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Wesson News

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Volume 14, Number 9

"Your Community. Your News. Your Paper."

September, 2026



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WVFD receives \$10,000 grant for equipment

By Wesson News

The Wesson Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD) has been named as the recipient of a \$10,000 2026 Good Neighbor Firefighter Safety Program grant from the National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) and State Farm.

The funds from the grant will be used towards the purchase of new self-contained breathing apparatus equipment, which will help the firefighters as they serve the community.

One hundred fifty volunteer fire departments were selected to each receive a \$10,000 grant to help them purchase critical equipment that keeps firefighters safe and strengthens emergency response. The WVFD was one of only four volunteer fire departments in Mississippi to be selected to receive one of the grants.

According to information provided by the NVFC, eighty-two percent of U.S. fire departments are comprised entirely or mostly of volunteer firefighters. Many of these departments operate on limited budgets that leave them struggling to fund equipment that enables them to more effectively and safely do their jobs. Recognizing this need, State Farm and the NVFC teamed up to provide \$1.5 million to local fire departments in 2026. Since the program began in 2024, a total of \$4 million has been distributed to support volunteer fire departments with their equipment needs.

"Volunteer firefighters are there for their communities no matter what the emergency,

from structure and wildland fires to vehicle crashes and medical emergencies to natural disasters and hazardous materials incidents," said NVFC Chair Steve Hirsch. "Yet many local departments lack the funding to purchase the resources and gear they need, forcing them to rely on outdated or insufficient equipment. We thank State Farm for taking action to address this need by helping local departments secure critical equipment so they can do their jobs more safely and effectively."

"At State Farm, we are committed to helping people manage everyday risks and building safer, stronger communities," said Rasheed Merritt, State Farm HR&D Exec-Corporate Responsibility. "We are proud to support volunteer firefighters with equipment needed to enhance safety."

The announcement of the 2026 recipients was made on August 18, a date many celebrate as Volunteer Firefighters Recognition Day. Grants will be used to purchase a wide variety of department necessities, including personal protective equipment, EMS and rescue tools.

In addition to the 150 grants, State Farm provided complimentary NVFC memberships to the first 2,000 eligible applicants to provide more responders with access to an array of benefits, including free training, support services and more. The NVFC is the leading national nonprofit association serving the volunteer fire, emergency medical, and rescue services.

For more information about the Good Neighbor Firefighter Safety Program, including a list of departments receiving the grants, visit the NVFC website at www.nvfc.org/statefarm.



Vaughn joins Wesson News as City Beat reporter

By Clay Mansell

The Wesson News welcomes Louise Vaughn, PhD, MBA, MPA as its new City Beat reporter.

Vaughn, who has a master's degree in Accounting, a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and a doctorate in educational leadership, is not only a writer, but is also heavily involved in agriculture and community development.

Professionally, her experience crosses several areas, including accounting and financial consulting, tax preparation, business development, human resources, administration, project coordination and entrepreneurship. She has worked with individuals, small businesses, nonprofits, schools and community organizations.

Vaughn operates A-Dawg Ranch and Farm-a-Sis, and her work includes farming, herbal wellness products, farmers' markets, vendor

events and agricultural education. She has developed and coordinated youth agricultural programs and worked on grant-funded community projects.

Vaughn says she is "one of those people who can wear several hats."

"I enjoy identifying problems, organizing the moving pieces, developing solutions and then actually getting the work done," she continues. "I'm equally comfortable behind a desk working with numbers and reports or out in the community working directly with businesses and people."

Vaughn will cover Wesson's monthly Board of Aldermen meeting, as well as other civic topics and community news.



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Why I'm glad *Little House on the Prairie* is back



By Jessica Breazeale

There's something about seeing that covered wagon roll across the screen again that just does my heart good. That nostalgia that is like chicken soup when you're sick.

Netflix brought back *Little House on the Prairie* recently, and I'll admit, I skipped it a few times before giving it a watch. I was skeptical at first, because I thought, "we're so past that in society," and reboots don't always get it right. But watching the Ingalls family settle into a new season of storytelling, I found myself thinking about what made the original so special in the first place, and why we've been hungry for it ever since. I think I know the answer!

We are deficient in family values and starving to see those on television again!

It's not that life on the prairie was easy. Pa and Ma faced hardship after hardship, like crop failures, sickness, hard winters, harder neighbors. But, through it all, they showed up for each other. They worked hard, told the truth, forgave quickly and put family first,

even when it cost them something.

That's the part I think we've been missing on our screens lately: not a perfect family, but a faithful one.

We live in a season where so much of what's on TV either mocks family life or ignores it altogether. So, when a show comes along that takes faith, hard work and loving your people seriously, even while wrestling honestly with the harder parts of history, it's worth celebrating.

I'm looking forward to watching this new generation of the Ingalls family with my own family. Some things really are worth passing down.

What's the bigger picture? The Ingalls had a dream and believed in it so much they were willing to take the risky move to do hard things to get it. Kindness, respect and support is not a thing of the past. You can see it on television, at least, to be reminded of the good ole days - and maybe be inspired that we can see it again one day, if we all work together and try for it.

Now, how long do I have to wait for Season 2?



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Wesson aldermen address water planning, mobile home rules and community projects



By Louise Vaughn

Water-system planning, mobile home requirements, the town budget and community improvements were among the matters addressed by the Wesson Board of Aldermen during its September 1 meeting. Alderman Stanley Martin was absent from the meeting.

The Board reviewed a water-rate study conducted by the Mississippi Rural Water Association to evaluate the Town's current financial position and future water-system needs. Based on the study, it was determined that rates would need to increase by \$3 per 2,000 gallons to generate the revenue needed to build an adequate reserve for future water-system expenses. No action was taken by the Board to implement the \$3 increase.

Wesson's existing water policy provides for a 2% annual water rate increase each October.

In a separate water matter, the Board approved an addendum to the Town's water policy addressing newly-installed master meters at a privately owned mobile home park. The meters recently went into service, requiring a billing provision to be added to the policy.

The Board also approved requirements governing additional

mobile homes brought into an existing mobile-home park. Newly-added units must have been manufactured within the previous five years and meet town permitting requirements. A bill of sale will be required to document the age of the mobile home. The action is separate from provisions governing replacement of grandfathered mobile homes elsewhere in Wesson.

A public hearing concerning property at 1044 Oak Street was scheduled for October 6 at 6 p.m. The hearing will determine whether the property should be declared a menace and public health hazard under Mississippi Code Section 21-19-11.

The Board approved the municipal budget following a public hearing held in August. An amendment to the current fiscal-year budget was also approved related to approximately

\$80,000 in grant funding. Officials explained that the reimbursement process associated with the grant required the budget amendment,

a normal accounting procedure for reimbursable grant expenditures.

The Garden Club presented plans for improvements to the town park, including repairing the fountain, installing commercial-grade outdoor lighting, adding landscaping and ground cover, and purchasing two benches and a table. The Garden Club plans to fund those improvements through fundraising activities.



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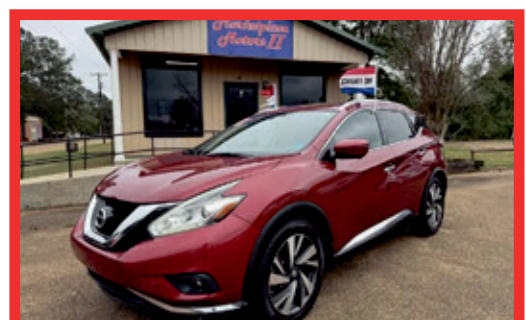
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Mimi’s Musings: September Heat

By Guest Columnist Kim Whittington

Will this heat ever subside?
Is it global warming, or is it because we have become best friends with our air conditioning?
I know I have. I have a deep and personal relationship with mine, and, while I’m at it, also my ceiling fan.
The air conditioner in my car is so amazing, I often wonder how I have sometimes lived without one. I almost bought a different car one time because it had great A/C. But, I came to my senses and had the one in my car fixed.
Who wants to get dolled up and get in a hot car? Not this girl!
Seriously though, do school buses have air conditioning? I see buses with the windows down, so I’m guessing they don’t.
I remember when I was in elementary school, we had the windows down in the classroom. We had no A/C.
There was a girl who lived down the street from the school. The open window was her escape. She snuck out and ran home so many times. If I had been brave like her, I would have too.
All that to say, come on fall weather!



KING'S DAUGHTERS MEDICAL CENTER NEWS



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Mississippi Republican Party names Mansell Chairman of United Republican Fund

Special to Wesson News

The Mississippi Republican Party recently announced the selection of state Rep. Clay Mansell as the new chairman of the Mississippi Republican Party's United Republican Fund.

Mansell succeeds Phil Buffington, who helped strengthen the organization's efforts to support the Mississippi Republican Party and its advancement of conservative causes across the state.

Mansell and Buffington recently spoke at a meeting of the Lee County Republican Club in Tupelo. The appearance served as an informal passing of the gavel as they discussed the future of the United Republican Fund and plans to expand its grassroots network throughout Mississippi.

"Phil and I enjoyed the opportunity to talk about the United Republican Fund and our plans to grow URF's grassroots network across Mississippi," Mansell said. "We appreciate Lee County Republican Club President Rita Buse for the invitation and her hospitality. We are excited about what is ahead and look forward to getting more Republicans involved in every corner of our state."

The United Republican Fund serves as the sustaining membership and small-dollar fund-raising arm of the Mississippi Republican Party, helping provide a continuing stream of resources for party operations, education, recruitment and training.

Mississippi Republican Party Chairman Mike Hurst praised Mansell's selection and expressed confidence in the organization's future.

"Clay Mansell is a proven conservative leader, successful businessman and dedicated public servant who understands the importance of building strong organizations from the ground up," Hurst said. "His passion for grassroots engagement and his commitment to growing the Republican Party will serve URF well. I look forward to working with him as we continue expanding our reach and strengthening the Republican Party in every corner of Mississippi."

Buffington also expressed support for Mansell's leadership.

"It has been an honor to serve as chairman of the United Republican Fund, and I am excited to see Clay take the organization to the next level," Buffington said. "Clay brings energy, vision and a genuine desire to grow our party. I have no doubt he will build upon the foundation we have established and help create even greater opportunities for Republicans across Mississippi."

As chairman of the United Republican Fund, Mansell said one of his primary goals will be expanding the organization's volunteer network and increasing its presence throughout the state.

"Serving as chairman of the United Republican Fund is both an honor and a privilege," Mansell said. "The Republican Party has achieved tremendous success in Mississippi, but there is still important work ahead. I want to see URF continue to grow its membership,



Tammie Stephens

Pictured (l to r) are new URF Chairman Clay Mansell, Lee County GOP Chairwoman Rita Buse, and former URF Chairman Phil Buffington.

strengthen its grassroots efforts and engage more Mississippians than ever before."

Mansell also announced plans to establish a network of county directors across Mississippi to expand the organization's footprint at the local level.

"Today, URF has four board members representing Mississippi's four congressional districts, and that structure has served the organization well," Mansell said. "My goal is to build on that success by recruiting a director in each of Mississippi's eighty-two counties. These local leaders will help us grow our membership, strengthen volunteer engagement and ensure we have a presence in every community across our state."

Individuals interested in serving as a county director for the United Republican Fund may contact Mansell at ClayMansell@MansellMedia.net.

CLCC vs ECCC | Stone Stadium | October 8

Homecoming

2026

HOMECOMING 2026 SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

2:00 p.m. – Reunion Gatherings
Class of 1966 (Location: Anderson Building)

2:00 p.m. – Alumni Chapter Meetings
Athletic Alumni Chapter
(Location: Ewing Fine Arts Auditorium)
Band/ Colette Alumni Chapter
(Location: Thames Center, Natchez Room)



3:15 p.m. – Alumni Awards Reception
Location: Thames Center

5:00 p.m. – Community-Wide Tailgate
Location: Stone Stadium

6:30 p.m. – KICKOFF - Co-Lin Wolf Pack vs East Central
Location: Stone Stadium

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Alumni & friends

Garden Club holds first meeting of 2026-27 year



Special to Wesson News

Pictured (l to r) are Debbie Hoaglin, Cherry Head, June Owens, Debbie Smith, Sherri Carty, Kristi Watts, Terri Bath, Lisa Smith, Jean Ricks, Joy Phillips and Sonya Cowen. Not pictured is Jennifer Peets.

Special to Wesson News

Members of Wesson Garden Club met at the American Legion Prime 79 on Tuesday, August 11. Those in attendance were Teri Bath, Sherri Carty, Sonya Cowen, Cherry Head, Debbie Hoaglin, June Owens, Jennifer Peets, Joy Phillips, Debbie Smith, Lisa Smith, Dixie Thornton and Krisi Watts. Sherri Carty, Debbie Hoaglin and Lisa Smith served as the meeting's hostesses.

President Sherri Carty called the meeting to order and opened with an inspirational quote. The Collect and Pledge of Allegiance were recited. Members were welcomed to the first meeting of the 2026-27 year, and the yearbook was re-

viewed and distributed. Jean Ricks gave the tip of the month. Sonya Cowen read a thank-you note to the group for helping with her 80th birthday party.

The previous minutes were approved and the treasurer's report distributed. Lisa Smith gave the Butterbean report and announced the programs planned for the upcoming year. The club plans to have a float in this year's Christmas parade with a Grinch theme. The mum sale fundraiser is underway, and mums will arrive at the City Park Pavilion on September 18, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

WGC is a member of The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc., National Garden Clubs, Inc., Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc., and the Natchez Trace District GCM.

decorated sugar cookies - speciality cookies - mini cookie cakes - cookie cake bites - and more!

Thirty one Bakes
by Megan Lang

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*Mountains
& Mustard Seeds*
BY Misty Prine

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Fall schedule announced for Institute for Learning in Retirement



Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin's Institute for Learning in Retirement members recently gathered for their annual Fall Social, catching up with friends and kicking off another semester of learning and fellowship.

Special to Wesson News

The Copiah-Lincoln Community College Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) recently announced its lineup of classes, workshops, travel opportunities and social events for the Fall 2026 semester, offering senior adults a variety of opportunities to learn, connect and explore.

"Our goal is to provide meaningful opportunities for lifelong learning while creating a welcoming community where friendships can grow," said ILR Program Coordinators Erin Johnson and Jennifer Case. "Whether members enjoy travel-

ing, learning a new skill, or simply spending time with others, there is something for everyone this fall."

The Institute for Learning in Retirement is designed for adults who enjoy lifelong learning, fellowship, and new experiences. Through educational classes, hands-on workshops, day trips and social events, ILR provides an engaging environment where participants can continue learning while building lasting friendships. Costs for workshops, trips and events vary.

For more information about the Institute for Learning in Retirement or to become a member, contact Erin Johnson at 601-643-8702 or Jennifer Case at 601-643-8714.



The fall workshop schedule includes:

- Sept. 8** Cooking with Co-Lin Chef Chris McSweyn
- Sept. 15 and 22** Book Angel Workshop with Sam Upton
- Oct. 20** Artificial Intelligence Technology Class with JP McInnis
- Oct. 27** Paint and Praise with Dawn Marks
- Nov. 9 and 17** Pottery Making with Janet Smith
- Dec. 1** Christmas Craft with Kacey Hutcherson

Members can also participate in several group trips including:

- Sept. 29** St. Francisville, Louisiana
- Oct. 14** Senior Day at the Mississippi State Fair
- Dec. 10-12** Small Town Christmas Tour featuring Gulfport, Mississippi, and Mobile, Alabama

Monthly fellowship luncheons are scheduled for:

- Sept. 10** Culinary Arts Building
- Oct. 1** Culinary Arts Building
- Nov. 5** Culinary Arts Building
- Dec. 9** Christmas Luncheon, Thames Center

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Yard of the Month awarded



The Wesson Garden Club recently honored Blake and Amy Oberschmidt with its Yard of the Month award. The Oberschmidts' yard is located at 1104 King Road in Wesson. Special to Wesson News

WESSON AREA DINING GUIDE

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BURKE TAKES BEING A COBRA SERIOUSLY IN REGARDS TO AREA STUDENTS



Special to Wesson News

Taylor Burke (center), pictured with the Wesson tennis team

By Sarah Grace Coleman

“Once a Cobra, always a Cobra” is the mantra of the Wesson Attendance Center and one that is dear to Taylor Burke. Burke has lived in Wesson ever since she was three years old. She has been married to her high school sweetheart, Konner Burke, for nine years and has three children— Emmerson, 6; Anniston, 2; and Mallory, 3 months.

Growing up, her dream was to be a teacher. She also enjoyed dance and attended Nena Smith’s School of Dance from kindergarten until graduation. In high school, she was a member of the tennis team.

Like many Wesson residents, Burke got her associates’ degree from Copiah-Lincoln Community College before going to Ole Miss in Oxford, where she got her degree in education. After that, she began her teaching career at Brookhaven Academy in 2017, where she taught sixth grade for three years. In 2020, she moved to the Wesson Attendance Center, where she started as a third-grade teacher before moving to seventh grade and biology for three years before becoming a guidance counselor and tennis coach.

“I think that was God’s calling on my life was to be involved in education somehow. I think He put people and opportunities in my life that opened doors for me to become a counselor,” said Burke.

Wesson Schools has been a big part of her life.

“You really form relationships with your peers, the teachers, the staff, administrators, they get to watch you grow up and they cheer for you. My kindergarten teachers cheered for me all the way through graduation and college, and when I got married and had babies, they are still cheering for me,” said Burke.

“I recently got a letter from a previous student of mine that thanked me for believing in him when he didn’t believe in himself and pushing him to be better than he was at the time. I think, looking back, my proudest accomplishments, especially work-wise, are those students who have made it to graduation and have gone on to college or join the workforce, that maybe didn’t know that they would be able to accomplish that - that our teachers and staff and administration just rallied around and got them through to that.”

Burke also helps teach dancersize classes alongside Marsha Raiford and Jessica Breazeale at the Event Room on Tuesday nights. When she’s not working at the Attendance Center or dancing, she spends time with her

family outdoors. This time of year, she and her kids can be found visiting Wesson’s park, enjoying snow cones from Park Place Ice Cream, and eating fried squash from her parent’s garden. Burke is also involved as a member of Topisaw Baptist Church in Bogue Chitto.

When asked to describe herself, Burke said, “Blessed. That’s the only way to sum it up. In every aspect of the word.”

What are your hobbies?

I really don’t have much free time. I love spending time with my family. I enjoy playing tennis with my tennis team, but I don’t do it on my own anymore.

Are you a reader?

No, unfortunately not. I would love to have the time to, but I do not.

How about music?

Music is my love language. I am dying to see Ella Langley live right now, so that’s on my bucket list at the moment. I love live music.

Do you go to the theater or movies?

Yes. I’ve been to New York a couple times, everything about Broadway shows just enralls me, so I would love to be a fly on the wall backstage of the theater just to know how it operates. I love just how well they perform things. My favorite off-Broadway show I’ve ever been to was *Kinky Boots*.

If you won a lot of money in the lottery, how would you spend it?

The not-fun answer would be I would put it up for my three girls because, before I know it, I’ll be buying cars and wedding dresses and sending them to college and things like that. But my fun answer would be I would go see any live concert that I wanted to.

How would you change the world?

Being in education, a lot of times we tell kids, “You can do whatever you set your mind to. You can be whoever you want to be, but the reality in small-town Mississippi for some of our students is they don’t always have the resources available at their fingertips to make that happen. I think if I had the ability to, I would make that statement true for our kids here that they could do or be anything that they wanted to be without any obstacles in their way.



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Applications open for Citizen's Academy

By Wesson News

The Copiah County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for its Citizen's Academy, which offers Copiah County residents the opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes look at the Copiah County Sheriff's Office and the services it provides to the community.

The program aims to build relationships between the public and the deputies and staff who serve and protect the community, as well as the change to learn about things like patrol operations, investigations and special units.

Applications can be picked up at any time at the Sheriff's Office at 20032 Highway 51 in Hazlehurst. The Citizen's Academy will be held October 19 through October 23, and applications are due by October 5.

For more information, call 601-894-3011.







2026 Breast Cancer Awareness Walk

Saturday, October 3, 2026
Walk begins at 10:00, Registration begins at 9:30

Register as an individual:
Whether you're walking for yourself, in honor of someone you love, or simply to show your support.



Registration is free, and optional T-shirt packages are available. Every step helps us support breast cancer awareness and make screenings more accessible in our community.



Want to raise money as a team: Want to rally your friends, family or coworkers and help raise funds together!

For more information, call 601-754-7232 or email kcarney@copiahhealth.org

Coleman receives MTAF scholarship



Special to Wesson News

Bryce Coleman is presented with his MTAF scholarship.

Special to Wesson News

Bryce Coleman of Wesson was recently presented with a Mississippi Trucking Association Foundation Scholarship Program award, the R. Gene Holmes Endowment.

Over thirty-five years ago, the Mississippi Trucking Association Foundation (MTAF) Scholarship Program was created. The primary objective of the Foundation, a 501(c) (3) charitable corporation designed to receive contributions, memorial gifts, and property, is to promote educational projects related to the trucking industry and provide scholarships to deserving students who have ties to the trucking industry and who are enrolled in scholastic endeavors in the state of Mississippi.

Coleman joins about five hundred students who have received this scholarship. Scholarships are offered through the Mississippi Trucking Association Foundation and the following Endowments: Mike McLarty, John Fayard, Jr., H. Dean Cotten, G. Larry Kerr, R. Gene Holmes, Vernon & Nancy Sawyer, John D. Stomps, and W. Todd Bates.

Flea market registration open, event planned for Oct. 17

By Wesson News

Registration is now open for the 55th annual Wesson Flea Market, set for Saturday, October 17. Hosted each year by the Wesson Volunteer Fire Department, the all-day event draws vendors and shoppers from across the South.

The market is held on the main street of Wesson from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Returning vendors who want the same booth as a previous flea market can request it with registration, but it is not guaranteed unless registration was completed prior to September 1. New vendors' booth spaces are assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis. Booths are not being held in reservation after September 1 without payment.

Booth area is 10' by 10', and booths exceeding that space will be assessed an extra fee or may be required to move to another location. Sidewalks behind booths must remain open and unobstructed.

Vendors, who are asked to furnish their own needs of tables, chairs, displays and the like, are encouraged to set up on Friday, October 16, after 6 p.m., entering the setup area from Highway 51 and exiting at the opposite end. Only vehicles with merchandise, tents, etc. will be allowed in the flea market area for setup. Those assisting in setup who are driving/riding in vehicles without merchandise or tents should park and walk to the booth area. During the hours of operation of the market on Saturday, no vehicles will be permitted to enter the flea market along the side streets or to park along Highway 51.

Only civic clubs and church groups in the Wesson Trade Area will be allowed to serve food.

Registration forms are available by visiting the flea market on Facebook at Facebook.com/WessonFleaMarket. Entry fees should be mailed with information matching the registration. Payment by check or money order is preferred, but PayPal will also be accepted if an email address is provided during registration so that an invoice can be sent. PayPal invoices will include service fees.

According to the registration form, booth fees are \$50 each, or \$60 with electricity. Payment should be made to Wesson Fire Department.

For more information, call 601-265-1694.

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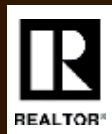
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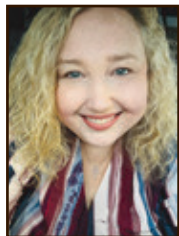
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Paid for by Committee to elect Albert Turnage Circuit Judge **Albert Turnage** Prepared, distributed and approved by the candidate.

Mountains & Mustard Seeds

Know when to walk away

By Guest Columnist Misty Strieff Prine



The thought of walking away from something, in my mind, used to always mean defeat. I have struggled with many decisions in my life that ultimately took far too long to make and got even more hurt in the process, just because I didn't want to look as though I was giving up without a fight.

Have you ever been in this same predicament?

Well, let me tell you something that I have learned, because God opened my eyes through a situation just like this; and I learned walking away, as hard as it was, was the best decision for me in my ministry field.

I'm here today to tell you what I personally learned from walking away. I experienced unimaginable strength mixed with copious amounts of joy that I had longed for, for way too long. Walking away from something that weighs you down, keeps you upset, drains near about every drop of joy from your life and makes you have the mindset, in my case, to get out of the ministry field all together, is FAR from a sign of weakness y'all, it's pure strength.

Sometimes walking away has nothing to do with weakness, and everything to do with strength."

- Unknown -

You must make sure to do what is best for you, both mentally and spiritually, and for your family's sake.

But, before you do, and before you deal with it for far too long as I did, pray fervently about it. Get your prayer warriors involved.

Being a doormat feels awful, and your life ends up negatively affected when you're treated unkindly for so long. Do what's best for you and your mental health and well-being. When you feel too weak to walk away, pray about it, and ask God to give you the strength to walk away from that which continually brings you down.

When God is ready to give you your answer, you WILL know, because His timing will be PERFECT.

That literally was the case for my situation. I knew it was nothing but a God thing.

You have to take care of yourself. If it keeps you upset, it's time to step away for a while. When you do, your load becomes instantly lighter. Trust me, I know.

You cannot pour from an empty cup. Let go of that which holds you back from being the Christian God has called you to be. He needs you in the ministry field. He needs your head clear. He needs you on a mission!



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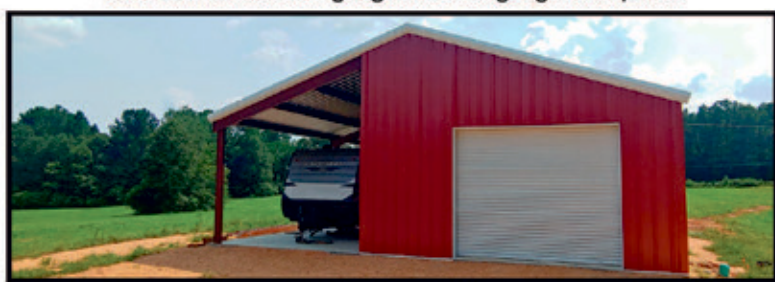
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Wesson Butterbeans enjoy day camp



Special to Wesson News

Special to Wesson News

The Wesson Garden Club (WGC) recently hosted a Lanoux Day Camp for their youth gardeners, the Butterbeans, at the Wesson Library.

Allison Ashmore Potts, Lanoux Youth Chairman for the Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc., educated the children on the planet's limited resources for areas to grow food through an interactive apple dissection activity.

Representatives from Mississippi Department of Transportation presented a dramatic demonstration on roll-over accidents and the importance of wearing your seat belt.

The WGC says they appreciate the support of Shop and Wash, who provided pizza, and the Wesson Library, who allowed the use of their facilities.

WGC is a member of The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc., National Garden Clubs, Inc., Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc., and the Natchez Trace District of GCM.

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For a communications class project, members of the Copiah-Lincoln Community College football team sat down for a round of quick interviews about where they come from, what position they play and why Wolves fans should be showing up on game day. Their answers paint a picture of a roster built from small Mississippi towns, bigger programs down the road and everywhere in between.

Deshawn Smith



who plays wide receiver for the Wolves, said he grew up in Philadelphia, Mississippi, but still claims Fayette as home, even though he has lived in Wesson the past four or five years. He played for Wesson Attendance Center under coach Jeremy Lloyd, where he said he played "everything" before settling in as a receiver at the college level.

Khayree Lee

a lineman from the West Bank of New Orleans, said this is his first season playing JuCo football after stops at LSU and South Alabama. Asked what he likes most about Co-Lin, Lee pointed to the team's chemistry.

"I like how all my teammates, we come together, and we just play as one," he said.

Making the jump from a Power Four program to a smaller junior college hasn't changed much for him, he added: "I'm still playing a sport that I love, so it's not really too, too crazy."



Brandon Thomas

a receiver from Auburn, Alabama, made the case for bigger crowds at Wolves games. He said the players hear the stands more than fans might think, even when they have to tune out the noise during a defensive series, and that a packed stadium changes the energy of a game.

"Seeing that many people in the stands helps your morale," Thomas said. "After a game, we see y'all over there, and we're trying to thank everybody."



Eddie Ratliff

a safety who grew up around Collins, Mississippi, and played cornerback in high school, said Wesson already feels like a step up from home in terms of turnout.

"It's a whole different level," Ratliff said, describing his hometown as a place where families didn't always come out to interact after games. His first game at Co-Lin was a different story — he said a good number of family members made the roughly hour-and-15-minute drive down to see him play.



Co-Lin Wolves talk brotherhood, hometowns and why they want their community in the stands

By Jessica Breazeale

Jaden O'Hara

an offensive guard from Pearl, Mississippi, and a Pearl High School product, compared campus amenities between the two schools. His one request for Wesson: more late-night food options once the cafeteria closes for the evening.



Jyrion Cook

a safety from Ellisville, Mississippi, who called himself "an athlete" in high school after playing multiple positions at South Jones, described the Co-Lin locker room in one word: brotherhood.

We need all the fans that we can get, Cook said, pointing to a recent game he felt could have gone differently with more crowd energy behind the team. "Not just on the player's side, but as a whole — as a stadium."



Lawrence Taylor

a defensive lineman from Memphis, Tennessee, kept his answer simple when asked about his favorite part of Co-Lin: "Playing football here." Taylor said it's his top reason for being at the school, full stop.



Mike Harris

who hails from Cleveland, Mississippi, in the Delta, said the Wolves' defense has been tough this year and encouraged more fans to come see for themselves.



Taken together, the interviews reflect a roster stitched together from small towns and bigger programs alike — receivers, linemen and defensive backs who all landed in Wesson for different reasons but share the same request heading into the season: show up, and bring the noise.

The Wolfpack has a clear message for the community...the charge to come out and show support.



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