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 PO Box 1028
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Volume 7, Number 6

“Good News You Can Use”

June 11, 2019

\$700,000 supporting new public facilities

Wesson News

More than \$700,000 in government and private grant funds are supporting new and improved public facilities in Wesson.

Work is expected to begin within three to six months on renovations to the Wesson Public Library that will be financed by \$314,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds awarded to Wesson by the Mississippi Development Authority, based on an application under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"The site survey is complete, and Aldermen reviewed architectural plans at their June meeting," Wesson Mayor Alton Shaw reported. The library renovations encompass 1,000 square feet, including a handicap accessible entrance at the rear of the library, new book shelving, upgraded restroom facilities, carpeting and facilities expansion related to improving accessibility



Wesson News

Wesson Police Department will get a new building.

for disabled persons.

A year down the road, the town should be close to starting construction on a new police station funded by

a \$300,000 appropriation in the bond bill approved in the 2019 state legislative session.

"Renovating the existing police

station is impractical," Shaw said. "So we will build a new facility either on the current site or a new site yet to be determined.

Another \$100,000 allocated from monies paid by British Petroleum to compensate the state for an oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico will fund road repairs in Wesson.

"We're hoping to leverage these funds and receive a loan to finance a larger road works project," Shaw said.

Finally, paving the roadway and parking lot at the municipal park should start within the next thirty days under a \$30,000 Blue Cross/Blue Shield Healthy Heroes grant, Shaw reported.

None of the projects supported by the various funds will require additional taxpayer contributions, Shaw said.

"These are not part of matching grant programs," he explained.

Businesses give API building new life

By Bob Arnold

A metal fabricator that sells consumer products and serves industrial customers mostly outside the area has started production in the building on Highway 51 that API Technologies left two years ago.

Steel Outdoors and Alpha Machine & Welding, which have been operated by Dwayne McLemore in a 10,000 square foot facility in his Hazlehurst backyard since 2005, is planning a mid-July grand opening at the 55,000

square foot facility.

In addition to expanding space for his metal fabricating companies, McLemore will use the building for new retail businesses, an indoor archery range and hosting community-oriented events.

Steel Outdoors sells more than thirty products throughout the United States, including varied types of deer feeders, deer blinds, fire pits and cookers and metal art. Alpha Machine & Welding engineers, builds and installs custom



Wesson News

Dwayne McLemore

metal products for saw mills, food plants and other industrial customers located predominantly in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee.

"The new space allows us to move into retail businesses, which have been part of our business plan," McLemore says.

Initially on the retail side, McLemore, an amateur archer, will focus on bows and archery supplies with big

cont. on page 6

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Security officer retires at WAC

By Bob Arnold

After twenty years serving Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) as a security officer, William Brown is looking to a new life as a gardener and fisherman in retirement.

Born in Clayton, Louisiana, in 1940, Brown grew up in Santa Monica, California, and earned his high school degree at Havre de Grace, Maryland, before settling down in Wesson in 1982.

Before going into law enforcement as the Wesson Police Department's (WPD) first black officer, Brown did building maintenance and was a painter in California, and worked in restaurants during a brief interlude in Maryland, where he completed his secondary school education. After returning to California, he relocated to Mississippi.

Perhaps it was the excitement he experienced as the maintenance man at a Santa Monica apartment building, when he found actor William Holden dead following an accident, that made him receptive to the sug-



Wesson News

gestions of friends that he pursue the job at WPD. Following WPD, Brown moved to the Copiah County Sheriff's Office, where he served as the Chief Deputy and was assigned to assist with security at WAC ball games and special events on a part-time basis. When voters elected Harold L. Jones Copiah County

Sheriff, he went to WAC as full-time security officer, starting in 2004. In 2004, he also earned a certificate from the Police Academy at Pearl, Mississippi.

Brown found WAC a perfect match for him when he took over as the school's full-time job as security officer. "I love kids," he explains.

"You have to love kids in this job." For their part, WAC kids have enjoyed Brown and the care he has demonstrated for them in his work.

Now it's fishing and vegetable gardening, community service as a Lion and church leadership that will occupy Brown.

"I tend a one-half acre garden that will not only help keep food on the table, but keep me in shape, as well," he says. Brown says he'll fish in area ponds when he's not in his garden, but won't reveal where the catches are good. Brown also will continue to participate in the Wesson Lions Club, which he has served as president, and remain active in Union Grove Baptist Church, which he serves as a Deacon. He serves seven churches in the area Baptist community as president of their Sunday School Institute.

Brown and his wife of 52 years, Dolores, have two grown children -- Renee, 51, who lives in Seattle, and William Brown, Jr., 48, who resides in Wesson. They have one grandchild, William Brown III.

Econ specialists point to opportunity

By Bob Arnold

While outward migration from largely rural southwest Mississippi probably will continue to hinder the region's economic development into the foreseeable future, evaluating public schools and their students in new ways, selling the unique quality of life of the area which offers residents a sense of place and encouraging entrepreneurs are among some of the things local communities can do to make themselves ready for investment, economic developers agree.

At an economic summit hosted by Co-Lin and Entergy last month, county economic development specialists from the college's district looked at the region's opportunities in the face of continuing population declines and no-growth going back to the 1980s. The group included Chandler Russ (Adams), Garrick Combs (Lincoln), Arthur Evans, Jr. (Copiah), Dave Nichols (Lawrence) and Danny Caughman (Simpson).

Among their comments:

- **State standardized tests that measure progress of students and effectiveness of schools can stymie economic development.** "There are good test-takers and, for a variety of reasons, bad test-takers," Copiah County's Evans observed. "Schools with too many bad test-takers are judged to be bad schools, and the bad test-takers, although they may be good workers, are judged not to be. As a result, employers locate elsewhere." Schools need to set out on a new direction in many ways to support economic development in Southwest Mississippi.

- **Cities don't necessarily have the best story to tell employers.** Skilled, trained workers leave Mississippi for urban areas in Florida, Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina and other states, but some of them are coming back for a life they cannot get in cities. Rural areas, such as southwest Mississippi, give people a

sense of place -- a saleable point in recruiting employers.

- **Preparing entrepreneurs makes a difference.** In Lawrence and Adams Counties, programs geared to equipping entrepreneurs to start and run businesses are creating jobs. The grads are opening mom and pop operations -- dress shops and catering services, but it's spurring growth. Co-Lin could play an important role in economic development by spurring entrepreneurial programs.

- **The state needs to step up to the plate more consistently.** The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) could be more helpful to local economic developers in providing leads for recruiting manufacturers. "Southwest Mississippi doesn't have the labor force size to attract the Nissans, but it can bring in smaller employers," Adams County's Russ pointed out. "We need sufficient leads to take a shot."

- **Building Interstate 14.** Inter-

state 14 along what is now Highway 84 east to west will provide an attractive transportation route for manufacturers.

- **Mechanisms of cooperation.** The Southwest Mississippi Partnership is a unique model of cooperation on economic development. With leads supplied by MDA, private and public organizations and agencies in the region are uniquely prepared to work on coordinated, cooperative basis to recruit new industry that can boost economies in counties throughout Southwest Mississippi.

- **ACT WorkReady Communities.** Southwest Mississippi is well on its way to becoming a WorkReady region that can demonstrate it has a labor force equipped to meet basic and specialized skills needs of employers and help them recruit and retain workers. Co-Lin has spearheaded WorkReady ACT testing throughout its seven-county district.

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Flint wins service award



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Co-Lin's Director of Associate Degree Nursing Mary Ann Flint is the recipient of the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Award, which was established in 1991 to honor and recognize the extraordinary work of faculty, administrators, and staff for service to their students, colleagues, and community. More than 25,000 persons have received the award.

Flint has served as Director of Associate Degree Nursing at Co-Lin since 2000. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree and a Master of Science Degree in Nursing from the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Flint served as Assistant Professor in Nursing at the University of Mississippi Medical Center before joining Co-Lin.

Quick arrests made in theft

Special to Wesson News

Wesson police made two quick arrests last month in the theft of a truck. A four-day investigation following the theft culminated in the arrests of John Duke Walker of 1010 Sixth Street in Wesson and Jeremiah Walley of 1283 Thigpen Road in Raymond. Police also recovered the stolen truck,

which the thieves abandoned in Copiah County, on the same day the theft was reported. The alleged thieves are awaiting Grand Jury review. "We try to resolve incidents promptly, but we're not always as quick as we were in this case," Wesson Police Chief Chad O'Quinn said. "Things broke our way."

Splash pad ready for play



Special to Wesson News

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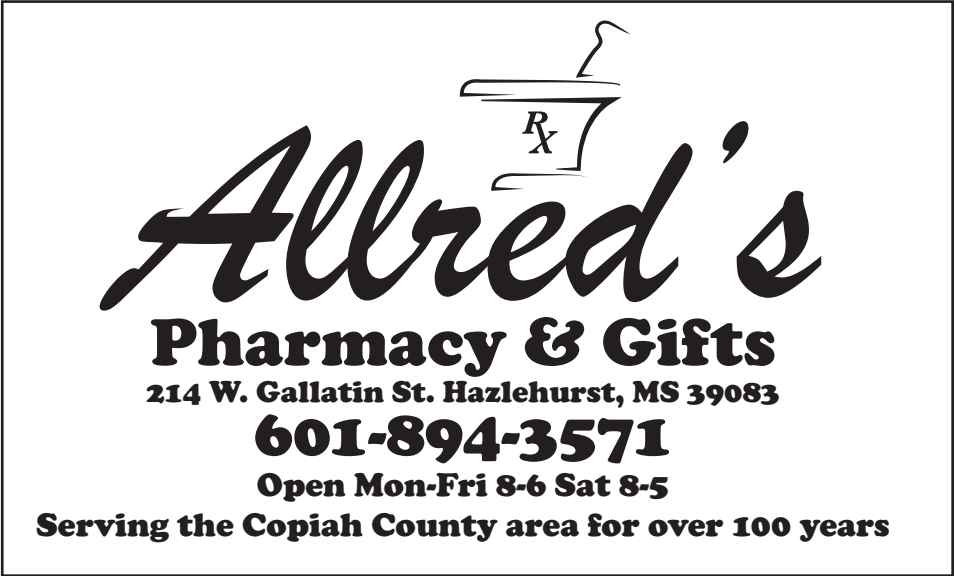
The splash pad in the municipal park is back in operation and ready for the summer, Wesson Public Works Department Director Brad Turner reports. The surface of the splash pad was removed and replaced with a rubberized paint. Artist Taylor Ratliff topped the coating with whimsical, fun paintings -- an octopus, sea turtle and other creatures, Turner added. "The water, mushroom sprinkler and dump bucket in the pad are ready for play," he says. The pad and municipal park are free

for public use, and Turner reminds parents and their children to be "courteous in play" and to "help keep the park clean." "The park belongs to all of us," says Turner. Turner also warns town residents not to spray wood/grass killer on steep slopes and ditches. "The vegetation is necessary to lock in the soil in these water passages," he explains. "Killing it destroys the natural system that prevent erosion." Turner advises residents who can't adequately clean these areas to notify City Hall, and the Public Works Department will help.



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Volume 7, Number 6
Circulation 5,000

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Wesson News is published on the
second Tuesday of every month
in Wesson, Mississippi.

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Police Blotter

Special to Wesson News

During May, Wesson Police Department activity encompassed:

Responses to:

- Two vehicle accidents
- One missing firearm
- One shoplifting
- One petit larceny
- One assist need of the Copiah County Sheriff
- One molestation
- Three suspicious vehicles
- One auto theft
- One credit card fraud
- Thirteen general report

Arrests & citations for:

- Twenty speeding violations
- Two contempt of court violations
- Three disregard for traffic device
- Two possession of marijuana
- Four expired tags
- One driving with a suspended license
- One reckless driving
- Two felony arrests for stolen motor vehicle (see story)

A Wesson Police officer is on duty during school hours at Wesson Attendance Center every day. Wesson Police also conduct nightly business checks at the school. On school days, they facilitate traffic, with officers on duty between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Community Calendar

June weather forecast: The Old Farmer's Almanac calls for an average temperatures 76 degrees (two degrees below average) with precipitation of three inches (two inches below average). June 11-15: Sunny, turning hot. June 16-23: T-storms, then sunny, cool. June 24-30: Scattered t-storms, warm.

JUNE 11

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

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

10-hour IV Therapy RE-certification training. Online training anytime until July 1 covers preventing medication errors, fluids and electrolytes, infection control, patient abandonment, legal guidelines, IV procedures, current events. \$150 fee. Contact 601-643-8707.

JUNE 13

Copiah County Master Gardeners meets. Mississippi State University Extension Office at Gallman. Bring two or more plants or seeds to play the "Know Your Plants" game -- tell what you've brought and how to care for them -- and leave with at least two new plants. 4:30 p.m. pot luck, 5 p.m. business meeting. Fairgrounds, Gallman.

American Legion John Edwards Post 12 meets. All members, veterans and their spouses are welcome. 4 p.m. Jimmy Furlow Senior Citizens Center. For information, call 601-835-8137.

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

Wesson Lions Club Ladies Night dinner & program. Co-Lin Student Cafeteria. 6 p.m.

JUNE 14

Flag Day.

JUNE 16

Father's Day.

JUNE 17

WOLF Pack Kids Recreational Camp sponsored by Power of the Pack and Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation starts and continues through June 19 for six-to-ten-year olds. Provides age and developmentally appropriate, engaging instruction in structured recreational activities. \$40 fee. 8 a.m.-noon. Mullen Gymnasium on the Co-Lin Wesson campus. For information, contact Stephanie Duguid at 601-643-8341 or stephanie.duguid@colin.edu.

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

JUNE 18

Finding Your Way Around Office. Dr. Suzanne Johnson leads Microsoft Office 2016 refresher course and preview Office 2019. \$65 fee. June 11 registration deadline. 8:45 a.m. Thames Center on Co-Lin Wesson campus. Contact 601-643-8707/8711 or celeste.williamson@colin.edu.

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

JUNE 19

Programming and Robotics Camp starts and continues through June 21 for children and youth ten-to-thirteen-years old. Covers logic and fundamental of programming through the use of online gaming

and robotics. \$70 fee. 8 a.m.-noon. Dow Young Building (Room 121) on Wesson Co-Lin campus. For information, contact jamie.lambert@colin.edu

JUNE 21

First day of summer.

JUNE 24

ServSafe, National Restaurant Association food safety training for hospitality personnel. \$150 fee. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Co-Lin Wesson campus. Contact 601-643-8707.

Art/Clay Camp starts and continues through June 26 for children and youth twelve-to-eighteen-years old. Co-Lin art instructor Janet Smith will lead camp, which covers clay, glazes and firing. \$35 fee. 10 a.m.-noon. Sandifer Building on the Wesson Co-Lin campus. For information, contact janet.smith@colin.edu.

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

JUNE 27

Les Miserables performances, the culmination of Brookhaven Little Theater 2019 Summer Broadway Workshop for teens up to eighteen years old, starts and continues on June 28, 29 and 30. Haven Theater, downtown Brookhaven. The Workshop started June 1 led by Broadway veteran Randy Redd. For information, call 601-990-2243

Wesson Lions Club meets. Co-Lin Student Cafeteria. 5:30 p.m. (Board). 6:30 p.m. (Membership).

JUNE 28

Registration deadline for Co-Lin Workforce Education program's Certified Clinical Medical Assistant training that starts July 17. Contact the Co-Lin Workforce Education program for information on funding assistance, class schedule, and entrance requirements at 601-643-8711/workforce.colin.edu.

JULY 2

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

JULY 6

Class of 1974 Crystal Springs High School 45th reunion. Dinner and dancing. 5:30 p.m. Thames Center at Co-Lin on the Wesson campus.

CONTINUING

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

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

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

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

Email Community Calendar items to BobArnold@wessonnews.com

Mill Town Mall

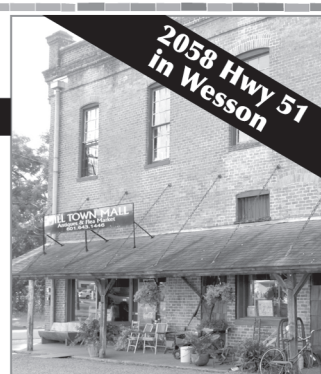
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Bob Arnold, Editor

Reading, graduation rates, obesity, jobs & trips

Special to Wesson News

Students meet higher standards.

Three out of four Mississippi third graders met a higher bar for the Third Grade Reading Assessment on their first try, continuing the trend of improved reading skills among them since Mississippi implemented the Literacy-Based Promotion Act, which requires passing a reading assessment to qualify for promotion to fourth grade. The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) increased standards in the latest round of testing. The 25.5% of students(8,941) who did not pass assessment have two opportunities to retest before the start of the new school year. In third grade, students begin to make the transition from learning to read to reading to learn. If they are unsuccessful, they will have difficulty understanding grade-level reading material and are at risk of falling further behind each year. MDE has assigned 80 literacy coaches to 182 schools throughout the state, where data show students struggle the most with reading. Literacy coaches work with teachers to help them become more effective teachers of reading.

Highest graduation rate. Co-Lin has the highest graduation rate among Mississippi community colleges -- 45 percent in 2018, up 25 percent from the 2017, according to the newly released 2018 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) report. The graduation rate calculation includes all full-time, first-time, degree/certificate seeking students. To learn more about IPEDS data system, visit <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/>.

Obesity continues to rise. The number of obese adults in the state has risen nearly 60 percent in 15 years, from 23.7 percent in 2000 to 37.3 percent in 2016 and could reach 66.7 percent by 2030 if there is no action. In 2015, 40 percent of school-aged children and youth were overweight or obese. Just like



Wesson News

Co-Lin recently dedicated a new women's honors residence hall on its Wesson campus named the Ronald E. Nettles Residence Hall in honor of the college's most recent former president. Above (left to right) are former Co-Lin President Dr. Billy B. Thames, current President Dr. Jane G. Hulon, Nettles, former President Dr. Howell Garner and Board of Trustees Chairman Tommy Sasser. At the ceremony, Nettles said the building will remind him of "dedicated faculty, staff, students and administrators" whose "work in the classrooms, libraries, locker rooms, offices, and in the community" helped him make a difference at the college. The 22,169 square foot two-story residence hall has 28 double bedrooms, enough room for 56 students, study areas, laundry facilities, an apartment for the residence hall supervisor, and an elevator. Students living in the honors residence hall must have a 21 or above ACT composite score and maintain a 3.0 grade point average.

adults in the state, those children are at increased risk for developing heart disease, type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure and cancer. "There is absolutely no time to waste," says Mississippi

NEWS NUGGETS

State Department of Health Health Officer Dr. Thomas Dobbs. "Excess weight and limited physical activity are robbing Mississippi residents of opportunities for prosperity and good health."

Unemployment remains low. The jobless rate in Mississippi remained below five per cent at 4.6 per cent for the nineteenth consecutive month in April. In Lincoln County, 4.8 per cent of the labor force is jobless. Rankin County has the lowest unemployment rate in the state at 3.4 per cent, and twenty-six Mississippi counties had jobless rates equal or less than the state rate.

Fred's leaves area. Both Fred's stores in Brookhaven are ceasing operations in line with the retail chain's restructuring. The Fred's store in downtown Brookhaven closed its doors at the end of May, and the Brookway Boulevard store is shutting down this month. Fred's locations in Crystal Springs and Hazlehurst are also closing.

Natchez leader moves on. Saying it's time to move on to the next chapter in her career, Co-Lin Vice President Teresa Busby, who has led the college's Natchez branch for more than twelve years, retired last month. "We appreciate all she has done and wish her all the success," Co-Lin President Jane Hulon said. The Natchez branch has been a leader in economic development and workforce training.

ILR travel plans. The Institute for Learning in Retirement, the Co-Lin-sponsored continuing education program for retired and semi-retired persons, is planning four travel events during the fall semester: In September, a trip to Canton, Mississippi, to tour the Nissan manufacturing facility (date to be determined); on the evening of October 22, a trip to Thalia Mara Hall in Jackson to see "Fiddler on the Roof;" starting November 19, a round-trip to and from New Orleans on Amtrak, with a one-or-two-night stay; and during the first week in December, a three-night trip to Charlotte and Asheville, with visits to the Billy Graham library, childhood home and burial site; and the Biltmore Estate.

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Working with kids is her reward

By Bob Arnold

In education, teachers find their rewards working with a variety of children and youth, but junior high school age kids, for many, are difficult. But don't count Michelle Bland, April Teacher of the Month at Wesson Attendance Center (WAC), among those who would avoid seventh and eighth graders.

At WAC, which Bland joined five years ago, she teaches the eighth grade Technical Foundation class on computer keyboarding and Microsoft Word, Power Point and Excel.

For Bland, who enjoys being a mother to two daughters, working with kids is teaching's primary reward, and "I love working with junior high seventh and eighth graders," she says.

Bland grew up in Brookhaven, graduated from Loyd Star High School in 1990 and was a 1992 accounting graduate from Co-Lin before deciding she would rather be a teacher than a CPA. In a family in which her sisters, cousins, aunts and uncles are either teaching or retired educators, it was just in her genes.

She started her teaching career as a business instructor at Brookhaven High School (BHS) in 1996 after graduating from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1995 with a degree in business. After seven years



Michelle Bland

Wesson News

at BHS, she started working with seventh and eighth graders in 2001 at Alexander Junior High in Brookhaven, where she taught Career Discovery, in which she introduced her students

to carpentry, cooking and science, among other subjects in an exploration of future job possibilities.

After marrying Brad Bland, an assistant football coach and teacher in

Winona, Mississippi, in 2010, she moved with him to northern Mississippi, where she taught at J.J. McClain High School (now part of Holmes County High School) in Lexington, Mississippi. Returning to Southwest Mississippi, she served one year as a math interventionist at Hazlehurst Middle School and taught level one computer technology for a year at Denman Middle School in McComb, Mississippi, before coming to WAC in 2014, where retiring business teacher Geri Peyson, a relative, recommended Bland as her replacement.

Along the way, Bland earned an MA degree in secondary education at William Carey University and a Specialist Degree in Administration. "The next step is a PhD, but I am going no further," she jokes.

Bland lives with her husband on ten acres just outside Brookhaven, where they are rearing two foster daughters whom they are adopting. If being a parent of two active children, who enjoy band and dance, doesn't keep her busy enough beyond her teaching career, Bland finds time to nurture flower and vegetable gardens, raise egg-laying chickens and help care for two bunnies and a dog and cat. This fall, sports will become a big part of her life, with her husband taking over as the head football coach at West Lincoln.

cont. from page 1

Businesses give API building new life

name brands, targeting a multi-state regional market. Complementing the store will be an indoor archery range to which he plans to bring scholastic and collegiate competitions and will provide Co-Lin the practice facility it needs to grow its archery team, which has started to receive national recognition.

As the archery-oriented store builds a customer base, including hunters and outdoors enthusiasts, McLemore expects to add firearms and accessories to its array of retail products.

McLemore currently employs fifteen persons in his metal fabricating businesses and will add another seven with the start of the retailing operations.

Beyond the indoor archery range, McLemore plans to dedicate space for community use, including classes on such topics as hunting safety and obtaining gun permits, turkey call contests and even church services.

"We will also be using the 15 acres that surround the building outside for special commercial and community

events -- product exhibits, a wildlife extravaganza, cookouts for Wesson's first responders and other leaders and citizens," says McLemore.

The Highway 51 facility started as a garment factory and later housed Potter Production Corporation after Spectrum Control acquired the company in 1998. API Technologies, based in San Jose, California, acquired the Spectrum plant and consolidated the operation with its facilities in Pennsylvania in 2017.

"It's good to have a local entrepreneur in the building," says Arthur (Pokey) Lee Evans, Jr., director of Copiah County Economic Development District. "The new business is managed and operated by a stakeholder in the community, who very much wants to see it succeed in Wesson."

A Hazlehurst native, McLemore is a graduate of Georgetown-based Union Academy and Co-Lin. His wife Pam, whom McLemore calls "my partner in everything," teaches at Wesson Attendance Center.

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Summer time is water time

By Guest Columnist
Dr. Stephanie Duguid

Water is one of the most basic elements in life. Yet we never seem to consume enough. Water is essential for your brain, heart, kidneys, normal digestion, and joints to function properly. When you do not have enough water, you become dehydrated. Dehydration causes hunger, thirst, headaches, joint pain, allergies, fatigue, increased blood pressure and more. Long term dehydration can cause constipation, kidney stones, depression, muscle fatigue, and chronic dry skin.

The average adult body contains between 60 per cent and 75 per cent water. Throughout the day, your body releases water through several natural processes continuously, such as sweating, breathing, and excretion of urine and stool.

The best indicator of dehydration is urine color. The goal is to have urine that is odorless and colorless (as close to clear as possible). The more water you consume, the clearer your urine will be.

So how much water should you consume? You have probably heard eight 8-ounce glasses (64 ounces total), but that guideline dates back several years. Water requirements vary for every individual. The exact amount you need depends on your size, level of activity, the weather, and



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your general health. Those who are more active or weigh more require more water than those who are not as active or weigh less. In fact, a general recommendation is that an individual should consume half their body weight in ounces. For example, if you weigh 200 pounds, you should consume 100 ounces of water a day. If you weigh 100 pounds, you should consume 50 ounces per day and so on.

That may seem like a big task, but you can intake water in many forms. Flavored water, club soda, and mineral water are good choices. You may also consume lemonade, low fat/skim milk and natural smoothies. Fresh fruits and vegetables contain water,

as do many non-calorie beverages (stay away from sodas, sugary drinks, and alcoholic beverages). You may have decaffeinated

beverages and fruit or vegetable juices. Be creative in your water consumption.

Water is essential to life. It helps you stay slimmer, boosts your energy, helps tone muscles, relieves stress, nourishes your skin, reduces kidney stones, and keeps the digestion process running normal.

Have you had your water today??

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

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Space to inspire summer readers

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The world beyond planet earth -- space -- will provide the inspiration for children four-years-old thru twelve-years-old to explore the journeys offered by reading and the resources of Wesson Public Library during July.

"Space: A Universe of Stories" is the theme of this year's summer reading program at the library, which begins on Tuesday, July 2, and will continue on Tuesdays through July 30. An array of resource persons will introduce the kids to new subject areas, which they can further pursue through the library, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. each Tuesday.

Throughout the month, Lauren Sones will help participants in the program build simulated rockets that attach to plastic soft drink bottles on which they can step to launch them.

On the evening of July 16, the young readers can look through a telescope at the library for a glimpse at what lies be-

yond the earth in space. So far scheduled speakers include:

- Wesson Volunteer Fire Department Chief Ken Carraway and town fire fighters, who will talk about their work and discuss fire prevention and safety, on July 2;

- Wesson Mayor Alton Shaw, who will fly into town on a Life Flight medical evacuation helicopter to talk about the life-saving emergency service of which he is a part, on July 9 or 16; and

- Co-Lin instructor Kevin McKone, who will introduce robotics to the kids on July 23.

A fourth speaker has not yet been booked for a session on July 9 or 16, depending on when the Mayor is present. The program concludes July 30 with a fun day at the municipal park and presentation of awards to the most avid readers in four age groups -- four-to-five-year olds, six-to-seven-year-olds, eight-to-nine year-olds and ten-to-twelve-year-olds.

Decell pastor going to Richton

Special to Wesson News

The United Methodist Church (UMC) has transferred Rev. Brandon Halford to Richton (Mississippi) UMC after a short two-year term at Wesson's Decell Memorial UMC. Rev. Heather Hensarling, an experienced preacher and pastor, will assume the pulpit at Decell on June 30 after Halford departs June 23.

"It's bitter-sweet leaving Wesson," says Halford. "My wife Sarah and I love Wesson. Our daughter Madalynn has benefitted from play time in the municipal park. I have enjoyed participating in the Wesson Lions Club and the local Chamber of Commerce. But I look forward to serving at Richton."

Halford, who is pursuing the ministry as a second career after working as a medical technician, came to Decell following graduation from Asbury Seminary at Wilmore, Kentucky. His pastoral background included internships during his seminary studies at two Kentucky congregations. He discerned his call to the ministry after he and his wife worked in local and overseas missions as members of a congregation in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



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At Richton, a small community about a fifteen minute drive east of Petal, Halford will serve a congregation that is slightly larger than Decell in the Hattiesburg UMC district.

A Franklin County native, Halford knew Wesson as a graduate of Co-Lin before coming to Decell. The Wesson congregation will say goodbye to him on June 23 with a pot luck luncheon and music program at its morning worship service.

Hagan Scholarship Recipient



Ms. Kierra Brown, a student at Wesson Attendance Center, was awarded a Hagan Scholarship to attend Louisiana State University to study Chemistry/Pre-Medicine.

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Aldermen reaffirm no Sunday beer sales

By Bob Arnold

The Wesson Board of Aldermen last month reaffirmed its February decision to prohibit beer and light wine sales in town on Sundays. But the conversation promises to continue.

Although the board approved an ordinance in February intended to limit beer and light wine sales to shoppers and restaurant/cafe patrons to Mondays thru Saturdays in Wesson, the language of the law, in fact, permitted licensed eateries to serve the beverages by the glass on Sundays. For almost three months until the Wesson Board of Aldermen met last month, customers could legally buy beer and light wine served in glasses in the town's restaurants/cafes, and at least one establishment operated by Alderman Jarrad Ashley accommodated them.

In April, Wesson Mayor Alton Shaw reported the loophole in the ordinance at the meeting of the Aldermen and chaired a discussion, including town citizens, on whether or not to adjust the law.

In May, the Aldermen resumed the discussion, with the majority of them ready to adjust the law to reflect the intent of their vote in

February to prohibit Sunday sales of beer and light wine anywhere in town. Ultimately, Aldermen opposing Sunday beer and light wine sales prevailed, but not before they heard a large number of town residents at the meeting arguing to amend the ordinance to allow Sunday sales of beer and light wine in both stores and eateries. In contrast to meetings in which visitors, citing their religious beliefs, largely supported outlawing Sunday sales, the May crowd talked mostly about lost tax revenues, the need to face the reality of a secular society in changing times and bringing Wesson into the Twenty-first Century.

When the votes were finally counted, Aldermen Stephen Ashley, Billy Ellison, Michael King and Larry Hall opposed Sunday sales, with Jarrad Ashley not voting because of conflict-of-interest considerations. King, however, suggested the conversation was far from finished:

"I think Wesson has made progress by allowing beer sales. It brings us into the Twenty-first Century. In six months to a year, we might well want to look again at Sunday sales."

The focus on beer and light wine sales in Wesson started in January, when the town's electorate voted

187-78 to authorize it within the Wesson corporate limits. A decision by Lincoln County Chancery Court Judge to allow Wesson to annex a strip of Highway 51 that extended the town's corporate boundary to three miles north of Brookhaven cleared the way for the vote under a state law that permits municipalities with populations of at least 1,500 to legalize beer and light wine sales if they are within three miles of another municipality in which they are legal.

In addition to outlawing Sunday sales in February, Wesson Aldermen fashioned an implementing ordinance that includes:

- Prohibiting sales of beer and light wine within 250 feet of any church, school, funeral home, public library, day care center, public park or kindergarten in a commercial or industrial zone and within 500 feet in other areas;

- Limiting sales of beer and light wine to between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. in grocery, variety and convenience stores that derive 50 percent or more of gross sales from merchandise other than alcohol and to between 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. in restaurants and cafes with 50 per cent of gross receipts from prepared food;

- Prohibiting (1) service at the curb outside an establishment, to visibly or noticeably intoxicated individuals and to persons of ill repute and (2) licensure of sellers with "lewd, immoral or improper entertainment" and gambling, and that permit loud, boisterous or disorderly conduct;

- Requiring (1) establishments that sell beer and light wine to complete a comprehensive application that lists owners or principal officers to assure they are qualified, and pay an annual privilege license tax and (2) restaurants and cafes to obtain a permit or to pay a small fee to allow customers to bring alcoholic beverages, beer or light wine to consume with meals.

Proponents of beer and light wine sales in Wesson are eyeing important economic impact to help make up for the tax loss sustained when Newman's liquor store moved to Brookhaven after the city legalized hard liquor and wine sales. With hard liquor and wine sales legal throughout Copiah County for some fifty years, authorized Wesson stores have benefited and generated significant tax revenues for the town. Wesson lost close to \$4,000 per month of these tax revenues, however, with Newman's relocation.

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Nineteenth Brookstock will rock in July

By Guest Columnist Shaw Furlow

"Nineteen years, I can't believe it." That's the first thing Brookstock creator Don Jacobs said when I said "let's talk about Brookstock." "I mean, this thing started out as just a reunion of band mates to play one gig, and here we are nineteen years later," he explained.



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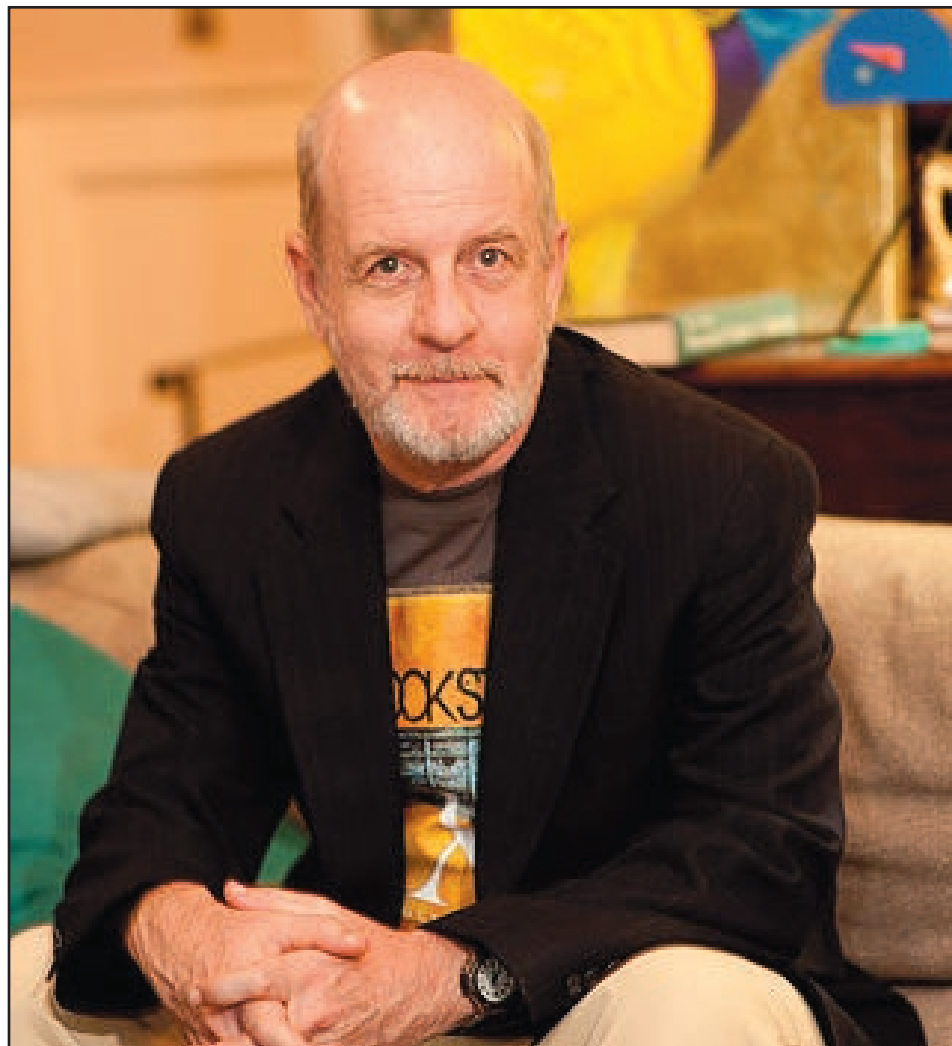
This year, Brookstock returns to the Brookhaven Building.

"We've been all over the place," Jacobs relates. "A back porch, Lonnie Rays campground, the old armory (now the Brookhaven Recreation Department) and currently the Brookhaven Building. It's a great facility for us. Mainly the air conditioner!"

The lineup of entertainers this year includes Mike Case, whose unique songs have become legendary. Case's solo set will include "You're the Worst thing that Ever Happened to Me" and crowd favorite "Underwear Man." "You never know who will jump up on stage with Mike to sing, harmony and backup on 'Underwear Man,'" Jacobs noted. Case, who lives in Philadelphia, Mississippi, drives over each year for the occasion.

One of the main attractions this year, is the return of Ed Tree and the reunion of the Rooks. Tree, originally from Brookhaven, lives in San Gabriel, California, and is a record producer, artist and songwriter.

"It's always a big deal when Ed comes to town," Jacobs observed. "He's great fun and an amazing talent." The Rooks later changed their name to The Laughter of Ruin and were a legendary band in the area in the mid to late 1960s, when the band members graduated and went their separate ways to college. The three original members returning for the concert this year are Dr. Danny Dickey, Tupelo; Tree and Bryan Batson from Gulfport. Tree has collaborated on Batson's



Wesson News

Don Jacobs

solo albums recorded at Tree's studio.

"Bryan's a real professional," Tree said. "He was an athlete in high school, and he approaches recording the same way. He works hard on his craft, and, when he gets in the studio, he has everything all nailed down."

The Brutes are returning this year once again as the host band. It was their reunion nineteen years ago that started the whole thing. Jacobs, normally very quiet and somewhat understated, becomes like

Mick Jagger on stage. The transformation happens as soon as the first note is struck. Armed with a tambourine and maracas and the occasional harmonica, Jacobs moves all around the stage, engaging with the audience like the seasoned pro he is. "It's fun getting back together with the guys," he said. "No rehearsal time needed, we just fall back into the groove."

Of course, the groove is pretty easy to establish when you have a great group of house musicians back-

ing you up. Tyler Bridge, the Godfather of the Brookhaven music scene, puts together a backing group made up of himself on bass, his brother Nick on drums and Chalmers Davis on keyboard. Davis, who lives in Terry, played keyboard in wild man Little Richards band for twenty years and knew Tree from their days at Ole Miss.

I am disappointed to tell you the much hoped for reunion of the Escorts will be put off for another year. Drummer Tommy Yates can't attend. The original members of the Escorts were Bill Hickman, vocals and lead guitar; myself, vocals and rhythm guitar; Yates and the late Carl Craig. Maybe next year!

Brookstock is always a bittersweet event. Those assembled will dance and sing and have a great time, but in the down times of the weekend, there are stories about Virgil Brawley, Bill Guess, Bill Lauderdale, Steve Whitley and others who are no longer with us. "Yeah. We miss those guys," was all a reverent Jacobs had to say. "We aren't getting younger."

The three-day event begins July 11 with the singer/songwriter night at Recess 101 followed by Brookstock Too -- the younger musicians -- at the Haven Theatre. Doors open for the main event at the Brookhaven Building at 5 p.m. on Saturday, with music going from 7 p.m. -11 p.m. The big jam, with all the musicians on stage at the same time, begins around 10. Bring coolers.

There will be a Brookstock XX next year, and Jacobs says it will be the last time he organizes the event.

"This is a lot of work, and I think it's time to turn it over to someone younger," he explained.

We'll see. Well, that's it for this month. Go to Brookstock if you've never attended, you'll see why I write about it each year. See you there, and until then, support the arts, my friends.

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



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Turf, Colette director & tournaments

By Bob Arnold

Co-Lin's H.L. Stone Stadium will have a different look come August with a synthetic turf field installed by Hattiesburg-based Sports Contractors Unlimited, LLC, at a cost of \$1,239,000. The installation is the first major part of a comprehensive three-phase program supported by a fundraising campaign -- "Back to the Pack" -- to advance Co-Lin sports by fostering student-athlete formation, strengthening competitive excellence, increasing external engagement, and enhancing facilities.

Phase 1 of the program also includes a digital video scoreboard at the stadium.

The H.L. Stone Stadium field is heavily used with athletic activities, practices and games not only for Co-Lin but for Wesson Attendance Center's high school and junior high football.

"This project is just the beginning of new and great things for Co-Lin Athletics," says Bryan Nobile, the college's athletic director. "From a football standpoint, it is exciting to have a great place to play our games and a great place to practice in inclement weather," adds Co-Lin Head Football Coach Glenn Davis. "This will be an asset in our recruiting process."

To meet the needs of the college and multipurpose use for the field, Co-Lin chose to install Shaw Sports Turf's Legion Pro system with the Brock Powerbase YSR Shock pad. Legion is a combination of high-performance monofilament fibers, which provides a resilient surface, and a durable slit film fiber, which will handle the workload. Shaw Sports Turf is the Official Turf Partner of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA).

New Colette director. Shelby Nettles has joined Co-Lin Blue Wave Show Band staff as new Colette director, bringing more than twenty years of dancing and five years of coaching experience to the job. For two years, she was part of the New Orleans Saintsations. The Ellisville, Mississippi, native started her dancing career at the Dance Arts Studio in her home town, where she honed her skills in variety of styles, including jazz, ballet, modern, contemporary, lyrical, tap, and hip-hop. She was captain of the Bravettes Dance Team at South Jones High School before continuing her education at Jones County Junior College, where she was the captain of the Touch of Gold and Gold Rush



Co-Lin nationally-ranked tennis team.

dance teams. Nettles pursued her degree in English from the University of Southern Mississippi and comes to Co-Lin from Enterprise Attendance Center, where she was a secondary English teacher.

Tennis champs. The Co-Lin Lady Wolves tennis team finished a stellar 2019 season eighteenth ranked nationally in the final Intercollegiate Tennis Association poll.

The Lady Wolves had a 12-2 record during the year, winning the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) State Championship -- their first title since 2002. After the strong MACJC tournament play, they traveled to Tyler, Texas, for the

2019 NJCAA National Women's Tennis Tournament, finishing fourteenth overall -- the highest of the MACJC participating teams.

Season ends. The postseason heroics of the Co-Lin Lady Wolves softball team came to an end in a loss to Number 10 Itawamba 11-1 in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region XXIII tournament semifinals. The Lady Wolves reached the semis after powering past Pearl River 9-3 in the first elimination game of the day. Co-Lin finished the year 31-17 overall, its best finish since 2010, while Itawamba, the 2019 Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) State Champions, improved to 37-13-1, and earned its first NJCAA National Tournament bid in school history.

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