

December 18, 2006

by Ken Grimes, Jr.

Jingle Bells, hear them ring as it's that time of year to celebrate Christmas and the birth of Jesus Christ. It's a special time around the world but here in Orange Beach it is quite special to as the beach is empty, usually a coolness floats into the air and our waterways shine like glass with few boats on the move. Enjoy this weekend with family and friends and be sure to travel safely over the next few weeks as many make way to visit those outside of our area. Merry Christmas to all in and around Orange Beach, Alabama!

Orange Beach glistened, twinkled and flashed a bit on Monday night as the Orange Beach Garden Club judged for "Light Up Orange Beach" effort which encourages residents to get those lights on for the holidays. Nighttime cruising is a popular habit this time of year as a left turn here or a right curve there may lead to a spectacular display of Christmas décor. Watch for an upcoming issue to see who won the contest this year as the lights have been popping up all over town in 2006. The Club will do its best to showcase some of the Orange Beach properties in upcoming online versions of the OB Community News so keep your eyes peeled for more lights. Great job to all Orange Beach Garden Club members and special VIP Judges for your hard work.



Smiling carolers from First Baptist Church Orange Beach, young and adult took cards and candy to the Beverly Assisted Living in Foley to spread the Christmas cheer to all this season.

Reflections on the surface of Bear Point Marina were hard to describe as many of the vessels docked there were decorated for the second annual Bear Point Marina "Deck The Docks" Lighted Boat contest.

Organized by Patti Link and others at the marina, the effort



"Capt Lee"

drew spectators and residents from throughout the community to take a peek as some beautifully decorated boats while entertainment was provided by Capt. Lee Lindblom's One Man Band with the songs of the season. Lighting a boat presents a few more challenges than one might think but the efforts of many paid off. Trawlers, fishing, inshore and sailboats were well represented for the event as the lights were shimmering on the bay. There is still time to stop by Bear Point and walk the docks and enjoy the lighted boats as Patti says the gates are open till Christmas. Just remember to respect the residents of this area as this is their home . . . they just float! Find out more at



"Deck the Dock" at Bear Point Marina lights the night

www.bearpointmarina.com

Green thumbs are blooming, large and small, as the Orange Beach Elementary School Garden Club planted a willow tree on the campus as a gift to the school. Mr. and Mrs. John Giannini were the kind



OBES Garden Club members with the Willow Tree

sponsors of the tree, which will help beautify the campus. Students in the OBES Garden Club who helped plant the tree included Damian Heaton, Kala Heaton, Trenton Novak, Josey Rochester, Caroline Grimes, Hannah Giannini, Connor Newton, Savannah DeScalzo, Susan Belmonte, Caitlyn Wyers, Abby Grimes, Hunter Giannini, Savannah Townley, Zoe Townley, Savannah Newton, and Kali Templeton. Great job to Gail Cahn on keeping the kids busy and to Julie Gerstenschlager for keeping all of us informed.

a new slide at Waterville USA ended with Caroline entering the name "Triple Dog Dare" for the new triple drop slide to be added at Waterville for the upcoming 2007 season. Caroline was awarded a free season pass for the water park, and every student in her class was given a free one-day pass. As the contest



OBES 5th graders

Other happenings at the OBES include Waterville selecting fifth grader Caroline White and her naming the new waterslide at the park. The contest to name

winner, Caroline will be the first person to ride the slide that she named at its unveiling. Congratulations to Caroline and fun for all on the "Triple Dog Dare!" For those who know Caroline, she has no fear so the first ride will be a breeze. Don't be scared!



Caroline White says I "triple dog dare" you to ride the slide

The Orange Beach Senior Activity Center bridge scores for Tuesday December 12th: 1st: Hank Roberts; 2nd: Chuck Ogle; 3rd: Ernest McConnell and for Thursday December 14th: 1st: Marianne Grant; 2nd: Ruth Bishop; 3rd: Chuck Ogle. Remember you can play bridge on Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:30pm-3:30pm at the Center. Find out more about the holiday schedule by calling 981-3440.

In its monthly award effort, the Orange Beach Garden Club proudly presented the Holiday Inn Express its Commercial Yard of the Month for November, located at 24700 Perdido Beach Blvd. in Orange Beach. Accepting the honor was Jason Nicholson, Manager and Melissa Morgan, Asst. Manager and Suzanne Parker, Sales. The November Residential Yard of the Month was awarded to J.B. & Diane Horst, 29674 South Bayshore Dr. in Orange Beach. The beautifully landscaped yard has an extensive assortment of unusual hydrangeas, among other lovely plants, including the bright span of happy pansies according to the OBGC representatives. Great job winners and keep up the great landscaping.



Continued. . .

Orange Beach, Alabama

Be sure to stop by the Wharf's 1st Annual New Year's Eve Celebration set for December 31st 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. Fireworks, lasers, music and more will count down the New Year. For more information log onto www.thewharfal.com for details.



Youth basketball got underway last week in Orange Beach as most teams got in their first games. Some close ones and a few wider margins were had as the young men and ladies of the town gave it their all. Cheerleading also continues to practice as they get ready to start cheering at games in January. The K-1st Grade Orange Beach Squad is led by Kelly Grimes and includes; Bre' Andrews, Savannah DeScalzo, Ellie D'Orazio, Morgan Franklin, Caroline Grimes, Sandrae Jimmerson, Amber Mason, Andrea Phillips, Delaney Russ, Maddie Scarborough, DJ Schneider, Meesha Terrall, Jeni Walker, Mikayla Woodruff, Caitlyn Wyers. A sneak peak was had of the new dance which is set to "No Parking On The Dance Floor" from the 80's so watch out. Good luck to all participants!



Some of the Marlins k-1 cheer squad at "Cheer Camp"

Plan to reminisce on Saturday, January 6 at the Orange Beach Senior Activity Center 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". Everyone is invited to come and share their old photos of early settlers, founding families & descendants, places, boats, events, ancestral stories, family histories, and memories that make up the unique history of Orange Beach.

The City of Orange Beach Relay For Life team is gearing up for the annual Big Yard & Craft Sale to be held on January 20th at the Orange Beach Community Center. Booth space is \$25 for an indoor table and guaranteed shoppers. Book now as they're filling fast. The team is also seeking donations so it is a great time to clean out your attic, garage and closets and donate those former treasures and ready to find a new home items. The City's Relay team will take your donations at the Community Center on January 19th and all donations are tax deductible. For info call Jeanne Fitzgibbons at 981-1524.



OB Garden Club - Yards of the month for November 2006



Orange Beach Community News

Orange Beach, Alabama

City of Orange Beach Services Closed
 Monday, December 25th
 Tuesday, December 26th
 Monday, January 1st

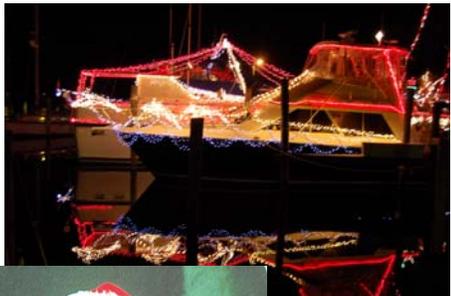
Merry Christmas Happy New Year

Just a reminder that City of Orange Beach services will be closed on Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26 for Christmas and again on Monday, January 1, 2007 for New Years. Take care of any business prior to those days and Have a Merry Christmas!

Got some news around Orange Beach? Let us know what's going on by sending your community news to obecon@gulfnet.com and be sure to log onto www.cityoforangebeach.com and register to receive the weekly newsletter online which has much more detail and color photography on other events.

Sympathies to the family of Dr. Tyler Nichols who passed away this week. Dr. Nichols was a long time resident and surgeon of the area and will be missed dearly!

A final look at Orange Beach this week. . .



Lighted boats at Bear Point ; above Abby Grimes poses with Banana Wind which won first place in the contest. Left: Council member Joni Blalock proudly shows her silly santa hat; far left: Larkin West, son of Phillip and Beth West isn't so happy to see the big man