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Wesson News

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Wesson News
 PO Box 1028
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Volume 5, Number 9

“Good News You Can Use”

September 12, 2017

Vehicle show takes over streets on Saturday

By Bob Arnold

“Headlights & Tailpipes,” a major car and vehicles show sponsored by the Wesson Chamber of Commerce, will again take over downtown streets on Saturday.

Last year, the event drew hundreds of fans, who admired the vehicles on display, talked to the hobbyists who brought their cars, trucks, tractors and motorcycles; shopped at local stores and special vendor booths, and feasted at local restaurants. Twenty-four vehicle owners received awards at the show.

This year, vehicle hobbyists from the Jackson area and throughout Southwest Mississippi are expected to participate, drawing hundreds of fans for the show that will start at 10 a.m. and end with award ceremonies at 3 p.m.

Among upwards of fifty vehicle owners on hand for the event this year will be Shannon Poole, one of a group of small tire and big tire street racers



Wesson News

Last year, Dickie Stevens' 1934 Ford 5W won the Wesson Chamber of Commerce car show's Best of Show award.

followed by the Discovery Channel's *Street Outlaws: New Orleans* series as they try to prove they are the nation's fastest. Poole will bring one of the cars he drives -- a 1969 small tire red Chevelle called Big Dukee or a 1965 C2 Corvette. He and his wife, Cara, will sign autographs, be available for

photos and offer merchandise for sale.

The Chamber will present awards for pre-1972 antique cars and trucks, cars and trucks from 1972 to present, specialty vehicles, tractors and motorcycles. Three judges from outside the Wesson area with vehicle knowledge and experience in other car shows

throughout Mississippi will select first and second place winners in each category and an overall Best of the Show. Three other special awards will be presented:

- Veterans who attend the show or participate in it will vote for a Veterans Choice award winner on a ballot, which they can pick up at the registration tent between 12 noon and 2 p.m.

- Wesson Mayor Alton Shaw will select his favorite vehicle for the Mayor's Choice award.

- Representatives from local businesses, which contributed to fund sponsorship award plaques, will vote for a Business Choice award winner at the registration tent during the show.

Three vendors, who are providing support for the show, will be featured on site:

- Snap-On Tools will have its truck at

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Hurricane response

Wesson News

The recovery work following Hurricanes Harvey and Irma will be a constant for many years to come, but the needs will change from day to day. Although local charities are providing a channel to assist hurricane survivors in the immediate aftermath of the storms, *Wesson News*, as a monthly publication, is not covering these efforts because of the ongoing changes in needs.

Those who want to respond with in-kind or monetary donations and as volunteers to disaster needs as a

result of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma over the long-term can track changing needs and consider how to provide assistance by consulting national organizations that partner with local service and civic groups and churches. Visit www.nvoad.org -- the web site of National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, which encompasses the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, Samaritan's Purse Relief International Relief, the Southern Baptist Convention, the United Methodist Committee on Relief and United Way, among other respected charities.

Town hall staff plans fun and games events

By Bob Arnold

Regular fun and games events for families and, particularly, for elementary school-age children, will utilize the new municipal park and Old School Community Center and become an ongoing part of life in Wesson if the staff at City Hall has anything to say about it.

Town Clerk Mandy Cain and Court Clerk Angela Marie Hester, who are spearheading the efforts, organized

and coordinated the first such event -- the Back to School Bash -- held this past Saturday at the municipal park. From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., parents and their kids came to the park, where there were games and activities, food, and an environment for family fun and fellowship. Cain and Hester had recruited volunteers for the varied game and activities stations, such as face painting, go-fish and bowling; and solicited donations for



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Police Blotter

Special to Wesson News

During August, Wesson Police Department activity encompassed:

Response to:

- One telephone harassment
- Two petty larcenies
- One grand larceny
- Two utility thefts (water service)
- One stalking harassment
- Two trespassing
- One public disturbance
- Two accidents (one with injuries)
- Three general complaints

Citations & arrests:

- One speeding
- Two marijuana possessions in a motor vehicle
- Two driving without a license
- One switched tag
- One no proof of auto liability insurance
- Two court subpoenas
- One taking of a motor vehicle (joy riding)
- One possession of drug paraphernalia
- Two shoplifting
- One simple assault (domestic violence)
- One failure to stop felony (fleeing an officer)
- Two possessions of a controlled substances with firearm enhancement
- One conspiracy to commit a crime

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.

Seawolves ninth in international competition

Special to Wesson News

The tradition of success continued this year for the Co-Lin Seawolves Underwater Robotics Engineering (S.U.R.E.) team, which placed among the top ten at the Marine Advance Technology Education (MATE) International Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) competition for the fifth time in as many years.

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology won the competition at Long Beach (California) City College against some sixty other robotics teams from twenty-five countries, including Co-Lin, and others from all corners of the globe. About half of the teams are from the United States, with others from Norway, Turkey, Russia, Egypt, China and Canada, among other countries.

For the competition, teams build underwater remotely operated vehicles that are tasked with completing various underwater missions in a simulated environment. They involve a number of students in a variety of majors, who form a simulated business around their robots, with a CEO and ad department. Outside of science, technology, electronics and mathematics students (STEM), the Seawolves include students in English, Pre-Medical Biology, Chemistry, Biology Research, Drafting and Design, Graphic Design and Engineering, who write technical reports and press releases for the media and make presentations about the team's robot.

The Seawolf VI, the Co-Lin underwater robot, was challenged to complete a variety of underwater tasks within a limited time frame -- taking a soil sample, opening and closing valves and removing a safety obstacle in a twelve-foot deep pool. Judges also scored the the Seawolves team on its marketing display, technical documentation, and product presentation.

After learning how to build underwater robots and start a robotics team at a two-week training event in Monterey, California, Co-Lin physics and engineering instructor Dr. Kevin McKone and electronics instructor Carey Williamson started the Seawolves six years ago to provide an activity outside the classroom



Special to Wesson News

Members of the Co-Lin Seawolves Underwater Robotics Engineering team, which finished ninth at the international MATE competition, are Abigail Hynum of Wesson, (standing left to right) Holly Steen of Wesson, Dezirae Katt of Bogue Chitto, Samuel Brister of Summit, Timothy Stogner of Bogue Chitto, Reginald King of Wesson, and Mary Thornton and Colby Phillips, both of Brookhaven.

for STEM students. The Seawolves placed fourth and eighth in 2015 and 2016 MATE competitions.

McKone said the competition this year was more intense than ever, but the Seawolves "came together during the competition," with everyone "focused on completing the job."

"The robotics teams have stepped up their game relative to what we have seen in the past," he explained. "The tasks the robot had to complete underwater were much more difficult." He added that the product marketing and presentation is just as important as the performance of the robot in the pool.

McKone and Williamson credited Seawolves team CEO Reginald King for this year's success.

"King was instrumental from the very first phase of design, all the way to completing and testing the robot," said Williamson. McKone added that King "put hundreds of hours of work into designing this year's robot."

Although they have not claimed the top spot just yet, the success of the Seawolves at MATE competition has put Co-Lin on the map in the world of robotics.

"Teams were coming up to us as soon as we arrived at check-in, wanting to see our robot this year," said King. "It was a constant flow of traffic in

our room complementing our robot and asking about our design. These are students from all over the world, and yet they know the name Co-Lin Seawolves."

In the final analysis, the MATE competition is more about education than sport, Williamson said. The teams, like the Seawolves, are completely student-driven, and team members learn skills in electronics, engineering, drafting, and marketing outside of the classroom.

"It's all about the students and what they learn," Williamson said, calling "the cultural exposure," with students meeting other students from all over the world, "priceless."

Businesses have also hired students from the Seawolves team to run remotely operated vehicles in their industry, according to McCone.

"This is a big deal for our area," he said. "Many of our people work offshore, and most oil platforms have these underwater robots. We've had some of our students hired by these companies to drive and maintain underwater robots. SeaTrepid in Robert, Louisiana, has been really supportive of the work we do. During the Macondo Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico, SeaTrepid was one of the companies tasked with cleaning up the spill. These ROVs can be used to stop oil and install fiber optics underwater."



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cont. from page 1

Wesson Car Show

the show and provide counsel to visitors on their tool needs. It donated a 155-piece Blue-Point Combo Driver Set valued at \$480 that will be given to a raffle winner at the 3 p.m. awards ceremony. Raffle tickets will be sold at the registration tent for \$5 each.

•Porter's Body Shop of Brookhaven will bring two special vehicles: Mississippi's only side-loading wrecker to the show and a Tow Mater -- one of the first tow trucks it used in 1960 when it opened.

•Alpha Specialties of Pearl will display some of its trailers. The Load Trail dealer offers the largest selection of trailers in Mississippi, along with accessories, including trailer hitches, LED light bars, aftermarket bumpers, nerf bars, head racks and NORSTAR truck beds.

While parents display vehicles and enjoy the show, their children can have fun in a special kids zone at the Wesson municipal park.

Registration begins at 9 a.m., with judging between 12 noon and 2 p.m. The pre-registration fee is \$15, and \$20 will be charged to entries on the day of the event.

For information, contact the Wesson Chamber of Commerce at 601-643-5000.

cont. from page 1

Town hall staff plans fun and games

refreshments and meals. On hand to help make it an enjoyable experience for all were athletes, cheerleaders and members of the Beta Club from Wesson Attendance Center and representatives from businesses and community organizations.

"The idea was to provide something to do, bring a broad sector of the community together to create a successful family-oriented event, utilize town facilities and generate a greater sense of community," Cain explains.

Based on the first event as a model, Cain and Hester are planning a fall festival for Halloween evening (October 31), a small town Christmas celebration to start immediately following the annual Christmas parade on December 1, and a movie night in the park, as yet unscheduled, in November. Although still ideas with no firm plans, a New Years carnival and other family-oriented fun and games events to be held every four to six weeks and to tie-in with holidays and other occasions are being considered.

"We don't want to duplicate anything, such as Wesson Attendance Center's annual Red Ribbon Festival or the Wesson Baptist Church Fall Festival," Cain says. "Other events

have occurred over the years, but have not been held regularly. We're talking about new events that provide regular

opportunities for fellowship among families. The movie night will feature a family-friendly film and perhaps a fire-pit for roasting marshmallows as well as traditional entertainment snacks. Movie-goers will bring outdoor furniture and blankets for their comfort. The small town Christmas celebration will maintain the traditions of Santa meeting kids at the fire house, caroling under the library pavilion, a reception at the library, and include new activities as volunteers make them possible.

"Our focus is on mobilizing volunteers and generating in-kind and funds donations to support events," Cain says. "We're contacting churches, civic and service organizations, and businesses to participate. We're looking forward to increasing participation of Wesson Attendance Center and Co-Lin. It's about coming together as a community to do something."

For information or to volunteer and make donations to support events, contact Mandy Cain or Angela Maria Hester at City Hall by telephone (601-643-5221) or email (Mandy.Cain@wessonms.org or Angela.Hester@wessonms.org).



Wesson News

Movies were part of events last year following the Christmas parade. Wesson City Hall staff envisions ongoing movie nights as part of a plan to develop regular fun and games events.

activities for families, involve the total community in the planning and implementation, and will be ongoing year in and year out."

The Halloween event will have largely the same format as the Back to School Bash with fun and games stations created and staffed by volunteers, refreshments, and

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Brookhaven Little Theater celebrates 50 years

By Guest Columnist Shaw Furlow

Back in the mid to late seventies, a small group of like-minded friends tried to start a local, amateur theatre troupe at Crystal Springs. We chose a director, selected a play, commenced rehearsals and eventually presented it to an audience that filled the small community center. Although the play was semi-successful, we found it impossible to continue the venture. Lack of financial support, an ongoing facility and time brought down the curtain on the Copiah Amateur Theatre after one performance.



I tell this story to congratulate the Brookhaven Little Theatre (BLT) on the opening of its fiftieth season. BLT is the second longest continuously running amateur theatre in Mississippi, second only to Natchez Little Theatre. Over fifty years, the troupe has moved from presenting plays at Lampton Auditorium, Co-Lin and Brookhaven Elementary School with a handful of actors to owning the Haven Theater, a near state-of-the-art facility in downtown Brookhaven, and producing six plays or musicals every year. Quite an accomplishment. There have been tough and lean times certainly, but current and previous boards of directors have carefully plotted a course that has secured success for the future.

In June, BLT renovated stage and dressing room areas at the Haven with a \$60,000 investment that added a curtain and much-needed backstage space that had been dark

and dangerous for actors and stage crew. A nice new proscenium now frames the stage, and new lighting and sound contribute to enhanced productions. Ironically, the renovation included installation of a screen that allows for showing films and video programs again at the old movie theater. In addition, doors in the rear of the building were updated, and emergency exit doors were added. As money becomes available, renovations will continue.

Season tickets for BLT's upcoming season are still available for \$80. It will start September 29, 30, October 1, 6, 7 and 8 with the Tony Award Winning play, *Driving Miss Daisy*. Directed by Joanna Sproles, the two-act play will star Pat Young, Sue Junkin, Jeffery Bryant and Kris Douglas. Sara Underwood, a veteran of countless plays at BLT, is assisting Celeste Lowry in directing the second show -- a musical version of the much beloved movie, *Miracle on 34th Street*. Rounding out the new BLT season is the Neil Simon comedy, *The Odd Couple* and the venerable stage musical, *Peter Pan*. The BLTEENS production, with its youthful cast,

will be *Grease, Jr.*, followed by the BLT Haven Kids Drama Camp production of *The Lion King*.

Underwood, who moved to Brookhaven shortly before she married attorney Don Underwood, exemplifies the type of people who have made BLT what it is today. She and her husband attended the last play BLT produced at Brookhaven Elementary School -- *Mousetrap* -- and were hooked. She had been acting and singing since the age of six, and the new facility, the Haven, as an old movie theatre, was the perfect setting for her. She and her husband have appeared in shows as lead players, chorus members, bit players; worked as stage hands, as well as directed productions -- in short, doing anything needed. Her first play was *Last of the Red*

Hot Lovers, with the late Burlin Walker, known in Wesson for his many years at Co-Lin.

"He (Walker) was so easy to work with," Underwood recalled. "It was the only time he and I were on stage

together."

Miracle on 34th Street will be her

fourth production as a director.

"I first directed a one-act play by Neil Simon," she said. "One set. The next was *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*, with a huge cast and multiple set and costume changes. I had a lot of help!" Underwood and her husband are Landress Award winners -- the award named for BLT co-founder and driving force behind the theater's early success, the late John Landress of Wesson.

The BLT board recently took a major step in hiring Emily Waterloo as its first Executive Artistic Director to oversee the Haven building and the business side of all the productions.

"There are so many things that go on in our building besides our plays," Waterloo said. Besides BLT's regular season, Brookstock Singer/Songwriter night as well as Brookstock Too are annual events. Now, with a screen in place, there are more opportunities for movies, as well.

"Soon, we will begin phase one of renovating the Marquee Room at the Haven, with a new ladies rest room that will be ADA compliant," Waterloo added.

The old movie theatre, like so much of downtown Brookhaven, has found new life. Fifty years is quite an accomplishment, and BLT is a jewel that sparkles because of creative minds and community support.

Support the arts, my friends. It's good for the soul.

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 for Brookhaven Music and Sound.



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New businesses open in Wesson

Wesson News

In recent weeks, two new businesses -- a discount retailer and an auto repair shop -- have opened in Wesson.

Mayor Alton Shaw, other community leaders and members of the Wesson Chamber of Commerce celebrated the grand opening of Family Dollar Store with the new retailer's employees and members of their families at a ribbon-cutting last month. Family Dollar, a part of the Dollar Tree retail organization based in Chesapeake, Virginia, located an 8,000-square foot structure on Highway 51 next to the police station, across from the post office on property it acquired from Brad Turner. The discount retailer offers an assortment of merchandise for the whole family, ranging from household cleaners to name brand foods, from health and beauty aids to toys, from apparel for every age to home fashions at prices mostly below \$10. The combined Dollar Tree-Family Dollar organization generates more than \$19 billion in annual sales through 13,000 stores in the 48 continental U.S. states and five Canadian provinces.

The auto repair shop located on Main Street has reopened under

the ownership and management of Dean Runyan, whose experience encompasses twenty years as a heavy equipment mechanic and six years as an agricultural mechanic. Runyan Automotive works on all types of vehicles. Its full range of services includes engine, clutch and transmission repair; replacement and installation of brakes and tires and oil changes, among other work. The new owner of the repair shop says previous owners closed down due to competing personal priorities and not for lack of business in Wesson. Runyan employs an assistant mechanic and two part time office support people.

Earlier this month, the Wesson Chamber of Commerce also helped Smokin' Oaks BBQ & Steakhouse celebrate its business reorganization at a ribbon-cutting. The restaurant, just outside Wesson across from the Lake Lincoln State Park entrance, has been open for several months. The eatery serves quality smoked and grilled meats and catfish for dinners on Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 5 p.m.-9 p.m. and has an all-occasion catering service. It will offer smoked turkeys and hams during the holiday season.



Wesson News

At Smokin' Oaks BBQ and Steakhouse for its grand opening ribbon cutting were (left to right) Deemie Letchworth (Chamber of Commerce), restaurant workers Smantha Stuart, Gracie Thompson, Kinsey Dalhin, Brandon Stewart (owner/manager), Amanda Foret, Danie Seibert, Sydney Jackson and Chamber of Commerce members Marilyn Britt and Stephen Ashley.



Special to Wesson News

At Family Dollar store grand opening last month were (left to right) Laney Hewitt, Town Court Clerk Angela Hester, Alderman Billy Ellison, store employees Dillon Lyle and Rasaad Smith, Mayor Alton Shaw, Ronnie Cain, Town Clerk Mandy Cain, Chamber of Commerce members Marilyn Britt and Janet Currie, store manager Juanita Cole, store employee Miranda Jackson, Leah Cole, store employees Camelia Brooks, Sequoya Smith and Redman Forrest; Emily Cole, Isaac Cole, Joshua Cole and Chamber of Commerce member Deemie Letchworth.



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West Nile Virus in Lincoln County.

Two Lincoln County residents are among forty-one persons across Mississippi who have been diagnosed with West Nile Virus (WNV), which is spread by bites of infected mosquitoes. Symptoms, in general, are mild (fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, a rash, muscle weakness or swollen lymph nodes) if present at all, although serious complications and even death are possible in rare cases. Persons with symptoms should consult with a family medical practitioner. To prevent infection, the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) advises avoiding mosquitoes and areas where they are prevalent, if possible; wearing loose, light colored long pants and long sleeve shirts or staying indoors where mosquitoes are present; using mosquito repellent with DEET (30 percent for adults and 10 percent or less for children from two to twelve years old) and removing sources of standing water. In Lincoln County, MSDH has been spraying and increasing larval surveillance. Outside Lincoln County, WNV cases have been reported in the following counties: Bolivar (1), Clarke (1), Clay (1), Covington (1), Forrest (4), Hinds (8), Humphreys (2), Jones (1), Lauderdale (1), Leflore (1), Lowndes (1), Madison (4), Monroe (1), Noxubee (1), Perry (1), Rankin (6) and Scott (1) Wilkinson (1) and Yazoo (1). Two deaths have occurred in Forrest and Humphreys Counties.

Budget-coping. The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) is delaying work on highway expansion and improvements due to the tight state budget, including projects at Jackson, Hernando, Greenville, Philadelphia, Oxford and between Ocean Spring and Gautier. While some lawmakers are advocating higher gasoline taxes to pay for roads and bridges, Lieutenant Governor Tate Reeves wants MDOT for focus on saving money. The Mississippi Forestry Commission is also reorganizing, with a \$2.67 million shortfall in its funding. The



Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin Social Science Division Chairperson and history instructor David Higgs made a presentation "George Wratten and the Apache Prisoners of War" at the Western History Symposium in Prescott, Arizona. Higgs has been researching this topic for nearly 20 years, with much of his work gaining national recognition. The symposium was sponsored by the Sharlot Hall Museum and the Prescott Corral of Westerners.

reorganization includes consolidation of eleven districts into four new regions, with elimination of about seventy-five jobs. Private landowners may have a different contact persons or offices for services in their area. For information, visit: www.mfc.ms.gov/wildfire-report.

Mississippi State Fair. The Mississippi State Fair will run from October 4 to 15, with musical entertainment, carnival rides, food, livestock and exhibitors on 105 acres at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds and in the Mississippi Trade Mart in Jackson. The event, which showcases Mississippi's finest agriculture, art and industry, is one of largest and best-attended expositions in the world, with more than 700,000 visitors annually. For information, visit www.msfair.net or www.facebook.com/Mississippi-State-Fairgrounds.

New director of Co-Lin program. Paula Yarborough of Bogue Chitto, a 1994 Co-Lin graduate, has joined the college as director of the Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) program. Yarborough, who earned her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Medical Technology from the University of Southern Mississippi, has worked at Southwest



Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin Diesel Equipment Technology Instructor Steven Esch (left) congratulates Devondrick Brister of Jayess (center) and Andy Williams of Wesson on receiving Puckett Machinery Diesel Technology scholarships. This scholarship, which is funded jointly by Puckett Machinery Company and the Caterpillar Dealer Excellence Fund, assists students seeking a career as heavy equipment and/or diesel engine technicians.

Mississippi Regional Medical Center in McComb for twenty years. Medical Laboratory Technology involves the collection and analysis of blood/body fluids to help physicians diagnose and/or monitor patient conditions. In the MLT Co-Lin program, students learn to perform these tasks using high tech instrumentation, test kits, and microscopes for jobs at local hospitals and clinics or continuing education in medical technology to qualify for supervisor/director positions or opportunities in teaching. Applications

NEWS NUGGETS

are currently being accepted for the 2018 MLT program spring class at Co-Lin. The deadline is November 1, 2017. For more information, visit <https://careertraining.colin.edu/mlt>.

Rural Dentist Program selects scholar. A recent Co-Lin graduate has been selected as an undergraduate participant in the Mississippi Rural Dentists Scholarship Program

(MRDSP). Caitlyn Upton of Natchez, now a senior at Mississippi College, is one of nine scholarship recipients in 2017-2018, who demonstrated the necessary commitment and academic achievement to become competent, well-trained rural pediatric or general dentists. MRDSP, which the state legislature created in 2013, offers two years of undergraduate academic support, personalized mentoring from practicing rural dentists, including clinical experience in a rural setting; and Dental Admission Test preparation. The selected scholars may receive up to \$35,000 per year. Upon completion of all dental admissions requirements, the scholar can be admitted to the University of MS School of Dentistry and, after graduation from dental school, must practice general or pediatric dentistry in a rural or medically underserved community with a population up to 10,000 and twenty miles from a medically-served area for four years. MRDSP is disbursing \$350,000 for scholars in 2017-2018 and, with continued legislative support, hopes to grow to 12 scholarships totaling \$420,000 by 2018. For more information, contact MRDSP Associate Director at 601-815-0654, jdcoleman@umc.edu or <http://www.umd.edu/mrdsp>.



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Community Calendar

September & October weather forecast: The Old Farmer's Almanac calls for an average temperature of 78° (two degrees above average) in September and 67° (two degrees above average) in October with precipitation 4 of inches (two inches below average) in September and 6 inches (three inches above average) in October. **September 11-22: A few t-storms, warm; September 23-30: Sunny, cool; October 1-7: Sunny, turning warm; October 8-13: A few t-storms.**

SEPTEMBER 12

Pesticide Applicator Certification Training. Certification is a legal requirement for persons employing restricted-use pesticides in any situation, as well as for those individuals who apply general-use products in a commercial situation and must be licensed under state and federal regulations. Copiah County Office of the Mississippi State University Extension Service (2040 Gallman Road, Hazlehurst). 9 a.m. Contact 601-892-1809.

American Heroes, Institute for Learning in Retirement workshop. John Armstrong, a Hazlehurst attorney, and Jack Rutland, an executive at State Bank & Trust Company, will speak. Thames Center on Co-Lin campus. 9 a.m. See story elsewhere in this issue.

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.

SEPTEMBER 13

Keep Copiah County Beautiful meets. USDA Service Center (27169 Highway 28, Suite A, Hazlehurst). 9 a.m.

Brookhaven Regional Art Guild (BRAG) two-day acrylic/ watercolor workshop conducted by Jan Wilken starts and continues on September 14. \$200 for BRAG members/\$300 for non-members. For information, contact brookhavenregionalartguild@gmail.com.

SEPTEMBER 14

American Legion John Edwards Post 12 meets. All members, veterans and their spouses are welcome. 4 p.m. Jimmy Furlow Senior Citizens Center, Brookhaven. For information, call 601-835-8173.

Widows Support Group meets. The group supports widows, who are walking through the grief process, with programs on pertinent issues related to their situation. Brookhaven. 5 p.m. For further information, contact Becky Vaughn Furlow at bvaughnfurlow@gmail.com or 601-540-4308.

Institute for Learning in Retirement luncheon. Sarah Kountouris from Keep Mississippi Beautiful will speak. \$10. Thames Center on Co-Lin campus. 10:30 a.m. See story elsewhere in this issue.

SEPTEMBER 16

"Headlights & Tailpipes," a car and vehicles show sponsored by the Wesson Chamber of Commerce. Downtown Wesson. Registration for vehicle owners from 9 a.m.-noon. Show starts at 10 a.m. with awards presented at 3 p.m. See story elsewhere in this issue.

The Southwest Chapter of ABATE flower run. Flowers will be placed on graves of members who have died. The run will start at Crossroads Exxon at the intersection of Highways 51 & 84 at 9 a.m.

SEPTEMBER 18

Institute for Learning and Retirement trip to Mississippi Gulf Coast begins, with return on September 19. \$140 double/\$180 single. See story elsewhere in this issue

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.

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.

SEPTEMBER 19

Brookhaven-Lincoln County Library Second Grade Library Tours begin and continue through September 22. Friends of the Library (FOL), the sponsor, needs at least ten volunteers each day. FOL will meet on September 14 at the library at 5 p.m. to stuff bags and do a walk-thru in preparation for the tours. Contact Kathy McGehee at kathymcgehee52@gmail.com.

Copiah County Master Gardeners monthly meeting. Mississippi State University Extension Office at Gallman. 6 p.m.

American Legion Post #79 meets. American Legion Lodge on Main Street, Wesson. 6:30 p.m. For information, call 601-563-5438.

SEPTEMBER 20

WorkKeys Assessment for Career Readiness Certificate. Also October 4 & 18. Register in advance at 601-643-8707. Thames Center at Co-Lin. 8:45 a.m.-12 noon.

SEPTEMBER 21

Fifty Plus Club luncheon. Anderson Building on Co-Lin campus. 10:30 a.m.

Helping Others to Be Their Best, Institute for Learning in Retirement featuring representatives of organizations that help men and women rebuild their lives and support students. Thames Center on Co-Lin campus. 1 p.m. See story elsewhere in this issue.

Brookhaven Regional Arts Guild meets. Members will make plans for BRAG October show and choose officers, who assume their positions in January. Lincoln County Library. 5:30 p.m.

Presentation on paying for long-term care by Joe Crawford. Refreshments will be served. The Aspen of Brookhaven, 500 Silver Cross Drive, Brookhaven. 6 p.m. For information, call 601-455-1061.

SEPTEMBER 26

Medicaid Fraud & Computer Safety and Security, Institute for Learning in Retirement workshop with valuable consumer protection advice. Thames Center on Co-Lin campus. 10 a.m. See story elsewhere in this issue.

SEPTEMBER 27

Beginner & Intermediate Word. Covers basic commands and ribbon navigation techniques, starting, saving and retrieving a document, basic formatting, and document design.. September 20 registration deadline. \$10 fee. Thames Center at Co-Lin. 9 a.m.-11 a.m. (Beginner class). 1 p.m.-3 p.m. (Intermediate class). For information, call 601-643-8707.

SEPTEMBER 28

Wesson Lions Club meets. Student cafeteria conference room at Co-Lin. 6:30 p.m.

OCTOBER 3

Rock-n-Roll is Here to Stay, Institute for Learning in Retirement workshop focusing on the 1950s with a short film on the history of rock-n-roll, dancing to the oldies, bingo, refreshments. Thames Center on Co-Lin campus. 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

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

OCTOBER 6

Institute for Learning in Retirement trip to Sanford Village at Collins, Mississippi, and Shady Acres. \$10 fee includes lunch. See story elsewhere in this issue.

OCTOBER 9

Lincoln County Master Gardners meet the second Monday of each month. Mississippi State University Lincoln County Agricultural Extension Service at Lincoln County Court House in Brookhaven 5 p.m. The meeting is not open to the public, but persons interested in becoming a Master Gardener should contact Rebecca Bates at 601-835-3460.

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.

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.

Brookhaven 55 South Flea Market is open on Saturdays and Sundays next to the Lincoln County Civic Center. Ten per cent of the profits each weekend are donated to a local charity. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Women's Foundation of Mississippi Grant

Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin has received a \$50,000 grant from the Women's Foundation of Mississippi (WFM) to support 60 female students through the Complete Co-Lin program during the 2017-2018 academic year.

The program encompasses:

- Thirty selected women each semester;
- Developmental classes in which the women students by-pass intermediate classes and are placed directly in the college credit English Composition I and/or College Algebra courses;
- Additional instructors and aids for each course;
- Outside-classroom tutors provided by on-campus student organizations;
- Lunch and Learn seminars to motivate and encourage participants;
- Messaging that promotes women's success.

The multiple instructors, tutors, and a go-to person whenever they need help will create a network of support for the participating students, according to Co-Lin's Dean of Academic Instruction Dr. Stephanie Duguid. "Two instructors will help participants in class and tutoring opportunities

will be available through the college's Writing Center," Duguid explained.

The "Lunch and Learn" seminars will feature career women as guest speakers who expose the participating women to various career paths and show them that they can achieve their career goals, just like other professional women. Billboards, banners and digital media will reinforce the message that women can succeed.

"The overall goal of the program is to encourage and empower women," said Duguid. "Success can be anything for a particular woman. It may be finishing a few classes, getting a job earning a sustainable wage for a family, or showing children she is successful. We're providing the tools and resources to help women achieve their goals. The program is created for women of all ages and educational backgrounds. A woman may feel she will be the oldest person in class, or that she has been out of school too long to succeed. That is simply not the case. In class, a woman will see that there are many women just like her, getting a fresh start on their academic goals."

For more information about the Women's Foundation of Mississippi, visit www.womensfoundationms.org.

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Co-Lin ranking, fall baseball & hunting

Special to Wesson News

On the eve of the 2017 football season, the National Junior Colleges Athletic Association (NJCAA) ranked Co-Lin number eighteen in a pre-season national poll before the Wolfpack defeated Mississippi Delta Community College 31-6 and Coahoma 34-6 in its first two games on the road.

Co-Lin joined four other Mississippi teams in NJCAA rankings: East Mississippi at number two, Northwest Mississippi at number six, Northeast Mississippi at number nine and Holmes Community College at number eleven. Arizona Western Community College, national runner-up in 2016 NJCCA play, was number one in the pre-season poll, with defending national champion Garden City (Kansas) Community College at number three.

The Wolves come off a 6-3 season last year in which they finished number three nationally, and its coaching staff is confident about this year's prospects with an offense built around speed, a strong defensive line and linebacker core and a manageable schedule compared to last year -- not having to face East Mississippi, Northwest or Northeast. Co-Lin faces a major test against Holmes at Wesson

on October 12. If the team can remain healthy and the defense can keep it in ballgames, the Wolves should have a good season, the coaches say.

Between seasons, Co-Lin signed 29 new players and added two coaches.

On offense, the Wolves signed Michael Alexander, a wide receiver from Velma Jackson High School; Jalen Bell, an offensive lineman from Amory High School; Jaquarius Blake, a wide receiver from Jefferson County High School; De'Martre Collins, a wide receiver from Franklin County High School; Hayden Davis, a quarterback from Madison-Ridgeland Academy; Deion Dampier, a running back from Mendenhall High School; Malik Gray, a wide receiver from Hazlehurst High School; Jay Jimison, an athletic player from Lake High School; Dillion Kiner, an offensive lineman from Velma Jackson High School; Tristan Moseley, an offensive lineman from Bayou Academy; Rico Owens, a running back from Greenwood High School; George Scott, a wide receiver from Adams County Christian High School; Chris Sikes, an offensive lineman from Adams County Christian High School; Nick Tiblier, an offensive lineman from Biloxi High School; and Charles Hartfield, a wide receiver from Oak Grove High School.

Defensively, fourteen new players came on board: Harrell Blackmon, a defensive back from Calloway High School; Swayze Bozeman, a defensive back from Tri-County Academy; Chrishawn Davis, a defensive back from Holmes County High School; Noah Elliss, a defensive lineman from Valor Christian High School in Littleton, CO; JaKaiszer

Jacorian Wren, a defensive lineman from Broad Street High School.

Quarterback Woody Barrett, who was redshirted at Auburn last year, also transferred to Co-Lin and will share playing time with Hayden Davis. Rico Owens and Deion Dampier are expected fill gaps left by graduation in the backfield.

Meanwhile, former Co-Lin quarterback Micah Davis and Bernard Goodrum, who served as a graduate assistant at Troy University and coached and taught in the Griffin-Spalding County School at Griffin, Georgia, joined the Wolfpack coaching staff. Davis, who graduated from Co-Lin in 2008, has taken on an offensive role with an emphasis on the quarterbacks and Goodrum, a Fort Valley State University graduate from Griffin, is serving in his first coaching job. Davis played quarterback for 2010 NCAA Division II runner-up Delta State and has more than five years of coaching experience at the Division I level with Western Kentucky University, the University of Louisiana at Monroe, and the University of Kansas, most recently where he coached quarterbacks and running backs.

Fall baseball for high school players. The Co-Lin fall baseball league for high school athletes will play from October

cont. on page 15

SPORTS SHORTS

Glass, a linebacker from Greenwood High School; Jalen Holland, a linebacker from Amory High School; Kendell Jones, a defensive lineman from Shoemaker High School in Shoemaker, TX; Aritaeus Johnson, a defensive back from Poplarville High School; Zyshaawn Rawls, a linebacker from Puckett High School; Jakobe Richards, a defensive back from East Side High School; Kaleb Robinson, a defensive lineman from Holmes County High School; Jaquaveon Tillman, a defensive back from Hazlehurst High School; Edwin Whitlock, a defensive back from Mendenhall High School; and

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Wesson students performance strong on state tests

Special to Wesson News

Wesson students, in general, outperformed their counterparts in eleven schools in Copiah, Lawrence and Lincoln Counties and across the state on the 2016-2017 Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) tests, which measure whether or not they are meeting or exceeding grade-level expectations in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics in grades three through eight, English II and Algebra.

Within five evaluation Levels -- low achievement (1 and 2), general mastery of knowledge and skills (3) and proficient and advanced (4 and 5), the combined performance at Levels 4 and 5 of Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) students exceeded overall performance of students across Mississippi on eleven of fourteen MAAP assessments. Among the eleven area schools, WAC students at levels 4 and 5 were number one in three assessments, two in five MAAP tests and three and four each on two assessments.

MAAP is the new name for the Mississippi Assessment Program (MAP), which was first administered by the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) in the 2015-16 school year. The MAAP assessments show the progress of students toward academic goals and their skills and knowledge capacity to succeed in jobs and college. Mississippi teachers helped develop the tests, which

are aligned to the Mississippi College and Career Ready Standards. Students scoring at Levels 4 or 5 are meeting or exceeding grade-level expectations. The scores suggest that students have a thorough understanding of grade-level content and are on the right track to being ready for college-level coursework. Students scoring at Level 1 or 2 need more assistance in learning and need greater support. MAAP raises the level of expectations for all students and provides parents a better picture of where their children are on their path to college or career.

Overall, students across the state showed gains in both ELA and mathematics. The percentage of students meeting or exceeding grade-level expectations on ELA assessments increased from 32.6 percent in 2015-16 to 34.9 percent in 2016-17, and from 31.1 percent to 36.8 percent on mathematics assessments. Statewide, the percentage of students scoring in Level 1 dropped in ELA and mathematics, while the students scoring in Level 5 increased over the previous school year.

"Student achievement in Mississippi is steadily improving, thanks to the hard work and focused efforts of teachers, administrators, parents and students," said Dr. Carey Wright, state superintendent of education. "We have raised expectations for what students can accomplish, and our students are meeting and exceeding these higher

expectations."

The MAAP results showed the following overall results:

- 22 districts had greater than 45% of all students scoring Level 4 or 5 in ELA, compared to 14 districts the previous year.
- 32 districts had greater than 45% of all students scoring Level 4 or 5 in mathematics, compared to 15 districts the previous year.

Slight decreases in proficiency in fourth grade ELA (-1.3%) and English II (-1.2%) were due, in part, to significant increases in the number of students taking each test and the large proportion of students scoring at Level 2.

WAC student performance at proficient and advanced levels exceeded overall performance of students across the state in ELA in grades three (47.6% vs. 36%), four (46.9% vs. 31.3%), five (46.5% vs. 37.3%), six (51.5% vs. 40%), seven (39.3% vs. 30.1%) and eight (35.1% vs. 34.2%); mathematics in grades four (44.5% vs. 35.8%), five (39.5% vs. 33.7%), six (51.6% vs. 37.7%) and eight (42.9% vs. 36.6%); and English II (50.2% vs. 35.9%)

The poorest performance by WAC students was on the third grade MAAP assessment, with twenty one per cent of them at proficient and advanced levels compared to 40.1 per cent statewide -- tenth among area schools. While 40.7 per cent of WAC students demonstrated

general mastery of knowledge and skills on this assessment, 38.3 per cent of them were at Levels one and two. At levels four and five, WAC students also underperformed state students in the grade seven mathematics MAAP assessment (37.1% vs. 43.8%) and Algebra (29.1% vs. 31.4%).

Throughout the area, most tested students scored at Level 3. Students at Enterprise Attendance Center and West Lincoln Attendance Center in the Lincoln County School District and Topeka Tilton Attendance Center in the Lawrence County School District, as well as WAC, also performed well at Levels 4 and 5. Among twenty-three students tested in Algebra at Hazlehurst Middle School, almost seventy percent scored at Level 4.

While no single test can give a complete picture of achievement, annual assessments measure performance of meeting grade-level expectations and can provide important information about student progress and areas for improvement, especially when combined with student grades and teacher feedback.

"Student achievement is steadily rising across the state, which is the direct result of the great teaching and great learning that is taking place every day in Mississippi classrooms," Wright said. "I am extremely proud of all of our students, teachers and school leaders for reaching higher levels of achievement."



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2003 Nissan Altima SE 3.5 V6, Sunroof, Leather, Bose Music, Bargain Priced;
2004 Ford Thunderbird Convertible, Only 66K Miles, Hardtop and Soft top, Leather Seats, Super Sharp;
2011 Toyota Tacoma Crew Cab One Owner SR5, 2WD, LWB, Power Windows, V6 Engine;
2008 Lexus IS 250, Local Well Kept Fun Car, Sunroof and Leather;
2013 Chevy Silverado Ex Cab 1500, One Owner, Bed Cover, Always Service, Small V8, CD, Bargain Priced;
2006 Mercury Grand Marquis LS with Leather, Sunroof, Loaded, Sharp;
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Author shares family history



Wesson News

Author Dot Ainsworth Day autographs her book.

Wesson News

A local author, who recorded her family history in a book, challenged members of a Fifty Plus Club audience to follow her example in expressing “that part in me that searches for significance” and longs “to have lived a life that mattered, that had influence, that helped someone reach for the stars and to know in the deeper reaches of my soul and heart that all was not vanity.”

For these reasons, Dot Ainsworth Day said she retold the Ainsworth family history in *Memories of the Sharecropper's Family* -- “its days in the baser realities and God's redemptive work to help this family aspire to more.”

In a stream-of-consciousness style presentation not unlike the style of her work, Day shared many of the stories in her book about her “daddy,” “mama,” brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles in southwest Mississippi from her perspective as the youngest of eight children, a sister and daughter, who became an English teacher and, later, a family systems therapist. She drew on her work in describing the various paths she and her siblings took to escape from the drudgery of farm work and humble circumstances.

The Ainsworths, she summarized, were tillers of the soil, hard working, humble in situations and proud in spirit. She noted that the symbolism of the Ainsworth coats of arms with shovels and battle axes provides a succinct image of a family of agricultural workers and fighters and recalled her father's admonition to “remember your good

name” as the sum of the family's legacy, which trapped many of her brothers and sisters in addictive behaviors, while they persevered and prospered despite their shared past and pain.

“As a sharecropper, daddy worked someone else's land and received a one-third share of profits,” Day explained. “We shopped at the landowner's store.” Day's large family was an advantage, with more help for her father, she pointed out.

“Daddy was a serious man and considered education important,” Day added. “He urged us to ‘make something of yourself.’ Mama, on the other hand, enjoyed good times and was something of prankster.” Her love helped make up for the must-be-earned acceptance of her daddy, whose pride was a fearsome taskmaster, she said.

As a poor family, Day and her brothers and sisters made their own fun with old mattress springs and wood boards they found on the property, she recounted. Yet the family did purchase a television set in 1955. “We watched anything,” Day said.

A dark family secret revolved around Day's Aunt Aletha, her father's younger sister.

“She had two children and was pregnant with a third when her husband murdered her for the insurance proceeds,” she related. He later remarried and killed his second wife, as well. No one in our family talked about it.”

“It was a simple life, but had plenty of drama,” Day concluded.

Memories of the Sharecropper's Family is available for \$25 at www.amazon.com.

Self-exam can help beat thyroid cancer

By Guest Columnist
Dr. Stephanie Duguid

September is Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month. With all of the medical advances and treatments, it is hard to believe that thyroid cancer is one of the few cancers that is actually on the rise in the United States. About 56,870 people, including 42,470 women and 14,400 men, will be diagnosed with thyroid cancer in 2017 in the United States, according to the American Cancer Society. About 1,090 women and 920 men will die of thyroid cancer in 2017.



The thyroid is a butterfly shaped gland located at the base of the neck and just below the Adam's apple that produces hormones which regulate metabolism. Cancer occurs when normal thyroid cells divide out of control and form tumors. Thyroid cancer occurs in all age groups and is now the fifth most common cancer in women. Beyond gender, other risk factors include family history, being over 40 years old, and prior radiation exposure. There are several types of thyroid cancer, with papillary the most common (in 80 percent of cases). Thyroid cancer patients face an increased risk of a second cancer.

Most thyroid nodules are benign, or not cancerous. A simple Neck Check Self-Exam in the mirror can find them. Looking in the mirror, locate the thyroid (above the collarbone, below the Adam's apple). Tip your head back and swallow some water. As you swallow, check for any bulges or protrusions. Repeat this process several times. If you have any concerns, see your physician. Even a biopsy may not determine

whether it is cancer. You may not need to go off your thyroid hormone replacement for a scan.

Symptoms are not experienced in the early stages of the disease. As the cancer develops, however, common symptoms are difficulty swallowing, breathing, or speaking; a lump in front of the neck, hoarseness, swollen lymph nodes and neck or throat pain. Small papillary thyroid cancer may not require aggressive treatment.

Thyroid cancer is usually treatable when detected early. Most forms of thyroid cancer – especially at Stages I, II and III — are highly survivable. Yet thyroid cancer patients face an overall 30% increased risk of developing a second primary cancer. That risk is highest in the first year for non-melanoma skin cancer, prostate cancer, kidney cancer, adrenal gland cancer, and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Over time, there are also elevated risks for leukemia and soft tissue sarcoma and cancers of the salivary gland, pharynx, stomach, small intestine, colon, rectum, bone, female breast, brain and parathyroid gland.

There are many treatment options -- surgical removal of the cancer tissue, radiation, chemotherapy or medication to suppress the thyroid. Consult a physician for guidance,

advice, and treatment options.

Perform a self-check today! If you have any concerns, meet with your physician. Here's to your

health!

Stephanie Duguid is Assistant Dean of Academic Instruction and the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Division Chair 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.

LIVING + HEALTHY+

Azaleas bring color variety to fall



Special to Wesson News

By Guest Columnist Gary R. Bachman

Along with cooler temperatures and beautiful color from our trees, the floral display from our multi-season blooming azaleas make for a wonderful fall season. Popular fall-flowering azaleas include the Robin Hill and Encore types.

Robin Hill azaleas resulted from hybridization work done by Robert Gartrell of New Jersey in the 1950's and 1960's. Most years, Robin Hill varieties will bloom for six months. They bloom for two to three months in the spring and another three to four months in late summer

through early winter. Robin Hill varieties include Conversation Piece, Watchet, White Moon, Dorothy Rees, Gwenda, Sir Robert and Sherbrook, with colors that vary from white to pink, blush, bicolor and more.

Also try the Encore azalea. Many of the Encore azaleas have improved cold hardiness, sun tolerance and lace bug resistance. Encore azaleas bloom during three seasons – spring, summer and fall. New Encore varieties include Autumn Sunburst, Autumn Lily, Autumn Jewel and Autumn Ivory.

Encore azaleas were developed by Louisiana nursery grower and plant breeder Buddy Lee of Independence. Buddy started crossing traditional spring blooming azaleas with the rare Taiwanese summer blooming azalea. After many years, the Encore azaleas were ready for their gardening debut.

Azalea varieties that bloom more than once a year should be pruned in the spring within two to four weeks after the bloom cycle is complete. Fertilize in the spring with a slow release

fertilizer and apply mulch. Azaleas need a partial sun/shade planting location. They do best in a well-drained raised

landscape bed. A soil pH of 5.5 is ideal. Uniformity in soil moisture is important.

Fall is the perfect time to add these beautiful bloomers to your landscape. Check with your local nurseries. They should have plenty available for your garden.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rebecca Bates is the Mississippi State University Agricultural Extension Agent based at the Lincoln County Court House in Brookhaven.

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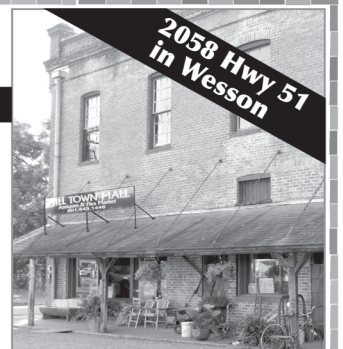
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Officials attend training conference

Special to Wesson News

Wesson Mayor Alton Shaw, town Aldermen, City Hall staff and the town public works director attended the intensive three-day training and leadership development program at the Mississippi Municipal League's (MML) 86th Annual Conference at the Mississippi Coliseum & Convention Center in Biloxi, Mississippi.

At the event attended by some 3,000 municipal elected officials, employees, state agency representatives, legislators, exhibitors and others, Wesson Alderman Billy Ellison graduated from the basic Certified Municipal Officials Education Program (CMOEP) along with more than 200 other municipal officials.

In the Wesson conference contingent besides Shaw and Ellison were Aldermen Stephen Ashley, Jarrad Ashley, Larry Hall and Michael King; Town Clerk Mandy Cain, Court Clerk Angela Maria Hester and Public Works Director Brad Turner. All of them participated in classes offered through CMOEP in its Basic, Advanced and Professional Development divisions.

This year, MML celebrated 86 years of service to Mississippi's cities and towns and welcomed many newly elected officials attending the

conference for the first time.

"The MML Annual Conference allows municipal officials from across the state to participate in education sessions taught by subject

matter experts on topics critical to operation of municipal government," said Magee Mayor Jimmy Clyde, 2016-2017 MML president. "The annual conference also provides

opportunities to network and share ideas with each other."

The State Attorney General's office, Auditor's office, Mississippi Development Authority and Mississippi Planning and Development Districts, among other state and federal agencies, provided speakers for the educational sessions on topics that included state law updates, grant writing, community health initiatives, municipal liability issues, community economic development, retail development, disaster recovery and water and sewer issues.

Among other conference highlights were the presentation of 2017 Municipal Excellence Awards, an induction ceremony for the 2017 Municipal Hall of Fame and an expo show, which showcased 200 businesses, state agencies and other organizations.

Established in 1931, MML represents 295 city, town and village governments in Mississippi. Its mission is helping cities and towns excel through training, lobbying at the state and federal level and providing resources and networking opportunities with state, federal and private entities.

For more information about MML, visit www.mmlonline.com.



Special to Wesson News

Mississippi Municipal League 86th annual conference drew 3,000 persons to the Mississippi Coliseum Center in Biloxi, Mississippi.

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cont. from page 10

Co-Lin ranking, fall baseball & hunting

16 through November 9. It will accept 48 applicants, who will be taught and coached by the Wolves baseball coaching staff and players. Games, which are based on pitch counts, will be on Monday and Thursday evenings. Designed to elevate the skills of players through competition and instruction, the league is formatted with a small number of athletes to provide the most individual attention.

Hunting season dates. The hunting season for white-tailed deer in the Delta, Northeast, East Central and Southwest zones begins for archers on September 30 and runs through November 17. From November 4-17 and November 18

to January 31, youth under fifteen years old can hunt with guns. Antlerless deer can be hunted with primitive weapons from November 6-17. From December 2-15, hunters can use primitive weapons for deer, including legal bucks on open public land only. Gun-hunting with dogs will be allowed from November 18 through December 1, December 16-23, and December 24 to January 17, including legal bucks on open public land only. Archers and hunters with primitive weapons can hunt from January 18-31, including bucks on public land only. The southwest zone includes Copiah, Lawrence and Lincoln Counties. For information, visit: www.mdwfp.com.



Special to Wesson News

Upcoming sporting events

SEPTEMBER 14

Wesson High School junior varsity and varsity softball Cobras play North Pike. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Co-Lin football Wolves play Mississippi Gulf Coast. 7 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 15

Wesson High School football Cobras play Richland. 7 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 16

Wesson High School junior varsity and varsity softball Cobras play Bogue Chitto. 11 a.m. & 12 Noon.

SEPTEMBER 19

Wesson High School junior varsity and varsity softball Cobras play at Franklin County. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 21

Wesson High School junior varsity and varsity softball Cobras play at North Pike. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Co-Lin football Wolves play at Jones County. 7 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 22

Wesson High School football Cobras play Mize. 7 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 23

Wesson High School varsity softball Cobras play in Brookhaven Tournament. TBA.

SEPTEMBER 26

Wesson High School varsity softball Cobras play double header with Jefferson County. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 28

Wesson High School junior varsity and varsity softball Cobras play Franklin County. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Co-Lin football Wolves play at East Central Community College. 7 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 29

Wesson High School football Cobras play Mize. 7 p.m.

OCTOBER 3

Wesson High School junior varsity and varsity softball Cobras play at Lawrence County. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

OCTOBER 5

Wesson High School junior varsity and varsity softball Cobras play Pearl. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Co-Lin football Wolves play Hinds Community College. 7 p.m.

Scoreboard

August 8 -September 12
WHS Cobras

Football

Record: 2-1. Recent Wins: Crystal Spring. 32-12. Bogue Chitto. 54-14. Recent Losses: Sumrall. 31-31.

Softball

Record: 6-2. Recent Wins: Clinton. 5-4. Brookhaven. 2-1. Bogue Chitto. 17-2. South Pike. 15-0. Hazlehurst. 19-0. Recent Losses: West Lincoln. 2-1. Clinton. 5-4.

Co-Lin Wolves

Football

Record: 2-0. Recent Wins: Mississippi Delta. 31-6. Coahoma. 34-6

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