

Orange Beach

Community News

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Orange Beach, Alabama

September 4, 2006

by Ken Grimes, Jr.

Hundreds of parent's, students and teachers packed the gym at Orange Beach Elementary School for the first "Open House" of the year hosted by the Orange Beach PTO. Principal Steve Baker praised "the best teachers" in the county as he pointed out the progress and top scores in reading and other subjects. "The dedication of these teachers to their students has built a strong foundation as we continue to build on high scores and quality education" added Baker. He continued to push for the addition of 6th grade to the campus along with plans for a new state of the art playground. Other highlights of the meeting were an overview of the Sea, Sand and Stars Learning Center by Director Lisa Allen covering the types of aquatic life coming soon in the new tanks along with the opening of the center later this fall to include a first class weather station with a major broadcast channel.



Orange Beach Elementary Principal Steve Baker addresses parents, teachers and students at the first open house of the year.

PTO President Shirley Lowe culminated the meeting with an overview powerpoint of the school staff and outlining upcoming activities for the Fall including the Fall Festival and fundraisers. Look for the OBES tent at Shrimp Festival next month and be sure to buy a beverage which supports the Learning Center on campus. Once adjourned, a full open house was held with parents talking with teachers and taking a look at the work each class and the students had produced. According to Mrs. Lowe, "this school year is going to be one of the best and from tonight's turnout and the level of involvement, the Orange Beach Parent Teacher Organization is excited

and looking to grow the membership of each parent." To find out more about Orange Beach Elementary or to join the PTO or make a donation to the Sea, Sand and Stars Learning Center call 981-5662.



The Brett family check out the computer lab with Julie Gerslenschlager "Miss G" at the helm of the high tech lab.



OBES PTO President Shirley Lowe covers the upcoming events



Continued. . .

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Cub Scout Pack 27 held a round up to recruit new members with the Kreamer and Fleming families signing up their young men with the help of Steve Johnson

Enrollment looked busy in the cafeteria at OBES Open House as Cub Scout Pack 27 had lots of new recruits eagerly filling out the registration forms. The calendar is dotted with Scouting projects and programs for the coming year and Pack Leader Zack Kaulinauskas encourages any parent interested to sign up their youngster soon. Being a part of the scouts builds character and teaches invaluable knowledge toward leadership.

The boot was filled many times over in fact as the Orange Beach Fire and Rescue held its campaign recently to support the Muscular Dystrophy Association. There is still a great opportunity for you to give anything to the MDA Boot by calling 981-6166 and talking with Jeri

Wilson or any of the Fire Administration officers. Orange Beach Fire is hosting a golf tournament in conjunction with the Alabama Fire Chief's Association on Thursday, September 7th at Soldiers Creek at 1pm. Registration is \$65 and includes lunch and the public is welcome to play if space is available. Call 981-6166 to sign up for the MDA Golf outing. Chief Forney Howard wishes to thank the many people who gave of their change and funds to fill the boot and encourages everyone to roll that window down and drop something in when you see that fireman on the corner. Hummers and other "special cars" will be offered special assistance in the future. Chief Howard also adds a huge thank you to the many corporate sponsors of the MDA campaign this year as Orange Beach is one of the top fire stations in the effort based on our population size. It looks like we need to clear another wall for the next Golden Axe Award. Great job!

"We Serve" is the motto of the Orange Beach Lion's Club and they are pleased to be able to assist one of the community's own students with an ongoing annual scholarship. Kristy Pilkerton, a 2004 graduate of Gulf Shores High School, attended the University of Alabama Huntsville but is transferring to Southern Union Junior College with plans to transfer to Auburn University to attend Veterinary School. Kristy is pursuing a degree in biology and chemistry which supports her interest in helping animals. Best of luck to



Kristy and the many, local students working to achieve their degrees at colleges across our country. Paul Cope, Lion's Club President was pleased to present her with the annual installment of the scholarship and she was glad to see the support.



Pilkerton and Cope at the Lion's Club meeting



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.

Reminder, that the Orange Beach Senior Activity Center is closed this week for renovations and refinishing of the floors to better serve the users of the facility. 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.

College and High School Football is here and now we need to see your best tailgating or stadium shot. Send your best photo of Orange Beach people at Bryant-Denny or Jordan-Hare representing us well. Looking for a glimpse of one of you at Movie Gallery Stadium at Troy and we might even publish a shot of Neyland Stadium is someone happened to venture that far north. Let's start with a good support of the Gulf Shores High School Dolphins who hope to have a banner year and set a few new records in 2006. Send your tailgating action to obecon@gulftel.com and share the excitement with Orange Beach. For the rest of us, clean off the recliner and fire up the grill. Go Trojans!

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.



Krispy Kreme reps along with Orange Beach PTO President Shirley Lowe take a moment with Kayla Lamar and her family as the fundraiser to benefit Kayla's medical expenses netted over \$2,000 with over 600 dozen boxes sold. Kayla is a Kindergartener at OBES and is fighting a brain tumor. This bright young lady needs your prayers along with the entire Lamar family



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One Last Look this week . . .

Orange Beach 4th Graders were all about Columbus and other explorers with the creation of ships of the 1400's. Teachers Steve Baker and Michelle Dillon led the boat building with many styles and plenty of creativity.



Margaret Long's book and tshirts available at the OB Art Center

Joni Hicks, Marketing Director at SanRoc Cay (red) poses with Roger Tanner and Iris Ethridge as the Taylor Hicks look alike stopped by to meet Joni this summer. We look forward to seeing Taylor's success continue.



City Employees Well Represented in State Association



Kathy Woodard

Bill Fetner, Asst Director of Finance, has passed the gavel after serving a year as President of the Alabama Municipal Revenue Officers Association. Kathy Woodard, Revenue Official, has stepped up to become Treasurer of AMROA this year keeping the City of Orange Beach and smaller towns across the state well represented.