

# Orange Beach

# Community News

[www.cityoforangebeachblog.com](http://www.cityoforangebeachblog.com)

Orange Beach, Alabama

September 25, 2006

by Ken Grimes, Jr.

Sustainable Tourism? What is that and why do I care? A recent summit sponsored by the Alabama Gulf Coast Convention and Visitors Bureau brought business leaders and community supporters together to look at the Alabama coast and how we are planning ahead to preserve our resources and to protect the



*The Annual Sustainable Tourism Summit sponsored by the Alabama Gulf Coast Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Chamber of Commerce is a way to keep best practices in conservation and sustainability in front of business and community leaders as conservation and protection of our habitats mesh with development*

area that is so precious to our economy and our future. Orange Beach was well represented as many references were made to the wetland protection, backcountry trails, purchase and preservation of Robinson Island and more. Council Member Tracy Holiday represented the city as an overview was provided covering these and other topics to the attendees and it is quite apparent that the program of work is heading in the right direction. The annual summit has become a great way to steer the thinking and planning of area businesses and our tourism industry. Hearing from "experts" in the various fields that they serve is key as our plans begin to mimic the best case examples around the country. Several years ago the keynote ad-

dress talked about the isolation of the island at South Padre, Texas after a barge took out their bridge. We began to plan for such events and the same type isolation followed Hurricane Ivan for us. We now tell others what we learned and what is done differently to plan ahead. Sustainable also defined as "able to be maintained" or "maintaining an ecological balance" is a critical word in our design of programs and design of future developments. Water quality, beach erosion, wildlife protection along with research in growing grass beds are just a few of the ways we think differently today. Is it any wonder that the first order of business for the plans on the new City of



*Mayor Pete Blalock of the City of Orange Beach with Robinson Island as the backdrop was all smiles as he commended Tracy Holiday and the board for their persistence on behalf of the preservation and restoration project for all of us*

Orange Beach Marina was to establish its guidelines to follow the Clean Marina program from the start. Keeping our water clean and protecting the fishing industry are always a top priority in Orange Beach, Alabama.



*U.S. Congressman Jo Bonner lets Orange Beach know how proud he is to be a supporter of Robinson Island and Alabama. He stressed his support in Washington, DC*



Continued. . .

Orange Beach, Alabama



*Dr. George Crozier of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab addresses the group of Robinson Island supporters as he talks about the future of preserving the Islands of Perdido Marine Park*

NOAA, GOMF, DISL and EPA are a few of the acronyms hanging on a banner. How can this be read? A recent ceremony was held to celebrate the ten year anniversary of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Community Based Restoration Program and the restoration of marine habitats of Robinson Island. Also to recognize the Gulf of Mexico Community Based Restoration Partnership and the efforts of those who have made it possible. On a beautiful morning looking out over Robinson Island from Boggy Point Landing, a gathering of elected officials, dedicated conservationists, government allies and community activists came together to acknowledge a very strong partnership to secure long term restoration of one of the southeast's premiere ecological treasures and to announce the new name of the site. Islands of Perdido Marine Park as it is so dubbed consists of four land masses just north of Perdido Pass Bridge. Robinson, Walker, Bird and Gilchrist Islands now make up the unique marine park.

A few of the names providing comments were Dr. Quenton Dokken, Executive Director of the Gulf of Mexico Foundation, Mayor Pete Blalock of Orange Beach, Leslie Craig of NOAA, Dr. George Crozier, Executive Director, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, U.S. Congressman Jo Bonner, Tera Johnson of U.S. Senator Richard Shelby's office, Jim Griggs, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bryon Griffith, Director, Environmental Protection Agency – Gulf of Mexico Program. This prestigious roster is a who's who in marine conservation and the protection of the gulf waters. Right here in Orange Beach to commend the work done to purchase and preserve Robinson Island. Most speakers commended Tracy Holiday who was recently named Chairman of the Robinson Island Estuary Foundation and for her commitment to ongoing work with the island and its habitat. Mrs. Holiday and members of her board of directors are especially proud to see many agencies take legislative and funding roles in protecting the grass beds in this unique restoration and protection project. Some 35 acres of water area will see the



*Dr. Quenton Dokken of the GOMF*



*An historic day for the future of the Islands of Perdido Marine Park —September 18, 2006 in Orange Beach, Alabama*

results as birds are attracted to stakes which gives them a place to drop "guano" into the water which fertilizes the beds, ultimately attracting crabs and the process goes on. Alabama Commissioner Barnett Lawley, Department of Conservation was commended for taking a stand on the project and pushing for a law to prohibit the use of any motor in the protected area east of Robinson Island. "This has never been done before in Alabama" stated many speakers as boaters must stay clear of the area and no motors will be used to prevent prop scarring and destruction of the habitat. Kudos to all involved and to the many of volunteers with Americorps and the Sea Lab who are working to revegetate the island.



*Chairman of RIEF Tracy Holiday*



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Orange Beach, Alabama

Teenagers! What are we going to do with them? How about get them into a new Teen Center and Skate Park as the City of Orange Beach Parks and Recreation Department has just announced a United States Department of Justice grant for \$297,000. The DOJ grant will be added to \$300,000 already budgeted for such a facility and will create a brand new Orange Beach Teen Center which will be the "cool place to hang out". Attached to the facility will be a new skate park which has been in the works for several years but



put off due to budgets each year. The site is just south of the Aquatics Center and will be open the same hours as the Recreation Center to fill a void for area teenagers looking for something to do after school. Online software will provide a place for homework and research while meeting buddies and friends along the way. Congrats to Preston Pooser and Angela Williams who put the proposal together.

Congrats to the Orange Beach Fire Department on raising over \$23,000 for MDA this year which is more than double the last years effort which set new records back then. The Fill the Boot campaign along with a golf tournament and other activities sets new standards for the charity and puts our small town with a big heart at the top of the charts when it comes to fundraising. Chief Forney Howard and Assistant Chief Kenny Wilks have dedicated much effort to seeing the MDA benefit and wish to thank all who gave to the cause. Every penny helps and this year Orange Beach gave a lot of pennies.

Fire Prevention Week is set for October 8-14 and this year's mission statement is "Prevent Kitchen Fires, Watch What You Heat". Fire Marshall Todd Posey wants to encourage residents of Orange Beach to go online at [www.obfd.org](http://www.obfd.org) and click the home inspection checklist to be sure your home is safe to possible fire ignitions. Watch for more Fire Safety tips in coming weeks.

According to Julie Gerstenschlager at Orange Beach Elementary, "students do not want to be sent to the principal with an office referral. But, at Orange Beach Elementary, students are sent for Outstanding Behavior." As part of the "Show Me" Character Education initiative for Baldwin County Schools, students are sent to Principal Steve Baker when they make a concerted effort to show good character. Students showing Compassion, Courtesy, Consideration, Excellence, Leadership, Responsibility, Truthfulness, or any other trait that models good character are recognized for their contribution to a positive school environment. Any staff member at Orange Beach Elementary can recognize students for their good character using the Outstanding Achievement Office Referral form that Mr. Baker created. Students receiving a referral meet with Mr. Baker and are given a button to wear at school that has the words, "I have it! Do you?" The following students received an office referral for Good Character during the first month of school: Lucas Buchanan, John Howard Ellis, Hannah Giannini, Olivia Helms, Patrick Jones, Joseph Lamar, Peighton Langston, Brittany Lowe, Hannah Millson, Zoe Mitchell, Trenton Novak, Morgan Smith, Drake Warren, Caroline White. Great job kids!





Gun safety is important around Orange Beach and your Orange Beach Police Department and the Parks and Recreation Department are offering excellent opportunities to learn more about handguns and hunting rifles. This is your last chance to register for the Women's Firearm Safety Class which is four weeks and begins October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Call Kris Roberts at 981-9777. The Hunters Education Course and Field Day is set for Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> and the class is a requirement to purchase a hunting license. Call 981-6028 to register.



Bridge Scores for Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>: 1<sup>st</sup>: Avis Bass; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Emily Bell; 3<sup>rd</sup>: Chuck Ogle and for Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>: 1<sup>st</sup>: Joanne Thompson; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Ernest McConnell & Marianne Grant. Call 981-3440 to get back on track with the activities schedule.

Got some news around Orange Beach? Let us know what's going on by sending your community news to [obecon@gulftel.com](mailto:obecon@gulftel.com) and be sure to log onto [www.cityoforangebeach.com](http://www.cityoforangebeach.com) and register to receive the weekly newsletter online which has much more detail and color photography on other events.

*One Last Look this week . . .*

September was the first meeting of the Orange Beach Elementary Garden Club. Members are from kindergarten to fifth grade. The purpose of the club is to help beautify the campus and study growing things.



Pictured in the attached file with Mrs. Gayle Cahn are: (in no particular order) Damian Heaton, Rocky Baker, Trevor Templeton, Kali Templeton, Josey Rochester, Caitlyn Wyers, Connor Newton,



Susan Belmonte, Hannah Gianni, Savannah DeScalzo, Bre Andrews, Shannon Belmonte, Maia Pouye, Kala Heaton, Carson Boyd, Savannah Newton, Madison Steele, Hunter Gianni, Zoe Townley, Mackenzie Shultz, Savannah Townley, Olivia Beverly, Jean-Pierre Pouye, Abby Grimes, Taylor McLain, Caroline Grimes, Krystian Carter, Ethan Chamblee, and Amber Mason.

# 2006 Southeastern Conference Women's Soccer Championship Tournament

**November 1 - 5, 2006**

**Orange Beach Sportsplex**

Canal Road (Hwy. 180), Orange Beach, Alabama

Quarter Finals - Wednesday, November 1

12:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Semi Finals - Friday, November 3

5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

SEC Championship Game

Sunday, November 5, 3:30 p.m.

## General Admission

Adults \$5.00

Youth \$3.00

Youth in soccer  
uniforms or with  
Coach admitted free!

*For more information contact -*

City of Orange Beach  
Parks & Recreation Department  
251-981-PLAY  
[www.obparksandrec.com](http://www.obparksandrec.com)

