for ages 3-11 with donations accepted. A Dinner & Show during the Gulf Shores Entertainment Series on January 17<sup>th</sup> and on February 5<sup>th</sup> in which the combined bands will perform and dinner will be served at 6P.M. Tickets are on sale for those shows by calling Donna Bush at 269-9533. Anyone wishing to donate items for their silent auctions can also contact Donna. Great job and good luck to all members of the Gulf Shores Middle and High School bands in your efforts to make it to Disney World.





Continued. . .

Orange Beach, Alabama

Speaking of growing, the enrollment at Orange Beach based Columbia Southern University continues to climb at a steady pace. Joining the City of Orange Beach as learning partners, CSU Vice President of Partnership Development, Chantell Cooley announces recent partnerships with the Fire Dept of New York City (FDNY) which by itself has around 16,000 employees. Other major learning partners include Delta Air Lines and Boeing. Find out more about the opportunities through Columbia Southern University by checking out [www.columbiasouthern.edu](http://www.columbiasouthern.edu).



This community was founded by the fishing industry back in the day. Commercial and charter fishing became the staple and through the decades of such recreational and business ventures, more is even being done today to build up the populations of fish species. Thousands of reefs have been placed, new practices in place and a more education mindset of the importance of managing our fishing. The Orange Beach Fishing Association needs your support to



counter the thousands of signatures from environmental groups requesting the National Marine Fisheries to drop the red snapper TAC to 5.8 million pounds. The OBFA has created a petition site that supports the council's decision to delay by 4 months any further action on red snapper and supports the voluntary buyout of commercial quota that would be transferred to the recreational sector upon purchase. Bobbi Walker, President of OBFA asks each person to go to the site below by clicking on it or visit Orange Beach Fishing Association's web site [www.gulffishing.net/home.htm](http://www.gulffishing.net/home.htm) and sign the petition there. The Association also encourage you to forward this petition site to as many people as possible so that we can obtain thousands of signatures. <https://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/794820007>.

Senior Activity Center bridge scores for Tuesday, November 28th: 1<sup>st</sup>: Joan Nagy; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Richard Thompson; 3<sup>rd</sup>: Dell Wetzel and for Thursday November 30th: 1<sup>st</sup>: Jack Loveless; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bo Schook; 3<sup>rd</sup>: Bob Anderson. Find out more about Holiday activities and events at the center by calling 981-3440. Bringing home the title is a great feat and that is exactly what the Orange Beach/Gulf Shores Super Senior Women's team accomplished recently winning the Alabama State Championship held in Huntsville back in October. They defeated teams from Huntsville, Muscle Shoals, and Birmingham. The next hurdle is to compete in the Sectional USTA championships in Columbus, GA, March 30-April 1, 2007. The matches will be played by all statewide winners within the Southern section: MS, AR, LA, GA, NC, SC, KY, TN, and AL. The winning team will advance to the National Finals. Good luck to our local 3.0 Super Senior Women! Super Senior Women's tennis team members include Charlotte Layne, Norma Guest, Linda Threadgill, Irene Kellogg, Captain Betty McDuffie, Pat Mohl, Myrna While, and Frieda Harrison. Keep bringing home the trophies ladies!

Bells are ringing, people singing. . . well they were on Monday as the Orange Beach Community Center Association held its annual "Christmas Sing a Long" led by Diane Weaver accompanied by Nancy Moon on the keyboard. Attendees had a great time getting in the holiday spirit. Making plans for the last night of the year to ring in the new year. Take a look at the Wharf's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual New Year's Eve Celebration set for December 31<sup>st</sup> from 8 pm until 12:30 am. The event is new to the city and will be a street party on Main Street & Wharf Parkway. It's free to the public with entertainment provided by the Tip Tops beginning at 8pm. Attendees will enjoy fireworks, lasers, music and more as the countdown to New Year's will culminate at Midnight- with a lighted anchor drop at the north end of Main Street. Organizers plan to show the New York Times Square festivities on large screens to keep everyone excited as the Central Standard Time hour approaches. Cash bar and concession stands will be available with beverages and other highlights include strolling entertainers such as jugglers, unicyclist, balloon artists, costume characters, living statue, magician, face painters. Party hats, tiaras and horns will be passed out to participants and the party area will be decorated in a New Year's Eve feel with white light-silver-black-light, laser effects, scrim, elaborate trusses at entry, festooning. Plan to bring the family and shop a while as the evening looks to be a load of fun. For more information log onto [www.thewharfal.com](http://www.thewharfal.com) for details.



Get ready for an Orange Beach Historical Open House as we Remember Orange Beach – A Gathering. Organized by Margaret Childress Long and Michael D. Shipler, authors of the popular book *“The Best Place To Be – The Story of Orange Beach”* and others will host an open house event on Saturday, January 6, 2007 at the Orange Beach Senior Activity Center. More details to follow in the coming weeks.

Got some news around Orange Beach? Let us know what’s going on by sending your community news to [obe-con@gulftel.com](mailto:obe-con@gulftel.com) and be sure to log onto [www.cityoforangebeach.com](http://www.cityoforangebeach.com) and register to receive the weekly newsletter online which has much more detail and color photography on other events.

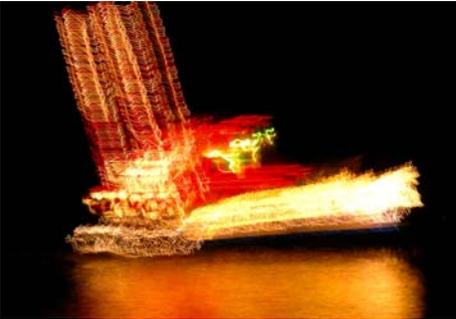
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*A final look at Orange Beach this week. . .*



*With the use of a highly specialized lens and aperture setting on the camera, we are able to see the finely decorated vessels of the Nautical Night of Lights. Be careful trying this setting with your own photos.*

*PS> just really blurry shots. . . In the dark*



*The Baldwin County Planning Commission voted unanimously to rezone the 80 acre Orange Beach Commerce Park property to M-1 Light Industrial to make way for several major projects coming to the city. The vote goes as a recommendation to the County Commission for final approval.*

November 17, 2006



Dear Pleasure Island Partner,

Does it matter where I shop this Christmas season? Many residents don't put a lot of thought into where to shop and therefore don't truly understand the importance of their decision on where to purchase their gifts and goods. Your neighbors, friends, relatives and co-workers are all dependent on such shopping decisions and the mindset it takes to boost our economy and help the people we see everyday.

Orange Beach and all of Pleasure Island has seen its share of changes over the past couple of years. You individually, and those you know are the start to making a difference this Christmas season in keeping our city and region vibrant into the future. Studies show that for every \$1 dollar spent locally, on average, an estimated 40 cents will stay in the local economy as it re-circulates to other merchants, retailers and service providers.

In today's shopping decisions, many factors affect our choices such as higher gas prices, time limitations, customer service, crowds and busy schedules. All confirm that we should "shop locally" whenever possible and at least try to keep our dollars in Baldwin County. Whether you are seeking a collectible from the coast, an original piece of artwork, jewelry, clothing or a gift certificate to one of our many restaurants, they are all available right here in Orange Beach.

Your investment in those gifts purchased locally makes a direct positive mark on your city and your neighbor. Retail and services, restaurants to fishing are all part of our economy and jobs are dependent on the success of each. We hope to see you around town this holiday season.

Thanks for your continued support of Orange Beach, Alabama.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Pete Blalock'.

Pete Blalock  
Mayor