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Wesson PD adds two full-timers

Special to Wesson News

Two new full-time officers have joined the Wesson Police Department (WPD).

Brandon Williams has moved from part-time to full-time, and Kelsey Evans is coming on board as a full-time officer in her first law enforcement job.

Williams started his law enforcement career as a patrolman with the Raymond Police Department in 2012 after graduating from Franklin High School in El Paso, Texas, and then working in automobile sales in Warren Country.

With a father who was a federal narcotics officer, law enforcement was in his blood, and before coming to WPD, he served with the Jackson police force, was a canine handler for the Hinds County Sheriff's Office and served four and one half years at the Copiah County Sheriff's Office.

Williams lives with his girlfriend on an old family farm in Crystal



Kelsey Evans

Wesson News



Brandon Williams (right) with Wesson Police Chief Chad O'Quinn.

Wesson News

Springs, where he raises horses, cattle and chickens.

Evans studied secondary education at Co-Lin after graduating from Amite School Center at Liberty in 2016, but decided "I couldn't see myself as a school teacher" and enrolled at Holmes Community College to study criminal justice to realize a dream of a law enforcement career.

A native of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Evans settled with her parents at Bogue Chitto when she was seven years old. Her father drove a truck, and her mother taught school. Before landing at WPD, she continued her criminal justice studies at Southwest Community College, worked as a waitress at the Sonic in Brookhaven, and then at gasoline stations in Bogue Chitto and Brookhaven.

Evans is single, lives in Brookhaven and also works with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office. Her career goal is to become a narcotics agent.

Douglas is Alumnus of the Year

By Bob Arnold

Martin Logan Douglas of Reykjavik, Iceland, originally of Wesson, was selected as the 2020 Alumnus of the Year of Co-Lin.

Douglas is a 2006 and 2013 honors graduate of Co-Lin.

While at Co-Lin pursuing his first degree, Douglas was captain of the Scholar's Bowl team, a member of Phi Theta Kappa, campus coordinator for the Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi, William Winter Scholar recipient, and selected as Who's Who Among American Community College Students.

After graduating in 2006, Douglas joined the Mississippi Army National Guard, serving on active duty for almost 12 years, which included one deployment to Iraq in 2009. While he served on active duty, Douglas was the JV academic team coach at Wesson Attendance

Center, a Bible teacher and mentor for eight-to ten-year-old boys at City Church in Jackson and went on three mission trips (one to Guatemala and two to Moldova).

In 2008, Douglas was awarded the 106th Brigade Support Battalion Soldier of the Year. He was also an NBC Defense Course Distinguished Honor Graduate, named to the Commandants List at the Unit Supply Senior Leaders Course, twice awarded the Army Commendation Medal, and a six-time recipient of the Army Achievement Medal.

In 2011, Douglas became the Mississippi Army National Guard Recruiter for the Wesson geographic area and set up his office on Co-Lin's Wesson Campus. When Co-Lin established the Military Technology degree, Douglas was the first to pursue it, which led to his second Co-Lin degree in 2013.

Douglas also earned a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy in Ethics from



Martin Logan Douglas

Wesson News

American Military University and a Master of Arts in Christian Ministry in Pastoral Counseling from Liberty

University.

Feeling called to ministry, Douglas became the Young Adult Pastor at First Baptist Church in Ridgeland. In 2018, Douglas took an honorable discharge from the military to answer the missionary call to go to Iceland with his wife, Carla.

Douglas has served as an elder of the only Icelandic Baptist Church in the entire country, and currently serves as a board member for The Iceland Project, an initiative that exists to see gospel-centered churches planted in Iceland and is setting out to plant an international English-speaking church in Reykjavik this year.

Douglas is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary with the intent to pursue a Ph.D. in Theology and Religion from the University of Iceland.

Co-Lin named great college employer

Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin is one of the best colleges in the nation to have as an employer, according to a new survey by The Great Colleges to Work For program.

The results, released in a special insert of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, are based on a survey of 221 colleges and universities. In all, 79 of the 221 institutions surveyed achieved "Great College to Work For" recognition for specific best practices and policies. Results are reported for small, medium, and large institutions, with Co-Lin included among the medium-size institutions with 3,000 to 9,999 students.

Co-Lin earned Honor Roll recognition in five categories this year:

- Confidence in Senior Leadership
- Professional/Career Development Programs
- Respect and Appreciation
- Supervisor/Department Chair Relationship
- Work/Life Balance

"This is a very satisfying affirmation of Co-Lin, but our real goal is not recognition," says Co-Lin President Dr. Jane Hulon Sims. "It's being a community that values the needs and contributions of every individual. In that sense, ev-



everyone at Co-Lin helps to make this a great place to work."

The survey results are based on a two-part assessment process: a questionnaire that captured employment data and workplace policies from each institution, and a survey of faculty, administrators, and professional support staff. The primary factor in deciding whether an institution received recognition was employee feedback.

The Great Colleges to Work For program is one of the largest and most respected workplace-recognition programs in the country. For more in-

formation and to view all current and previously recognized institutions, visit the Great Colleges program website at www.greatcollegesprogram.com.

ModernThink, a strategic human capital consulting firm, administered the survey and analyzed the results. It has supported a wide variety of "Best Place to Work" initiatives. The ModernThink team of organizational development experts is dedicated to helping colleges follow through and capitalize on feedback from employees and benchmark data from peers to drive meaningful change at their institutions.

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General's grave focus of video



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Sharon Langley (left) and Cathy Stroud at grave of Brigadier-General Luther Rea Stevens.

Special to Wesson News

Wreaths Across America (WAA), which coordinates the laying of wreaths on the graves of veterans during the Christmas season at 2,100 cemeteries throughout the U.S., is spotlighting Wesson Cemetery -- one of those locations -- in a new nationally-distributed video this fall to inspire local groups across the country to remember veterans who have died for their country, honor those who are serving and teach children about their sacrifices.

The video will place a particular focus on Brigadier-General Luther Rea Stevens, who lies in a grave at Wesson Cemetery without a military plaque.

Socks for Heroes' (SFH) Cathy Stroud hopes the video can help SFH generate donations for the General's plaque.

Stevens was born on July 4, 1888, and died on February 7, 1973. He served as Commander of the Mindanao & Sula District in the Philippine Constabulary from 1924-27 and 1929, Superintendent of the Philippine Constabulary Academy during 1927 and Commanding General of the 91st Philippine Division in 1941 and 1942. He was a Prisoner of War from 1942-45.

Stevens and his wife Lula are buried next to Jim Johnson, a nephew, who was honored for his military service in a ceremony at Wesson Cemetery.

Wesson-based SFH organizes WWA Christmas season wreath-laying on veterans' graves at Wesson, Beauregard, Hazlehurst and Georgetown cemeteries.

Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester in 1992.

"Our mission is to remember the fallen, honor those who serve and to teach our children the value of freedom," Stroud says. "We take time out to recognize the people that made the ultimate sacrifice."

WAA started in 1992 when Worcester Wreath in Maine found itself with a surplus of wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season. Remembering a moving boyhood experience at Arlington National Cemetery, owner Morrill Worcester seized on it as an opportunity to honor the country's veterans. With the aid of Maine Senator Olympia Snowe, he arranged for the wreaths to be placed at Arlington in one of the older sections of the cemetery that had been receiving fewer visitors with each passing year. A number of other individuals and organizations stepped up to help, including a local trucking company that transported the wreaths to Virginia, volunteers from local American Legion and VFW Posts and members of the Maine State Society of Washington, D.C., who helped make wreaths and organized laying them.

The event continued quietly each year until 2005, when a photo of gravestones at Arlington, adorned with wreaths and covered in snow, circulated around the internet. The event drew national attention and expanded to thousands of other locations, where the Arlington ceremonies were emulated. Nearly two million veteran wreaths are placed on headstones at participating cemeteries around the country.

The Arlington wreath-laying is still held annually, on the second or third Saturday of December. WAA's annual pilgrimage from Harrington, Maine, to Arlington National Cemetery has become known as the world's largest veterans' parade, stopping at schools, monuments, veterans' homes and communities all along the way to remind people how important it is to remember, honor and teach.

Donors can make contributions to support this year's Wesson and Beauregard wreath-laying events at Wreaths Across America, 1052 Cotton, Wesson, Mississippi 39191, or contact Cathy Stroud or Sharon Langley.

Veterans gifts program finds new way

Special to Wesson News

Because of COVID-19, Socks for Heroes (SFH) is down, but not out.

The Wesson-based group, which seeks to show appreciation for the service of military veterans, has struggled to raise funds and generate donations of the varied clothing personal care and small practical items, blankets, games and knick knacks that enable it to say thank-you through a gifts program to men and women who have served the country in war and peace time.

At the same time, COVID-19 restrictions on visitors have shut down its primary program -- bringing Christmas and holiday joy and cheer to veterans homes in Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas through gift packages to individual residents of the facilities and larger gift items, such as television sets, that can be enjoyed together by the residents.

What to do?

Rather than going to veterans homes this year, SFH is inviting veterans to come to them. It has arranged a number of special events throughout the area -- "Veterans' Appreciation Days" -- where veterans can go to pick up free "thank you" care packages.

SFH held its first Veterans' Appreciation Day event at the end of last month outside the Wesson American Legion hall. Veterans came to the parking lot, showed their military id and received their special gifts at curbside from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, September 26.

Similar events will be held through December, with the next one scheduled on October 23 at Georgetown. Plans call for other Veterans' Appreciation Days at Hazlehurst and Brookhaven and a smaller, but similar event in Franklin County.

Socks for Heroes started in a porch conversation Wesson's Cathy Stroud had with her sister at her home in Vidalia, Louisiana, and in a separate discussion with a friend about Christmas gifts. The three women agreed gifts were unimportant for them, and they would like to find a way to help people

in need hands-on through their Christmas giving. After Marty Stroud, her husband, told her about the fish fries Walmart, his employer, held at Veterans Administration homes, and meeting a young disabled veteran whose special needs moved him, she formulated a concept, and the unique Wesson-based charity was born.

"We aren't about collecting money and sending it to the Veterans Administration in Jackson," Stroud says.

In 2012, she visited the home for veterans at Collins, Mississippi, where she learned to her surprise that socks were the primary need of residents and that they would also appreciate gloves, hats, notebooks, pens and playing cards.

"We kept growing," Stroud says.

In recent years before COVID-19, SFH collected upwards of 15,000 pairs of socks, 800 blankets and other items for the four veterans homes in Mississippi, five in Louisiana and two in Arkansas.

"At Christmas, we delivered packages with signed cards to individual veterans at the homes," Stroud reports. "We have some 30 individual volunteers, support of Strong Hope Baptist Church members and assistance from participants in groups who need community service hours, such as Mississippi Scholars and the Wesson Attendance Center Beta Club. They helped collect donations, attend Christmas ceremonies at veterans homes and bag the gifts that are part of our Christmas packages. Most of them are drawn to Socks for Heroes, because they have relatives who served in the military."

This year for its Veterans Appreciation Days care packages, it is collecting socks, of course, non-perishable food items and canned goods in Brookhaven at Picket Fences (1383 Union Street Extension) and Brookhaven Monuments (Highway 51) and in Wesson at Copiah County Nutrition (Highway 51).

SFH has 501(c) 3 not-for-profit status and has traditionally raised funds through a fishing tournament for youth at Lake Hazle, a 5K run/walk at Hazlehurst, and an annual veterans appreciation fair -- all cancelled this year.

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Legislative session finally ends



Special to Wesson News

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After an unprecedented legislative session, the Mississippi House of Representatives has adjourned in accordance with House Concurrent Resolution 69, which was passed earlier in the session and gave the Legislature six days to meet and pass bills related to COVID-19 before October 10. The Legislature also used its time to appropriate the remainder of the CARES Act funds received from the federal government. Its work included:

- **House Bill 1812** appropriating \$10 million to the Wireless Communication Commission for upgrades to its network. The WCC controls the Mississippi Wireless Information Network, a public safety radio communication platform used by first responders and emergency personnel.

- **House Bills 1809 and 1810**, which created the Rental Assistance Grant Program and appropriated \$20 million to fund the program. Landlords can apply for grants up to \$30,000

to cover losses incurred due to the pandemic when evictions were suspended. Both bills passed with bipartisan support.

- Two bills that appropriated CARES funds to hospitals.

House Bill 1813 appropriated \$4 million to the MS Department of Health to reimburse specialty hospitals affected by COVID-19. **Senate Bill 3060** appropriated \$10 million for hospitals to use for Intensive Care Units, including additional beds and adding negative pressure rooms.

- **Senate Bill 3059** appropriated \$10 million to the Mississippi Veterans Affairs Board for use in state veterans' homes, which were greatly impacted by the pandemic.

- **Senate Bills 3058 and 3061** appropriating funds to farmers who suffered losses due to the pandemic. This included \$3 million set aside for poultry farmers and another \$500,000 for sweet potato farmers.



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Police chief lauds Wesson values

By Bob Arnold

Twenty years or more down the road when Chad O'Quinn retires from being Wesson's police chief, he says he doesn't want to be remembered as a lawman, but rather as a "good husband, father, son and person who loved the community he served."

In Wesson, townspeople say that will be so, but also that O'Quinn has earned widespread respect for being a dedicated police chief, which will not be forgotten.

Wesson's Board of Aldermen selected O'Quinn to serve the town as its police chief in 2008 after a seven-year career that started in 1999 when he was 23 years old as a shift sergeant and deputy at the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office. He had previously worked briefly for O'Quinn Trucking, a Wesson-based long-haul cross-country transport company with refrigeration vehicles operated by his mother and father, Daniel and Shirley O'Quinn.

"I am very appreciative to Lincoln County Sheriff Lynn Boyte for giving me my start in law enforcement," O'Quinn says. "It was a dream since I was a kid."

O'Quinn came to Wesson by way of Brookhaven in 1990, started going to Wesson Attendance Center in the ninth grade, and graduated from Wesson High School in 1993 before serving in the U.S. Army from 1994-1998 as a supply specialist.

In his initial Army stint, he served one year at Camp Casey in South Korea and two years at Fort Polk, Louisiana. O'Quinn went back into active service in the military in 2009-2010 as a supply specialist for the Clinton, Mississippi, based National Guard 114th Military Police Company at FOB Marez, Mosul Iraq (Operation Iraqi Freedom), during Iraqi Enduring Freedom.

Until his honorable discharge



Wesson News

from the National Guard in 2012, O'Quinn's law enforcement career evolved simultaneously. He joined the Wesson Police Department in 2002, while continuing to work at the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office until 2004 and then moving to the Copiah County Sheriff's Office, where he was the canine interdiction officer as a patrol captain enforcing drug laws along Interstate 55. During his Iraqi service, he was on staff at the Copiah County Sheriff's Office, reporting to

O'Quinn recalls.

O'Quinn says his most profound experience as Wesson police chief occurred just before his deployment to Iraq with the National Guard. "My biological father, with whom I was developing a relationship, was murdered while working in the Wesson pawn shop he owned and operated. That it happened in the town where I was Chief of Police made a profound impact on me, although I didn't know the murderer, nor par-

children -- Deanna, 21, and Brandon, 17, both Wesson High School graduates. This year, he received an Associate of Arts degree in criminal justice from Co-Lin.

Looking back and looking forward in the midst of today's social turmoil, often focused on police actions, O'Quinn says he is "blessed to be serving in Wesson."

"Here we see each other as neighbors and friends," he affirms. "The hate and division are not here. I love Wesson and will serve here as long as I can, and the people will have me."

What are your hobbies?

I enjoy camping and driving my ATV. I follow sports as a fan of the New Orleans Saints and Atlanta Braves. I'm into pizza -- Looz, Lou Malnati's, Chicago!

Are you a reader?

I read just job-related stuff, and most, recently, material related to studying criminal justice at Co-Lin.

Do you enjoy movies or theater?

I like comedies, particularly those with Ben and Jerry Stiller.

What kind of music do you like?

I am into Country -- old and new. I fondly recall the Zach Brown Band, which visited Iraq with the USO.

What would you do with lottery winnings if you were so lucky?

I would help people -- my family first, and then the poor and unfortunate.

How would you change the world?

I would love to have a platform to provide special eye glasses to people -- universal glasses through which they could see each other just as human beings without race and other differences that so deeply divide us. We will always have differences, of course, but people need to see each other as human beings first.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Sheriff Harold Jones, while reporting to First Sergeant John Goza of Wesson, who had been a Jones opponent in local elections for sheriff,

participated in the investigation that followed."

O'Quinn married his wife Michelle in 1998, and they have two grown

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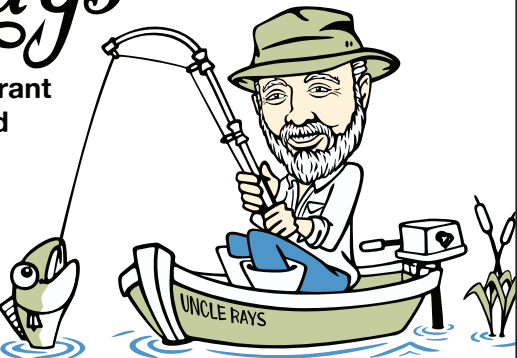
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Ribbon cutting opens tennis courts



Special to Wesson News

Ribbon cutting at new Co-Lin tennis courts.

Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin administrators, athletic department staff, former coaches, representatives of architectural and construction firms and Tommy Sasser, Chairman of the college's Board of Trustees, cut the ribbon to officially open a new, eight-court tennis complex.

The courts are located on Co-Lin's old soccer field at the corner of Mission Hill and Lake Roads on the Wesson campus.

"We are so proud to be able to open this state-of-the-art facility," said Co-Lin President Dr. Jane Hulon Sims.

"I want to personally thank all of our corporate sponsors and private donors that support us through our Back The Pack capital campaign and our Board of Trustees for all the hard work that went into this project."

The complex features eight new playing surfaces divided into groups of two, allowing more matches to be played at one time and limiting disruption of play due to the separation. All of the courts are lighted by a brand new LED system that allows custom scheduling and the ability to instantly power on or off with no delay.

Along with the courts, the new con-

struction includes a 400 square foot storage building for Co-Lin tennis equipment, as well as a paved parking lot that will be shared with the softball program.

"This complex is so impressive and will be instrumental in recruiting our local talent," said Co-Lin men's and women's head tennis coach Dana Hale. "It will have an immediate impact on the college, the student-athletes, and our community as a whole. The board of trustees, our president Dr. Jane Hulon Sims, and donors are commended for their commitment and hard work. We are all excited for the upcoming season and the future of our tennis program at

Co-Lin. We hope it is as bright as those newly lit courts at night!"

"It's an exciting time at Co-Lin," said Brenda Smith, who coached both men's and women's teams over a number of years and served as Dean of Students. "A facility like this is something myself and former coach Mike McIntyre dreamed about back in the day. It is so great to see the support of our programs, and I can't wait to come back out and watch some matches here."

The college's tennis teams will utilize the courts in the fall for numerous scrimmage matches before starting the 2020-21 season in the spring of next year.

Carmody community HOF selection

Special to Wesson News

Jim Carmody, a 1954 graduate of Co-Lin, has been selected to be inducted into the Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame (MCCSHOF) in the Class of 2020 by his fellow Co-Lin Sports Hall of Fame members.

Carmody was a co-captain of the Wolf Pack football team and played on the baseball team. He attended Tulane University, was a two-year football letterman who led the team to its first winning season in five years and received Bachelor's and Master's Degrees.

Carmody started his coaching career in the armed services in Korea.

He served as an assistant football coach at Tulane, Kentucky, Mississippi State, Ole Miss and North Carolina before becoming the defensive coordinator at the University of Southern Mississippi, where he was nicknamed "Big Nasty" as coordinator of the "Nasty Bunch" defense. He spent a season as an assistant coach in the NFL for the Buffalo Bills before returning to Southern Miss as the head football coach and had a winning record in five of six seasons, with an upset that ended a 57-game Alabama winning streak, scoring the most points against a Bear Bryant team in Tuscaloosa.

Following his career at Southern

Mississippi, Carmody coached at Mississippi State, Mississippi College, and Ole Miss before returning to the NFL as a scout for the

Arizona Cardinals for 10 years before his retirement in 2005. Carmody was inducted into the Co-Lin Sports Hall of Fame in 1993, the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame in 2009, and the University of Southern Mississippi Hall of Fame in 2009. He was honored as Co-Lin's Alumnus of the Year in 2014.

He is married to Earlyn

"Noonie" Carmody, a former Miss Louisiana, and has four sons -- Steve, Brian, Keith and Chris, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

As the 2020 Co-Lin MCCSHOF representative, Carmody joins previous Co-Lin inductees Henry L. "Hook" Stone, Carl Medley, M. K. Turk, Alton Ricks, Charlie Ward, Alton Greenlee, A. J. "Red" Mangum, Jr., Bob Ricketts, Gwyn Young, Bucky Waters, Sonny Hill, Cindy Williams, Troy C. Greer, Ray Ishee, Curtis McMillan, and Randy Thomas in being so honored.



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DAVE PACE
KEVIN LAIRD

Four to enter Co-Lin Sports Hall of Fame

Special to Wesson News

The Co-Lin Athletic Alumni Association has selected four new members for the college's Sports Hall of Fame:

Debra Barnes Black, a 1989 graduate of Co-Lin, who played on the Lady Wolves basketball team. She was named Mississippi

Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) First Team All-State in her sophomore year and was part of the National Junior and Community College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region XXIII Championship Team that

had a record of 25-7. She also helped lead the team to a NJCAA National Tournament 4th Place finish. Black averaged 15.9 points, 8.6 rebounds, and 1.6 steals during the '88-'89 regular season. Following her sophomore season, Black had 13 scholarship offers to continue playing basketball, including an offer from the University of Florida, but she passed them up in order to begin working to help her siblings and family. In 1998, she was in a serious accident that left her disabled for 13 years. Despite the accident, Black was able to overcome many obstacles and spent six years working at West Lincoln School, after starting in substitute teaching. Black has worked in the Lincoln County Tax Assessor's office since 2012. She is an active member at New Beginning Church in Brookhaven, where she sings in the choir and serves on the pastor's aid committee. She is married to Patrick Black and is the proud aunt of Myeshia Barnes, Latrell Barnes, Damien Turner, and Gregory Turner.

Glenn Davis, the head football coach at Co-Lin since 2004. He graduated with a Bachelor's Degree from Delta State University in 1982 and a Master's Degree from Mississippi State University

in 1987, and before coming to Co-Lin, coached running backs at Mississippi State University and worked in coaching positions at Holmes Community College, University of North Alabama, and South Natchez High School. While coaching at Mississippi State, the Bulldogs led the Southeastern Conference in rushing in 2000, and ranked third in rushing in 1998. At MSU, Davis also coached James Johnson in 1,000-yard seasons in 1997 and 1998, and Denczo Miller in his 1,000-yard season in 2000.

Davis is the all-time winningest head football coach in Co-Lin history, and was selected as Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) Coach of the Year in 2006, 2014, and 2018. During his coaching tenure at Co-Lin, the Wolf Pack football team has been MACJC South Division Champions and MACJC State Runners-Up in 2006, 2010 and 2014. In 2012, Co-Lin won the MACJC State Championship after finishing second in the South Division, and played in the Mississippi Bowl. During the 2015 season, Co-Lin ranked fourth in the national polls and had 22 players sign four-year scholarships -- 20 with Division I football programs. In 2018, Co-Lin made it to the MACJC playoffs for the fifth time, while ranking 18th in the country and boasting a 100 percent graduation rate of all sophomore players.

He has also had more than 225 student-athletes sign and play at many different four-year universities -- starters on teams in the SEC, Big 12, ACC and other national conferences. Additionally, Davis has had several players drafted by the NFL, including first-round draft picks Montez Sweat and Nick Fairley, and second-round draft picks Tony Bryant and Randy Thomas.

Davis and his wife Minta have two

children, Micah (wife Ashley) and Ann Shelby (husband Josh Smith), and three grandchildren, Brooke and Cannan Davis, and Jackson Smith.

Jackie Stowe Johnson, a 2006 graduate of Co-Lin and softball player. She was a two-year standout second baseman and pitcher for the Lady Wolves. She helped lead the 2006 team to a MACJC State Championship title, a NJCAA Region 23 Championship, and a third-place finish in the NJCAA National Tournament. Johnson was named First Team All-State and All-Region, was a distinguished Academic All-America, and NFCA All-American Scholar Athlete. During her two years at Co-Lin, Johnson batted .393, with a .525 on base percentage, drove in 64 runs, stole 26 times, drew 21 walks, scored 61 runs, and held an impressive .953 fielding percentage. As a pitcher, she had a 6-0 record and a 2.83 ERA. Outside of softball, she was also inducted into the Co-Lin Hall of Fame and was a Taylor Presidential Scholar.

After Co-Lin, Johnson played softball for two years at Delta State University, where she received the Lady Statesman Award. She was also named to the Athletic Director's Hall of Fame. Johnson received a Bachelor's Degree in 2008 and a Master's Degree in 2010, both from Delta State University.

Johnson currently teaches Geometry, Algebra III, and ACT Prep at Wesson Attendance Center, where she also coached from 2009-2014. During that time, Johnson won multiple Slowpitch Region Championships, as well as one Fastpitch Region Championship. In 2013, her team was 2A South State Runner-up in Fastpitch. She was named the Brookhaven *Daily Leader's* All-Area Fastpitch Softball Coach of the Year. Johnson was the Co-Lin Assistant Softball Coach

from 2015-2018.

Johnson is a former member of the Mississippi Association of Coaches. She and her husband Nick are members of Mt. Zion Baptist Church and have three children, Reagan, MaKinley, and Jace.

Exavier "Nook" Logan, a 2000 Co-Lin graduate, baseball player and member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. He was named First Team All-State and All-Region, and All-Tournament at the NJCAA World Series. In 2000, he was a member of Co-Lin's first ever MACJC South State Championship

team, which won the NJCAA Region 23 Championship and NJCAA Central District, was number four in the nation academically and set a school record of 47 wins during the season. Logan set a school record of 47 stolen bases and held the World Series Tournament record for most stolen bases.

After Co-Lin, Logan was a third-round pick of the Detroit Tigers and the first player drafted from the state of Mississippi in the 2000 Major League Baseball draft. He made his major league debut in 2004 against the Kansas City Royals and was named the Detroit Tigers' Rookie of the Year in 2004. Logan played for the Washington Nationals during the 2006-2007 season and was recognized as the fastest player in Major League Baseball that same year. During his major league career, Logan had 870 at bats with a .268 batting average. He was featured numerous times on ESPN Top Web Gems.

Logan is an active volunteer in the Natchez community and founded the Miss-Lou Youth Activities Association in 2015 to give local youth the opportunity to play organized basketball. Logan and his girlfriend Krystal Knight are parents to Kameryn and Kalaeni.



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Hanging out again with band guys

By Guest Columnist Shaw Furlow

Forgive me, my friends, for taking a column to tell you about an interesting day I had recently.

My son Cole asked me if I could help him to record a horn band at his studio in Jackson. I jumped at the idea, as all I had at home was sweeping up dog hair and cleaning bathrooms. Of course, the big plus was working with Cole and his Delta Music Institute intern Ben Yarborough.

I don't know what you think of when someone mentions "horn band" but I go straight to Blood Sweat and Tears, Chicago and my favorite band --Tower of Power.

I found out that he was talking about the Jackson powerhouse band, Epic Funk Brass Band. Ok. Now we are talking a whole new ballgame.

The Epic Funk Brass Band includes six brass players and two percussionists. Their style is like that of



Wesson News

the New Orleans funeral bands, but it stretches its repertoire to include jazz blues, incorporating vocals on some songs.

Eddie Newton, a former music major at Co-Lin, is the leader and plays snare drum.

"We've been together since 2016," Newton told me. "This is the most fun I've had in a band." It shows in the group's camaraderie, with the light-hearted jabbing among its members, even when working out parts.

Joshua Hood, one of its two trombone players, is the lonely Alcorn graduate, with the rest having been part of Jackson State's Sonic Boom of the South. "The guys accept me, but, one week out of the year, it gets sorta rough," he says, referring to the annual football rivalry.

Once in the studio, Cole and Ben got all the mics properly placed, and the real fun started.

A couple of run-throughs of the first song. Getting the order of solos (how many times in the verse before going to the chorus). Things that in a

live performance would be indicated by Newton. But mics don't lie. Everything has to be right before the studio goes hot. And right it was! Mercy! Cole told me twice to sit still as my foot patting was coming through the mics. Twice, he told me. It was difficult to do, as the place was rocking.

The second tune went just as fast and accurately as the first. Then it got interesting again. Cole asked the sousaphone players to come up with a bass line in a major key. He sang them an idea, then got out of the way. Before long, the eight musicians ad libbed a melody and accompaniment, worked out the whos and the whens on solos and turned on the mics. It was magic. Pure and simple. Music in its purist form, made up on the spot.

One of the reasons I wrote about this is because over the last five years, I have moved away from horns and drums toward acoustic guitars and song writing. I've spent more time in recording studios in the last five years than the whole of the forty before. So, on this Saturday morning, my old and

my new worlds met at a crossroads at a recording studio in Jackson. Talking horns with the guys. Looking at a custom made Monet trumpet that would be a year's house payment for me. Hearing the talk about "swapping eights," the technique of one player taking an eight count solo, another doing the same and then swapping back and forth.

It was like riding a bicycle. I fell in with them and asked and answered questions. Band stuff. Stuff I did for forty-one years, and it was nice to be a part of it again. Do I miss it enough to go back? No! I'm enjoying my second act and look forward to being able to carry on when this virus is under control. But it was fun, for a brief moment to hang out with old band guys. Very cool.

Until next time, support the arts.

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



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Business surged at 21 Wesson merchants, eateries and other consumer-oriented enterprises as a result of Chamber of Commerce Shop Local promotion, attracting local customers by inviting them to participate in drawings for gift cards. The Chamber covered business costs. There were 89 lucky gift card winners.

51 Diner (Richard & Pamela Skinner) Conner Lowery, Jennifer Peets, Darlene Gaston, Jessica Hynum	Nan Drane Massage Therapist Diana Channell, Nikki Boyd
Another Time... Another Place Rebecca Britt, Janice Puckett, Anita Thomas, Kailyn Hodges, Jessica Breazeale	Park Place Ice Cream Corey Sykes, Renea Jills, Jenifer Cline, Pat Newman, Martha Walker, Lori Bridges, Nancy Douglas, Melody Waltman, Brandon Thomas, Traci Funchess.
Ashley's 51 Claretha Benson, Elaine Dunnigan, Peggy Lowery, Michael Young	P&R Package Patti Hemphill, Brenda Rippy, Ronald Jointer, Patrick Pricy
The Carpenter Shop John Taylor, Lyndsay Powell	Serendipity Salon Tanning Taffy Robinson
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Deb's Style Shop (All Tangled Up) Stephanie Twiner, Suzanne Sweeney, Stratton Hennington	Skeets Burger Melissa Hutson, Mary Lou Burner, Malliyah Walker, Minya Jackson, Beth Ann Berry, Paulette Mathers, Pamela Smith, Allison Bowman, Joyce Swilley, William White
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Dump's Maleign Williams, John Baswell, Amanda Greer, George Brumfield	Wesson Ace Hardware Larry Hall, Billy Ellison, Tammy Dawon, Dirk Chrestman
East End Brandon Butler, Nickey Wiebelt, Tony Brown, Johnny Butler	Wilma's Produce Alesia White, Ray Walker, Quentin Runyan, Louise Parsons, Martha Kelly
Milltown Day Spa & Salon (Royal Touch Massage) Sherree Smith, Cathy Ferguson, Betty Zehnder, Tera Bowman, Deborah Williams, Keshia Gibson, Geri Peyson, Amanda Havard	Wolf Hollow (Golf Course) Ruston Wilson
Milltown Mall Angela Sanders, Betty Levi, Beth Fair, Myles Smith, Melissa Kegan	

Recognized for Promotions

The chamber recognized three businesses for their creative promotions and designs of draw boxes.



51 Diner, Anna Roberts



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Janet Currie



Skeets Burger, Regina Bixon



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September Honor yards



All photos Special to Wesson News

Wesson Garden Club has recognized the September landscaping efforts of Mildred Newell at 1014 David Britt Street (top), Steve and Jo Jones at 1110 Beauregard Road (center) and Steel Outdoors at 3053 Highway 21 (above) for Yard of the Month honors in town residential, rural residential and organizational categories. The awards, based on maintenance principles and elements of landscape design, seek to encourage ongoing beautification and cleanliness of the Wesson area and cultivate a citizenry that values and protects natural resources and assumes responsibility for enhancing the environment. The Garden Club's Yard of the Month awards honor properties during the spring, summer and fall.



Art competition for kids announced

Special to Wesson News

The Brookhaven Regional Arts Guild (BRAG) is inviting younger artists in grades 1 - 12 to participate in the revival of Junior Art Competition.

This competition, which will run from November 5-30, will be completely virtual online, and open to students living in Amite, Copiah, Franklin, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lincoln, Pike and Walthall Counties.

Awards will be given in each of three groups -- elementary, middle and high school -- in 2D and 3D categories:

- First Place - \$100
- Second Place - \$75
- Third Place - \$50
- Honorable Mention



Award sponsors are Bank of Brookhaven and The Little Yellow Building, which donated \$250 and \$100, respectively.

Judges are Adam Trest and Stephen Phillips. Deadline for entries is Thursday, October 29. For more information and to submit entries, visit BRAGarts.com.

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Elections, call system, low rank, aid

Special to Wesson News

Senate runoff election. Two Brookhaven men -- Jason Barrett and Bill Sones -- are vying today in an election runoff for the Mississippi Senate District 39 seat vacated by Sally Doty, who accepted an appointment by Governor Tate Reeves to chair a utilities oversight group. Barrett, an attorney, and Sones, a retired banker, finished within one percentage point of each other in an initial election round that featured a field of nine contenders.

November 3 ballot. Mississippi voters next month will not only select the U.S. President, but grapple with state issues: whether or not to legalize medical marijuana, eliminate an electoral college provision in races for governor and other statewide offices, and approve a new state flag. The November 3 ballot will also offer the choice of candidates for President, U.S. House and Senate and state Supreme Court.

Nurse call system. King's

Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) in Brookhaven is planning to install a state-of-the-art Hill-Rom nurse call system at a cost of nearly \$1 million. The new system will give KDMC patients faster access to their nurses throughout every department of the hospital. The KDMC Foundation, the medical center's fundraising arm, which is seeking donors to support the project, has already provided \$250,000 for the installation.

Lowest-ranked healthcare system. Rising employee insurance costs, decreasing visits to dentists, increasing deaths during extended hospital stays and more hospital visits for preventable are reasons Mississippi's healthcare systems ranks 51st behind every other state and Washington, DC, the Commonwealth Fund's "Scorecard on State Health System Performance's reports. Re-

searchers said the pandemic exacerbated the health care system's weaknesses, and that major racial disparities in insurance coverage and health outcomes in the state are worsening with the coronavirus.

USDA aid. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is accepting applications for assistance to agricultural producers who continue to face market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19.

The Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 -- CFAP 2 -- started September 21 and runs through December 11. The program is open to producers of row crops, livestock, aquaculture, dairy and specialty crop commodities. An expansion of an earlier program announced in May, it provides producers with financial assistance to offset increased marketing costs associated with the coronavirus

pandemic. "Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2) for Row Crops, Livestock, Dairy and Aquaculture" (Publication 35310), which is available online ([athttps://bit.ly/33QpEyf](https://bit.ly/33QpEyf)) from USDA, explains the application process, payment rates for each commodity, and eligibility and payment limitations.

COVID-19 testing. Child care facility workers in Mississippi are now receiving free drive-through COVID-19 testing at selected Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) community testing locations. The testing is available at many county health departments for K-12 teachers, staff, school administrators and workers at licensed child care facilities regardless of whether they show symptoms or have had close contact with someone positive for the virus. They must obtain an appointment by completing an online questionnaire at <https://covidschedule.ums.edu/>. For a list of scheduled testing sites, visit <http://HealthyMS.com/page/14,22406,420,874.html>.

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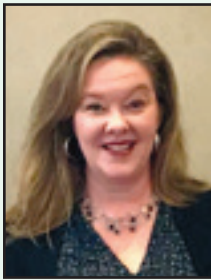
Managing stress in uncertain times

By Guest Columnist Stephanie Duguid

Flu season is an annually recurring time period characterized by the prevalence of outbreaks of influenza (flu) -- a contagious respiratory illness caused by viruses that infect the nose, throat, and lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death.

Flu usually starts suddenly, with symptoms including:

- Fever (although not always) or feeling feverish with chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults



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Some of the complications of flu include pneumonia, ear infections, sinus infections, dehydration, and worsening of chronic medical conditions, such as heart or lung disease, asthma or diabetes. Certain people are at greater risk for serious complications if they get the flu -- older people, young children, pregnant women and people with certain health conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease).

Most experts believe that flu viruses spread mainly by droplets made when people cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby. Less often, persons might also get flu by touching a surface or object that has the flu virus on it, and then touching their mouths, eyes or noses. You may be able to pass on the flu to someone else before you know you are sick, as well as while you are sick. Most adults may be able to infect others beginning one day before symptoms develop and up to five to seven days after becoming sick. Some people, especially young children and people with weakened immune systems, might be able to infect others for an even longer time.

During this upcoming flu season, it is likely that flu viruses will spread along with pandemic coronavirus. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever to do everything possible to reduce the spread of flu:

1. Take time to get a flu vaccine. The single best way to prevent the flu is to get a vaccination. Getting the flu vaccine during 2020-2021 will be more important than ever. Although the flu vaccines will not prevent COVID-19, they will reduce the burden of flu illness, hospitalizations, and deaths on the health care system and conserve scarce medical resources for the care of people with COVID-19.

Vaccination to prevent flu is particularly important for persons who are at increased risk for severe complications from flu or at higher risk for flu-related outpatient, emergency department, or hospital visits:

- Children younger than 5, but especially children younger than 2 years old,
- Adults 50 years of age and older, but especially those 65 years of age and older,
- Women who are or will be pregnant during flu season,
- Healthcare workers,
- Residents of nursing homes and other chronic care facilities, and
- People who have neurological and neuro-developmental conditions, chronic lung disease and asthma, heart disease, blood disorders, endocrine disorders, kidney disorders, liver disorders, metabolic disorders, weakened immune system due to disease or medication, people younger than 19 years of age who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy, people who are morbidly obese.

2. Take everyday preventive actions to stop the spread of germs. Although the single best way to prevent seasonal flu is to get vaccinated, good health habits often can help stop the spread of germs and prevent respiratory illnesses like the flu:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Practice other good health habits. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.
- For flu, CDC recommends that people stay home for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone except to get medical care or other necessities. Fever should be gone without the need to use a fever-reducing medicine.



3. Take flu antiviral drugs if your doctor prescribes them. If you are sick with flu, antiviral drugs can be used to treat your illness. Flu antiviral drugs are not designed to treat COVID-19.

- Antiviral drugs are different from antibiotics. They are prescription medicines (pills, liquid or an inhaled powder) and are not available over-the-counter.
- Antiviral drugs can make flu illness milder and shorten the time you are sick. They may also prevent serious flu complications. For people with high risk factors, treatment with an antiviral drug can mean the difference between having a milder illness versus a very serious illness that could result in a hospital stay.
- Studies show that flu antiviral drugs work best for treatment when they are started within two days of getting sick, but starting them later can still be helpful.

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

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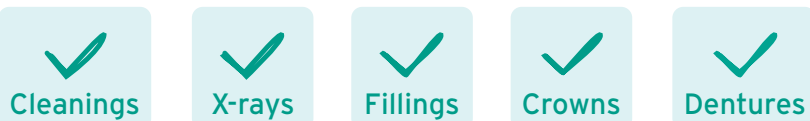
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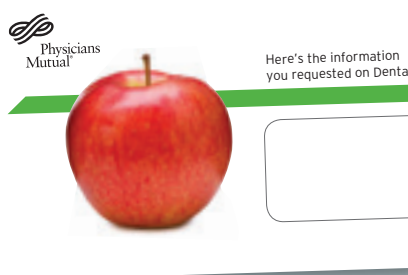


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Crotons add fall foliage color



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Crotons like this Petra selection love the heat and humidity of Mississippi summers. Since they are tropical plants, they do not like temperatures below 60 degrees.

By Guest Columnist Gary R. Bachman

I've always said that you can get some of the biggest landscape impact not by using gaudy flowering plants, but by using colorful foliage. My recommendation for today is if you want a great plant for autumn impact, then get a couple of croton plants.

Crotons are tropical plants with striking foliage that makes them great in the landscape. They love the heat and humidity of our summers, but their tropical nature means they don't like temperatures below 60 degrees. This is no problem in our summer season!

In Mississippi, probably the only gardeners who could realistically grow these in-ground would be in the extreme coastal regions. However, crotons make great container plants, and growing them in containers makes it much easier to bring them inside for cold weather protection. Then you can enjoy the great color indoors.

Growing requirements are pretty easy. Grow croton in the full sun, although some afternoon shade is beneficial. Feed with a 20-20-20 water-soluble fertilizer once a month to keep your croton happy. Maintain consistent soil moisture, as the cro-

ton plants don't like to dry out.

There are more than 100 varieties of croton, but we rarely find more than a few in garden centers.

Gold Dust croton has beautiful, vibrant green foliage with what looks like random patterns of golden-yellow paint splashed on the leaves.

Petra croton is one of the most common varieties, but it is definitely not ordinary. The large, slightly oval leaves are green with various veining and variegations of bold reds, oranges and yellows.

Mammy croton is gorgeous with its curly strapped-shaped foliage. The foliage coloration in shades of red, green, purple and bright yellow is a little more subdued compared to Petra. As with all croton, the foliage colors are intensified when grown in bright sunshine.

So, when you visit your local, independent garden center next time for fall mums and mari-mums, be sure to pick up a couple of crotons to complete your autumn decorations.

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.



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COVID-19 rules relaxed, challenges remain

Special to Wesson News

Governor Tate Reeves has announced a new comprehensive "Safe Recovery" order as a one-stop resource for Mississippians to continue to flatten the curve on COVID-19 cases.

Throughout the pandemic, one of the top priorities for the Governor has been transparency and keeping Mississippians up-to-date on the state's response. The new order replacing the "Safe Return" order and its amendments combines all social distancing measures into one executive order to ensure understanding and keep people better informed, the Governor said.

"I have always tried to stress the important balance of this time: we cannot allow our system to collapse, and we should not use the heavy-hand of government more than it is justified," Governor Reeves said. "We have to tailor our actions to the current threat, and make sure that they do not go beyond what is reasonable."

Under the new executive order, some social distancing restrictions have been eased as new COVID-19 case numbers continue to improve. A few of the relaxed restrictions include increasing attendance at outdoor K-12 extra-curricular events such as football games to 50% of seating capacity, limiting group gatherings when social distancing isn't possible to no more than 20 indoors and 100 outdoors, and requiring masks for schools and close contact businesses, like salons and barber-shops. The order is in effect until Wednesday, November 11, at 5 p.m..

The Governor's action comes when Mississippi's average daily COVID-19 case numbers are at the lowest point in three months after a steep summer climb.

State Health Officer Thomas Dobbs says state actions are paying off, but challenges remain.

"The combination of masks, a little bit better social distancing" and strict school policies have

slowed the overall spread, though case clusters persist, Dobbs said.

A pivotal piece to understanding transmission COVID-19 is the "R-naught value," often called the "reproduction rate," Dobbs said. Three months ago, when Mississippi was entering its summer case surge, the state's R value was one of the highest in the nation. Now, it's one of the lowest.

Though the state's number of daily new cases has trended down

since late-July, Mississippi still has the third most total cases per capita at 3,202 per 100,000 people — only behind Louisiana and Florida. The state also has the seventh most total COVID-19 deaths per capita, at 97 per 100,000 people, and the nation's highest recent death rate, at four per 100,000.

Dobbs said schools' strict adherence to COVID-19 guidelines have

helped mitigate spread, and in turn kept new cases and the R value down. But outbreaks persist and threaten to reverse downward trends where folks continue to gather without masking and distancing, he said.

To date, schools have seen 2,400 cases total. Though statewide trends have improved, younger age groups still comprise a disproportionate share of all cases. Dobbs said most schools have policies in place that are limiting spread once it is brought in. He praised universities for planning for and curbing the virus, though they have seen recent spikes and have varying approaches to containing spread.

"It's social stuff that killed us when we were having outbreaks," Dobbs explained. "It's parties, and it's even small gatherings of people getting together. If we look at school settings, where we're seeing most of our outbreaks and transmission, it's not in controlled structured settings within the classrooms, but mostly in athletics or extra-curriculars where there's more chaotic movement and less control."



Governor Reeves

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Fun & safety at the Mississippi state fair

Special to Wesson News

The 161st Mississippi State Fair is in progress with COVID-19 precautions in place at the Mississippi State Fairground Complex in Jackson.

An official ceremonial ribbon cutting launched the fair Wednesday, October 7. The event runs through Saturday, October 18.

"The show must go on," Mississippi Agricultural Commissioner Andy Gipson said. "But for the show to go on in 2020, we're going to have to do it social distance style."

"The State Fair is a tradition for many families, and we have gone to great lengths to make sure this year's fair provides fun-filled activities, while keeping our visitors safe. We are implementing CDC guidelines by limiting the number of attendees as well as observing mask and social distancing requirements. I am looking forward to welcoming everyone to this year's 161st Mississippi State Fair."

Fair officials are asking persons who feel unwell or have underlying medical conditions stay home. The entire fairgrounds complex has limited the number of guests, and each indoor building has posted building limits. Face masks are required for entry to the complex, and social distancing is encouraged in accordance with state guidelines for out-

door events. In addition, workers sanitize fair rides after each operation, and hand-sanitizing stations are available throughout the grounds.

"The safety and security of our guests is our top priority, and our staff has worked tirelessly to implement safety precautions with that goal in mind," said Michael Lasseter, Acting Director of the Mississippi Fairgrounds Complex. "The Mississippi State Fair is a family event that we all look forward to each year. I remember coming to the State Fair myself as a young man and the wonderful memories that I made with my family. I am excited and grateful to give that same opportunity to other families."

Among fair events and activities:

- **Opening day** celebrated first responders -- law enforcement officers, firefighters, healthcare workers and medical professionals, who were admitted with charge to the fair.
- For the first time ever, the Fairgrounds is hosting the **Genuine MS Store**, which is open to the public and is exhibiting a variety of items for purchase.
- **Musical acts** on the Midway include Mustache the Band, Roots and Boots 90's Electric Throwdown with Sammy Kershaw, Aaron Tippin and Collin Raye, Epic Funk Brass Band, Dirt Road Cadillac, Paul

Porter and the Christianaires, U.S., Great White/Slaughter, Big Blues Explosion, Sean Kingston, Southern Komfort Brass Band, 601 Live and the Tophier Brown Band. Local acts are performing at the State Fair on the Trustmark Stage located on the Midway. All musical entertainment is free with regular fair admission.

- The annual **Horse, Mule and Pony Pulls** in the Kirk Fordice Equine Center are on Saturday, October 17, and Sunday, October 18.
- **All American Day** on Wednesday, October 14, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. features the musical entertainment of Jared Vardaman and Ed Meadows and remarks by Agricultural Commissioner Gipson. As a special thank you to those in military service, the Mississippi Fairgrounds is admitting them without charge.
- On the mile-long Midway throughout the fair is the **Timberworks Lumberjack Show** with axe throwing, underhand and chopping, cross cut and hot sawing along with chainsaw carving.
- Daily activities throughout the 105 acres of the Mississippi Fairgrounds Complex are the **Farm Bureau Petting Zoo Area** and **Pig Races**, the 4-H and FFA **Livestock Shows**, circus performers from the **Great American Thrill Show**, LO-

CALiQ's **Fetch-N-Fish** and dozens of vendors and exhibits, including an arts & crafts competition, food preservation, floral exhibits and an antique tractor show.

"The Fair is essentially an outdoor, transitory event which helps mitigate the risk of the coronavirus transmission," Gipson noted. "But the risk is still there. I encourage everyone to use the sanitizing stations, respect the social distancing guidelines, and when unable to be socially distant, to wear a mask, which will be required at entry. We've changed where the lines go to rides to take them away from midway walkers and have placed six-foot space markers for those in line. It won't be the normal Fair but using our safety plan and with the cooperation of our guests, the show will go on."

The safe fair plan was created using CDC guidelines, guidance from State Health Officer Dr. Thomas Dobbs and best practices at similar events. The plan has been reviewed by Governor Tate Reeves.

Gate admission price to the fair is \$5 per person, and parking is \$5 per car. Children under the age of 6 are admitted without charge.

Download the Mississippi State Fair mobile app, visit www.MsStateFair.com online or follow the Mississippi State Fairgrounds page on Facebook for information.

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