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# Wesson News

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**Wesson News**  
PO Box 1028  
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Volume 5, Number 6

*“Good News You Can Use”*

June 13, 2017

## Mayor wins big as Aldermen lose

By Bob Arnold

Wesson voters overwhelmingly re-elected Mayor Alton Shaw to a fourth full term last week, but turned three incumbent Aldermen out of office.

In an election that defied any easy interpretation, all three Aldermen who faced opposition lost, despite campaigns that stressed many of the same accomplishments highlighted by the Mayor.

With 309 of 407 votes cast, Shaw captured 76 per cent of the electorate against two challengers. Marty Stroud, his closest rival in the race, garnered 82 votes (twenty per cent), while Rosa Harris finished a distant third with 16 votes (four per cent).

It was a different story, however, for Wards One and Two Aldermen Mike Douglas and John Welter and Alderman-at-Large Joel (Ric) Crockett. In Ward One, voters gave Larry Hall 64 votes (56 per cent) to beat Douglas, with 51 votes. In a three-person race, Jarrad Ashley, a young local businessman, defeated Welter and Dirk Chrestman in Ward Two with 88 votes (62 per cent) to their 43 votes (thirty per cent) and 12 votes (eight per cent) respectively. Wesson Chamber of Commerce President Stephen Ashley



Special to Wesson News

Mayor Alton Shaw will go back to work for another four years.

bettered Crockett 233 votes (58 per cent) to 170 votes (42 per cent).

Wards Three and Four Aldermen Billy Ellison and Michael R. King, the only incumbents outside of Shaw who will return to service, ran unopposed. Ellison



Special to Wesson News

Jarrad Ashley (left), owner-operator of Ashley's 51, and Wesson Chamber of Commerce President Stephen Ashley defeated incumbent Aldermen.

received 107 votes and King, thirty-six votes.

Mayor Shaw, who has served Wesson for fourteen years, said he sought re-election because he “enjoys helping others and wants to see our community

grow” and highlighted his efforts related to developing the town’s first municipal park, rehabilitating the old Wesson school, upgrading downtown sidewalks and lighting, renovating City Hall, improving the town’s water and

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## Lawmakers honor centenarian



Wesson News

On behalf of the Mississippi State House of Representatives and Senate, District 39 Senator Sally Doty presented a concurrent resolution to George Mercier at the celebration of his one-hundredth birthday last month. The document, signed by Mississippi Lieutenant Governor Tate Reeves, Speaker of the House of Representatives Philip Gunn and Senator Doty read: “A concurrent resolution recognizing the historic military service of World II veteran and Lieutenant Commander George T. Mercier of Copiah County, on the occasion of his 100th birthday.” Mercier was born in Beauregard, attended school in Wesson, and received a chemical engineering degree from Louisiana State University in 1939. After starting his career at Ethyl Corporation in Baton Rouge, he joined the naval officers school when the military draft was initiated in 1940. He serviced fleets and ordnances in the South Pacific after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941, returned to his chemical engineering career, and retired to Wesson with his wife to operate a cattle business for several years. His birthday cake portrayed Mercier actively pursuing his current passion -- gardening. He offers no advice on longevity except “to work hard, go to church and eat right” and he is thankful for good genes and continuing good health. See page 9 for photos of Mercier’s birthday celebration.

## Summer camps offering fun, knowledge & skills

Special to Wesson News

The summer camping season is underway for children and youth on Co-Lin’s Wesson and Natchez campuses, with opportunities to stretch their minds, improve their physical capacities and have fun at the same time. The camps offer them practice in their favorite arts, skills-development in sports and studies in science and computer technology, among an array of options. The camp timeframes range from a half-day to more than a week with fees up to \$90.

Basketball camps started on the Wesson campus in late May and end tomorrow. They included camps for individual girls and boys in the first through eighth grades and for girls and boys junior high and high school teams. A four-day boys high school team basketball camp concludes tomorrow, as does a three-day softball camp for individual girls. Last week, boys from ages six through twelve participated in a baseball camp. The camps cover fundamentals, mechanics

and drills. Sports and recreational camps still coming up are:

• **June 19-21.**

**Agility Camp** on the Wesson campus for children from kindergarten through the sixth grade will focus on developing agility, speed, coordination, balance and self-confidence to gain an edge in sports performance. Hours are 9 a.m. - 12 noon. The fee is \$50. Contact Micah Allen at 601-643-8491.

Pee Wee Cheer Camp is conducted by Co-Lin Cheerleaders, who will teach a dance, cheers and jumps to kindergarten through sixth grade participants divided by grade and ability. Campers will perform for the parents at the end of the camp. Hours are 9 a.m. - 12 noon. The fee is \$50.

• **June 20-22.**

Camp for girls softball teams.

• **June 26-30.**

Co-Lin’s 2017 **Wolfpack Recreational Summer Day Camp** for children  
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## Police Blotter

*Special to Wesson News*

During May, Wesson Police Department activity encompassed:

**Response to:**

- Seven general complaints
- Two petty larcenies
- Two vehicle accidents
- One auto burglary
- One shoplifting
- One simple assault

**Citations & arrests:**

- Five speeding
- One domestic violence, resisting arrest & failure to comply
- Two possession of drug paraphernalia
- Three no proof of insurance
- Two driving with suspended license
- Two no driver's license
- One failure to yield to blue lights
- Two no tags
- One shoplifting
- One malicious mischief
- One failure to comply
- One contempt of court

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.

cont. from page 1

# Mayor wins big as Aldermen lose

wastewater systems, doubling sales tax revenues returned to the town from the state as result of economic development and generating \$6 million in grants funds for projects.

“While we have come a long way, there is still much to be done,” he told voters.

While Shaw obviously struck a responsive chord among voters in running on his record of achievements,

the losing Aldermen, who stressed many of the same accomplishments as part of the town government team, were not as persuasive against victors, who largely argued that they could work more effectively with the Mayor.

# Hay bales cut gardening work

By Bob Arnold

Gardener Al McSweyn, co-owner/manager of Porches Restaurant, has been tilling, hoeing, weeding and diligently watering flowers and vegetables for years to keep his yard colorful and produce food for family, friends, and even his Wesson eatery. Now, he says he has found a better way.

Since 2015, McSweyn has been practicing hay bale gardening, doing his planting in compact rectangular 14-by-36-by-18-inch bales of hay that require little work to tend. Tilling the soil is not part of the task. Since grasses do not grow in hay, weeding and hoeing are not part of the task. A simple low-cost irrigation system eliminates the need to drag heavy hoses to the garden for watering.

This year on Good Friday, the traditional spring planting day in the South, McSweyn laid out twenty hay bales in the backyard of his Porches Wesson restaurant with forty tomato, six cucumber and twelve pepper plants, plus a few experimental watermelons and cantaloupes.

“I have gotten too old for horse and plow gardening,” McSweyn says. “A few years ago, my wife gave me a Facebook post about hay bale gardening. After watching YouTube videos about it, I decided to give it a try.”

McSweyn started with four bales in 2015, expanded to twelve bales in 2016,

and then created his twenty-bale garden this year. “I get good yields, and it’s the easiest gardening I’ve done,” he says. “The costs are comparable to other gardening methods. I pay the same for plants and fertilizer. Money



Al McSweyn inspects his hay bale garden.

McSweyn’s garden has two rows of bales, which he waters daily with a simple irrigation system. Drip hoses, which cost \$7.50 a roll, run across the bales. They are connected to a \$35 timer attached to a water faucet.

The timer turns the water flow on and off, according to McSweyn’s programming.

Iron fence posts secure the bales to the ground. McSweyn has attached 5-by-16-foot cattle panels to the fence posts to create a trellis for his climbing plants.

When the harvest from the hay bale garden is in, McSweyn recycles the hay as mulch for another trouble-free garden, where plants also grow with minimal care.

spent on hay bales and related costs are comparable to what you face for tilling. But tending the garden is about twenty percent of the effort otherwise required.”

Before planting, McSweyn conditions the hay bales outdoors in the sunlight. On day one, he puts a one-half cup of 8-8-8 fertilizer on top of each bale and waters it down. “I use a commercial fertilizer, but organic gardening is possible with nitrogen-rich agents, such as coffee grounds,” McSweyn explains. For fourteen days, he continues to water down the bales. The bales, with decomposing fertilizer, cook for the next ten days, reaching interior temperatures of 130 degrees F. Then McSweyn plants seedlings on top and on the sides of the bales.

Although hay bale gardening is largely problem-free, McSweyn cites one caveat: “You’ve got to know who is making the hay and assure that you are buying hay that was not sprayed with a broadleaf weed control chemical,” he warns. “Plants won’t grow in these killer bales. Of the twelve bales I laid out last year, four of them yielded nothing, because they were sprayed.”

This year, McSweyn’s garden is doing well. Will he use any of his crops in Porches’ food? “In general, my produce is for family and friends, but I may use some of the cherry tomatoes in our salads,” he says. Next year, McSweyn has a new wrinkle in mind: laying down a few hay bales in Porches’ front yard for planting petunias.

## HEALING FOR YOUR ACHES & PAINS



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# Men create 'silent health crisis' for themselves

By Guest Columnist  
Dr. Stephanie Duguid

The focus is on Men's Health this month to raise awareness about the issues males face, promote prevention, advance education and encourage family responsibility around them. Men's Health Week is the second week in June each year -- June 12-18 in 2017. Anchored by a Congressional health education program, Men's Health Month activities occur across the country, with screenings, health fairs, media attention, and other health education and outreach events. Men's Health Month is focused particularly on heightening the awareness of preventable health problems among men and boys. Health care providers, public policy makers, the media and concerned individuals will encourage them to seek regular



likely to go to the doctor, less likely to get preventative screenings, and less likely to get help or treatment when they feel something is wrong. On average, American men live sicker and die younger than women, who are one hundred per cent more likely to visit a doctor for annual examinations and preventive services than men, according to the federal Center for Disease Control (CDC). Men have a higher risk than women to die from heart disease, cancer, injuries, stroke, suicide and HIV/AIDS because they do not, on average, seek medical care for issues that occur and preventative testing.

Every man and woman should have an annual physical examination, get blood pressure checks, and perform self-examinations for cancers. As men age, they should have also have blood tests and urinalysis, an EKG, rectal exams, PSA blood tests, testosterone screening, chest x-rays and colonoscopies. Regular checkups and age-appropriate screening precede improved health and reduce premature death and disability. Consult your

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**MEN'S HEALTH MONTH**

- A MAN'S CHANCE OF GETTING PROSTATE CANCER INCREASES RAPIDLY AFTER THE AGE OF 50
- PROSTATITIS, inflammation of the prostate gland, affects 35% of men over 50.
- OBESITY AND DIET ARE LINKED TO HIGHER RISKS OF PROSTATE CANCER DEVELOPMENT.
- EACH YEAR, OVER 230,000 MEN ARE DIAGNOSED WITH PROSTATE CANCER.
- 1 IN 7 MEN WILL BE DIAGNOSED WITH PROSTATE CANCER IN HIS LIFETIME.
- MEN ARE MORE AT RISK FOR...
  - Heart disease
  - Cancer
  - Diabetes
  - Chronic lower respiratory disease
  - HIV
  - Cerebrovascular disease
  - Injuries
  - Stroke
  - Depression

To help monitor health, make regular check-up appointments with your provider and talk to them about screenings and prevention tips.

medical advice and early treatment for disease and injury.

Men's health is a family issue, Congressman Bill Richardson explained in the Congressional Record, H3905-H3906, May 24, 1994): "Recognizing and preventing men's health problems is not just a man's issue. Because of its impact on wives, mothers, daughters and sisters, men's health is truly a family issue."

Men are, in fact, affected by a "silent health crisis" because they are less

healthcare provider to discuss your risks and family history of diseases. Get started today!

*EDITORS NOTE: 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.*

cont. from page 1

# Summer camps offering fun, knowledge & skills

six to nine years old will provide structured indoor and outdoor activities on the Wesson campus. Age and developmentally appropriate activities will include baseball, softball, basketball, soccer, bowling, disc golf and golf, dodge ball, flag football, hoola hoops, juggling, jump ropes, nutrition bingo, scooter derby and frisbee, among other games and recreational opportunities. Hours are 8 a.m. - 12 noon. The fee is \$90 and registration deadline is June 16.

**• July 17-19. Tennis camp** for girls and boys between eight and thirteen years old.

In July, art and music camps are also scheduled on the Wesson campus:

**• July 10-12. An art camp** for ninth through twelfth graders will cover computer art, ceramics, drawing, painting and printmaking. Hours are 1 p.m.- 4 p.m. The fee is \$25 and the registration deadline is July 5 Contact janet.smith@colin.edu.

**• July 17-19. A music camp** for eighth to twelfth graders will include choral rehearsals, group vocal master classes and applied voice lessons. Hours are 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. The fee is \$25 and the registration deadline is July 12. Contact christian.scott@colin.edu.

The four-week Kids College on the Natchez campus started this week with cheer and agility camps for kindergarten through sixth grade participants June 12 - 19, an arts techniques and projects camp for third through fifth graders and a computer skills and practice camp for second through fourth graders. Through July 20, the Natchez camps program will also feature:

**• June 19-22. Dig It! Archaeology Camp** for third through sixth graders features field trips to study prehistoric Native American cultures, historic sites and local paleontology. The fee is \$55.

Modern Dance for kindergarten through second graders exercises their bodies and minds, improves their balance, flexibility and posture, stimulates their creativity and advances

their understanding of culture. The fee is \$50.

**Tennis** for third through fifth graders covers basic strokes, rules, scoring, footwork, etiquette and effective ways to practice. Hours are 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. The fee is \$65.

**• July 10-13. Mad Science** for third through fifth graders introduces topics to stimulate their thirst for the new and unusual and joy of science. The fee is \$55.

**Modern Dance** for sixth to eighth graders exercises their bodies and minds, improves their balance, flexibility and posture, stimulates their creativity and advances their understanding of culture. The fee is \$50.

**Art Attack** for first and second graders challenges their imagination with experiments in a variety of art materials, techniques and projects. The fee is \$50.

**Cyber Camp** for second to fourth graders explores computer art and games, internet safety and keyboarding. The fee is \$50.

**• July 17-20. Science Explorers** for first and second graders feature hands-on experiments that pique the curiosity of participants and teach lessons about the world. The fee is \$55.

**Modern Dance** for third through fifth graders exercises their bodies and minds, improves their balance, flexibility and posture, stimulates their creativity and advances their understanding of culture. The fee is \$50.

**S.T.E.M Into Art** for fifth to eighth graders activates the creativity, imagination and ingenuity of participants through science, technology, engineering and math activities. The fee is \$55.

**Tennis** for third to fifth graders covers basic strokes, rules, scoring, footwork, etiquette and effective ways to practice. Hours are 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. The fee is \$65.

For detailed information about the camps and to download registration forms, visit [www.colin.edu](http://www.colin.edu).

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BENCHMARK

# Copiah-Lincoln planter in Wildflower Trail project

*Special to Wesson News*

Co-Lin is planting two acres of wildflowers as part of a statewide project to help support pollinators and create beneficial habitat for other plants.

Pollinators and associated native plants make possible the reproduction and growth of more than 180,000 different plant species and more than 1,200 crops that ultimately add \$217 billion to the global economy, according to officials at the Mississippi State University Extension Service.

Through a project to bring wildflowers to public areas and rights-of-way across Mississippi, Co-Lin will plant seed on Thames Center, golf course, and soccer field grounds, covering two acres overall. Mississippi Wildflower Trail Project partners are the Extension Service, Keep Mississippi Beautiful, the Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Service, the Natural Resource and Conservation Service, the Mississippi Department of Transportation, and Mississippi Master Gardeners.

The project is seeking to:

- Increase awareness and educate the public on the importance of pollinators and native plants and their roles in the environment;
- Enhance aesthetics through the

beauty of wildflowers;

- Support tourism and economic development.

Locally, Keep Copiah County Beautiful (KCCB), under the auspices of Keep Mississippi Beautiful, is working with Co-Lin, which along with Hinds County Community College, will be the only colleges so far participating in the project. KCCB is also working with Crystal Springs on seeding areas to grow wildflowers.

Sites selected for the Wildflower Trail are publicly accessed parks, trails, commercial landscapes, road medians, intersections and rights-of-way. Most areas are actively maintained with routine mowing and dominated by sod-type grasses. The seed mix for the Trail uses native North America species that suit the majority of Mississippi soils and climates, germinate and develop rapidly, yield quick color, require little experience to cultivate and tolerate the herbicide imazapic. The mix includes short statured (three-feet or less) annuals, perennials, forbs and legumes that provide color from spring through fall and grasses that provide structure during the winter.

After spraying its designated planting areas, Co-Lin will receive its wildflower seed from KCCB and begin distributing it over the two acres dedicated to the project.

# Community Calendar

**June weather forecast: The Old Farmer's Almanac calls for an average temperature of 77 degrees (one degree below average) & precipitation of five inches (average); June 14-16: Sunny, cool; June 17-25: Scattered t-storms, warm; June 26-30: T-storms, then sunny, cool.**

## JUNE 13

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.

Brookhaven Farmers Market, sponsored by Brookhaven-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce and Mississippi State University Agricultural Extension Services, features vendors throughout the growing season at the Amtrak Station in downtown Brookhaven on Tuesdays from 3 p.m.-6 p.m.

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.

## JUNE 14

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

## JUNE 15

Fifty Plus Club luncheon. Porches of Brookhaven at Brookhaven Country Club. 10:30 a.m.

Brookhaven Regional Arts Guild meets. Painting in the round will offer experiences in new mediums to participants. Bring a photo or idea of something to paint, equipment or other tools and materials, according to the medium in which your work. During the program, artists will start their works, stop when time is called and rotate around a circle to work on pieces of others. Lincoln County Public Library. 5:30 p.m.

## JUNE 16

Brookhaven Farmers Market, sponsored by Brookhaven-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce and Mississippi State University Agricultural Extension Services, features vendors throughout the growing season at Railroad Park in downtown Brookhaven on Fridays from 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

## JUNE 19

Co-Lin summer camps begin and run through June 21. Agility Camp and Pee Wee Cheer Camp for children from kindergarten through sixth grade. See story in this issue. For information, visit [www.colin.edu](http://www.colin.edu).

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.

## JUNE 20

Co-Lin summer girls softball team camps begin and run through June 22. See story in this issue. For information, visit [www.colin.edu](http://www.colin.edu).  
Google Apps -- Let's Google It. Learn how to use free Google apps. Registration deadline is June 13. Co-Lin Wesson campus. 8:45 a.m.-3 p.m.

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

## JUNE 21

WorkKeys Assessment for CRC (Career Readiness Certificate). Register in advance at 601-643-8707 with Kristina Stephens. Co-Lin Thames Center. Also July 12 & 13. 8:45 a.m.-12 noon.

## JUNE 22

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

## JUNE 23

Tomato Festival begins and continues on June 24. Vendors. Entertainment. Car show. Downtown Crystal Spring.

## JUNE 26

Co-Lin 2017 Wolfpack Recreational Summer Day Camp for children six to nine years old starts and runs through June 30. See story in this issue. For information, visit [www.colin.edu](http://www.colin.edu).

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.

## JULY 4

Independence Day

## JULY 6

Wesson Lions Club board of directors and regular meeting. Co-Lin student cafeteria conference room. 6 p.m.

Summer Reading Program for children starts and runs every Thursday through July 27. The theme is "Build a Better World." Wesson Public Library. 10 a.m.-noon.

## JULY 10

Copiah County Master Gardeners meet. Mississippi State University Extension Building in Gallman. 6 p.m. For information, visit, Copiah County Master Gardeners Facebook page.

## JULY 11

Wesson Board of Aldermen meet. City Hall. 7 p.m.

## JULY 13

The Widows Support Group meets on the second Thursday & encourages widows, who are walking through the grief process, with programs on pertinent issues related to their situation. Jimmy Furlow Senior Center. 5 p.m. For information contact Becky Vaughn-Furlow @ [bvaughnfurlow@gmail.com](mailto:bvaughnfurlow@gmail.com) or call 601-540-4308.

## 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.

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

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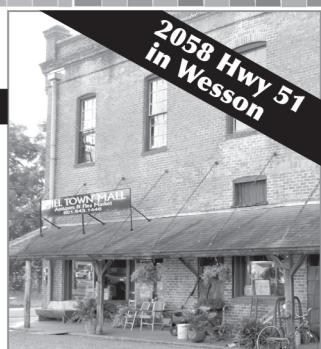
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## PTK chapter & members get top awards

*Special to Wesson News*

Co-Lin's Eta Omega Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) has been named a Five-Star Chapter -- the highest distinction awarded to a campus group.

At the annual PTK MS/LA Regional Conference at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, the Co-Lin chapter also was honored as Mississippi/Louisiana Most Distinguished Chapter (top 10), Mississippi/Louisiana Regional President, Honors in Action Theme Winner, College Project Finalist (top 5), and recognized for the Most Distinguished Digital Yearbook.

Individually, Madison Andrews of Monticello was named to the Order of the Golden Key; Ruby McCullough of Wesson was named Distinguished Chapter Officer Runner Up; Chapter Co-Advisor Mary Warren received the Horizon Award for the region; and Chapter Co-Advisor Samantha Speeg received the Horizon Award for the region.

At the international convention held in Nashville, TN, the Eta Omega Chapter was named a top 100 Most Distinguished Chapter and ranked in the top 50 for College Projects.

Eta Omega Chapter officers are Luke

Williamson of Monticello, President; Abigail Hynum of Hazlehurst, Vice President for Fellowship; Anna Speights of Wesson, Vice President for Communications; Raigan Smith of Brookhaven, Vice President for Scholarship; John Ethan Coleman of Meadville, Vice President for Membership; Montoria Sanders of Wesson, Vice President for Web Design; Ruby McCullough of Wesson, Vice President for Service; Samuel King of Wesson, Vice President for Research; and Madison Andrews of Monticello, Vice President of Leadership.

The PTK Honor Society, headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi, is the largest honor society in higher education, with 1,285 chapters on college campuses in all 50 U.S. states and territorial possessions, Canada, Germany, the Republic of Palau, Peru, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the British Virgin Islands and the United Arab Emirates. More than three million students have been inducted as members of PTK since its founding in 1918, with approximately 134,000 students joining annually.

Tiffany Perryman, Samantha Speeg, and Mary Warren serve as advisors for the Co-Lin group.

## Catalpas for fish bait & flowers

*By Guest Columnist Rebecca Bates*

Catalpas represent a Southern tradition at many levels. They are common fixtures along roadsides and old home sites. Their big green leaves, white panicle flowers and long bean fruit are noticeable from hundreds of yards away. The wood of this tree was used in the past for

fence posts, rails and furniture. Today, Catalpa is used as a shade tree and for growing a special caterpillar -- the catalpa "worm," which makes excellent fish bait prized by fishermen across the South.

young larvae feed together as leaf skeletonizers. Older larvae feed alone and consume whole leaves. In any one year, three to four generations may develop, with their life cycles lasting approximately six weeks.

Individual Catalpa trees have different reactions to moth larvae feeding. Some trees are never

attacked. Others are heavily defoliated almost every year. If fish bait is your objective,

then collect seed from trees proven to support moth larvae activity over the years. Seed can be planted in

### TENDING YOUR GARDEN



The Catalpa tree is a member of the Bignonia family, which contains more than 700 species found primarily in tropical and sub-tropical regions. The Southern Catalpa (*Catalpa bignonioides*) has many common names including Indian Cigar, Indian Bean, Caterpillar Tree and Fish Bait Tree. It is fast growing, moderately short-lived (70 years) and prefers full sunlight.

These trees are the only host for the Catalpa Sphinx Moth. Adult moths are seldom seen because they fly at dusk or night. Adult moths appear in early spring and deposit their eggs in masses on the underside of leaves. Eggs hatch in 5-7 days, and

a garden area and grown until they are one to two years old or eighteen inches tall. Transplant the seedlings during the winter months.

A few Catalpa trees will supply a single family with plenty of fish bait. Catalpa also makes a fine and unique yard tree. The flowers are beautiful, foliage tropical and the bean fruit interesting. Catalpas represent a Southern tradition.

Plant a piece of cultural history, the Southern Catalpa.

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

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# Porches' McDaniel keeps moving

Wesson News

Brandie McDaniel lives on six acres at Silver Creek, Mississippi, "a four-way stop sign town," say locals, about seven miles south of Monticello in Lawrence County. Despite the distance from Wesson, McDaniel is a familiar face around town, particularly for patrons of Porches, where she started working as a waitress almost six years ago.

McDaniel came to Silver Creek from Carthage, Texas, near Shreveport, in 2008 to settle on the property she inherited after her grandfather's death and to be near her grandmother, Loretta Hamler, a resident of the Wesson area for many years. After arriving, the 2005 Carthage, Texas, High School graduate studied at Co-Lin for two years, where she earned a nursing degree. She went to work at Porches in 2010 after deciding she did not want to pursue a medical career -- the start of a uniquely busy life for which she is known and struggles to maintain by keeping on the move after a debilitating accident earlier this year.

At Porches, McDaniel has learned to do almost anything required in operating a fine dining venue, from cooking to cleanup to helping in overall management. She works all lunches at the Wesson location, and Saturday lunch and dinners at the newly opened Brookhaven Country Club location. "I enjoy the work, the people at Porches, including my co-workers -- and particularly Chris McSweyn and his family, who own and operate the restaurant; and my treatment as an employee," McDaniel says. Her life, however, doesn't end at the restaurant. Although the hours at Porches are demanding, they have been flexible enough to allow her to meet the responsibilities of rearing two children -- Abigail, 11, and Benjamin, 5 -- as a single mom, earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology at Southern Mississippi University (SMU), remain in a psychology Master's degree program at SMU and juggle still other business and hobby interests.

Among McDaniel's non-restaurant interests is realizing the dream of operating a pet shop, which she has harbored since childhood, but she says "I never thought would be in my home." With the help of her friend Cleston Savoie, McDaniel is creating a growing pet farm on her Silver Creek property, with pit bulls, snakes, geckos, ducks and, most recently, mini-pigs, which are known as loving pets rather than a food source. Savoie introduced her to the pigs, which she is planning to breed for sales, and built the home for her first two -- named Bacon and Pork by her children. McDaniel also helps her grandmother run a seasonal fireworks business

near Monticello. From June 20 to July 4 and December 10 to January 1, they stock and sell fireworks at the business based in her grandmother's house.

In January, McDaniel's busy life

walking. Within three weeks, she persuaded her physicians, against their better judgment, to write a note that assured her Porches employers, who were concerned about putting her back on the job too soon, that she could work. She resumed her busy

and seek advice from me when they're looking for pets. If, for some reason, you want an alligator, I can find one for you in the swamp land that is part of my property. I have become a mechanic, too. In the tradition of the women in my family, I drive a Mustang. To continue to drive this 1999 car, I have learned to maintain it. I also have two antique cars. I enjoy sewing. I will sew anything -- the clothes my children wear, aprons of Porches employees. I sewed a quilt made from Crown Royal bags. Yard work and gardening are part of my routine. I grow flowers of different kinds, including Century plants that bloom once every one hundred years and die shortly thereafter. My grandmother and I also tend a small vegetable garden -- about eight or ten rows of potatoes, beans, okra and other varieties.

## Are you a movies or books fan?

I watch all kinds of movies at night, particularly those oriented to kids. Johnny Depp and Jim Carrey are two of my favorite actors. In general, I like classic movies such as *Ghost Busters* and *Ninja Turtles*. I enjoyed *Alice in Wonderland*, *Alice Through the Looking Glass* and *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events*.

I read a wide range of books -- ones oriented to kids, histories, old tales. I tend to enjoy books about real topics -- non-fiction, biographies. I recently read *Summer Moonlight Stream*, a fanciful tale about girl who finds an enchanting world under water. I enjoyed *The Gilgamesh Tablets* about a mythical ancient king. I recommend Ann Moody's narrative on the Civil Rights era in *Coming of Age in Mississippi*.

## How about music?

Music clearly runs in my family's blood. My daughter plays the trumpet, piano and guitar. I play the guitar. Country music -- real country music -- is my genre, not that played on the radio -- which isn't worth listening to.

## What wish would you ask the good fairy to grant you?

I have everything I want, by and large. Maybe I would wish for an animal I don't have. A monkey perhaps.

## How would you spend millions of dollars won in a lottery?

I would construct a better building to house my animals and pets.

## Would you change anything about your life?

I wouldn't have bought a four-wheeler. Before my accident, I owned several and was going to purchase one for my daughter. My four-wheelers are now on my grandmother's property with their gas lines cut. My children won't get one from me now!

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Wesson News

Brandie McDaniel (right) with her daughter, Abigail, and mini pig, Bacon.

faced a crisis when she fell off a four-wheeler on an alligator hunt near her home. She woke up with two broken hips, a broken back and nerve damage in the University of Mississippi Medical Center at Jackson after emergency surgery, facing eight weeks of doctor-ordered bed rest and an uncertain future with severe mobility impairment. "In spite of the pain, I decided I needed to exercise my way back to the life I wanted to live," she recalls. She also put herself on a regimen of Flintstone Vitamins to energize her exercise discipline. "The idea was to just keep moving," she says. She walked and walked and walked -- and has kept

life, which continues to be a day-to-day challenge. "I am in pain every morning," she says. "My leg loses its feeling if I sit too long. I just keep moving."

## You are obviously extraordinarily busy. Do you have time for anything outside the restaurant and your business sidelines?

Animals are not just a business for me. I was surrounded by animals as a child and have grown into a naturalist. Some years ago, I found an injured baby deer, nurtured it back to health in my house and became its mama before returning it to the woods. People know me as an animal person

# The circus delighted many Mississippians

By Guest Columnist Shaw Furlow

From the day my Aunt Lee took my siblings and me to see the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus in the Houston Astrodome, I was hooked. The smell of saw dust, cotton candy and popcorn, the colors, the three rings of activity, the music and, of course, the animals caught my attention like little else. At one point in my early adulthood, I even inquired about auditioning for ringmaster. (A band director friend of mine said I achieved that goal when I directed the Co-Lin Blue Wave Show Band...I didn't disagree).



A few weekends ago, Ringling folded its tent for the final time, bringing an end to a 146 year run. The circus had fallen on hard times once elephants were removed from the show. The "train show" three-ring circus had become a "truck show" one ring operation with only one elephant that simply walks in the opening and closing parades. This article isn't about the local arts scene, but it is difficult for me to watch the end of an era that I loved. An era, whose time has come and gone, to which I want to pay homage. The old time circus was an art form that delighted many a Mississippian.

My love of the old circus continues to this day. In the last twenty years, I only missed a few shows that came to Jackson. When I lived in Jackson, I went to the rail yard to watch circuses disconnect train cars, unload gear and "elephant walk" all their animals to the coliseum. Occasionally, I would follow the parade to the fairgrounds and watch the circus personnel bathe the elephants with a fire hose. I loved being close to the huge beasts that would lift their legs so the handler

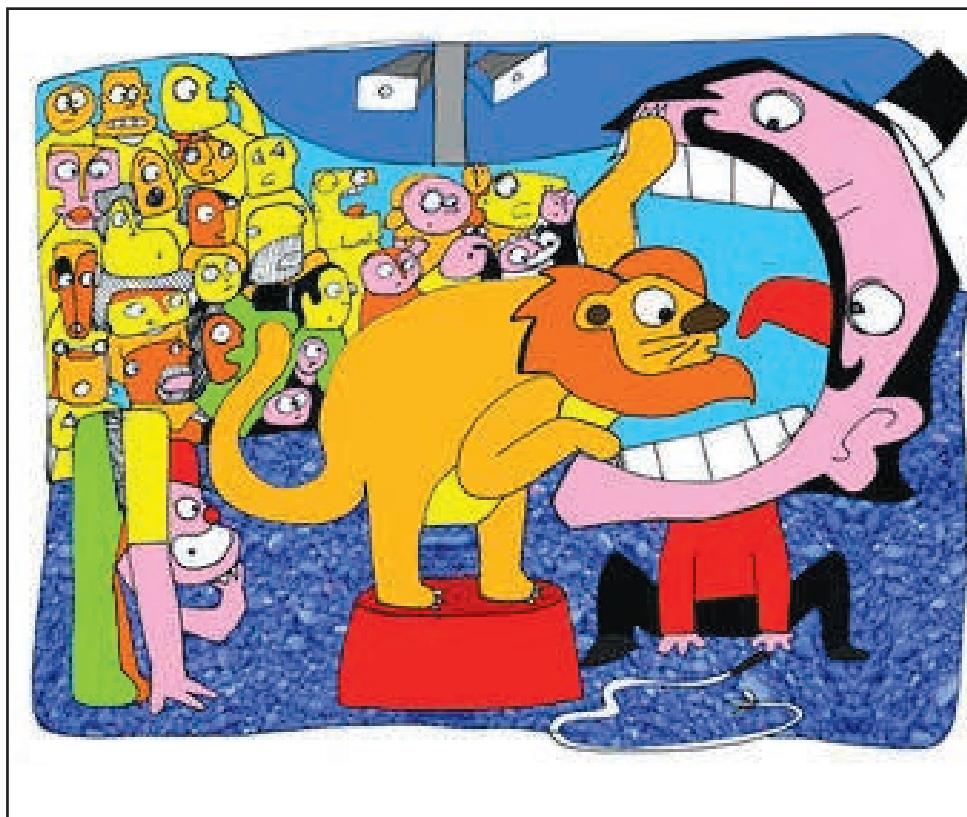


Photo Special to Wesson News

could shoot a powerful burst of water -- one that would knock a man down -- on their undersides.

When my son Cole was just a little guy, I would take him with me, hoping he would fall in love with the circus as I had. From friends, who played in the band, I got backstage passes, not the pass available to any customer, but rather ones for seats deeper in the bowels of the coliseum where acrobats, and jugglers walked around doing their pre show rituals. At intermission one Sunday afternoon, a couple of clowns came and took Cole backstage for a full clown makeover. Orange hair, red nose, wacky hands and face paint. I'm not sure he remembers that day as vividly as I do, but for me, it was as important as the time he intercepted a pass and ran it back for a touchdown.

At one point, Ringling Brothers advertised a "living unicorn"-- a one of a kind mythical attraction. While

walking through the menagerie before show time, we came upon the stall that housed the "one of a kind mythical creature" and his understudy. Now, I am a relatively smart man and knew the

unicorn was a prop. So I wasn't too surprised there were two of them, but I did get a fairly good look at the animals. They were rams just days after birth with grafted horns to make them unicorns. Veterinarians in New York and Florida proclaimed that, while unorthodox, their grafting procedure did no harm to the sheep. Ringling, however, met with many protests from animal rights groups and the circus pulled the unicorn act after two years. Animal

rights groups continued to resist and protest the abuse of the animals, especially the elephants, even though Ringling insists they never mistreated their animals. While I have never seen it used, I have witnessed trainers carrying the tool known as a bull hook -- a four foot pole with a sharp hook attached to the end. The tool controlled the mighty Asian Elephants and was employed in training them. The elephants were frightened by the tool and did anything to avoid it. Today, all eighteen Ringlings elephants live on a preserve in Florida. They are living out their lives in a much more friendly environment and more natural surroundings. No more head stands. Or any of the other tricks that were not natural.

My feelings about the circus have changed over the years. Looking past the glitz and glamor, I realize the animal rights groups were correct. It was right to retire the elephants. It's unclear what's next for The Greatest Show on Earth. The Wallenda family has a permanent structure in Sarasota, Florida, the winter home of the now defunct Ringling Show. The Clown College has moved its locations several times. Like the elephants, dozens of other animals have been retired or rescued and live in preserves. Many of them have also been sold to other circuses -- again, over protests. Will there ever be another ringmaster beckoning "children of all ages," to cast their eyes on the center ring? Who knows. But I for one will miss it.

That's my take this month. A number of musical and theatrical events are coming up in July, and I will be back to plug our talent. Until then, 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 for Brookhaven Music and Sound.*

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# May Yard of the Month



Special to Wesson News

Wesson Garden Club recognized the landscaping efforts of Porches Restaurant at 1193 Highway 51 (top), Mitch and Kristi Berce at 1016 Bayou Pierre Street (center) in the town corporate limits and Mary Kathryn Smith at 9167 Sylverena Road in a rural residential setting for its May Yard of the Month honors. The awards, based on maintenance principles and elements of landscape design, seek to encourage ongoing beautification and cleanliness of the Wesson area and cultivate a citizenry that values and protects natural resources and assumes responsibility for enhancing the environment. The Garden Club's Yard of the Month awards honor properties in organizational, town residential and rural residential (limited to Wesson School District) categories during the spring, summer and fall.

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# Paving, broadcast program & scholarships

Special to Wesson News

**Do-it-yourself paving?** Wesson town officials are discussing the possibility of going into the paving business. The town is planning to purchase a paving machine and roller. "With our own equipment on hand, we could start filling small patches and eventually start doing roads here and there," Mayor Alton Shaw says. Wesson has raised some \$10,000 on sales of surplus equipment put out for public bid and could invest it in the equipment it is looking to buy, Shaw points out.

**Broadcast education program.** Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB) and Brookhaven-based Mississippi School of the Arts are partnering to offer new educational opportunities in broadcasting for MSA media arts students. The program includes MPB internships, hands-on experience for MSA

students at MPB and broadcast industry instruction. The MSA media arts program started in 2016 and is guided by John Kelly Shelburne, who was hired as teacher, it also features training in film.

**Fifty-plus group awards scholarships.** The Fifty-plus club has named four

## NEWS NUGGETS

2017 scholarship recipients: Abby Burke of Ruth, Adrian Dinkins of Jackson, Diamond Harris of Hazlehurst and Jacob Rich of Brookhaven. The Copiah-Lincoln

Lawrence groups draws on an endowed scholarship fund for its annual awards

**Co-Lin scholarship.** Each year, the Co-Lin Foundation awards some \$275,000 in scholarships to students. Among 2017 recipients: Anna Davis of West Lincoln Attendance Center, who received the Jim and Martha Lightsey Scholarship; Enterprise Attendance Center's Kristen Lee, Brianna Boyles and Wyatt Coleman; Shania Dixon, Ashlyn McGhee, Madison Martin, Kennedy Moore, Anonio Peoples, Celeb Russell, Tomas Smith and, Peyton White -- all from Brookhaven, who received the Mary Ellen Jones Memorial Scholarship, Trent Killingsworth Memorial Scholarship, Underwood Family Scholarship, Burlian O'Neal Walker Communications Scholarship, Sidney Wayne Williams Scholarship, William Case Annual Scholarship, Stanley Stewart Scholarship and Pre-Professional Science Memorial Scholarship; Wesson Attendance

Center's Kara Crosby from Bogue Chitto, a Beta Sigma Phi scholarship recipient; Mikayla Warren, Sara Ashley and Jamila Dixon of Wesson, recipients of the Trustmark National Bank Scholarships; Justin Hynum of Wesson, who received the Dr. Roy Daughdrill Mathematics Scholarship; Lloyd Star Attendance Center's Colleen Eagles and Pollyana Patterson; Lincoln County Co-Lin sophomores Alyssa Anding, Michelle Boyd, Gracie Byrne, Markie Case, Conner Crosby, Shay Hodges, Bradley Jasper II, Andrew Kimble, Millane Lewis, Raine Luper, Hannah Mason, Kelsie McCullough, Lane Rogers, Jayden Rushing, Will Rushing, Jr., Lofton Sills, Ashley Thomas, Morgan Wallis, Haylee Welch, Mary Claire White and Darrian Wilson; and Kara Clark of Brookhaven, Cristina Craig of Brookhaven, Abbygail Koonce of Monticello, Mary Beth Munn of Wesson, who received Taylor Presidential Scholarships.

# 100th birthday party



Wesson News

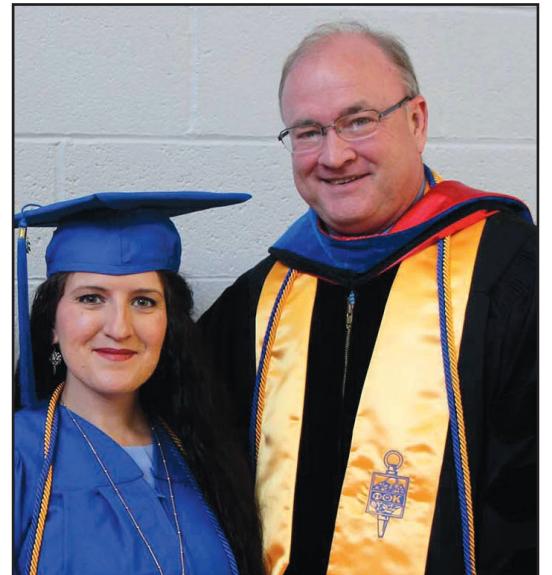
A crowd helped George Mercier celebrate his one-hundredth birthday last month at the Co-Lin Thames Center. More than one hundred friends and relatives from the Wesson area and out of town, Dorothy, his wife of 71 years, and their five children, ranging in age from 56 to 70, with their families, attended the party.



Wesson News

The birthday cake for George Mercier highlighted his current passion -- gardening. Mercier continues to lead an active life at age 100.

# Watts receives Presidential honor



Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin President Dr. Ronnie Nettles (right) congratulates Jerri Black Watts of Wesson, a sophomore at the college, on receiving a Presidential Partnership Scholarship to Mississippi State University. Students eligible for the scholarship must be attending a Mississippi community college and a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Community college presidents nominate recipients. The Presidential Partnership Scholarship covers the cost of tuition for two years at MSU.

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# Honors, WHS tennis & Co-Lin's postseason

## Special to Wesson News

Wesson High School (WHS) honored its individual athletes and teams at a special banquet last month.

WHS presented its Cobra and Dennies White Awards respectively to Will Hulon and Amber Brinson and Peyton Burns Harmoni Ashley. Kyle Holloway and Ashley received the Scholarship Award and Burns, the Colby Porter Memorial Scholarship.

Also honored were members and top performers of the football, basketball, softball and baseball teams:

**Football.** Daniel Burgess, Peyton Burns, Joseph Carraway, Matthew Craft, Timothy Ford, Trey Glasper Will Hulon and Bobby Pritchard.

**Basketball.** Slay Acy, Kenner Bizot, Darrian Gibson, Trey Glasper and Will Hulon.

**Softball.** Harmoni Ashley (MVP), Natalie Bonds (Most Improved), Amber Brinson, Anna Clair Crow (Best Offensive Player), Arie Douglas (Flat Bat Award), Nikkie Guess (Golden Glove Award), Brooke Jones (Most Versatile), Shelby Maxwell (Hustle Award), Katie McSweyn (Coaches Awards) and Catherine Wilson (Best Defensive Player).

**Baseball.** Slay Acy, Garrett

Boutwell (Most Dedicated Player), Peyton Burns, Will Hulon, Cade Lowery, Jimmie McQuage, Preston Middleton (Most Improved), Alex Mooney (Best Defensive Player), Cade Rast (Most Improved) Payton Selman (Most Versatile Player and Silver Slugger) and Jeremy Smith (MVP)

**Fischer wins & team falls in tennis.** Defeating the top seed in the tournament, Wesson High School's (WHS) Erich Fischer captured the 3A Singles State title in tennis at the Mississippi High School Activities Association Championships last month. Fischer won his first three matches against Damien Harbin of Kossuth, Evan Hodum of Alcorn Central and Brant Mullins of Franklin County 6-0, 6-0 to take on top seed Anthony

Schloegal of St. Patricks, who he defeated in 6-1, 6-6, and 6-0 matches. Earlier in the month,

the WHS tennis team fell in 3A title matches to St. Andrews -- the third time in three seasons to the perennial powerhouse.



Special to Wesson News

Juan Pablor Pinilla helped lead Co-Lin's mens tennis team to quarterfinal appearances in the NJCAA National Tennis Tournament in Plano, Texas, in which they were defeated. The ladies team finished fifth in the tournament.

**Baseball season ends.** Co-Lin's baseball Wolves made their first trip to the playoff in twelve years, but failed to get past the first round, falling

## SCOREBOARD

May 9-June 13

### Wesson High School Cobras

#### Softball (Varsity)

Recent Losses: Choctaw. 2-0 in MHSSA Fast Pitch Championship Playoffs.

#### Co-Lin Wolves

##### Baseball

Record: 20-26. Recent Wins: Pearl River. 14-4. Mississippi Delta. 3-2. Recent Losses: Pearl River. 10-6. Mississippi Delta. 10-2. Northwest. 10-2, 9-3 in MACJS playoffs.

##### Golf

Eleventh place in NJCAA National Championship at Longbow Golf Club in Mesa, Arizona.

twice to the Northwest Community College Rangers and finishing their season 20-27.

**Golfers finish eleventh.** Co-Lin wrapped up a successful 2017 golf campaign with an eleventh place finish in the NJCAA DII National Championship in Mesa, Ariz. The Wolves fired impressive scores of 301, 318, 298, and 303 for a team total of 1220 through four rounds.

## SPORTS SHORTS

(Flat Bat Award), Nikkie Guess (Golden Glove Award), Brooke Jones (Most Versatile), Shelby Maxwell (Hustle Award), Katie McSweyn (Coaches Awards) and Catherine Wilson (Best Defensive Player).

**Baseball.** Slay Acy, Garrett



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- 2006 Hummer H3 Luxury Pkg, 2 Tone Leather, ONLY 69K Miles, Chrome Wheels, Like New
- 2008 Chevy Crew Cab LT Z71 4X4 Mossy Oak Limited Edition w/Camo Leather
- 2008 Lexus IS 250, Local Well Kept Fun Car,Sunroof and Leather;
- 2007 Lexus RX 350, Local One Owner with Nav,Roof, Leather,Perfect Carfax, Super Nice SUV;
- 2013 Chevy Silverado Ex Cab 1500, One Owner,Bed Cover, Always Service, Small V8,CD,Bargain Priced ;
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- 2006 Mercury Grand Marquis LS with Leather, Sunroof,Loaded,Sharp;
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- 2009 Dodge Dakota Club Cab SXT, 6Cyl, Auto, New Tires,Sharp! ;
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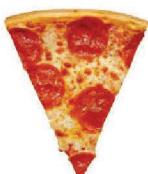
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# Wesson Mississippi Automobile News

MAY 2017

rogel ford : crystal springs : ms

Your Source for Vehicle News



## ROGEL FORD SELLS A RECORD AMOUNT OF VEHICLES TO WESSON RESIDENTS IN APRIL

ROGEL FORD-CRYSTAL SPRINGS

"We are proud to say that a record amount of Wesson area residents came here to buy in April," says Carl Rogel.

"As we have grown bigger we made it a point to try to spread out to all corners of the County that we represent. We are simply the best option for a new or used vehicle purchase. We already have some great long-term customers in Wesson and we support the community and schools every way we can. The word is out on us and we are glad to help any way we can.

Our selection and ease of doing business is in a world of its own. It really is a customer first system and we are here to earn your business. We want your business and we will do everything we can to earn it. Thanks again for the support!"

<p>5 to choose from</p>  <p><b>15 Ford Fiesta SE</b></p>	<p><b>Your Choice</b></p> <p><b>9990</b> 99 Down Plus tax</p> <p><b>149 mo</b></p>	<p>3 to choose from</p>  <p><b>15 Nissan Versa Note</b></p>
<p>3 to choose from</p>  <p><b>15 Nissan Altima</b></p>	<p><b>Your Choice</b></p> <p><b>13990</b> 99 Down Plus tax</p> <p><b>219 mo</b></p>	<p>2 to choose from</p>  <p><b>14 Ford Fusion</b></p>



**SPECIAL PURCHASE (3 to Choose From)**  
**'16 Ford F-150 SuperCrew with XLT package**  
**Zero Down Financing and on sale at \$26,990**  
**Loaded with All power!**

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 NO ONE DEALS ON TRUCKS LIKE ROGEL FORD**

**TOP DOLLAR FOR EVERY TRADE IN - ASK ABOUT REBATES UP TO \$8000.**  
**ASK ABOUT 0% FINANCING - DEAL WITH ROGEL FORD'S IN HOUSE BANKING FOR ALL OF YOUR FINANCE NEEDS - COME SHOP WITH US !**

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CRYSTAL SPRINGS  
EXIT 72



Interstate  
55

WESSON

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*Rogel Ford supports our Veterans and First Responders!*