

Orange Beach Community News

Orange Beach, Alabama

July 10, 2006

by Ken Grimes, Jr.

Independence Week was a “blast” around Orange Beach. Literally blasts were going off all week long with numerous fireworks shows for the public to enjoy. It was great to see folks putting out the flag in honor of America and her history. Leave them out for a while and let’s get that patriotic spirit back into our priorities. The City wants to remind residents and visitors to the area that personal fireworks are illegal inside the city limits, which includes the beachfront area. Due to the dry weather we have been having there is also an extreme hazard as it relates to brushfires so keep your fun in control and watch the kids a little more closely this month.



Keep those flags flying high this summer!

What do you want to eat tonight? It’s a routine query that all families and individuals share just about everyday. With that thought about what would please the palate, have you given much thought to what goes into making that decision for your group? Here are a few of the random factors that fly around when our crew is hungry. What time of the year is it and then what day of the week it may be? This is the number one wait time issue. Summer on the beachfront is packed with our many tourists added to the regular mix of locals and therefore we begin to see one hour waits or more with the popular spots. For most of us locals, anything beyond twenty minutes is too long to wait and we shall seek other options. Next factor . . . Health Rating? The infamous sign hanging in view of the public with a big, marked number. What does it mean and why did they score lower than what may seem to the average? For the one of the best current sources of the health department score log onto www.wpmi.com and then click the restaurant scorecard. You might find a few favorite spots to be somewhat interesting. A lower score doesn’t always mean you are at risk, but no the facts about health scores.

The last two major factors for dining seem to be food quality and price value. We expect and deserve quality food at any establishment. The amount we are willing to pay for it is relative. So do you like blackened mahi or fried, steamed shrimp or boiled. Salad bar or not. These are personal preferences that vary on a list as long as the day is long. Expect quality food and if you do not get it, tell the manager. Be choosy when it comes to these and many other decisions when it comes to feeding your family. As I age, I realize that my tastes and wishes have changed a lot too. We have plenty of culinary choices in Baldwin County so get out there and make a wise one. If you choose to stay in and cook. . . good for you! Let me know what time dinner will be ready.



Public Fireworks displays were outstanding during the Independence Day celebrations. Personal fireworks are prohibited in the City of Orange Beach City limits.



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Wireless computer users at the Orange Beach Library enjoy great connectivity and a beautiful waterfront view.

Feel like going "wireless"? Come on, it's summertime and wireless is the rage. The Orange Beach Public Library offers open access wireless hotspots to locals and visitors. The hotspots are available anywhere inside the library, outside in the front parking lot and also on the rear water side patio which offers an unmatched view of Wolf Bay. The hotspots are available 24/7 and wireless printing is available during library business hours. Black and white prints are .15¢ and color prints are .50¢ each. The library is located at 26267 Canal Rd, 1/4 mile east of Hwy. 161 on the north side of Canal Rd. For more information, please call 251-981-2923 or email questions to askobpl@cityoforangebeach.com. The library is open Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Stop by and check out the resources at your fingertips.

Saturday night, July 15th at the Orange Beach SportsPlex is game three for the Alabama Lightning football team against the Louisiana Fire Power. The Lightning will begin to hit the road after game three so come out and watch some action. Find out more by checking out www.thealabamalightning.com.



Here are your recent Bridge scores from the Orange Beach Senior Activity Center on July 6: 1st: Ernest McConnell; 2nd: Wilson Pierce; 3rd: MaryAnn Grant. The Center was closed on the Fourth of July. Keep shuffling in the cool indoors as we all need to stay cool. Congrats go out to the proud grandpa Orange Beach Police Chief Billy Wilkins and wife Jackie on the birth of their newest grandson Ethan Blake Wilson born June 29th.

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



Photos by Keith Kyte

Orange Beach Firemen train on new watercraft to perform rescues and patrols during peak months. Above: Danny Capella steers through with rescued swimmers in tow. Left: OBF fire personnel train in the waters around Boggy Point.