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Wesson News

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Mums to Work**

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"Good News You Can Use"

October 8, 2013

Homecoming at Co-Lin

Special to Wesson News

A rock concert, art exhibit, golf tournament, class reunions, and special honors for alumni and current staff are among events highlighting the Co-Lin Homecoming calendar this week and culminating with a Saturday afternoon football game with Pearl River Community College.

Co-Lin alumni, friends, and students will start the Homecoming celebration on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at a free outdoor rock concert featuring The Colonels, a local band. The Co-Lin Sojourners will open for the The Colonels at the Union Square concert.

On Thursday, a show featuring alumni art will open at the gallery in the Mutton building. It will continue through Nov. 15. The gallery will be open from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Saturday as part of
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Co-Lin Alumni Association honored businessman and pastor Dr. James F. Nations and former beauty queen and successful businesswoman Mary Dees Primos as Alumni of Year.



Special to Wesson News

Record crowds are expected at the flea market

Wesson News

The annual Flea Market Outdoor Arts and Crafts Show and Sale — a major fundraiser for the volunteer fire department — will draw record crowds to Wesson next week, event coordinator Kenneth Furr predicts.

Upwards of 6,000 persons will shop for crafts, arts, antiques, books, and varied flea market knick knacks; and eat an array of foods at the 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. October 19 event, now in its forty-second year. People from throughout central and southwest Mississippi come to the flea market, Furr says.

More than 300 vendors and exhibitors — individuals, church groups, clubs, civic organizations, and businesses — come to sell their wares, distribute literature, and meet and greet the public in 350 10-foot-by-10-foot spaces along Highway 51, Factory, and Spring Streets.

Originally started by a merchants association, the Town of Wesson Fire Department turned the flea market into the big event it has become on the third Saturday in October. Last year, the fire department generated some \$8,000 on sales of the flea market spaces at \$40 each.

The flea market has also become an important venue for fundraising by Wesson civic organizations and churches:

- The Wesson Garden Club will hold a raffle for a quilt donated by artist Juanita Ashley. The raffle started in mid-September. Into the day of the flea market, when a drawing for the prize work will be held, tickets will be sold for \$3.00 for a single chance and \$5.00 for two chances. Raffle proceeds will support beautification proj-

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Wesson's budget is up slightly

By Bob Arnold

Wesson alderman have approved a 2013-2014 town budget calling for approximately a four per cent increase in expenditures and a three per cent increase in revenues over the last fiscal year.

The budget projects general fund expenditures of more than \$537,000 for the police and street departments and general government operations and \$392,928 in water/sewer expenditures. It also shows expenditures of \$20,865.80 by the Fire Department, \$20,000 for the Old School community center, \$12,100 for the library, and \$4,500 for water meters.

Estimated revenues encompass \$540,058 for the police and street departments and general operations,

of which \$125,000 comes from ad valorem (property and real estate) taxes and \$140,000 from sales taxes; \$26,432 for the Fire Department, of which almost \$18,000 comes from state and county fire funds; \$16,625 for the library, of which \$13,000 comes from ad valorem taxes; \$442,600 for water/sewer and \$7,025 for water meters, from fees, and \$20,000 for the old school community center, from fees.

The new budget calls for increased expenditures over last year only for the street department — from \$119,615 to \$129,515 — and water/sewer — up to \$392,928 from \$381,028. It projects increased water/sewer revenues of about \$12,000 and another \$20,000 to cover the old school community center expenditures. The budget does

not reflect anticipated sales tax losses as a result of Wesson Package Store's planned relocation to Brookhaven and new revenues from a 2.89 millage rate increase on real estate.

Salaries and benefits are the biggest expenditure items in the budget, according to Wesson Mayor Alton Shaw. Benefit expenses this fiscal year include an 18 per cent increase in the cost of health care coverage for city employees, and a similar increase is expected next year, he reported.

Shaw said Wesson continues to seek grant income to boost revenues, which "is easier said than done."

"Getting grant money requires meeting project specifications of organizations which award funds, meeting their qualifications which are often

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cont. from front page

Homecoming at Co-Lin

Homecoming festivities.

Dr. James F. Nations of Raymond and Mary Dees Primos of Madison will be honored as Alumni of the Year on Saturday during the alumni association's awards luncheon and annual meeting starting at 11:30 a.m. in the cafeteria.

Nations, a 1956 graduate of Co-Lin High School and a 1958 graduate of the college, worked for Bell Telephone for 28 years and served as a pastor for over 24 years. He was inducted into the Co-Lin Foundation Hall of Fame this year. Nations earned a PhD in church administration from Twin-Cities University, West Monroe, LA; served as a chaplain with a rank of brigadier general in the Mississippi State Guard; was a member of the board of directors for Tupelo Children's Mansion; and held several positions with the Mississippi District United Pentecostal Church. He founded and served as president of Foster Ministries Inc., and co-founded Outreach Services.

Primos, a 1973 graduate of Co-Lin, received a bachelor's degree in education with a minor in theater from Mississippi College in 1975. She and her husband Will have built a nationally-recognized brand of hunting products and produced a TV show — "Primos TRUTH About Hunting" — through their company, Primos Hunting. Pri-

mos has also worked at McRae's in Jackson in corporate communications and as training director at Goldsmith's in Memphis. She served as advertising director for the *Mississippi Business Journal*, account manager and the national sales manager for several radio stations in the Jackson area, president of the Greater Jackson Business Network, and president of the Greater Jackson Advertising Federation.

At Co-Lin, Primos was a captain of the Colettes, selected as Homecoming queen, Most Beautiful, and Miss Copiah-Lincoln for the Miss Mississippi pageant. She has volunteered for the United Way and March of Dimes and was honored as one of twelve "Ladies of Distinction" by the Baddour Center in Senatobia, which serves the needs of mentally-challenged adults.

Other Homecoming activities include:

FRIDAY

- A golf tournament at noon sponsored by the baseball team. The fee is \$50 per team and includes cart and green fees, lunch, snacks on the course, and prizes. Contact Clay Smith at 601-643-8412.

- Co-Lin retirees will be honored at a reception beginning at 5 p.m. at the president's home. If you have retired from Co-Lin and have not received an invitation, contact the alumni office at 601-643-8313 or by e-mail at danielle.white@colin.edu.

SATURDAY

- General registration for Saturday's Homecoming will be in the J. M. Ewing Administration Building from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Guests can also register at the cafeteria lobby from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

- Sports Hall of Fame inductions and a business meeting of the Athletic Alumni Association will take place from 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. at Rea Auditorium. Sports Hall of Fame inductees will include Tiana Burns, the late Tommy Dykes, Ken Fortenberry, Lance Newman, and P.B. Walker.

- The Band and Colette Alumni Chapter will induct Johnnie Ruth Carlisle into its Hall of Fame and recognize Angela

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From the Mayor's Desk

By Alton Shaw, Mayor of Wesson

One of the questions commonly asked to us in government: "Why don't you get a grant for a particular project?" Let me answer that question with a brief explanation of the grant process:



Photo by Wesson News
Mayor Shaw

1. Many agencies and organizations offer different grant opportunities, but almost all are specific on how the money can be spent, and even more specific on what parameters are necessary to qualify. For instance, a few years ago, we were able to secure a grant through the Mississippi Department of Transportation for general sidewalk repair and upgrades. We were able to use these funds for the rehabilitation of our downtown area, along with completing a walking path to Copiah-Lincoln Community College. Many people asked at that time why we were spending money on sidewalks instead of on several road overlays that were needed. Simple answer: that's what the grant was for; and had we tried to spend it on other improvements, the reimbursement would not have been approved, and we would not have received the funds.

2. Many of the grants directed toward community development are offered through the Mississippi Development Authority and the United States Department of Agriculture, two of the largest grant distributors to government entities. Unfortunately, they have income requirements attached to their grant process that we are unable to meet. They base the majority of their grants on the mean average income for an area, which is provided by the United States Census Bureau every ten years. The mean average income for the Town of Wesson is above the threshold for qualification.

3. You also have to be careful and understand what exactly will

be required from you after the funds are received. For matching grants, one of the most common, the grantee must put up a certain percentage of matching funds. Very, very few are 100% funded. Most require at least a 20%-25% match. This limits you on the asking amount if you do not have the means to come up with a 20% match

on \$1,000,000 in funding, for example.

4. This brings us to the last, and undoubtedly most important part of the process. After you have successfully identified a grant to fit a specific project, assured yourself that you can meet the requirements and can fulfill the obligations, and have completed all the necessary paperwork, phone calls begin. While there are a certain percentage of grants awarded entirely on merit, it ultimately comes down to face-to-face encounters and knowing the right people. Several of the grants we have received in the past were in no small part due to friendships with individuals we had met by visiting various conferences and events, getting to know the key people, and being able to call on them when needed. I don't think anyone would argue that you are much more willing to help when you can put a face to the name of the person with whom you are speaking on the other end of the phone line.

That's a quick overview of how the grant process works. I hope it helps clear up some of the confusion and enhances your appreciation of just how important networking with the right people is in the entire process. Direct congressional or legislative appropriations are a little different, but we will touch on that in a future column.

INFO BOX

As part of its Homecoming activities on October 12, Co-Lin will host the Big Wolf 5K Run/Walk and one-mile Fun Run. The race will begin at 7:30 a.m. on the Wesson campus Stone Stadium track. Prizes will be awarded to the male and female overall winners and first place winners in each age group. Registration is 6:30 a.m. at Stone Stadium with a fee (\$20 on race day) that covers a t-shirt, snacks, and prizes for the winners. Registration forms are available at the Co-Lin Alumni Office or online at www.colin.edu/alumni/homecoming. A free one-mile Fun Run for children will take place immediately following the 5K. Every child will receive a medal.

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Wesson Attendance Center earns B grade

Special to Wesson News

The Wesson Attendance Center has received a grade “B” performance classification in the 2013 Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) accountability ratings of schools and districts – the highest in Copiah County District, which slipped to a “D” classification from a “C” in 2012.

MDE classifies districts and school by the letter grades “A” for a star, “B” for high performing, “C” for a successful, “D” for academic watch, and “F” for low performing.

In the area, only West Lincoln in Lincoln County received an “A” grade. At the district level, Lincoln County received a “B” grade, and Brookhaven and Hazlehurst received “D” grades – the same as 2012 results – while Lawrence County improved to a “C.”

Other schools in the area receiving “B” grades in addition to Wesson Attendance Center were Lawrence High School, Bogue Chitto, Enterprise, and Loyd Star.

The MDE accountability model measures student performance on rigorous curricula and assessments. The two main accountability criteria for MDE classifications are:

- Academic growth demonstrated by equal or better than expected performance of students based on the previous year. U.S. history and grades 5 and 8 science were included in this year’s achievement component.

- Achievement measured by the Quality of Distribution Index (QDI) ranging from a zero minimum score to 300 maximum score. The state’s overall QDI is 168 — up from 162 in 2012.

In the current performance classifications, “A” districts increased and “F” districts decreased for the third consecutive year. A total of 18 school districts throughout Mississippi earned an “A” in 2013: Amory School District, Biloxi Public School District, Booneville School District, Clinton Public School District, Oxford School District, DeSoto County School District, Enterprise School District, Kosciusko School District, Lamar County School District, Long Beach School District, Madison County School District, Ocean Springs School District, Pass Christian Public School District, Petal School District, Pontotoc City Schools, Rankin County School District, Union Public School District, and Webster County School District.

Schools earning the “A” status increased by 36 percent, and the number of

“B” schools increased slightly from last year, from 213 to 218 schools. The number of “D” schools decreased nearly 20 percent, and the number of “C” schools increased about 6 percent. The results reflect a five-year trend of increasing numbers of top-performing schools and decreasing numbers of lower performing schools.

Schools in conservatorship also had gains. Of the 31 schools that MDE operates, 17 had increases in QDI, nine of which were double-digit gains, and 21 met their growth expectation. All of the schools in Oktibbeha County, the most recent takeover, achieved their growth expectations. Additionally, schools at-risk and those who received a school improvement grant also made improvements.

“While we are pleased to see the double-digit increase in the number of “A” schools this year, we know that more work must be done to help our lower performing schools,” said Dr. Wayne Gann, chairman of the state Board of Education. “We must continue to provide resources and assistance to schools so that all students have the opportunity for higher achievement.”

This year, the accountability model again included graduation rates follow-

ing suspension of their use in 2012 to allow for the development of an improved accountability system – a contributing factor to the increase in the number of “A” districts, according to Dr. Lynn J. House, interim state superintendent of education. For the first time, graduation rates also applied to all districts rather than to higher performing districts which were graded “A” and “B.”

Two methods were used to calculate the graduation component of the accountability system: the five-year graduation rate/High School Completion Index (HSCI) and the four-year graduation rate, which was converted to a point value and added to the QDI for a High School Value (HSV), the overall measure of performance this year.

“Districts have worked diligently at keeping students in schools and helping them to graduate,” House said. “Schools, districts and communities should be commended for their hard work and accomplishments around student achievement.”

The 2012-13 school year marks the last time that QDI, HSCI, HSV, and five-year graduation rates will be used to measure school and district performance. A new accountability model has been proposed and was released for public comment last month.

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Homecoming at Copiah-Lincoln Community College

Smith as Outstanding Young Alumni recipient at 10 a.m. in the Fred and Jewett Taylor Chapel. The chapter will also hold its annual business meeting.

- Alumni Association luncheon. Reunion classes, outstanding staff and instructors, members of the Sports Hall of Fame, and Band and Colette Hall of Fame inductees as well as Alumni of the Year will be recognized. Tickets are \$12 and may be purchased at morning registration in Rea Auditorium or at the cafeteria prior to the luncheon.

- A tailgate party from noon - 2 p.m. at

the center of campus will feature food, music, and activities for children. The Sojourners will perform at 1 p.m. A pep rally with the Blue Wave Show Band, the Colettes, Color Guard, and cheerleaders will be held at 1:30 p.m. Any class or group interested in setting up a tent should contact the alumni office at 601-643-8498.

- Reunions. The 854th Medical Collecting Company will meet in the private dining room of the Henley Cafeteria at 10 a.m. The High School class of 1963 will meet in Oswalt Li-

brary at 1 p.m. The cheerleader alumni chapter, the first black football players alumni chapter, and the class of 1993 will meet under the tents at the tailgate party. All classes that end in 3 are also encouraged to meet under the tents. The college class of 1963 will meet following the football game at 6 p.m. at the Thames Center. Contact the alumni office to reserve another location for your class or group reunion.

- A reception will honor former Co-Lin art instructor Tom Ross upon his retirement at 10 a.m. in the Mutton

Building. Light snacks will be served, and everyone is encouraged to meet at the luncheon following the reception.

- The Homecoming football game at Stone Stadium with Pearl River Community College is at 3 p.m. Pre-game activities, which include the presentation of the Homecoming Court and the crowning of the Homecoming Queen, start at 2:30 p.m.

For more information on Co-Lin Homecoming activities, visit www.colin.edu/alumni/homecoming or call 601-643-8498.



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Ghosts, goblins, jack-o'-lanterns coming to town



Wesson News

Halloween festivities begin on Wednesday, October 30, at Wesson Baptist Church with its annual Family Fall Festival. There will be trick-or-treating the following evening.

Although ghosts and goblins will be around in the midst of jack-o'-lanterns, Wesson Police Chief Chad O'Quinn says Halloween in Wesson is normally quiet with minor vandalism, if any at all. Wesson has no rigid laws around trick-or-treating. There is no age limit. Although O'Quinn expects trick-or-treating to wind down by 9 p.m. to 10 p.m., Wesson has not set hours for the Halloween tradition.

"Our biggest concern is traffic accidents involving children and youth who are out walking the streets," O'Quinn says. "If caution and common sense prevail, however, we should have another smooth Halloween."

Above all, O'Quinn urges parents to accompany and supervise their young children. He says teenagers need to remember that they can scare people in costumes and masks. Common sense dictates they should stay out of stores and other local businesses where masks

on a person of size can set off alarm bells in the minds of employees.

O'Quinn and members of the Wesson police force, of course, will be patrolling the streets just to help make sure common sense prevails.

The Family Fall Festival, which is free to the community, represents a possible alternative to Halloween, although Wesson Baptist Church pastor Nelson Santana says its intent is "to offer something fun, family-friendly, and free for our community. We want to bless people simply for the joy of blessing them and getting to know them a little bit better."

The event will occur from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Wesson Baptist Church parking lot and its Activities Building. There will be games, face painting, "trunk-or-treat" – going to the trunks or open hatchbacks of cars for candy instead of homes; inflatables, and free food, drinks, and sweets for the whole family. Participants will be eligible for door prizes donated by local businesses, including a new TV.

"We'd like to invite all of the Wesson community to join us on this night of fun," says Santana. "Please dress in family-friendly costumes to keep from scaring the little ones."

Sylvarena Revival

Special to Wesson News

The Sylvarena Baptist Church Revival is October 13 to 16, with Evangelist Rev. Greg Warnock leading the services and Brother Mike Britt leading the music.

The Sunday 11 a.m. service on Oc-

tober 13 starts the event. A covered dish luncheon will follow. The Sunday evening service starts at 6 p.m. Monday through Wednesday evening services start at 6:30 p.m.

"Everyone is welcome," says Sylvarena member Joy Wesbrooks. "Come join us."

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Wesson's budget is up slightly

INFO BOX

In other budget actions around the area, Lawrence County is allocating more money for roads. The county projects almost \$5.5 million from an ad valorem tax based on 109.10 millage rate. One-half mill is being reallocated from debt service to road funds and another one-half mill from schools to road funds. The total county budget is approximately \$8.4 million.

Copiah County residents, meanwhile, face a 3.06 millage rate in-

crease to 109.59 mills on real estate – 2.67 mills allocated for the County overall and .39 mills for the Copiah County School District. The County is projecting revenues of \$15,442,612 for 2013-2014 based on \$10,487,587 from ad valorem taxes.

With a surplus this year of \$595,000, Lincoln County residents are certain not to face a tax increase. Revenues climbed to \$16,965,000 this year against expenditures of \$16,370,000 last year.

based on community income levels, and connecting with the grant-making decision-makers," Shaw pointed out. "Wesson's relatively high income level is often a problem."

Shaw also noted that Federal grants have become harder for small towns to acquire with Congressional reforms

related to "earmarks" in legislation that once designated funds for communities. "The grant money may still be there, but government agencies rather than politicians make the funding decisions now," Shaw explained. "The money more often than not goes to bigger cities."

Police Blotter

Special to Wesson News

The Wesson Police Department responded to 48 incidents during September:

- Two vehicle accidents
- One simple assault
- Two trespassing
- One hit & run
- One malicious mischievous
- One stolen auto
- Ten general complaints
- Twenty vehicular citations
- Four warrants served (contempt of court)
- Two driving without a license
- Three possession of drug paraphernalia
- One possession of a controlled substance

Wesson News

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2013 Homecoming Schedule October 11-12, 2013

Thursday, October 10, 2013

6:00 p.m. Community Arts Series outdoor concert featuring the Colonels, opened by the Sojourners- Union Square

Friday, October 11, 2013

12:00 p.m. Homecoming Golf Tournament- Wolf Hollow Golf Course
5:00 p.m. Reception for Co-Lin retirees- President's Home

Saturday, October 12, 2013

7:30 a.m. Running with the Pack 5K Walk/Run
8:00 a.m. Mutton Art Gallery opens- alumni exhibit honoring Tom Ross
9:00 – 11:00 a.m. General Registration, J. M. Ewing Administration Bldg.
9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Sports Hall of Fame induction & annual business meeting of the Co-Lin Athletic Alumni Association – Rea Auditorium, Ewing Administration Building
10:00 a.m. Reception for former students of Tom Ross- Mutton building

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Band/Colette Alumni Chapter Hall of Fame & Outstanding Young Alumni induction & annual business meeting – Fred & Jewett Taylor Chapel
11:30 a.m. Co-Lin Alumni Association Awards Luncheon and annual business meeting of the Co-Lin Alumni Association – Cafeteria, Henley Building
12:00-2:00 p.m. Tailgate Party: Food, Music by the Sojourners, children's games and activities, pep rally featuring the Blue Wave Show Band and cheerleaders - Center Campus
1:00 -2:30 p.m. Reunions:
High School class of 1963 reunion- Oswalt Library
Classes that end in "3," Cheerleader Alumni Chapter, First Black Football Players- under the tents
2:30 p.m. Pre-Game Ceremonies – Stone Stadium
3:00 p.m. Football Game – Co-Lin vs. Pearl River– Stone Stadium
6:00 p.m. Class of 1963 Reunion at the Thames Center



cont. from page 1

Record crowds are expected at the flea market

ects in Wesson.

Ashley, who has been quilting for seven years and has won several awards for her work, calls her donation to the Garden Club "Winners Bouquet." It is given in honor of "citizens who have been so dedicated to improving the beauty of Wesson," she says. "Your work has not gone unnoticed! We love to drive around town to see the beautiful flowers, signs and new planters that are a result of your determination to improve the Town of Wesson. My desire, in sharing with the Wesson Garden Club, is not for any glory or recognition. I am donating my quilt in hopes that money may be raised by the raffle in order to continue the beautification efforts for all to enjoy."

• Friends of Library will have a book sale — its biggest fundraiser of the year



Special to Wesson News

Juanita Ashley's quilt donation — "Winner's Banquet" — will be awarded as a fundraising raffle prize by the Wesson Garden Club at the annual Flea Market. Ashley made the donation in honor of "citizens who have been so dedicated to improving the beauty of Wesson."

for the public library. All year long, the group accepts book donations. It will sell them for less than a dollar per copy at the Flea Market. It expects to raise about \$400 to \$600 to supplement the library's public funding.

• The Wesson Lions Club, hoping to make sweet potatoes a new fundraising tradition, will introduce them to the public at the flea market. It plans to sell them at 50 cents per pound.

• The Sylvarena Baptist Church youth will sell catfish meals, including coleslaw and fries, at Furr's Service Station for \$6.00 per plate. All proceeds will go to mission projects and summer camp. Tickets may be purchased in advance by calling 601-320-0923.

For information about vendor space availability, contact Kenneth Furr at P.O. Box 103, Wesson 39191. Telephone: 601-643-2672/2246.

Social group attracts "fifth wheel" singles

Wesson News

Area singles who sometimes feel like "fifth wheels" in social settings to which their relatives and married couple friends invite them are finding

an alternative through a new group that is bringing them together. They talk to each other; play cards, croquet, and horseshoes; and line dance. Recently, they looked back at the 1960s with the help of old recordings and photos, which prompted discussions.

Singles aged 28 to 75 have been coming to the monthly Singles Mingles, which Lynn Holloway of Wesson launched in April to offer singles in the area's varied churches a venue for meeting and socializing. In the short time span since they started coming together, their numbers have grown from six to almost 40.

Singles Mingle is not a matchmaker, but rather a place for singles to meet

other people with whom they have something in common — namely, the single life, Holloway says.

One woman told her: "My children

feel obligated to invite me to their social events, but I feel like a fifth wheel when I go. Not so here." In the final analysis, that's what Singles Mingle is all about, says Holloway.

Most persons in the group come from the area's relatively small churches, which cannot all offer their own specialized programs for single people, even

though young people who have not married, divorced persons, and widows or widowers are the fastest growing population within these churches.



Photo by Wesson News

Lynn Holloway posts notices of Single Mingles social on bulletin board.

Wesson News

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Sylvarena Baptist Church

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October 13-16: Revival — Come Join Us

Schedule of Services

Sunday	Wednesday
10:00 a.m. Sunday School	5:00-6:15 p.m. Evening Meal Served
11:00 a.m. Worship Service	6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting
4:00 p.m. Adult Choir Practice	6:30 p.m. Youth Bible Study
5:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study	6:30 p.m. GA's; RA's: Mission Friends
5:00 p.m. Team Kids	
5:00 p.m. Children's Bible Drill	
5:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study	
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship Service	
6:00 p.m. Children's Choir	

For all other events call the Church Office @ 601.643.5826

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Obamacare rolling out in Mississippi

Special to Wesson News

Although the debate continues to rage over whether the Federal Affordable Health Care Act — popularly known as “Obamacare” — will work, Mississippi is participating in its full implementation this month.

All Mississippians who are not now covered by health insurance — an estimated 275,000 people — can now purchase a plan that may be partially subsidized by Federal tax credits on a new U.S. government online marketplace. At the same time, people are in place to help them choose wisely, also called “navigators.” Mississippi Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney is also planning to move ahead with a health insurance exchange for small businesses after federal officials adopted a rule he advocated to allow Mississippi to set up what’s called a Small Business Health Options (SHOP) exchange.

Chaney, speaking to members of the Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) at Co-Lin in Wesson, said he did not know whether or not Obamacare would work, but wanted to make the best of it in Mississippi.

“It’s a badly written law for which I never would have voted, but it is the law,” Chaney said. “I am determined to make it work as best as possible for the people of Mississippi — to make a lemon into lemonade.”

Under Obamacare, people with incomes between 133 per cent and 400 per cent of the Federal poverty level — up to \$46,000 for individuals and \$94,000 for a family of four — are eligible for Federal tax credits on a sliding scale to help purchase health care coverage in the online marketplace. The federal assistance will bring down the cost of the monthly premium for most Mississippians if Obamacare works as advertised.

Humana is offering health care coverage in the new marketplace to some 54,000 uninsured adult residents of 36 Mississippi counties who would have been unable to acquire insurance on the exchange otherwise. Until Humana stepped in, only residents in 46 of the state’s 82 counties would have



Photo by Wesson News

Mississippi Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney talks to members of Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) at Co-Lin in Wesson about Obamacare.

been able to take advantage of the new marketplace. Chaney credited the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for “bending rules” to allow Humana to extend coverage on the exchange even though the deadline to file to sell insurance on it had passed.

Mississippi’s two largest private insurers — Blue Cross & Blue Shield based in Flowood and UnitedHealth Group of Minnetonka, MN — have declined to offer plans on the online exchange.

To help people in the new insurance marketplace, the federal government is spending more than one million dollars on Mississippi navigators at University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) and a church that will send pastors into the delta.

Chad Feldman, who directs a team of 17 UMMC-based navigators, said “we know that with the large volume

of uninsured patients that we see, we are going to get that question ‘what is the exchange and what does it mean to me.’”

On the exchanges, insurers will offer different levels of coverage designated as bronze, silver, gold and platinum, with the higher-level plans costing more monthly, but requiring lower out-of-pocket payments. Feldman said Mississippians new to private insurance have a lot to learn in order to pick the right plan. Navigators will have to talk to people about both their medical history and their finances, as well. “It is not just a matter of this uninsured population not being aware of the lingo,” he observed. “Insurance itself can be a difficult conversation.”

Chaney expects to roll out his new marketplace for small businesses in early 2014. Utah already has approval to run a SHOP exchange, and Chaney said he knows of no other state besides Mississippi that will follow that route immediately.

While federal tax credits will subsidize the insurance purchases of many individuals, the small business exchange will not offer subsidies. Chaney and others, however, hope that a central marketplace that attracts large numbers of users will help cut prices and increase the number of insurer offerings. While navigators will assist individuals who use exchanges to purchase healthcare coverage, commercial insurance agents and brokers will help employers on the small business exchange, Chaney said.

“My goal is to foster competition, to lower prices for the consumer and offer them some choice,” Chaney said. Chaney believes hundreds of thousands of Mississippi employees could benefit from the online market, but isn’t sure how many businesses would participate.

Insurers would pay a fee of between two percent and five percent of revenue from policies sold on Mississippi’s SHOP exchange to finance its operations. Chaney said the state needs about \$1 million a year. Set-up of the exchange will be financed by federal grants.

New Wesson police officer



Photo by Wesson News

Chad Harveson, 23, has joined the Wesson Police Department as its fourth full-time officer. A Bogue Chitto native, he joins the department as a patrolman and will attend the Police Academy at Pearl for additional training. He has previous experience with the Lincoln County Sheriff’s Department.

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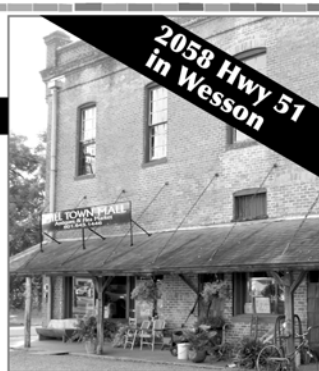
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Lion remembered for his service



Photo by Wesson News

Wesson Lion president Ric Crockett (far right) presents a certificate commemorating the service of late Lion David Smith to his widow Ramona Smith (second from right). Also accepting the certificate received for a donation of \$100 in memory of Smith by the local Lions Club to the International Lions Sight Foundation were (l to r) Smith's son, Justin; his son-in-law, Joseph Langham; his daughter, Laureen Langham; and his granddaughter, Joleigh Langham. Smith, 53, struggled with a rare form of cancer for almost three years before his death this summer. He had worked for Co-Lin for 20 years as Assistant Dean of Students and softball coach. He retired as an administrator for the Copiah County School District after helping lay the groundwork for the opening of the Mississippi School of Arts in Brookhaven as one of its first administrators.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 8, 2013, 7 p.m. – Copiah-Lincoln Community College's annual Trillium Beauty Pageant in Rea Auditorium the college's Wesson Campus. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students, and \$1 for Co-Lin students with their ID. For more information contact Natalie Davis at 601-643-8354.

Thursday, Oct. 10, 2013, 6 p.m. – Copiah-Lincoln Community College's Community Arts Series presents The Colonels in concert in Henley Courtyard. The Co-Lin Sojourners will perform at 6 p.m. followed by The Colonels. Free admission and the public is invited. For more information contact Shaw Furlow at 601-643-8353.

Friday, Oct. 11, 12 p.m. – Copiah-Lincoln Community College Annual Homecoming 2-Man Scramble Golf Tournament sponsored by the Co-Lin Baseball Team at Wolf Hollow Golf Course. Registration begins at 10 a.m. with tee-off at noon. Cost is \$50 and includes green fees, carts, prizes, goodie bags and lunch. For more information or to register call Ronny Ross at 601-643-8379 or Clay Smith at 601-643-8412.

Saturday, Oct. 12, 2013, 7:30 a.m. – Running with the Pack 5K Walk/Run beginning at H.L. Stone Stadium on the Wesson

Campus. Registration begins at 6:30 a.m. with the 5K starting at 7:30. Fun run begins immediately following the 5K. Cost is \$15 (pre-registration), \$20 (day of the race). For more information contact Angela Furr at 601-643-8498.

Saturday, Oct. 12, 2013, 10 a.m. – Copiah-Lincoln Community College's Arts Series will host an Alumni Art Show and Reception honoring former art instructor Tom Ross in the Mutton Art Gallery on the college's Wesson Campus. The Alumni Art Show will be on exhibit until Nov. 15. Exhibit hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information contact Janet Smith at 601-643-8462.

Saturday, Oct. 12, 2013 – Copiah-Lincoln Community College's Homecoming on the college's Wesson Campus. Activities and reunions planned all day. For more information contact the Alumni Office at 601-643-8313.

October 12 – November 15, 2013 – Alumni Art Exhibit in the Mutton Art Gallery on Copiah-Lincoln Community College's Wesson Campus. Exhibit hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The exhibit is free and the public is invited. For more information contact Janet Smith at 601-643-8462.

Pianist entertains 50-Plus Club



Special to Wesson News

Lynda Brister, at piano, played tunes requested by the audience at the September Fifty-Plus Club luncheon at Co-Lin. Pictured from left to right are: Martha Haggan from Crystal Springs, who introduced Brister; Elnor Fuller, vice-president of club from Jayess; Jody Hoff, director of the Food Production and Management Technology program at Co-Lin; and Janet Richardson, club president from Brookhaven. Attendees chatted with the Crystal Springs entertainer about her career, which included singing with country music bands over 30 years after beginning as a Gospel Music singer 50 years ago. She and her sisters appeared as The Moss Sisters singers in churches and USO shows and on Farmer Jim Neal TV programs. At the monthly luncheon of the social club, which includes members aged 50 and over from Copiah, Lawrence, and Lincoln Counties, birthdays of Helen Nations, Brenda and Ken Lewis, Marilyn Cheroni, Rachel Lewis, Hattie Davis, Raiford Crews, and Martha Neal were also recognized along with the fifty-seventh wedding anniversary of Linda and Mitchell Davis. At its October 10 luncheon, the guest speaker will be Dean Shirley, a member of the 172nd Airlift Wing of the Mississippi Air National Guard, who recently traveled to Delhi, India, to work with the Indian Air Force.

Shaw named to nursing board

Special to Wesson News

Governor Phil Bryant has appointed Wesson Mayor Alton Shaw to the Mississippi Board of Nursing. The Board enforces laws and rules regulating nursing practice in the state, establishes requirements for licensing individuals to practice the profession, oversees examination requirements for nurses, and approves nursing education programs.

The Wesson Mayor, who also works as a registered nurse in the emergency

room at Hardy Wilson Hospital in Hazlehurst, is one of seven nurses who sit on the Board, along with four licensed practical nurses and one physician.

Shaw holds multiple special nursing-related certifications and endorsements and has taught pre-hospital emergency medicine at the college level. He received his Associate Degree in Nursing at Co-Lin, completed a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of Southern Mississippi, and earned a degree in Paramedicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

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Attendance Center presents homecoming royalty



Both photos special to Wesson News

Wesson Attendance Center celebrated its 2013 homecoming with the help of its elected royalty (above). Members of royal court were (l to r): Melody Ashley, Jasmine King, Aurianna Vaughn, Jashia Smith, Asia Belton, Sarah Robinson, Keylee Morgan, Elise Whittington – the Queen, Bailey Middleton, Morgan Wesley, Anna Speights, Emily Gregg, Lacie Tarver, Brooke Jones, Elizabeth Shirley. In front of the Queen are her escort, Tyson Windom, and flower girl, Aubree Smith.

Wesson Attendance Center Homecoming Queen Elise Whittington (second from right) is coached on her reign by last year's Queen Blaire Jenkins (far right), school principal Marilyn Phillips (left), her father Paul Whittington, and flower girl Aubree Smith and escort Tyson Windom (front).



Fall baseball season launches with Co-Lin's skills-honing league

Special to Wesson News

Even though the baseball season doesn't begin until the spring, some area high school players will get a jump-start on it and hone their skills in Co-Lin's second annual fall baseball league starting next Monday and continuing through Thursday, November 7. Games are played on the Wesson Campus' Sullivan Field.

The league is designed to help student-athletes in grades 10-12 become better players and prepare them for

their spring competition. The Co-Lin baseball staff and players will coach and instruct each player. Instruction is provided before, during, and after the games. The cost is \$200 per participant, and space is limited to the first 48 applicants.

"Our fall league will be great for high school players looking to sharpen up their game during the off-season," says Clay Smith, head baseball coach at Co-Lin. "In an instructional league like this, you are constantly learning the game and focusing on improving

through competition and instruction." Student-athletes who are involved in fall sports should talk with their high school coaches before registering for the league, Smith says.

Teams will rotate on a schedule of games played on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights. Each team will play a game once a week based on pitch count.

Smith is in his first year coaching Co-Lin after accepting the job in the spring. He comes to Co-Lin after 10 years as the associate head coach and

recruiting coordinator at Belhaven University. Under his tutelage, five former Belhaven Blazers were drafted by major league teams and, 12 signed professional contracts. Before coaching at Belhaven, Smith served as an assistant coach at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Those interested in signing up for the second annual Wolfpack Fall Baseball League should call the Co-Lin baseball office at 601-643-8412 or register on colinathletics.com under the baseball page.



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What can one do with all those mums?



Photos by Andy Mabbett (pigsontheflow.org.uk)

With their plentiful blooms and vivid colors, fall mums can be a bridge in the landscape between summer and winter annual color. ("Enbee Wedding Golden" and "Feeling Green")

Special to Wesson News

Area residents have a lot of fall mums these days in the wake of the Wesson Garden Club's successful annual mum sales fundraiser last month. In fact, the club will have \$2,000 to spend on beautification projects around town thanks to its mum sales.

But what are Wesson mum buyers to do with these special plants? Here are some suggestions from Kate Hampton, a Garden Club member:

- Place them in a big decorative pot on the front porch. No need to transplant. Just slip mums – containers and all – in the bigger pot. In combination with dramatic visual impacts of ceramic, foam, or plastic pots, the many warm colors of mums har-

monize with almost any home color scheme.

- Use them to usher in the colors of winter annuals.
- Decorate your parties. They make a great color impact at autumn parties and cookouts.

If you chose mums with just a little color showing in the buds, you'll have a long-lasting, colorful floral show as the buds open, according to Mississippi State University Coastal Research & Extension Center horticulturist Gary R. Bachman.

For the best color, Hampton adds that fall-flowering mums need sunny locations and consistent watering, which is particularly important if they are in containers. When mums begin to get water-stressed, their showy colors diminish.



Fall-flowering mums come in many warm colors to complement almost any home color scheme. ("Dance")

When the colors of container plants fade, some gardeners transplant them into beds so they can enjoy their colors next year, Bachman observes. You can also bypass containers altogether and plant mums directly in raised beds, where their chances for success next year are improved, he says. Many fall garden mums, however, are intended to be one-season plants and may not be winter hardy — even in coastal Mississippi, Bachman warns. "Transplanting for subsequent years is always a leap of landscape and garden faith," he says.

Hampton isn't as cautious about the chances of mums coming back based on her experience. "Mums, which I planted in my garden last fall, bloomed again in the spring and sum-

mer when there were cool snaps, and then have come back this fall," she relates. As a bonus, Hampton says her free range chickens have not eaten her mums, either. She notes Alana Lyons Hughes, another Wesson Garden Club member, has enjoyed similar success with mums in the Butterfly Garden she maintains on the elementary playground at Wesson Attendance Center.

Perhaps it's the mums which the Wesson Garden Club sells. "They are quality plants," says Hampton. "Their buyers should enjoy the kind of success I've enjoyed in my garden."

If you want to try to bring your beautiful mums back next year, Hampton advises pruning stems back after they have died down, and mulch with a layer of pine straw.

Plant & people health focus of garden fest

Special to Wesson News

Garden and landscape enthusiasts will flock to the Fall Flower and Garden Fest to learn about both plant and people health at the Truck Crops Branch Experiment Station in Crystal Springs on Oct. 18 and 19.

The MSU Extension Service and the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station sponsors the event approximately 20 miles north of Wesson on Highway 51.

Although the second day of the largest home-gardening festival in the Southeast coincides with the Wes-

son Flea Market, the two events — 29 driving time minutes apart — tend to re-enforce each other, with many people visiting both of them. The Fall Fest will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on October 18 and 19, and the flea market runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on October 19.

A one-mile fun walk at 9:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 18, will kick off the 35th annual Fall Fest, which has been built around the theme "Healthy Living-Healthy Gardening." Free diabetes testing will be offered throughout the event. Admission and parking are free.

Visitors can tour various gardens, including a three-acre plot of vegetables, herbs, and flowers; and others which feature butterfly and hummingbird attractions, banana trials, shade-loving plants, specialty crops, ornamental grasses, and both All-America Selections and Mississippi Medallion award-winning plants.

Master Gardeners, MSU specialists and others will discuss pond management, beekeeping, composting and creating backyard wildlife habitats in seminars. Walking tours on a variety of subjects — flowers, vegetables, herbs, plant diseases, insect identi-

fication and high tunnels — will be led by experts. Wagon-ride tours will be available all day. Vendors will sell thousands of plants, garden tools, and yard art as well as food and drinks. Returning this year is the very popular plant swap, which will allow visitors to bring a plant or two to exchange with others. Those interested can bring a half-cup sample of their garden or lawn soil for free pH testing.

For more information, contact Rick Snyder, event coordinator, at 601-892-3731, or visit the event website at <http://msucares.com/fallfest>.

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Nena Smith School of Dance honors



Special to Wesson News

At its thirty-eighth annual recital, Nena Smith School of Dance in Wesson presented its Hall of Fame Awards to students selected on the basis of attitude, attendance, talent, cooperation with teacher and dance classmates, and participation in extra dance activities. They are pictured here with their teachers. In front row (l to r): Rayanna Granger, Madelyn Coss, and Laina Thames, all of Wesson; Madalyn Oglesby of Brookhaven and Summer Roberts of Wesson. Middle row (l to r): Brianna Hynum of Hazlehurst, Ashlyn Banes, Abi Douglas, both of Brookhaven; Hailee Thompson and Breanna Sanders, both of Wesson; Shannon Smith of Hazlehurst, Tori Titus and Emily Hust, both of Crystal Springs. Back row (l to r): Studio owner and teacher Nena Smith, teacher-in-training Morgan Acy, administrative assistant and elementary teacher Tammy Caruthers, teachers Taylor Crane Berry, Elizabeth Meese, Alexis Phillips, and Marsha Raiford; assistant teachers Kaitlyn Rhoads, Taylor Beasley and Briteny Bland.



Special to Wesson News

Recipients of the Nena Smith School of Dance's 2013 Who's Who honors — the Wesson studio's highest recognition for its dancers — are pictured with their teachers. Front row (l to r): Kelsey Beckham of Brookhaven — Miss Spirit of Dance; Taylor Beasley of Wesson and Kaitlyn Rhoads of Brookhaven — Dancers of The Year; Virginia Dorris of Crystal Springs — Most Godly Example. Middle row (l to r): Holly Steen of Wesson — Best Workshop Worker; Madison Mosley of Wesson — Miss Speedy; Briteny Bland of Wesson — Most Talented; Lindsay James of Brookhaven — Miss Hustle; Bethany Jones of Crystal Springs — Most Dependable; Taylor Fink of Wesson — Best Showmanship; and Justice Orgeron of Wesson — Most Improved. Back row (l to r): Tammy Caruthers, administrative assistant and elementary teacher (with daughters Ann Carraway and Ella); studio owner and teacher Nena Smith, teacher-in-training Morgan Acy, teachers Taylor Crane Berry, Elizabeth Meese, Alexis Phillips and Marsha Raiford (with daughter Kelly Grace). Also winning Who's Who honors (not pictured) was Alese Smith of Crystal Springs. More than 80 girls in the seventh through twelfth grades competed for the studio's Who's Who honors.

Attendance Center Happenings

Special to Wesson News

Flu shots are being offered to students today in hopes of avoiding the large number of illnesses that caused daily attendance to nosedive during the flu season last year. To be vaccinated, students must have parental consent. The cost is free with an insurance card or \$25 without one.

The flu shots complement a Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) perfect attendance drive at the school to improve daily attendance during October and November and thus keep funding, which is related to attendance, at a high level. Eight perfect attenders — four in both October and November — will receive \$75 gift

cards as rewards in the PTO campaign. Their names will be picked in drawings including other perfect attenders in grades K-2, 3-6, 7-9, and 10-12 on the last day of October and November.

Persons who have served or are currently serving in the armed forces will be honored at a special breakfast program on Veterans Day, November 11, sponsored by the Wesson High School Student Council. Breakfast will be served starting at 7:45 a.m. in the High School Library followed at 9 a.m. by a program in the school's Old Gym. The program will feature performances by the Wesson High School Choral Group and Drama Troupe.

Shaw to lead municipal officials

Special to Wesson News

Wesson Mayor Alton Shaw, chosen by his peers in local government throughout the state as first vice president of Mississippi Municipal League (MML), believes his new position will help him in pursuing town development initiatives.

MML, which encompasses membership of 289 cities and towns throughout Mississippi, lobbies state and federal elected representatives and appointees, and helps municipal officials through educational programs and providing networking opportunities.

In his new position, Shaw says he will be "in direct contact with people who have big decision-making abilities." This will give Wesson a stronger voice in its quest for grants like

the ones that funded conversion of the Old School into a community center and sidewalk ramps, he believes.

Shaw, who will move up to president of MML in 2014, competed with four other candidates for his new post. In a runoff against Madison Mayor Marry Hawkins, he captured 63 per cent of the vote. Each year, MML rotates its president, first vice president, and second vice president from northern, central, and southern districts. Shaw, who represents the central district, is replacing Ellisville Mayor Tim Waldrup from the southern district, who became president of MML at its annual conference at Biloxi.

Shaw says he feels personally honored in being recognized and chosen by his peers to represent them on both a state and national level.

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Old School reunion brings former students together



Photo by Wesson News

More than 60 persons celebrated both memories of the Wesson Old School when it was an educational institution and its present day incarnation as a community center at a reunion bringing together former students, a former teacher, staff, and town leaders. The occasion featured a luncheon, remarks by former students, and a room full of special artifacts and memorabilia which prompted discussions about old times. Built in 1889 in the Romanesque style of the Mississippi Mills, a large textile factory which occupied much of the Wesson downtown area, the Old School housed grades 1-12 until 1948, when then Co-Lin Agricultural High School absorbed grades 9-12. In 1960, it closed after grades 1-8 moved to the current Wesson Attendance Center. In front row (l to r), among attendees, were Kenneth Furr, Delores Peets Porter, Frances Munn Bitt, Pauline Walker Jackson, Charlotte Weeks Drane, Maudell Ashley Weeks, Vergie Walker Wood. In second row (l to r): Jerri Cowart Boutwell, Joyce Miller Tate, Margie Howington Fore, Robbie Munson Thibodeaux, Albert Ray Peets, Maxine Howington Pickett, Dottie Mercier, Miriam Middleton Moyer, Christine Walker Smith. In third row: George Boutwell, Karen Weeks, Carolyn Miller Graham, Joy Davis Patterson, Marie Hester Miller, Anne Munson Daigle, George Mercier (the oldest former student at age 96), Bonnie Stegall Galloway, Monzelle Wooten, Montra Wooten, Donna Keenan Purvis, Patsey Mullican Finley, Sonya White Cowen, Geraldine Saxon Britt, Marcel Britt. In fourth row (l to r): Bobby Britt, Edward G. Graham, Jr., Larry Barlow, Mary Ann Jasper (the only living former teacher), Dianne White Beasley, Sharon Rice Inman, Johnny Weeks, Mildred Twiner, Dan Twiner, Vaughn Galloway, Robert Benton Stegall, Freddie Stegall, Donald Owens, Sunny Wooten. In fifth row (l to r): Paul Smith, Rubin Bland, W.L. Smith, Van H. Graham. Not pictured: Ed Graham, Retha Graham, Wendi M. Graham, Jessica Graham, Lura McKnight Greer, Larry Greer, Bernice McCray Rice, Angie Langston, David Derrick, Starkey Coleman, Sandra Cotton Upton, Anna Ruth Peets, Julia A.M. Arnold, Lisa Purvis, Paula Smith, and Wesson Alderman Mike Douglas. In appreciation of the Old School's continuing life as a community center, reunion attendees designated their contribution of \$800 for tables and folding chairs to be used at the facility. Carolyn Graham chaired the reunion committee, which also included Larry Barlow, Sony Cowen, Mary Ann Jasper, and Miriam Moyer.

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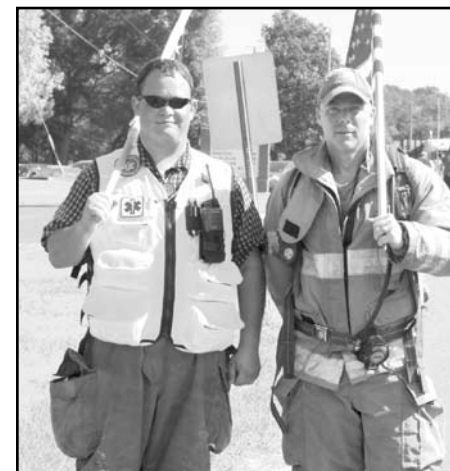
September 11 parade becomes town tradition



Each year, more townspeople come out as spectators for the parade.



Flag carriers lead the September 11 parade down Highway 51 in Wesson.



Two Wesson volunteer fireman, Frank Newell (left) and Chris Davis, hiked throughout Wesson on September 11 in their gear to honor the memories of firefighters who died on that tragic day in 2001.

Special to Wesson News

An event which started as a one-time experience for pre-school children to begin learning about their country and the men and women who have given their lives for it has become Wesson's annual September 11 parade.

The pre-school program at Wesson Baptist started the parade in 2003 after its adult leaders were inspired by the first ceremony in remembrance of the

events on September 11, 2001, when terrorist attackers hijacked commercial airliners which they crashed into the World Trade Center in New York City, and the Pentagon in Washington, DC, and in Pennsylvania.

"We wanted to teach our pre-schoolers about the USA and about honoring those who lost lives in the September 11 tragedy," explains Sharon King, director of Wesson Baptist Pre-School. "We thought what better way to do it

than to have a parade in Wesson led by children who decorate their bikes, tricycles, and wagons with red, white, and blue balloons, flags, and ribbons."

In the first parade, the children and parents walked up Highway 51 from Wesson Baptist Church to Copiah Bank, reversed their tracks, and returned. In the wake of the excitement of the children and their parents in the inaugural parade, the event has become a tradition in Wesson held every

year on September 11, now known nationally as Patriots Day.

This year, more than 100 pre-school children and parents participated in the parade, with townspeople joining. Spectators lined the streets. Two young women joined the parade with a "Support Our Troops" banner. Wesson American Legion Post Commander Charles Langley carried an American flag at the front of the parade, as did

cont. on page 15



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Thursday, October 31, 2013

Saturday, November 2, 2013

5:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. nightly

***Walk-in's welcome, but reservations recommended**

Twelve honored for quality of work at Co-Lin



All photos special to Wesson News

1. Copiah-Lincoln Community College President Dr. Ronnie Nettles (left) presents Eddie Britt, mathematics instructor on the Wesson campus, with the Howell C. Garner High Performance Award. Britt receives a rotating statuette, a certificate and a \$100 check.
2. Honored as Co-Lin's Outstanding Academic Advisors (l to r) are Jason Cooley, computer science at Simpson County Center; Amanda Hood, science instructor on the Natchez campus; and Ashley Dugas, English instructor on the Wesson campus.
3. Dr. Robin Parker, Assistant Dean of Career, Technical, and Workforce Education, presented Co-Lin's Outstanding Career-Technical Advisors Awards to Lane Flynt, practical nursing instructor at the Simpson County Center; Bob Savino, heating and air conditioning technology instructor on the Natchez campus; and Steven Esch, program coordinator diesel equipment technology on the Wesson campus.
4. Anita Cliburn (right) receives the 2013-2014 Faculty Scholar Award of the Eta Omega Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa's from the Chapter President Daisey Martinez.
5. Recognized as Co-Lin's Outstanding Faculty and Staff Members (l to r) are Michael Falvey, Outstanding Career-Technical Instructor; Margaret Britt, Outstanding Academic Instructor; and Erin Smith, Outstanding Staff Member.

Special to Wesson News

The unique quality of their work has won recognition and awards for 12 Co-Lin faculty members and staff personnel.

The College Alumni Association named Margaret Britt as Outstanding Academic Instructor of the Year, Michael Falvey as Outstanding Career/Technical Instructor of the Year, and Erin Smith as Outstanding Staff Member of the Year.

Co-Lin's Phi Theta Kappa's Eta Omega Chapter selected Anita Cliburn as its 2013-2014 Faculty Scholar, honoring her as an instructor who shares her knowledge and herself with students to inspire them to set high goals and to achieve their highest potential. PTK recognizes and encourages scholarship among two-year college students, providing opportunities for development of leadership and service, an intellectual climate for exchange of ideas and ideals, fellowship, and continuing academic excellence.

Britt came to Co-Lin in 1997, teaches computer science classes both on campus

and online, and trains faculty and staff. She previously worked with the Lincoln and Franklin County School District and Brookhaven Academy. She earned an associate's degree from Co-Lin, a bachelor's degree from the University of West Alabama, a master's degree from Mississippi College, and an educational specialist degree from Mississippi State University. She has represented Co-Lin at various academic conferences, received the Ann Bradberry, Co-Lin High Performance, and Phi Theta Kappa's Go Get 'Er Awards, and was recognized as the Career-Technical Instructor of the Year in 2000.

Falvey joined Co-Lin in 2003 as a heating and air conditioning instructor after receiving an associate in applied science degree from the college and working for Kirkland Company Inc. He has numerous certifications in areas of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning and is a certified electrical and technical educator and professional member of Skills USA and the National Technical Honor Society.

Smith started her career at Co-Lin in

2003 and serves as an academic counselor, disability services coordinator, and advisor to Phi Theta Kappa. She received an associate's degree from Co-Lin, a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi, and a master's degree from Jackson State University. Smith is a past president and life member of the Junior Auxiliary of Brookhaven, and past president of the Southwest chapter of the Southern Miss Alumni Association and the Kappa Delta South Central Alumni Chapter. She is a member of the Brookhaven School Board and received the Phi Theta Kappa Paragon Award for New Advisors.

Cliburn joins Dr. Donnie Lawson, the late Dr. Phyllis Lanier, Dr. DurrWalker, Shelly Curtis, Dr. Roy Daughdrill, Carol Royals, Jane Smith, Danny Harrell, Debbie Bush, Janice Fortenberry, Tom Ross, Natalie Davis, David Higgs, Nicole Donald, Brenda Smith, Dr. Shelley Smith, Pam Reid, and Dr. Stephanie Duguid as a PTK Eta Omega Chapter Faculty Scholar.

After earning her Bachelor's degree from Millsaps College, a Master's degree from

the University of Southern Mississippi, and studying at Cornell and Princeton, Cliburn came to Co-Lin in 1997 as the Biology Lab Coordinator and became a full-time Anatomy and Physiology Instructor in 2006.

She is a member of the Mississippi Science Teachers Association, National Science Teachers Association, the Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society, Alpha Epsilon Delta Honor Society, and Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Her other honors include life member in Montclair Who's Who in Collegiate Faculty and the Co-Lin High Performance and Lamp Lighters Awards.

Other Co-Lin faculty and staff who were recently honored for their work include:

- Lane Flynt, Bob Savino, and Steven Esch – recipients of Outstanding Career-Technical Advisor Awards from the Technical and Workforce Education program;
- Jason Cooley, Amanda Hood, and Ashley Dugas who were also named as Outstanding Academic Advisors; and
- Eddie Britt, who received the college's Howell C. Garner High Performance Award.

SHOP N WASH (BP)



WESSON, MS.

LIVERS

GIZZARDS

HUNTS PIZZA

CHICKEN ON A STICK

Overheard around town

Special to Wesson News

A variety of speakers constantly challenge and inform Wesson area social, civic, fraternal, service, and academic groups.

50-Plus Club:

Former chairperson of the fine arts department at Co-Lin Brad Johnson discussed his career change to nursing, which he launched at Co-Lin in 2010 – first one class each semester and then full-time in nursing studies. “I got tired of being a chief and was



Joy and Brad Johnson (left) discuss Brad's new career as a nurse at 50-Plus meeting with Edna Earl Crews (second from right) and Janet Richardson, president of the group.

ready to be an Indian, but quickly learned that nurses are anything but Indians,” he said. “Doctors may direct patient care, but nurses are autonomous in delivering care.” Johnson says the words of St. Francis have special meaning for him in his new career: “When you stop caring, you stop living.” Johnson praised his new employer, Baptist Hospital in Jackson. “Baptist is working toward ‘Magnet’ hospital status,” he reported. “It will be the only such hospital in the state. It’s slogan — ‘followers in faith, healers in healthcare’ — is very true.”

Jerry Strehlow from the Mississippi State Hospital in Whitfield said spiritual healing is an important part of the institution’s work, with chaplains serving as ex-officio members of treat-

ment teams. Chaplains at the Hospital are Pastoral Care Specialists as prescribed by the American Association of Pastoral Counselor, he explained. They engage in personal pastoral conversations with patients and residents as their needs dictate, provide a pastoral presence, lead worship for persons from a broad range of religious traditions, and lecture on spirituality based on the Alcoholics Anonymous Twelve Step program.

Co-Lin Football Squad:

Wesson Police Chief Chad O’Quinn talked to the newly assembled squad about law enforcement in what is a new home town for many of them. In an orientation session for the team, O’Quinn called attention to special ordinances particularly around excess noise and stressed that Wesson is “a zero drug tolerance” town.

Institute for Learning in Retirement:

Speaking on Constitution Day (September 17) to members of the Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR), Co-



Co-Lin professor of business law and government Danny Harrall discusses the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence on Constitution Day.

Lin professor of business law and government Danny Harrall said John Locke’s ideas grounded the Declara-

tion of Independence and U.S. Constitution – man originally lived free and equal in the state of nature with no organized government; natural law restrains reasonable men, but not all men are reasonable; so man forms government based on reason and consent to protect natural rights of life, liberty, and property; if government is bad, man can change it through revolution.

Shay’s Rebellion in the late 18th Century, which the U.S. government could not readily put down, spurred development of the U.S. Constitution, which created Federal executive, legislative, and judicial branches and gave the government taxing, military, and commercial powers which resided in sovereign states individually under the Articles of Confederation, he explained. Through seventeen specified general powers, including taxing authority and regulation of interstate commerce, and directed responsibilities to act to enhance the “general welfare” of the country and assure “equal protection under the law” to citizens, the Constitution allows Congress to make laws which it does not specifically authorize and broaden civil rights, Harrall said.

Lions Club:

State Representative Beckey Currie applauded Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant for resisting Obamacare and expansion of Medicaid in the state. “I don’t know what

they are thinking in Washington,” she declared. “We’re being slammed by Obamacare – higher costs for health care providers, insurers, the consumer.”

Dana Gunter from Gentiva Home

Care said “allowing recovery at home cuts health care costs for individuals and makes hospitals safer, reducing the possibility of acquiring an infection when hospitalization is required.” She said persons over 65 with a wide range of conditions can benefit from home care provided by visits from trained medical professions and members of their families who learn how to deliver needed care. They include persons who require

skilled nursing; physical occupational, and speech-language therapy; cardiac and pulmonary care; neuro-rehabilitation after a stroke; wound care; infusion services; disease; pain; medication management and education; treatment for balance problems that can lead to falls. Technology is increasing the use of home care, Gunter said. For example, home monitoring devices can transmit data about cardiac patients via telephone.

Suzanne Hirsh, director of the Mississippi School of Arts, Brookhaven, said MSA will graduate its tenth class in 2014. Over ten years, it has become a stable institution with a future in Brookhaven, facing no current threat from legislators who want to shut it down or move it to another location, she said. This year, MSA

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Suzanne Hirsh, director of Mississippi School of Arts, talks about MSA on the eve of its tenth anniversary in Brookhaven.

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Overheard around town

has 140 students from 42 counties in Mississippi who are completing their eleventh and twelfth grades in high school there. "We're hoping for funds to create more and larger classrooms and build a new dormitory," Hirsh said.

The school now offers curriculums in dance, the literary arts, vocal music, visual arts, and theater and plans to add media arts and instrumental music to its disciplines as it is able going into the future. Hirsch invited members of her audience to take advantage of the array of cultural events MSA offers the area — art exhibits, literary readings, theater, and musical showcases, including the performance of its choir with the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra.

Hospice Ministries volunteer coordinator Iris Waldrop said working with dying persons is "rewarding, gratifying, satisfying — not depressing like



Eagle Scout candidates Draven Coleman, Ryan Shirley (left) and Joseph Carraway (right) with Wesson Boy Scoutmaster Ken Carraway (second from right) discussed scouting at Lions Club.

the familiar surroundings of home and in "home like" settings, she explained. Hospice does not seek to postpone or hasten death, but rather seeks to improve quality of life in line with the principle that people deserve to live the last moments of their life in comfort, dignity, and peace, she said. "Our volunteers are an important part of the Hospice team and assist in a broad spectrum of services for patients and their families, including direct services — reading, listening, gardening, clerical support, emotional, spiritual and bereavement support," Waldrop said.

Wesson Boy Scoutmaster Ken Carraway and three candidates for Eagle Scout in the local troop — Ryan Shirley, Draven Coleman, and Joseph Carraway — discussed scouting experiences. The Eagle candidates described special painting projects around town — a major focus is fire hydrants — that are part of their quest for scouting's highest rank. Shirley and Coleman, who attended the recent Boy Scout National Jamboree, said they enjoyed zip trails, whitewater rafting, and mountain biking, but "not walking the many miles" required to get to the fun. Joe Carraway

recalled his summer experience on the kitchen staff at Camp Hood scout camp near Hazlehurst. Scoutmaster Carraway said the varied experiences are about "nurturing future leaders."



Wesson Lions Club treasurer Bob McCreary presents \$300 check to Iris Waldrop, volunteer coordinator at Hospice Ministries, Brookhaven, to support work of her organization.

you might think." For more than a quarter of a century, hospice providers in this country have given palliative care and emotional comfort to terminally ill patients and their families in

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September 11 parade



Young women in the parade demonstrate support for troops.



Wesson's September 11 parade featured pre-schoolers in wagons pulled by parents.

Chris Davis, a Wesson volunteer fireman who wanted to honor the brave firefighters who died on September 11, 2001, in search and rescue efforts at the World Trade Center.

The Wesson Baptist Pre-School Program conducts three classes of three-year-olds and two classes of four-year

olds on Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. King, who also teaches a class of four-year-olds, has directed the program for 22 years. Her teaching team includes Candy Walker (four-year-olds) Betty Knight (three-year-olds), Brandi Heard (three-year-olds), and Kristi Smith (three-year-olds).

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