

March 14, 2008

by Ken Grimes, Jr.

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It was a beautiful early Spring weekend here in Orange Beach. The weather around here has a funny way of teasing you as we get that afternoon high of near 80 degrees and wake up the next morning to near freezing temps as cool winds blow south. Either way you prefer, hot or cold, Orange Beach weather has been superb lately and it looks to be a beautiful springtime on the island. Once again, youth basketball wrapped up on Pleasure Island with great competition and some very competitive games made for many stress filled hours of basketball. After the cheering ended and the whistles and buzzers were quiet, a few Orange Beach teams shared in the championships with trophies, silly string and some fun with their coaches and parents. As a parent and volunteer coach in Orange Beach I can say that each child that plays in Orange Beach has a great opportunity to learn the skills needed to excel at the sport and each family has the memories to be made by participating. Winning the 12U Girls was Coaches David McClain and Jeff Moon with the "Killer Bees" in Gold and Black. Players included Brooke Cooley, Sara Peralta, Kia Cain, Morgan McLain, Cheyenne Moon, Kaitlyn McCurdy, Braiden Scarbrough, Olivia Callaway, Laura McBride and Christian Burchfield. Winning the 12U Boys was Coach Vince Burchfield and the young men from Orange Beach. We appreciate all players, parents and supporters of Orange Beach youth basketball and hope even more sign up next year. A special thanks to Columbia Southern University for sponsoring the uniforms again this year. The ongoing support of CSU here in Orange Beach is greatly appreciated.



Frances Cain

By now, most of Pleasure Island has heard the news that City of Orange Beach Administrator Jeff Moon has resigned his post effective April 11th to head north to Woodstock, Georgia to become their City Manager. Woodstock is a booming suburb about 30 miles north of downtown Atlanta. Jeff Moon has served Orange Beach well as he has led and directed daily activities and projects for more than seven years during many happy and some sad days. Recovering from Hurricane Ivan in 2004 brought much attention to this island and so many lessons were learned and taught by Moon and the staff of the city. From coaching youth basketball, softball and soccer to teaching Sunday School to teenagers at First Baptist Church Orange Beach, the Moon's will be missed. As a father of three and husband to Nancy Moon, City Planner in Gulf Shores, he has been visible and active in all facets of life in Orange Beach. Now with both daughters nearing high school age he was noted as saying if there is ever a time to make a new move, its now before they get entrenched in their high school activities. Oh yeah, their son Chason starts school next year so here comes another twelve years of PTA meetings and band camps. "The decision to apply for the position in Georgia was a tough one, but Woodstock is an area with many similarities to Orange Beach" adds Moon, whose previous employment was in Riverdale, Georgia on the south side of Atlanta. Watch for more details and thoughts from Mr. Moon as his transition occurs and feel free to send him an email to jeffmoon@gulftel.com in wishing him good luck on a bright future.



Jeff Moon getting some red spray after the 12U girls championship

Last Friday brought another huge economic development announcement that Mobile would be the site to build 179 of the new military KC-45A refueling tankers for the U.S. Air Force. The contract was awarded to Northrop Grumman Corporation in partnership with EADS North American and it totals over \$40 Billion which is a hefty sum coming heavily to our region. Thousands of jobs and plenty of spinoff for other firms as the new manufacturing comes on the heels of the Thyssen Krupp steel plant announcement for North Mobile County. These two projects have propelled Alabama and this region into the top of plenty of charts in new investment and job creation which economic developers love to tout. The reality of all the stats and projections is that plenty of people from more than ten counties will be vying for top paying jobs and departing good jobs with existing firms which opens even more doors

Selected: KC-45 is America's New Tanker



for people of our area. Great paying careers with benefits only enhance the overall quality of life for everyone as residents across the region benefit from the new investment. Watch for plenty of stories and keep your eyes open for job and career fairs all over Baldwin and Mobile Counties. Great job to all involved in securing these "mega" prospects. We are indeed in for a brighter future!

Closer to home, the Orange Beach Police Department will be hosting meetings designed specifically for your neighborhood. These community meetings will allow the department and its officers to better protect and serve the residents of Orange Beach. A slate of such meetings will be held and broken into segments of the city by geographic proximity to subdivisions and neighborhoods. On Wednesday, March 26 from 6-8pm, the East Orange Beach area is invited to attend at the Orange Beach Community Center. If you live east of Hwy 161 all the way to Walker Avenue on Canal Road or in the general vicinity you should plan to attend. Topics include a meet and greet, discuss neighborhood safety, discuss possible "watch" programs, highlight possible evacuation plans and have any questions answered that resident have. The efforts are planned to be informal and informative. To find out more or for the schedule of other community meetings call 981-9777. *A citywide Town Hall Meeting is set for Tuesday, March 18 at the Orange Beach Community Center around 6pm.* The public is encouraged to attend as this meeting will provide updates on many relevant topics currently underway by the Orange Beach City Council. This meeting was rescheduled following a major rainout at its last effort.

OB Police Department
Community Meetings
East Orange Beach Neighborhoods
Wed. March 26 6-8pm
OB Community Center
Public Encouraged To Attend
981-9777 for info

Dr. Karin Pardue, a board certified family medicine physician and medical review officer, has joined Sacred Heart Medical Group at Orange Beach. Sacred Heart Medical Group is the region's largest network of primary care and specialty physicians with locations in Baldwin County as well as Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, and Bay counties. Dr. Pardue received her medical degree from Louisiana State University College of Medicine in New Orleans, La. She then completed residency training in family medicine at Earl K. Long Medical Center in Baton Rouge, La. She has special interests in nutrition and aesthetic medicine including microderm abrasion, Botox, skin rejuvenation, and professional skin care products along with providing pediatric, adolescent, and adult medical care at her Orange Beach office since 2004. Dr. Pardue is currently accepting new patients at her office located in the Orange Beach Medical Arts Building just north of City Hall. For more information or an appointment, call (251) 981-8713.

What's Biting and Where on the Alabama Gulf Coast?

www.gulfshores.com/fishing/biting



Continued...

The beautiful beaches of the Alabama Gulf Coast are our number one attraction for the thousands of visitors each year. That sugar, white sand doesn't stay that way without some work behind the scenes. The City of Orange Beach coordinated a project of beach tilling for preparation of the sea turtle nesting season. This "tilling" was part of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife beach nourishment permit requirements. In order to insure the safety of beach goers, please be aware of any official vehicle on the beaches or other equipment used in keeping the beaches clean and ready for use. For additional information, please contact the city's Coastal Resources Division at 251-981-1063.

**Orange Beach Town Hall Meeting
Tuesday, March 18
Orange Beach Community Center**

Bridge competition stays heated with winners for Tuesday, February 26: 1st: Lee Mintz; 2nd: Jimmy Nelson; 3rd: Barbara Nelson and for Thursday, February 28: 1st: Tom Lynch; 2nd: Harriet Hatch; 3rd: Jay Horst. Find out more about the schedule of activities by calling the center at 981-3440.

The 4th Annual Don Brewer Classic golf tournament is set for April 4th at Glenlakes Golf Club which benefits the American Cancer Society through the City of Orange Beach Relay For Life team. The cost is \$50 and spots available by calling Jeanne Fitzgibbons 251-981-6039.



According to reports from Kathy Jumper of the Mobile Register, "REMAX Paradise owner Bob Shallow plans to build Bob's Cabana, a daytime bar specializing in cheeseburgers, on a strip of gulf-front property he owns next to Turquoise Place's second, 36-story condominium tower under construction in Orange Beach. The site on Alabama 182 has 51.9 front feet on the gulf and is 600 feet deep, he said. Architect Russell Washer designed the two-story cabana." Anyone living in Orange Beach knows that we have few options of places to dine while looking at the Gulf of Mexico so here's to Bob's burger joint. We need it! PS. Can you hurry up the construction on this project... I need a good cheeseburger!

For the latest on what's going on in and around Orange Beach be sure to log onto www.cityoforangebeachblog.com and get photos, reminders and more. This free online Orange Beach Community News is brought to you by the City of Orange Beach.

The 5th Annual Easter Bonnet Dog Parade will be held at the Orange Beach Waterfront Park on Saturday, March 22 from 9am-12. Contests include Pet Owner Look Alike, Best Bonnet, and Best Outfit. Activities will include games, Easter Bone Hunt (for doggies) and Easter Egg Hunt (for owners); a demonstration from the Orange Beach K9 unit; an Easter Parade; and pictures with the Easter Bunny. Organizers are excited to have Gulf Coast Veterinary Hospital and Canal Road Animal Hospital back as sponsors. The Parks and Recreation Department holds this annual event so pets and owners alike can socialize together. Currently, there are no sites locally where dogs are allowed off leash so this gives residents



and visitors a chance to hang out. The tentative schedule is as follows: 9-10am, registration for contests and Yappy Hour; 10-11am, pictures with the Easter Bunny and contest judging; 10:45, K9 demo; 11-11:30am Easter Bone Hunt and Easter Parade; 11:30 Awards Ceremony. There is NO charge for the activities and no pre-registration required. ALL dogs must be on a leash and up to date with their vaccinations. The Orange Beach Waterfront Park is located at 26425 Canal Road, 1/2 mile east of the intersection of Canal Rd and Hwy 161. Contact: Angela Bateman, City of Orange Beach Parks & Recreation Department, 251-981-6028 for more information.



The 2008 Festival of Art was held March 8th and 9th at the Waterfront Park in Orange Beach. Crowds were strong for the 42 artists. From all reports, the sales were up and in this kickoff to the 2008 art season. Orange Beach offers a quaint, intimate setting for the artists to promote their creations down by the water-



front. Weather is always great when looking at Wolf Bay. Great Job to Wanda Price and the volunteers at the OB Art Center!



Orange Beach Elementary School students will begin selling Little Caesars pizza fundraising items this month. The pizza mixes and cookie packets will be delivered in April. Orders begin on March 17. To order and support OBES call 981-5662.

Buckmaster's Hunt for Disabled

Some employees and residents of Orange Beach were part of Hunt of A Lifetime which is a deer hunt with Buckmasters for special youngsters and adults with disabilities. The young man in the wagon is Dallas who is 13. He got to see his first buck on the hunt which was a little spike. Dallas came down with buck fever from that moment on and his smile was never wider. Hunter is to the left who killed 2 deer, he was a young man in a body cast from the last hunt with the group. His body has recovered and he loves the hunting with family and friends. Travis is the man to the rear on the left with the Orange Buckmaster' Hat. He is blind and he also killed 2 deer as part of this unique program. Special kudos to the men and women who are involved in this program.

*Information provided by
Todd Posey, Fire Marshal—City of Orange Beach*





Orange Beach Community News

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Orange Beach, Alabama

A Last Look at Orange Beach this Week . . .



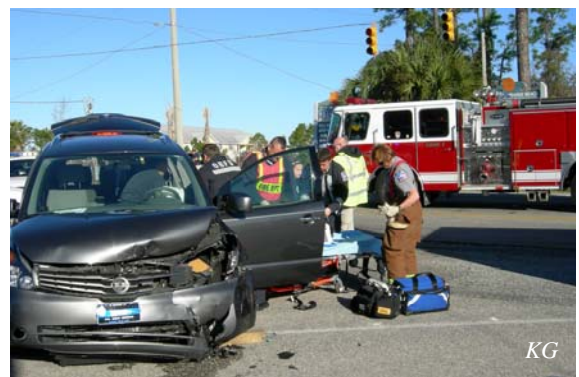
Not your typical Sunday afternoon entertainment in Orange Beach as Vicki Dean and husband Craig were coming home after church recently and saw a BMW floating in the waters just east of Sportsman Marina. A quick grab for the camera and the images you see are as shocking to us as to everyone. Vicki posed with the convertible which appears to have rolled from the parking lot into the waters. Divers and a wrecker service were called it to pull the submersed vehicle from the bottom of Terry Cove as seen below right. Thanks for the look at this unique happening in Orange Beach. The girls from the neighborhood took it all in from the piers across the way. Photos by Craig Dean.



Wayne Perdue himself on stage at the OB Lions Dance last month at the OB Community Center. Funds aid the club.



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Responding to the emergency as OBFD and OBPD make calls daily in keeping our city safe and responsive to needs



Orange Beach, Alabama is “Home to the
Gulf of Mexico’s Largest Fishing Fleet”

Have You Experienced It Yet?

251-981-6979

www.cityoforangebeach.com