

September 18, 2006

by Ken Grimes, Jr.

How do you teach a six year old not to litter? The same way you teach a sixty year old. It was a warm Saturday in September as we pulled up to the registration area. My ten year old and her friend had been excited the night before about helping with "Coastal Cleanup" in Orange Beach. They had brought home a flyer from school asking folks to get involved and volunteer. We signed in and nice people gave us trash



Orange Beach residents Ron and Danielle Sollenberger meet up with 4th Graders Kailee Devole and Abby Grimes in a common effort as they volunteer

bags, gloves and a tally sheet to document what we picked up, so the facts can be used to help tell the leaders in Washington D.C. all about it. Oh yeah, you get a cool t-shirt for volunteering. Knowing a lot of volunteers had already got a jump start we asked where we should pickup the trash and we were assigned the beach from Romar Beach to Romar House condos. A few minutes later we were on the sand and looking for trash. Oddly, when looking at the beach and down the miles of shoreline there seemed to be no trash, no debris, just beautifully sugary, white sand with umbrellas and families enjoying the sun. Then with the next step we find our first cigarette butt. Pick it up and into the bag it goes as the team documents the find with a check mark beside the appropriate trash item. Another step and again a butt and this time a rusty bottle cap. The adventure continued just like that for about an hour as we seemed to collect thousands of cigarette filters, rubber bands, candy wrappers and such while encountering several other volunteers with

there bags and tally sheets. Our team of three stopped to take a photo with Ron and Danielle Sollenberger of Orange Beach who were sweating and weaving in and out of the beach chairs filled with people. Tourists would say here is some trash or the occasional "thank you" but picking up trash right in front of people is where the success for Coastal Cleanup hits home. It was at that moment I began to realize how important it was to be a part of this global movement and especially in Alabama on the third Saturday in September. By volunteering and bringing the kids along as part of the team, we all were learning why we shouldn't leave our trash or drop that wrapper or flick a butt. It's the concept summed up into educating each person to take their trash with them and broaden their conscious of the environmental impact to the wildlife and future users of the beaches and waterways. I asked my team of fourth graders from Mr. Steve Baker's class at Orange Beach Elementary, just how much do you girls think we could pick up if all of your friends were here helping out. They smiled with huge calculations clicking in their minds as the point was once again made.



Showing off a pile of trash collected for Coastal Cleanup are LtoR Kailee Devole and Abby Grimes before they toss the bag in the dumpster



Continued. . .

Orange Beach, Alabama

If everyone helps, we all benefit and the girls, Abby Grimes and Kailee Devole, vowed to get all their buddies next year. I even agreed to get all of them there somehow. Simultaneously, my wife and six year old daughter, Caroline, were on one of the islands with our neighbors picking up trash and learning the same lessons about out filthy habits and what is does to Orange Beach by littering. I am certain that thousands



Registration and resource distribution for Coastal Cleanup is where you get your bag, gloves, t-shirt and some good lunch. Thanks to the many volunteers who dedicate themselves to the cleanup effort!

of bags of trash were pulled from our sandy beaches and pristine waterways that day. No doubt, plenty of t-shirts will be displayed this month but the most important lesson is that I saw how we teach a six year old not to litter and with her efforts was an enlightened sixty year old holding the bag. Think about it next time you start to leave anything. . . just take it with you!

Congratulations to all who helped with the 19th Annual Alabama Coastal Cleanup and the hundreds of volunteers last Saturday. Orange Beach had many miles cleaned by the committed volunteers to the cause to remove the trash from the splash while keeping marine life safe and healthy. The City of Orange Beach is working toward more edu-

cation of the public about taking trash with them and is looking for ways to enhance the disposal efforts on a regular basis.

Mark those calendars for the Orange Beach Garden Club regular meeting 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! For more details on the September meeting or club info call Dottie McLeod at 981-5871 or Doris Milford at 980-6235.

How's your Blog? The Orange Beach Public Library will present a class entitled "Blogging and RSS Feeds" on Saturday, September 23rd at 10 a.m. at the Orange Beach Public Library. 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. 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.

Golfers loosen up as the Jason Lynn Foundation Golf Tournament is set for this coming Saturday, September 23rd at Craft Farms Golf Course. The fee is \$125 per player and the registration deadline has passed so call to see if a spot is available at 968-5055. Find out more about the foundation at www.jasonlynnfoundation.org in honor of the young man who lost his life not long ago in an accident with a drunk driver.



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 respon-



sibilities 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 12th: 1st: Ed Borman; 2nd: Jayne Mackey; 3rd: Chuck Ogle. No scores were turned in for Thursday. Call 981-3440 to get back on track with the schedule of events and activities at the Orange Beach Senior Activity Center.

Cheers and collisions were heard out at the Orange Beach SportsPlex last Saturday as the Baldwin County teams were in town for some strong matches. A highlight was the 9 and 10 year old Marlins who beat the Robertsdale Bears 8-0 in an impressive defensive stand. According to Coach Vince Burchfield, the Marlins defense allowed only one first down and Robertsdale netted negative 75 yards in the game. Christian Cook scored the winning touchdown for the Marlins. Congratulations Marlins, coaches and parents on the start of a great season.



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.

OB Marlin defense stops the Robertsdale Bears in their tracks as they held them to negative yards on the day.



Orange Beach Community News

Orange Beach, Alabama

One Last Look this week . . .



Football at the OB SportsPlex was a hit as all Baldwin County youth teams came to town for their weekly round of play. Here the 10 year old Marlins show their stuff winning 8-0.



Local Bits of Wisdom . . .

Residents and property owners along the Alabama Gulf Coast are proud of our sugar white, sandy beaches and make every effort to protect and enhance them. Recent beach re-nourishment projects pumped thousands of cubic yards of sand back onto the shoreline creating deeper and wider beaches for all to enjoy and to serve as protection from future storms. Keeping them clean takes everybody being committed to taking your trash when you go. Compare the two photos below: We wouldn't think twice about taking a leisurely stroll on the beach to the left. Would you take one step on the beach if the sand was filled with the trash in the photo on the right? Although exaggerated by bringing the cumulative collection of waste into one pile, the same trash came off the same beach, just brought together. Remember next time you think about flicking a butt or dropping a bottle cap that you can make a difference and don't litter our beaches or waterways. The birds, fish crabs and turtles appreciate it too! (Photos from Alabama Coastal Cleanup September 16, 2006 Orange Beach, Al)



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