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Wesson News

SPOTLIGHT

**New Decell
Pastor**
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Volume 5, Number 8

“Good News You Can Use”

August 8, 2017

Co-Lin changes address budget cuts

Wesson News

The Co-Lin Board of Trustees has approved changes in the organizational structure of the College recommended by Co-Lin President Dr. Ronnie Nettles.

“The primary reason for the changes was to reduce budget expenses and to be more efficient in the operation of the college,” said Dr. Nettles. “We are very fortunate at Co-Lin to have experienced administrators who are very talented and willing to assume these additional duties and responsibilities.”

Among the changes:

- Dr. Jane Hulon, who has served as Vice President of Instructional Services, now becomes Vice President of the Wesson Campus, with oversight of academic instruction, career, technical, and workforce education; student and enrollment services; institutional



Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin President Dr. Ronnie Nettles (left) congratulates college Board of Trustees members for their service (left to right): Randall Lofton (15 years) and Willie Harrison (20 years), both of Lincoln County; and Chuck Gilbert of Adams County (15 years). They were honored at the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges Trustees (MACJCT) Annual Meeting held in Pearl, Mississippi.

effectiveness, and veteran services. She will be primarily responsible for the operation of the Wesson Campus including housing, financial aid, student activities, athletics and the counseling center, as well as other the areas she previously supervised.

- Chris Warren, who served as Director of Admissions and Records, becomes Dean of Student Services, replacing Brenda Smith, and will assume duties as division chairperson and instructor of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. Smith will continue as assistant men’s and women’s tennis coach.

- The admissions office and the counseling center will be combined, and the College is hiring a director of enrollment services.

- Dr. Stephanie Duguid has transferred from Assistant Dean of Academic Instruction/Division Chairperson

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Work Ready initiative expands through new academy

Wesson News

Co-Lin and ACT, the international college admissions service, are partnering a Work Ready Regional Academy as part of expanding efforts throughout southwest Mississippi to help the area’s economic development programs demonstrate to prospective employers that their labor forces are prepared to readily move into and start working productively in the middle-skill jobs that require more than a high school education, less than a four-year college degree,



Special to Wesson News

Representing Copiah County at the ACT Work Ready Community Regional Academy at Co-Lin were (left to right) Larry Williams, Linda Harris, Cathy Stroud, Nora Berch, Shirley Sandifer and Arthur Evans.

and constitute almost half the jobs available in the U.S.

Representatives from Claiborne, Copiah, Franklin, Jefferson, Lawrence, and Simpson counties attended the first-of-its-kind academy at Co-Lin in preparation to launch their own Work Ready Community (WRC) Initiatives. The academy featured seminars on strategic planning, customer focus, social mapping, and goal achievement.

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Police Blotter

Special to Wesson News

During July, Wesson Police Department activity encompassed:

Response to:

- One burglary of an auto
- One petty larceny
- One utilities theft
- Twenty general complaints

Citations & arrests:

- One felony fleeing
- One molestation of a minor
- Two shoplifting
- Seven speeding
- Two no proof of auto liability insurance
- Six contempt of court warrants
- One non-alcohol substance DUI
- Two driving without a license
- Two driving with a suspended license
- One possession of a controlled substance
- One open container violation
- One possession of drug paraphernalia
- Four possession of marijuana in a motor vehicle
- One no tag on a motor vehicle
- One child restraint violation
- Two careless driving
- One driving on the wrong side of the road
- One following too close behind another vehicle
- One improper passing
- Three failures to signal
- One disregarding a traffic device (stop sign)

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.

Storm safety, honors, jobs, books & property

Special to Wesson News

Storm precautions. With the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season underway, Attorney General Jim Hood urges Mississippians to make provisions for possible tropical storms and hurricanes this summer: Assemble an emergency supply kit with flashlights, batteries, cash, first aid supplies, and duplicates of crucial information if evacuation becomes a reality. Review a hurricane evacuation map and plan how all family members and pets will evacuate safely. Supply your home with adequate amounts of food and water so you can evacuate in place if needed, particularly in case you lose power for several days. Plan for any special circumstances, such as individuals with disabilities or the elderly. Identify the emergency notification system for your area by searching the word “alerts” on the internet with your town, city, or county name. The Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division also has resources available through an online guide for those who are storm survivors, including a “model contract” to avoid home repair fraud.

CCMC Trustee president honored. The Mississippi Hospital Association (MHA) has presented its prestigious Distinguished Hospital Trustee Award to Copiah County Medical Center’s (CCMC) Board of Trustees President Carroll V. Hood for exemplifying extraordinary dedication and service in hospital governance and making a significant impact to the community over a sustained period of time. Hood spearheaded fundraising for and construction the new CCMC facility after consultants and lenders said it could not be done. He was instrumental in gaining the momentum for funding through grants, loans, and new market tax credits.

Jobless rate at new low. Mississippi’s

unemployment rate is at a 41-year low at 4.9 per cent. The state labor force encompasses 1.3 million persons, with 64,100 jobless. While Lincoln County has a 5.9 per cent unemployment rate, Copiah County has one of the highest at 12.6 per cent. Lawrence County’s unemployment rate is 6.7 per cent. The Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) has been helped in its workforce development activities through a variety technology initiatives, including its State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS), which was advanced through a recent U.S. Department of Labor \$2.7 million grant. SLDS helps Mississippians get appropriate job training and find good jobs.

Book festival. Readers, authors and booksellers will come together on the Mississippi State Capitol grounds in Jackson on August 19 for the third annual Mississippi Book Festival, which will feature book signings, an Authors Alley for self-published writers, a book sellers bazaar, panel discussions with notable authors,

NEWS NUGGETS

Capitol tours and exhibits, live music, a Kids Corner tent with children’s books and food vendors. The event is free. For information, visit MSBookFestival.com.

Find lost property. ReportIt, a free property inventory system available via the internet to all Lincoln County residents, helps find lost or stolen property. Users may register up to one hundred of their valuable items on the secured website. If one of the registered items is missing, they

can log on to the website, print out the property information and report it nationally to law enforcement agencies. Local police are notified by email if the missing item is found. The National Crime Information Center assures the security of the system. The Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office subscribes to the system on behalf of Lincoln County residents. Create an account at reportit.leadsonline.com.

Consolidation & job cuts. The Mississippi Forestry Commission has consolidated seven districts into four new regions and is eliminating some 75 jobs to compensate for the Mississippi Legislature’s sixteen per cent decrease in its appropriations -- \$2.67 million -- for its 2018 fiscal year.

Cancer Society to build patient lodge. The American Cancer Society is close to breaking ground for the \$10.9 million Gertrude C. Ford Hope Lodge in Jackson -- a 32-room facility, including private guest rooms with two double beds and private bathrooms; residential-style family kitchen and dining area, recreation area, library and chapel -- for cancer patients and their caregivers. It assures a comfortable place to rest for those who must travel away from home in their fight against cancer. It will be located adjacent to the main campus of the University of Mississippi Medical Center, on North State Street, near many of the area’s top cancer treatment centers. At the facility, patients will have access to free transportation to and from all these health care facilities and be able to take advantage of the Cancer Society’s programs and services. The Hope Lodge capital campaign is rapidly reaching its funding goal, but still needs support. For more information or to inquire about the project, contact the American Cancer Society at 800-227-2345 or visit cancer.org/hopelodgejackson.

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Camp attracts crowds for mud runs

By Guest Columnist Nora Berch

When I was first selected as Tourism Director for Copiah County, my son suggested I visit Copiah Creek Campgrounds. People, he told me, come from all over Mississippi, as well as out of state, to ride all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) there. A variety of people of all ages and from different locations come to this hidden location in Georgetown, Mississippi. An average weekend brings anywhere from 300-500 people to the grounds.

To learn about a site, you must experience it. So I arranged to do just that through Russell Phillips, who leases the camp land from Charles O'Neal. Phillips has managed the camp since 2006 and leases more than 300 acres, which has miles of ATV trails, creek crossings and mud bogs. Both RV hookups and primitive sites are available. It offers affordable rates on off-road ATVing, camping and RV stops. Over the years, it has been the site of many events, including Easter egg hunts, crawfish boils, mud runs, Fourth of July fireworks, family reunions and birthday parties.

I came with my son, Chris Berch, and "the Mud Mafia," a group to which he belongs, for a mud run. The attire for the day was not a ball gown, for sure. You are going to get muddy. So most people wear shorts and a sleeveless shirt with a bathing suit underneath. We developed a plan and chose Jason Wallace to lead the ride. We rode along the trail, enjoying the beauty of nature, stopped for a break and then got back on the trails. I will never forget the delight of my grandchildren, Caleigh and Delton,

who rode through the mud with us. When our leader got stuck in the mud, everyone jumped into action to pull him out, and we continued on our way.



Special to Wesson News

There are hundreds of trails you can take -- a lot of options as to where to go. We headed to Copiah Creek and rode until we got to a crossing and went thru the water. The water was beautiful and clear. The ATVs are not allowed to ride in the creek and have to cross at an angle. As we were standing and visiting, I looked up at the hill of sand behind me and saw a group of young people riding

in our direction. They crossed and continued on their way.

No ride is complete without going to Hole 27 -- a big water hole visible from Highway 27. I introduced myself to a large group of young people there, who were observing the mud riders. They came from Hazlehurst and Florence. This was their first ride at the camp grounds. Another riding group from Louisiana was also at Hole 27 -- "the Southern Mud Riders." They learned about the facility from social media and by word-of-mouth. One man had been coming there eight years, first with a tent and now with a camper.

Copiah Creek Campgrounds is a great place to bring the family. It is located near the beautiful Copiah Creek. The ATV park and campground has 25 sites with electrical and water, a dump station and a bathhouse with showers and toilets.

EDITORS NOTE: Nora Berch is Director of Copiah County Tourism.

cont. from page 1

Co-Lin budget cuts

of Health, Physical Education & Recreation to Dean of Academic Instruction. She replaces Dr. Jill Logan, who recently retired. The college will not fill the assistant dean position at this time.

- Bryan Nobile has transferred from Assistant Athletic Director to Athletic Director following the resignation of Gwyn Young, who continues to serve as Head Women's Basketball Coach. Nobile will continue to serve as Assistant Dean of Students and Assistant Baseball Coach. In addition, Lane Young has been hired as Assistant Athletic Director of Compliance and Eligibility.

- Tiffany Perryman has been named Interim Director of Institutional Effectiveness and will continue teaching in the business and office technology program.

The Board of Trustees also raised student tuition and fees to help make up for a \$1.2 million reduction in income as part of the Mississippi legislature's community college system appropriation \$28 million cut.

"It's a necessity," said Dr. Nettle. "We don't want to do it, but we need to do it to keep providing the service, training, and instruction our students deserve. We will still be among the bottom third of the community colleges in tuition and fees in the state."

Beginning in the fall 2017 semester,

tuition for full-time students will be \$1,400 per semester, an increase of \$205. Part-time tuition will be \$140 per semester hour, an increase of approximately \$20 per semester credit hour. Students living on campus in Wesson will also see their housing fees and meal tickets increase \$25 per semester. In addition, there will be a \$50 program fee for selected Career and Technical programs and a \$75 fee for some of the higher-cost career and technical programs. Students will also see increases in the technology fee (\$15), student services fee (\$5), online fee (\$10), and dual enrollment fee (\$25).

In addition to the measures taken to generate income, Nettles said Co-Lin is asking its managers to cut their budgets 14.3 percent for the upcoming year.

"We will spend less money in travel, utilities, and commodities," he pointed out. The only item to increase in Co-Lin's budget is for student scholarships and will now exceed \$1.5 to compensate for tuition hikes, which increase scholarship expenses.

In other action, the Board of Trustees authorized the Administration to make a request to County Boards of Supervisors for a 10 percent increase in support funds for FY '18 and approved a five-year project request for capital needs.

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'Leave no trace' is outdoors rule

By guest columnist Evan O'Donnell
MSU Extension Service

During the outdoors summer season, whether fishing, hunting, boating, hiking, photographing or wildlife watching, "Leave No Trace" is the rule.

Actually, Leave No Trace is a set of seven easy-to-follow principles meant to reduce human-caused negative impacts on the environment:

- **"Plan Ahead and Prepare"** can improve enjoyment of time in the outdoors. Use the weather forecast to help prepare clothing choices. Study a map of the area, focusing on terrain, water sources and timetables. Bring a compass and map for trips. Since smaller groups impact an area less, consider carefully the number of people on the trail. If necessary, break up a large group into multiple smaller groups to help reduce negative impacts on the environment.

- **"Traveling and Camping on Durable Surfaces"** reduces damage to fragile spaces. Many rare plant species can be found in wild places, usually off trail. Strive to let them thrive. Try to camp at least 200 feet from any water, instead of right by a lake or stream, to help reduce negative impact on sensitive aquatic environments. Great campsites are found, not made. Continue to use areas that are already designated as campsites. Don't make a new campsite when there are already plenty around. Avoid camping or walking in places where there are signs of impact, such as recently trampled plant life.

- **"Dispose of Waste Properly"** by bagging all trash and leftover food when leaving. Dig a six- to eight-inch hole to bury human waste at least 200 feet from a campsite and any water sources. Clean dishes

away from water with biodegradable soap.

- **"Leave What You Find"** no matter how tempting the souvenirs. People tend to find things they wish to bring back home. Then the items are no longer available in the wild for others to enjoy. Remember: Take only pictures, leave only footsteps.

- **"Minimize Campfire Impacts"** by using premade pits to start campfires outdoors. It's best to have small fires and make sure they are completely extinguished before leaving an area. Because campfires can have lasting impacts on the environment, make sure they are minimal.

- **"Respect Wildlife"** by restraining pets and observing from a distance. Watch and enjoy, but never feed the animals. Feeding can cause health issues, alter how the animals forage for sustenance and lead to human-wildlife conflicts. While hiking with dogs, keep them on leashes so they don't chase or harass the wildlife. This will make a trip even more enjoyable since deer and other animals will come around and be seen.

- **"Be Considerate of Other Visitors"** on the trails. Keep noise and other distractions from nature to a minimum.

Spending time outside is supposed to be fun and relaxing. Leave No Trace and ensure that future visitors are able to enjoy outdoor experiences, as well. Outdoors space is borrowed from our children and grandchildren. So leave them something of which they can be proud.

For more information about Leave No Trace, visit <http://www.lnt.org>.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Evan O'Donnell works for the Mississippi State University Extension Service.

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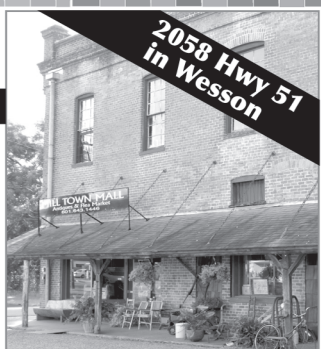
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A weed you may want to cultivate



Special to Wesson News

Purslane, such as this Mojave Mixed selection, thrive in patio containers and hanging baskets that take advantage of its spreading and trailing growth characteristics.

By Guest Columnist Gary R. Bachman

Purslane has long been regarded as a garden weed. A single plant can produce more than 50,000 seeds. I've seen it growing in coarse gravel and cracks in concrete. If an area is moist, purslane is there. I have removed many as weeds, but I'm having a change of heart. Purslane is one of the plants I'm interested in adding to my Mississippi landscape and garden. It's a succulent that thrives in high summer temperatures, and that makes it a perfect flowering annual for our hot and humid summers. Purslane's summer-loving qualities make the improved selections perfect for the landscape.

Purslane is a larger and more robust version of its relative -- moss rose, a popular bedding plant. Moss rose, however, has leaves that are cylindrical-shaped, while purslane has flattened, teardrop-shaped foliage.

Some of the better-flowering purslanes -- and there are many to choose from -- include the colors rose, scarlet, apricot, orange, yellow and white. They have a tropical look and put on a show with flowers up to two inches wide. The bright-yellow stamens are fairly long and move with the gentlest touch, adding more interest.

Purslanes are generally low-growing and spreading flowering annual plants. The stems are purplish-green, and the leaves are bright green. They grow up to eight inches tall and spread to 18 inches. So space them 12 to 15 inches apart in the landscape.

One of my favorite ways to grow purslane is in patio containers and hanging baskets. These choices take advantage of the plant's spreading and trailing growth characteristics.

Be sure to keep containers a little on the dry side.

Regularly pinch off long stems and spent blooms to keep purslanes dense and full. Purslanes are heavy feeders that require a adequate nutrition throughout the season for best flowering and growth.

It is important to allow the soil to dry out moderately between watering. I water with a water-soluble 20-10-20 or 20-20-20 fertilizer, always following label instructions. As temperatures begin to drop in the fall, keep the soil a little dry, and the plant will reward you with blooms into the fall.

In addition to liking the summer heat and humidity, purslane likes full sun. I find it fascinating that the flowers close in late afternoon and early evening, as well on cloudy days and when the plant is under stress.

Purslane, interestingly, is considered a culinary herb in many parts of the world. The leaves of this plant are rich in iron and can be eaten raw when young. I'm even growing purslane as microgreens and adding this super food into my diet. When it gets older, purslane can be cooked with other leafy vegetables like spinach. It is commonly found in Italian, Greek, Central American and Middle Eastern cuisines.

Purslane is a beautiful, old plant with many uses that is worth trying in every Mississippi landscape today.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Gary Bachman is an Extension and research professor of horticulture at the Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center in Biloxi. He is also the host of the popular Southern Gardening television and radio programs.

TENDING YOUR GARDEN

How to cope with school year energy challenges

By Guest Columnist
Dr. Stephanie Duguid

Low-energy is a hallmark of this time of year, when going back to school is in full swing. The challenges of exhaustion and maintaining high energy levels face parents, students and teachers alike. As the school year begins, remembering everything from school supplies, to back to school events, arranging drop off and pick up, and remembering lunches or lunch money can be a challenge. Getting back into routine consumes energy -- getting used to the early alarms, packing school bags, finishing homework, and making it to school on time with the right supplies. When the excitement of the first day of school is over and kids realize they are back in the groove, they find it harder to get up and get ready each day. Good friends separated into different classes and homework drains energy. Scheduling and managing after school events along with other family responsibilities is exhausting. Just writing this makes me feel weary and low on energy!

According to *Consumer Reports*, there are a number of things we can do -- small changes in our lifestyles -- that can boost and sustain our energy levels:

In the morning, let the sunshine in. When it's dark, the brain makes melatonin that causes sleepiness. Morning light helps stop its production and helps us wake up. Exposure to light throughout the day synchronizes the sleep-wake cycle and helps combat daytime sleepiness.

Take a drink break. Dehydration, even in its mildest forms, can zap energy, memory, and attention, according to the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. Make a point of drinking water at regular intervals throughout the day, beginning in the morning. Water is essential for most of our body functions. Drink water rather than sugary or energy drinks, and other quick fixes.



In the afternoon, get moving. Physical activity is a powerful antidote for fatigue. Twenty minutes of low intensity aerobic exercise three times a week can reduce fatigue by 65 percent over a period of six weeks. Climb stairs instead of riding the elevator, park a distance away from buildings and walk to them, walk around campus after lunch.

Stop sipping coffee and tea in the afternoon. Most people feel they need a pick-me-up during the afternoon. However, consuming a stimulant can disrupt sleep when consumed even six hours before bedtime. Avoid quick caffeine boosts from energy "shots" and drinks, which can also be dangerous over time.

In the evening, try to power down. Dim the lights and turn off the TV. Put away the smart phones and shut down computers and other electronic devices at least one hour before bedtime to help your brain trigger the production of melatonin. The brain needs to prepare to shut down. The quality of sleep will improve over time with this practice.

Address your stress. If you feel stress is creating physical fatigue, try listening to a meditation or relaxation app before bed. This prepares the body for rest. Stress can cause issues with all major systems of the body. Find the source of stress and address it.

See your doctors about symptoms, such as unexplained weight gain or loss, fever, shortness of breath, or morning headaches.

Even others with whom we associate benefit if we take simple steps and make a few changes to our daily routines to combat exhaustion. Review daily habits and make positive changes as required.

Here is to another great school year!

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.

LIVING + HEALTHY +

Nelson Santa Ana helps his church love Wesson

By Bob Arnold

Nelson Santa Ana, pastor at Wesson Baptist Church, says he has four responsibilities in his life and career in order of importance -- to love and serve God, his family, congregation, and, finally, the wider community. At Wesson Baptist, the fourth responsibility may be last, but it is not least.

Since Santa Ana came to town in December, 2011, from Baton Rouge to become pastor at Wesson Baptist Church, loving and serving the wider community beyond the walls of the building has become an increasingly important part of his ministry.

It may well be what he found in Wesson the propelled him.

"The transition from Baton Rouge to Wesson was about moving from a place where nobody knew you to where everyone recognized you as a pastor," he explains. "I also found in Wesson Baptist Church an expectation that I would be pastor of the town."

Guided by a vision "to love God supremely and love others selflessly -- God and others (Go)," Santa Ana and Wesson Baptist have been reshaping a congregation in line with Wesson demographics, which research showed to be younger than its makeup at the time -- people in their 40s attracted by the school system.

"Modern worship experiences and social events for families, and the movement of the Holy Spirit has drawn them to the church," Santa Ana says.

The congregation reaches out to the community through events "designed to demonstrate love for its people, not to recruit new church members" -- a recent block party picnic at the municipal park, a fall festival and community Easter egg hunt -- and helping non-church members with struggles in their lives. More recently, Wesson Baptist and Santa Ana have established congregational goals, including one to become more ethnically diverse and another to



Wesson News

become a "reaching church" that cultivates evangelism and provides recovery assistance to people inside and outside the congregation who are struggling with various issues.

Born in Alabama, Santa Ana came to DeRidder, Louisiana, when he was in the fourth grade after living with his family in North Carolina since he was two years old. After graduating from DeRidder High School, he went to Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge, where he received a business management degree and, as a freshman, felt his call to the ministry when he was a camp counselor. He entered New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS) in 2005, took a year off from his studies there after Hurricane Katrina

6; and twins Cate and Connor, 3.

When you aren't preaching or being a pastor, what do you do?

Sports and food. I try to attend at least one LSU home football game every season and record and watch their games when I cannot attend them. I enjoy playing sports, particularly tennis. Carly and I travel to the Jackson area to eat out a lot, particularly at Mexican restaurants and steak houses. Texas de Brazil is a favorite restaurant, with its samplings of grilled and barbeque meats.

I also help my wife with the kids and our household when she is occupied with other responsibilities. It's not something I want to do. In fact, Carly is my hero. It's work I really can't do!

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

to help Galilee Baptist Church in Baton Rouge host volunteer medical personnel who worked in storm-ravaged areas; and graduated from NOBTS before coming to Wesson.

Santa Ana married Carly, his high school sweetheart, in 2003. They have four children -- Carson, 8; Caroline,

Do you read or watch movies?

I am an avid reader, particularly job-related educational books and those that offer advice on doing ministry. I keep the book *Stop Asking Jesus Into Your Heart* by J.D. Greear to hand out to people. It's about knowing you are a Christian and the assurance of

salvation. I also look to the counsel offered by David Platt and Matt Chandler.

As far as movies go, I don't watch a lot of television, but Carly and I enjoy going to see films. In Pearl, Mississippi, there is a theater that has \$5 special movie days. I am a fan of Marvel comic movies. I very much like the superheroes, such as Batman.

How about music? What do you like?

I listen to all kinds of Christian music, although I don't really like gospel quartets. MercyMe is my favorite group. It is known for *I Can Only Imagine*.

Would you change anything about your life?

I wish I were more bold with the gospel -- unafraid to share the good news of God's love in every opportunity that He provides.

What if you won millions of dollars in a lottery?

Actually, the allure of money terrifies me. I don't want to have that desire. If it did come to me, I would probably put some of it aside for my family, but I would give most of it away to equip and send people out to meet Jesus' mission command to "make disciples of all nations" -- to help the church in its work globally and in the community.

How would you change the world?

You can't change the world until you change your country. You can't change your country until you change your state. You can change your state until you change your community. You can't change your community until you change your neighborhood. You can't change your neighborhood until you change your home. That's where I start -- rearing my children at home to love the Lord. Jesus is the solution for a better world. I want my children to know that and to help spread that message one-on-one to other people.



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Football title goal, team academics & personnel change

Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin's Wolves are coming into the 2017 football season with several new faces, and confident after finishing 2016 with a 6-3 record in the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) and ranked number three in National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) polls at one point.

The Wolves gridiron campaign opens on the road at Mississippi Delta on Thursday, August 31, at 7 p.m.

This year, the Wolves have their eye on the MACJC title, and the coaching staff believes they have what it takes to get there, with a team built around speed and power in nearly every facet of the game. The Wolves' offense is full of athleticism, and the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball looks to be just as good or better than last season. Combine this with solid linebacker and secondary play and a confident special teams unit, and the Wolves have a recipe for success in the always-tough MACJC if they remain healthy and limit big plays by opponents.

Leading Co-Lin's offense at quarterback is 6-3, 230-pound Auburn University transfer Woody Barrett, a former four-star prospect, who was redshirted in 2016, but racked up impressive numbers during his senior year in high school at West Orange High School in Winter Garden, Florida -- 2,018 passing yards for twenty touchdowns and 1,413 rushing yards for twenty-three 23 touchdowns. Madison Ridgeland Academy 6-1, 210-pound quarterback Hayden Davis, who battled injuries during his high school tenure, but completed 142 of 228 passes for 2,003 yards and 16 touchdowns, will compete with Barrett for playing time. Joining them in the backfield are Rico Owens from Greenwood (Mississippi) High School and Deion Dampier from Mendenhall High School -- powerful backs who can break tackles.

A young group of tight ends will also be used in both the run and passing games -- sophomore Nero Nelson from Hollandale, Mississippi, who hauled in 22 catches last year for 326 yards and three touchdowns and also shined as a punt and kickoff returner to land MACJC All-State First Team honors; sophomore Ryan Drew from Copiah Academy, who caught two touchdown



Special to Wesson News

2017 Co-Lin gridgers are eyeing state championship.

passes last season and accumulated 117 receiving yards; and sophomore Jamarcus Weatherall, who finished 2016 with six catches. Kobe Gates, a transfer from Jackson State, and Kevin Romer, Jr. from Coral Gables, Florida, are new receivers

Tackle Elbert Watson, a sophomore from Tunica, Mississippi, will lead a big, athletic young offensive line -- one of the deepest squads of linemen Co-Lin has had in recent years.

On the defensive line, the Wolves have returning sophomores Damion Dickens from West, Mississippi, and Charles Cameron from Morton (Mississippi) High School to lead the way, along with James Allen Coley from Cathedral High School and Barry Howard from Hollandale, with two new players -- Kendall Jones from Killeen, Texas, and Jonathan Lolohea from Lahaina, Hawaii. At linebacker, sophomores Lamoni Jones from Yazoo City, Mississippi, and TJ Gray from Lake High School return, with Florida State transfer Sh'Mar Kilby-Lane and Jakaiszer Glass from Greenwood, Mississippi, bringing new talent to the position.

The secondary has a talented group of defensive backs, including sophomores Paul Wilson from Vicksburg, Mississippi, and Jeffery Drake from West Point (Mississippi) High School and incoming freshmen to fill holes of players lost to graduation.

The Wolves' special teams look much the same as last season, with kicker and punter Griffin Sublett from Pascagoula and long-snapping sophomore Chance Herbert from Brandon High School returning.

Teams excel in classroom. Five Co-Lin athletic programs have received National Junior College Athletic Association

Academic Team of the Year Honorable Mention recognition for excellence in the classroom during the 2016-2017 season: the golf team (3.5 GPA), men's tennis team (3.19 GPA), women's tennis team (3.24 GPA), women's soccer team (3.12 GPA) and softball team (3.0 GPA).

Athletic Department addition. Lane Young has joined Co-Lin as assistant athletic director for eligibility and compliance. Young is the son of Co-Lin's women's basketball coach Gwyn Young. A Wesson native and a graduate of Wesson Attendance Center, he came to Co-Lin on an athletic scholarship in 1996 to pitch for the baseball Wolves.

Upcoming sporting events

AUGUST 18

Wesson High School football Cobras play Crystal Springs.

TBA

AUGUST 25

Wesson High School football Cobras play at Sumrall.

7 p.m.

AUGUST 31

Co-Lin football Wolves play at Mississippi Delta. 7 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 7

Co-Lin football Wolves play at Coahoma. 7 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 8

Wesson High School football Cobras play at Loyd Star. 7p.m

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Jessica Breazeale of Wesson (right) received an award of excellence for community relations and corporate external communications at the Public Relations Association of Mississippi (PRAM) 2017 state conference at The University of Southern Mississippi. Above, PRAM President Jennie Bradford Curlee confers with Breazeale, Director of Public Relations and Marketing for a collection of businesses owned by the Lott family in Sumrall -- MCS Building Supply/MCS Insulation, Magnolia Place, LLC, Sumrall, and Covington Ridge Retirement Home, Collins.



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Ancient tattoo art no longer taboo

By Guest Columnist Shaw Furlow

This month's topic is a little different, focusing on a segment of the visual art world that is growing by leaps and bounds and can be found in nearly every restaurant and office and a lot of homes today. Tattoos.



While tattoos appear nearly everywhere today, from the pulpit to TV newscasters, there is evidence that they were in fashion as far back as 1200 BC. In fact, all of the ancient civilizations have a vast history of body art. In some cultures, it was a sign of wealth or public standing. Others tattooed family symbols on their foreheads. When Japan became a unified country, the Samurai were disbanded and forced to burn all their armor. Forced underground, the tattoo became a secret way of recognizing one another. Eighteenth century British sailors tattooed their ship and military identification on their bodies in case they were lost at sea.

The word tattoo is derived from a Tahitian word "tatu," meaning to mark something. While there have been many methods of coloring skin, one of the early techniques included carving the image into the skin, and then pouring a colored paint-like liquid into the wound. Hardly the sanitary standards of today. Today, disposable needles are used with a reusable super-fast "sewing machine" that sends them under the skin. Gloves, and sometimes masks, are worn by the artist to keep the work area sanitary.

Laws in Mississippi governing the tattoo businesses are pretty strict. In Louisiana, a person as young as sixteen years old can be tattooed with parental consent, but you must be at least 18 years old in the Magnolia State to get inked. A tattoo artist must serve a nine-month apprenticeship under a licensed artist, who has the final say about licensing the apprentice.



Special to Wesson News

Lorin King, owner of Forged Tattoo in Brookhaven, has been in the tattoo business for twenty years and has an apprentice studying under him. "When I got my license, all you had to do was tattoo someone in front of a board and pay your money," he said. "Today, it's much more regulated."

The millennial generation seems to have taken to the ancient art like no other generation before it. Many young men and women sport more than one tattoo. Even Mattel, the toy giant, produced a tattooed Barbie in 2011. "Once you get one," I was told, "you want another and then another. They tell a story, where you've been, personal achievements." Every time my son drops a new album, for instance, he gets "some ink" to commemorate the occasion. While I was at Forged Tattoo, a client from Gluckstadt was getting a rather large, patriotic piece on his shoulder, his twenty-eighth tattoo. The cost of a tattoo is not cheap at \$120 per hour. Depending on the size and intricacies of a tattoo, the cost can rapidly escalate.

King says he took art classes in junior and senior high school and continued

to study art at Co-Lin under Tom Ross and Janet Smith.

"I didn't know what I was going to do with it, I just liked to draw," he recalls. "About two years after Co-Lin, I discovered tattooing and knew I had found my calling."

After moving around, he finally came back to Brookhaven, his home, and opened his new business, which he says is doing well, thank you.



I seriously thought about getting inked for this article to give you a first-hand story, but decided against it, for right now, at least. But I'm thinking a wolf would look good on my arm. The

old tattoo taboo is long gone. And it's pretty cool.

That's it for this month. Here's to cooler weather, a great football season and a productive school year!

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.

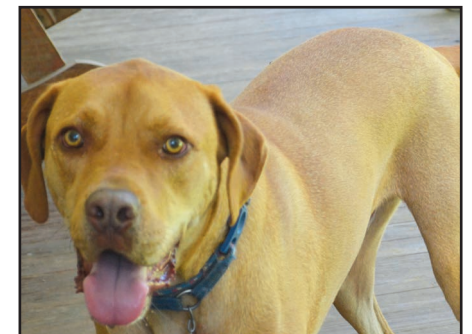
Dog Days are not about dogs

By Guest Columnist Rebecca Bates

There is no mistaking that the dog days of summer are here -- the period between July and late August when the heat is oppressive, air is stagnant and there is no relief even at night.

I always thought dog days were those summer days so devastatingly hot that dogs would do nothing other than lie around panting on a shady porch. Actually, they have nothing to do with dogs, or even with the lazy days of summer. Dog days, in fact, refer to the Dog Star, Sirius, and its position in the sky. To the Greeks and Romans, dog days occurred when Sirius appeared to rise just before the sun in late July. They referred to these days as the hottest time of the year.

I look at these dog days as the last blast of summer before fall when children return to school, the Exchange Club has its annual fair, and my summer vacation begins. As I rest on a sunny beach for a week, I will dream of cooler weather, a fall vegetable garden, pansies, snapdragons and pumpkins on my door step.



Wesson News

It has been a very good summer -- full of building and moving into a new house, dairy month activities and farmers markets. Dog days are here for a while. So look to the sky for Sirius, and take a nap on a shady porch. I think dogs have the right idea!

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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Community Calendar

August weather forecast: *The Old Farmer's Almanac* calls for an average temperature of 79° (one degree below average) and precipitation of 4.5 inches (one inch above average). August 6-12: T-storms; August 13-19: Scattered T-storms, hot; August 20-24: Sunny, nice; August 25-31: Scattered t-storms; cool, then warm.

- AUGUST 8**
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.
- AUGUST 9**
Keep Copiah County Beautiful meets. USDA Service Center (27169 Highway 28, Suite A, Hazlehurst). 9 a.m.
- AUGUST 10**
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 601-835-8173.
- Widows Support Group meets. The group supports widows, who are walking through the grief process, with programs on pertinent issues related to their situation. Brookhaven. 5 p.m. For further information, contact Becky Vaughn Furlow at bvaughnfurlow@gmail.com or 601-540-4308.
- Wesson Lions Club Family Night dinner. Poppa's in Brookhaven. 6:30 p.m.
- AUGUST 12**
Brookhaven Little Theater will announce its performances for the 2017-2018 season and celebrate its fiftieth anniversary at its annual Season Reveal Party & Haven Awards. One night only special pricing on season tickets. Free. Haven Theater, downtown Brookhaven. 7:30 p.m.
- AUGUST 14**
Blood drive every second and fourth Monday. King's Daughters Medical Center Hospital Annex. 1 p.m.-6 p.m. Call 800-817-7449 for information.
- Beginner clogging classes for persons of all ages beyond five-years-old are held every Monday night. A small fee is charged each month. Brookhaven Recreation Department on Highway 51. Call 601-833-3791.
- AUGUST 15**
Copiah County Master Gardeners monthly meeting. Mississippi State University Extension Office at Gallman. 6 p.m.
- American Legion Post #79 meets. American Legion Lodge on Main Street, Wesson. 6:30 p.m. For information, call 601-563-5438.
- AUGUST 17**
Fifty Plus Club luncheon. Dot Day, author of Memories of a Share Cropper's Family, will speak. Porches of Brookhaven at Brookhaven Country Club. 10:30 a.m.
- AUGUST 22**
Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) member social will

- introduce the ILR fall semester program. 1:00 p.m. Orientation for new and prospective members. 2:00 p.m. Social and refreshments. Thames Center at Co-Lin. Wesson, MS 39191 Contact marilyn.brown@colin.edu, 601-643-8701 (office)/601-643-8277 (FAX).
- AUGUST 23**
WorkKeys Assessment for Career Readiness Certificate. Also September 6. Register in advance at 601-643-8707. Thames Center at Co-Lin. 8:45 a.m.-12 noon.
- AUGUST 24**
Wesson Lions Club meets. Student cafeteria conference room at Co-Lin. 6:30 p.m.
- AUGUST 30**
Beginners & Intermediate Outlook. Covers email, calendars, tasks, to-dos. August 23 registration deadline. \$10 fee. Thames Center at Co-Lin. 9 a.m.-11 a.m. (Beginners class). 1 p.m.-3 p.m. (Intermediate class). For information, call 601-643-8707.
- SEPTEMBER 5**
Wesson Board of Aldermen meet. City Hall. 7 p.m.
- SEPTEMBER 10**
Sylvarena Baptist Church Homecoming. Rev. Cody Warren will be the guest speaker. Karen Hardy-Fisk will lead music worship. Worship service is at 10:30 a.m. followed by a covered dish meal. For information, call 601-643-2660.

- SEPTEMBER 13**
Brookhaven Regional Arts Guild (BRAG) two-day acrylic/ watercolor workshop conducted by Jan Wilken starts and continues on September 14. \$150 per person per days. For information, contact Rosemary at BRAG. Ask about discount on workshop fee.
- SEPTEMBER 16**
Headlights & Tailpipes, Chamber of Commerce downtown Wesson car show. Free for visitors \$5 raffle on Blue-Point 155 pc Combo Driver Set. Snap-On tools on site. 9 a.m.-12 noon registration for entrants. 12 noon-2 p.m. judging. 3 p.m. awards. For information, contact the Wesson Chamber of Commerce at 601-643-5000.
- CONTINUING**
Alcoholics Anonymous meets at convenient times seven days of every week. First United Methodist Church, 215 West Cherokee Street, Brookhaven. Open meetings are Mondays at noon and Tuesdays (Big Book Study), Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. Closed meetings are Wednesdays and Fridays (Big Book Study) at noon and Thursdays and Sundays at 7:30 p.m.

- Brookhaven Regional Arts Guild members work on projects every Thursday of the month from 9 a.m.-12 noon at the Brookhaven-Lincoln County Public Library in the Vernon Room when it is available.
- Brookhaven 55 South Flea Market is open on Saturdays and Sundays next to the Lincoln County Civic Center. Ten per cent of the profits each weekend are donated to a local charity. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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Foster parents trained at Co-Lin

Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin hosted foster parents from the area last month at Rescue 100, three days of intense training.

The training started with one-hour orientation sessions at Meadow Grove Baptist Church in Brandon, Copiah County Courthouse in Hazlehurst and Adams County Chancery Courthouse in Natchez earlier in the month.

The Co-Lin event was the sixth Rescue 100 training in the past 15 months designed to provide more licensed foster homes to meet the needs of abused and neglected children.

Rescue 100 is a collaborative effort of the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services, the Mississippi Commission on Children's Justice, adoption agency 200 Million Flowers and area churches. The Rescue 100 program started at Michael Memorial Baptist Church in Gulfport.

Mississippi Supreme Court Justice Dawn Beam, co-chair of the Commission on Children's Justice, who is spearheading efforts to increase the number of licensed foster homes, said: "It's just imperative that we have good quality foster homes for our children and I know that there are lots of families out there that are willing to help take a child in. The whole idea behind Rescue 100 is to expedite the licensing of foster homes so that children can be placed there and the court can be assured that the children will be placed in a safe home."


Foster parent training used to take months, with required classes spread out over five to six weeks. Rescue 100 provides all of the classes within a weekend. After completing the training weekend, prospective resource families are scheduled for home studies before licensing is finalized.

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2002 Jeep Wrangler Sport, V-6 5 Speed, Hardtop, Tilt Cruise, Wheels, Custom Radio,Adult Owned, Sharp;

2008 Honda Civic EX-L with Navi,Sunroof, Leather,Pwr Windows, Locks, Mirrors, Great Gas Mileage;

2003 Nissan Altima SE 3.5 V6,Sunroof Leather,Bose Music, Bargain Priced;

2004 Ford Thunderbird Convertible, Only 66K Miles, Hardtop and Soft top, Leather Seats, Super Sharp;

2011 Toyota Tacoma Crew Cab One Owner SR5, 2WD,LWB,Power Windows,V6 Engine;

2008 Lexus IS 250, Local Well Kept Fun Car,Sunroof and Leather;

2013 Chevy Silverado Ex Cab 1500, One Owner,Bed Cover, Always Service, Small V8,CD,Bargain Priced ;

2006 Mercury Grand Marquis LS with Leather, Sunroof,Loaded,Sharp;

2009 Dodge Dakota Club Cab SXT, 6Cyl, Auto, New Tires,Sharp! ;

2012 Nissan Rogue, EX AWD, Navigation, Sunroof,Leather, Backup Camera, Super Nice;

2011 Ford Edge, SUV, Backup Sensors,Rear DVD,Only had Two Owners,Nice;

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Health tips for flooding

Special to Wesson News

With tropical storms and hurricanes still threats into October, the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) continues to warn Mississippi residents about the health impact of potential flooding. The concerns include:

1. Flood waters.

- Identify potential home hazards and know how to secure or protect them before the flood strikes by preparing to turn off electrical power in case of fallen power lines or standing water, or evacuation.
- Don't allow children to play in floodwater.
- Discard items that come into contact with floodwater -- food (including food in plastic or glass), medicines, cosmetics or bottled water. If in doubt, throw it out. Disinfect with one-quarter cup of bleach to one gallon of water.
- Fill bathtubs, sinks and plastic

soda bottles with clean water. First, sanitize them with bleach and then rinse and fill them with clean water.

2. Emergency appliances.

- Never use a generator, grill, camp stove or other gasoline, propane, natural gas or charcoal-burning devices inside a home, garage, basement, crawlspace or any partially enclosed area.
- Keep emergency devices outside, away from doors, windows and vents that could allow carbon monoxide (CO) to come inside.
- Be aware of carbon monoxide (CO). Opening doors and windows or using fans will not prevent CO buildup in the home. Although CO can't be seen or detected by smell, it can rapidly lead to full incapacitation and death. Even if you cannot smell exhaust fumes, CO may be a threat. Sickness, dizziness, and weakness are symptoms. Get into fresh air immediately.

3. Women, Infants and Children Nutritional Program (WIC) services:

- WIC services are available at alternate locations to residents affected by floods.
- Visit www.HealthyMS.com for a list of county health departments and their contact information.

4. Tetanus care.

A tetanus vaccination is recommended for persons who have not been immunized for ten years. Tdap is the recommended vaccine. In the event of a puncture wound or wound contaminated with floodwater, consult a healthcare provider. Tetanus vaccinations are available at all county health departments.

5. Dialysis services.

- Dialysis patients, who have been ordered to evacuate, should check their physicians' offices for information on treatment. Doctors

can make arrangements for continued treatment.

- Dialysis patients with concerns about maintaining their routine schedule or the availability of facilities should call 877-936-9260.

6. Snakes.

Do not attempt to catch or kill snakes. Slowly back away from them. If you are bitten by a snake.

- Do not attempt to cut the bite area.
- Do not suck the bitten area.
- Do not apply ice to the bitten area
- Do not apply a tourniquet.
- Call 911 immediately.

Lay a snake-bitten person flat, with bitten part at body level. Do not elevate or dangle a bitten arm or leg.

For up-to-date emergency alerts and notifications, as well as additional preparedness tips, download the free MS Ready app from iTunes or Google Play.

ILR planning five fall trips

Special to Wesson News

The Institute of Learning in Retirement (ILR) is planning five trips for its membership this fall.

The Co-Lin-sponsored continuing education organization for retired and semi-retired persons will offer travel to points of interest in Mississippi and nearby Southeastern states.

"We aren't straying too far from home," says ILR Director Marilyn Brown. The travel opportunities will include.

• September 18-19.

A Gulf Coast trip: a tour of the Marine & Education Research Center at Gulfport, Mississippi, with a dolphin presentation and learning experience focused on species in the Gulf Coast waters; driving and narrated tours of Gulfport and Keesler Air Force base; and a Biloxi Shrimp Boat Cruise and tour in which the pride and heritage of Biloxi comes alive and guests are exposed to the spectacular world of sea life caught on a real shrimping expedition. The cost is \$140 and \$180 for double room and single room occupancy at the Best Western Oak Manor in Biloxi, with full payment due no later than August 22.

• October 6.

Sanford Village at Collins, Mississippi -- a walking tour of a unique venue created by Dianne and Ronnie Sanford, which includes fifteen structures that house items arranged by theme, including memorabilia, artifacts, ephemera and signs, mostly from original sources in Mississippi. The cost is \$10, which is due by September 1. Visitors will be asked for a donation on entry. Lunch at Shady Acres Village in Seminary, Mississippi -- an old time general store with many specialty items and a southern style restaurant with fresh baked pies, cakes and cookies -- is not included in the cost.

• October 24-26.

The Corinth and Pickwick, Mississippi, and Tuscumbia, Alabama, tour includes: Borroum's Drug Store -- the oldest drug store in continuous operation in the region, which houses Native American artifacts and Civil War relics. The picturesque Pickwick Landing State Park at Pickwick Dam, a Great Depression Tennessee Valley Authority navigation, flood control and power project. The Rosenbaum House at Florence, Alabama, a masterful work of art -- from floors to ceiling to faucets

-- created by architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Ivy Green's home, gardens and museum -- the birthplace of Helen Keller. The cost is \$399 and \$457 for double room and single room occupancy at a Muscle Shoals, Alabama, hotel and includes two dinners -- a welcoming meal and dining in the unique revolving restaurant at the Marriott Shoals 360 Grille. A \$50 deposit is due August 1, with subsequent payments on September 15 and October 15.

• November 16.

A Christmas Musical Extravaganza features Bill Clark in a live performance at Ridgeland, Mississippi. The cost is \$28 (due October 1), not including lunch after the 10:30 a.m. performance.

• December 4-5.

Lights & Leisure Mobile and Point Clear, Alabama, tour, includes: Lunch at Dauphins Restaurant in Mobile. Shopping at Robert Moore & Company, a year-round Christmas, holiday, gift, doll and toy store. Bellingrath Gardens, where visitors will see the tastefully-decorated grounds with poinsettias during daylight, and dine and stroll after dark during the Magic of Lights, with three million twinkling lights,

displays and Christmas scenes. A Christmas lights tour of the Fairhope area. Fairhope Welcome Center and Fairhope Museum of History. 5 Rivers Alabama Delta Resource Center, where the Mobile, Spanish, Tensaw, Apalachee and Blakeley Rivers flow into Mobile Bay and visitors can see The Smithsonian's "Water/Ways" at Apalachee Exhibit Hall. The cost is \$245 and \$343 for double occupancy and single occupancy at the Point Clear Resort Hotel. A \$50 deposit is due now, with subsequent payments due on September 15, October 15 and November 15.

The Institute of Learning in Retirement is a membership organization in which the participants define their own informal educational goals and pursue them at their own pace based on their own choices and talents. Members, who come from wide ranging backgrounds and bring varied experiences to the organization, design its program. Co-Lin staffs, administers and provides facilities for the organization, which is fully funded by member dues.

For information, contact Marilyn Brown via e-mail at marilyn.brown@colin.edu.

New pastor joins Decell

By Bob Arnold

Brandon Halford has begun his first assignment in professional parish ministry at Decell Memorial United Methodist in Wesson, replacing Allan Randall, who resigned for health reasons.

Decell culminates an unlikely journey that Halford started at First United Methodist Church in Baton Rouge, which he and his wife Sarah joined in 2010. At the time, he worked as a Medical Technologist for Oeshner, and Sarah, as an engineer at Dow Chemical Company. Not only did he give up his long-time work in the secular world, but Sarah also discovered a new career in marriage and family counseling.

"I became involved in the congregation's Kairos ministry, which works with the residents at Angola Prison in Louisiana," he recounts. "One of my mentors in a covenant group at the church, who observed my participation in Kairos, suggested I consider the professional ministry after many hours of one-on-one meetings and diving deeper in spiritual



Special to Wesson News

Brandon Halford, his wife Sarah, and their daughter Madalynn Grace.

discipline. I went to a Discerners Academy retreat, where I discussed the call to ministry and prayed together in small groups with others considering the professional ministry. There I felt my call."

Before then, Halford says he had "walked away from God without direction."

"My parents divorced when I was thirteen years old, and the local church to which I belonged could not answer my questions at the time," he explains. Yet "God always put people in my life to help me," Halford adds, as "I moved from job to job in the secular world."

A Franklin County, Mississippi, native, Halford studied at Southwest Community College at Summit, Mississippi, for a year and worked in a variety of jobs -- retail sales, tying barges at Port Lafourche, Louisiana, brick laying on the Gulf Coast. Deciding to settle down with a career and family, he earned a Medical Laboratory Technology degree at Co-Lin from 2007 to 2009 and reconnected with Sarah, an old friend in his childhood and youth, whom he married in 2009. Then his life and Sarah's changed at Baton Rouge.

By 2013, Halford and Sarah were on their way to Wilmore, Kentucky, where he started four years of study for a Masters of Divinity degree at Asbury Theological Seminary and she discovered her new career interests. After his Discerners

Academy retreat, Halford discussed his call with a committee in the Baton Rouge congregation, which agreed he should pursue the professional ministry; applied for certification as a candidate for ministry in the United Methodist Church (UMC), and received the certification from the UMC District. While studying at Asbury, Halford served as a chaplain at the University of Kentucky Hospital. He also earned an online BS degree from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in 2013 to become a Medical Laboratory Scientist.

At Decell, Halford is continuing his ordination process and hopes to be commissioned as a Pastor in the UMC in 2018, and ordained three years later. His vision for the local congregation is for it "to show God's great love to the church community and the wider community" by helping members express "God's gift of deeply loving."

Halford and his wife are residing at the Decell manse in Wesson. They have a 17-month old daughter, Madalynn Grace.

Co-Lin PR staff wins 11 awards

Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin's Public Information and Student Recruitment departments received eleven awards at the 2017 College Public Relations Association of Mississippi's (CPRAM) annual conference. Co-Lin staff receiving the awards included:

- Natalie Davis, first place in Recruiting Radio Spots,
- Jimmie Cain and Natalie Davis, third place in Annual Reports and first and second place in Advertising,
- Jimmie Cain and Lucas Calvert,



Wesson News

Natalie Davis, Director of Public Information/Sports Information; Samantha Speeg, Academic Counselor; Lucas Calvert, Sport Information Coordinator; Jimmie Cain, Public Relations Assistant; and Scarlett Hart, Public Relations Coordinator received awards for their work from the College Public Relations Association of Mississippi.

third place in Media Guides and first place in Media Guides,

- Lucas Calvert, second place in Photography, and
- Samantha Speeg, first place and second place in Admissions and Recruitment Publications, third place in Viewbooks and second place in Photography.

The annual CPRAM conference brings together public relations professionals from Mississippi's community colleges and four-year universities.



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cont. from page 1

Work Ready initiative expanding



Already, Adams and Lincoln Counties have become certified Work Ready Communities, led by the Co-Lin Career, Technical and Workforce Education division. The new academy reflects Co-Lin's efforts to involve economic developers, businesses, educators, policymakers and individuals in the other counties in its district to participate in the WRC program.

Iowa-based ACT, which works broadly in lifelong learning to help people achieve their potentials for success in schools and workplaces, initiated WRC, which is built around the ACT National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) test, which seeks to measure and close skills gaps among workers and job seekers. The program helps raise workforce skills levels, provides demonstrable evidence for prospective employers about their potential workforces and generates data for communities to better understand skills that workers need and the nature of businesses they can attract. It is designed to assist a particular area, region or state in developing its workforce pipeline to provide skilled workers for employers and allows each participating community to quantify and improve the skill levels of its workforce through NCRC, which is supported by data updated online on a monthly basis.

In communities seeking Work

Ready certification, members of the current workforce who presently have jobs, those in the transitioning workforce who are unemployed and high school and college students and recent graduates in the emerging workforce earn an NCRC by successfully passing the WorkKeys assessment that tests proficiency in mathematics, locating information and reading for information -- the essential skills needed for workplace success. Communities receive Work Ready certification when defined percentages of the work group populations, based on community needs and demographics, earn an NCRC. A percentage of businesses in the community must also support the WRC initiative and recruit workers who have earned the NCRC.

"ACT Work Ready Communities empowers states, regions, and counties with data, process, and tools that drive economic growth," says ACT Regional Manager Fred McConnell.

"The ACT Academy system trains counties and regions to implement, grow, and sustain their local ACT WRC Initiative. ACT chose to pilot the regional academy approach with Co-Lin because of the strength of its existing core team and successes the area has already seen with the Work Ready Certification."

As a leader and partner in community WRC initiatives, Co-Lin, along with local high schools, helps build the pool of qualified workers by teaching computer science, reading comprehension and problem-solving skills.

"Our responsibility also includes educating state and local government officials, secondary educators, community leaders and the general public about the benefits of being a WRC," says Jackie Martin, Dean of the Co-Lin Career, Technical and Workforce Education division.

Curbing crime easier when citizens help

By Bob Arnold

Copiah County isn't immune to crime because it's small, but law enforcement can respond more readily to stop crime or catch criminals in small areas if people know how to help, Copiah County Deputy Sheriff Ronnie Murray told the Wesson Lions Club.

"Let us know when something has happened or you think something might happen, and we will be on the scene rapidly," Murray said.



Special to Wesson News
Stolen guns from Mississippi wind up in Chicago.

Murray highlighted burglaries that fund a drug trade with underground bases in Crystal Springs, Hazlehurst and Wesson and human trafficking, which has become an increasing problem in Mississippi due to lack of awareness.

Murray said burglars want things that are easy to sell to get drug money -- jewelry, guns, electronic equipment, and anything else that pawn shops will buy, he said.

Often, burglars have been in a home before a robbery on a service call, Murray warned.

"They can enter it, take what they want and leave in a matter of a few minutes," he said. Cars and other vehicles, like homes, are targets for break-ins, but are stolen largely to resell after being reworked in a chop shop, for joy rides or to be used for transportation to burglary sites, Murray added.

Human traffickers, Murray said,

order children and youth in the three-year-old to sixteen-year-old age group and they're increasingly targeting areas like Mississippi, where parents and others do not appreciate the threat.

"They find kids where they hang out -- water parks and toy aisles at stores, for example -- and through internet social media 'meet me' sites," he said.

Murray offered these simple tips:

- Create both physical and electronic folders that include pictures and serial numbers of valuables -- cars, vehicles, guns, jewelry, electronic equipment, etc.

When something is stolen or missing, alert law enforcement authorities, who can run the information through a computer system that includes pawn shops and other law enforcement organizations.

- Install camera systems in and around homes. Cameras in cars and vehicles can be activated by an ignition key to transmit images to smart phones. Burglars, in general, are not aware of cameras and ignore them. As a result, they can be identified and thwarted quickly.

- Take note of suspicious vehicles and record their makes and models and license numbers. Even a car or truck that appears to have broken down may be a cover for burglars casing vulnerable homes. Trust your feelings.

- Keep track of small children in stores and other public places. Avoid distractions, and don't let them wander off.

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