

Orange Beach Community News

Orange Beach, Alabama

February 20, 2006

by Ken Grimes, Jr.

The season is in full stride and parades and festivities have made their way into Baldwin County. Parade time is also here in Orange Beach as the Mystics of Pleasure kick off our season on Saturday night at 5:30 moving west to east down Perdido Beach Boulevard. The Mystics parade will travel approximately 3 miles starting near Ruby Tuesdays and ending at SanRoc Cay. This night parade is a great way to start celebrating the fun of Mardi Gras as the lighted floats and Harley's make some noise. We have seen the Mystics of Pleasure grow over the past several years and they continue to put on a good show and make it fun for all ages. Way to go you mystical dudes, whoever you are!

Next on the agenda is the Fat Tuesday, City of Orange Beach Mardi Gras parade on February 28 starting at 1:30pm at Live Bait and moving to the east down Perdido Beach Boulevard. The route of this parade will end at Highway 161 at Rite Aid and there are no bad spots to view this parade. Find a place at either parade and park safely off the roadway or in a parking lot and sit back and enjoy. Plenty of new floats are in line this year with over 50 entries set to parade. There has been a flurry of new float construction this year and it appears to bring a new level of professional parading to Orange Beach. The City has provided portable toilets at many locations on the route again this year and encourages spectators to have a good time but to stay back a safe distance as there are no barricades used in these events. A final Mardi Gras event will depart the Bear Point Marina at 3pm on Fat Tuesday and make the nautical path to Lulu's in Gulf Shores. This parade of boats will bring Mardi Gras 2006 to a close. Be safe if you plan to boat along with the Krewes and their crews.

Valentine Fun! First Baptist Church of Orange Beach held its annual banquet, "A Night of Love and Laughter" with an excellent meal prepared by Renee Jackson and crew and served by youth from across Orange Beach. Entertainment for the evening was Gary Claxton, the "Mouth of the South" straight from south Georgia. The banquet serves as a major fundraiser for the youth program at First Baptist enabling many young people to travel to summer camp each year.



First Baptist Orange Beach Youth Group served a great meal to raise funds for camp

The Annual Seafood Festival was held on Saturday with a whopping twenty degree change in the weather during the day. In what seemed



to be a good looking start, by late morning the cold rains and strong wind was tough to overcome. The event did sell over 700 plates which is down substantially from previous festivals. Congrats to Robert Stuart and the many volunteers of the Orange Beach Sports Association on making the best of a blistery cool situation. A special kudos to Cheyenne Moon, 5th Grader at Orange Beach Elementary, who worked from start to finish washing dishes, prepping food and frying shrimp. She did it all and was a great volunteer on Saturday.

Fellowship and fun was had by all including the McElroy's, Klein's, Hardee's and Dean's at the First Baptist banquet

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Need some trees? The Arbor Day Free Tree Giveaway will be held this Friday and Saturday at the Community Development office next to City Hall. Stop by and pick up a few seedlings to grow around your yard. This is a great family project that you can watch together as they grow. Through the Arbor Day program we are planting for our future. Another thing you can do to help our future is drop off some non-perishable food items, snack packs, pop top snacks and goodies to the Orange Beach Recreation Center. The Community of Promise program "Backpack for Kids" is ongoing and each week about 30 backpacks are distributed to families that have children who might need a little extra help and nourishment during the weekend. Thanks to Karen Clark, Kristen McIntosh, Sgt. Jay "Packey" Dempsey and many other volunteers who make this work

"Arbor Day Tree Giveaway"
Friday, February 24th
Saturday, February 25th
7am-11am @ City Hall
Community Development Dept.



Family Projects
Teach Our Youth
Planting for
Our Future



Free Trees

If you missed the Animal Planet story about our Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo, you missed a treat. The original aired last week and will run each Wednesday night at 8pm. Tune in and see what kind of hard work has gone into the zoo and its rebuilding. Great job Patti Hall, Kate, Cindy, Rusty, Susie and the many others who plugged away at making the recovery.

The Orange Beach Senior Activity Center is still busy with activities and events. Your bridge winners are for February 14th: 1st- Irene Hufnagel; 2nd- Jim ; 3rd – Sally Krigbaum: and for February 16th: 1st- Barbara Glaze; 2nd- Sally Krigbaum; 3rd Mary. Great job folks. Remember to tell us your last names when you sign in. Come learn and relax during The Myth of the Samurai in WWII Japan by author Mark Barlow. Sponsored by the Orange Beach Public Library, Thursday, February 23 @ 6 p.m. at the Orange Beach Adult Activity Center. Mark Barlow will explore the use of propaganda from the enemy's perspective in THE SAMURAI MYTH IN WORLD WAR II JAPAN. Barlow is the author of JUJUTSU: LEGACY OF THE SAMURAI. His book will be available for purchase at this event.



Karen Clark and Sgt Jay Dempsey transport "Backpacks for Kids" each Friday to help families around Orange Beach

After many years in the making, Margaret Childress Long has brought her dream to fruition. Her book, "The Best Place To Be – The Story of Orange Beach, Alabama" is at the printer and sales are underway. The work follows the history of the community from Paleo-Indians and explorers to the modern day family resort that it has become. Included in the 360 pages are many photos of the progress and life back then. Pre orders can be made prior to March 20 to Leedon Art Gallery in Bay Minette by calling 1-800-720-1255. Congratulations Margaret on this accomplishment.

As winter 2006 nears an end, we wish our winter visitors a fond farewell for those who will be departing Orange Beach soon. Your support of our area, and your help in our recovery has enabled Orange Beach and the Alabama Gulf Coast to come back from difficult times and make great strides toward our future. Thanks for your love of our area. . . see ya'll next year, ya hear.

Here's to keeping your eyes on the prize and ear to the ground as we see what's going on all around town. Send your news to obecon@gulftel.com and we will try to spread it out.

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