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# Wesson News

## SPOTLIGHT

**Teacher  
Recognized  
Page 2**

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**Wesson News**  
PO Box 1028  
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Volume 8, Number 3

*"Good News You Can Use"*

March 10, 2020

## Co-Lin to train new employer's workers

By Bob Arnold

At least thirty new jobs are coming to southwest Mississippi in Brookhaven's Lindbrook Industrial Park in a major expansion of an Iowa-based electrical components manufacturer, and Co-Lin will make sure trained workers are available to fill them.

Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves announced that Keystone Electrical Manufacturing Company (KEMC), based in Des Moines, is locating new production facilities in Brookhaven, which will require primarily skilled electrical technicians to produce parts for power generating facilities.

"We are working with Co-Lin to make sure the workers we need for our manufacturing operations have the skills they need," Fred Buie, president and owner of KEMC said. "We're working with the college to provide training to workers we hire."

Reeves said Keystone is one of a growing number of manufacturing companies that recognize Mississippi as a quality location with skilled labor for their operations. The Governor thanked Co-Lin, the



Wesson News

*Fred Buie, president and owner of Keystone Electrical Manufacturing.*

Mississippi Development Authority, Lincoln County-Brookhaven Chamber of Commerce, Southwest Electric Power Association, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors, Brookhaven Mayor Joe Cox and the



Wesson News

*Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves.*

town's aldermen for the cooperative effort to bring Keystone to southwest Mississippi.

Brookhaven Mayor Joe Cox noted the cooperation of the city, Lincoln

*cont. on page 12*

## Voters to select primary choices

Wesson News

Tuesday March 10 is primary election day in Mississippi.

Registered voters in Wesson will cast their ballots at the American Legion hall on Main Street, a change from previous elections when City Hall was the polling place. The polling place is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Voters must present a photo ID -- driver's license, ID card issued by a branch/department or entity of the State of Mississippi, U.S. government or any other state government; U.S. passport, government employee ID, firearms license, student photo ID issued by an accredited Mississippi university college or community/junior college, U.S. military ID, tribal photo ID, Mississippi voter ID card.

Voters will choose in which party primary they want to participate to select U.S. Presidential, U.S. Senate and U.S. Congressional District 2 candidates:

• **Democrat Presidential candidates:** Joe Biden, Mike Bloomberg (withdrew) Pete Buttigeg (withdrew), Tulsi Gabbard, Amy Klobuchar (withdrew), Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren (withdrew), Andrew Yang (withdrew), Deval Patrick (withdrew), Tom Steyer (withdrew).

• **Republican Presidential candidates:** Roque "Rocky" De La Fuente, Donald J. Trump, Bill Weld.

• **Democrat U.S. Senate candidates:** Toby Bernard Bartee, Jason Bohren, Mike Espy.

• **Republican U.S. Senate candidate:** Cindy Hyde-Smith.

• **Libertarian U.S. Senate candidate:** Jimmy Edwards.

• **Democrat Congressional District 2 candidates:** Sonia Rathburn, Bennie G. Thompson.

• **Republican Congressional District 2 candidates:** Thomas L. Carey, Brian Flowers, B.C. Hammond.

## Assistant Deputy Clerk joins town staff

Wesson News

A new Assistant Deputy Clerk has joined the staff at Wesson City Hall.

Michele Ratliff has come out of retirement to assist Municipal Clerk Angela Hester on a part time basis with paperwork and data entry related particularly to the Town Court and the Wesson water/sewage department, and telephone and reception responsibilities.

"She is also coming on board at a time when the town is trying to obtain funds it is owed through state taxes," Hester says. Under a new law, the state can garnish funds, including fines and other fees, owed to local governments through taxes if



Wesson News

*New Wesson Assistant Deputy Clerk Michele Ratliff (left) with Clerk Angela Hester.*

they can provide documentation that people are delinquent. Ratliff will play a major role in doing the the research to identify who is delinquent and obtaining the necessary documentation required by the state.

Ratliff, a native of New Castle, Pennsylvania, worked for more than ten years in the advertising department at the *Daily Leader* in Brookhaven, where she settled in 1977, after service in the advertising department at Slippery Rock State College in Pennsylvania.

Hester, who knew Ratliff from a group that meets regularly in area restaurants to play the bunko dice game, recommended her for the Wes-

*cont. on page 12*

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## Police Blotter

*Special to Wesson News*

During February, Wesson Police  
Department activity encompassed:

**Responses to:**

- Two motor vehicle accidents
- One simple assault
- Three general information reports
- One stolen firearm reported & recovered

**Arrests & citations for:**

- Twenty speeding violations
- Three expired tags
- One code violation
- Four no insurance violations
- One no driver's license violation
- One contempt of court warrant
- One motor vehicle taken

Wesson Police conduct nightly business checks.  
On school days, they facilitate 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.

# Teacher returns to second grade classroom

*By Bob Arnold*

If Heather McKenzie was jittery when she came to Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) to teach in 2011, her nervousness quickly dissolved in familiar surroundings. WAC's new second grade teacher found herself in the same classroom where she was a second grade student back in the 1990s.

There were, of course, a few stops on her roundtrip journey -- experiences and learning that equipped her for teaching.

From WAC, McKenzie, a Wesson native, went on to graduate from Wesson High School, initially studied music and voice at Co-Lin before earning her Associate's Degree in education there, and then completed her college career at Southern Mississippi University in Hattiesburg, where she received a BA in education and an MA in education, with a literacy specialty. McKenzie first taught at Eva Gordon Elementary School in Magnolia, Mississippi, from 2005 to

2011, before returning to her second grade classroom at WAC.

McKenzie says she "loved Wesson and WAC" during her childhood and youth because of the special relationships she enjoyed -- knowing everyone in your community and school. "In the attendance center, there was the mix of older youth and younger kids," she recalls. "Your relationships grew and changed with the same kids as you continued through WAC. There was good communication between teachers and students based on relationships that formed and changed over the years."

Back at WAC, relationships remain a key focus for McKenzie in the classroom. As a teacher, McKenzie says she wants her students, above all, to learn to be good citizens and good persons, which, in the final analysis, means "working with each other" -- good relationships. Towards that end, she encourages her second graders to teach each other. "I will teach them and put them in teaching situations with classmates

in which they focus on the same subjects and material. Learning is not a matter of just listening, and kids learn from each other."

McKenzie says she is constantly "trying new things" with her classes, "not doing the same thing all the time" to promote learning. "I also practice 'whole brain teaching' -- getting children to use both of sides of their brains -- in learning," she says. McKenzie believes her particular strength as a teacher is helping children read better, drawing on her Master's Degree studies at Southern Mississippi. "I can figure out why students aren't getting it, and do something," she says.

McKenzie and her husband Wayne, a banker, have two children, who are students at WAC: Ben, 13, a seventh grader, and Kate, 8, a third grader. They live on ten acres in Brookhaven. When she isn't in the classroom, McKenzie enjoys "doing family things" -- camping and outdoors activities. McKenzie also bakes and races in 5K marathon runs.

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# Relay for Life coming to Wesson

Wesson News

Relay for Life (RFL), the American Cancer Society's (ACS) major fundraising event that has taken place annually in local communities across the nation since 1985, is coming to Wesson this year.

Co-Lin will host the event sponsored by ACS of Lincoln and Copiah Counties on April 25 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Last year, the event was held at Lincoln Civic Center in Brookhaven.

"We are excited about our move to the Co-Lin campus in Wesson," Stacie Cross, community development manager for the area ACS, told an Institute for Learning in Retirement luncheon. The Relay is one of ACS's most visible activities, and teams are already organizing in Copiah and Lincoln Counties to raise funds in connection with the event.

"Over thirty years, RFL has generated some \$6.5 billion, which the Society spends on cancer research that is not entirely understood and other services largely unknown to the public," Cross said. Cross focused on that research and those services:

- Research results, including new screening technologies to detect cancers early, new drugs and advances in treatments of cancers unique to women. "ACS has directed some \$4.9 billion in grants to cutting edge research that resulted in 49 Nobel



Wesson News

Hope Lodge in Jackson.

Prize awards," Cross pointed out.

- A 24/7 800-number (800-227-2345) where cancer patients and their caregivers can learn about what to expect as they pursue treatments, be reassured, connect with volunteers for rides to physicians offices and clinics and obtain other kinds of assistance.

- Lodging for cancer patients and their caregivers during treatments. "ACS has its own apartment complexes -- Hope Lodge -- and has arrangements with hotels and motels," Cross said. "It's free for the length of the treatment period --

days, weeks or months. It allows patients to keep their homes if they must spend extended time away." A Hope Lodge which opened in Jackson last year is currently 60 percent occupied.

- Travel grants.
- Insurance and resource assistance.
- A wig bank for patients who experience hair loss due to chemotherapy.
- A wide-ranging network of volunteers, who are thoroughly trained to provide services and understand what ACS offers to patients and caregivers.
- Blood. Cancer patients need one-

third of the stored blood supply, and ACS partners with the American Red Cross on blood drives to make sure it's there for them.

"Under new leadership, ACS is taking an increasingly business-like approach to its work," Cross concluded. "We now seek out donations for things for which we used to pay. Training for employees and volunteers is extensive." As a result, the Society, which once spent only 65 cents of every dollar on its mission, now is spending 79 cents, with the goal of increasing it to 85 cents, Cross said.

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# Start eating right this month

By Guest Columnist Dr. Stephanie Duguid

"Eat Right: Bite by Bite." The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' (AND) has adopted that as its theme during National Nutrition Month.



"There is no one food, drink, pill, or machine that is the key to achieving optimal health," AND says. In your overall daily routine, consume fewer calories, make informed food choices and exercise daily. Make life-long commitments, not limited changes. Start by:

• **Drinking water as much as possible.** The optimal intake should be half your body weight in ounces. If you weigh 200 pounds, your daily water intake goal should be 100 ounces. That may sound like a lot, but the key is to start somewhere. If you do not consume any water, begin with one bottle this week, and work your way up to two next week.

• **Getting a full range of nutrients.** Eat fruits and vegetables in a variety of colors throughout the

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week. Fruits and vegetables contain essential vitamins, minerals, fiber, and other natural substances that boost your health. When you plan a meal, try to fill half your plate with fruits and vegetables, plenty of dark green, orange, and red vegetables. Microwave them in a small amount of water, steam them or stir-fry them to retain the most nutrients. Avoid boiling or frying.

• **Making sensible snacks part of your healthy eating plan.** Eating properly between meals can be your biggest challenge. Snacks can be fun and are essential to a healthy eating plan, but they can add unneeded calories, sugar, sodium, and fat if you are not careful. If you plan ahead, however, sensible snacks can prevent overeating at meal times and throughout the day. They are a way to eat more fruits, vegetables, whole-grains, and low-fat dairy. In fact, they can supplement meals. When children are active and are still growing, they need to eat more often to get the calories they need. For adults, healthy snacks can provide an energy boost and satisfy your mid-day hunger, and for some, help bring blood sugar levels to

the appropriate level for optimal energy.

Here are some "Eat Right: Bite by Bite" tips:

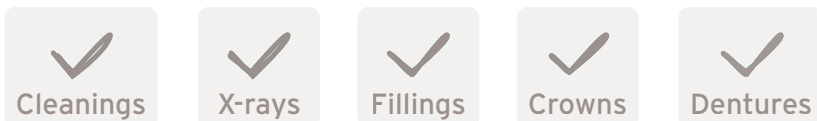
- Plan to make fresh fruit, air-popped popcorn, whole-wheat crackers, dried fruit and nut mixes, or fat-free yogurt as snacks
- Find nutrient-rich snacks that make snack calories count.
- Go easy on high calorie snacks, like chips, candy and soft drinks.
- Snack when you are hungry, not because you are bored, stressed, or frustrated.
- Snack on sensible portions. Focus on single serve containers.
- Quench your thirst first before reaching for a snack. You often feel hungry when your body is dehydrated and thirsty.

For more information and suggestions about eating healthy, visit <http://www.eatright.org>.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Stephanie Duguid is Dean of Academic Instruction at Co-Lin. 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 twenty years.

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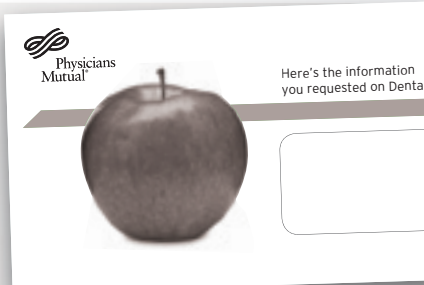


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## Wesson student recognized for idea

*Special to Wesson News*

A Wesson student at the University of Iowa (UI) won a cash prize in the college's IdeaStorm competition.

Katherine Westbrook was one of 24 students who received cash prizes after successfully sharing their ideas in two minutes or less in four uniquely-focused competitions at various locations on the UI campus.

Westbrook, who studies English and Creative Writing at UI, received the third place \$300 award for her presentation in the Consumer Solutions IdeaStorms competition on a virtual reality basic weld training simulator that teaches the trade without the safety hazards and cost.

Other students received awards in Health Initiatives, Creative Concepts and Common Good IdeaStorm categories.

IdeaStorms are entry level pitch competitions coordinated by the John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center across the University of Iowa's campus that encourage students to share their innovative ideas with others, all while familiarizing

themselves with the pitching process. They encourage UI students to share their new, never heard before ideas without the requirements of a business plan or proposal, and provide a collaborative environment where students can get feedback and resources on how to make their ideas into a reality. Ninety-one students representing a variety of subject majors and areas of study shared their business ideas in two minutes or less with a panel of judges and an audience.

In addition to cash award winners selected by judges, students who attended IdeaStorms sessions chose People's Choice award winners.

The University of Iowa is one of the nation's premier public research universities, and is known worldwide for leadership in the arts, sciences, and humanities. It is the home of the first and

best creative writing program in the world, a world-class academic medical center -- one of America's top teaching hospitals -- and a can-do culture that fosters a campus-wide dedication to student success.



*Special to Wesson News*

## Bulb authority



*Wesson News*

Melinda Causey spoke to Wesson Garden Club about planting bulbs. A life Flower Show Judge and President of the Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Causey showed Wesson club members how to plant bulbs and maintain them from season to season. She also discussed the different varieties of daffodils.



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# Wesson Community Calendar

March weather forecast: *The Old Farmer's Almanac* calls for an average temperature of 55 degrees F (one degree below average) with precipitation of 8 inches (one inch below average). March 10-12: Rainy periods, chilly. February 13-16: Sunny, warm. March 17-19: T-storms, then sunny, cool. March 20-25: Rainy; warm, the cool. March 26-31: Sunny, chilly.

## MARCH 10

Primary Election Day.

Diabetes support group. Meets weekly on Tuesdays. Education Annex at King's Daughters Medical Center, Brookhaven. 1:30 p.m. For information, call Natalie Ybarra at 601-835-9489.

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

Copiah County Master Gardeners meets. Mississippi State University Extension Office at Gallman. 5 p.m. business meeting.

American Legion John Edwards Post 12 meets. All members, veterans and their spouses are welcome. Jimmy Furlow Senior Citizens Center. 4 p.m. For information, call 601-835-8137.

NAMI 4Rivers family support group meets on the second Thursday of each month. Free, confidential and peer-led, the group includes caregivers and loved ones of individuals living with mental illness. Cannon Hall at First Episcopal Church, Brookhaven. 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

Wesson Lions Club meets. Co-Lin Student Cafeteria. 5:30 p.m. (Board). 6:30 p.m. (Membership).

Narcotics Anonymous meets every Tuesday. Wesson Volunteer Fire Department. 7 p.m.

## MARCH 16

Classes resume at Wesson Attendance Center following March 9-13 spring break.

Beginner clogging classes for persons of all ages beyond five-years-old are held every Monday night. A small fee is charged each month. Brookhaven Recreation Department on Highway 51. Call 601-833-3791.

## MARCH 17

Institute of Learning in Retirement day trip to Star and Florence. \$55. A short tour of the Heartwood Birdhouse Factory at Star, shopping in the Star commercial district and Magnolia Flea Market in Florence. Departs Co-Lin Thames Center at 8:45 a.m.

## MARCH 19

Co-Lin 2020 Pathways Job Fair matches employers throughout

the college's seven-county district to job-seekers. Free. Open to the community as well as students. Billy B. Thames Conference Center on the Co-Lin Wesson campus. 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## MARCH 23

Blood drive every second and fourth Monday. King's Daughters Medical Center Hospital Annex. 1 p.m.- 6 p.m. Call 800-817-7449 for information.

## MARCH 24

Wesson Lions Club membership meeting. Co-Lin Student Cafeteria. 6:30 p.m.

## MARCH 25

Institute for Learning in Retirement workshop. "Native Plants in the Landscape -- Scratchankle is a State of Mind," a workshop conducted by Rebecca Bates from the Mississippi State University Extension Service. Co-Lin Thames Center. 10 a.m.

## APRIL 7

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

Institute for Learning in Retirement luncheon, with retired military and law enforcement officer Ron Crew who will speak about human trafficking. \$10. Co-Lin Thames Center. 10:30 a.m.

Institute of Learning in Retirement workshop. "Painting Your Masterpiece," a crafts workshop led by Original Cypress. \$25. Follows the luncheon at Co-Lin Thames Center at 12:30 p.m.

## CONTINUING

Alcoholics Anonymous meets at convenient times seven days of every week. First United Methodist Church, 215 West Cherokee Street, Brookhaven. Open meetings are Mondays at noon and Tuesdays (Big Book Study), Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. Closed meetings are Wednesdays and Fridays (Big Book Study) at noon and Thursdays and Sundays at 7:30 p.m.

Overeaters Anonymous meets every Tuesday. Church of the Redeemer Episcopal, downtown Brookhaven. 6 p.m. Call 601-754-0213 for information.

Brookhaven Regional Arts Guild members work on projects every Thursday of the month from 9 a.m.-12 noon at the Brookhaven-Lincoln County Public Library in the Vernon Room when it is available.

Email Community Calendar items to [bobarnold@wessonnews.com](mailto:bobarnold@wessonnews.com)

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# MACJC All-Staters & team performances



All-State Co-Lin hoopsters Sha'Quandra Carter (left) and Camryn Davis.

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The Mississippi Association of Community and Junior College (MACJC) has named two Co-Lin standout hoopster sophomores to its Second Team All-State after stellar seasons.

Sha'Quandra Carter, a Monroe, Louisiana, native, and Camryn Davis from Monticello earned the recognition.

Carter, a Neville High School product, led the Lady Wolves with 14.5 points per game, finishing the regular season with 334 points and a 42.2 shooting percentage from the floor. Along with her solid offensive play, Carter had 38 steals and 155 rebounds.

Davis, a Lawrence County High School graduate, started all 23 games for the Lady Wolves and scored 11.1

points per game on her way to 256 total points. Davis shot 45 percent on the year. Like Carter, Davis is not only explosive on the offensive end of the court, but left her mark on the defensive side as well, leading the Lady Wolves with 39 steals and pulling in the second-highest number of rebounds, with 166 off the boards.

The All-Staters had an opportunity to add to their resumes last week in NJCAA Region XXIII Tournament play at Mississippi College in Clinton. Although the Lady Wolves missed the MACJC State Tournament, the team earned a backdoor bid to the national regional. The tournament fields the winners of the first round of



the MACJC State Tournament, the highest record of the Region XXIII team from Louisiana and the next three highest Region XXIII teams from Mississippi, which is how the Lady Wolves earned the nod.

**Winners & Losers.** So far in the new year, the Lady Wolves are outperforming Co-Lin men's teams in sports. In basketball, the Lady Wolves, in a less than stellar season with a 13-10 record, landed a bid to the NJCAA Region XIII

Tournament as one of the three highest-ranking XXIII teams in Mississippi, even though they did not make the MACJC Tournament. Meanwhile, the men's hoopsters finished 7-16, with no



Co-Lin's Lady Wolves celebrated their 11-7 softball victory over their Southwest rivals that elevated their record to 7-0 on the season in the Coca-Cola Challenge presented by Powerade.

Special to Wesson News

post-season play. In baseball to date, the men are 3-4, with wins against Mineral Area College (4-2, 8-5) and Southwest (9-5) while losing to Delgado (10-1, 6-4), Meridian (12-2) and Mississippi Delta (15-5). In contrast, the softball women have a 7-0 record, with wins against Baton Rouge (11-6, 3-0), Lurleen B. Wallace Community College (9-1, 4-3), Mississippi Delta (4-1, 11-1) and Southwest (11-7). The 5-1 women's tennis team has wins against Hinds (9-0, 9-0), Itawamba (7-2), Holmes (9-0) and Meridian (6-3), with a loss to Jones (5-4). The men's netters, on the other hand are 1-5 with a sole win against Holmes (9-0) and losses to Itawamba (6-3), Hinds (5-4, 5-4), Meridian (8-1) and Jones (7-2).

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## Arbor Day occasion for gardening lesson

*Special to Wesson News*

Wesson's Youth Garden Club -- the Butterbeans -- learned how to properly plant trees and shrubs and pot bulbs in an Arbor Day celebration last month at Wesson's Splash Park and pavilion.

The Butterbeans, including third, fourth, fifth, and sixth graders, planted six trees -- red buds, a flowering crabapple and sweet olive -- and forsythia and spirea shrubs. Two of the trees, which will be dedicated in the near future, memorialize Belle Cowen and Dottie Mercier, recently deceased Wesson residents who were active members of the Wesson Garden Club.

After their gardening experience, the Butterbeans enjoyed refreshments and a story time at Dumps BBQ Restaurant. Wesson Garden Club members talked to the group about the importance of trees in the environment and the many products made from trees. In a reading of *Celebrations in My World: Arbor Day* by Lynn Peppas, the Butterbeans learned that Arbor Day was first celebrated in the United States in Nebraska in 1854, was founded by American Julius Sterling Morton and spread to other states and countries around the world.

Children participating in the celebration took home bulbs to plant at their homes and received wooden



*Special to Wesson News*

hearts to decorate and give to a loved one for Valentine's Day.

Garden Club members involved in the Arbor Day celebration were Beverly King, Pam Owens, Jennifer Peets, Debbie Smith, Lisa Smith, Nancy Sullivan and Dixie Thornton. The Town of Wesson's Public Works Department dug the holes for the trees in the park, and a Lowe's Community Partner Grant helped make it possible for the Club to purchase materials.

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# Riding the back roads in Wesson

By Bob Arnold

When you're growing up in a small town, there's not always a lot to do. But "there's always another back road to ride in Wesson," says Haleigh Chinn in reflecting on growing up here.

Chinn, a single mother, left for the Jackson area briefly, but came back to Wesson with her one-year old son, Hatcher Atticus (named after Atticus Finch, the attorney in *To Kill a Mockingbird*), to go down those roads, as she has done to equip her for life.

"You ride them, get lost with seemingly no way to get help and find your way back home," she says. Over 23 years in Wesson since her family settled here in 1996, Chinn's back roads have encompassed elementary and high school at Wesson Attendance Center (WAC), earning a degree in psychology at Co-Lin, play and social life and the joys and sorrows of living.

She recalls testing the limits as she grew up, flirting with trouble with friends, driving a car in high school that "could tell you some good stories" about that time in her life. She remembers riding four-wheelers up and down Highway 51 past the police station, riding horses down Sylvarena Road, team penning and, "perhaps most enjoyably," playing in the creek near school.

In the springs and summers, Chinn

played ball in the tradition of many Wesson young people on the Hiram C. Newman Memorial Fields on Grove Street, starting as a toddler in tee ball and moving onto softball, competing on local all star teams throughout Mississippi, before playing softball at WAC.

"Going to Co-Lin was a blast," she says. "It really is 'the place to be' for a lot more than just studying."

There were some difficult roads during Chinn's high school years.

"Over one three-month period, my

friends and I had to cope with six deaths of classmates in car wrecks, four-wheeler accidents and a suicide," she says. "Those were uncharted waters. We had experienced deaths of older relatives and friends of the family, but not peers. The experiences brought us closer together as we found solace without judgment with each other in navigating them. No one wanted to be alone."

Going down those roads successfully was somehow more possible in Wesson. Chinn recalls her parents and those of her friends opening their homes anytime day or night so their sons and daughters could find the comfort and support they needed.

"Wesson is close-knit, stable and safe," Chinn observes. "Little has changed here over the years. A couple of new stores. You can buy beer and lottery tickets today. But that's about it. For years, people here are the same and do the same things. For years, you could depend on Kenny Furr meeting over coffee with his friends in front of his service station on Highway 51. Bill McGuire and Philip Knight were the high school biology and math teachers year in and year out. I've settled with

have a dog and two cats. I have had a bull, pigs and brought a deer home -- we called him Lucky Buck -- after hitting him with a car. He stayed with us several months before running off back into the woods. Laundry, however, is not a friend of mine.

**What do you read?**

Everything. I am currently reading *Game of Thrones*.

**Do you enjoy movies or theater?**

I am a Tim Burton fan -- his dark, gothic, and eccentric horror and fantasy films and blockbusters. I also watch *Law and Order SVU* on television and, recently, have been following Netflix's *Don't F with Cats*.

**How about music?**

I am into 90's country and alternative music. Not rap. I like George Strait and the rock bands Alice in Chains and Stone Temple Pilots. I also enjoy the local music scene -- Betsy Berryhill, Sullivan's Hollow, Cody Dunaway. There's so much talent in the area.

**How would you spend your lottery winnings if you were so lucky?**

I would buy all the books on my reading list -- really far too many to read -- and build a personal library with a coffee corner. Of course, I would share my wealth with family, as well.

**How would you change the world?**

The world needs more peace. I am not sure how I would bring that about.

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# Television just isn't the same anymore!

By Guest Columnist Shaw Furlow

Just in case you didn't know, you can watch Co-Lin sports events on television from the comfort of your home or at work by opening a link on your computer or cellular device.



Wesson News

Co-Lin on television! When I was a student, we were proud when a group of students got a little, low watt radio station up and running.

Co-Lin exemplifies how television has changed over the years, and the local college has been on the cutting edge of streaming their sporting events. If you can't make it to the stadium or the gym, you can watch every play or turn-over on Co-Lin's live stream.

To say television has changed is an understatement. When I was a kid, we had three networks, which provided news, entertainment and sports, much like they do today. On Saturday afternoon, the family sat around the TV and watched the Baseball Game of the Week. Dizzy Dean and Pee Wee Reece did the play-by-play and set the example for many sports announcers who followed. The game of the week. One game and occasionally, a double header. Walter Cronkite, Chet Huntley and David Brinkley brought us the news each evening. One of the dreadful reports brought to us each day was the body count from the war in Vietnam. But we trusted Cronkite and the others to keep us informed.

Public Broadcasting was one of the first changes, bringing new types of television. Educational programs like *Sesame Street*, orchestral concerts and operas from Lincoln Center in New York City and, of course, Julia Child and Justin Wilson. All different from the three commercial broadcast networks.



Special to Wesson News

Shaw Furlow (right) and Charlie Hewitt stream a video show on Facebook.

I remember the conversations we all had about "pay TV." Why would we pay for what we can have for free? Little did we know. Cable tv came along, and with it FOX. It started with limited content and was not available in every home. But cable grew, becoming available in every neighborhood, subdivision and apartment complex. On their signs, hotels advertised they had free HBO to entice visitors to stop.

With cable came relaxed standards. After all, you subscribed. No one made you do it. Family television rapidly gave way to series like the *Sopranos*, which opened our eyes to the dark side of the mafia. The scripts were violent, the dialogue was full of profanity, and there was nudity.

Everything changed with satellites and the internet.

What you could watch proliferated. No more were there standard shows everyone watched. Program content narrowed for specific demographics.

Even the television set itself changed. Today, we watch our "television" shows on our telephones.

I remember asking my Co-Lin Music Appreciation classes if they saw last night's episode of 24 or the Grammy Awards show, and no one was watching them, or even a television set for that matter. I repeated that question each semester and got the same response.

I was flabbergasted at first, but then came to expect it. They were playing video games -- another new kind of "television program" on a television-like device or a television modified for interactive play -- when they should have been watching REAL TV.

"Remember when late night TV was funny?" I hear that all the time from victims of demographic-focused programming. My mother said: "I just don't get Conan O'Brien." Now, mom was well into her 70s and way out of Conan's demographic. I explained

that his humor was not intended for her, but rather "thirty-something's." "Well, that explains a lot," she said.

*Saturday Night Live* was funny to me during my mid 20s to mid 40s. Today, I find some of it slightly amusing, and I rarely know the musical guest. I'm not in the demographic. To attract younger viewers, venerable morning news shows, like *Today* and *Good Morning America*, have introduced us to many new younger reporters. The awards shows are geared toward younger viewers. It doesn't bother me. I had my time.

Not only can you watch TV on your cellular device, but you can produce your own show and stream it to all your friends and followers; and, if you are really lucky, you can become an internet influencer, whatever that is. My friend and sometime music partner Charlie Hewitt streams many live music shows in our area. With his phone and Facebook, he brings performances to your computer or phone. Charlie and I, in fact, have delved into the streaming world ourselves with a Facebook show, *Two Old Men on the Shadyside Porch* totally streamed from our iPhones. My show, *Music from the Shadyside*, was recorded with very professional equipment, but streamed on both Facebook and YouTube. I highly recommend both shows "YouTube." The name reflects how far television has come. Justin Bieber, Carly Rae Jepsen, Ed Sheehan and Charlie Puth all started on YouTube. You don't know these names? Demographics. There's that word again.

Now there is Hulu, Disney+, Netflix, and a dozen others. What's next? Maybe cable goes the way of Blockbuster?

That's it for now, friends. You have to look for it, but there is TV worth watching. Until next time, support the arts.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** R. Shaw Furlow is a local composer, musician and arts promoter. He produces an internet-based video show -- From the Shadyside -- that spotlights area musical talent and is a consultant to school bands in the region.



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# Awards, flu, app, scam, closure & MOU

Special to Wesson News

**Wesson train wins top parade awards.** Among wagon trains in the Dixie National Rodeo Parade in Jackson, which famously march at the end of the procession, Wesson Ride won the first place award. Wesson Ride also received the Parade Commissioner's Award presented to the best overall participating parade group. Judges chosen by the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce determine the best participating groups for marching, motorized, floats and riding as well as wagon trains. "The Dixie National Rodeo Parade is a fun-filled family event that the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce looks forward to bringing to the public each year," said Commissioner Gipson. "This would not be possible without the participation of groups from all over the state. I want to thank all those that made it a success and congratulate all of our winners."

**Flu activity climbs.** The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH), while also monitoring for possible COVID-19 cases in the state, is seeing high flu activity in the state with widespread transmission, and recommends flu vaccination for anyone ages 6 months and older. Pediatric flu shots are available at all MSDH county clinics. Flu and COVID-19 symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, muscle and body aches, and fatigue. While vaccination is the best flu protection, basic infection control measures are largely the same for both the flu and coronavirus: covering your mouth when coughing and sneezing, staying at home when you or your children are sick and washing your hands frequently. Visit the MSDH website at [www.HealthyMS.com/flu](http://www.HealthyMS.com/flu) for information.

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Wesson News

*A wild hog that has been wreaking havoc on local property, including the Wolf Hollow Golf Course at Co-Lin, met his match with local hunting dogs. Cliff Newman, a local building contractor who operates a cattle farm, allowed the dogs on his property to hunt down the culprit. Pictured (left to right) with their bay dogs, which tracked down the hog, are Kail Jordan, Connor Burke and Thomas Larkin, who donated their catch to provide food for needy families.*

Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH)'s emergency preparedness mobile app, provides public health and safety information throughout Mississippi during emergencies and a full library of disaster preparedness tips based on Hurricane Katrina experiences fifteen years ago. It features breaking news and alerts on emergencies, agency closures, severe weather warnings, precautions to take in a disaster, disease outbreak, or other emergency; step-by-step preparations for floods, severe weather, natural disasters (hurricanes, tornadoes, and earthquakes), nuclear incidents and chemical and biological

threats; MSDH phone numbers, including an emergency hotline, a checklist of items to have on hand in emergencies and an informational section on disease outbreaks. To find the app, search your app store for MS Ready or visit [www.HealthyMS.com/apps](http://www.HealthyMS.com/apps).

**Business scam.** The Mississippi Secretary of State's Office (MSOS) and the Mississippi Attorney General's Office is warning the business community of deceptive letters requesting a \$90.50 fee to order certain business documents from the Secretary of State's Office. Misleading solicitations may require a fee, cite

**NEWS  
NUGGETS**

cont. from page 1

## Assistant Deputy Clerk joins town staff

son position after she told her she was searching for part time work. "It's not easy to recruit people for part-time jobs in which they will stay when full-time work is available," Hester points out.

Ratliff has two grown children -- David, who works at Phillips Bark in Brookhaven, and Heather, who works at New York University in New York City. Her husband is deceased.

In addition to playing bunko with her friends in her spare time, Ratliff is active in Saint Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church in Brookhaven, where she serves on the parish council, is a Eucharist server, and volunteers in the food pantry and as a faith formation teacher.

Ratliff says she enjoys coming to Wesson -- "a close-knit community I like" -- for her job at City Hall, where she works from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. three to four days a week.

cont. from page 1

## Co-Lin to train new employer's workers

County and local agencies in development of Lindbrook Industrial Park and construction of a 54,000 square foot spec industrial building there to lure employers to the area. Keystone, which is buying the spec building for its operations, decided to locate here as a result of this strategy, he said.

"Don't be surprised if we continue to support future industrial development along the same lines," Cox added.

Lincoln County Board of Supervisors President Ed Brown also lauded Lincoln County-Brookhaven Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Garrick Combs for his leadership in the area's industrial development.

Keystone's Buie, a Brookhaven native, and a graduate of Brookhaven High School and Mississippi State University, said his company produces "the brains for the electrical

power grid."

"Our products monitor demands on the grid and protect it from overloading," he explained. "They also control output of wind farms, based on determination of power demand on wind turbines."

Buie said the Keystone Des Moines operation employs 90 persons, but Brookhaven will be the focus of ongoing expansion, with the facility in Lindbrook Industrial Park initially requiring at least thirty workers, possibly more, including the electrical technicians to be trained by Co-Lin, an electrical engineer and designer.

"We decided to expand in early January, plan to start hiring during the second week of March and address building needs at the industrial park by March 31," Buie said.

specific Mississippi statutes, contain a due date for a response, appear similar to a government form, contain a "Customer ID Number" that does not match the state or federal numbers that have been given to a company or the actual ID number and company's date of formation and a warning to make sure that the form's instructions on completing it are followed exactly. Businesses can order a certificate of good standing in the state of Mississippi online at [www.sos.ms.gov](http://www.sos.ms.gov) for \$25. Call the Secretary of State's Business Services Division at 601-359-1633 or 800-256-3494 for information, or go to the Business Services tab -- [sos.ms.gov](http://sos.ms.gov) -- on the MSOS web site.

**Parchman unit closed.** Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves says prisoners are being transferred out of Parchman Unit 29, fulfilling his State of the State promise to close the troubled unit. Some 375 inmates were moved out during an earlier surge of violence, and the remaining prisoners are being transferred and temporarily housed at the nearby Tallahatchie County Correctional Facility. They are being transferred through reclassification and exchanges for lower-security inmates.

**MSU/Co-Lin agreement.** Mississippi State University (MSU) and Co-Lin have signed a memorandum of understanding to formalize partnership programs for students enrolled in technical education programs. The agreement details classroom and/or online courses that must be completed at each institution to fulfill degree requirements MSU's Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) program, which was launched last summer. For more information on the Bachelor of Applied Science program, visit <https://www.msstate.edu/students/bachelor-of-applied-science>.

Buie said Keystone seeks to be a good corporate citizen, with a particular emphasis on giving its employees the opportunity to succeed in an environment designed to encourage success.

"I am giving back to my hometown, where I started on my career journey," he explained. As a student working at a local mobile homes dealer, he decided to study industrial engineering towards becoming a plant manager -- a "dream job I landed at General Electric when I was relatively young." At 35 years old, realizing he had a long work life ahead, Buie decided to find his own company to run, and purchased Keystone twenty-two years ago.

"Now I am coming back to Brookhaven," Buie said.