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Wesson News

SPOTLIGHT:

**Christmas
decorators
recognized**
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Wesson News
PO Box 1028
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Volume 2, Number 12

"Good News You Can Use"

December 9, 2014

Wesson Aldermen approve Old School management changes

By Bob Arnold

Responding to lessons learned in operations of the Wesson Old School Community Center over the past two years, a special committee reporting to the town's Board of Aldermen has started making and implementing recommendations on facility management changes and upgrades towards enhancing its marketability.

At its November meeting, the Board of Aldermen approved the committee's initial recommendations on a new facility rental agreement, which details a new rate structure and rules for use of the community center and provides for new operational mechanisms, including a professional cleaning service and a host-hostess for booking events and user relations. The Board also authorized the ad hoc committee, which is evolving into a standing community center manage-



Special to Wesson News

The management committee for the Wesson Old School Community Center has started accepting resumes from job applicants interested in part-time work as a host-hostess in booking events and relating to users of the facility. Mail resumes to: Wesson Old School Community Center, Box 557, Wesson, MS 39191.

ment committee, to make decisions and take actions on non-financial administrative matters related to the facility.

Aldermen also heard members of the committee speak to the need for equipment at the community center to facilitate the work of food caterers — a warming stand, industrial refrigerator, deep sink, and preparation tables. Although they deferred action on this, Mayor Alton Shaw indicated the Aldermen would be responsive

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Chamber banquet closes sesquicentennial year

Wesson News

Wesson's sesquicentennial celebration has officially ended. Wesson Chamber of Commerce, which coordinated planning of the year-long celebration highlighted by a Founders Day parade, special activities, and a town birthday party, closed out the event last month, recognizing the people and organizations who made it happen at its twenty-fifth annual banquet. The Chamber also honored Nena Smith's School of Dance as Business of the Year, recognized its



Photo by Wesson News

2014 Founders Day
Queen Alexis Britt

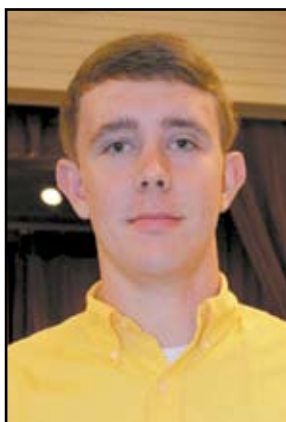


Photo by Wesson News

2014 Founders Day
Ambassador Mack Smith

2014 Founders Day Queen Alexis Britt and Ambassador Mack Smith and their families, and offered attendees three lessons of life through guest speaker Mississippi broadcaster Walt Grayson.

150th Anniversary Celebration Recognitions

At the Wesson Old School Community Center — the historic site where the many planning meetings for the festivities occurred and citizens ate, danced, and watched a spectacular fireworks display at the gala birthday event, Chamber president Marilyn Britt singled out

24 individuals, clubs, civic groups, and churches for contributions during the sesquicentennial year, including overall support, participation in the Founders Day parade and activities, and special services — publications, publicity, and photography.

"These people and organizations love Wesson and made its sesquicentennial celebration a success," Britt proclaimed.

Britt cited Mayor Alton Shaw and Alderman of the Town of Wesson, Wesson Fire Department, Wesson Police Department, Wesson Garden Club,

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Balance exercise helps prevent falls

Wesson News

Balance or equilibrium to prevent or ameliorate falls — the most common cause for admission to a hospital — can be trained, a local movements, dance, and yoga coach told an Institute for Learning in Retirement workshop.

“One-third of people age 65 and older will fall every year, and more than 200,000 people break a hip annually; but balance training can give you the inner and outer strength necessary to stand tall and remain strong and stable,” Sharon Langley said.

“Practicing balance, Tai Chi, dance, or yoga gives you a faster reaction time, better conditioning, more muscle that can buffer a fall, stronger bones, and even clearer brain function that



Photo by Wesson News

Sharon Langley (front) leads Institute for Learning in Retirement balance and dance workshop. Among participants were (left to right in first row) Shirley Sandifer, Kathleen Hedgpeth, Josie Summer, Phyllis Sander, (left to right in second row) Elnor Fuller, Starla Lambert, and Ralph Calcote. Langley said practicing balance exercises and dance routines can help older adults maintain their physical and mental health.

helps you make decisions like staying off that ladder until someone is with you. Good balance means you are in control of your body's position; you

can walk without assistance of staggering, get up from a chair or bend over without falling, and climb stairs without tripping.”

It's never too late to begin a balance regimen, Langley observed. Even 10 minutes of exercise a day is beneficial, she added. Her suggestions:

- Start your exercise routine by breathing gently, focusing on something in front of you at eye level or above, and relaxing. Exercise with a partner or use a good chair for support. Wear shoes and clothing appropriate for exercise.
- Stand on one leg for 15 to 20 seconds a few times each day — first on one leg and then the other. After mastering the exercise with your eyes open, practice it with your eyes closed.
- Draw the ABCs with your feet. Keep moving while you're sitting in front of the television or playing bridge.

Muscadine grapes retain popularity

Wesson News

Muscadine grapes may not be the commercial product they once were in Mississippi, but they remain a favorite crop of growers.

“Muscadines have a long way to go before they can reclaim their commercial stature,” said Eric Stafne, Mississippi State University Fruit Crops Associate Extension Agent and Research Professor. The commercial value of the grape declined in the Magnolia State after Prohibition forced closure of one the largest wineries in the U.S. at Waveland, he told an Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) seminar. Today, some 500 acres in Mississippi grow Muscadine grapes in the state, but



few of them for commercial purposes. Mississippi now has only three or four wineries statewide — the fewest of any state in the U.S. The big commercial producers of Muscadine grapes are in Georgia and North Carolina.

Still, Muscadines are popular because they are easy to grow and require minimal maintenance, said Stafne.

Introduced by the Spanish to what is now the U.S. in 1565, Muscadines come in two broad categories — the dark, which grow in the wild, and bronze — also called “scuppernongs,” which rarely grow in the wild. There are male plants and female plants, which produce the fruit. Popular varieties in Mississippi are Carlos, Doreen, and Noble. In general, the Fry

muscadine — a seedless variety — is unproductive and yields small fruit. A new seedless variety — RazzMatazz — may be a better alternative to Fry.

The best way to grow Muscadines is from green softwood cuttings, Stafne counseled. You can also grow them by planting roots or “layering.” Planting hardwood cuttings requires bottom heat in greenhouses to stimulate growth.

Muscadines should be planted twelve to twenty feet apart to grow on trellises — above-ground wires, Stafne said. They like sunlight, grow in most soils, and require minimal fertilizer — nitrogen only, and water, although they can tolerate dryness with once-a-day hosing. A vigorous plant, Muscadines



Special to Wesson News

Eric Stafne

resist insects and diseases such as Pierce's, involving a bacteria which plugs the plant system and berry rot. Because of their vigorous growth, plants should be pruned every winter — cutting them to the three, four, and five nodes from which fruit is produced. Plant debris under trellises breeds insects and disease and should be cleaned up as part of ongoing maintenance.

“Muscadines are productive, vigorous, disease tolerant plants that produce fruits that are good for jams, juice, wine, and vinegar as well as eating directly,” Stafne summarized. “They are, however, a nice product with few consumers. They have thick, slip skins, have fruity aroma, and most varieties have seeds. You must process them and consume them quickly.”

Poet-ambassador explains the South

Bob Arnold

When Patricia Neely-Dorsey was at Boston University in the 1980s, she often found herself defending and explaining her Mississippi and Southern culture to her fellow students and friends in the Northeast.

They nicknamed her “Tupelo” and “Mississippi” after her hometown and state.

In 2007, Neely-Dorsey took up poetry to do the same thing for a world-wide audience. She describes herself as a “goodwill ambassador” for Mississippi and the South, who seeks to “bridge gaps of misunder-



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Patricia Neely-Dorsey (center) discusses her poems with Institute for Learning in Retirement staff person Marilyn Brown (left) and ILR president Joy Wesbrooks (right).

standing across regional, cultural, generational, and economic lines.” The poems in her two books, *My Magnolia Memories* and *Musings and Reflections of a Mississippi Magnolia*, she says, “flow out of my heart,” describe “walking, talking, laughing, and partying that are different,” and reflect memories that are different. Yet, in the final analysis, they help you understand the world better because they help you understand Mississippi.

At an Institute for Learning in Retirement luncheon, Neely-Dorsey shared her poems with a receptive audience.

Some excerpts from her poetry:

Southern Life:

*You'll see mockingbirds and
bumblebees,
Magnolia blossoms and
dogwood trees,
Caterpillars on the step,
Wooden porches cleanly swept;
Watermelons on the vine,
Strong majestic Georgia pines;
Rocking chairs and
front yard swings,
June bugs flying on a string;
Turnip greens and hot cornbread,
Coleslaw and barbecue. . . .*

'Tis the season to be healthy

By Guest Columnist
Dr. Stephanie Duguid

Weight gain and stress seem to be inevitable at this time of year. It's a good time to adopt and start maintaining healthy living practices so you not only get the most out of this joyous time of year, but end your year on a positive note, and continue making progress into the new year.

On average, Americans add one to five pounds during the holiday season, and National Institutes of Health researchers say most never lose that weight. The pounds add up year after year, making holiday weight gain an important factor in adult obesity.

At the same time, the dizzying array of holiday demands, including parties, shopping, baking, cleaning,



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and entertaining, among others, are associated with stress and related issues: heart disease, skin conditions (psoriasis and shingles), digestive disorder flare-ups such as irritable bowel syndrome, ulcerative colitis, and Crohn's disease), immune disorders (flare-ups of multiple sclerosis and lupus), anxiety (depression and insomnia), worsening pain of arthritis and back, and muscle spasms.

Here are some tips for activity and food consumption to make it through the season and staying within one to two pounds of your pre-Thanksgiving weight through the end of the year:

- Plan to be active 30 minutes a day and focus on your goals.
- Never arrive hungry at a party or large meal. Munch raw vegetables or fruit to curb your appetite.
- Pace yourself, eat slowly so your stomach has time to tell you it is full.
- Divert your attention from food at holiday parties, mingling with other people.
- Outsmart the buffet: Use the smallest plate available, and

don't stack your food. Be sure to watch out for sauces and dips that quickly add on the extra calories.

- Limit alcohol: It's not just about the calories; it is about the control. Be safe and take control of your choices.
- Stay active: Even in the hustle and bustle of the season, it is important to stay physically active.

You can also minimize holiday stress and end up enjoying the season more than you thought you would. When stress is at its peak, it's hard to stop and regroup. Try to prevent stress and depression in the first place, especially if the holidays have taken an emotional toll on you in the past.

1. Acknowledge your feelings and reach out. If someone close to you has recently died or you can't be with loved ones, realize that it's normal to feel sadness and grief. If you feel lonely or isolated, seek out community, religious, or other social events.
2. Be realistic. The holidays don't have to be perfect or just like last year. As families change and

grow, traditions and rituals often change as well.

3. Set aside differences. Try to accept family members and friends as they are, even if they don't live up to all of your expectations. Chances are they're feeling the effects of holiday stress and depression, too.
4. Stick to a budget. Before you go gift and food shopping, decide how much money you can afford to spend. Then stick to your budget. Try these alternatives: Donate to a charity in someone's name. Give homemade gifts. Start a family gift exchange. Offer others the gift of wellness by giving subscriptions to health magazines, gym memberships, or gift certificates for yoga classes.
5. Plan ahead. Set aside specific days for shopping, baking, visiting friends and other activities. Plan your menus, and then make your shopping list.
6. Learn to say no. Saying yes when you should say no can leave you feeling resentful and over-

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Lights and music spark Christmas joy

By Guest Column R. Shaw Furlow

A little venting is good for the soul and today I have to fuss a bit.

About the cold weather, for one. I live in the south for a reason. While I love visiting Chicago, I swore off years ago going back in December because of the "hawk" that comes off Lake Michigan.

Second, the loss of Thanksgiving. I love Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas and the New Year — special times to give thanks for the bounty of the previous year and ask for blessings in the year to come. I do not like rolling them all into one bundle and calling them the "Holidays." I have Thanksgiving traditions. Among them: My son Cole and I watched the movie *Amadeus* at Thanksgiving nearly every year until he moved to Oxford. Why he chose Thanksgiving to view that film, I don't know. But we would build a fire and make a pot of hot chocolate and enjoy each other's company, occasionally reciting the



Special to Wesson News

lines in the movie to each other. Another tradition: Until Sugar, my mom, died we would converge on her home in Brookhaven and have a grand ole time. While my sister and I only live two hours apart, my brothers lived on the east and west coasts, and Thanksgiving gave us the perfect opportunity to come together with family and friends to catch up, the way families do. I really miss Sugar during Thanksgiving. Finally, turkey and dressing. Need I say more? I understand retailers make their year in the fourth quarter. But Black Friday has become Black November/December. Merchants provide goods and services throughout the year. They provide jobs that stimulate the economy. I do not begrudge them, but c'mon, man, give me back my Thanksgiving!

But enough of the fussing. It is December now. Christmas is around the corner. The parades are over, and the final touches are being put on church cantatas. Our trees are up and decorated, and Santa is on the roof waving at all the good little boys and girls. Eggnog is being poured, friends are visiting one another. Everyone just seems to be happier. Here are some other things you may enjoy:

My friends Carey and Celeste

Williamson have a great Christmas tradition — a fun-filled exhibit with 80,000 lights, ten scenes, and a coordinated computer program that broadcasts music to your FM car radio that has been contributing for seven years to the spirit of the times. It is easily the biggest light show extravaganza in the area, with twinkling lights above the arches of their home, around the porch columns, on large Christmas trees, and on small Christmas trees, candy canes and a manager.

Carey and Celeste got the idea for their exhibit on one of the DIY networks, which featured a similar project. Carey, whose background is in electronics, computers and music said: "We could do that." Celeste and Carey like Christmas lights. So it just seemed to be the natural thing to do. The planning started. Each year they add something new. They have replaced all the incandescent lights with more efficient LED lights and added new scenes. It takes Carey three hours just to program one minute of music.

While the planning and purchasing of lights is a twelve-month project, the grandparents, neighbors and a host of volunteers begin assembling the light show during the week of Thanksgiving, and the

big show begins on that Friday. It is a family event. Each family member has assigned duties, from hanging the lights to cooking chili for the workers. It is worth the drive to their home at 632 Tanglewood Drive in Brookhaven. Since moving back to Brookhaven, I have only missed it once. It has become a new tradition. You can see the show from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. week nights and until 10:00 p.m. on weekends.

There is also a serious side to this show. For years, the Williamsons have placed a donation box in the front yard. No one is required to contribute, but over the years they have raised about \$7000 for the Parent Project to defeat Duchenne — a form of muscular dystrophy that attacks young boys. "Every penny donated goes to the charity — and this one does research to find a cure," Celeste says. To me, that is the Christmas spirit. Good people contributing to help others in need. Drop by their house. Bring a thermos of hot chocolate, listen to the music, and watch the dancing lights. While you're at it, put a few bucks in the donation box. It'll just make you feel good.

Here is an incomplete list of area churches, which are present-

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Police Blotter

Special to Wesson News

During November, the Wesson Police Department activity encompassed:

Response to:

- Four incident reports
- Four vehicular accidents
- One vandalism

Citations for:

- 21 speeding violations
- Six driving with suspended licenses
- Five disregard for traffic control devices
- Four driving with no insurance
- Four careless driving
- Two improper equipment
- One expired tag

Arrests:

- Two DUIs
- One possession of drug paraphernalia
- One domestic violence

On school days, the Wesson Police Department facilitates traffic flow at Wesson Attendance Center with officers on duty between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Rescued from the pit: a Christmas meditation

By Guest Columnist
Nelson Santa Ana

Before Carly and I got married, I began going over to her house on Christmas morning. But her Christmas mornings and my Christmas mornings were nothing alike. For me, Christmas morning consisted of waking up and singing Happy Birthday to Jesus, sitting around our Christmas tree and opening presents one at a time, and then playing with our gifts and snacking on sausage balls all day. At Carly's house, we gathered for a reading of the Christmas story, opened gifts as a free-for-all with an Anne Murray Christmas cassette playing in the background, and had mega-meals throughout the day. It was like I was entering into a different world.

But isn't entering into a different world what the story of Christmas is all about? It reminds me of a major news story that happened in

1987, when I was only five years old. That year, an 18-month-old little girl named Jessica McClure fell down a 22-foot deep abandoned well shaft that was only eight inches in diameter. She was lost with no way to get herself out. Eventually someone realized what happened, and an effort to save Jessica's life began. For 58 hours, men dug and drilled into the earth to rescue this baby. After nearly two days, someone was able to go down into the shaft. Though she was badly cut and had broken bones, Jessica was lifted back to the surface. At the sight of Jessica, her rescuers cried, her parents cried, the newscasters cried, and the nation cried, because Jessica, who was certainly dead, was now alive.

This is the story of humanity. We have all fallen into a deep pit of our own sin, with no way to rescue ourselves. We all need someone to come down into the pit to get us out. It is for this reason Jesus entered into a differ-

ent world to rescue us from the pit of sin and death. As Jesus put it, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." (Luke 19:10).

This is the story of Christmas. Not that Jesus entered into this world with a great pronouncement and a lot of fanfare, but rather, as a crying baby. Why as a baby? Because through the flesh, tears, and helplessness of a baby, God identified with the brokenness, weeping, and weariness of humanity. "We all like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:6). So, now, to those who place their trust in Jesus, He is Savior, He is Christ, and He is Lord!

Luke 2:11 – "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior is born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Nelson Santa Ana is the Pastor of Wesson Baptist Church.

Buyers face tight Christmas tree market

Wesson News

Decreasing numbers of Christmas tree growers and harsh weather, which reduced their crop, mean consumers, who want Mississippi-grown Christmas trees to deck their halls, should shop early for the best selection.

"Choose-and-cut Christmas tree production in Mississippi is fairly flat, because there are growers each year who retire," says Stephen Dicke, a forestry professor with the Mississippi State University Extension Service. "Growers still in the business are producing

more trees each year, but demand in heavily populated counties is much higher than the supply of trees." The extreme cold in early 2014 caused some growers to lose young trees, and a rainy spring and summer increased disease pressure from fungus, Dicke says.

Dicke expects this year's Christmas tree market to be like 2013, when 85 Mississippi growers sold approximately 29,000 trees for \$1.45 million.

"Growers start as soon as the beginning of January, replanting the number

of trees that were sold, and extreme cold for extended periods like we had at the beginning of the year is tough," Dicke said. "All the rain we had this year made trees more susceptible to fungal infections."

Several varieties of trees are available in Mississippi. Leyland cypress is one of the most popular trees and has very little scent. Other varieties include Arizona cypress, Eastern red cedar, Virginia pine and Eastern white pine. Prices vary among Christmas tree farms, but on average, consumers can expect to pay \$5 to \$8 per foot.

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Wesson High names beauties and beaus



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Wesson Attendance Center competitions during the fall honored beauties and beaus from K through twelfth grade. Above are Most Handsome and Most Beautiful Wesson High School seniors Tyler McLeod and Kayla Britt. Other Most Beautiful honorees were Charley Shelton (kindergarten), Mary Margaret Woods (first grade), Lilly Channell (second grade), MacKenzie Martin (third grade), Marley Channell (fourth grade), Baylee Newman (fifth grade), Alyssa Carraway (sixth grade), Zoey Dunaway (junior high), Jasmine King (freshman), Sara Beth Ashley (Sophomore), and Aysha Thomas (Junior). Other Most Handsome honorees included Joe Brown (kindergarten), Ashtyn Nieburg (first grade), Jacob Dunaway (second grade), Austin Beasley (third grade), Jadon Coleman (fourth grade), and Trey Glasper (junior high).

News Nuggets

Extended accreditation. The Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) has reaccredited Co-Lin's Medical Radiological Technology program for eight years. The Co-Lin accreditation — the maximum duration granted by JRCERT — assures the public of quality professional education in the radiologic sciences.

PBL awards. Co-Lin's Nu Kappa (NK) chapter of Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) — the educational association for students preparing for careers in business and entrepreneurial and related fields — was named one of the Big Ten Chapters in the nation, received awards recognizing it as the largest local chapter and second largest state chapter in the PBL Southern Region, and won the 2014 Hollis and Kitty Guy Gold Seal Chapter Award of Merit. At the fall PBL National Leadership Conference in Nashville, Shelby Weeks of Sontag also placed seventh in entrepreneurial concepts competition and Willie Ervin, Jr., of Hazlehurst, Brennan Laird of Brookhaven, and Daisy Martinez of Wesson were among the top 15 finalists in their competitive categories.



Mike McIntyre

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PBL also inducted Mike McIntyre, who has served thirty-seven years as adviser of the Co-Lin NK chapter, into its Wall of Fame for Advisers.



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Area Christmas decorators honored



Photo by Wesson News

Boswell Regional Center recognized for outdoor display.



Photo by Wesson News

Los Lobos restaurant recognized for windows display.



Photo by Wesson News

Porches restaurant recognized for overall display.



Photo by Wesson News

Trustmark Bank recognized for creative display.

Wesson News

Wesson News and Wesson Chamber of Commerce have recognized Boswell Regional Center, Los Lobos restaurant, Porches restaurant, and Trustmark Bank for contributing to the spirit of Christmas around town through their special decorations and lights displays.

Among business and institutional winners of the Spirit of Christmas Awards sponsored by Wesson News and the Chamber, Porches restaurant was honored for the overall best display.

play, Trustmark Bank for the most creative display, Los Lobos restaurant for its windows display, and Boswell Regional Center for its outside scene.

Judges, who are members of the Wesson Garden Club, will also select residential Christmas season decorators for honors. The Wesson News January issue will announce the residential award winners.

"Every year, Wesson businesses and residents turn their town into a Southern Christmas postcard-like setting with their special seasonal decor and light-

ing," says Wesson News Editor Bob Arnold. "Along with the Chamber of Commerce, we are honoring these efforts towards promoting the Christmas spirit, which they help to spark and sustain, and encouraging expanding efforts in future years through growing competition in the commercial sector and among neighbors in residential areas."

Arnold urged area residents to make a tradition of touring the Wesson area at night during the Christmas season to view the displays of decorations and lights. He suggested starting a tour be-

tween 5:30 and 6 p.m. after a family dinner at a local restaurant. "First stroll down Highway 51 in downtown Wesson and look at how local businesses are sparking the Christmas spirit," Arnold advised. "Then get into your car and explore the area. You can find residential decorating gems on Sylvarena, Mission Hill, and Wesson-Beauregard Roads, near Highway 51 between Wesson and Beauregard, the Woodland Hills subdivision off Highway 51, the Old School neighborhood, and the area around Bayou Pierre Street."

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Project assures children joy of gifts

Wesson News

Children in the Wesson area whose families cannot afford gifts for their Christmas will once again experience the special joy of receiving presents through the Project Angel Tree program of the League of Extraordinary Women of Wesson (LEWW).

In multiple locations throughout the area, LEWW — a group of Wesson women who seek to serve the community through varied children- and youth-oriented programs — is placing trees decorated with numbered paper angel tags that provide information about children who will not receive gifts unless they are provided by donors.

“The donors remove one or more tags from trees, purchase appropriate gifts for the children, and deliver them to a designated drop-off from which



Special to Wesson News

they are distributed to families,” explains LEWW’s Melissa Brady.

“Families who need assistance with Christmas purchases provide information about their children and their clothing sizes and gift wishes/wants to LEWW, which makes the paper angel tags for the trees. The tags do not identify the children or their families.”

To assure that the needs of as many children as possible are met, LEWW held a special fundraiser — Soup and Sangin’ — from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday at the Wesson Old School Community Center at which attendees paid \$10 for a light supper and were entertained by the music of By Faith.

For information about tree locations and answers to other questions about LEWW’s Project Angel Tree, contact Melissa Brady at 601-695-7744.

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February 12: Accounts receivable, invoices, sales receipts, customer statements, payments & deposits.

Fee: \$15.00

February 17: Accounts payable, billing, paying bills, checks, credit memos, inventory, & sales tax Fee: \$15.00

February 19: Banking, bank reconciliation, & on-line banking Fee: \$15.00

February 24: Payroll, setting-up new employees, & adding a payroll deduction Fee: \$15.00

February 26: Analyzing financial data & reports Fee: \$15.00

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Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin's Josh Bates (33) evades an East Mississippi tackler in the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges State championship game, which the Wolfpack lost 54-15 to the Lions.

Special to Wesson News

Post-season honors. Twelve Co-Lin gridiron standouts have received post-season honors for their performance during the 2014 season. Redshirt freshman wide receiver **Donald Gray** was named National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region 23 Most Valuable Player, All-Region, First Team Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) All-State

wide receiver, Second Team MACJC All-State punt returner, and the MACJC Most Valuable Back. Also named to the MAJC All State First Team were sophomore kick returner **Diquan Davis**, sophomore quarterback **Daniel Fitzwater**, sophomore offensive lineman **Jacob Fleming**, sophomore defensive lineman **Jonathan Taylor**, and sophomore running back **De'Lance Turner**. Named to the MAJC All State Sec-
cont. on page 13

Co-Lin soccer.

Men. Southwest 5-Wolves 0; Meridian 3-Wolves 0; Jones County 1-Wolves 1; Pearl River 3-Wolves 1; Mississippi Gulf Coast 3-Wolves 0. Women. Southwest 2-Wolves 1; Meridian 7-Wolves 0; Jones County 11-Wolves 0; Pearl River 4-Wolves 0; Mississippi Gulf Coast 2-Wolves 1.

Co-Lin basketball.

Men. Holmes 82-Wolves 59; Mississippi Delta 78-Wolves 66; Wolves 80-Baton Rouge 77; Wolves 57-Southern-Shreveport 46 (Southwest Coca Cola Classic); Northwest 86-Wolves 70 (Southwest Coca Cola Classic); Delgado 67-Wolves 64; Mississippi Delta 69-Wolves 45; Hinds 70-Wolves 52. Women. Wolves 75-Holmes 69; Wolves 73-Mississippi Delta 54; Wolves 98-Baton Rouge 48; Wolves 107-Spring Hill 35 (Southwest Coca Cola Classic); Wolves 72-Baton Rouge 46 (Southwest Coca Cola Classic); Wolves 64-Delgado 38; Wolves 78-Mississippi Delta 59; Wolves 92-Hinds 69.

Wesson High School basketball.

Girls. Cobras 43-West Lincoln 37; Bogue Chitto 46-Cobras 35; Amite County 48-Cobras 30; North Pike 57-Cobras 50; Amite County 72-Cobras 40; Cobras 48-Sumrall 36; Cobras 28-West Lincoln 24. Boys. Cobras 71-West Lincoln 45; Cobras 61-Bogue Chitto 27; Cobras 64-Amite County 62; Cobras 60-North Pike 58; Cobras 85-Amite County 78; Cobras 61-Sumrall 47; Cobras 77-West Lincoln 69.

Wesson High School football.

The Choctaw County Chargers ended the Wesson Cobras 47-19 football season in the first round of the Class 3A playoff games. "I am proud of our guys for making it to the postseason, but disappointed that we will not be moving on," Wesson High School coach Ronald Greer said.

Wesson High School slowpitch softball.

After winning the last two games of their regular season against South Pike (18-0) and Franklin County (5-4), the Cobras were eliminated by Philadelphia in the best of three first round of the district playoffs (16-3 and 16-1).

Wesson High School soccer.

Girls. Forest 4-Cobras 1; Cobras 6-Crystal Springs 0; Cobras 3-Raymond 1. Boys. Forest 2-Cobras 0; Cobras 7-Crystal Springs 0; Cobras 3-Raymond 1.

Upcoming games:

- Dec. 9** Wesson girls and boys Junior High School and High School Basketball Cobras play Bogue Chitto. 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 11** Wesson girls and boys Junior High School Basketball Cobras play at Franklin County. 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.
- Dec. 12** Wesson girls and boys High School Basketball Cobras play Salem. 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wesson Attendance Center junior varsity girls and boys and varsity girls and boys Soccer Cobras play Franklin County. 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 13** Co-Lin women and men Basketball Wolves play at Delgado (New Orleans). 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.
- Dec. 16** Wesson girls and boys Junior High School and High School Basketball Cobras play Loyd Star. 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. Wesson Attendance Center junior varsity girls and boys and varsity girls and boys Soccer Cobras play at Loyd Star. 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 19** Wesson girls and boys High School Basketball Cobras play McLaurin. 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 30 - Jan. 3** Wesson girls and boys Junior High School and High School Basketball Cobras play at Dexter Tournament.
- Jan. 5** Wesson Attendance Center junior varsity boys and varsity girls and boys Soccer Cobras play Natchez Cathedral. 4:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., and 7 p.m.
- Jan. 6** Wesson girls and boys Junior High School and High School Basketball Cobras play at Loyd Star. 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. Co-Lin women and men Basketball Wolves play at Baton Rouge. 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Jan. 9** Wesson High School Junior Varsity and girls and boys Varsity Basketball Cobras play at Jefferson County. 5 p.m., 6 p.m., and 7:30 p.m. Wesson Attendance Center junior varsity girls and boys and varsity girls and boys Soccer Cobras play Brookhaven. 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.
- Jan. 10** Wesson girls and boys Junior High School and High School Basketball Cobras play Dexter. 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., and 4:30 p.m.
- Jan. 12** Wesson girls and boys Junior High School Basketball Cobras play Tylertown. 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. Wesson Attendance Center varsity girls and boys Soccer Cobras play Lawrence County. 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Co-Lin women and men Basketball Wolves play Jones. 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.
- Jan. 12** Wesson Attendance Center varsity girls and boys Soccer Cobras play at Raymond. 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Jan. 13** Wesson High School Junior Varsity and girls and boys Varsity Basketball Cobras play at Puckett. 5 p.m., 6 p.m., and 7:30 p.m.

Fall in Wesson: a seasonal photo study

All photos by Wesson News



Local celebrity Summer Rials, a member of the New Orleans Saints cheerleading squad, was on hand at the Wesson Flea Market to sign autographs for admirers like Preston Allen on calendars, which featured her on the cover. Upwards of 250 vendors drew several thousand persons to the forty-third annual Flea Market Outdoors Arts and Crafts Show.



Members of Co-Lin's 2014 homecoming court were (left to right) Mattie Avants of Bogue Chitto, freshman maid; Kalie Green of McComb, freshman maid; Lindsey Reid of Summit, freshman maid; Caroleah Brister of Bogue Chitto, homecoming queen; Marissa Pittman of Magee, sophomore maid; Jasmine Hall of Hazlehurst, sophomore maid; and Nia Davis of Natchez, sophomore maid.



A frightening lady armed with a chainsaw awaited visitors at Students Against Destructive Decisions' (SADD) haunted house, an annual Halloween event at Wesson High School, which offers fun in a scary setting with a serious message about making good choices in life.



Janet Currie (right) outside her store, Another Time.... Another Place, and her husband, A.C. Currie (left) give candy and other goodies to Wesson Baptist Church Pre-School trick-or-treaters. On Halloween morning every year, children from the pre-school program, the Precious Moments Day Care Center, and Wesson Attendance Center first and second grades trick-or-treat downtown locations.



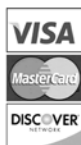
More than 300 persons enjoyed the twelfth annual holiday community luncheon hosted by Co-Lin's Thames Conference Center and college food service. Started in 2002 as an event to showcase the Thames Conference Center for prospective profit and non-profit uses, it has evolved into a traditional community event for employees at Co-Lin, and persons affiliated with dozens of other groups, including families, local businesses, civic clubs and service organizations, and government.



At varied carnival-like attractions like this one, the Wesson Attendance Center's Parent Teachers Organization raised money for drugs and alcohol awareness. The Red Ribbon Festival oriented to elementary school children and their families included a silent auction, cake walk, face painting, photo booth, costume contest, games, and a canteen featuring food and drinks.

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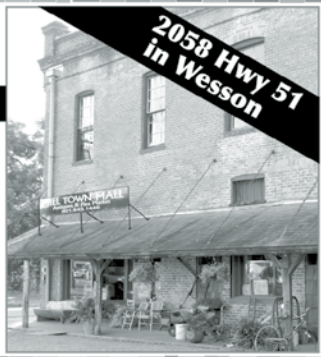
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Sunday evening

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cont. from front page

Wesson Aldermen approve Old School management changes

to a firm recommendation from the committee.

In the future, the committee will also be bringing recommendations on marketing the facility, other equipment needs, and physical plant improvements.

“Our goal is to create a self-sufficient, sustainable facility that generates funds to cover expenses, including maintenance and continuing upgrades, loan payments, and marketing,” says Alderman Michael King, who has led the committee in carrying out its work since September 2013. “We want it to appeal widely to planners of conferences, business meetings, reunions, and other events as well as weddings, which have been the primary function at the Old School community center over the past two years.”

Working with King on the committee are Brad Turner, Stephen Ashley, Marilyn Britt, Melissa Meredith, Beverly King, Sonya Cowen, and Melanie Hall. King credits Turner and Ashley for initially pushing for the committee. “The committee members are busy people, who have dedicated a significant portion of time because they love Wesson,” King says.

King says the new rental agreement — the first step in the development of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the community center — will assure mutually beneficial rentals for users and the town alike. It includes elements from rental agreements of the Blakely (Georgia) Civic Center, Ocean Springs (Mississippi) Civic Center, and the Old Bedford (Texas) School, which served as models.

The new pricing structure, which was previously event-based, now features daily rates for private organizations (\$275 weekdays and \$350 weekends) and non-profit groups outside Wesson (\$200). In addition, organizations will be assessed event fees for cleaning (\$115 for private groups and \$100 for non-profits) and host/hostess service (\$100) and pay a returnable deposit (\$200). Daily rates and fees, with the exception of the one for cleaning, will continue to be waived for Wesson non-profits.

King reports B&B Cleaning, operated by Freddie and Peggy Bessonette, has been contracted for cleaning services for events. The committee is

also developing a host-hostess work checklist prior to hiring someone to fill the position, he adds.

“The host or hostess will oversee the scheduling of events for the community center, handle telephone calls from prospective users, and work with them on making decisions about events — walking them through the facility and answering their questions,” King explains. “On the days of an event, the host or hostess will make on-site visits to assist users as needed and then conduct post-event inspections to make sure users have met their clean-up responsibilities.”

With the hiring of a host or hostess, marketing will become an increasing focus of the community center management committee. The committee is developing a brochure that will be targeted to prospective users of the community center and has produced a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/historicoldwessonsschool) to both generate interest in booking events at the facility and provide a venue for starting the process through the host or hostess. The page has a bookings feature that allows prospective users to see dates the community center is either available or reserved for events.

“As funds become available, we plan to advertise in specialized magazines and local newspapers,” King adds. So far, however, the committee has looked to volunteers to assist it in developing the marketing tools. King, a retired Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel who operates a consulting firm that does contract work for the U.S. Department of Defense, recruited one of his employees — Clay Hooker — to create the Facebook page and his son Collin to work on the brochure.

Beyond marketing plans, King says the committee will also focus on making a “wish list” for the community center a reality as funds permit — improved sound and WIFI systems; state-of-the art audio-visual equipment, including video monitors throughout the building; blinds for windows to increase energy efficiency; installation of new doors on the main floor to facilitate traffic flow between meeting rooms during events; and completion of renovations on the second floor.

Wesson News

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Safety: often-forgotten ingredient in Christmas joy

Special to Wesson News

Trees, colorful decorations and lights, and meals with the family help make Christmas a joyous time. But there's another important ingredient in Christmas joy that is too easily forgotten: safety.

"Each year, hospital emergency rooms treat thousands of people for injuries, such as falls, cuts, burns, and shocks related to holiday lights, decorations, Christmas trees, and cooking," says Wesson Volunteer Fire Department Chief Ken Carraway. "Christmas trees alone are involved in approximately 400 fires annually that typically result in dozens of deaths

and injuries, and more than \$10 million in property loss and damage."

Fire Officials offer these safety tips:

Trees. Look for a "Fire Resistant" label on artificial trees and check for freshness of live trees — green foliage, strong needles that do not fall off easily, and front butts sticky with resin. Set up trees away from fireplaces and radiators. Keep water in stands of live trees.

Lights. Use only lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory. Throw out sets of lights — new or old — with broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord. Nev-

er use electric lights on a metallic tree, which can become charged and cause electrocution. Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls, or other firm supports with staples or run them through hooks to protect them from wind damage. Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. Plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs).

Decorations. Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. Place them in non-flammable holders where they will not be knocked down.

Fireplaces. Do not remove fireplace

embers or ash, or place them in a metal container with a lid and cover them with water. Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace.

Cooking. Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop and nearby in the home when the oven is on. Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button. Keep children away from knives, matches and utility lighters, and a stove with steaming hot food and liquids, which can splash. Clear the floor of toys, pocketbooks, or bags to avoid tripping. Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer, or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.

cont. from page 3

'Tis the season to be healthy

whelmed.

7. Don't abandon healthy habits. Don't let the holidays become a free-for-all. Over-indulgence only adds to your stress and guilt.
8. Take a breather. Make some time for yourself. Spending just 15 minutes alone, without distractions, may refresh you enough to handle everything you need to do. Find something that reduces stress by clearing your mind, slowing your breathing and restoring inner calm.

With a little planning and some positive thinking, you can find peace

and joy during the holidays.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Stephanie Duguid, Assistant Dean of Academic Instruction and the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Division Chair at Co-Lin, makes regular contributions to Wesson News on healthy living topics. She is also an athletic trainer and nutrition specialist and has been teaching courses related to those two areas as well as practicing what she preaches for more than 20 years. She is an avid reader and learner on health issues and encourages people to follow her example.

cont. from page 4

Lights and music spark joy

ing special Christmas music programs: Brookhaven First Baptist Church (7 p.m. December 13 and 6 p.m. December 14), Hazlehurst First Baptist Church (10:30 a.m. December 14), Hazlehurst First United Methodist Church (5 p.m. December 14), Wesson Baptist Church (10:45 a.m. December 14), Harmony Baptist Church at Crystal Springs (10 a.m. December 21), Crystal Springs United Methodist Church (10:45 a.m. December 21), Crystal Springs First Baptist Church (11 a.m. December 21), Brookhaven First United Method-

ist Church (6 p.m. December 24), Brookhaven St. Francis Catholic Church (11 p.m. December 24). The Brookhaven Episcopal Church of the Redeemer will feature Advent music at 6 p.m. on December 12 and 20.

I wish you all peace and a bountiful New Year. Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.

Editor's Note: R. Shaw Furlow is Director of the Bands Program at Co-Lin and oversees the college's Community Arts Series. He is a regular contributor to Wesson News on the area arts scene.

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Community Calendar

December weather forecast: *The Old Farmers Almanac* calls for an average temperature of 44 degrees (four degrees below average) and precipitation of 5.5 inches (one inch below average).

DECEMBER 9

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and VFW Auxiliary Post 2618 meeting. \$5 meal. VFW Hall on Industrial Park Road, Brookhaven. 5:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 11

Institute for Learning in Retirement luncheon. Entertainment provided by vocalist Steve Huey accompanied by Dr. Durr Walker. \$8.00. Co-Lin Thames Conference Center. 10:30 a.m.

Christmas program for Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) children in Kindergarten through grade 2. WAC. 1:30 p.m.

Lions Club meeting. Conference room at Co-Lin student cafeteria building. 6:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 12

Christmas program for Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) youth in seventh through twelfth grades. WAC. 9 a.m.

A Night of Worship presented Dance Haven Studio. Grateful Ministries International, 1034 South First Street, Brookhaven. 7 p.m.

DECEMBER 14

Christmas cantata. Wesson Baptist Church, Highway 51, Wesson. 10:45 a.m.

Christmas cantata. *Jesus. There Is Something about that Name.* Sylvarena Baptist Church, 1119 Old Sylvarena Road, Wesson. 6 p.m.

DECEMBER 16

American Legion Post meeting. American Legion lodge on Main Street, Wesson. 6 p.m.

DECEMBER 17

Co-Lin graduation ceremonies. Mullen Gymnasium. Wesson campus. 9:30 a.m.

DECEMBER 18

Co-Lin Christmas break begins.

DECEMBER 22

Wesson Attendance Center Christmas break begins.

DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day.

JANUARY 1

New Years Day.

JANUARY 5

Wesson Attendance Center resumes classes. Second semester.

JANUARY 6

Col-Lin registration for Spring semester. Dow-Young Building. Wesson campus. 9:30 a.m.

Wesson Board of Aldermen meet. City Hall. 6 p.m.

JANUARY 7

Spring semester classes begin at Co-Lin.

JANUARY 13

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and VFW Auxiliary Post 2618 meeting. \$5 meal. VFW Hall on Industrial Park Road, Brookhaven. 5:30 p.m.

Email Community Calendar items to
bobarnold@wessonnews.com.

Lions Club screens vision



Photo by Wesson News

Wesson Lions Club's Julia Arnold (left) screens vision of Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) student. Students who have difficulty reading groups of letters on a vision screening machine are referred to eye care specialists for further evaluation. Each year, the local Lions Club screens several hundred WAC students, including most of the children in elementary grades and youth from the high school, who choose to be screened. The screening is part of Lions' mission focus on assisting people with sight problems.

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Sports Shorts

ond Team were sophomore offensive lineman **Cullen Greer**, sophomore defensive back **Arthur Maulet**, sophomore linebacker **Justin Morgan**, freshman kicker **Greg Nickles**, sophomore defensive lineman **Demond Tucker**, freshman linebacker **Zachary Williams**.

Co-Lin football. A disastrous first half that saw Co-Lin, ranked number ten nationally, turn the ball over four times was all the East Mississippi Lions, the number two ranked team nationally,

needed to claim a 54-15 win in the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) State Championship. The four turnovers led to 21 points and helped the Lions stake a 33-3 halftime lead. The Wolfpack got to the championship game by closing out its regular season with wins over Mississippi Gulf Coast (29-26) and Jones County (40-28) and a first round victory over Northwest Mississippi (44-30) in the state MACJC championship playoffs.

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Watch out for crooks and don't over-give to charities

Special to Wesson News

Mississippians, who gave some \$1.5 billion to charities in 2012, ranking second in the nation among citizens of other states in their generosity, will be looking for giving opportunities during the Christmas season. But watch for the pitfalls.

Susan Cosgrove, family resource management agent with the Mississippi State University (MSU) Extension Service, warns donors to be make careful decisions because some people use the holiday spirit of giving as a time to be unscrupulous.

"The wisest giver is an informed giver," she says. "You give to a charity because you want to make a difference and help someone, but you need to make sure your hard-earned charitable contributions are spent effectively and efficiently."

Cosgrove urges donors to ask questions before giving to an unfamiliar organization. Avoid pressure tactics by solicitors and ask for information in writing to allow time for an informed decision.

"Be wary of telephone calls, and get the name of the person who is calling and the exact name of the charity," she says. "Anyone can dress in a Santa suit or make a phony charity call. Be careful when you give, even to what

sounds like a well-known charity."

Another problem at this time of year is giving more than you can afford to give.

MSU's family financial management specialist Rita Green notes that people give because it makes them happy. "Research indicates that giving to charities and individuals in need activates regions of the brain associated with pleasure and creates a glow inside," Green explains. "This altruistic behavior releases endorphins in the brain, producing positive feelings throughout the body." That good feeling, however, is what gets people into financial trouble in their charitable giving.

"It helps to consistently support a handful of charities that focus on things that really matter to you personally, rather than giving anytime someone asks for a donation," Green counsels. She also says advance budgeting your charitable giving is a good idea. "At the beginning of next year, take time to determine your giving priorities and consider setting aside a percentage of your anticipated income for donations," she advises. "You can set up an automatic plan to donate to many organizations, or you can even set aside a certain amount of money each month to use at the end of the year when requests for charitable giving increase."



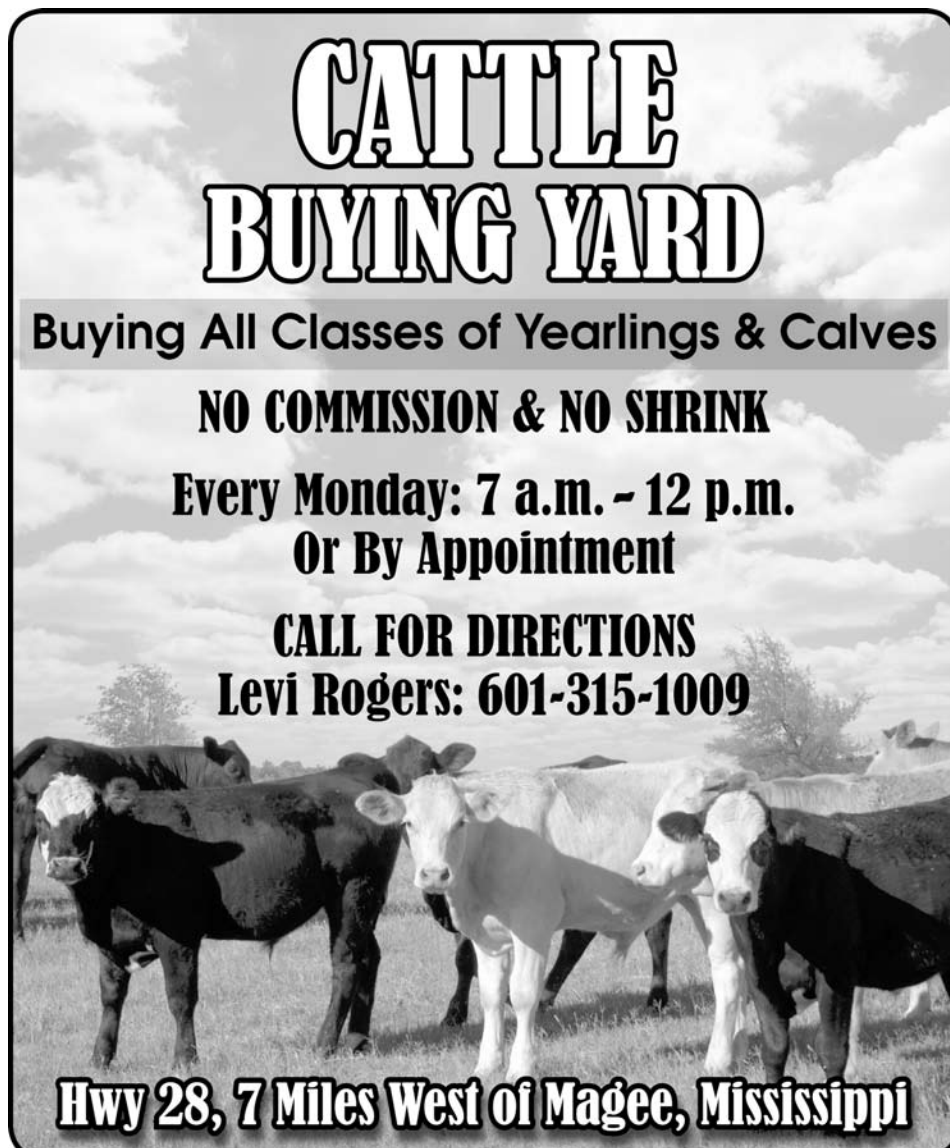
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cont. from front page

Chamber banquet closes out sesquicentennial year

Wesson Museum Committee, Wesson Baptist Church, Sylvarena Baptist Church, Decell Methodist Church, Beauregard Methodist Church, Wesson Lions Club, American Legion Post #79, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Wesson News, Copiah County Courier, the League of Extraordinary Women of Wesson, Wesson Wagon Train, Wesson Masonic Lodge, Nena Smith, Marie Watts, Wesson Library, Founders Day Queen and Ambassador, State Senator Sally Doty, State Representative Becky Currie and the Copiah County Supervisors.

Nena Smith Honored

Dr. Jane Hulon, a Chamber board member, presented the Business of the Year award recipient Nena Smith a special plaque, noting that she has been part of Wesson's life since 1972, when she and her husband Bradley moved to town. Before beginning her dance studio in 1974, Smith directed the Colettes — a dance team known as "Mississippi's Original Dancing co-eds,"

which is associated with Co-Lin's show band. She started teaching dance part time when she saw a void in after school activities for young girls in the area. In 1984, she opened her current studio in a converted house across from Wesson Attendance Center.

Life Lessons

In his remarks as guest speaker at the banquet, Walt Grayson discussed Mississippi personalities and places that have been the focus of his books and television vignettes and cited three major life lessons he has learned through reporting experiences as an author and broadcaster.

"A light bulb in my head turned on after three experiences," he said.

At Monticello, he interviewed a woman who had decided to embark on college studies when she was fifty years old. "She taught me that time passes relentlessly, and you need to make the most produc-

tive use of it, doing something every day to get closer to your goals rather than waiting for the right moment," he recounted. "The woman had expressed second thoughts to her husband about going to college: 'I will be 54 after four years of college,' she told him. Her husband replied: 'In four years, you will be 54 whether you go to college or not.' A light bulb turned on. It's a shorter distance to your goals if you go after them in chunks, a bit at a time, rather than waiting for a time to take them on all at once, which may never come."



Photo by Wesson News

Copiah Bank's Scott King (right) congratulates Nena Smith, whose dance studio was named Business of the Year.

went on," Grayson said. "Life is full of electric fences. We need to remember, like Mark Twain said, that it is easier to stay out than to get out of many situations. I kicked my crack-cocaine habit because I never started crack-cocaine."



Photo by Wesson News

Walt Grayson addresses Chamber banquet

in the coffin through a window. As Grayson started taping at the unique grave site for a television segment about it, the battery in his camera died. Grayson recalled: "I hollered out: 'I'm so frustrated!' I then heard a small voice from the child's grave: 'You think you're frustrated!' Another light bulb went on. You can do anything while you're alive. So do it. Don't complain about the problems."

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