

# Orange Beach Community News

## Orange Beach, Alabama

March 27, 2006

by Ken Grimes, Jr.

Another beautiful week here in Orange Beach as Spring Breakers keep coming in and heading out. It's great to see the tourists back in full force as our region needed the boost. The past two years have been tough but we are all stronger for fighting through those tough times. Speaking of tough times, here is a little story about some Orange Beach families.

I try not to mix too many personal life stories into the Orange Beach Community News, but this story is a must tell. A special thanks to my In-Laws and my wife's grandmother. Thanks for what you may ask? For being good people. . . I mean really good people. To Larry and Sidney Harless and to "Mimi" and to my wife Kelly and daughters Abby and Caroline, this past weekend was a huge milestone in all our lives. We moved them into their newly completed home with every last piece of furniture, clothing and dishes. You see, we have been sharing our home since Ivan hit and their home was heavily damaged requiring it to be demolished and a new one to be built. After many heartaches, headaches, backaches and more, the process began and just came to an end with a Certificate of Occupancy and a big move into the home. 556 days! That sounds a lot different than to say "we have been living together since Ivan" or to say "we've lived together a year and a half." It's 556 days of togetherness. People ask all the time how do you all do it? I say, do what? Recovering from the past storms is tough for all in many different ways. I can honestly say, we are closer now than ever before and I cannot imagine the past "year and a half" any other way. The memories and time spent together has created many cherished times for all who got to sit and talk with "Mimi", who by the way is about to be 93, or to have coffee in the mornings with your father in law. As I thank them once again for being good people, and to you for giving me a moment to bring closure, I encourage everyone to not hasten to quick decisions and to think of others needs, no matter the circumstance. For Kelly and me, we now know more about our parents than we ever imagined. And for them, they too know us. Here's to showing our loved ones that we really love them . . . and their chihuahua's. That is another story for another time.



"Jesse" Harless

Surprise, surprise! A big party was held by friends and co-workers for Preston Pooser, Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Orange Beach last Friday. Shrimp, Oysters and a low country boil was all it took to get about 40 people together to say happy birthday to the big guy. Select gifts by his staff brought a few smiles such as the personalized mardi gras beads complete with a tube of sunscreen. Getting older is never easy but Preston had enough oysters and shrimp to make it tolerable. Way to go Jeanne Fitzgibbons on planning and keeping such an event under wraps for so long.



Preston Pooser had a big smile for his surprise birthday party!

The 2006 Surf n' Turf Jet Ski Races were held at the Perdido Beach Resort over the past week. Races and events like that continue to attract new visitors to Orange Beach and make a definite impact on our business community. Great job to the PBR staff. Next Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> is The Pleasure Island Job Fair to be held at the Perdido Beach Resort from 10am till 6pm. If your business is in need of employees, call the chamber to register for a space at 968-6904. For area residents looking for a better career move or just simply looking for a place to work, stop by the Resort and attend this free to the public event. You might just make a contact that changes your life.



"A Low Country Boil"

Continued....

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*University of Alabama Football legend stopped by Sidelines at SanRoc Cay in Orange Beach to sign some autographs. Pictured here with his wife and the Hanich family at the signing day. Thanks for stopping in Orange Beach . . . Jeremiah!*

The Orange Beach Senior Activity Center still has many programs underway for all ages. Here are your bridge winners for the past week; Tuesday March 21st: 1<sup>st</sup>- Ron Mistrot; 2<sup>nd</sup>- Mary Brown; 3<sup>rd</sup>- Curtis Brown; for Thursday March 23rd: 1<sup>st</sup>- Carol Hines; 2<sup>nd</sup>- Frank Beach; 3<sup>rd</sup>-Jo Beach. New names are showing up. Next week could be yours. Find out more about the Center call 981-3440. Sail Camp registration is still underway for junior sailors ages 8-14 by calling Leslie Dabney at 981-6039. Camps start in June but spaces are filling quickly.

Orange Beach Cub Scout Pack 27 will meet on Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 7pm at the Orange Beach United Methodist Church on Canal Road. The Cub Scout's are sponsoring a "Child Gun Safety program" with free gun locks to be passed out to those in attendance. The public is invited to this community service event. For more information call Zack Kalinauskus at 981-5738. Need some time on the green? The Don Brewer Golf Classic is coming up on Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at Soldiers Creek Golf Club. Cost is \$50 to play and have lunch. The proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society Relay For Life. Call 981-7529 to register.

Easter is just around the corner and many area churches are beginning to prepare for special presentations. Let us know what's going on at your church this Easter. "The Resurrection!...So What?" will be presented by First Baptist Church Orange Beach on Friday night, April 14, 7:30p.m. on the front lawn of the church. Guests will need to bring their lawn chairs. The second segment will be presented on Sunday morning, April 16, 10:30 a.m. Make plans to celebrate somewhere in Orange Beach this year. Attention earlybirds! Orange Beach United Methodist Church has begun a contemporary worship service at 8:15am and welcomes you to attend. Regular worship services start at 10:15. For more info call the church office at 981-6751.



*Service with a smile, Brenda says Hi*

The buzz around Orange Beach is that several community easter egg hunts are in the planning stages. Stay tuned next week for more details on the bunny arrival and where the eggs may be hiding. Bring your best friends on out to Waterfront Park on Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 9am for the Easter Bonnet Dog Parade. The Easter Bunny will be on hand to take some photos with the canine pals and all the children. For more info on the Dog Parade call Angela at 981-6028.



*"Aw Shucks....Oysters that is for the big party"*

Remember it's time to stop by Orange Beach City Hall and get your new Evacuation Decals. The evacuation zones have been revamped and are available online at [www.cityoforangebeach.com](http://www.cityoforangebeach.com). The decals are available by asking the friendly and courteous staff at the Finance Department where you pay your sewer bill. Remember to send your community news to [obecon@gulftel.com](mailto:obecon@gulftel.com). Here's hoping you had a great week with friends and neighbors around Orange Beach.

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