

September 11, 2006

by Ken Grimes, Jr.



Are you proud to be an American? It seems we have shifted a sense of patriotism to this week since the attacks on the United States of America on September 11, 2001. Monday marked the five year anniversary and looking back on that terrible day, a lot has been learned by each of us and much more is clearer in our minds. We think about terrorism and practice security measures more. We have put many priorities back in line as family, freedom and faith stepped back into the big picture of things. Much recapping of the events has occurred and many documentaries and stories have been told. From my perspective, the most important lesson is to never forget what America stands for and to stand firm in your own life in defense of that freedom. Keep flying those flags and singing those songs that ring true to the old red, white and blue.



With much reflection on the tragedies of September 11, 2001 it seems many residents in our region see the past two years in a blur. The recovery from Hurricane Ivan which hit on September 16th still continues in Orange Beach in a few spots with isolated repairs still ongoing but most residents and property owners have moved on and pulled through the setback. The storm season of 2004 was one for the history books and yet is often overshadowed by the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Leaders from this area always share the thankfulness that Ivan spared the lives of people from the area as they heeded the evacuation warnings and left the island. One of the most difficult decisions of any leader is to call for a mandatory evacuation, yet a worse feeling is to know there is loss of life in your community because someone didn't evacuate. The City of Orange Beach thanks the people of this city and appreciates the support from the residents during times of inclement weather or despair. Cooperation brings about the opportunity to carry on, once a storm or incident has passed. Here's to hoping for a positive remainder of this year.



Hurricane Ivan stormed through Orange Beach the night of Sept 15th causing tremendous damage and destruction. Ivan taught many lessons!



Since Ivan, Orange Beach has improved building codes, re-nourished its beaches, improved roadways and infrastructure, buried power lines, improved drainage in neighborhoods, enhanced its Emergency Operations Plan, redesigned evacuation zones and much more. Learning from the past is one way to prepare for the future.



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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.

There was dancing, raffle prizes and plenty of socializing as the Orange Beach Ladies Fire Auxiliary held its annual dance at the Community Center last Saturday night. An excellent spread of heavy appetizers kicked off the evening with a great turnout for the event. Kim McConnell, President kept things hopping as live entertainment got the line dancing, swinging and two stepping on the newly renovated dance floor. Ron McMillan was the



luckiest man that night walking away with what seemed to be a trunk full of prizes. Hey, who holds the lucky number on the ticket. . . wins! Great job Ladies Auxiliary and keep up the good work.



Live Auction gifts raised funds to support the Ladies Auxiliary Toys for Boys and Girls of Orange Beach program which is just around the corner.

Fall is soon to arrive and the Orange Beach Garden Club is set to begin its regular meetings with the next one coming on Tuesday, September 26th at the Orange Beach Community Center on Canal Road at 1:00 pm. Club members invite the residents of the community to join them for refreshments at their "Garden Party" as they kick off another fun year! The dress for the Garden Club gathering is Casual garden attire with straw hats and garden gloves optional. For more details on the September meeting or club info call Dottie McLeod 981-5871 or Doris Milford at 980-6235.



LtoR: Kent Cales, Kelly Grimes, Kerri Cales, Kim Dillard and Greg Hopkins strike the pose while taking a break from the dancing fun!



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Orange Beach, Alabama

Blogging and RSS feeds (Really Simple Syndication) have fast become a popular trend in the information world. The Orange Beach Public Library is proud to present a class entitled Blogging and RSS Feeds taught by Angela Rand, Reference and Computer Lab Librarian. This class will give you the how, what and why of reading, using and creating blogs and RSS feeds. Join other interested bloggers for this fun and interactive class on Saturday, September 23rd at 10 a.m. at the Orange Beach Public Library. Attendees are welcome to bring their own wireless laptops and work on a blog of their own in class. To register contact Angela at 251-981-8179 or via email to arand@cityoforangebeach.com. This version of the Orange Beach Community News is a sample of a newsletter style blog with many options to share information, photos and more at www.cityoforangebeachblog.com.



Firearm safety has become a high priority around Orange Beach as the opportunities are in place for anyone to learn more about guns and their use. The Orange Beach Police Department is once again sponsoring the Women's Firearm Safety Class beginning October 2nd. The class is free to residents and \$25 to non residents. Call Kris Roberts at 981-9777 to register as space is limited to the first 50 ladies. Hunting season is just around the corner and the OBPD along with the Orange Beach Parks and Recreation Department are offering a Hunters Education Course and Field Day on Saturday, October 14th. The class is a requirement to purchase a hunting license and is a great chance to learn the responsibilities and knowledge about wildlife conservation and firearm safety. Call 981-6028 to register and get information on the class. You can search the web at www.outdooralabama.com for more info.

Here are your Bridge Scores for Tuesday, September 5th: 1st: Randy Laney; 2nd: Chuck Ogle and Ed Borman and for Thursday, September 7th: 1st Chuck Ogle, 2nd Gene Grant, 3rd Ed Borman. The players and staff of the Senior Center wish to thank Susan Nichols for arranging to have the Bridge Group at Summer House condos during the facility renovation. Call 981-3440 to get on track with the activities schedule.

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Local Bits of Wisdom . . .

Check Out Day! Locals know better than to get out and do routine errands on Saturdays between 10am and 2pm as the tourists are checking out and checking in. Most grocery and drug stores are hit hard between 1 and 3pm as the travelers stop to get those groceries while waiting for the available unit at 3pm. Photos here show the Labor Day exodus from Orange Beach at 11am on Monday, September 4th (Labor Day) on Highway 161 heading north.





What's the latest news from the courts? Two local Orange Beach Tennis Center junior players, Bailey Smith and Jeffrey Ybarra, won the 12 and under girls and boys divisions, respectively, at the Pensacola Athletic Club junior novice tournament held August 26 and 27th.



Bailey Smith Jeffrey Ybarra

Coached by City of Orange Beach Tennis Pro, Rhett Russell, Bailey and Jeffrey will continue to play tournaments and league tennis. Sarah Beth Loper won the 10 and under girls division at the PAC junior tennis tournament. Coached by Drex Blevins, Sarah Beth will continue to play tournaments and play for the Orange Beach 12 and under junior tennis team. The next USTA sanctioned tennis tournament held at the Orange Beach Tennis Center will be October 6-8th, 2006. "Battle at the Beach" is a Level 4 sanctioned tournament and will feature kids from all over the Southeast. For more information contact Rhett Russell at 974-NETS (6387).



Sarah Beth Loper

Construction around Orange Beach continues as Summer 2006 comes to a close. Undoubtedly the most visible construction activity is at The Wharf on the city's northwest side. The Wharf now has 20 different shops and restaurants open and will continue to add more throughout the fall. Retailers now open include: Shades, Dippin' Dots, Papa's Pizza, The Wharf Store, Johnny Rockets, RAVE movie theater, Starbucks, Regards from the Beach, The Bag Lady, Ooh La La, Sugar Shack, Pensacola Blues, Tickled Pink, Tropic Sol, Go Fish Clothing & Accessories, H2O by HL Hood, Be-jeweled, Blue Girl Beading Co., Barefoot Cottage, Bungalows, Top Nails and Ginny Lane Bar & Grill. Some of these shops are on the north end near the Waterway so be sure and turn the corner for more stuff and good food. Find out more about store openings and coming attractions at www.thewharfal.com Construction continues on Levin's Bend condominium, with the eastern half of the building scheduled for occupancy later this year. Owners are excited about soon being able to enjoy accommodations along the Waterway while enjoying the many amenities that The Wharf has to offer. Boggy Point, the Wharf's second condominium release, continues to move forward. Pre-sales are in progress and they are formally announcing the release of Boggy Point's six penthouse units as well as the Special Reserve collection, comprised of forty-seven two-story units that include such high-scale amenities as Viking cooking appliances, personal elevator, and decks looking out over both the Oasis and the Waterway. Additionally, the Outfitter Center at The Wharf offers a special tour of a completed Condominium-Hotel display unit comprised of 667 square feet of luxury. The display allows purchasers to envision what The Inn at The Wharf will be upon its anticipated completion in mid-2008. Progress continues on Orange Beach's northside so keep you eyes open this Fall as construction continues at Bama Bayou with many entertainment and retail venues planned along the north shore of the Waterway.

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.

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Orange Beach Community News

Orange Beach, Alabama

One Last Look this week . . .

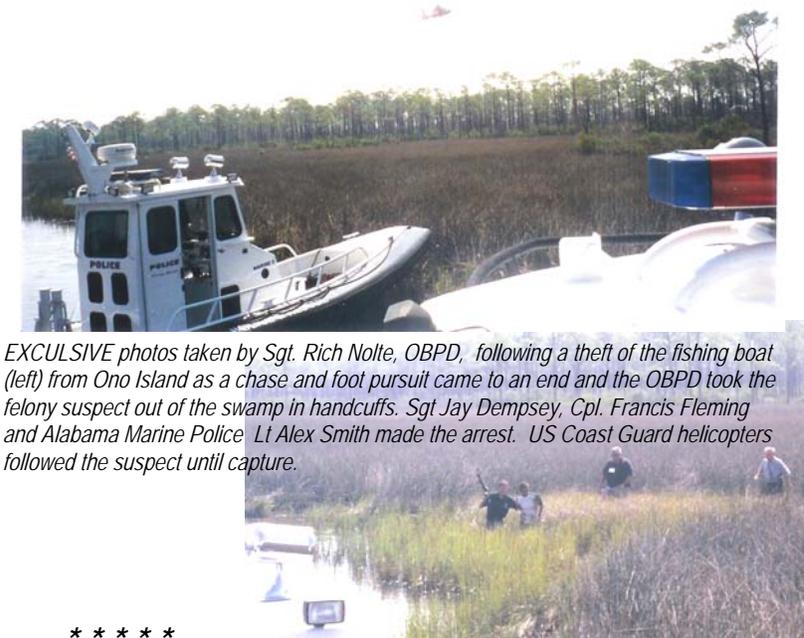


Early Fall is a great time to catch up on some fishing. . . Catch one for us!

Work continues on the renovations of the water tank on Highway 161 as the Orange Beach Water Authority has completed the repairs to several tanks and now has primed one of the most popular city landmarks.



Great Job POLICE!



EXCULSIVE photos taken by Sgt. Rich Nolte, OBPD, following a theft of the fishing boat (left) from Ono Island as a chase and foot pursuit came to an end and the OBPD took the felony suspect out of the swamp in handcuffs. Sgt Jay Dempsey, Cpl. Francis Fleming and Alabama Marine Police Lt Alex Smith made the arrest. US Coast Guard helicopters followed the suspect until capture.
