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Wesson News

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Volume 7, Number 4 *"Good News You Can Use"* April 9, 2019

Founders Day features headliner musicians

By Bob Arnold

Upwards of 1,000 persons are expected for the Wesson Founders Day celebration, which will be highlighted by an array of musical entertainment starting on Friday evening, April 26. A parade and flea market will also be part of the annual event, which continues Saturday, April 27, into the evening and concludes with street dancing.

All events will be in downtown Wesson on Highway 51, Spring and Factory Streets and at the municipal park. The Wesson Chamber of Commerce sponsors the annual event for townspeople and visitors to celebrate the life of the community. The thematic focus this year is the thirtieth birthday of the Chamber of Commerce, which was established in 1989, with Bradley Smith as its first president.

Headliners on the Founders Day musical stage throughout Saturday will include acclaimed regional vocalists Babs Wood and Hannah Belle and the My Savior Story and Jack Rabbit Slims bands. Co-Lin's band



My Savior Story.

Special to Wesson News



Hannah Belle.

Special to Wesson News



Babs Wood.

Special to Wesson News



Jack Rabbit Slims.

Special to Wesson News

and music programs will spotlight talented students at the college in its Jazz ensemble, Sojourners rock band and Ambassadors choral group.

The Co-Lin Jazz Band will set the mood at 6 p.m. on Friday, followed by Clayton Moulder and the Aesthetics band.

Wood, who now makes her home in Crystal Springs, is best known for her ten years as a featured songstress at Pat O'Brien's Bar in New Orleans' French Quarter from 2005 through 2015.

"My job was to make customers sing, laugh, have an entire afternoon of fun without falling down or standing on the tables," Wood says. "I first started working at Pat O's when I was almost eighteen. Other than touring across country with Mark Tidwell, Mike Stoker and Jerry Johnston, opening for George Jones and other greats, Pat O's was the most wonderful work experience I could imagine. I'm so grateful God sent me to Sonny Oschner at Pat O'Brien's Piano Lounge."

cont. on page 8

Easter Fun Day set for April 20

Special to Wesson News

Wesson will become a venue for fun and games for kids of all ages on the day before Easter.

The City Hall-based Play-It-Up program that coordinates volunteers to produce family events in cooperation with local churches is planning its

second annual Easter Fun Day on Saturday, April 20, in the parking lot at Wesson Baptist Church.

Last year, several hundred people turned out for the event.

The fun begins at 10 a.m. and will continue until the crowd thins out because the kids and adults have run

out of energy.

"There will be an Easter egg hunt at 11:30 a.m., and the Easter Bunny will be on hand to meet and encourage participants," says Town Clerk Angela Hester.

"An array of fun options are planned: games, space jumps, rock

and face painting, a dunking booth and a coloring contest. Snacks will be available throughout the day and lucky attendees will get door prizes."

If you want information, to help with needed donations or making the fun happen, contact City Hall at 601-643-5221.

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Local gardener tosses out hose

By Bob Arnold

Lugging around a heavy hose to assure flowers and vegetables get the water they need in Mississippi summers can discourage even the most avid gardener. And even if you don't mind the exercise, it's all too easy to forget the chore and lose plants as a result.

Al McSweyn, co-owner/manager of Porches Restaurant, has a surprisingly simple and inexpensive alternative: a drip irrigation system that delivers water on schedule to gardens on days, at times and for as long as you want. Last month, McSweyn shared his secret with Copeiah County Master Gardeners.

"The keys to successful gardening in Mississippi are consistently watering and consistently fertilizing plants," McSweyn reminded his audience.

To fertilize his plants, McSweyn still manually applies a mixture of Miracle Grow and water to them every ten days with a two-gallon watering can. He has fully automated water delivery to his plants, however, with the drip irrigation systems that cost less than \$100.

His irrigation system includes:

- A fully programmable timer, which he attaches to a faucet. The faucet runs all the time, but the timer controls it. McSweyn can program it to run water from the faucet as much as once a day or as little as once every six days at the time he desires for as many hours as he wants. He can also attach multiple timers to a splitter attached to one faucet.

- A one-half-inch black polyurethane supply line that attaches to a timer and delivers water to the areas where plants are located. He buries it in four-to-five-inch deep trenches.

- Quarter-inch black polyurethane feeder tubes that are inserted into holes punched into a supply line and actually deliver the water to gardens and planters.

- Emitter couplers and drip tubing

with emitters that attach to the ends of feeder tubes and control the water flow.

In the future, McSweyn plans to automate fertilizing with feeder lines and controls that he can incorporate into the system.

McSweyn uses Orbit Timers that

are powered by two AA batteries. They are available on Amazon for about \$30 each. The supply tubing costs \$18 for 100-foot rolls and the feeder tubing is \$14 for 100-foot rolls. Coupler emitters are eight to nine cents each and drip tubing with the couplers is \$16 for 100-foot rolls. He

purchases the tubing and couplers at dripworks.com on the internet.



Special to Wesson News
Timer attaches to water faucet and supply tubing as heart of home irrigation system.

On the grounds outside Porches, McSweyn has installed six timer-controlled drip irrigation systems that deliver water to his vegetable gardens, flower beds, hanging baskets and containers. In all, he cares for 60 tomato plants, eight cucumber plants, ten petunia beds, two rose beds and eight hydrangea bushes.

The drip irrigation system also delivers water to refresh a bird bath near his tomato plants. "Birds do not feed on tomatoes as many people think," McSweyn said. "Rather, they are attracted to tomato gardens because of their moisture. A bird bath not only keeps them away from the plants, but the birds eat the insects that harm them, and I no longer need to use insecticides."

McSweyn figures that, over eight years, when he averages out the cost of a drip irrigation system, it is about \$15 per year. The biggest cost is the timer that usually needs to be replaced every four or five years.

"It's not a bad price for not having to carry heavy watering hoses around your property and losing plants if you forget to water them," he said.

Church to lead town cleanup project

Wesson News

Wesson will get a spring cleaning on Saturday.

Decell Memorial United Methodist Church (DMUMC) is orchestrating a special project to rid the town of accumulated trash along roadsides and walkways and in public areas, as part of its service to the wider community outside its doors.

"We'll pick up litter on the streets in town and in the municipal park, sort of like God cleans up our lives," says DMUMC pastor Brandon Halford. "Our congregation has been studying its discipleship and sacrificial

responsibilities for people in communities -- local, state, national and worldwide -- beyond our church, and this is one response."

Volunteers, who want to participate in the cleanup project, will meet in front of the church on Highway 51 at 9 a.m. After a short worship service to



bless the effort, they will proceed downtown and fan out into a wider area to pickup paper, cans, bottles and other trash. Water and other soft drinks will be available to quench their thirst as they work and they will meet for snacks and

fellowship after completing their task.

Spearheading the project is a special congregation group -- Igniting Ministries -- that is focusing specifically on developing varied ways to meaningfully connect to the Wesson community. Last year, it served a picnic style dinner at the church to honor community leaders, which it plans to repeat in August in the municipal park.

Igniting Ministries members are Pastor Halford, Martha Lightsey, Alton Ricks, Sheila Sanders and Jordan and Doug Slonaker.

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Humanities Council recognizes Co-Lin teacher

Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin Social Science Instructor Kyle Britt of Wesson has been selected as the college's 2019 Humanities Instructor of the Year.

The Mississippi Humanities Council presents Humanities Teacher Awards to one humanities faculty member at each of Mississippi's twenty-nine institutions of higher learning in the state. The president of the institution or an appropriate dean nominates the faculty member before the end of September every year.

In recognition of his selection, Britt recently presented a program



Special to Wesson News

Former Co-Lin President Dr. Ronnie Nettles (right) presents a certificate on behalf of the Mississippi Humanities Council to 2019 Humanities Instructor of the Year Kyle Britt.

-- "The History of Wesson and Co-Lin" to an audience at the college.

Britt is a Co-Lin honor graduate and member of its Hall of Fame. He received a Bachelor's degree in secondary education from Mississippi State University and a Master's degree in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis in history from the University of Southern Mississippi. Britt was a social studies teacher at Wesson Attendance Center and Petal School District before joining Co-Lin. He is a member of the Mississippi Association of Educators and Macedonia Baptist Church in Brookhaven.

Banishing stress from your life

*By Guest Columnist
Dr. Stephanie Duguid*

Stress affects everyone to some degree, with approximately sixty-seven percent of adults saying they experience "great stress" at least one day a week.



Special to Wesson News

Stressors come in many forms, and even positive life events can increase our stress levels. Stress Awareness Month presents an opportunity to evaluate factors that increase our stress load, which has soared among Americans thirty percent over the last three decades.

At moderate levels, stress can motivate us to reach our goals and keep life interesting. This is called "eustress" -- positive stress. However, when stressors are severe or chronic, our bodies may not be able to adapt successfully. This is "distress" -- negative stress.

The body responds to stress in a

variety of ways:

- **Physiologically** (Body): elevated heart rate, palms are sweaty, muscles are tense.
- **Cognitive** (Mind): worry, lack of concentration, forgetfulness.
- **Emotional**: anger, hot tempered, panicky, sense of dread.
- **Behavioral**: impatient, hurrying, high strung.

Within this context, stress can compromise immune functioning, leading to a host of diseases of adaptation. In fact, stress has been linked to between fifty and seventy percent of all illnesses. It is associated with negative health behaviors, such as alcohol and other drug use, and psychological problems. According to WebMD, stress has been related to heart disease, asthma, obesity, diabetes, headaches, depression and anxiety, gastrointestinal problems, alzheimer's disease, accelerated aging, premature death. Among stress-related physical symptoms are fatigue, headache, upset

stomach, muscle tension, change in appetite, teeth-grinding, change in sex drive and dizziness.

According to BestTherapySchools.com, the top reasons people are stressed relate to:

1. Job pressure
2. Money
3. Health
4. Relationships
5. Poor nutrition
6. Media overload, and
7. Sleep deprivation.

Stress management encompasses physical activity, sleep, journaling, listening to music, breathing exercises, and guided imagery. Effective time management is particularly helpful in adapting to the stresses of modern living. Gaining a sense of control over your time may have important academic and health benefits. For example, for college students, managing time is critical to academic success as well as overall well-being. In one study of college

students, higher levels of perceived control over time were associated with lower levels of stress and higher levels of academic performance, problem-solving ability, and health. In another study, better time management was more productive against academic stress than merely doing leisure activities.

Here are some strategies for managing time:

1. Know how to spend it and write it down.
2. Set goals and deadlines.
3. Prioritize.
4. Include recreational activities in your schedule, in addition to your responsibilities.
5. Avoid procrastination, making the most of the time you have.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Stephanie Duguid is Dean of Academic Instruction at Co-Lin. She is also an athletic trainer and nutrition specialist and has been teaching courses related to those two areas as well as practicing what she preaches for more than twenty years.

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ClayMansell@WessonNews.com

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Publisher/Owner

Clay Mansell

ClayMansell@WessonNews.com

Editor

Bob Arnold

BobArnold@WessonNews.com

Designer

Brad Henderson

Designer@WessonNews.com

Special Contributors

Dr. Stephanie Duguid

Healthy Living

R. Shaw Furlow

Area Arts

Rebecca Bates

Tending Your Garden

Sales

Lynette McCaffrey

Sales@WessonNews.com

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ClayMansell@WessonNews.com

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Police Blotter

Special to Wesson News

During March, Wesson Police Department activity encompassed:

Responses to reports of:

- One trespassing
- One accident
- One scam
- One missing firearm
- Two credit card frauds

Arrests & citations for:

- Two larcenies
- One malicious mischief
- One child abuse
- Twenty-four speeding violations
- Four driving without a license
- Five disregard for traffic devices
- One expired tag
- Three no insurance

A Wesson Police officer is on duty during school hours at Wesson Attendance Center every day. Wesson Police also conduct nightly business checks at the school. On school days, they facilitate traffic, with officers on duty between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Community Calendar

April weather forecast: The Old Farmer's Almanac calls for an average temperatures 63 degrees (average) with precipitation of 55 inches (one inch below average). April 10-13: Sunny, nice. April 14-22: T-storms, they sunny, warm. April 23-27: T-storms north, sunny south. April 28-30: T-storms, cool.

APRIL 9

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.

Abstract Views, an exhibit featuring the works of Richard Dorris sponsored by Brookhaven Regional Arts Guild (BRAG), continues through April 29. Reception for the artist and gallery talk is April 25 at 5:30 p.m. Brookhaven-Lincoln County Public Library, downtown Brookhaven.

APRIL 11

Music & Arts in Trinity Park features performance by area musicians and artists doing their work on the ground. Every Thursday throughout April. Church of the Redeemer park, downtown Brookhaven on Monticello Street. 12 noon. Macedonia Travelers today, Tyler Bridge April 18 and Charlie Hewitt and Shaw Furlow with Harlie Blauw April 25.

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

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

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

The Co-Lin Jazz Band and Ambassadors presents "The Hits of Broadway" Dinner Theater. An elegant meal and a musical tribute to Broadway. Tickets are \$30. All proceeds benefit the Blue Wave Show Band and the Co-Lin Choir and Ambassadors. Thames Conference Center on the college's Wesson Campus. 7 p.m. Contact Crystal Cronin at 601-643-8637 or visit www.colin.edu for more information and to purchase tickets.

APRIL 15

State & federal income tax payment due.

Institute for Learning in Retirement luncheon, with performance by Co-Lin Jazz Band under the direction of Juanita Proffitt. \$10 with advance reservation/\$12 at the door. Thames Center. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Institute for Learning in Retirement workshop -- "History & Crafts" for the mind and hands, with the Co-Lin Centurion Club leading a discussion on a historical topic and session on creating a spring-related craft. Crafts fee TBD. Thames Center. 12:30 p.m.

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.

APRIL 16

WorkKeys Assessment for Career Readiness. Must register in advance. 601-643-8707. Thames Center on Co-Lin campus. 8:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Also April 18, May 1 & 3.

Copiah County Master Gardeners meets on third Tuesday of each month. Mississippi State University Extension Office at Gallman. Member meeting at 5 p.m. & educational program open to the public at 6 p.m.

Jews for Jesus' Steve Wertheim will re-create the traditional Passover service and explain how it foreshadowed Jesus' death and

resurrection in a presentation called "Christ in the Passover." It has been enthusiastically received in 38,000 churches by Christians who appreciate learning more about the Jewish background of their faith. Decell Memorial United Methodist Church, Highway 51, Wesson. 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.

APRIL 18.

Institute for Learning in Retirement Movie Day features "Book Club," with Diane Keaton, Jane Fonda, Candice Bergen and Mary Steinburgen playing lifelong friends whose lives are turned upside when their book club decides to shake things up. \$3. Thames Center. 12 noon.

APRIL 19

Co-Lin closes through April 22 for Easter.

APRIL 20

Easter Fun Day sponsored by City Hall-coordinated volunteers and local churches will feature Easter Bunny, egg hunt, snacks and a variety of fun options. Wesson Baptist Church parking lot. 10 a.m.-until?

APRIL 21

Happy Easter!

APRIL 22

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.

APRIL 25

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

APRIL 26

Brookhaven Little Theater performances of Disney's The Little Mermaid begin at 7:30 p.m. and continue on April 27 (2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.), April 28 (2:00 p.m.), May 3 (7:30 p.m.), May 4 (2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.), May 5 (2 p.m.), May 10 (7:30 p.m.), May 11 (2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.) & May 12 (2 p.m.). Haven Theater, downtown Brookhaven. Call 601-990-2243 or email suzanne@haventheater.org.

APRIL 30

Institute for Learning in Retirement trip to Brandon.

MAY 2

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

CONTINUING

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

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

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

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.

Email Community Calendar items to BobArnold@wessonnews.com

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Stan Weatherford -- musician & missions guy

By Bob Arnold

In retirement, Stan Weatherford says he is "as busy as I have ever been" in his "full-time part-time job" as Director of Missions for the Covich County Baptist Association, a writer/performer of country folk music, supply preacher to area Baptist churches on Sundays and teaching pastor at the church his brother serves in Wimberley, Texas, where he preaches and plays his guitar four to six times a year. Around town, members of church, civic, service and social groups know him as an entertainer at their programs and Baptist clergy know him as the guy they can count on to support and encourage their mission efforts.

Although a native Mississippian, Weatherford didn't settle down permanently in the state with his wife Vickie, now an intensive care cardiac care nurse at St. Dominic's Hospital in Jackson, until the Crystal Springs First Baptist Church called him to serve as their pastor in 2005 following Hurricane Katrina.

When he was three years old, Weatherford moved with his parents, who were school teachers, to Florida and grew up at Niceville, near Fort Walton Beach. In high school there, he discerned his call to the ministry and also started playing the guitar and developing the unique musical style he has carried with him in his ministries.

Weatherford attended Okaloosa-Walton Community College in Florida, graduated from Mississippi College in Clinton, where he studied religion, with a speech minor; and received an MA in Divinity (1980) and Doctor of Ministry degree (1989) from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. On September 25, 1978, he started his first pastorate at Spring Hill Baptist Church in Martinsville, where he met his wife, and now is again involved in revitalizing the



Wesson News

congregation in his current job. He subsequently served as a pastor at churches in Florida for 12 years and at Fairhope, Alabama, for 12 years before coming to Crystal Springs. After retiring, he moved into his present job two and a half years ago.

Along the way, over the years, Weatherford has continued to nurture his musical skills, and his performance venues and audiences have become more varied and numerous as appreciation of his special mix of sacred and secular county folk music has expanded.

"In high school, I played around with three or four basic chords and melodies," he recalls. "I became more accomplished as I learned from friends. Three years ago, I started taking guitar lessons from Matt Evasick, a professional who teaches at Mississippi Music in Jackson, to move my music to another level. Understanding music theory, has improved my compositions, and learning new techniques has improved my performances. You can only go so far on your own, and I didn't want all my music to sound the same." Recently, local songstress Babs Wood, who performed at Pat O'Brien's Bar in

New Orleans French Quarter, has begun working with Weatherford to help find recording opportunities.

As a pastor, consultant on missions, and musician, Weatherford has employed a similar approach to his work: "Trying to be positive and encouraging. Catching people doing good and telling them you appreciate them."

A signature song he performs before audiences, for example, shares his experience with his mother as a victim of Alzheimer's Disease. "It elicits similar responses from the varied audiences," he says. "People cry, relate their experiences to mine and line up after I play to discuss them with me. I feel the Lord gave me the song to help people and show them they are not alone."

Do you have a life beyond pastoring and music?

I am an outdoorsman. I hunt and fish. I also enjoy good conversations -- listening to stories and telling stories. My music tells stories.

I enjoy three grandchildren -- the sons and daughters of my son Aaron and his wife Jill. I hunt and fish with Aaron, who played baseball for Mississippi State, pitched in the Colorado Rockies farm system before a shoulder injury ended his career, and now teaches pitching to youth and young men at The Baseball Academy in Daphne, Alabama. As a young man, I played baseball and football and, like my son, was a pitcher. My grandson, like his father and me, is showing pitching talent.

Are you a reader?

I am an avid reader. When I am in Jackson and not taking guitar lessons at Mississippi Music, I hang out at Lemuria Book Store. History is my love -- Bevor's *D-Day*, Hampton Shield's books on the West. But I also read anything -- from John Grisham novels to

theology. I am currently reading *The Biblical Doctrine of Heaven* and Crane's *Red Badge of Courage*.

How about movies and theater?

I would rather read. The last movie I saw was *Saving Private Ryan*. How long ago was that!

Obviously, you're into music.

Yes. But not just my own. Music has always been part of my life. My mother played classical music on the piano. That was my earliest exposure to music. Classic country songs by Hank Williams, Hank Snow and Moe Brady are among my favorites. I am fond of storytelling, as I said. So I like music and song that tells stories. I also like old hymns if they are played and sung like they were written to be played and sung. Yet I enjoy modern praise music, as well.

Do you have any great wishes for yourself or the world.

For me, I just want to be faithful to God's call in my life, to serve wholeheartedly. For the world, I just want people to get along, quit the political jockeying and celebrate who we are working together.

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

I wouldn't play the lottery, but if God blessed with more money than I needed, I would seek ways to help other people, as I do through a not-for-profit organization I formed -- Christ-Centered Missions. It seeks contributions to fund mission opportunities. In Cuba, it has helped seminarians go to school, pastors who need assistance with home repairs, and to build churches. It also helps small churches without sufficient funds to pay for mission trips.

How would you change the world?

By sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ towards helping people develop right relationships with God and other people.

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They always wanted to be teachers

By Bob Arnold

For Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) Teachers of the Month in February and March -- Sharon Speights and Rhoda Shirley, there was never much doubt about pursuing careers as educators.

The daughter of an educator, Shirley started her teaching career path in the seventh grade as a tutor in Germany, where her father was stationed as an Air Force officer. Speights, on the other hand, had been a dance instructor for Nina Smith Studio in Wesson and taught dance at her own studio in Lawrence County for several years before going into a conventional classroom at WAC.

Both Speights and Shirley graduated from Wesson High School, attended Co-Lin and earned degrees at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM). Speights is the daughter of long-time Wesson residents Ryan and Anna Hartgraves, and Shirley is the daughter of Wesson native David Patterson, deceased, and his wife Ola, who continues to live in the area.

Shirley came to WAC as a special education instructor eleven years ago after receiving a degree in elementary education at USM, student teaching in England in a special overseas program and teaching kindergartners at Enterprise for four years and in the Hattiesburg public school system for two years. The principal at Lumberton recognized her potential as a special education teacher and offered her



Wesson News

Sharon Speights

a job, in which she worked for four years before joining the WAC faculty. Today at WAC, Shirley works with eleven special education students -- five, including a high school student, on an ongoing basis throughout the day, teaching them academics and life and social skills.

Speights, who teaches math to sixth graders at WAC, received a degree in dance at USM and an MA in elementary education at Mississippi



Wesson News

Rhoda Shirley

College. In addition to her career in dance studios, she served as a teaching assistant at WAC and directed the Colettes at Co-Lin. Before joining WAC's faculty in 2001, she earned her teaching certificate through the Mississippi alternate route program, which requires aspiring classroom

instructors to possess a college degree, complete graduate courses in classroom management and teaching methods and pass a praxis examination. At WAC, she has taught almost every elementary school subject in the third, fifth and now sixth grades.

Speights and her husband Scott, a CPA who recently retired from the State Auditor's office, have two grown children -- Laura, who is married and living in Birmingham, Alabama, and Anna, who is planning to marry and will graduate from the University of Mississippi with a degree in education. She enjoys playing games with her family, following sports -- particularly Ole Miss teams -- and involvement in the East Haven Baptist Church.

Shirley and her husband Dean, an Air Force National Guard officer, have three grown children -- Ryan, who is in U.S. Air Force basic training and will study at Mississippi State University (MSU); Rebekah, who will graduate from MSU with a degree in kinesiology towards becoming and physical therapist; and Elizabeth, a senior at Wesson High School. She and her husband are beekeeping hobbyists and make honey when they aren't doing anything else. Shirley also dabbles in arts and crafts.

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cont. from page 1

Founders Day features headliner musicians

In addition to performing, Wood writes songs, produces and promotes events and festivals, conducts motivational seminars and works as a paralegal.

Since, 2012, My Savior Story, from Meridian, Mississippi, has been performing with the purpose of changing hearts for Jesus Christ through stories of how God works in people's lives. The members of the band include Jonathan Quigley, its founder; Scotty Cole and Tony Temple. Their music is based on testimonies of Christians they have collected in their travels to performances before thousands of people and that have been submitted through the band's web site. *Reflection*, an extended play recording by the group, was written by Quigley with the tragic shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in mind, and is not only about the loss that tore through even the hardest hearts and left lifelong scars, but also focuses on the amazing gift of children that God places in people's lives and never taking one day for granted. *Reflection* is filled with powerful anthemic vocals, great guitar tones, and rhythmic pop elements.

Jack Rabbit Slims from West Monroe, Louisiana, calls itself "the next best thing to a rockin' time machine," and blends songs everyone

loves with its unique flavor. The band features lead vocalist Brad Borden on acoustic/electric guitars, vocalists Rich Laban on synthesizer/keyboards, Ken Vicknair on bass and Jonathan Webster on drums. They play a mix of popular hits from across all genres and decades -- oldies to current hits, acoustic and classic rock to party favorites. The band has been the featured act for events and functions all over the region, such as the annual Doug Pederson Celebrity Event, Monroe's own Ark-La-Miss Fair and the Mardi Gras festivities in historic Antique Alley. It has performed live on regional television programs and entertained on college campuses and before a variety of groups from North Louisiana to South Arkansas and West Mississippi.

Belle from Red Lick, Mississippi, started singing with her siblings and father in a gospel band when she was three years old. She had always wanted to be a country music star in the tradition of Faith Hill, started her journey toward that dream at a festival in Port Gibson, Mississippi, and has played at the Country Music Association's Fan Fair X in Nashville since 2013. She has shared the stage with Sawyer Brown, Diamond Rio, Bucky Covington, T. Graham Brown, Jo'el Sonnier, Shenandoah,

Joe Diffie and Josh Tompson and has won recognition for her music videos from the Independent Country Music Association, Great American Country, CMT and Zuus Country. She writes her own songs and plays classic country music, especially from the 1990s-2000 era. She has been a front person for two contemporary Christian praise bands and leads worship at the 2,000-member Covington, Louisiana, First Baptist Church.

The Saturday entertainment starts at noon. At 8 a.m., shoppers will begin looking at what flea market vendors are offering and opening ceremonies at 10 a.m. will officially inaugurate the event, with remarks by Chamber President Janet Currie and crowning of a new Founders' Day Queen.

The Founders Day parade rolls at 11 a.m. on Saturday. This year's parade Grand Marshall is the Wesson American Legion Post in honor of the hundredth birthday of the Legion, on March 15, 2019, which is being celebrated throughout the U.S. As the *Wesson News* went to press, the Chamber of Commerce was continuing to recruit parade participants. In previous years, parade participants have included the Wesson High School (WHS) and Co-Lin bands, Wesson police and

fire departments, Co-Lin and WHS cheerleaders and mascots, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, Wesson Wagon Train horse riders, wagons, buggies, and carriages; colorful floats created by local businesses and service, civic and fraternal organizations, churches, and individuals; and cars carrying local dignitaries.

Throughout Saturday, vendors along with town merchants will sell food and a variety of crafts, antiques, and fleas. Vendor spaces (10-foot x 10-foot) are still available. For local individuals and organizations selling food, they are \$50. The fee is \$100 for out-of-town food vendors. Those selling crafts, antiques and fleas will be charged \$40 for basic space and \$30 for each additional space. There is a \$5 fee for an electrical plug-in, limited to one per space.

A kids area will feature fun jumps.

The Founders Day celebration will conclude with street dancing starting at 9 p.m. At press time, town officials could not confirm arrangements for a fireworks display tentatively scheduled before dancing in the streets.

For information on participating in the parade and/or vendor space, call 601-643-5000 or 601-643-5027.

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Lions Club installing racks for group signs



Special to Wesson News
Wesson Lions Club is building and installing display racks like this one for signs of community organizations.

Special to Wesson News

Wesson community organizations will soon have a new way of highlighting their involvement and presence in the town.

In a new project, the Wesson Lions Club (WLC) is planning to build and install 6-foot x 5-foot multiple-sign display racks on properties near roadways at Wesson corporate boundaries for community organizations to place their unique signage.

The racks will complement existing Welcome to Wesson signs already on the roadside properties. They will feature wood construction and be designed to harmonize with the environment. They will be installed at the Wesson corporate boundaries north and south on Highway 51 and on Sylvarena Road.

"We are inviting all community organizations in Wesson -- service and social groups, churches and other non-profits -- to hang their own signs on our racks," says Lion

Ric Crockett. "The signs can feature logos, meeting hours and special messages pertinent to the group's interests. Shape doesn't matter, although size should be reasonable in consideration of the dimensions of the display rack and other signs sharing the available space."

The Lion's organizational sign is circular, a foot in diameter and includes the Lion's colorful blue and gold logo with the days and hours of its meetings.

Although the Lions Club received the blessing of Wesson aldermen last month to proceed with its project, the display rack and signs will be on private property owned by Philip Knight, Wesson Baptist Church and Co-Lin, and they must grant permission for installing the signage.

"It's a new opportunity for community organizations, which shape the life of Wesson, to demonstrate their involvement and presence in town," Crockett summarizes.

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- 2008 Chev. Avalanche LTZ.....Low mileage, Heated Leather Buckets, Tow Package, Bose Music, SHARP!
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Scholar-athlete & hoops All-Stars

Special to Wesson News

A Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) baseball player and cross country runner is one of sixteen Mississippi athletes selected for a prestigious academic honor.

The Mississippi High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) has named WAC's Will McInnis as one of its 2018 Lindy Callahan Scholar-Athletes -- its most prestigious honor.

Every year, MHSAA names one male and one female athlete at high schools in each of its eight geographic districts as Callahan honorees based on their academic accomplishments and participation in their school's athletic program and extracurricular activities.



Special to Wesson News

Wesson Attendance Center's Will McInnis is Lindy Callahan Scholar-Athlete.

MHSAA chose McInnis as its District 7 male honoree after he was first recognized as a scholar-athlete by WAC.

For six years, McInnis has played baseball at WAC and was honored as an All-Region selection and the Most Valuable Offensive Player on his team. McInnis has also competed in cross country competition as a WAC runner.

McInnis, along with the other Callahan scholar-athletes, was honored at the twenty-fourth annual MHSAA Scholarship-Athlete Banquet and will receive a \$1,500 college scholarship through the support of MHSAA.



Special to Wesson News

Wesson High School 2018-19 boys Region 7 soccer selections were (left to right front) Jim Guess, Most Valuable Offensive Player; Jaiden Smith, Braden Taylor, Conner Diamond, (left to right back) Cooper Brinson, Zach Franklin, Most Valuable Goalie; Aaron Mooney and Seth Cone.



Special to Wesson News

Region 7 girls soccer selections from Wesson High School were (left to right) Ella Silvan, Lexie Guess, Natalie Bonds, and Arie Douglas.

partners Bank Plus, Mississippi Sports Medicine, C Spire, Polk's Meat Products, the Adams & Reese Law Firm and the Mississippi Department of Human.

MHSAA established the Callahan honor in recognition of Lindy Callahan, a longtime coach and athletic administrator on the Mississippi Gulf Coast at Gulfport High School, who was instrumental in starting the Mississippi Association of Athletic Administrators and a six time Hall of fame inductee.



Hoops All-Stars. Co-Lin sophomores T'Kyra Hicks and Miles Daniels have been named Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) All-Stars for their play during their sophomore campaigns for Co-Lin women and men basketball teams. Hicks helped lead the Lady Wolves to a 21-7 overall record this year and to MACJC State runner-up. Daniels was a key for the Wolves, which ended the season with an 11-12 record. MACJC men and women All-Star games will be held in Brackeen-Wood Gymnasium on the campus of East Central Community College in Decatur. The North Division women will face the South Division on Friday, April 12 at 5 p.m. followed by the men's game at 7 p.m. Daniels, a 6'2 guard from Gulfport, Mississippi, played in all 23 games for the Wolves this year and shot 41.6 percent from the floor, while hitting 63 three-pointers for a 38.9 percentage. Hicks, a 5'7 standout guard from Greenville, Mississippi, started in 27 of Co-Lin's 28 games this year, shot 32.9 percent from the floor and hauled in 107 rebounds this season.

MLT applications being accepted

Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin's Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) program on the college's Wesson Campus is accepting applications for admission for its Fall 2019 class. The final deadline to submit applications is June 1.

Co-Lin is Southwest Mississippi's only community college with an MLT program.

The MLT program is a two-year technical program that prepares students for employment as a medical laboratory technician and/or advancement in the field of medical technology. Graduates find job opportunities in health care facilities such as hospitals, doctors' offices, and medical clinics.

The MLT curriculum encompasses theory, laboratory practice, and

clinical experience. Co-Lin's MLT program has a 100 percent passage rate on the national ASCP Board of Certification and a 100 percent job placement rate. According to the Bureau of Labor Statics, Medical Laboratory Technicians earn an average salary of \$51,770 per year.

MLT applicants must be 18 years of age and have a recommended ACT score of 18 or higher. Acceptance is

based on a completed application packet, ACT score, and an interview by the selection committee. If accepted, all applicants must participate in drug and alcohol testing and have a criminal history background check. For more information, visit www.colin.edu/mlt or contact MLT Program Director Paula Yarborough at paula.yarborough@colin.edu or Career-Tech Counselor Veronica Topp at 601-643-8324.

Bees, groceries, diabetics, health & smoking

Special to Wesson News

Beekeeping grows. The number of people in Mississippi taking up beekeeping as a hobby is growing, and commercial-scale production of honey is holding steady. While it is considered a small commodity, honey maintains a strong interest among consumers, some of whom become hobbyists. Thirty-five to fifty Mississippi families are commercial beekeepers, who manage 3,000-4,000 colonies a year and average 90-110 pounds of honey per harvest. Eighty to one hundred beekeepers in the state rely on honey production as supplemental but not sole income. Beekeepers have struggled to stay a step ahead of the varroa mite, the largest threat to honey bee colonies, and colony mortality rates are declining. In the commercial industry, "soft chemicals" that do not leave behind contaminating residues in wax, including organic acids and natural insecticides, have been effective. Hobbyists often use non-chemical options

Grocery store hunting renewed. The frustration around the shortage of grocery stores continues in Brookhaven and Lincoln County with the collapse of a promising deal that would have breathed new life into two Piggly Wiggly stores. Danny Manning, who owns several Piggly Wiggly stores in Fairhope, Daphne and Mobile in Alabama, planned to purchase six of seven Piggly Wiggly stores in Mississippi owned by Glenda Rushing, including the pair in Brookhaven. A New York company -- Brookhaven Retail LLC, which owns the Piggly Wiggly property on West Monticello Street, however, raised the stakes as the deal was about to close and Manning walked away from it. The Brookhaven Piggly Wiggly on Highway 51 has closed its doors, while the West Monticello store remains open with its shelves



Special to Wesson News

The Wesson Police Department is seeking information related to the theft of this 6-foot x 12-foot 2011 Intruder trailer at 1013 Bayou Pierre.

virtually empty.

Lions diabetes camp. The Mississippi State Lions Club will inaugurate a unique camp for teenagers with diabetes or pre-diabetes next month at Camp Wilkes in Biloxi. The camp is scheduled to begin on Friday, May 31 (4 - 6 p.m. registration), and ends on Sunday, June 2, at noon. The camp is for 13 to 17 years old pre-diabetics or Type 1 and Type 2 diabetics. The cost is \$25 per camper. Camp Wilkes is an 89-acre facility on the Biloxi Bay shoreline. Ten of the acres are developed and the remaining 79 are heavily-wooded, with two miles of hiking trails and a primitive scout

camping site. Camp participants will enjoy a fun-filled weekend, while learning healthy eating habits, ways to stay active and how to choose healthy, delicious foods. For information, contact Harvey Nixon at 228-594-3638 or Gene Trussell at 662-574-7552.

Health outcome rankings. The 2019 County Health Rankings, a collaborative report of the University of Wisconsin's Population Health Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, ranks Lincoln County forty-sixth, Lawrence County fifty-fourth and Copiah County fifty-sixth in Mississippi on health outcomes. The report looks at health factors and

health behaviors throughout the U.S., such as obesity -- a major problem throughout Mississippi, sexually transmitted infections, which have decreased locally; the percentage of patients getting vaccines, the ratio of the population to certain healthcare practitioners and socio-economic issues that influence health, among other things. The data show that in counties throughout the nation not everyone has benefitted in the same way from health improvements over the past century.

Smoking kids. Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) Officer Thomas Dobbs has joined the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in concern over increasing tobacco product use among youth. More than one in four high school students used a tobacco product in 2018 -- a considerable increase from 2017 driven by a rise in e-cigarette use. Current e-cigarette use increased by 77.8 percent among high school students and 48.5 percent among middle school students during 2017-2018, erasing the prior year's progress in reducing e-cigarette use and tobacco product use. "Use of any form of tobacco product by youth is unsafe, including e-cigarettes," Dobbs said. "The increase in e-cigarette use is alarming, because youth nicotine use can lead to addiction and can harm the developing brain, impacting learning, memory and attention." The recent increase in e-cigarette use among youth is consistent with observed increases in sales of the e-cigarette JUUL. A single prefilled liquid nicotine JUUL pod contains as much nicotine as a pack of cigarettes. For more information and resources about the dangers of e-cigarettes or tobacco products, visit www.healthysms.com/tobacco. Follow MSDH by e-mail and social media at HealthyMS.com/connect.

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An area arts potpourri during April

By Guest Columnist Shaw Furlow

The month of April is going to be busy in our corner of the world. Plays, recitals, band and choir concerts, and Music and Art in Trinity Park returns.



Special to Wesson News

The annual April Arts Month has started in the City of Hazlehurst. If you are not familiar with this event, you should check it out. It's a unique demonstration of the city's pride and love of art.

The works of fifty artists, all from Copiah County, will be on display in businesses throughout the city in the coming weeks. While most of them will be on display on Caldwell Drive, Gallatin Street and Ragsdale Avenue at Allred's Pharmacy, Brumm's Yummies, Cartwright Antiques, the Check Cashier's Office, Copiah Bank, Crosby Accounting Service, Downtown Nutrition, a former optometrist's office, Le Soul Restaurant, the Packard Law Firm, the Tillman's Building and Trustmark Bank; other businesses such as Be Clean Cleaners and Grapevine Cottage located elsewhere are participating, as well. Store owners have volunteered their windows to display the art, and the works and can be viewed on an "art walk."

"You can view it from your car, but you get so much more by taking a walk," says Jacqui Patten, one of the coordinators of this year's event. "Take your time and just stroll. You'll get so much more out of it."

There is a great diversity in this year's submissions -- from pencil drawings and all forms of painting to pottery and portraits, and even wire jewelry.

Volunteers are the backbone of any festival, and April Arts Month is no

different. "Jacqui and I are the coordinators, but everyone has jumped in to help," says Lou Anne Thornton. "Can you just image? Fifty local artists have offered us pieces of art! All kinds. We are so excited." Add to that the businesses that volunteered their space and you see it is, indeed, a city-wide project. There are fifteen art display venues, including the Mississippi Music Museum.

A gospel music concert featuring the City of Hazlehurst Choir -- police and fire department personnel -- kicked off the event.

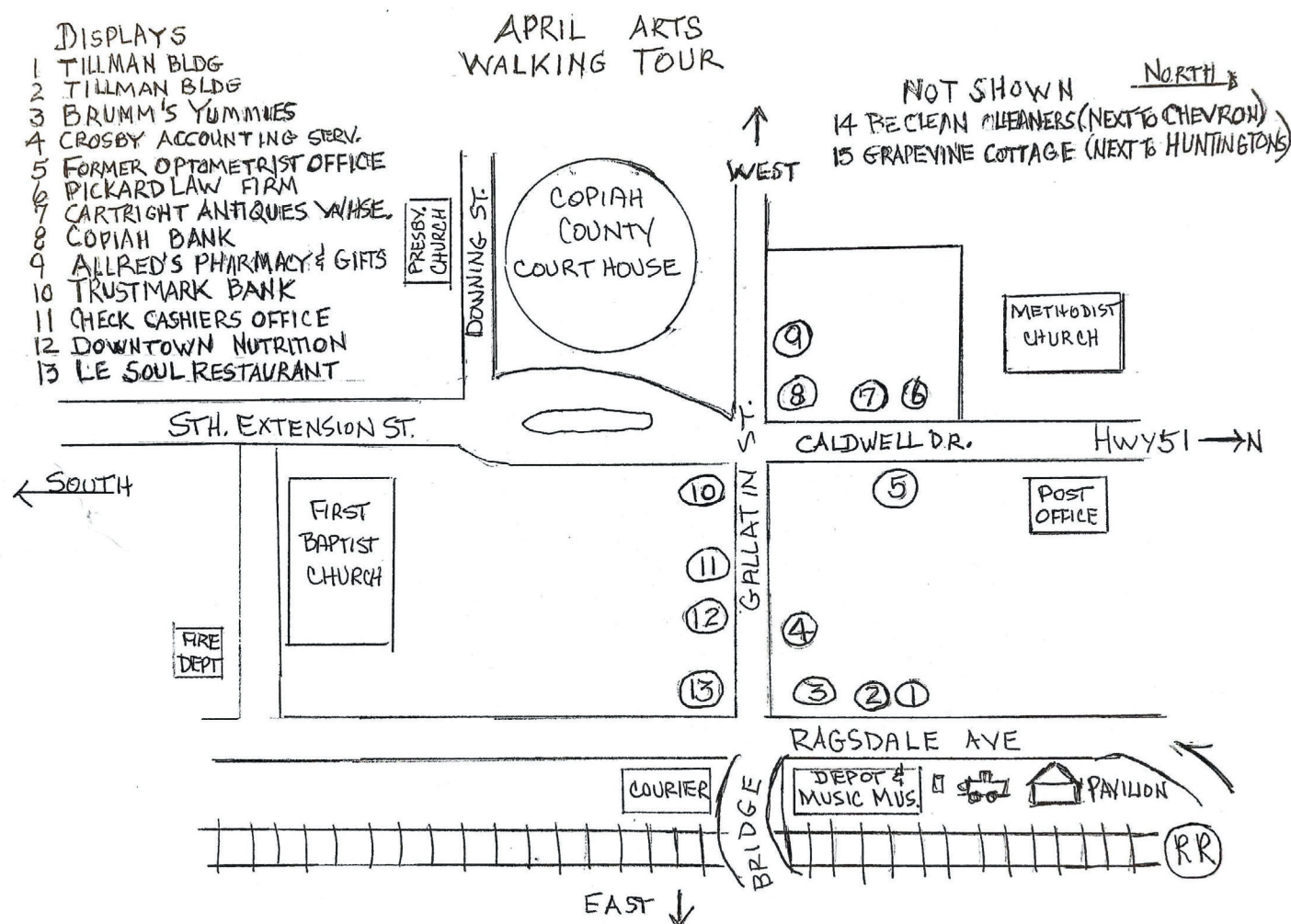
Brookhaven Little Theatre is also at it again. Following successful productions of *Mary Poppins*, *Peter Pan* and *Newsies*, BLT brings *The Little Mermaid* to the stage April 26 through May 17. This is a rare three week engagement. So there will be plenty of opportunities to catch this classic story.

Music and art in Trinity Park is back in April as well. Each Thursday at noon, different solo acts or ensembles perform for an hour, while the patrons enjoy their lunch on blankets or lawn chairs. It's free and open to everyone. Trinity

Park is located in Brookhaven next to The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer. Mississippi School of the Arts Chorale started April 4 and will be followed by the Macedonia Travelers (April 11), Tyler Bridge (April 18) and Charlie Hewitt, Harlie Blauw and I (April 25).

That's it for this month, my friends. It's that time of the year -- busy, busy, busy, and there are plenty art events for you to support.

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



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