

Biloxi Shuckers: The boys are back in town!

Who could forget the 2018 Shuckers season? A league-record number of wins, South Division champions, a host of individual awards, and a chance to watch a number of former Shuckers playing in the bigs with Milwaukee.

And now, the 2019 campaign is upon us. Shuck Nation is back at MGM Park in a big way in April.

Biloxi's Double-A squad will actually play 15 home games at MGM Park, three five-game series: the Birmingham Barons April 4-8, the Pensacola Blue Wahoos April 15-19, and the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp April 20-24.

Highlights of April's promotional schedule: Opening Night, Field of Dreams Night and Dwier Brown Appearance, Biloxi Dodgers Night and Rally Towel Giveaway, and the Shuckers will unveil new daily promotions including Barks & Brews Monday, and T-Shirt Tuesday with the first 250 fans receiving a free T-shirt. Post-game fireworks shows will be April 5 and April 19.

- ▶ See April calendar Pages 15-19
- ▶ Get seats online at biloxishuckers.com

Get ready: Spring Break crowds, traffic coming up

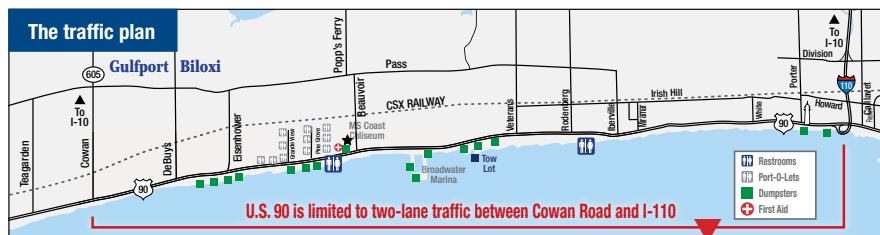
It's that time of year again: Spring Break, when tens of thousands of college-age visitors descend on Biloxi for a weekend of fun. And cruisin' along U.S. 90, primarily in the area of the Coast Coliseum.

This year, judging from online traffic, Spring Break is scheduled to take place April 12-14, with visitors arriving as early as April 11.

For visitors, it's a chance to walk along the boardwalk, attend events at the Coliseum and other venues, and generally have a good time.

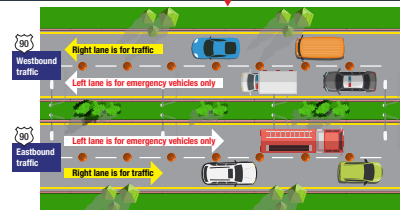
For residents, businesses and police, the event has also created its share of traffic congestion along U.S. 90.

That's why city leaders unveiled a traffic plan that, if fully implemented, limits U.S. 90 to righthand lanes, eastbound and westbound, with left lanes restricted to emergency vehicles. In some instances, turns are prohibited at intersections to keep



Get Spring Break traffic advisories

Text Biloxi to 888777



traffic flowing, and, if police see traffic nearing gridlock traffic is "vented," or forced to travel as far away as Interstate 10.

- ▶ See more online at biloxi.ms.us/springbreak

Howard Avenue: Enjoy the asphalt for a few more months

So Jack Gratwick and his crew at Hemphill Construction were able to have temporary pavement on Howard Avenue east of Porter Avenue in place in time for the Mardi Gras parades in March.

That was welcome news for carnival krewes, parade-goers and business alike, but now, the big question: How long will the temporary pavement be in place and what's the status of the work on Howard?

Says Gratwick: "Temporary asphalt on Howard will remain in place for a couple months while we finish work in the surrounding areas. We are about 75 percent complete with all work on Howard."

At the eastern end of Howard Avenue, on the downtown restoration efforts, contractors are

wrapping up work on a pedestrian brick walkway in front of Bradford-O'Keefe Funeral Home, near the new intersection of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Howard Avenue. No word yet from Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich on when the overall downtown roadway will formally open to the public, but it's any day now.

Meanwhile, Oscar Renda reports progress north of the CSX railway. Says Jennifer Matranga: "We're getting close to wrapping up Main Street south of Division. Paving is taking place as the lines are being laid. Then we move to Forrest, but at the same time we're working on Esters north of the tracks."

- ▶ See video, detailed maps, biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi

INSIDE This month

It's such a big issue this month, here's your guide:

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Who knew? There was more than one Biloxi through history

A number of things have been held as matter of fact over the years. You've probably heard them:

- Biloxi was established in 1699.
- Biloxi was the birthplace of Barq's Root Beer.
- Biloxi is home to the world's longest man-made beach (has anyone scoured the world to check this?)
- And finally, we'd always thought, matter of factly, that there's only one Biloxi. Not in the figurative vein of, say, One Coast, but in reality.

To be sure, we'd always held those statements as fact.

They played well, too, especially considering the pop culture references over the years to Biloxi, even though, come to find out, we're part of a secret Coast.

For instance, the guys from the old series "Route 66" once passed through "Biloxi." Years later, a character on "NYPD Blue" said he was retiring to Biloxi because "they have pai gow poker there." References such as those show up periodically through time, some large, some small.

In an apparent nod to Keesler Air Force Base, Goldie Hawn trained at a hilly "Fort Ba-lock-see" in the '80s movie "Private Benjamin." There was Jimmy Buffett's rendition of the Jesse Winchester opus "Biloxi," and, of course, the widespread notoriety, memories and name recognition generated by the hundreds of thousands of young servicemen who have passed through the gates at "Keesler Field," including playwright Neil Simon ("Biloxi Blues.")

But come to find out, our Biloxi was not always the only Biloxi.

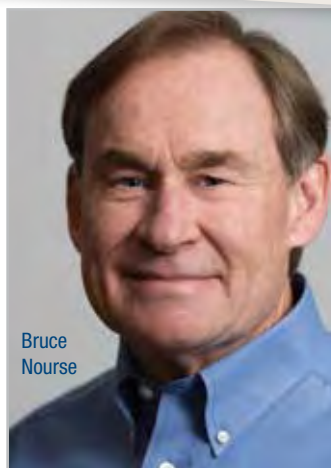
Biloxi, Texas

Wikipedia, the do-it-yourself Funk & Wagnalls of the internet, says Biloxi, Texas was inspired by either the tribe of Indians known as the Biloxis or the City of Biloxi itself. We suspect the former.

The unincorporated community was on the border of Texas and Louisiana, 45 miles northeast of Beaumont and at the junction of Farm roads 1416 and 2460. No word if either road was paved, temporarily or otherwise.

Says the Texas State Historical Association:

The nom de plume Nick L. Shrimp is a homage to the late Walter Fountain, original olde crab, longtime editor of the Biloxi-D'iberville Press, and longtime Biloxi Chamber of Commerce manager.



Bruce Nourse

at the advent of legal Mississippi gaming, remembers "Little Biloxi" as more of a state of mind, not unlike One Coast.

Says Nourse: "After growing up in Biloxi I moved to Las Vegas in 1975

"The area was one of three known sites of Indian occupation in the area that become Newton County. The Biloxis continued to visit the region until after the Civil War.

"In 1829 Lorenzo de Zavala acquired the region including Biloxi from the Mexican government as part of a large grant to which he was to sponsor the immigration of 500 families. Settlers entered the Biloxi region shortly thereafter and established sizable plantations. Most of the newcomers eventually concentrated at nearby Belgrade, although Biloxi maintained its post office from 1853 to 1860.

"Despite setbacks, Newton County at one time licensed ferry operations at the Biloxi crossing of Big Cow Creek. As of the 1960s a few persons still inhabited the area just west of the site of Biloxi."

'Little Biloxi' in Las Vegas

And then there was a time some would hear about a place in Las Vegas known as "Little Biloxi." It was a reference to the numbers of people who left Biloxi in the post-Kefauver era to learn the gaming industry. Our friend Bruce Nourse, who helped write the book of gaming

as a 23-year-old neophyte. I had a few friends who worked in the casinos, but I had no idea the extent of the influence 'Little Biloxi' had in Vegas until I moved there. Its influence was the product of years of hard work by Biloxi natives who moved to Vegas to learn the casino business. Many had intended to move back to Biloxi to work in the illegal casinos.

"After realizing that Vegas was truly special, many, including me, stayed for decades. Vegas attracted a group of 30 to 50 'Biloxi Boys' who partied with boiled shrimp and Barq's root beer, and rose through the ranks to hold numerous executive positions.

"Biloxi native Mike Couevas started as a security guard and eventually became the general manager of the largest casino in the world, The Excalibur. I became a special agent for the Investigation Division of the Nevada Gaming Control Board. At that time, the chairman of the NGCB was a Biloxi native!

"Little Biloxi always was a state of mind, a proud club and still exists. Just say you're from Biloxi to a Vegas executive and you're sure to get a knowing smile and a generous comp."

Do You Have Flood Insurance?

It's that time of year again. Hurricane season is just around the corner, and the City of Biloxi is recommending that you purchase flood insurance. Here are a few facts that should move you to action:

- Everyone is vulnerable to flooding. More than 20 percent of the claims in the National Flood Insurance Program are from outside identified flood zones, and claims outside the flood risk area account for a third of disaster assistance for flooding.
- It takes 30 days for a flood insurance policy to take effect, and policies will not be sold when a hurricane is in the Gulf.
- In a high-risk area, your home is more than twice as likely to be damaged by flood than by fire.

The City of Biloxi encourages you to call your insurance agent and buy flood insurance.

Questions? Contact Rick Stickler or Kristin Greger with the City of Biloxi, 228-435-6280.

rstickler@biloxi.ms.us kgreger@biloxi.ms.us



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Closure of six CSX crossings still in works

March 7, 2019 marked the second anniversary of the deadly train-charter bus collision at the Main Street crossing where four people were killed, and several days after that anniversary a motorist escaped serious injury after a freight train slammed into their vehicle.

In the wake of the bus-train tragedy, where the charter bus with 48 passengers had become hung up on the rail at the crossing, the city upgraded signage at crossings in Biloxi with low clearance warnings at all 29 crossings in the eight-mile stretch of railway running the length of the Biloxi peninsula. Additionally, the city prohibited buses, RVs, and trucks from using crossings at Main, Lameuse, Porter, and Iberville.

The city, which has hired lawyers specializing in rail crossing issues, has requested CSX make improvements to all crossings, especially Main Street, and federal funds are being used to improve Esters Boulevard adjacent to the railway in East Biloxi with a goal of closing six of the 21 crossings in the two-mile stretch between Keesler and Point Cadet.

Planned closures are at Querens, Iquoquois, Delauney, Nixon, Brown and Strangi.

Here's the status from Christy LeBatard, director of

the city's Engineering Department:

"The Main Street crossing project will begin design as soon as we receive the Memorandum of Understanding from MDOT authorizing the project, which I expect to have any day now.

"The project will raise the elevation of Main Street on the north side of the track to help alleviate large trucks from getting stuck on the tracks. The project is estimated to cost \$300,000 with the city paying 20 percent or \$60,000 of the cost. We are trying to be under construction by the end of the year.

"The other railway project, which includes construction of a new parallel road north of the railway, from Crawford to Delauney streets, should be ready to bid for construction by the Summer.

"In that project, we're initially closing the crossings at Dorries, Holley and Nixon streets once the road is constructed. We are having to acquire a couple pieces of property, which is currently on-going, and we estimate the project is going to cost just over \$1 million. It is being funded with federal Community Development Block Grant funds."

New look, for Woolmarket City Center

A new façade and expansion are in the offing for the Woolmarket City Center, where a county library and city community center opened months ago.

This month, the city will receive bids on the new façade, which will also include expanding the community center portion of the facility to include a stage and other amenities.

The county library replaced a library that had been housed in a small trailer.

The Woolmarket City Center is at 13034 Kayleigh Cove Drive.



Current



Future

Sports Hall of Fame seeks nominees for 2019 class

The Biloxi Parks & Recreation Department is now seeking nominations for its 2019 class of the Biloxi Sports Hall of Fame.

If you know a retired athlete that contributed to the betterment of athletics in Biloxi or a coach or individual who has played a supporting role for more than a decade, you can nominate them for the prestigious honor.

Nominees must be retired at least three years if an athlete or competitor or have completed at least 15 years of service as a coach or supporter of Biloxi athletics, must have demonstrated good citizenship both in school and after leaving school, and must have contributed

to the betterment of athletes in the City of Biloxi as a player, coach, or any supporting role of superior accomplishment.

Applications may be acquired weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Parks & Recreation office, 377 Hiller Drive, or online at biloxi.ms.us. Application deadline is Friday, June 30.

Among the criteria for selecting inductees are statistical performance, individual achievement, leadership, citizenship and community service. The number of inductees each year is solely the discretion of the selection committee.

The Class of 2019 will be honored in August.



▶ See nomination form at biloxi.ms.us/2019hall.pdf

- Swim team and lessons:** Registration for Biloxi Red Tide, the city's summer swim team, is set for Saturday, May 4 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Biloxi Natatorium. Registration also will take place at the same time for summer swimming lessons. Details: 228-435-6205.

- Renaissance:** The folks who created the Renaissance Garden at Hiller Park, the peaceful setting of natural shrubs, flowers and benches, are looking for volunteers to help with the garden. Green thumb not required, just an interest in gardening. Interested? Call Martha Boyce, 228-365-9293.

- Video on demand:** The collection of videos on the city's YouTube channel have now had more than 160,000 views. See the videos - monthly infrastructure reports, council meetings, a State of the City archive and trivial pursuits - by clicking on the YouTube icon at the top right of any page on the city website, biloxi.ms.us

- Causeway Park update:** The Popp's Ferry Causeway Park bait shop is now open, sort of. You can find barbecue, boiled crawfish and beverages on weekends, along with demos of kayak launches, but no word on hours or when bait would be available.

- Pedestrian bridges:** The pedestrian bridge between Beau Rivage and MGM Park is scheduled to open ahead of the Shuckers season, and the harbor pedestrian bridge is aiming for a Labor Day opening.



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Edgewater Mall

Southland Designer Homes breaks ground at Hidden Springs

Southland Designer Homes, a company owned by second-generation builder Phil Frisby, has broken ground for its model home in the first phase of the Hidden Springs subdivision.

Hidden Springs represents 166 acres of the 1,478-acres Belle la Vie master-planned community, which will be about three miles north of Interstate 10, with easy access to Mississippi 605 and 67, and U.S. 49. The initial phase of Hidden Springs will be a 26-lot subdivision. Ground on the model home was broken last week.

"We were honored to have so many people celebrate the groundbreaking of our model home in Hidden Springs with us," Frisby said. "We feel very fortunate to be the first builder in this subdivision, with a fantastic location in Biloxi, and we're excited to be a part of the first residential phase of Belle la Vie, a multi-million-dollar, multi-phase master-planned community."

Belle la Vie, which has been discussed since early 2005 before Hurricane Katrina, will consist of multiple zoned parcels of land and is a mixed-use, master-planned community consisting of single-family residential, a retirement center, an innovation and technology center, commercial, condominiums, townhomes and apartments.



Each of those entities will likely have different ownership and will have individual development plans that will be governed by the Master Property Owners Association.

For more information or to speak with Frisby directly, call 228-354-9137 or email SDHBuilder@cableone.net.

\$5.5 million later, water and sewer now at Woolmarket Plantation, Larkin

The city is notifying residents of the Woolmarket Plantation and Larkin Subdivision in Woolmarket that now that water and sewer service has been made available in those areas, it's time for residents to connect to the services.

The services are now available to 117 parcels of land, 109 of which have homes on them.

With the work, the city now has water and sewer service available to 1,800 of the 3,100 landowners in the Woolmarket community.

"The city actually added the sewer

service to Woolmarket Plantation and Larkin Subdivision in 2017," said Biloxi Chief Administrative Officer Mike Leonard. "We told residents at the time that even though city ordinance requires those within 300 feet of the service to tie into the service, we were not taking enforcement action until water is installed. Now that water has arrived, it's time to connect."

Leonard also noted that the city is also waiving tap fees, which would cost homeowners as much as \$500.

"In the 20 years since Woolmarket became part of the city, property owners have been vocal in the lack of city water and sewer to their property," Leonard said. "Now that the city has invested millions of dollars in making that happen, it's a matter of water quality and pollution control. It's time to hook up."

The city is sending letters to all residents of these neighborhoods explaining the connection options. Those with questions can contact the city Water Department at 228- 435-6240 or dmerrill@biloxi.ms.us.

The Salvation Army unveils the 'Help Card' for panhandlers

Next time you're approached by a panhandler seeking money for food, a bus ticket or even a beer, The Salvation Army has a suggestion: Make it a thoughtful gift, a Help Card.

The Army, not unlike many local social-service organizations, offers an array of services for the needy, but leaders worry that giving money to a panhandler should not always be the first option.

"We're certainly a caring community and we should be," said The Salvation Army Maj. Anita Caldwell, "but research has shown that some panhandlers have a car and a home, and panhandling is their career. Some have addictions to drugs, alcohol or gambling. And some are genuinely in need of help.



"We're asking people to take these things into account and think about giving a Help Card, which lists places where anyone can get a free meal or other assistance."

The Army has distributed the cards at businesses along the Coast so that residents or visitors can have them handy when approached for money.

The small cards – the size of a business card –

list locations for free meals and assistance: The Lord is My Help, 1205 Desoto St., Ocean Springs. Meals: weekdays 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Seashore Mission, 856 Division St., Biloxi. Meals: Sunday 6:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday and Thursday, 6:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Our Lady of Fatima St. Vincent de Paul, 314 Jim Money Road, Biloxi. Homeless assistance: Monday and Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Loaves & Fishes, 610 Water St., Biloxi. Meals: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 7:45 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Salvation Army, 2019 22nd St., Gulfport. Shower, laundry and snack packs: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

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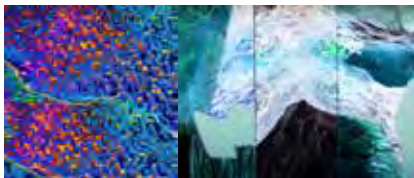
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Here's your air show lineup

As you may have heard, the United States Air Force Thunderbirds will be in Biloxi on May 4 and 5 to headline the Keesler and Biloxi Air and Space Show, but have you heard about the myriad of other performers, static displays and exhibits that will be part of the show? Well, now you can see the full line up here.

The gates at Keesler Air Force Base will open at 7:30 a.m. with performances, exhibits and static displays from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Then, from 1 to 5 p.m., air performances over the Biloxi sound will take place, including flyovers by a B-2 and B-52 aircraft and the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds who will close the show.

HERE'S THE LINEUP:

Featured Performers (Over the Mississippi Sound)

- U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds
- Trojan Thunder – 6 x T-28A
- Team Aeroshell – 4 x AT-6D
- Army Special Ops – Black Daggers

Additional Performers (Over Keesler and the Mississippi Sound)

Alabama Boys – Decathlon & Cub; Twin Tigers – 2 x Yak 55s; Jeremy Holt – Pegasus Bi-Plane; Wild Blue Rodeo with Josh Boudreaux; Scott Francis; P-40; P-51 – Quick Silver Mustang; T-33 – AceMaker Airshows; F-4U Corsair – Dixie CAF; OV-1; MiG -17 – Pilot Greg Howell

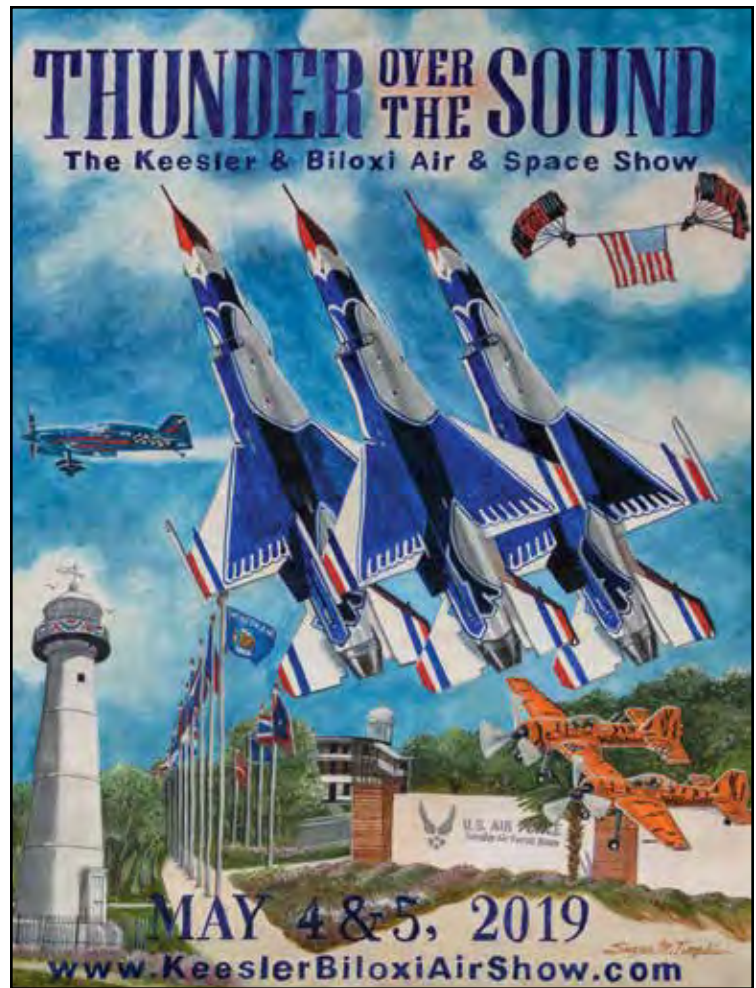
Static Displays (On Keesler)

WC-130J Hurricane Hunters; C-130J Flying Jennies; MQ-9 Reaper; C-17 Globemaster; B-25 'Killer B'; T-6; T-45; A-10; F/A-18 Hornet; Ah-1 Cobra; Uh-1Y Super Huey; UH-60 Black Hawk; AH-64 Apache; UH-72 Lakota; CH-47 Chinook; HH-60 Pave Hawk; T-1 Jayhawk

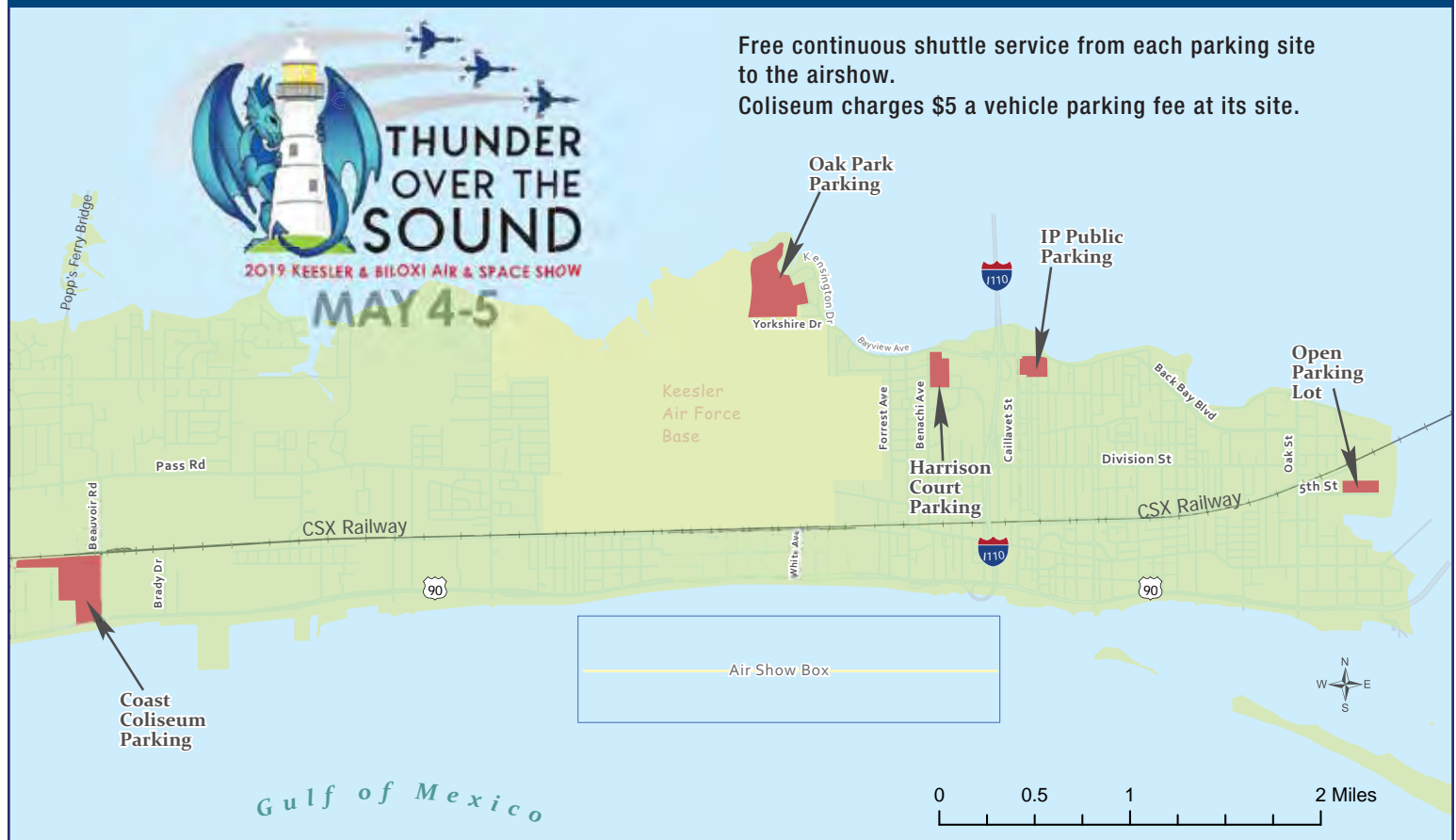
Ground Exhibits (On Keesler)

Smoke and Thunder Jet Truck; MSN-7 – Mobile Tower; Air Force Performance Lab; A7 & F-101 Cockpits; 43% Scale Edge 540 – RC Aircraft; NASA

*Not listed in order of performance.



Air Show Parking Map



Seafood museum to mark 50th anniversary of Camille

The Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum has unveiled the logo for “Camille 50,” a six-month, multi-media exhibition that will mark the 50th anniversary this summer of what many call the original monster storm, Hurricane Camille.

It was late in the evening of Aug. 17, 1969 when Camille made landfall along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, decimating Biloxi and the surrounding area. The storm, one of only three Category 5 hurricanes ever to make landfall in the U.S., claimed 259 lives and had a storm surge of nearly 25 feet in some areas.

The seafood museum’s huge undertaking, which runs June 1 through Nov. 30 to coincide with the 2019 hurricane season, will include multi-media displays at the Point Cadet museum, along with a weekly luncheon speaker series. “Camille 50” also will include the premiere of a new documentary, “Camille: The Original Monster Storm.”

The museum, which plans a huge advertising campaign to support the exhibit, is also seeking civic-minded businesses to help underwrite the endeavor. The museum is also seeking Camille artifacts or personal stories.

Those interested should contact Corey Christy or Robin David at 228-435-6320 or email outreach@maritimemuseum.org.



CELEBRATE LINEMAN APPRECIATION MONTH

It’s difficult and dangerous work. But you can always count on linemen to be out there on the job, even in the worst of conditions. We thank the Mississippi House of Representatives for designating April as Lineman Appreciation Month in recognition of line crews everywhere. Join us in extending our grateful thanks to these men and women who work every day to ensure you have the energy you need to power your lives.



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 Treasure Bay
CASINO AND HOTEL

Registration for summer camp underway this month

The city's popular summer camp – officially known as the Summer Playground and Enrichment Program – is just around the corner, and Biloxi Parks and Recreation leaders want to make sure parents are getting ready for registration.

The summer camp is open to children ages 5 to 11, with a teen camp for those ages 12 to 14, and a sun camp for mentally and physically challenged children. This year, the camps – Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, Lopez Elementary, North Bay Elementary, North Woolmarket Middle Gym, Popp's Ferry Elementary, and Woolmarket Elementary Gym – will run weekdays from Monday, June 3 to Friday, July 26. Campers are involved in a host of games, arts and crafts, and field trips. Lunch is included in the fee.

Registration for Biloxi residents living in the Woolmarket community will be Saturday, April 4 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Woolmarket Elementary gym, 12513 John Lee Road.

Registration for all Biloxi residents will be Saturday, April 20 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road.

Late registration and non-Biloxi registration will be held Monday, April 15 through Friday, May 17 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Biloxi



Campers perform at the popular end of summer talent show in 2018.

Parks and Recreation Department, 377 Hiller Drive.

PROGRAM FEES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Biloxi residents:

- \$10 registration fee
- \$40 weekly fee for first child, \$20 for each additional child
- \$60 field trip fee per child – One-time fee
- \$60 latch key fee per child – One-time fee

Non-Biloxi residents:

- \$20 registration fee
- \$60 weekly fee for first child,

- \$30 for each additional child
- \$60 field trip fee per child – One-time fee
- \$60 latch key fee per child – One-time fee

All fees must be paid at time of registration. In addition, the Mississippi State Health Department requires all parents and/or guardians to submit proof of residency, social security numbers, two emergency contacts numbers, a list of those who can pick up a child, health insurance information, and health information of a child on camp registration forms.



Attention: Pre-registrants 2019 Summer Playground Fees Due!

Those who pre-registered
at the end of camp last year.

ALL FEES NEED TO BE PAID IN FULL ON ONE OF THE FOLLOWING DATES LISTED BELOW OR YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO BEGIN CAMP ON MONDAY, JUNE 3.

April 18, 5:30-7:30 p.m. • Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Rd.

April 19–May 10, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. • Parks & Recreation Office, 377 Hiller Dr.

FEES DUE:

- \$40 Weekly Fee - \$20 for each additional child
- \$60 one-time field trip fee per child
- \$60 one-time latch key fee per child

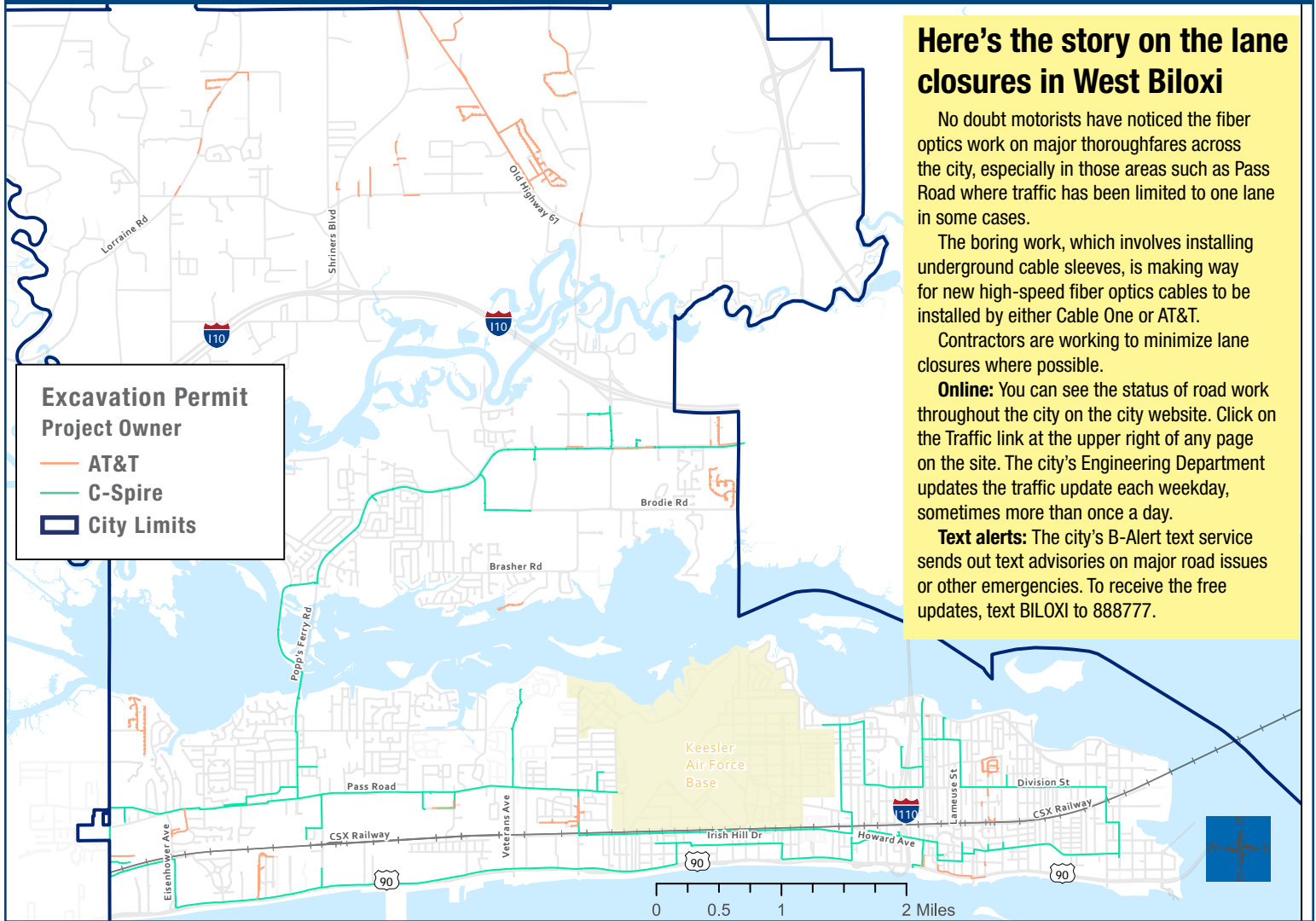
For more information, contact the City of Biloxi Parks & Recreation office at 228-388-7170 or email playground@biloxi.ms.us.

Visit online at biloxi.ms.us •

Sign up for BMail at biloxi.ms.us • For B-Alerts, text BILOXI to 888777



Fiber optics work in Biloxi



Here's the story on the lane closures in West Biloxi

No doubt motorists have noticed the fiber optics work on major thoroughfares across the city, especially in those areas such as Pass Road where traffic has been limited to one lane in some cases.

The boring work, which involves installing underground cable sleeves, is making way for new high-speed fiber optics cables to be installed by either Cable One or AT&T.

Contractors are working to minimize lane closures where possible.

Online: You can see the status of road work throughout the city on the city website. Click on the Traffic link at the upper right of any page on the site. The city's Engineering Department updates the traffic update each weekday, sometimes more than once a day.

Text alerts: The city's B-Alert text service sends out text advisories on major road issues or other emergencies. To receive the free updates, text BILOXI to 888777.

Humphrey named BPD's Officer of the Year

Police officer Eli Humphrey, who saved the life of a fellow officer while working a traffic accident last year, has been named the Biloxi Police Department's Officer of the Year.

The incident occurred while officers were working a traffic accident in January 2018 on Interstate 110, and it demonstrated the quick thinking and pro-activeness exhibited regularly by Humphrey, a patrolman who joined the department in April 2015.

"Officer Humphrey does a great job for the department," Police Chief John Miller said. "He is the epitome of community policing, always out in neighborhoods, always meeting and talking with people, always on the look out for criminal activities, and always being proactive.

"On this particular day on the interstate, he was out working an accident and saw another one in

the making. Officer Humphrey saw a car slam into the back of a Biloxi patrol car at the scene, and in a split second he reached across the concrete barrier and snatched a fellow officer from the path of the oncoming car. This officer would have certainly been crushed between the car and the concrete barrier were it not for Officer Humphrey's actions that day."

The department also recognized Dispatchers of the Year Jennifer Holland and Ramona Wolfe, and Civilian of the Year, Intelligence Research Spec. Lindsey Akins.

A Medal of Merit was presented to Officer Weston Mayley, who, while off duty, rescued the driver of a motor vehicle that had overturned into a water-filled drainage culvert on Interstate 10.

Miller also cited two individuals with Chief's Awards during the

ceremony: Officer Todd Stewart and Maj. Christopher De Back.

Among the other presentations: Investigations Division Performance Awards, Inv. Richard Hilliard and Inv. Nicholas Sonnier; Operations Division Performance Award, Officer John Lewis; Administrative Support Division Performance Award, Sgt. William Payne; and Administrative Services Division Performance Award, Mrs. Sheri Hokamp.

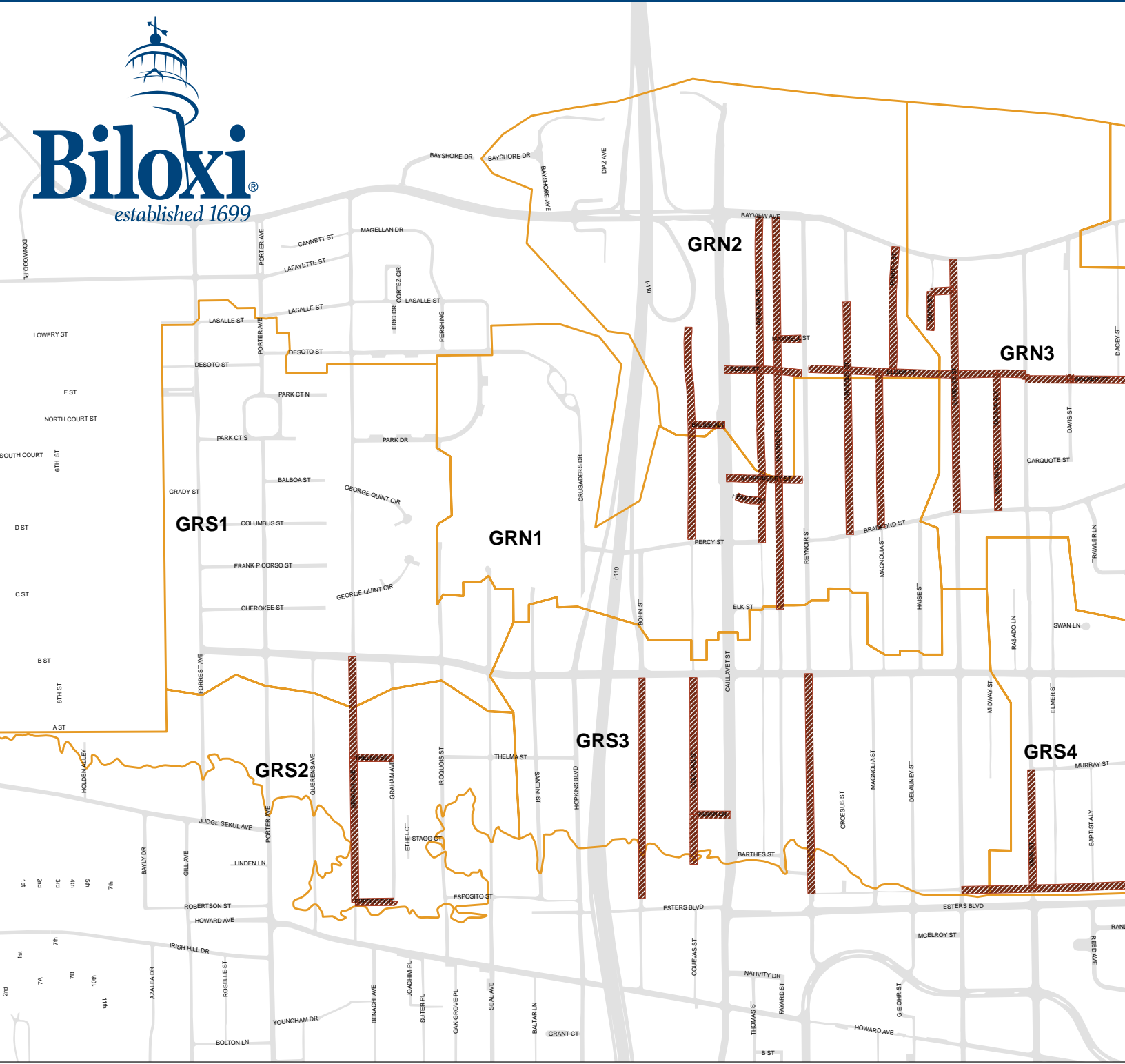
A Humanitarian Medal was presented to citizen Corey Griffin, who assisted officers in restraining a person running in traffic.

The awards were presented during the Biloxi Police Department's 2018 Annual Awards Ceremony, which took place Feb. 6 during a Biloxi Bay Area Chamber of Commerce-organized banquet at the Golden Nugget Biloxi Hotel & Casino.



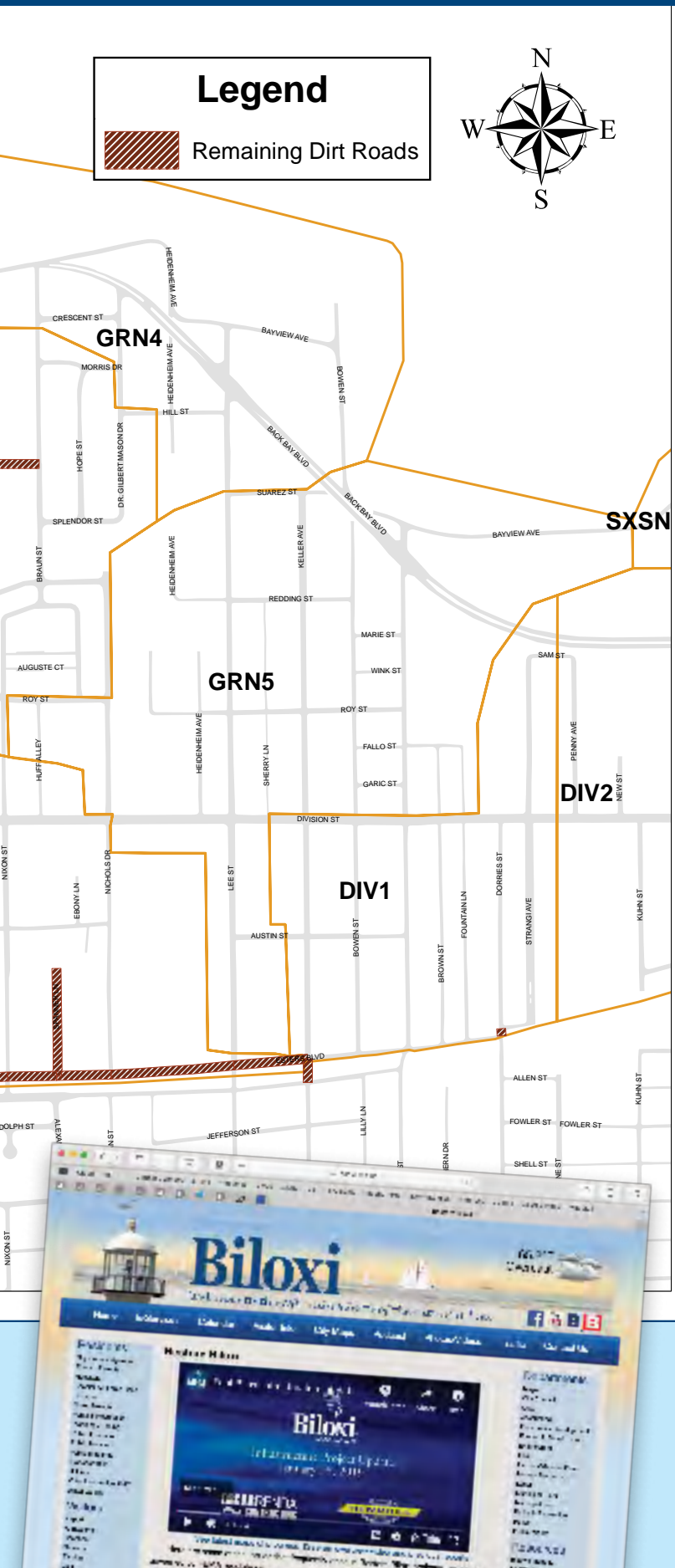
Eli Humphrey
Biloxi Police
Department's
Officer of the Year

The North Contract: Remaining dirt roads



▶ You've heard about the infrastructure work. You've endured and/or driven the streets. To see detailed maps of progress and to hear the very latest directly from the contractors, visit www.biloxi.ms.us/restore-biloxi

(as of March 18, 2019)



APRIL

APRIL 4 OPENING NIGHT & MAGNET SCHEDULE GIVEAWAY
PRESENTED BY **WLOX**

APRIL 5 POSTGAME FIREWORKS

APRIL 6 FIELD OF DREAMS NIGHT
FEATURING DWIER BROWN APPEARANCE

APRIL 7 FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT

APRIL 19 POSTGAME FIREWORKS

APRIL 20 BILOXI DODGERS NIGHT
& RALLY TOWEL GIVEAWAY

PRESENTED BY
HARD ROCK HOTEL & CASINO BILOXI

APRIL 21 EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

2019 DAILY PROMOTIONS

SALUTE SUNDAY

PRESENTED BY
KEESLER FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

CURRENT & FORMER MILITARY PERSONNEL WILL RECEIVE \$8-\$10 DISCOUNTED TICKETS; PREGAME AUTOGRAPHS & POSTGAME CATCH ON THE FIELD; FAMILY 4-PACKS AVAILABLE

BARKS & BREWS

PRESENTED BY
RAISING CANE'S & F.E.B. DISTRIBUTING

BRING YOUR DOG TO THE GAME & PARTICIPATE IN A PREGAME DOG PARADE; PURCHASE A \$10 SHUCKERS MUG & ENJOY \$3 REFILLS AT THE BUENA VISTA BEER GARDEN

T-SHIRT TUESDAY

THEME OUT THE PARK WITH THE SHUCKERS EVERY TUESDAY & THE FIRST 250 FANS WILL RECEIVE A SHUCKERS-THEMED T-SHIRT

ONE COAST WEDNESDAY

EAT, DRINK & SHOP LOCAL AT THE BALLPARK

DOUBLE PLAY THURSDAY

PRESENTED BY
POLK'S MEAT PRODUCTS, YUENGLING, COCA-COLA & KICKER 108

\$2 YUENGLING DRAFTS, \$2 FOUNTAIN DRINKS, \$3 WEEKLY DRAFT SPECIALS & \$2 HOT DOGS; \$10 DOUBLE PLAY TICKET WITH TWO DRINK VOUCHERS (\$12 DAY OF GAME TICKET)

FIREWORKS FRIDAY

ENJOY POSTGAME FIREWORKS EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT

SHUCK YEAH SATURDAY

GIVEAWAYS, THEME NIGHTS, JERSEY AUCTIONS & MORE

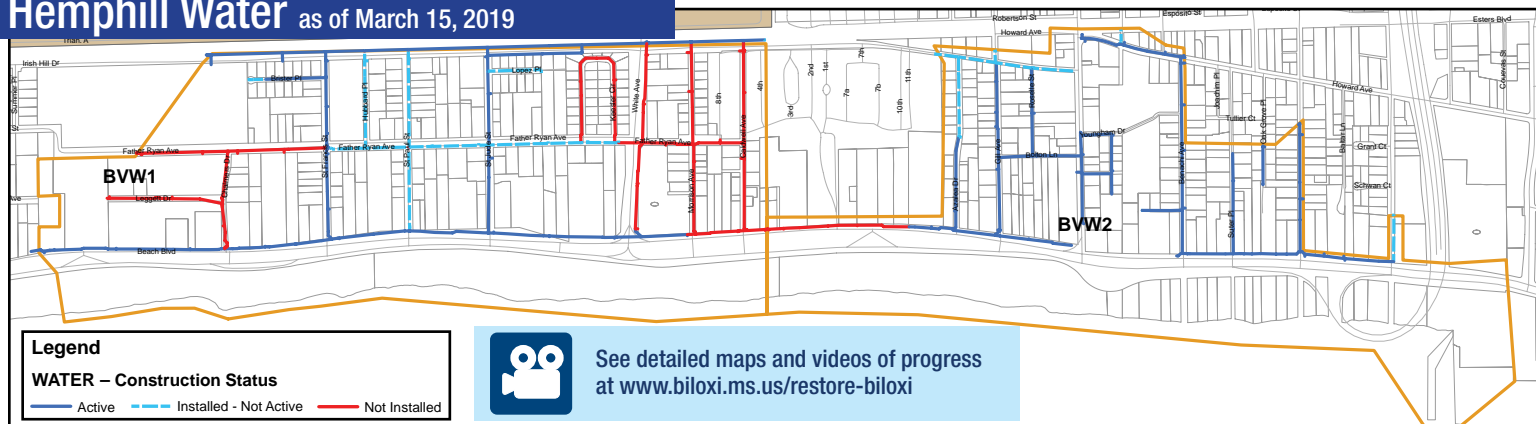


JUNE 17-18

BILOXISHUCKERS.com

Detours and lane closures are becoming more evident south of the CSX Railway, especially on Porter and Howard avenues, as Hemphill Construction continues to make progress on infrastructure work on six miles of roads between downtown and Seashore Methodist. Here's a look at the status on the \$22.9 million project, which has a deadline of March 2020.

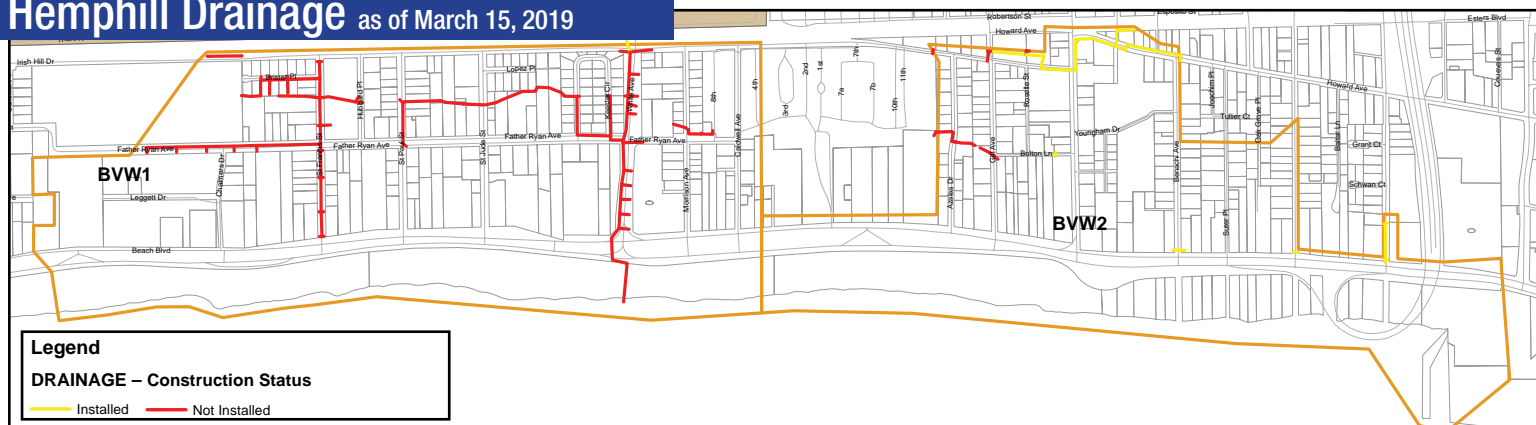
Hemphill Water as of March 15, 2019



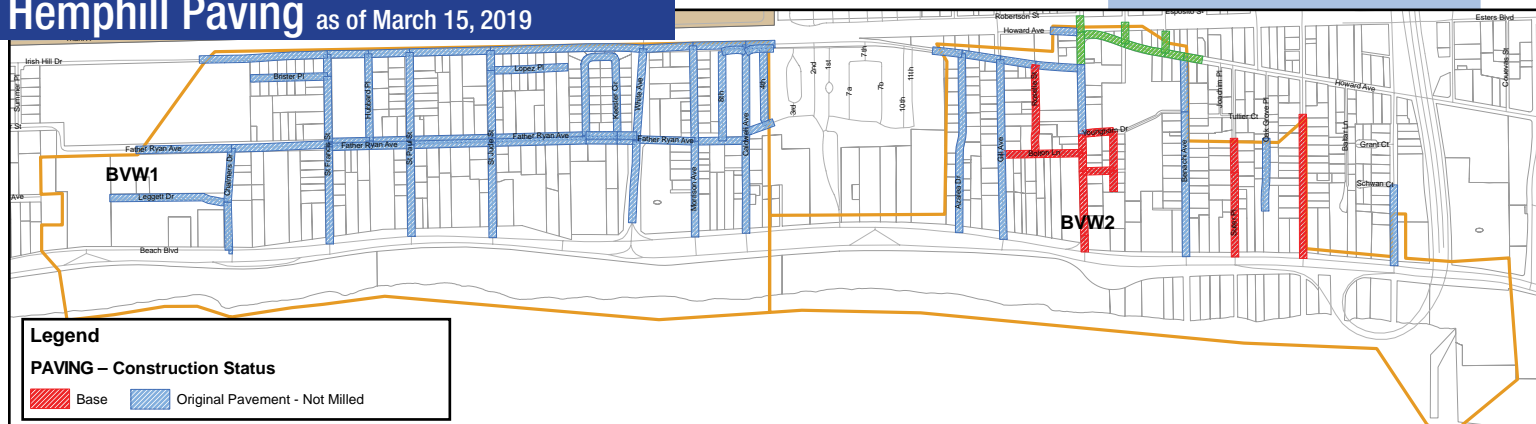
Hemphill Sewer as of March 15, 2019



Hemphill Drainage as of March 15, 2019



Hemphill Paving as of March 15, 2019



Best Bets!

Shuckers are back



The Biloxi Shuckers launch the 2019 season this month – in a big way. You’ll find 15 home games at MGM Park, three five-game homestands.

The team hosts the Birmingham Barons April 4-8, the Pensacola Blue Wahoos April 15-19, and the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp April 20-24.

Expect to find the usual array of between-innings antics – our favorites are the races – plus a few surprises along the way.

Tickets start as low as \$7 if you buy in advance. Reserve your seats online at www.biloxishuckers.com or call the box office at 228-233-3465.

The hunt is on!

No, we’re not talking about Susan Hunt, the ubiquitous longtime educator and civic promoter. That Hunt is on everyday.

We’re talking about Easter Egg hunts. The city’s Parks

& Recreation Department hosts free hunts in Woolmarket (April 6), and at the Barbara Ferrill Softball Fields at Hiller Park (April 13, and again on April 14 for the mentally and physically challenged).

You’ll also find hunts at the Salvation Army Kroc Center (April 13), prefaced by a \$5 breakfast with the Easter Bunny (bring the camera), and the 14th Annual Easter Eggstravaganza at John Henry Beck Park (April 21, Easter Sunday).

Check the calendar listings for times and details on each.

Great American Biloxi Clean-Up, Fridays and Saturdays throughout April, in each ward of the city. Citizens will be encouraged to make a difference by picking up bags and gloves to clean their neighborhoods as follows:

- Ward 1 and 2: April 5 and 6, pick up locations, Biloxi Visitors Center and Biloxi City Hall
 - Ward 3 and 4: April 12 and 13, pick up locations, Margaret Sherry and West Biloxi libraries
 - Ward 5 and 6: April 19 and 20, pick up locations, Donal Snyder Sr. Community Center and the Innovation Center
 - Ward 7: April 26 and 27, pick up location, Woolmarket Library
- Details: 228-435-6339 or kmiller@biloxi.ms.us.

Mississippi Senior Olympics Opening Ceremony, March 29, 5-8 p.m., Point Cadet Plaza, 121 Cadet St. Competition takes place through May 3 in various locations. To see various events and/or participate, register online at www.msseniorolymp.org. Participants must be at least 50 years old. Details: Don Cross, events coordinator, crossdon32@gmail.com or 228-223-4957.



Biloxi Community Market Season Opening, April 2, 6 a.m.-4 p.m., ceremony at 9 a.m., corner of Howard Avenue and Hopkins Boulevard, at I-110 overpass. Details: 228-388-7170.

Breakfast with the Mayor, April 3, 8 a.m. IP Casino, 850 Bayview Ave. Mayor Andrew “FoFo” Gilich will address a Biloxi Chamber of Commerce audience on what’s happening in Biloxi. Event is free and open to the public. Details: 228-604-0014.

Biloxi Shuckers Baseball Opening Night 2019, April 4, 6:35 p.m., MGM Stadium, 106 Caillavet St. Biloxi Shuckers vs. Birmingham Barons in their opening home series with games April 4 through 8. Advance tickets as low as \$7. Details: 228-233-3465 or www.biloxishuckers.com.

“Active Parenting: Effective Communication with the Family,” April 4, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Biloxi Excel By 5 Family Resource Center, Lopez School, 140 St. John Ave., no fee announced. This project of Biloxi Excel By 5, is limited to 20 parents. Details: Susan Hunt, 228-297-6808 or susan.hunt@biloxischools.net.

First Friday, April 5, 5-8 p.m., Rue Magnolia and Water St. Downtown shops and galleries stay open late and offer specials and refreshments. Live entertainment and prize giveaways will also be part of the event. Admission is free. Details: 228-435-6339.



Walk Without Limits, Awareness Walk, April 6, 9 a.m., MGM Park, 106 Caillavet St. Inaugural one-mile walk focusing on abilities not disabilities. All ages with physical and mental disabilities invited to participate; wheelchairs welcome. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Registration fee: \$12 for adults, \$5, youth. Details: 228-388-7170 or Mississippi Centers of Autism, 228-396-4434.

Stay in touch

BNews: Welcome to the 11th issue of BNews Monthly. It's a compendium of things you should know about your city: status reports on current and pending public works, and a calendar of community events covering the next 30 days.

Calendar: Biloxi Downtown Services is responsible for the Community Calendar, a compendium of events open to the public in Biloxi. Deadline for publication citywide and online is the 10th of each month. Listing must include name of event, date, time, location, one- or two-sentence description, admission fee, phone number or web address. Email to Kay Miller, downtown services manager, kmiller@biloxi.ms.us.

Bmail: The city provides information about projects and events via email. Sign up at biloxi.ms.us/register.

Advertising: BNews and Bmail represent an advertising opportunity for civic-minded businesses and organizations. In your hands you are holding the only advertising medium that is delivered to every single home, business, apartment and PO Box in the city. For rates and info, email online@biloxi.ms.us or call 228-435-6368.

B-Alert: For text advisories on traffic and severe weather, text BILOXI to 888777.

Website: The city's website, at biloxi.ms.us, is the comprehensive digest of city information. The website also has links to the city's Facebook and YouTube platforms.

Vincent Creel, Public Affairs Manager
vcreel@biloxi.ms.us

Cecilia Dobbs Walton, Public Affairs Specialist
cdbobbswalton@biloxi.ms.us

Frequently Called Numbers

Area code is 228 unless otherwise noted.

- Animal Control 392-0641
- Auto Tag/Property Tax Information 435-8242
- Birth Certificates 601-576-7960
- Building Permits 435-6270
- Business Licenses 435-6247
- City Council 435-6257
- City Court 435-6125
- Code Enforcement 435-6270
- Drivers Licenses 396-7400
- Emergency Police and Fire 911
- Garbage Collection 701-9086
- Housing Authority 374-7771
- Human Resources 435-6259
- Mayor's Office 435-6254
- Museums Information 435-6244
- Parks & Recreation 388-7170
- Planning Commission 435-6266
- Public Schools 374-1810
- Streets and Drainage 435-6271
- Visitor Info 374-3105 or 1-800-BILOXI-3
- Water Service 435-6236

City of Biloxi Easter Egg Hunts - Admission is free. Details: 228-388-7170.

- **Woolmarket School Grounds**, April 6, 2-4 p.m., 12513 John Lee Road. Easter carnival with refreshment, inflatables, and games. Children ages 11 and under. Parents not allowed on fields during egg hunt. Volunteers will assist children.
- **Barbara Ferrill Softball Fields**, April 13, 2-4 p.m., 1940 Egers Road. Easter carnival with refreshments, inflatables, and games. Children ages 11 and under. Parents not allowed on fields during egg hunt. Volunteers will assist children.
- **Special Needs Egg Hunt**, April 14, 12-3 p.m., Barbara Ferrill Softball Fields, 1940 Egers Road. All physically and mentally challenged children/adults and their parents are invited to attend. Volunteers will assist.

Reflections on Holy Week, A Concert/Service, April 7, 3 p.m., Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cathedral, 870 Howard Ave. Admission is free. The Music and Fine Arts Ministry of Nativity BVM Cathedral offers a very special program for Lent. This is the first offering of the Cathedral's 2019 concert Series. The program is presented by Nativity BVM Cathedral's Civic Choral Society along with Mobile, Alabama's "Mobile Vocal Arts" Choral Society. Details: 228-374-1717.

Mississippi Gulf Coast Spring Break 2019, April 12-14, areas along Beach Blvd. Enjoy the beach, vendors, food, drinks, shopping, live concerts and special guests. Costs for events vary. Details: 888-867-4272.

Breakfast with Bunny, April 13, 8:30-9:30 a.m., Salvation Army Kroc Center, 575 Division St., \$5 a person. Create holiday memories while eating pancakes with your children and taking pictures with the Easter Bunny. Pancakes, sausage, milk, and juice will be served. Bring your camera. Details, 228-207-1218.

Salvation Army Kroc Center Easter Egg hunt, April 13, 9:30 a.m., Yankee Stadium, adjacent to Kroc Center, Division and Lee streets. Gather at 9:30 a.m.; first hunt, for children up to age 12, begin at 9:45 a.m.

36th Annual City of Biloxi Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony, April 16, 5:30 p.m., Biloxi Civic Center, 578 Howard Ave. No admission fee, free food and refreshments. As part of National Volunteer Appreciation month, Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich and Keesler leadership will recognize outstanding volunteers – individuals, businesses and civic groups – for their service. Details: 228-435-6339.



Bike Biloxi, April 16, 6 p.m.; begins at the MGM Stadium, 105 Caillavet St. Free ride through downtown. Bike ride ends with refreshments at a downtown restaurant at cyclist's expense.

Helmets and lights recommended. Admission is free. Details: 228-435-6339.

Countdown to Kindergarten Readiness, April 19, 4:30-6 p.m., Lopez School, 140 St. John St., free. Open to children who will be 5 on or before Sept. 1, 2019. Translators on site. Future kindergarteners and parents can learn about the classroom experience. Details: 228-297-6808.



14th Annual Easter Eggstravaganza, April 21 (Easter Sunday), 2-5 p.m., John Henry Beck Park, 671 Division St., free. Prizes for ages 1 through 12 years old. Event includes candy, Easter baskets, food, music and games. Details: Harriet Mitchell at 256-283-0383 or Anthony Mitchell at 228-324-5194.

Senior Prom, April 26, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road. Dance open to public, ages 55 and older. No admission fee, free food. A King and Queen will be chosen by random drawing. Details: 228-388-7170.

Special Needs Prom, April 26, 6-9 p.m., Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, 2520 Pass Road, no admission fee, free food. Dance open to all physically and mentally challenged children and adults. A King and Queen will be chosen. Details, 228-388-7170.

Shuckers home games:

105 Caillavet St., 800-745-3000 or 228-233-3465, www.biloxishuckers.com

- April 4, 5, 6, 7, 8: **vs. Birmingham Barons**
- April 15, 16, 17, 18: **vs. Pensacola Blue Wahoos**
- April 20, 21, 22, 23, 24: **vs. Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp**

Biloxi Little Theater

220 Lee St., 228-432-8543, www.4blt.org

- **“And The Ball and All,”** April 5-7, times vary

Center Stage

2670 Rue Palafox, 228-388-6258, centerstagebiloxi.com

- **“Steel Magnolias,”** April 25-May 5, times vary

Biloxi Lighthouse and Visitors Center

1050 Beach Blvd., 228-374-3105, www.biloxi.ms.us • Open daily, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- Lighthouse Tours daily, 8-9:30 a.m.

Biloxi Mardi Gras Museum

119 Rue Magnolia, 228-435-6308, www.biloxi.ms.us • Closed for renovations.

- The museum is in the process of re-opening at its new location. No date announced yet.

Maritime & Seafood Industry Museum

115 1st St., 228-435-6320, www.maritimemuseum.org

- **Lunch with Julian,** April 17, 10 a.m. class and lunch 11 a.m. lunch only. Admission: \$30 for class, \$20 for lunch only.
- **Opening reception for Joey Rice art exhibition,** April 18, 6 p.m.
- **Sea ‘n’ Sail Camp 2019** registration now open. Sign up online.

Ohr-O’Keefe Museum of Art

386 Beach Blvd., 228-374-5547, www.georgeohr.org

- **April 12: “AncOHRs Aweigh: A Sunset Dinner Cruise.”** Boarding at 6 p.m., cruise at 6:30 p.m., \$100 a person. The museum, The Betsy Ann Riverboat and White Pillars Restaurant and Lounge present to bring you an exclusive sunset dinner cruise with hors d’oeuvres and drinks.
- Now through June 8, **“Elements of Change,”** Rebecca Alston and Allison Stewart. Exhibit consists of works on paper and installations that explore visual systems and the contemporary political, social and environmental issues that surround climate change.
- Now through June 1, **“Humidity,” John Isiah Walton.** This exhibition, by an emerging artist with a strong conceptual streak, uses wit and irony to exemplify New Orleans’s social climate.

West End Hose Co. No. 3 Fire Museum

1046 Howard Ave., 435-6119/435-6200, www.biloxi.ms.us

- Historic 1937 fire house open Saturdays 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or by appointment.

Biloxi Elks 606 Lodge of Biloxi

1178 Beach Blvd., 228-374-0606

- April 5, 12, 19, and 26, **Charity Bingo night,** 6:30 p.m.
- April 6, 13, 20, and 27, **Steak nights and entertainment**
- April 7, **Charity Bingo for Multiple Sclerosis of South Mississippi**

Fleur de Lis Society of Biloxi (French Club)

182 Howard Ave., 228-436-6472

- Every Friday night in April at 6 p.m. **Seafood Dinners with Karaoke** at 7 p.m.
- April 13, noon until 4 p.m., **Crawfish Boil**

Lagniappe

Charles R. Hegwood

Biloxi Community Market

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6 a.m.-4 p.m. under the I-110 overpass on the corner of Howard Avenue and Hopkins Boulevard. Details: Tina Cowart at 228-388-2443.

City of Biloxi Senior Program

Activities for ages 55 and older weekdays at the Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center and the East Biloxi Senior Citizen Center. Details: Gwen Johnson, 228-388-2494, seniors@biloxi.ms.us.

Biloxi Libraries

- Biloxi Library, 580 Howard Ave., 228-436-3095
- Margaret Sherry Library, 2141 Popp’s Ferry Road, 228-388-1633
- West Biloxi Library, 2047 Pass Road, 228-388-5696
- Woolmarket Library, 13034 Kayleigh Cove, 228-354-9464

For more information call the Harrison County Library System at 228-436-3095.

















Biloxi Main Street

Promoting, preserving, revitalizing and enhancing the economic growth of the downtown Main Street district. Details and membership: 228-435-6339, mainstreetbiloxi.com



City of Biloxi Public Meetings

- **Architectural Review Commission:** Regularly scheduled meetings: second and fourth Thursday of the month at 8:30 a.m.; Community Development, 676 MLK Blvd. Details: 228-435-6266.
- **Biloxi City Council:** Regularly scheduled meetings: first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. and the third and fourth Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m.; City Hall, 140 Lameuse St. Details: 228-435-6257.
- **Biloxi Civil Service Commission:** Regularly scheduled meetings: second Thursday of the month at 4 p.m.; City Hall, 140 Lameuse St. Details: 228-435-6259, Cortney Lamar
- **Biloxi Planning Commission:** Regularly scheduled meetings: first and third Thursday of the month at 2 p.m.; Community Development, 676 MLK Blvd. Details: 228-435-6266.
- **Development Review Committee:** Regularly scheduled meetings: Wednesdays at 9 a.m.; Community Development, 676 MLK Blvd. Details: 228-435-6266.
- **Tree Committee:** Regularly scheduled meetings: second Monday of each month at 4 p.m.; Gulf Coast Community Design Studio, 769 Howard Ave. Details: 228-435-6266.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31	1 Story Time Woolmarket Library	2 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi Biloxi Community Market Season Opener Under the I-110 Corner of Howard and Hopkins	3 Breakfast with The Mayor IP Casino	4 Community Market Story Time MSherry Library Active Parenting Family Resource Center  vs. Barons MGM Park	5 First Friday Downtown Biloxi Great American Biloxi Clean Up Ward 1 and 2 Reflections on Holy Week Nativity BVM Cathedral  vs. Barons MGM Park Rave of Thrones Hard Rock	6 Great American Biloxi Clean Up Ward 1 and 2 Walk Without Limits MGM Park Easter Egg Hunt Woolmarket School Grounds  vs. Barons MGM Park Billy Gardell Beau Rivage
7  vs. Barons MGM Park	8 Story Time Woolmarket Library  vs. Barons MGM Park	9 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi	10	11 Community Market Story Time MSherry Library	12 Spring Break Great American Biloxi Clean Up Ward 3 and 4 Seether Hard Rock Kevin & Caruso's Magique Grand Illusions Beau Rivage	13 Spring Break Great American Biloxi Clean Up Ward 3 and 4 Easter Egg Hunt Barbara Ferrill Softball Fields Breakfast with Bunny and Easter Egg Hunt Salvation Army Kroc Center Kevin & Caruso's Magique Grand Illusions Beau Rivage
14 Spring Break Special Needs Easter Egg Hunt Barbara Ferrill Softball Fields	15 Story Time Woolmarket Library  vs. Blue Wahoos MGM Park	16 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi Volunteer App. Ceremony Biloxi Civic Center Bike Biloxi MGM Stadium  vs. Blue Wahoos MGM Park	17  vs. Blue Wahoos MGM Park	18 Community Market Story Time MSherry Library  vs. Blue Wahoos MGM Park	19 Great American Biloxi Clean Up Ward 5 and 6 Countdown to Kindergarten Readiness Lopez School Whitesnake IP Casino Kool & The Gang Beau Rivage	20 Great American Biloxi Clean Up Ward 5 and 6  vs. Jumbo Shrimp MGM Park Stayin' Alive Tribute to the Bee Gees Hard Rock
21 <i>Easter</i> Easter Eggstravaganza John Henry Beck Park Kevin & Caruso's Magique Grand Illusions Beau Rivage  vs. Jumbo Shrimp MGM Park	22 Story Time Woolmarket Library  vs. Jumbo Shrimp MGM Park	23 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi  vs. Jumbo Shrimp MGM Park	24  vs. Jumbo Shrimp MGM Park	25 Community Market Story Time MSherry Library Crawfish Music Festival MS Coast Coliseum	26 Great American Biloxi Clean Up Ward 7 Senior Prom and Special Needs Prom Donal Snyder Sr. Community Center Crawfish Music Festival MS Coast Coliseum RBRM – Ronnie, Bobby, Ricky & Mike – Beau Rivage Foreigner – Hard Rock	27 Great American Biloxi Clean Up Ward 7 Crawfish Music Festival MS Coast Coliseum The Jacksons Beau Rivage
28  Crawfish Music Festival MS Coast Coliseum	29 Story Time Woolmarket Library  MS Senior Olympics Opening Ceremony Point Cadet Plaza	30 Community Market Story Time W. Biloxi	1	2 Community Market Story Time MSherry Library	3	4

Batter up, Biloxi. Baseball has long been part of our lives

The Biloxi Shuckers season is just around the corner, but the Double-A Minor League squad's appearance on the local scene four years ago is only the latest brush Biloxi has had with professional baseball.

In fact, it's hard to imagine that the game of baseball wasn't always played here on the sandy soil of Biloxi. Certainly the early colonial settlers, including Monsieur d'Iberville and the Cassette girls, had no idea about baseball of the future. Kids in those days were content playing with homemade clay marbles.

Baseball didn't really begin in the United States until the mid-1800s. But, by the late 1800s people all over the country were playing this game that eventually became our national pastime.

One amazing benefit that evolved from that sport is baseball card collecting. Youngsters would go to the H.G. Hill store on downtown Howard Avenue, or maybe one of the other drug stores here, such as Grants, Eddie's, or Kimbrough and Quint, and give up their saved pennies for packs of these cards. Some packs even had a slab of a pink, stiff bubble gum as an added treat, a lagniappe.

Collecting, studying, and trading. That's what youngsters did back in the day. Indeed, they became amateur statisticians,



Here, from 1934, is a photo of Washington Senators in front of the Biloxi Hotel, present-day Chateau Le Grand. The year before, the luckless franchise knocked off the Yankees (yes, with Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig) to win the American League pennant. The Senators trained in Biloxi from 1930 to 1935. Owner Clark Griffith had moved spring training from Tampa to Biloxi after Biloxi civic leader Tony Ragusin doggedly pursued teams, an idea pitched by Mayor John Kennedy years earlier. Photo courtesy of David and Karen Staehling.

memorizing and reciting facts for each player. Baseball collecting trained youngsters to be businessmen by learning the spirit of enterprise. Another baseball card pastime was "motorizing" bicycle wheels by attaching these very same cards, via grandma's clothespins, to spokes, resulting in the amazing sound-alike of a mini motorbike.

Baseballs, bats, and mitts, all sorts of sports equipment for any baseball game could be purchased at the Auto Lec store on Howard Avenue where ample parking was always available.

Did you know that the present-day Keesler Air Force Base once housed a major baseball field? Back before the air base was built, when that land was still known as the Naval Reserve Park, folks could enjoy amazing games of baseball in the comfort of the breezes of Back Bay.

The Washington Senators, in fact, utilized the Biloxi field for practice for six seasons from 1930 to 1935, during off-season,

bringing fame and tourism dollars to the Coast, as well. By 1940 the War Department, using land donated by the city, began building what we know today as Keesler Air Force Base, and the old stadium was torn down during that time.

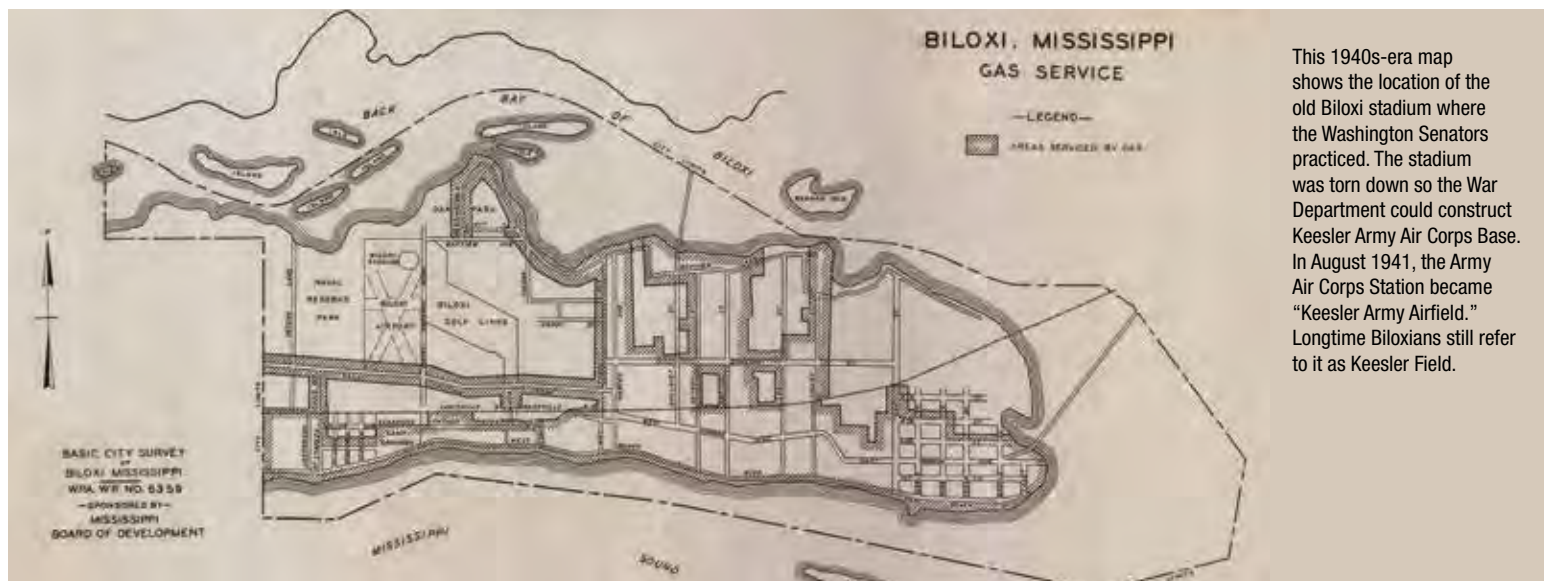
Baseball has evolved into the heart and soul of Biloxi culture. That game that was once a simple summer pastime has evolved into a new modern venue at our MGM ball park where official Minor League games are played.

Themed with the historic seafood industry in mind, the MGM baseball stadium is well known home base for the Biloxi Shuckers Minor League baseball team. June 2015 was the inaugural moment in Biloxi when they played their first home game. Biloxi is so lucky to continue this amazing tribute to American culture in our own downtown, on our famed Howard Avenue.

Back in the Day



By Jane Shambra



The writer is manager of the Local History and Genealogy section of the Biloxi Public Library. Email her at jane.shambra@gmail.com.



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BNews Monthly
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