

Orange Beach Community News

Orange Beach, Alabama

August 7, 2006

Ken Grimes, Jr.

It's official . . . Summer break is O-V-E-R! For those of us with school age children the couple month break as came and went in a flurry as its back to school on Thursday all over Baldwin County. Where does the time go? Did you pack in a family vacation? In questioning neighbors and many other Orange Beach families I know that our town was well represented in many places this summer including Oregon, Virginia, Washington D.C., Florida, Georgia and more. The obvious Disney trip, camping outing and the four night cruise were popular and many folks say they are heading to the mountains this Winter. We often forget that our backyard is the paradise most seek during their vacations and we can enjoy it at anytime. From boating to shelling, sailing to shopping along with golfing and eating. What a place we have under our sandy feet and it is here 24/7 to relax and enjoy. I have observed many angles of Orange Beach this summer as you watch our visitors chase a crab on the beach or make a splash in the back bays. You hear a lot of people's views while waiting an hour to dine and of course there is



Spending a summer day on Robinson Island's shores makes a day of fun with swimming, boating, diving and searching for treasure. Caroline Grimes shows how it is done in the search for hermit crabs.



Swimmers on the Orange Beach swim team practice hard

the grocery store checkout line which always tells a story on Saturday's, you know check in / check out day for the condos. No matter how you and yours enjoyed the sunny days of summer break 2006, Orange Beach is home and now we face back to school. Enjoy the learning process this fall by going on a field trip, eat lunch with your kids, go to PTA meetings and be involved. Time flies by in a moment and all we can do is enjoy it everyday. Now go make some more memories!

It's race time in Orange Beach! Powerboat racing that is with the roar of the engines and spectacle of high speed vessels making their way around the course in the Gulf of Mexico. Orange Beach has become the home for Thunder On The Gulf and the impact of this event is powerful and a great way to end the summer with many race teams and fans. What better way to watch a race than on the sand just feet away from the gulf or from high above on a condo balcony. The view along the Alabama Coast is superb and creates an excellent race venue for the sport and from all accounts the racers love knowing that the "grandstands" in the condos are full.



Watersports, skiing, tubing make great vacation memories for all ages.

Let's get ready for racing on August 20th. Check out the info at www.thunderonthegulf.com and make your plans to get a good seat in the sand. The action is exciting but play it smart and think of these few safety tips. Parking is limited, so if you must park on beach highway on race day be sure to get out of the traffic and clearly off the street. Wear sunscreen and drink plenty of water. Keep an eye on small children as the beaches are more crowded on race day. Don't forget the binoculars and camera to capture the moment. No glass bottles on the beach and



be sure to take your trash when you go. These few tips will make a huge difference in the overall experience.





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Ready for some exercise in the pool? The Orange Beach Aquatics Center announces that a new evening water aerobics class is being added to the facilities list of scheduled classes. The new class will be held on Tuesdays from 5:30–6:30pm and will be taught by instructor Barbara Goodman. The class is a perfect way to exercise with low impact to joints while giving you a medium to high intensity workout. The Aquatics Center provides Aqua Joggers, Water Dumbbells and Noodles that are used during the class. Wear your swimsuit and bring a towel. Cost to participate is \$2 per person and the fee can be paid per visit or a 15-visit card can be purchased for \$30. No per-registration required. For more information contact the Orange Beach Aquatics Center at 251-974-SWIM (7946).

Last chance for artists and craftsman to register for the Waterfront Festival of Art is August 10th at the Art Center. The event is September 2nd and 3rd which is a really nice two day show. Contact Cyndi Brewer at 981 ARTS for more info on entering the show. The Orange Beach Art Center has lots of great gift items as it continues to set new sales records each month. The 313th Army Jazz Combo will be playing on Saturday, September 2nd for entertainment. An official ribbon cutting will take place on Friday, August 18th at 10am for the new Art Supply Component of the Center. Finally, Orange Beach has professional art supplies and top quality brushes and artistic items for the professional to novice. Stop by and shop with Cyndi. That day an "Open House" will also be held from 9 – 5pm.



Waterfront Festival of Art is a perfect outdoor setting

The Orange Beach Senior Activity Center has a busy calendar planned for this August and there is plenty of opportunities for you to get involved in what cranks your engine. Call 981-3440 for details on classes and trips coming this month. Here are your Bridge Scores for Tuesday, August 1st: Chuck Ogle, 2nd Carol Hines, 3rd Oliveth Archer and for Thursday August 3rd: 1st: Randy Laney; 2nd: Earnest McConnell; 3rd: Marianne Grant. Get involved in some of the most competitive and fun Bridge playing in Baldwin County.

"National Night Out" in Orange Beach was a huge success as an estimated 400 children showed up through the night with games and fun and eating all the hot dogs in record time. Reports are that chants were heard through the crowd. . . "sink the duck" followed by quacking as Assistant Police Chief Greg Duck made his way to the dunking booth. Chief Billy Wilkins was all wet as the line formed quickly to bring him off the seat. Great job to the many OBPD staff and volunteers including Jay Dempsey and David McClain. Special appearances were made by Eddie the eagle, Darren the Lion and McGruff the crime dog as well as flipper the Gulf Shores Dolphin mascot. Near 200 dna packets and fingerprint kits were used amidst the fun in the seriousness of the event. Orange Beach takes protecting it's young resident very seriously and the data gathered will be kept on file at the Police Department. Thanks to the many parents and families who came out and slid on the big slide or just kicked back and relaxed the night of August 1st.



Some local "characters" from the Orange Beach Police Dept prepare for National Night Out

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.
