

August 28, 2006

by Ken Grimes, Jr.

Can you believe that Labor Day 2006 is here already. The long holiday weekend is traditionally the time when you begin to hunker down for Fall and think about putting up the boats and summer toys. The end of



Retail centers across Orange Beach have had a busy summer as tourists and locals were back in full force shopping, eating and more.

Summer, although school has been in session for nearly a month. It seems that this year has flown by and where did the time go. Maybe it's because we spent the prior year recovering from devastating storm damage and getting our lives back to normal. This year has seen its share of changes and as I write this we see in every form of media a look back at the destruction of Hurricane Katrina on its one year anniversary. It is easy to see why we develop high anxiety as we flip on the weather channel for the next tropical activity or watch the five year anniversary of September 11th events and acts of terrorism. Don't let anxiety and fear run your life as you go through each day. Take time to reflect, seek

guidance and analyze your world as it relates to "getting by" day by day and occasionally turn off that television. Do some reading, plant a flower or draw a sketch. Creating something with your hands and mind reduces the stress we put on ourselves and broadens our horizons. Good Luck!

Festivals are great fun and create opportunities to enjoy the beauty of our area and to take in some creative and performing arts. The upcoming Waterfront Festival of Art is set for this weekend, September 2-3. The two day event will showcase some regional artists with everything from pottery to oils and acrylics and wood carving. According to Cyndi Brewer, Orange Beach Art Center Coordinator, the Waterfront Festival of Art is just the right size to find that perfect treasure while enjoying the sights and sounds. Entertainment by a portion of the 313th Army band is set for Saturday with plenty of free parking and concessions on hand. Stop by the Orange Beach Art Center located at Waterfront Park and kick off your Labor Day weekend with friends. Find out more at www.orangebeachartcenter.com



Big Al and the cheerleaders stopped in OB last month

The Bear Point Civic Association is having an "End of the Summer" Labor Day Festival on Saturday, September 2 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at its facilities on Bay La Launch Avenue in Bear Point. The event will feature music, games, a dunkin' booth, slip-n-slides, kiddie pools, clowns, a bake sale, and sack races. There will be hamburger and hotdog plates for sale as well as corn on the cob and Sno-Cones. Look for raffle ticket sales for the chance to win some great prizes! According to BPCA President Ralph Moore, "everyone in the Orange Beach community is invited to come out and enjoy the fun during this Labor Day weekend!"



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Orange Beach, Alabama

Tired of seeing trash in the splash? Get involved by marking your calendar for Saturday, September 16th in helping with the 19th Annual Alabama Coastal Cleanup. Become a volunteer for Coastal Cleanup by logging onto their website at www.alcoastalcleanup.com and find your zone captain via email. According to the website, "The Coastal Cleanup is a chance to take pride in our unique and treasured waterway system. Over the past 18 years the Alabama Coastal Cleanup has had 46,294 volunteers remove 843,710 pounds of marine debris from a total of 2,573 miles of coastline! In addition to tarnishing the natural beauty of our state, marine debris (trash and waste discarded in the water) kills thousands of marine mammals, sea birds and turtles each year. It also damages fishing nets, fouls propellers, and clogs water intakes." Be a part of this effort to clean our beaches and waterways and earn that t-shirt while doing a great deed for the community.



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Scouting time is here as the Cub Scout Pack 27 is seeking first through fifth grade boys to join their pack. Scouting teaches self reliance, dependability and caring along with entrusting the values of honesty and respect for others. According to Zack Kaulinauskus, Cubmaster, the Cub Scout Pack 27 round up will be held on Thursday night from 6:30-8pm at Orange Beach Elementary School Cafeteria following the PTO meeting. To find out more about scouts call 981-5738. Reminder that the Orange Beach United Methodist Church has started a youth worship service on Sunday nights at 6:00 pm with some good food and the service gets started at 6:30.



The Orange Beach Senior Activity Center will be closed the week of Labor Day for renovations and refinishing of the floors. Apologies to anyone inconvenienced by this closing. Here are your Bridge Scores for Tuesday August 22nd: 1st: Wilson Pierce; 2nd: Oliveth Archer; 3rd: Patsy Ward and for Thursday August 24th: 1st: Joan Nagy; 2nd: Ruth Bishop; 3rd: Joanne Thompson. Carolyn Vines and the folks at the Senior Center want you to know that September is "Healthy Aging Month" so take a look at the calendar and enroll today in an exercise program or one of the many activities to keep you feeling your best. Remember, free blood pressure checks each Wednesday from 8:30—9:30a.m. at 26251 Canal Road. Call 981-3440 for more details.

The Orange Beach Garden Club announced its Yard of the Month for September to Bob and Terry Barnett. Club member Linda Tucker adds the following observations "as I traveled east on Canal Road to #29416, I thought of the stories I had heard of the hidden water gardens filled with Koi and a cascading waterfall that ends in another Koi filled water garden. Upon entering the property of Bob and Terry Barnett I was amazed by the live Oak trees. On approximately six acres you will find walkways leading to a lovely water garden, topiaries, spa, swimming pool, guest house, rose garden, and a meditation garden with the twelve stations of the cross. Sounds of birds, wind chimes, and water were everywhere as were acres of native plants and trees. Such a serene area for reading, resting, and relaxing. One can see why the ladies of the Orange Beach Garden Club chose the Barnett's for the September Yard of the Month Award." Thanks Linda for that description of the winner's yard. Congratulations to the Barnett's.



Bob and Terry Barnett proudly display the Orange Beach Garden Club sign as the recipient of the September Yard of the Month



On a final note this week, we were pleased to have the University of Alabama cheerleaders in town for a youth clinic and their annual visit to Orange Beach.

The squads bring a lot of enthusiasm to our young people and their excitement gets you ready for some great football action on the gridiron. Are you ready for some football?

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.

Waterfront Festival of Art
September 2-3, 2006
Waterfront Park and the Orange
Beach Art Center on Canal Road
www.orangebeachartcenter.com



Orange Beach Community News

Orange Beach, Alabama



A last look at some of the happenings around Orange Beach during August 2006. The University of Alabama Cheerleaders presented a youth clinic along with "Big AL" at the Orange Beach Recreation Center.



Photos by Lee White

The **Summer Sail Camp** for the City of Orange Beach set more high marks as the 157 students learned the basics along with more advanced techniques.

Sail Camp Staff: Jim Rosene, Lauren Cusa, Caroline Harris, Leslie Dabney (Head Sailing Instructor). Thanks to various lifeguards who helped out.

For Info on Sail Camp '07 981-6039.

