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Wesson News

SPOTLIGHT

**WAC Teacher
Of Month
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Volume 6, Number 9

"Good News You Can Use"

September 11, 2018

ILR fall semester is underway

By Bob Arnold

A drawing class last month and the movie *I Can Only Imagine* last week kicked off the Institute for Learning in Retirement fall semester at Co-Lin.

The workshop, led by Derek Smith, was the first of six on a program that also features monthly luncheons September 13, October 2, November 8 and December 4; three day trips to Angola Prison and St. Francisville, Louisiana; the Nissan plant and Rich Distillery at Canton, Mississippi; and the Bill Clark Christmas Extravaganza at Ridgeland, Mississippi; and a four-day travel experience in the Ozarks near Branson, Missouri. *I Can Only Imagine*, starring Dennis Quaid, Michael Finley and Trace Adkins, portrayed the life Bart

Millard, who turned to music to escape an abusive relationship with his father. ILR members can view a second movie -- *The Man Who Invented Christmas* -- on December 11 about Charles Dickens' writing *A Christmas Carol*, and starring Christopher Plummer and Dan Stevens.

Smith, who grew up in Lincoln County and graduated from Brookhaven Academy and Co-Lin, recently returned to the area after an art career in Florida, North Carolina, California and New York. The Lincoln-Lawrence-Franklin Regional Library recently displayed his works, and he teaches classes at The Old Brook Makery on West Cherokee Street in Brookhaven.

As part of the workshop schedule,

the Centurion Club, a Co-Lin student membership organization focused on history, will return to lead special salons -- brief, scholarly presentations to stimulate thought and dialogue -- on September 24 and November 8 (focused on Native American history). Presenters at the salons will include students, faculty and special guests who will address social science issues in presentations that include historical components. Other workshops will focus on rock painting (September 20), beekeeping (October 2), the heart and soul of soldiers (October 22) and box guitars (October 29).

Walt Grayson, host of the *Look Around Mississippi* and *Mississippi Roads* television shows and author

of non-fiction and fiction books that explore Mississippi settings and culture, headlines the luncheon speakers in an October 2 presentation. Luncheons are \$10 and start at 10:30 a.m.

ILR is a Co-Lin-sponsored membership organization that provides continuing education experiences for retired and semi-retired older adults. In ILR, participants define their own informal educational goals and pursue them at their own pace, based on their own choices and talents. Members, who design the group's program, come from wide ranging backgrounds and bring varied experiences to the organization. Co-Lin staff administers ILR, and the college provides facilities for the organization, which is fully funded by member dues.

Aldermen approve millage rate hike for fiscal year

By Bob Arnold

The Board of Aldermen voted to increase the millage rate that is the basis of the ad valorem tax paid by Wesson property owners.

Although Wesson will enjoy a boost in revenues for roads and infrastructure as a result of actions by Mississippi lawmakers in their recent special session, the Aldermen approved a 10 per cent millage rate hike to provide tax revenues needed to cover other budgeted expenses in the coming fiscal year.

A public hearing held in conjunction with the September Board of Aldermen meeting last

week examined the need for the rate hike as part of a discussion around the Town's proposed 2019 fiscal year budget. Going into the meeting, a sewage rate hike was on the table, but Mayor Alton Shaw said it would not be necessary.

The millage rate, now 30.76 on every \$1,000 of the tax-assessed property value, will jump to 33.84, representing about a \$20 per year increase for property owners, Shaw reported. Shaw noted Wesson has not raised its millage rate for the ad valorem tax for six years, compared to Copiah County, which normally raises its rate annually.

Cont. on page 10

Town worker honored



Photo by Wesson News

Wesson Mayor Alton Shaw (right) presents a certificate to Joe Glasper in recognition of his thirty years of service to the Town as an employee of its public works department. Townspeople and community leaders celebrated his contributions to Wesson at a special party honoring him at City Hall.



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Julie Wright finds dream job

By Bob Arnold

Retired educator Julie Wright has found her dream job as the new part-time director of Co-Lin's Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) program, which offers opportunities for older adults through workshops, travel, movies and other fun events, and monthly luncheons with special speakers.



Photo by Wesson News

"I knew about ILR when I was engaged in my career in education and thought I

would become part of it as a member when I retired," Wright says. "I like to learn new things and travel. So when a friend told about the job, I jumped on the opportunity. Not only does it involve doing what I like to do, but it has the same job requirements of my work as a teacher and school administrator -- planning curriculum and trips, handling necessary paperwork."

Wright retired to baby-sitting her grandchildren in 2016 after thirty years, during which she was a kindergarten and first grade teacher and an elementary school principal -- seven

Wright met her husband, Jimmy, who came to work at the Wal-Mart Distribution Center in Brookhaven by way of Cincinnati and Florida, at a football game at Co-Lin, where he had played baseball on an athletic scholarship. They now live in Brookhaven's old town section. They reared three children -- Jameson, now 27; Jenna, a 21-year-old senior at USM; and Janson, who died in an automobile accident in 2000 when he was six years old. Now retired as well, her husband owns and operates Jimmy Wright's Lawn Service.

not Amish herself. I also read the romantic novels of Nicholas Sparks and motivational fiction of Andy Andrews.

Are you into movies and theater?

I go to Broadway shows when I can. I attend Brookhaven Little Theater productions. My favorite actress is Sandra Bullock. My favorite actors are Matthew McConaughey and Clint Eastwood. I got into military films because of my son's military background. *Lone Survivor. 13 Hours. Sniper.*

How about music?

I am eclectic. My car radio is tuned to a Gospel and Christian music station. But I also like country, the oldies and, of course, music from Broadway productions.

How would you change your life?

I think most people with children look back and wish they more fully savored their moments with them. That's what makes grandchildren special. With them, you can make up what you may have missed with your children.

If you won the lottery, how would you spend your winnings?

On travel, particularly with my family. I would also try to find ways to help needy people.

How would you change the world?

The world needs peace.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

years for Brookhaven School District and twenty-three years at Brookhaven Academy.

Wright grew up a few miles outside Brookhaven, graduated from Brookhaven High School in 1982 and Hinds Community College in 1984, received a BS degree in elementary education from the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) in 1986 and an MA degree in educational leadership from Delta State, and started her educational career at Martin Elementary School in Brookhaven.

What do you do when you aren't working?

I enjoy traveling, particularly with my family. Disney World is a favorite destination. I also visit Amish country in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, once a year -- a great venue for spiritual renewal. I am also a reader.

What do you read?

I am a fan of Amish fiction. It goes with my passion for visiting Amish country. I enjoy the works of Beverly Lewis, who also has a passion for Amish country and its culture, although

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Dinner honors community leaders

Special to Wesson News

The volunteers and professionals who seek to make Wesson a good place to live enjoyed a hamburger supper honoring their service at Decell Memorial United Methodist Church (DMUMC) last month.

Mayor Alton Shaw, town Aldermen, police officers, fire fighters and Boy Scout and Cub Scout leaders were cited along with their families for their sacrifices on behalf of Wesson at the event attended by 50 persons, mostly from the town at large beyond members of the Decell congregation.

"It was our way to show love to the folk who protect our community and run the town and recognize the sacrifices they make, along with their families," Brandon Halford, pastor of DMUMC said.

Halford said the event was part of an evolving program of his congregation's community outreach and involvement being spearheaded by a new "Igniting Ministries" committee.

"There's excitement and a movement of energy at Decell about community involvement," he observed. "We see caring for those who take care of us as an important part of this activity

and hope the dinner for the town's volunteers and professional service providers will be an annual event."

Copiah County Sheriff Harold Jones, the featured speaker at the event, discussed home security and protecting vulnerable persons, such as older persons. Police Chief Chad O'Quinn and Fire Chief Ken Carraway introduced personnel from their departments, and Mayor Shaw pointed to upcoming community events.

Members of the DMUMC Igniting Ministries that coordinated the supper are Alton Ricks (chair), Rusty Adcock, Diane McIntye and Sheila Sanders.

Teacher finds her job rewarding

Special to Wesson News

Now in her fourteenth year as a teacher -- her third at Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) Andrea Shannon, August Teacher of the Month at WAC, explains simply why she has remained in her profession:

"Over the long-term, former students come back and thank you for the impact you have had on their lives. On a day-to-day basis, when a student 'gets' something you're teaching, you see a light bulb go on. It's rewarding work."

A Bogue Chitto native, Shannon graduated from Bogue Chitto Attendance Center in 2001, and then Co-Lin (2003) and Delta State (2005), where she earned degrees in sports medicine and biology education.

During an internship in therapy at King's Daughters Hospital in Brookhaven, she cemented her

decision to pursue a teaching career. "It was an emotional experience," she recalls. "Working with some of the people in therapy broke my heart. I learned I could not work in a job doing that."

Shannon started her teaching career at Forest Hills outside Jackson, and later worked at Richland High School before coming to Wesson High School to be closer to her family and to teach Biology I and Human Anatomy. She and her husband live in Wesson and have one daughter, Jacey, a fourth grader at WAC.

Shannon is a member of Bogue Chitto Baptist Church, in which she grew up. Although her daughter keeps her busy, she finds time to travel, particularly to the beach, and follow the New Orleans Saints and LSU football Tigers. She is also a country music fan.

"I love Wesson Attendance Center -- particularly its sense of community and family," she relates. "It's the best.

I can't imagine doing anything else."



Photo by Wesson News

Andrea Shannon

Police Blotter

Special to Wesson News

During August, Wesson Police Department activity encompassed:

Responses to:

- One burglary
- One auto theft
- Two petit larcenies
- One family disturbance
- One suspicious person
- One malicious mischief
- One report of information

Arrests & citations:

- Twenty-three speeding violations
- Eight driving with an expired tag
- One careless driving
- One switched tag
- One driving with improper equipment
- Five no insurance violations
- Six driving without a driver's license
- One fleeing violation
- Two driving with a suspended license
- One disregard for a traffic device
- One no turn signal

Police conduct nightly business checks. On school days, the Wesson Police Department facilitates traffic flow at Wesson Attendance Center, with officers on duty between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

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Grid players, baseball league & golf coach

Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin currently boasts more than 35 players on the rosters of four-year schools at nearly every level of college football. Six former Wolves are also on NFL rosters, practice squads, or injury reserves. These players are:

Colleges & Universities.

- **Tre' Brown**, defensive line and senior at Mississippi State University.
- **Zach Williams**, defensive line and senior at the University of Alabama-Birmingham.
- **Deshon Cooper**, defensive end and senior at Georgia Southern University.
- **Tommy Champion**, offensive line and junior at Mississippi State University.
- **Jaquarius Landrews**, defensive back and junior at Mississippi State University.
- **Montez Sweat**, defensive end and senior at Mississippi State University.
- **Ladarius Galloway**, running back and senior at University of Tennessee-Martin.
- **Alexander Hollins**, wide receiver and senior at Eastern Illinois University.
- **Charles Cameron**, defensive line and junior at Florida Atlantic University.
- **TJ Gray**, defensive end and junior at Louisiana College.
- **Kendell Wright**, defensive line and junior at Eastern Tennessee State.
- **Colton Magee**, linebacker and senior at Mississippi College
- **Isaiah Swopes**, defensive back and senior at the University of Northern Colorado.
- **Rhoy Williams**, defensive back and senior at the University of Louisiana-Monroe.
- **Quadarius Reed**, defensive line and senior at the University of West Alabama
- **Tyler Glass**, defensive back and junior at the University of Louisiana-Monroe.
- **Barry Howard Jr.**, defensive end and junior at the University of Louisiana-Monroe.

- **Kyle Strickland**, offensive line and senior at Southeastern Louisiana University.
- **Nick Conley**, quarterback and senior at Nicholls State University.
- **Kelvin Thomas**, defensive back and senior at the University of North Alabama.
- **Jaylen Smith**, wide receiver and senior at University of Tennessee-Martin.
- **Kobe Gates**, wide receiver and junior at Jackson State University.
- **Eddie "BJ" Maxon**, offensive line and junior at Jackson State University.
- **Travez Moore**, defensive end and junior at Louisiana State University.
- **Keith Washington**, defensive back and junior at West Virginia University.
- **Damion Dickens**, defensive end and junior at Colorado State University.

- **Ryan Drew**, wide receiver and junior at the University of Mississippi
- **Woody Barrett**, quarterback and sophomore at Kent State University.
- **Carlos Ransburg**, running back and junior at Oklahoma Panhandle State University.
- **Jacob Jones**, tight end and junior at Southwestern College.
- **Chance Herbert**, long snapper and junior at Hampton University.
- **Arthur Maulet**, two-year defensive back, New Orleans Saints.
- **Carroll Phillips**, one-year defensive end, Jacksonville Jaguars.
- **Lashard Durr**, rookie defensive back, Indianapolis Colts.
- **De'Lance Turner**, rookie running back, Baltimore Ravens.

SPORTS SHORTS

National Football League.

October 10, and team selections are limited to the first 48 applicants. The cost is \$125 dollars per player, and all athletes involved in fall sports should discuss their involvement in the league with their high school coaches prior to registering. For more information, contact Co-Lin assistant coach Jack Edmonson at jack.edmonson@colin.edu or 662-803-0053.

New golf coach. Wesson native Craig Hennington has been named head coach of the Co-Lin golf team, which starts its season on Saturday, September 22, at the Eagle Ridge Golf Club in Raymond, Mississippi. Hennington has served as volunteer assistant on the coaching staff for 11 seasons. He is a Co-Lin graduate and was a two-year member of the golf team. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and a master's degree in mathematics from William Carey College. He was head golf coach at Sumrall Attendance Center in 1995, and served as the head coach



Special to Wesson News

Wesson High School football team members and cheerleaders participated in preseason rally at First Baptist Church in Brookhaven hosted by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the congregation. Participants came from several other area schools, as well. Bud O'Hara, former Brookhaven High School football coach spoke.

- **Sh'mar Kiby-Lane**, linebacker and junior at Mississippi State University.
- **Graham Eklund**, defensive back and junior at the University of North Carolina.
- **Paul Wilson**, defensive back and junior at the University of Northern Colorado
- **James Coley**, defensive line and junior at the University of Mississippi

- **Joseph Este**, rookie defensive back, Tennessee Titans.
- **Jonathan Calvin**, one-year defensive line, Indianapolis Colts.

Fall baseball league. The Co-Lin baseball program is hosting a fall league for ninth through twelfth graders. The league will play from Monday, October 15, through Friday, November 9, with games on Monday or Thursday nights. The registration deadline is Wednesday,

and assistant coach of junior high and high school football teams at Enterprise Attendance Center from 1997 to 1999. Since 2000, he has been a mathematics instructor at Co-Lin and is a recipient of the Ann Bradberry Award, which is presented to faculty members, staff or instructors at the college who students feel have made an extra effort to assist them. He is a past president of the Wolf Hollow Golf Association.

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Upcoming Sporting Events

September 13

Wesson junior varsity & varsity slowpitch softball Cobras play North Pike. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Co-Lin football Wolves play Pearl River Community College. 7 p.m.

September 14

Wesson High School football Cobras play Richland in homecoming game. 6:30 p.m

September 17

Wesson Junior High School football Cobras play Lawrence County.

September 18

Wesson junior varsity & varsity slowpitch softball Cobras play Franklin County. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

September 20

Wesson junior varsity & varsity slowpitch softball Cobras play at North Pike. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Co-Lin football Wolves play Northwest Mississippi Community College. 7 p.m.

September 21

Wesson High School football Cobras play at Mize. 6:30 p.m.

September 22

Wesson varsity slowpitch softball Cobras play in Brookhaven High School tournament. TBA

September 24

Wesson Junior High School football Cobras play at North Pike.

September 25

Wesson varsity slowpitch softball Cobras play doubleheader with Jefferson County. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

September 27

Wesson junior varsity & varsity slowpitch softball Cobras play at Franklin County. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Co-Lin football Wolves play at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. 7 p.m.

September 28

Wesson High School football Cobras play Columbia. 6:30 p.m.

October 1

Wesson Junior High School football Cobras play at McComb.

October 2

Wesson junior varsity & varsity slowpitch softball Cobras play Lawrence County. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

October 4

Wesson junior varsity & varsity slowpitch softball Cobras play Bogue Chitto. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Co-Lin football Wolves play at East Central Community College. 6:30 p.m.

October 1

Wesson High School football Cobras play at Seminary. 6:30 p.m.

October 8

Wesson Junior High School football Cobras play Franklin County.

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Filmmaker focuses on area for projects

By Guest Columnist Shaw Furlow

Brookhaven-based filmmaker Travis Mills, a 32-year-old with boundless energy, continues to juggle a variety of projects, either shooting, editing, writing, promoting or scouting locations for his next production.



Special to Wesson News

Mills, who has family in Brookhaven, relocated there from Arizona after visiting and discovering the area's many local storylines and pool of talent for his films. He shot much of his first local film, *Porches and Private Eyes*, on location at Wesson's famous Porches Restaurant. It tells the story of three women who try to unravel a Brookhaven mystery as amateur sleuths.

His next Mississippi film was *Blood Country*, filmed mainly in Monticello. It is a western based on an incident that happened following the War Between the States and described in an account written by a Brookhaven attorney, the late Robert Jones.

Following *Blood Country*, he went to the Mississippi Gulf Coast to film *Cornbread Cosa Nostra* and a Civil War story, *Son of a Gun*. *Cornbread Costa Nostra*, which tells the story of the Dixie Mafia and their hold on the Gulf Coast, has been a bit controversial, striking a little close to home for some Coast residents. Veiled threats were made.

"No one confronted me, but there were rumors," Mills says. "There was so much corruption, and it spread nationwide." Does he have second thoughts about making it? "None at all," he affirms, "although I was warned by an attorney if I made the film I would be swimming with the fishes."

His next project will be a sequel to *Porches and Private Eyes* called *If These Porches Could Talk*. He will begin shooting it in October. Look for his cast and crew around our area.

As a rule, Mills makes low budget, independent films generally financed by local investors and crowd funding sources. However, another project in the development stage is a bit different. Based on local songwriter Tony Norton's song, "The

Kings of Lincoln County," it will tell the story of boys growing up in the late 1960s, who form rock and roll bands, and life-long friendships in the process.

"The film is a cross between *American Graffiti* and *The Big Chill*," Mills explains. "Between September 17 and October 17, we have to raise \$10,000 to allow us to be a finalist in a film competition called 'Home Town Heroes.' Home Town Heroes gives independent filmmakers a chance to win \$50,000, which

must go toward making the film. Once we complete it, and I believe we will, we must shoot a short promo film pitching the movie. Regardless if we win or not, we will make this movie."

Mills stresses "this is a full length, feature film, not a documentary." A documentary film has already covered Brookstock, the local annual rock concert held every summer in Brookhaven.

"This will be a story about the rock and roll bands of the day and the friendships developed among those who played in them," Mills explains. "It will tell how Brookstock was started."

Locals can help Mills pursue the project by visiting The Kings of Lincoln County Facebook Page. "The more public interest there is, the better our chances to win the \$50,000," Mills says. At a crowd funding page, those who want to support the project can also contribute funds when it goes live. "We need to show Home Town Heroes that folks here have a real interest." Getting behind the project can help make the Wesson/Brookhaven area the movie capital of the state.

That's about it for this month, except I would be remiss not to mention the passing of local artist, Maxine Minter, who had recently turned 92 and was a focus of this column a few months back. She was full of life, had a glint in her eyes that hinted at mischief, and a masterful artist. But most of all, she was a loving soul who will be missed by all who knew her.

Support the arts, my friends!

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

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Bob Arnold, Editor

Infrastructure & MSA funds, jobs, endowment & award

Special to Wesson News

Funds found for infrastructure.

In a special session of the state legislature called by Governor Phil Bryant, lawmakers found new revenue sources to fund road, bridges and other infrastructure repairs across Mississippi. The Legislature approved an infrastructure modernization bill, which diverts up to \$15 million from sports betting to transportation and 35 percent of the state's use tax on online and out-of-state sales to local governments and a bridge repair program, imposes a new tax on hybrid and electric cars and authorizes borrowing \$300 million, of which \$250 million will go into an emergency repair fund at the Mississippi Department of Transportation. Proponents of a bill to create a state lottery that is expected to ultimately generate \$100 million annually snatched victory from the jaws of defeat when the state House reversed a vote to kill it, and forwarded it to the Governor for his signature. The state House and Senate also agreed to divvy up some \$700 million in settlement funds that Mississippi will receive over the next fifteen years from British Petroleum (BP) for sales tax revenue losses as a result of its 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The Gulf Coast region will get 75 percent of the settlement funds and 25 per cent will be distributed throughout the rest of the state. The

lawmakers also agreed to allocate some of the funds already received from BP for projects across the state that will cost about \$111 million and are already in line to receive to receive bond monies.

MSA has money to spend. At the outset of its fifteenth year, Brookhaven-based Mississippi School of the Arts, a special high school for talented dance, music, drama, visual arts and media arts students throughout the state, has some money to spend after a financial crunch caused by a \$125,000 cut from a tight budget as part of austerity measures ordered by Governor Phil Bryant throughout state agencies to close a funding gap. For the first time, it has state bond money -- a \$1 million appropriation for repairs and rehabilitation. Locally, the Brookhaven Trust has provided funding towards renovation of Enochs Hall, a performance and art gallery venue on the MSA campus. Local musicians, through Brookstock Musicians Guild, also have raised funds for MSA from sales of two CDs -- "Brookhaven Christmas" and "Brookstock Gospel," which they recorded. Besides the Enochs Hall renovation, MSA is also using its new-found money for parking lot repairs, installation of building accessibility features for disabled persons, and

small projects at Johnson Hall and Lampton Auditorium and equipment and supplies.

Season sees climbing unemployment. Unemployment has inched up in the area over the summer months, with college and high school students seeking jobs. Lincoln County's

jobless rate is 5.5 percent, followed by Copiah County at 6.6 percent and Lawrence at 6.7 per cent. Jefferson County has the highest unemployment rate in the state at 14.4 percent,

and Rankin County the lowest at 4 percent.

Endowment honors Nettles. Through gifts and donations from friends and colleagues in honor of the retirement of former Co-Lin president Dr. Ronald E. Nettles, the Co-Lin Foundation has established the Dr. Ronald E. and Rosie J. Nettles College Support Endowment to provide financial support to the college's three campuses for improvements that the president and/or executive director of the Foundation deem necessary. Nettles retired as president of Co-Lin in June after a 33-year career in education, including service as the college's director of community and economic development on the Wesson Campus, dean of its Natchez Campus, and executive vice president

of the college. Co-Lin Foundation Interim Executive Director Angela Furr said the scholarship is a testament to Nettles' leadership and his relationships with his former employees, colleagues and friends; and reflects his understanding that the needs of the college sometimes fall outside the realm of the its regular operating budget. Nettles and his family retired to Rankin County, where they have established R&R Nettles Consulting, LLC, with a primary goal of providing a range of services for students, parents, schools, and colleges.

WHS bronze winner. Based on its graduation rate and student performance on tests, Wesson High School received a bronze award plaque -- one of 54 Mississippi secondary schools and among sixteen percent of those judged eligible throughout the nation -- in the 2018 *U.S. News* Best High Schools rankings. In Mississippi, Ocean Springs High School, Lewisburg High School and Petal High School received Silver awards. *U.S. News* ranked 20,548 eligible schools of which 500 -- about two percent -- earned the Gold designation, eleven percent earned the silver designation and sixteen percent were in the bronze category. The *U.S. News* program seeks to provide a clear, unbiased picture of how well public schools serve their students.

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2017 Nissan Altima 2.5S....Back Up Camera, Steering Wheel Controls, Power Windows, Factory Warranty, Nice Car!



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Prepare plans and kits for disasters

By Guest Columnist
Dr. Stephanie Duguid



Special to Wesson News

Disasters Happen. Prepare Now. Learn How. This is what National Preparedness Month in September is all about: Preparing for any disaster by learning lifesaving skills, checking insurance policies to see if they cover floods, tornadoes or hurricanes. Preparing for other challenges, such as the loss of power or water for an extended time.

Officially, the Atlantic hurricane season started June 1. It continues through November 30. In the Eastern Pacific Ocean, hurricane season begins May 15 and ends November 30. Most of these storms hit between August and October on both coasts. Following one of the most active hurricane seasons last year, it's now a good time to make sure you're prepared for not only hurricanes, but any other emergency or natural disasters. After an event, it is much too late to:

- Make a plan, prepare, and practice it with your family
- Make an emergency kit
- Recheck and restock emergency supplies often
- Monitor and adjust your plan

1. **Make a plan that considers everyone around you** -- all family members and any pets. Consult simple guides at www.ready.gov. Communicate and practice the plan, including evacuation routes. Consider what to do when you or your children are at work or school or commuting to and from them. Detail contact information, how to evacuate your home or office, where family members will meet if separated. For large scale evacuations, such as in a hurricane, plan adequately for the evacuation route where you will stay and resources needed to get there (gas and food). Explore alternate routes in case roads or bridges are closed. Plan to communicate, as well. During a

large emergency, cell phone service may be limited, but texting may be available. Be sure all of those involved in your family have correct telephone numbers and know how to text.

2. **An emergency kit should include sufficient supplies for at least three days:** One gallon of water per person per day, with extra water for children and those who are ill. In warm weather areas like Mississippi, more water may be needed. Store at least a three-day supply of non-perishable foods -- those that require no refrigeration, preparation, or cooking, and little or no water. Pack a can opener and eating utensils. Prepare a first aid kit with prescription medications and eye glasses. Other essentials: an emergency radio (battery-powered or crank), a flashlight with extra batteries, a whistle, maps (the GPS may not always be reliable), and special items for infants, elderly, or disabled family members. Also consider pet food, important family documents (insurance policies, identification, and bank account records) in a waterproof/portable container, cash/change (debit and credit cards may not be functional), sleeping bags or warm blankets, a complete change of clothes, garbage bags, hand sanitizer and wet wipes, books, games, puzzles, or other things to occupy children.

After you prepare an emergency kit, don't store it and forget about it. Some items may need to be checked and replaced after they have expired. If you use some items, replace them as soon as possible -- not when the next event occurs. Review your emergency supplies often, monthly if possible.

Monitor and adjust your plan as need. If you move, or family status changes (birth of a child, family members moving in or out of your house), change and share your plan and adjust your kit as necessary.

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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Anniversary celebration



Special to Wesson News

William and Dolores Brown celebrated their fiftieth anniversary at Wesson Lions Club family night last month. The Browns were served a special cake at the event. Brown is a security officer at Wesson Attendance Center.

Cont. from page 1

Aldermen approve millage rate hike for fiscal year

Shaw also pointed out that state law limits millage rate increases to ten percent for any given year.

For its road and infrastructure needs, Wesson is expecting to receive \$100,000 from the distribution of British Petroleum settlement funds authorized by the state legislature. The diversion of 35 percent of use tax funds derived from online and out-of-state sales, also authorized by state lawmakers, will initially bring \$10,000 to Wesson in the first year and is expected to rise over years to \$50,000 annually, with increases

based on the town's population and its sales tax collections. While these revenue boosts will help Wesson, Shaw pointed out that each mile of road-paving costs about \$50,000.

The Board of Aldermen will make final decisions on its 2019 fiscal year budget at a meeting tonight at City Hall.

At their meeting, Wesson Aldermen also moved forward in developing plans that would allow Beauregard residents to use the Wesson sewage system at a cost of approximately \$20 per per user.



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Local chef Craig wins top Natchez award

Special to Wesson News

The world famous Natchez Food & Wine Festival (NFWF), for the first time in its seventeen year history, featured food prepared by an area chef and the judges awarded it first prize at the popular Tastings Along the Mississippi River fair that helped kick-off the three-day event last

gourmet tastings, and casual social occasions that make the most of the city's spectacular riverside setting.

Craig, a *Wesson News* advertiser, served up barbeque duck confit sliders with collard green coleslaw and duck fat fries. Confit is a French culinary technique that began as a way to preserve meat. Craig created his winning fare by first preparing



Carl Craig (left) and Austin Williams.

month.

Carl Craig, Brookhaven-based Magnolia Blues' co-owner/chef, and his business partner Austin Williams joined top chefs and restaurateurs from throughout the Gulf South region, including Mississippi and Louisiana, at what is one of the most highly anticipated culinary festivals in Mississippi.

Each summer, the specially-invited chefs gather in Natchez to stage multiple-course dinners in historic mansions, progressive dining events,

farm-raised ducks in his secret cure, cooking them low and slow in their own fat for five hours, and finally chopping up the meat, caramelized on the edges in his oven's bottom-most pans.

From a small serving table a couple of feet wide, Craig and his motley crew served 550 helpings of the duck confit sliders, four at a time, and the judges found his little sandwiches superior to offerings prepared by recipients of James Beard Foundation Awards for excellence in cuisine, chefs from the famous restaurants.

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Wesson area Community Calendar

September weather forecast: The Old Farmer's Almanac calls for an average temperature of 80 degrees F (4 degrees above average) with precipitation of 3.5 inches (one inch below average). September 11-14: Sunny, cool. September 15-30: Isolated t-storms, warm.

SEPTEMBER 11

Diabetes support group. Meets weekly on Tuesdays. Education Annex at King's Daughters Medical Center, Brookhaven. 1:30 p.m. For information, call Natalie Ybarra at 601-835-9489.

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

SEPTEMBER 13

American Legion John Edwards Post 12 meets. All members, veterans and their spouses are welcome. 4 p.m. Jimmy Furlow Senior Citizens Center. For information, call 601-835-8173.

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

SEPTEMBER 16

The Southwest Chapter of ABATE monthly meeting. Open to the public. Jeff Price's Shop. 2 p.m. For information, call Carmen Hill at 601-833-8560.

SEPTEMBER 17

Beginner logging classes for persons of all ages beyond five-years-old are held every Monday night. A small fee is charged each month. Brookhaven Recreation Department on Highway 51. Call 601-833-3791.

SEPTEMBER 18

Institute for Learning in Retirement day trip, including tours of "Angola Prison -- Alcatraz of the South" and museum and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church, and lunch at the Magnolia Cafe in St. Francisville. \$45. Departs Thames Center at

6 a.m. with 6:45 a.m. pickup at former Rite Aid in Brookhaven. For information, email JulieWright@colin.edu or Tricia.Russell@colin.edu or call 601-643-8705.

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

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

SEPTEMBER 20

Wesson Rocks, an Institute for Learning in Retirement workshop led by Shirley O'Quinn, will provide a hands-on opportunity to paint rocks and create unique decorative pieces. Thames Center. 10 a.m. For information, email JulieWright@colin.edu or Tricia.Russell@colin.edu or call 601-643-8705.

SEPTEMBER 24

Institute for Learning in Retirement workshop -- salon focused on a history-related topic by members of Co-Lin's Centurion Club. Thames Center at Co-Lin. 10 a.m. For information, email JulieWright@colin.edu or Tricia.Russell@colin.edu or call 601-643-8705.

Blood drive every second and fourth Monday. King's Daughters Medical Center Hospital Annex. 1 p.m.-6 p.m. Call 800-817-7449 for information.

SEPTEMBER 27

Wesson Lions Club meets. Co-Lin student cafeteria conference room. 6 p.m.

OCTOBER 2

Institute for Learning in Retirement luncheon featuring guest speaker Walt Grayson, host of "Look Around Mississippi" and

"Mississippi Roads" television features and author of non-fiction and fiction books that explore Mississippi settings and culture. \$10. Thames Center at Co-Lin. 10:30 a.m. For information, email JulieWright@colin.edu or Tricia.Russell@colin.edu or call 601-643-8705.

Institute for Learning in Retirement workshop on beekeeping and honey led by David Fore follows. Free. Thames Center at Co-Lin. 12 noon. For information, email JulieWright@colin.edu or Tricia.Russell@colin.edu or call 601-643-8705.

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

OCTOBER 4

The Newsies, a Brookhaven Little Theater production begins, with performances also on October 6, 7, 11, 13 & 14. Haven Theater, downtown Brookhaven.

CONTINUING

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

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

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

Brookhaven 55 South Flea Market is open on Saturdays and Sundays next to the Lincoln County Civic Center. Ten per cent of the profits each weekend are donated to a local charity. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.



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