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Thanksgiving meditation

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Volume 2, Number 11

"Good News You Can Use"

November 11, 2014

\$890,000 in grants received for city hall & park projects

Wesson News

The Town of Wesson has received a total of \$890,000 in grants to fund renovation of city hall and development of a municipal park.

A \$450,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) through the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) will finance complete exterior and interior repairs, alterations, and upgrades that will make the downtown Wesson government building on Spring Street accessible to persons with physical disabilities as prescribed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). A 25 percent \$125,000 matching grant and a

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Photos by Wesson News

The City Hall (left) and a new park are the targets of funds from recent grants for Wesson.

WAC keeps its B grade

Special to Wesson News

With 606 points — the third highest among 20 schools in the Brookhaven, Copiah County, Hazlehurst City, Lawrence County, and Lincoln County Districts, Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) officially maintained a B grade in the 2013-14 Mississippi Department of Education's accountability system, which evaluates performance of schools and districts throughout the state.



In the area, only West Lincoln (662 points with an A grade) and Bogue Chitto (612 points with a B grade) in Lincoln County District scored higher than WAC.

WAC, as well as West Lincoln and Bogue Chitto, maintained their 2012-13 grades because of a federal waiver that allowed schools and districts implementing new college-and-career-ready standards during a transition year to claim the previous year's grade if it was better. Without the waiver, WAC and Bogue Chitto would have received a C and West Lincoln, a B. The waiver essentially provided a grace period to adjust to a more rigorous accountability model. With the waiver, schools and districts statewide averaged a C-minus. Without it, they dropped to a D-plus. Waiver grades, however, are the official 2013-14 grades.

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Lights, decor, parade & Santa to spark the Christmas spirit

By Bob Arnold

Decorations, colorful lighting displays, and, of course, the annual parade will spark the Christmas spirit in the Wesson area starting at the end of this month when the volunteer fire department brings out the street decorations and lights and puts them up around town.

The decorations and lights hanging on the Sunday following Thanksgiving (November 30) will transform Wesson into an old town post card Christmas scene and set the stage for the annual Christmas parade, which brings Santa Claus to town on the following Friday (December 5).

With Wesson Attendance Center letting



Photo by Wesson News

its students out of school early on parade day, upwards of 1000 children and adults

will line up on both sides of Highway 51 from the south stop light north to Wesson Baptist Church. Parade-goers can watch the Co-Lin Show Band and Wesson High School marching band, dignitaries and townspeople in special cars, and floats created by local organizations. They, along with other marching groups, will accompany Santa on his arrival in Wesson with much fanfare.

The parade, which rolls at 4 p.m., will feature football homecoming Queens and maidens from Co-Lin and Wesson High School, Wesson Baptist Pre-School, Precious Moments Day Care Center, Keep Copiah County Beautiful, the Wesson Chamber of Commerce,

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Overheard around town: Speakers focus on history, brain health & taxes

Wesson News

Wesson in the late 19th Century, Mississippi musical heritage, property taxes, and research and clinical care related to Alzheimer's disease and other dementias were addressed by speakers in local forums in recent weeks.

At Fifty Plus Club luncheons, **Dr. Durr Walker**, a former Co-Lin professor, looked at the birth of Wesson as a town, and **Denise Lafferty**, an authority on cognitive impairment, discussed the University of Mississippi Medical Center's work in neurodegenerative dementia. Educational consultant **Dr. Jim Brewer** discussed the Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame at an Institute for Learning in Retirement luncheon. At the Wesson Lions Club, Copiah County Tax Assessor **Todd Mooney** talked about the inevitability of taxes.

Textile mills shape early Wesson

Walker, retired chairman of Co-Lin's Division of Humanities, showed how textile mills created the Town of Wesson in a slide presentation based on excerpts from the book *Wesson: Industrial City of the South*, which he co-authored with David W. Higgs, history instructor at Co-Lin.

In the late 19th Century, Wesson, with a population of 3,000, was the largest city between Jackson and New Orleans, enjoying the benefits of an economy driven by the world's largest textile plant, his presentation detailed.

The town was born after the Union Army burned down James Madison Wesson's textile plant in Choctaw County. The manufacturer started looking for another location, settling on a place where the railroad connected New Orleans, St. Louis, and Chicago. Wesson constructed the new textile plant, a sawmill to provide building materials for it, and houses for its workers. The settlement grew into the town, which took his name.

In 1865, Wesson and his partners built 76 houses and four mills occupying five acres, known as the Mississippi Manufacturing Company. Over the years, almost 200 houses were built for workers.

When the town's textile economy was at its peak of operation, more millionaires lived in Wesson than in Natchez. The extremely productive mills manufactured a quality fabric known as "Mississippi silk." While people in Chicago and New York were eating by lantern light, Wesson residents enjoyed electric lights the year after Thomas Edison perfected them because the mills needed electrical power.

A series of events caused the demise of the mills: a tornado in 1883 that plowed through Beauregard and Wesson, killing 76, injuring 140, and leaving more than 550 persons homeless; the deaths of Wesson and other owner-managers who assumed control of the mills; economic factors caused by the Sherman Silver Act; and the declining price of cotton in the early 20th Century.



Photo by Wesson News
Dr. Durr Walker

Mississippi shapes American music

Brewer, founder and board chairman for the Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame, explained why he proclaims that Mississippi is "the birthplace of American music" — a slogan on all new state car tags.

America's musical tradition was born and refined in the culture and struggles of Mississippi, he said. The Mississippi influence is reflected in the Delta Blues interpretations of Charley Patton from Edwards in Hinds County, Son House from Clarksdale, Tommy Johnson from Crystal Springs, and Robert Johnson from Hazlehurst; the Rock 'n Roll of Elvis Presley from Tupelo and Ike Turner from Clarksdale; and Jimmie Rodgers — the "Father of Country Music" — from Meridian.

"Jazz may have originated in New

Orleans, but the New York Times says it was named at a Vicksburg dinner club where visitors misunderstood an audience chant — 'Chaz, Chaz, Chaz' for a favorite musician — as 'jazz, jazz, jazz,'" Brewer said. "Scat singing — jazz vocal improvisation with wordless vocables, nonsense syllables, or without words at all — also comes out of Vicksburg." Jimmie Rodgers made yodeling — a form of singing which involves repeated changes of pitch during a single note — popular in the United States, he pointed out.

Brewer started honoring Mississippi's musical heritage through the Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame, for which he led the organizational effort in the late 1990s.

"I had attended a concert at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg where Dee Barton from Starkville was guest conductor and working with the USM ensemble," Brewer recalls. "Barton played drums and trombone for Stan Kenton's big band and wrote scores for several Clint Eastwood films, but was largely unrecognized. At that point, I started thinking about a hall of fame to honor people like him."

Today, the Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame has three branches: A rustic museum at Hazlehurst with varied memorabilia, including a famous painting of Robert Johnson; a traditional poster display at Jackson International Airport; and a contemporary museum on the second floor of the Iron Horse Grill in Jackson, which features life-size dolls of musicians, an historical timeline, and 21 television sets with video presentations.

MIND Center leads research & provides care

Lafferty, chief of operations at the University of Mississippi Medical Center's MIND (Memory Impairment and Neurodegenerative Dementia) Center, said that research led by

UMMC in partnership with Johns Hopkins University, the University of Minnesota, the University of North Carolina, and Wake Forest University has found that risk factors in heart disease are also related to development of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

Phase one of the Arteriosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) research, which studied 4000 persons over 25 years, showed that "heart health promotes brain health" and forms of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, may develop as result of smoking, ineffective control of blood pressure, excessive weight, high-fat diets, and sedentary life styles, Lafferty said.

Dementia encompasses a number of diseases, including Alzheimer's, that affect cognitive process and impede living, she explained. "They are a change from the normal and not acute confusion," she said. "Alzheimer's disease is the most prevalent form of dementia, accounting for 50 percent to 80 percent of cases. Although there is no cure for Alzheimer's, we know plaques and tangles in the brain reflect the death of brain cells, which cannot signal vital organs."

Symptoms of dementia include memory loss — particularly recent learning, forgetting names or misplacing things (if you recall later, you're probably okay), communication problems (not remembering words), inability to follow the plots of books or movies, impaired problem-solving skills (i.e., balancing a checkbook), orientation problems (recalling the day of week or season), withdrawal because of embarrassment about memory loss, Lafferty said.

"The UMMC MIND Center both conducts research through state-of-the-art brain imaging and genetic technologies and treats patients with memory loss and cognitive impairment through a clinical team with geriatricians, consulting neurologists and psychiatrists, nurse

cont. on next page



Photo by Wesson News
Dr. Jim Brewer



Photo by Wesson News
Denise Lafferty

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cont. from previous page

Overheard around town: Speakers focus on history & brain health

practitioners, and a social worker," she said.

"On the clinical side, we provide clinical assessment, comprehensive memory and cognitive evaluation, diagnostic labs and CT and MRI imaging studies, brain PET scanning, and pharmacological and behavioral therapies."

No escape from property taxes

Mooney explained Mississippi's property tax system and demonstrated how it affects just about everyone.

The County Tax Assessor is required to appraise non-agricultural

properties at true value supported by market prices, and taxes are the multiplication product of this value, the assessment ratio, and millage rate (one mill is .001 of a dollar or \$10 on \$100,000), he related. The Mississippi Constitution assigns assessment ratios to five property classes: 10 percent on single-family, owner-occupied residential property (Class I); 15 percent on other real property not included in Classes I

and IV (Class II); 15 percent on personal property (Class III); 30 percent on public utility property owned or used by public service corporations

excluding railroad and airline property (Class IV); and 30 percent on motor vehicles (Class V).

Agricultural property, including both forestland and farmland, defined as more than 20 acres by the Mississippi Department of Revenue and more than three acres in Copiah County, is valued by the State Tax Commission based on soil type and productivity, Mooney noted.

"In Mississippi, non-agricultural property appraisals must be updated every four years," he said. "I have the authority to go on all properties to do appraisals and try to make sure they are right by doing so, but I will write a value for them based on guess work if owners block me. The

burden of proof is on the taxpayer to show my guess is wrong." Location and the cost of construction materials and labor are the determinants in calculating values of properties for tax purposes.

All property in Mississippi is subject to property tax unless exempt by law, such as the first \$75,000 on property owned by persons age 65 and older — the homestead exemption, Mooney said. "In fact, however, an exemption is really deferred, and properties are taxed elsewhere or the millage rate is raised," he added. "Government always gets the money it needs."

The secret to lower taxes is population growth, building, and economic development, Mooney concluded.



Photo by Wesson News

Todd Mooney

cont. from previous page

\$890,000 in grants received for city hall & park projects

50 percent \$115,000 matching grant from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) will provide a total of \$157,500 for creating a one and one-half acre park next to the Boy Scout building at the corner of Beech and Church Streets.

The park development includes purchase and installation of play-

ground equipment, landscaping, and construction of a pavilion and walk path. Copiah County is assisting with landscaping to conserve costs. It is unclear whether the town can draw on grant funds to cover costs of a Veterans Memorial planned for the park.

"Although the MDWFP funding for the park comes through match-

ing grants, Wesson will not have to lay out any money for the project, because the grants can be matched against each other," Mayor Alton Shaw explained.

The city hall renovation is expected to start sometime shortly after the new year. It will include replacement of the facade, leveling of floors, remodeling of bathrooms,

new doors, and revamped office space — all geared to making the space accessible to persons with disabilities.

The Board of Alderman named the Joseph Orr architectural firm based in Canton to develop precise plans for the city hall work and Jackson-based Sample & Associates to manage the project grant.

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Considering tables: a Thanksgiving meditation

By Rev. Frank Newell

I have a few important questions for you. Have you gotten your turkey yet? Do you know who is making the dressing? Will there be a green bean casserole? Most importantly, are there enough chairs around the table for everyone, or will some have to sit at a card table?

As we approach Thanksgiving, our thoughts are usually consumed with food, football, and family. We look forward to seeing family we love. Of course, if you're hosting the family Thanksgiving Day meal, you're also thinking about all the logistics involved, which brings us back to the most important question: Are there enough chairs around the table for everyone, or will some have to sit at a card table?

Last month, my congregation and I looked at tables and how they are a part of our lives. We looked at how there are a couple of important factors when deciding on a table. Is the table the right size, and is it made of sturdy material? But most importantly, we looked at how these factors make The Lord's Table such a great place to come and feast.

First, there is always room at The Lord's Table. I remember growing up eating at my grandparent's house on Common Street, with my younger brother and cousins. While the adults got to eat at the table, we had our fun, enjoying our meal in the living room, balancing chiné plates on our laps. We looked forward to the day when we could eat at the table. Although we didn't take into account that with ten adults and eight children, not everyone can fit around the average dining room table. But at The Lord's Table, what greater thanks can we have in our lives, than knowing that we are beloved children of God and have a place at the table. It's always the right size.

Besides the table being the right size, and in our case of The Lord's Table having room for everyone, what materials do you want to use to construct the table? Do you want a cheap par-



Photo by Monmart

ticle board table that won't stand the test of time and torture of everyday life? Or do you want a table made of solid wood that can handle whatever life can dish out, from heavy meals to heavy decisions? The Lord's Table is constructed with faith, hope, and love materials of life that stand the test of time.

Thanksgiving is about coming together and knowing that there is a place for you at the table. The table to which God welcomes you is always going to be around, for it is made of strong materials. Faith, hope, and love are the harvest of God's grace where there is enough for everyone to feast. So give thanks to the Lord for loving you and calling you to the table. "I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving." (Psalm 69:30)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rev. Frank Newell is the pastor at Decell Memorial United Methodist Church. His congregation, along with Wesson Baptist Church and Beauregard United Methodist Church, lead the Wesson Community Thanksgiving Worship each year on the Sunday evening before Thanksgiving. This year's service is at Wesson Baptist Church on Sunday, November 23, at 6 p.m.

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cont. from front page

Wesson Attendance Center keeps its B grade

The new state accountability model is based on a complex point system derived from percentages in nine specific areas:

- Percentage of students scoring proficient and above in language arts, math, science, and U.S. history;
- Percentage of all students who demonstrated growth from their previous year's state assessment in the areas of language arts and math;
- Percentage of students identified in the lowest quartile who demonstrated growth in comparison to their previous year's assessment in the areas of language arts and math;
- Graduation rate.

The key differences in the new accountability model are emphasis on student growth, particularly in the lowest performing twenty-five percent; demonstration of student growth in improved scores rather than through use of a prediction equation; and graduation rates, which no longer reflect students who completed their education through a GED or other type of non-traditional diploma.

As expected, accountability grades fluctuated this year because the new grading system factors in student proficiency, a standards-based growth model, and the four-year graduation rate, if the school has a 12th grade. The system is designed to present a more transparent picture of how well schools are serving students at all levels.

"Our superintendents have been working diligently over the past three years to implement college- and career-ready standards in their districts," said Dr. Carey Wright, state superintendent of education. "The waiver has enabled them to continue this important work without having to worry about being sanctioned if their test scores dropped because the tests were not aligned to the state's higher standards."

The waiver was designed to create a sense of fairness as schools implemented the new accountability model and the college and career standards, WAC principal Marilyn Phillips pointed out.

Official district grades for 2013-14 include 19 "A" districts, 43 "B" districts, 48 "C" districts, 39 "D" districts and one "F" district. The statewide

graduation rate for 2013-14 is 74.5%.

At WAC, students scored twelve percent higher than the state average for proficient and advanced in language arts and ten percent higher than the state average in math for proficient and advanced. Sixty-eight percent of WAC students scored in the proficient-advanced range in language arts, and more than seventy-four percent of WAC students scored proficient-advanced in math.

"Although our students perform very well, we have utilized the data analysis to assist with instructional support," Phillips said. "When a large percentage of your students are already performing at the proficient and above level, it becomes a unique and wonderful challenge to keep them growing. The bottom line is all students must show growth based on a comparison of their state assessments, and that is a very big challenge, but one we are up for! Education never allows us to stay in a comfort zone for very long. I am thankful that we have administration, faculty, and parents that are supportive in our endeavors as we move forward in educating our children for tomorrow."

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Police Blotter

Special to Wesson News

During October, the Wesson Police Department activity encompassed:

Response to:

- Nine general complains
- One aggravated assault
- One intoxicated person
- Two motor vehicle accidents
- One harassment
- One stolen phone

Citations:

- 46 traffic
- One littering

Arrests:

- One resisting arrest, possession of beer, public drunkenness & disturbing the peace
- One DUI
- One second offense DUI
- Four possession of marijuana
- One disturbing the peace
- One open container violation
- One domestic violence simple assault

Two funeral escorts

On school days, the Wesson Police Department facilitate traffic flow at Wesson Attendance Center with officers on duty between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

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News Nuggets

Wesson News

Around the State.

Mississippi has joined five other states in banning future use of highway guardrail's made by ET Plus, which have been found liable in a \$525 million fraud lawsuit in Texas. In some crashes, the guardrail sliced through vehicles.

A hearing for a preliminary injunction that would lift the ban against same sex marriage in Mississippi will be held tomorrow in the federal court in Jackson. The Campaign for Southern Equality filed the federal lawsuit challenging the Mississippi ban, which dates to 2004, when more than 80 percent of voters approved a constitutional amendment recognizing only a traditional marriage between one man and one woman.

Army Reserve Sgt. Randy Sandifer, a 30-year old Mississippi soldier from Pinola, has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for the research he did while stationed at Abu Ghraid prison during his deployment to Iraq. As a volunteer, he did environmental testing on the land surrounding Abu Ghraid to help protect the local water supply. Although others won the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize, the Nobel Committee's competition rules keep Sandifer's chances of winning the honor alive through next year.



Photo by Wesson News

Wesson High School band

Band gets high scores.

The Wesson High School Band, led by Mrs. Suzi Phillips, scored 1s for band, drum major, and color guard and 2 for drum line in the Mississippi High School marching band evaluation at Pearl last month.

Centenarian celebrates.

Thelma (Granny) Morgan celebrated her one hundredth birthday at Beauregard United Methodist Church with twenty-four family members — four



Photo by Wesson News

Thelma (Granny) Morgan

grandchildren, six great grandchildren, and one great, great grandchild, who traveled mostly from Texas — and friends from Beauregard, where she has lived for the past 14 years, and Zion Hill Baptist Church, where she has been a member for twelve years.

A daughter and grandchildren, who



Photo by Wesson News

Calvin Green

could not come to Beauregard, released 100 balloons from locations in Texas, Mississippi, and Minnesota with attached notes telling about her special day. A hard life as a child in a family of sharecroppers and a diet of the fresh fruits and vegetables they harvested may have contributed to Granny's longevity. Granny worked in farm fields from age seven until her mid teens and lived in whatever housing farmers provided — usually simple shacks that were hot in the summer and cold in the winter. Her family followed harvests and gathered crops from the Texas Rio Grand Valley to Oklahoma, where she was born on September 1, 1914. As age permits, Granny leads an active life centered around her church, where she still attends worship services on one or two Sundays a month. She has a total of 13 grandchildren, 29 great grandchildren, and 23 great, great grandchildren.

High performers.

Calvin Green, Co-Lin recreation hall

supervisor and assistant football coach, and Pam Reid, chairperson of the college's humanities division, have received Co-Lin's Howell C. Garner High Performance Award — a rotating statuette, a certificate, and \$100.

Library staff changes.

Angie Smith, who served as manager

of the Wesson Public Library for three years, is now working in a similar post at Hazlehurst Public Library. Ann Clark and Gail Walker have replaced her at Wesson as a clerk and systems coordinator, respectively. Clark of Wesson served in management at Precious Moments Day Care Center for 17 years. Walker of Strong Hope worked as cataloger at the Hazlehurst library since 2006. Smith joined the library system in Covich County after working at Wesson Attendance Center as a substitute teacher

and at Covich Bank in Hazlehurst. A 1985 Wesson High School graduate, she earned an Associate Degree in paralegal studies

from Phillips Junior College in Jackson. *cont. on page 10*



Photo by Wesson News

Angie Smith



Photo by Wesson News

Ann Clark



Photo by Wesson News

Gail Walker

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Shop serves gift buyers who need help

By Bob Arnold

Don't know what to get someone on your Christmas shopping list, but want something special besides the usual sweater, cologne, or perfume? You can probably find the answer in Wesson.

"That's what we're all about," says Janet Currie, the proprietor of Another Time . . . Another Place, a gifts and antique shop on Spring Street off Highway 51 in Wesson. "We have a variety of items for both men and women — furnishings, jewelry, florals, wall decor, collectibles, western items, owls and other birds, among other gift possibilities — rustic to elegant, in prices ranging from under \$20 to more than \$100," she says. "You don't have to spend a lot of money for something that will be appreciated." Her shop has eight rooms with the eclectic merchandise displayed in a Southern chic decor style that prompts browsers to make spontaneous selections.

You also get the benefit of Currie's experience when you visit her Wesson store, which she started in 1998 after operating an antique mall with antiques and collectibles in downtown Vicksburg. Her experience encompasses relationships with wholesalers

in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi and a knowledge of antiques and gifts shows where she acquires the unusual selection of products that makes Another Time . . . Another Place unique in the area.

Currie offers a couple of rules-of-thumb for gift buyers not sure where to start: "People who have a lot of the same thing probably want more of it. Older persons like florals — wreathes and garlands, but often won't buy them for themselves. Although used items were not considered appropriate gifts at one time, people like receiving gifts from someone's personal collections. For men, for whom it is always difficult to shop, consider items with hunting, oil field, collegiate, and western motifs, wallets, and ornaments." She also makes these specific suggestions:

- Handmade jewelry with inspirational themes
- Collectibles with collegiate motifs
- Monogrammed items
 - Area-specific gifts such as candles made in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Ala-



Photo by Wesson News

Janet Currie at Another Time . . . Another Place.

bama and cook books with regional recipes of locals

- Ornaments and "happies," such as wreathes and baskets with florals, are always popular, even with people whose tastes you do not know
- Scarves are a great gift for under \$20
- Vests and other clothing accessories
- Components for people to make their own jewelry, florals, and decorations
- Burlap items — birds, linen pieces, ribbons
- Lanterns and bird cages
- Plaques with sayings and words of wisdom
- Picture frames and plate holders

Currie says gift buyers should think twice about buying someone wind chimes, the popularity of which may be waning, and teddy bears and other stuffed animals, which may be more appropriate as Valentine's Day gifts.

So if you're looking for unique gifts and some helpful counsel on gift shopping, make sure Wesson is on your itinerary this Christmas season.

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cont. from front page

Lights, decor, parade & Santa to spark the Christmas spirit

Co-Lin and Wesson High School cheer-leading squads, Wesson Volunteer Fire Department, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Girl Scouts, Nena Smith dancers, the Colettes, winners of Wesson Attendance Center beauty and beau competitions by grade, and local businesses.

People in town for the parade who want to linger and relish the Christmas spirit will find local restaurants and eateries, including the 51 Diner, Los Lobos, Porches, and the Snack Shack, open as well as some local retailers where they can begin Christmas shopping. On a still undetermined date after the parade, children will be able to visit personally with Santa at the Wesson Fire House on Spring Street to share their Christmas wishes and receive special gifts of candy and fruit.

The more adventurous can travel a few miles following the parade to see Santa's Way, which begins its Christmas season synchronized light show on December 5. The spectacular 256 channel and static lights display with scenes of Santa and his elves and the nativity is located off Highway 547 in southwestern Copiah County near the Claiborne County border 25 miles from Wesson, Hazlehurst, Brookhaven,

and Port Gibson. This will be the thirty-sixth year David and Kelly Parks have produced the show on the sides of an eighth-of-a-mile stretch of road that winds past their house, utility buildings, yard, and fields on their 43-acre property. During the drive through the display area, visitors can tune their vehicle radios to 106.3 FM to listen to Christmas music designed to accompany the show. Show times are 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. December 5-7, December 10-14, and December 17-28.

A Spirit of Christmas Decorations and Lights Contest and Tour is being sponsored by *Wesson News* and the Chamber of Commerce. Judges from the Wesson Garden Club will select winners in a business category on December 5 following the parade and in a residential category the next day on Saturday, December 6. Citizens are encouraged to enter Christmas displays by emailing bobarnold@wessonnews.com or by submitting the entry form located in our ad below. The December *Wesson News* will announce recipients of awards and promote a Community Decorations and Lights Tour, listing addresses of all contest entrants.



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Weekly schedule (childcare provided for all services)

Sunday morning

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Morning worship

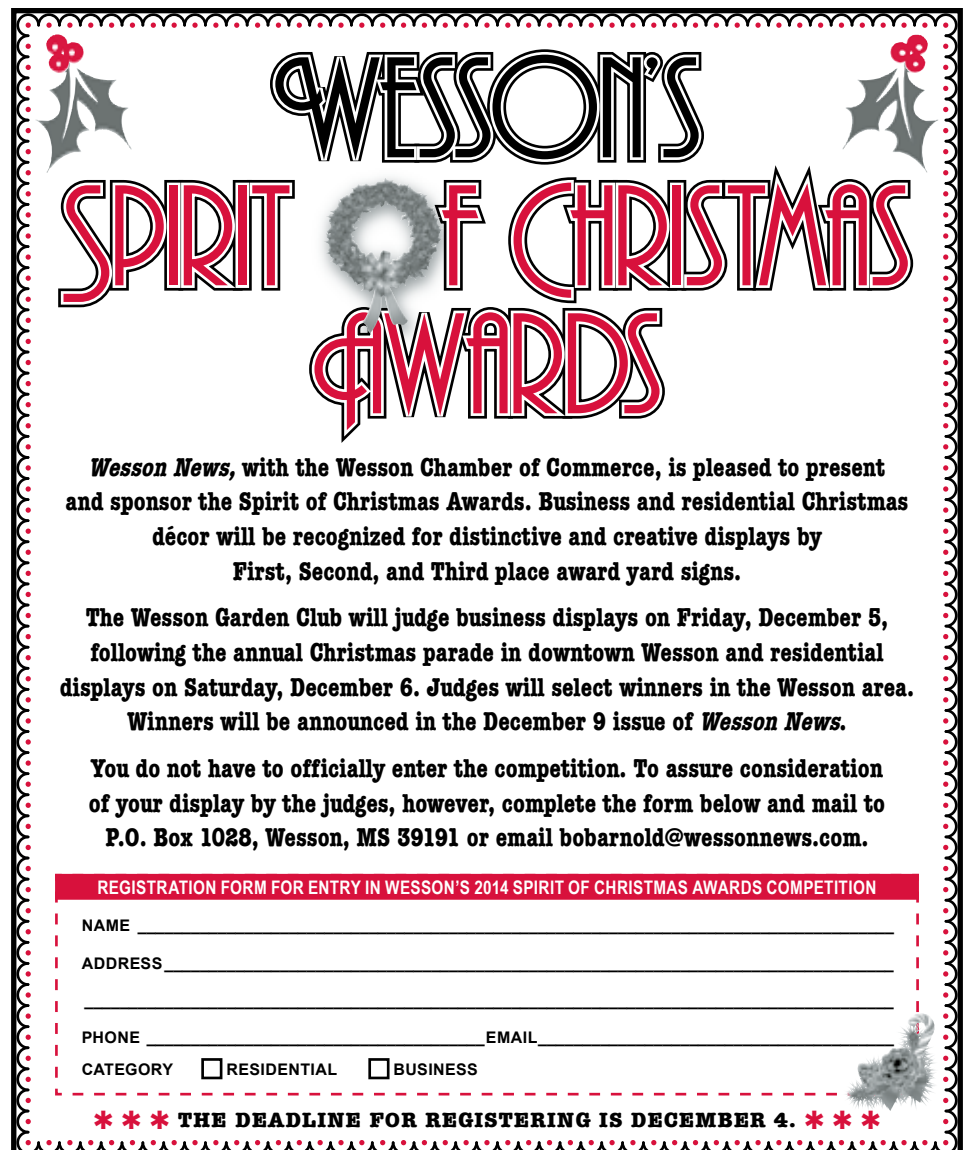
Sunday evening

5:00 p.m. Children's Choir
Small Group
Bible Study

Wednesday evening

5:30 p.m. Supper
6:00 p.m. TeamKids
6:30 p.m. Youth Bible Study
Prayer Service

Pastor – Nelson Santa Ana

WESSON'S SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS AWARDS

Wesson News, with the Wesson Chamber of Commerce, is pleased to present and sponsor the Spirit of Christmas Awards. Business and residential Christmas décor will be recognized for distinctive and creative displays by First, Second, and Third place award yard signs.

The Wesson Garden Club will judge business displays on Friday, December 5, following the annual Christmas parade in downtown Wesson and residential displays on Saturday, December 6. Judges will select winners in the Wesson area. Winners will be announced in the December 9 issue of *Wesson News*.

You do not have to officially enter the competition. To assure consideration of your display by the judges, however, complete the form below and mail to P.O. Box 1028, Wesson, MS 39191 or email bobarnold@wessonnews.com.

REGISTRATION FORM FOR ENTRY IN WESSON'S 2014 SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS AWARDS COMPETITION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

CATEGORY ☐ RESIDENTIAL ☐ BUSINESS

***** THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTERING IS DECEMBER 4. *****

Live music survives in a new arts world

By Guest Column R. Shaw Furlow

There is nothing like being in an audience when someone is really cranking it out on stage. Some years ago, however, I started to wonder about the future of live music when then-Jackson trumpeter Danny Blurton, who used to play for the Jimmy Mullins Orchestra in the Miss Mississippi Pageant, told me the Vicksburg event was switching to canned music. School music programs were also being trimmed down. Where would the next generation of musicians come from — or would there even be a next generation? Were the promises I made to moms and dads about the values of their children learning to play musical instruments true? If you had good computer skills, it seemed, you could create canned music and never leave your den.

Then I really had no idea how strong the creative spirit was in the human soul. Today I am relieved to know there will always be creative people on the planet. Over the sixteen years I have been at Co-Lin, I have worked with a number of ex-



Special to Wesson News

cellent musicians in this area alone — students like Boone Daughdrill and Nick Smith in my first band and later, Topher Brown and Greg Smith. They knocked me out with their knowledge of rock and roll history and performance abilities. Boone now plays drums for The Band Perry. Nick owns Dippin' Vat Recording Studio in Monticello. Topher has one of the hottest bands in the area. Greg teaches at Brookhaven Music and Sound, plays nearly every weekend with one of his many groups, and helped me put Brookstock Teens together last summer. Today Cole Powell, Sam Mooney, and Andi Cotten are among the emerging young and talented musicians in the area.

The world, of course, is much different from the one in which I grew up. With 500 television channels, YouTube, and Net Flix, we can stay home and be entertained without making an effort. All around the country, art series like the one at Co-Lin are struggling. Orchestras are folding. Musicians can no longer wait by their telephones for someone to request them to play. One of my best friends, Bill Halbrook, a percussionist in the Hot Springs, Arkansas, area, creates opportunities for the three bands for which he plays as a businessman/entrepreneur so he can make a living. He spends as much time networking as he does practicing every day. My son Cole, an outstanding guitar/bass

guitar player, composer/producer, and recording artist who lives in Oxford, Mississippi — a hot bed for musicians, novelists and poets — must leave home for tours in the Mid-West and New England areas to promote his recent album. Cole and others are also using DIY house parties for their live performances. A host invites as many friends as can fit comfortably into a home to hear either a solo artist or a small ensemble, provides snacks and drinks for them, and charges a fee that pays the artists for their performances.

Yet live performance venues in our new world continue to showcase musicians for appreciative audiences. Some of them are close by, too.

Wesson residents Eric and Teresa Moyer have reopened Recess 101 across from the Lincoln County Courthouse. Open mic is on Wednesdays, and rock and roll on Friday and Saturday nights. Jimmy Henderson and Andy Tanas from the 1970's band Black Oak Arkansas and a wonderful young singer/songwriter, Alanna Mosley, have been on stage. At Magnolia Blues BBQ in Brookhaven behind the movie theater in the old Ables building, Carl Craig offers quieter entertainment, food with a unique twist on BBQ, a full bar, and a wide variety of craft beers. Singer/songwriters like Tony Norton, with his unique style of attacking his guitar while playing a bass drum with

his foot, and John Martin, who I believe is the best voice in our area, are among the acts

At Los Lobos, a quaint restaurant located in an historic Wesson building, Angie Moore offers Karaoke on Thursday nights, and country singer Sheilah Hewitt will be on stage on Fridays during November — to go along with her reasonably-priced Mexican and American food. Crystal Springs Steak House has live entertainment every Friday and Saturday night. Babs Woods, late of Pat O'Brien's, occasionally performs as does the Greer Brothers Band — the best around if you like tight harmony. Gary Clark, Sr., operates this first class restaurant that includes a full bar in the heart of Crystal Springs.

Established music clubs that have been around since I was a very young man also thrive in the area. The McDowell Music Club in Crystal Springs features classical programs. Recently, Matinee Musicale in Brookhaven featured pianist Steve Russell in a well attended and received program.

So support live music. The more you support the artists, the more art is created. And it will just make you feel better!

Editor's Note: R. Shaw Furlow is Director of the Bands Program at Co-Lin and oversees the college's Community Arts Series. He is a regular contributor to Wesson News on the area arts scene.

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Sunday Evening 5:00 p.m. Discipleship Training Youth Bible Study Children's Activities 6:00 p.m. Evening Worship Service	For all other events call the Church Office @ 601.643.5826 Pastor Stuart Givens

1119 Old Sylvarena Road, Wesson, Mississippi 39191

cont. from page 6

News Nuggets

son and completed education related to library work in programming, outreach, technology, reference, and management. A Wesson native, Smith and her husband, James, who works for Axiall in Gallman, continue to maintain their residence in Wesson, where they reared two children — Matthew Scott, a recent graduate of the University of Mississippi, and Taylor, who is attending Co-Lin.

New press box.

A new state-of-the-art press box-concession stand-meeting facility overlooks Stone Stadium at Co-Lin. The \$500,000/2000-square foot two-deck structure sided with brick on the lower level and white panels on the second level provides space for video crews to tape football games and other athletic

events, Co-Lin and opposing coaches to view games and communicate with the field, athletic teams to hold meetings, radio and internet broadcasters to do play-by-play reporting, food storage and service, and Co-Lin President Ronnie Nettles to greet and entertain guests.

Winning gardener.

Wesson gardener Sheila Stewart took six plants to the State Fair at the Trade Mart in Jackson and returned home as a big winner. Her carnivorous pitcher plant received a Blue Ribbon and captured the Best of the Show award at the Fair's Plant Show among en-

tries from upwards of 50 gardeners from around Mississippi. Her aloes and succulents received another five Blue Ribbons.



Photo by Wesson News

Co-Lin President Ronnie Nettles and his wife Rosie greet guests in new press box on Wesson campus.



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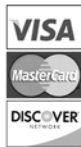
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Community Calendar

November weather forecast: *The Old Farmers Almanac* calls for an average temperature 52 degrees F (three degrees below average) and precipitation of 4 inches (one inch below average).**NOVEMBER 11**

Veterans Day breakfast and program. The Wesson High School student council invites area armed forces veterans to a breakfast and program honoring them at Wesson Attendance Center (WAC). Breakfast is at 7:30 a.m. The program is at 9 a.m. and will feature the High School Chorus under the direction of Daphne Johnson, band under the direction of Susie Phillips, and members of the theater troupe coached by Albert Brown. Between the breakfast and program, WAC elementary school students will meet and greet the veterans.

Institute for Learning in Retirement. Workshop on history and production of muscadines led by Dr. Eric T. Stafne, Associate Extension Professor at Mississippi State University Coastal Research & Extension Center, Poplarville, MS. Lunch and movie — Seven Days in Utopia — follow. \$5 for meal. Co-Lin Thames Center. 11 a.m.

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

NOVEMBER 13

Co-Lin Community Holiday Luncheon. An event hosted by Co-Lin for community businesses and organizations. Make reservations at 601-643-8701/8702. Co-Lin Thames Center. 11 a.m.

Chamber of Commerce twenty-fifth annual awards banquet. Mississippi broadcaster and author Walt Grayson will be the featured speaker at the event, which will close out Wesson's sesquicentennial year by honoring community organizations and their leaders who planned and implemented the festivities. The Chamber's Business of the Year Award will be presented. Old School community center. 6 p.m.

Lions Club meeting. Conference room at Co-Lin student cafeteria building. 6:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 14

Trustmark Bank celebrates its 125th anniversary. Public invited. Refreshments served. Wesson branch on Spring Street. All-day event.

NOVEMBER 17

Self-Defense Class for girls and women 11 years old and up hosted by Co-Lin Workforce Education Division. \$8 fee. Callendar Hall. 6 p.m. Contact Triple Black Belt Academy for information at 601-320-1977 or tripleblackbelt@yahoo.com.

NOVEMBER 18

American Legion Post meeting. American Legion Lodge on Main Street, Wesson. 6 p.m.

NOVEMBER 20

Fifty Plus Club. Members will share their favorite Christmas stories. Anderson Building on Co-Lin campus. 10:30 a.m.

NOVEMBER 23

Ecumenical Community Thanksgiving Worship Service, a cooperative event of Beauregard United Methodist Church, Decell United Methodist Church, and Wesson Baptist Church. Rev. Carl Smith, pastor at Beauregard United Methodist Church will preach. Refreshments and fellowship after the service. Wesson Baptist Church. 6 p.m.

NOVEMBER 27

Thanksgiving Day.

NOVEMBER 30

Hanging of Town of Wesson Christmas lights and decorations. A program of the Wesson Volunteer Fire Department. On Highway 51 during the afternoon hours following church services.

DECEMBER 2

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

DECEMBER 5

Annual Christmas parade. Downtown Wesson. Parade rolls at 4 p.m.

**Email Community Calendar items to
bobarnold@wessonnews.com**

A testimonial from a former student!

Dear “Miss” Nena,

There is not a card big enough to tell you thank you for everything that you have done for me over the years. Even as I write this at age 18, I can remember my very first day at your studio. I was three, nervous and shy, but you immediately welcomed me in and told me that you were going to call me “Ginger.” You always have these great “love” names for so many of the dancers!

You made me feel special and from then on, the studio became a special place...a sanctuary for me, like it is for so many others! I not only learned to dance there, but I also learned about friendship, hard work and family.

You taught me about perseverance and to set goals for myself. You taught me to go after my Starfish! (Your name for goals and dreams!) “Miss” Nena, you truly are one of my heroes. Thank you for always being YOU. I will miss you as I go off to college. I love you so much.

Virginia “Ginger” Dorris — Copiah Academy Senior Class - 2013

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Control blood sugar for better health and a longer life

By Guest Columnist
Dr. Stephanie Duguid

November, when the festive holiday season begins and we eat more and exercise less, is also National Diabetes Awareness Month — an appropriate time to consider your blood sugar and how to manage it, if necessary. Dia-



Special to Wesson News

betes is the seventh leading cause of death in the US. In southwest Mississippi, more than twelve percent of those living in Copiah County and more than eleven percent of those in Lincoln County have diabetes. Throughout the Wesson area, the diabetic population is between ten and fifteen percent. Diabetes is the leading cause of kidney failure, non-traumatic lower limb amputations, and new cases of blindness. It is also the major cause of heart disease and stroke.

Diabetes involves the relationship between glucose (sugar/carbohy-

drates) and insulin. Diabetics are categorized as Type 1 or Type 2.

You are born with Type 1 diabetes, which develops very early in life. The pancreas, which produces insulin in response to glucose levels, does not function correctly or at all in Type 1 diabetics, who will be required to take insulin injections or use an insulin pump under the direction of a physician for their entire lives.

Poor choices around exercise and nutrition are the major culprits in the slow development of Type 2 diabetes over time. The pancreas of a person who lives a relatively inactive life and/or eats high-carbohydrate and high-fat foods (i.e., fried foods) cannot release enough insulin to keep up with the high levels of glucose (sugar) consumed. Over time, the person's pancreas begins to function improperly, causing increasingly higher levels of glucose (sugar) in the body. Normal levels of glucose are between 80 and 120 mg/dl. Persons with glucose levels consistently below those levels have low blood sugar and are considered hypoglycemic. Persons with glucose levels consistently above them are considered hyperglycemic or diabetic. Consult

with your doctor about your glucose levels and any care required.

Diabetes is a healthcare challenge because many people do not have annual physical examinations, including blood tests, and therefore do not know they have a blood sugar problem. Diabetes affects more than twenty-five million people in the US, and seven million of them are undiagnosed. Diabetes is often misunderstood as a condition of older persons. Yet some 215,000 people younger than 20 years old in the U.S. have Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes. Diabetes is not just a disease in itself, but can contribute to the development of:

- Heart disease and stroke
- Hypertension
- Blindness and eye problems
- Kidney disease
- Nervous system disease
- Circulatory disorders and the need for amputations

The good news is that Type 2 diabetes can be managed, reducing the risk of complications. Get active for 60 minutes every day, become tobacco-free, get a blood test for glucose and cholesterol (lipids) annually, regularly check your blood pressure, and practice preventive care for your eyes, feet, and kidneys. For those



with challenges controlling glucose or cholesterol levels, see your doctor. Research shows that lifestyle intervention to lose weight and increase physical activity can reduce the development of Type 2 diabetes by fifty-eight percent for most adults and up to seventy-one percent for adults over the age of 60.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Stephanie Duguid, Assistant Dean of Academic Instruction and the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Division Chair at Co-Lin, makes regular contributions to Wesson News on healthy living topics. 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 20 years. She is an avid reader and learner on health issues and encourages people to follow her example.

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