

# Christmas parade & festivities 4 p.m - 8 p.m. today

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**Rains forced delay of the Wesson Christmas parade and Old Town holiday celebration on Friday. The parade will roll today at 4 p.m., followed by Old Town Christmas festivities!**

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*"Good News You Can Use"*

December 10, 2013

## Co-Lin seeks town partnership in traveling exhibit

*Special to Wesson News*

Co-Lin has invited the Town of Wesson to partner with it in hosting a unique Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibit that spotlights the history of work in America over the past 150 years and celebrates the American workforce.

The exhibition — *The Way We Worked* — is part of the National Archive's Museum on Main Street, a unique collaboration of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), state humanities councils across the nation, and local host institutions that bring Smithsonian programs to rural communities. The Mississippi Humanities Council (MHC) chose Co-Lin to host the exhibit in cooperation with its surrounding community between April 3 and May 9 next year—one of six Mississippi sites it will visit through July of 2014.

"Allowing all of our state's residents to have access to the cultural resource-



*Special to Wesson News*

*Pam Reid, chairperson of the Co-Lin Humanities Division and an instructor, is co-directing the Smithsonian exhibition program locally with Dr. Jeff Posey, Director of Institutional Planning and Research at Co-Lin.*



es of our nation's premiere museum is a priority of the Mississippi Humanities Council," said MHC Special Projects Director David Morgan. "With this special tour, we are pleased to be working with Co-Lin to help develop local exhibitions and public programs to compliment the Smithsonian exhibition."

Dr. Ronnie Nettles, Co-Lin president, and Pam Reid, a staff member at the community college, discussed the exhibit with members of the Wesson Board of Aldermen last month and offered to tie it into the year-long 2014 celebration of Wesson's sesquicentennial.

Spanning the years 1857-1987, *The Way We Worked* is adapted from an original exhibition developed by the National Archives and Records Administration, they reported. Drawing on a rich collection of historical photographs, archival accounts of workers, film, audio, and interactives,

*cont. on page 4*

## Christmas fire prevention can give us all a safer holiday

*Special to Wesson News*

The Christmas season — the most joyous time of year — can also be deadly because of fires. The colder weather means preparing fireplaces, ramping up furnaces, and getting out space heaters. You cook and bake for family, friends, and relatives. You decorate your home with candles, electric lights, and a Christmas tree. All this increases the possibility of fire, according to Wesson Volunteer Fire Department Chief Ken Carraway.

Carraway points out that cooking causes 44 per cent of home fires, 16 per cent of home fire deaths, 40 per cent of home fire injuries, and 15 per cent of direct property damage from fires. Christmas trees with short-circuiting lights, he adds, are involved in approximately 400 fires annually with dozens of deaths and injuries, and more than \$10 million in property damage. Candles help heat rooms and give them a warm glow, but also cause 10,000 home fires every year, he notes.

*cont. on page 12*

*During National Fire Prevention Month in October, Wesson Volunteer Fire Department brought college students from Co-Lin and Wesson Attendance Center kindergarten, elementary, and high school students to fire station for special presentations on fire safety and prevention. Here Fire Chief Ken Carraway talks to Attendance Center kindergarten and elementary students.*



*Photo by Wesson News*



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## This music for all occasions is free



Photo by Wesson News

Directors of Co-Lin bands include (left to right) Denise Riley (Co-Lin Singers and Ambassadors Select Choir), Michael Brothers (Percussion Ensemble), R. Shaw Furlow (Blue Wave Show Band, Sojourners Rock Band, and Symphonic Concert Band), who is director the band program, and Juanita Proffitt (Jazz Ensemble) who is assistant director of the band program. Not pictured is Chris Warren (Basketball Pep Band).

By Bob Arnold

Need music for a special event? Rock for a dance? Jazz for a luncheon? Choral music for a holiday program?

Look no further than Co-Lin and its bands program. Music of all types for any occasion is available. And the price is right, too: it's free.

"Performing is an important part of our band's instruction program," says R. Shaw Furlow, Co-Lin Director of Bands. "We want to get our students out there before audiences."

The current menu of performance groups – which are, in fact, "courses" in various musical genres under Furlow's purview at Co-Lin – include:

- The 115-piece Blue Wave Show Band – the core musical group of the Co-Lin band program involving all of its students. The Blue Wave Show Band, directed by Furlow, offers half-time entertainment at football games and marches in parades.
- A 30-piece pep band directed by Chris Warren that plays at basketball games and other settings too small for the full Show Band.
- The 11-piece Sojourners rock 'n' roll band directed by Furlow – a venue in which students focus on the popular music of the times. Because

popular music changes over the years, Sojourners has also specialized in different music throughout its history. "In the 1960s, it was a folk music group," Furlow relates. "Later, it was a show choir. And now it's a rock band."

- The 40-member Co-Lin Singers, directed by Denise Riley, in which vocal music is the focus.

- The 16-member Ambassadors select choir, also directed by Riley, for which students audition to refine their vocal talent.

- A 30-piece jazz ensemble, directed by Juanita Proffitt, which has provided entertainment at local restaurants such as Porches.

- A 45 to 50-member Symphonic Concert Band, directed by Furlow.

- A new 5-piece Percussion Ensemble, directed by Michael Brothers, which features students on mallet instruments in eclectic musical styles.

"You can compare each of the performance groups to a sports team in which individual players learn skills and styles of play, practice them as individuals and team members, and finally work together in a field performance," says Proffitt. "The field

cont. on page 8

## From the Mayor's Desk

By Alton Shaw, Mayor of Wesson

What is Economic Development?

Many times people have presented me with the question as to exactly how you define economic development, and how it is fostered. A quick Internet definition search will yield the following: "The sustained, concerted actions of policy makers and communities that promote the standard of living and economic health of a specific area." Basically to sum it up in a nutshell, economic development seeks to create environments where people want to live and work.

Economic development works on multiple levels—from government, to private business, to non-profits. If a restaurant wants to succeed, not only will it have good food, but it will also create an environment where people feel relaxed and enjoy patronizing it. If a church wants to grow, it will create an environment where people feel comfortable and can engage in the programs they desire.

If a municipality wants to develop and attract new business and citizens, it will also strive to create an environment that people appreciate. This is why over the past several years, we



Photo by Wesson News  
Mayor Shaw

have spent time and effort in recreating our main thoroughfare down Highway

51 with improved sidewalks, new street signs, public Wi-Fi access, and the fountain/sitting area. The fact is people shop where they feel comfortable. When an area is clean and well developed, people are more likely to stop and shop rather than just pass through. When they patronize our local businesses, it has a two-fold advantage:

Not only do business owners benefit from the increased sales, but the town as a whole also reaps the benefits of increased tax revenues that can go back into more road and infrastructure repair and upgrades.

One of the next major improvements we have planned is the development of a park near the current Boy Scout building on Beech Street. Engineers tell me we should be ready to bid out the project next April or May. This will not only create a better quality of life for those of us who already live here, but give people just one more reason to visit, shop, and possibly even relocate to our area.

I thank each of you for allowing me this opportunity to share in this journey together, and see our town move forward. May God bless.

## Marine group set to deliver toys

Special to Wesson News

Toys for Tots – the program that brings Christmas joy to children of families whose economic circumstances limit their capacity to purchase gifts – hopes to collect some 40,000 toys this year throughout the 17 counties of central Mississippi.

Central Mississippi Marine Corps League, an organization similar to the American Legion and VFW whose members are retired Marines, is handling collection and distribution of the toys.

During November, families applied to receive toys for their children at the Old Train Depot in Brookhaven. A receiving family must document its

need. Donors can drop off unwrapped toys for children up to age 13 at Walgreens locations in the area.

"There are so many people out there; a lot are losing their jobs, don't have any incomes coming in, and can barely make ends meet," says Mary Quick of Pearl, who has been a Toys for Tots volunteer for more than two decades. "It breaks your heart when you're taking applications from families and hear the stories about a fire in which everything was lost or a death in the family that drastically reduced income. To have a child without Christmas—toys and things under the tree—is devastating. So we're providing toys for the kids who need them to have a good Christmas."

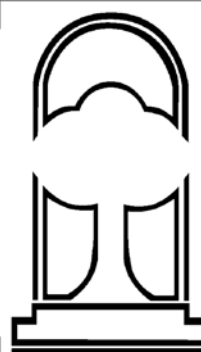
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# Annual community holiday luncheon hosted by Co-Lin



All photos by Wesson News

More than 300 persons enjoyed the eleventh annual holiday community luncheon hosted by Co-Lin's Thames Conference Center and the college food service. Beyond employees from Co-Lin, more than a dozen groups, families, and individuals participated in the luncheon, with the largest number of people coming from King's Daughters Medical Center and its therapy unit. This year Co-Lin's Career Technology Division brought members of its advisory committee from varied businesses and industries. Members of Co-Lin's Institute for Learning in Retirement also were present.



Started in 2002 as an event to showcase Thames Conference Center facilities for prospective profit and not-for-profit users, it has evolved over the years into a traditional community event in which members and personnel from a wide variety of groups throughout the Wesson area feast, have fun, and enjoy the fellowship of each other. Although it is no longer primarily a marketing event, the Conference Center still hopes the luncheon, which is a breakeven event financially, will stimulate interest in its meetings and events services. Marilyn Brown is the Conference Center Director and can be contacted by telephone at 601-643-8701 or email at [marilyn.brown@colin.edu](mailto:marilyn.brown@colin.edu).



Church groups have become a major participant in the luncheon. Three churches brought members this year. Individual retirees and families also were part of this year's luncheon crowd.



Town of Wesson workers, including members of the Police Department, enjoyed the luncheon along with the Copiah County Supervisors, employees of a small law firm, and local banks.

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cont. from front page

## Co-Lin seeks town partnership in Smithsonian traveling exhibit

It documents American workplaces, work clothing, working conditions, and workplace conflicts to tell a compelling story of how work impacts our individual lives and the historical and cultural fabric of our communities. It explores how work has become a central element in American culture and traces the many changes shaped by immigration and ethnicity, slavery and racial segregation, wage labor and technology, gender roles and class, and the American ideals of freedom and equality that have affected the workforce and work environments over the past 150 years, including the growth of manufacturing and increasing use of technology.

The exhibition, will occupy 600 square feet at the Mutton Building on the Co-Lin campus and feature one audio component, three video components, five free-standing sections, 11 interactive components, and a cell-phone guided tour.

"We are very pleased to be able to bring *The Way We Worked* to our area," Nettles said. "It allows us the opportunity to explore this fascinating aspect of our own region's history, and we hope that it will inspire many to become even more involved in the cultural life of our community."

Reid, chairperson of Co-Lin's Humanities Division, explained that exhibition hosts are expected to create a local component to compliment Smithsonian materials and invited Wesson Alderman to support development of *The Way Wesson Worked: From Mill Town to College Town*. Reid and Dr. Jeff Posey, Director of Institutional Planning and Research a Co-Lin, who are co-directing the exhibition project locally, are seeking basic community support in the form of visits to the exhibit by individuals and groups, photographs and artifacts such as work uniforms and tools, and personal stories for the local com-

cont. on page 5

### Museum on Main Street officials describe *The Way We Worked* this way:

"It reveals the effects of industrialization, urbanization, immigration, labor unrest, wars, and economic depression on ordinary working Americans, whether they toiled in a coal mine, on a tractor, at a typewriter, or on an assembly line, according to Museum on Main Street officials. From the mid 19th Century, when 60 percent of Americans made their living as farmers, work has shifted to an industrial and now to a knowledge-based economy.

"With their hands and minds hard at work and sweat on their brows, American workers perform a diverse array of jobs to power our society. Whether we work for professional satisfaction and personal growth or to ensure the well-being of ourselves and our families, work is a part of nearly every American's life. Office workers, factory workers, homemakers, truckers, and the millions more who keep the nation going through their work make great contributions not only to industry, but also to American culture.

"The diversity of the American workforce is one of its strengths, providing an opportunity to explore how people of all races and ethnicities identified commonalities and worked to knock down barriers in the professional world. And, finally, the exhibition shows how we identify with work—as individuals and as communities. Whether you live in "Steel Town, USA" or wear a uniform each day, work assigns cultural meanings and puts us and our communities in a larger context."

Support for Museum on Main Street is provided by the United States Congress. SITES connects millions of Americans with their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of art, science and history exhibitions. State humanities councils, located in each state and U.S. territory, support community-based humanities programs that highlight such topics as local history, literature and cultural traditions.

## Attendance Center students accepted for arts study



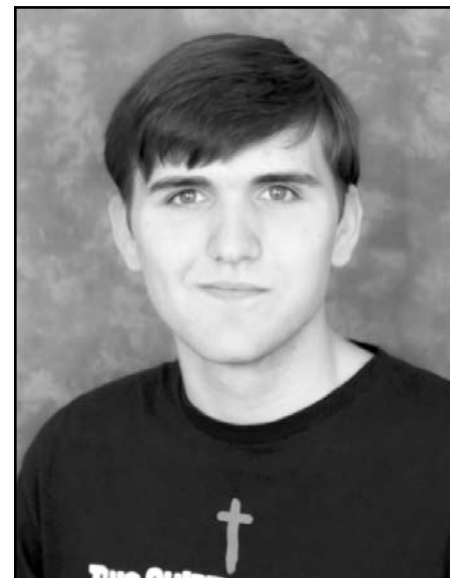
Zach Adcock

Special to Wesson News



Clancie Johnson

Special to Wesson News



Joshua Hamilton

Special to Wesson News

### Special to Wesson News

Three former Wesson Attendance Center students are completing their junior and senior years of high school at the Mississippi School of the Arts (MSA) in Brookhaven. MSA accepted both Zach Adcock and Joshua Ham-

ilton into its visual arts program and Clancie Johnson into its vocal music program.

MSA is an eleventh and twelfth grade visual and performing arts residential, public high school. In their studies at the school, they receive special instruction in visual arts, vocal

music, dance, literary arts and theater as well as meet and exceed traditional Mississippi high school curriculum requirements. Students interested in MSA apply their sophomore year. This year's graduating class received more than \$4 million dollars in college scholarship offers.

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## Police Blotter

Activity of the Wesson Police Department during November encompassed:

**35 citations, including**

- Three driving while under the influence
- Two driving with suspended licenses
- One possession of marijuana
- One open container violation

**Incident responses, including**

- One malicious mischievous (misdemeanor)
- One malicious mischievous (felony)
- One vandalism
- One simple assault & trespassing
- Eight general complaints

**Two funeral escorts**

# Mississippi hunting schedule

*Special to Wesson News*

Because Thanksgiving fell on November 28, hunters had to wait a few more days this year to begin pursuing deer with their guns, but state Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks officials say they aren't short-changing them

**Here's the schedule for the remainder of the 2013-14 hunting season:**

### Deer

Youth gun season — Hill and Delta Zones, November 9-January 31;  
Southeast Zone, November 9-February 15  
Gun with dogs — statewide, December 24-January 22  
Primitive weapon — statewide, December 2-15  
Gun without dogs — statewide, December 16-23  
Late primitive weapon — Hill and Delta Zones, January 23-31,  
2014; Southeast Zone, January 23-31, 2014, for either-sex deer  
and February 1-15, 2014, for legal bucks only

### Turkey

Spring season — statewide (except parts of Coahoma and Sunflower  
counties and all of Quitman County), March 15-May 1, 2014.  
Youth spring — statewide, March 8-14, 2014.

### Small game

Raccoon, second season — statewide, November 1-February 28,  
2014, sport hunting for food and pelt (no limit)  
Squirrel — Zone 1 (areas north of U.S. Highway 82 plus all of  
Sunflower and Washington counties), September 28-February  
28, 2014; Zone 2 (area between U.S. Highways 82 and 84 plus  
that area south of 84 that are west of I-55), October 12-February  
28, 2014; Zone 3 (area south of U.S. Highway 84 and east of  
I-55), October 26, 2013-February 28, 2014  
Bobwhite quail — statewide, November 21-March 2, 2014  
Rabbit — statewide, October 12-February 28, 2014  
Trapping — statewide, November 1- February 28, 2014  
Frog 2014 — statewide, April 1, 2014-September 30, 2014

## Thinking about hunting for the first time?

Whether you're a youngster looking to follow in the footsteps of the great hunters in your family or a retired person in your 60s who wants to find out what you've been missing, you need to:

- Learn about hunting safety
- Perfect your ability to shoot
- Find your hunting grounds

All persons born on or after January 1, 1972, in Mississippi must complete a hunter education course to purchase a Mississippi hunting license. But the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks' (WDWFP) free-of-charge 10-hour course makes sense for any new hunter. The course -- offered at varied locations throughout the state and taught by MDWFP employees and volunteer instructors -- emphasizes safety and is designed to reduce hunting accidents, teach hunter ethics and responsibilities, promote wildlife conservation, and teach firearm and tree stand safety.

Course participants learn about the history for firearms; their safe handling; specifics about rifles, shotguns, and ammunition; marksmanship; black powder and muzzle loading; bow hunting; wildlife identification and management; survival and first aid; hypothermia; and water safety. The course is open to people ages 10 and older. Certification requires attending all class sessions, passing a written exam, and completing a firing exercise. Although the WDWFP course includes firing range experience, training by a professional may be necessary for persons who do not have shooting experience.

As for places to hunt, Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and National Forests are cost-friendly. You can hunt in National Forests without charge and WMAs charge only \$15 for a permit. These public lands also offer just about every kind hunting -- deer, squirrel, turkey, rabbit. Close to Wesson is the Copiah WMA at Barlow.

*cont. from page 4*

## Co-Lin seeks town partnership in traveling exhibit

ponent. Already plans call for local school groups to regularly visit the exhibit throughout its stay at Co-Lin.

Reid also suggested possible contributions from the community in the form of:

- Walking and riding tours of Wesson featuring local points of interest related to the changing workplace theme
- Volunteers who will serve as tour guides and speak at local churches

and civic, social, and service organizations

"The changes in Wesson over the past 150 years reflect the history of the American workplace," Reid observed. "Its partnership in hosting the Smithsonian exhibit is appropriate and desirable."

On the Co-Lin campus, Reid and Posey are working with varied school programs on projects related to work topics for the exhibit. One possibility

is a display that explores the history of automobile repair developed by the Co-Lin Career Technology program.

To learn more about *The Way We Worked* and other Museum on Main Street exhibitions, visit [www.museumonmainstreet.org](http://www.museumonmainstreet.org). If a church or civic group would like to hear about the local exhibit in more detail, contact Reid at 601-643-8442, [pam.reid@colin.edu](mailto:pam.reid@colin.edu); or Posey at 601-643-8411, [jeff.posey@colin.edu](mailto:jeff.posey@colin.edu).

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# Veterans honored at Attendance Center



Photo by Wesson News

World War II tank veteran L.E. Warren shakes hands with kindergartener Gaven Watts.

By Marie Black-Watts

In a special Veterans Day program, students, faculty, and staff at Wesson Attendance Center paid tribute to men and women who have served in the U.S. armed forces.

After being greeted by very respectful student council members, 54 veterans — service members from different walks of life, branches of the armed forces, and times — were served a hearty breakfast in the high school library prepared by the cafeteria staff. Some armed services personnel on active duty joined them.

One mature gentleman, who had participated in storming the beaches of Normandy, recalled the day and shared a few horrifying events with a clarity most people do not have in remembering the previous day.

Following the meal and fellowship, the veterans were ushered into a long hallway arranged with a single row of chairs. After taking their seats, elementary school students — one by one from the most mature sixth grader down to the tiniest kindergartner —

walked single file down the hallway, shaking hands and thanking every veteran. Several elementary school classes donned the veterans with crafted construction paper necklaces crayoned colored red, white, and blue and held together by yarn. Written letters expressing praise and adoration for the veterans were also presented to them.

Attendance Center high school students took their turn in a special program of thankfulness. The students stood cheering, clapping their hands, and stomping their feet in the bleachers as the veterans entered the auditorium for the show. Students and staff welcomed them, offered prayers, and led the pledge to the American flag and singing of "The National Anthem." The drama troupe presented the "The Experience," a patriotic performance. The Wesson High School choir sang an array of selections.

The event concluded with notes of taps sounded by trumpet to salute the fallen and as a moment of silence for those who did not return home in this life, but were still remembered.

Those honored were:

Air Force veterans Stan Paizan, Shari Nevels, Isaac Entrican, Garland Page, Ernest C. Williamson, Wayne Smith,

W.L. Smith, Charles Langley, and Billy Mangold.

Army veterans Jackie Bessonette, Lester Powell, Marvin Martin, Albert Hennington, Alton Ricks, Ron Hartgraves, Dell Beal, Charles Abbey, Jason Twiner, Larry Barlow, Steve Beasley, Harmon Shirley, Lee, Nottingham, Ken Frazier, Robert Cross, Billy Ray Mullins, Hervey Littlefield, Bobby Thornton, Brigadier General Glenn D. Beasley, Ron Stanley, Bill Bush (1959 U.S. Military Academy graduate), Leonard Warren, Frank Davis (D-Day veteran),

and James Pace (paratrooper).

Army National Guard veterans Libby Jones, Miranda Rutland, Earnest "Pat" Stevens, Milton Twiner, Chris James, Eric Strong, Ralph Frazier, Samuel Calhoun, and Terry Goza.

Marine veterans Bobby Britt, Joel A. Alchin, Charles J. Ferg, Denver Hatchell, and Thomas Bridges (also served in the Army).

Navy veterans James Hinton, John Landress, Kirk Noble, Fred Lowery, Eddie Hennington, A.C. Currie, and Robert Daniel Twiner (Sea Bees).

## Wesson Baptist Church

Weekly schedule (nursery provided for all services)

### Sunday morning

9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. Morning worship

### Wednesday evening

5:30 p.m. Supper  
6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting  
Youth Bible Study  
Children's Activities

### Sunday evening

5:00 p.m. Discipleship training  
Youth Bible Study  
Children's Activities  
6:00 P.M. Evening Worship

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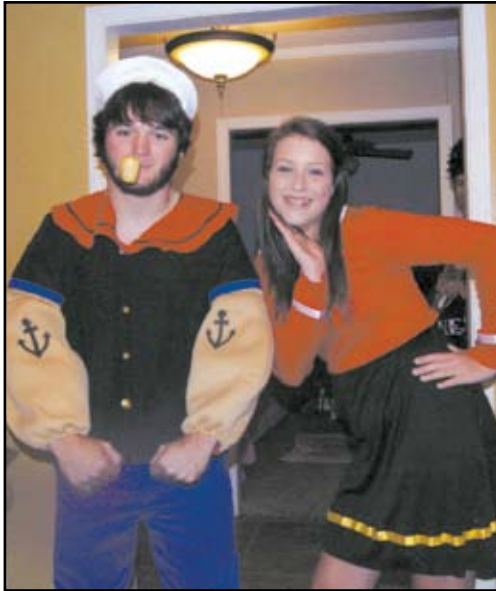
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# 'Tis the season — from Halloween through Thanksgiving



The Wesson holiday season begins with Halloween. Here Tracy Robbins from Precious Moments daycare center accompanies Parker Hammond, 4, and Laiken Thomas, 3, on their trick or treat rounds, which started at the public library.



Halloween in Wesson means a big costume party at the home of Hilry and Misty Britt. Jay Haynes (left) and Kaithyn Smith were two of the partiers at the Britt's seventh Halloween celebration.



A family event, kids and their parents enjoy a hayride that concludes the Britt celebration every year. Here Caylie Britt (left) and Mollie Grace Bufkin await this special treat.



Debbie Norton (left) and Timmy Russell were also on hand at the Britt party for apple bobbing, games, and food.



The Baptist preschool children together in the Our Little Pilgrims and Indians chorus sang songs and offered thoughtful recitations that promoted a Thanksgiving spirit among the audience. The children participating in the program were Nikki Berch, Lucas Bowlin, Presley Bridges, Aniston Brister, Madelynn Brooks, Davis Font, Jaycee Heard, Levi Lockhart, Taylor Murray, Zoie Peden, Carson Santa Ana, Brenlee Shelton, Bray Tarver, Brooke Thaxton, Ava Grayce Woodson, Mady Woodson, Zoey Ashley, Anna Caballero, Mac Case, Neely Henson, Tyler King, Preston Morse, Allie Ryan, Bella Sills, Kade Allen, Jade Ballinger, Mary Murphy Brady, Caylie Britt, Joe Brown, Riley Beth Bush, Zaxton Carona, Layton Cloy, Preston Hudson, Steven Laiche, Eli Nickles, Jocie Parsons, Anna Kate Porter, Dawson Selman, Charley Shelton, Kaden Allen, Kenslie Carter, Payton Cloy, McKenzie Conner, Trent Davis, Brooklyn Hutchinson, Lily Porter, Gavin Sandifer, Blake Warren, Cami Arispe, Sean Cooper, Hunter Granger, Addison Rorie, and Ally Selman.



Another holiday town tradition is the Wesson Baptist Preschool Thanksgiving program, which more than 200 people attended in the church sanctuary.



The Co-Lin Concert Singers and Ambassadors Select Choir performed in the college Choral Department's Holiday Spectacular Dinner Theatre. The vocal groups, under the direction for Denise Riley, featured Thanksgiving and Christmas selections in a program that ignited the holiday spirit among members of the audience.

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# Is this the right time to buy a pet?

Special to Wesson News

A question that arises frequently among parents with small children in this season of gift-giving is whether or not they are ready for a pet.

If you're thinking about buying your child a pet for Christmas, forget about it, counsels Paul Bland, the owner of Pollywog's Restaurant in Wesson and a childhood development authority. "Christmas is the worst time of year to buy a pet," he says. "The buying decision is usually based on emotion with little thought. In the movies, a child receiving a puppy or kitten as a Christmas gift may look nice. But it often turns into a disaster for both the pet and the family."

Above all, research pets before you buy one, advises Bland. "Wait a few months after Christmas to buy the pet, look seriously at the options, and pick one that matches your family's style," he says. One of the most important things to remember: In the final analysis, you will be buying a family pet even if you think you're getting it for your child. Parents and other members of the family must inevitably become involved with pet care.

Here are some of the things you should consider in buying a pet which you expect will be primarily a child's responsibility:

- There are some things small children simply cannot do themselves. If you have a hamster in an aquarium, for example, the odds are pretty good that a small child won't be able to lift it in order to properly clean it. Yet it isn't fair to the hamster to have it in a small cage because it's easier to clean. A fish aquarium in your child's room sounds nice in theory. However, fish aquariums can be complicated, requiring exacting measurement of chemicals. Fish are very easy to overfeed and kill, too. Most kids want a dog. However, a child cannot properly train a dog.

- The child's age. There is a reason



Photo by Wesson News

*Some humane societies will not allow families with children under age 5 to adopt pets. Young children, no matter how nice and well meaning they are, just don't know how to treat animals.*

that some humane societies won't allow people with children under five years old to adopt pets. Young children, no matter how nice and well meaning they are, just don't know how to treat animals. They hold them too tightly and drop them. Some pets are entirely inappropriate for children. Birds are too delicate. Their wings have to be clipped, and sometimes, their nails have to be clipped, too. They have to be fed fresh fruits and vegetables. Children aren't up to the job.

- Children grow up. This is the number one thing that most parents forget. Children go to college when they turn 18. Most college dorms do not allow pets. Some students may sneak them in, but they almost always get caught. Veterinarians in college towns complain that students dump off their animals at their offices with a note stating that they can no longer care for their pets because the dorms are closed for a holiday or the summer.

- Animals grow up and may live for

a really long time. Some dog breeds outgrow small children. The child may be too small to walk the dog once it is grown. Parents and children must partner in their care. And buying your child a pet that will live for a long time places an unfair burden on your children. They shouldn't have to choose between their pet and living on a college campus. And when they move out, what do you do? The poor animal shouldn't have to be handed off to strangers or the humane society because the child grew up.

Pets may seem like great Christmas gifts for children. But don't rush into it. The truth is that most parents end up caring for the pet -- whether it is because the child won't do it or the child simply cannot. And remember the animal is a living being that deserves respect. You're going to have to make sure that it is taken care of properly even if you have to do it yourself.

"Wait until spring," Bland advises.

cont. from page 2

## This music for all occasions is free

performance, in the final analysis, is what it's all about."

The performance groups book appearances within the seven-county district that supports Co-Lin, including Copiah, Lincoln, Lawrence, Simpson, Adams, Franklin, and Jefferson. They perform in clinics and competitions, special community programs, organizational and individual events, and commercial establishments such as restaurants that offer entertainment. The Wesson Old Town Christmas sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce featured multiple groups at the same event for the first time -- the Sojourners in the outdoor square next to Los Lobos restaurant, the Ambassadors on a street corner, and the Percussion Ensemble inside Pollywog's restaurant.

Furrow says Co-Lin does not charge for performances. "They are opportunities for our students to get in front of an audience and also help in recruiting new students to the Co-Lin bands program," he says. "Of course, we won't refuse donations."

Before joining Co-Lin in 1999 as Director of Bands, Furrow worked in public and private schools for 25 years. He is a 1969 graduate of Brookhaven High School and a 1971 graduate of Co-Lin. He received a BA at Delta State University. In addition to his duties as Director of Bands, Furrow also directs Co-Lin's Community Arts Series.

For information about the Co-Lin bands program, contact Furrow at shaw.furrow@colin.edu or 601-643-8353.

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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	
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6:00 p.m. Evening Worship Service	
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# Having your holiday food and eating it, too

By Guest Columnist  
Dr. Stephanie Duguid

As we move into the holiday season, it is often difficult to focus on Healthy Living with all the festivities. It is the time for holiday parties, office celebrations, family get-togethers, last minute shopping, bad weather, and LOTS OF FOOD! In the midst of all this, it is important to keep healthy thoughts in mind.

Most of us find ourselves too busy to

exercise during the holidays and make poor meal choices.

According to Bethanne Black of American Profile, weight gain during the holiday season seems inevitable. It's easy to pack on as many as 5 to 10 pounds during the season alone. Here are some ways to mitigate the damage:

- Portion control—1/2 piece of pie
- Plan ahead. Eat less earlier in the day if you know you will have a large meal later.



Photo by Thomas Rola

- Prioritize. Schedule holiday activity around physical activity.
  - Don't worry. If you overindulge or miss a workout, just make up for it.
- Remember: You have to consume approximately 500 calories above your maintenance caloric level every day for seven days to gain one pound of body fat! That is an extra two pieces of pumpkin pie every day for a whole week. So you don't necessarily have to forego the goodies. Just watch how much you consume.

"With all of the excitement over the holidays, we tend to throw away our nutritional good sense and eat excessively, with exercise taking a low priority," says Sandra Nissenberg, a registered dietitian.

Rather than worrying about calories and weight gain after the fact, start planning in advance for a healthier holiday season. Many menus can be modified to lower the calories and fat content, often without noticing the difference, according to the American Dietetic Association. Try some of these tricks:

- Select plain turkey and remove the skin before serving
- Refrigerate gravy or pan juices (the fat will rise to the top and can be removed before serving)
- Make stuffing with lots of vegetables and less breadcrumbs

- Bake sweet potatoes rather than regular potatoes
- Serve fruit platters in place of high fat desserts
- When you eat, choose foods in moderate portions
- Keep moving over the holidays (clean house or move decorations)
- Walk the mall (before you get your shopping done)

Try to avoid the all-or-nothing approach as you head into another holiday season. Food is a wonderful part of our celebrations. Feel good about your eating before, during, and after the holidays. Don't deprive yourself, but focus on moderation and conscious meal planning. You can enjoy holiday eating, avoid weight gain, and stay healthy!

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Stephanie Duguid, Assistant Dean of Academic Instruction and Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Division Chair at Co-Lin, makes regular contributions to Wesson News on healthy living topics. She is also an athletic trainer and a nutrition specialist and has been teaching courses related to those two areas as well as practicing what she preaches for more than 20 years. She is an avid reader and learner on health issues and encourages people to follow her example.*



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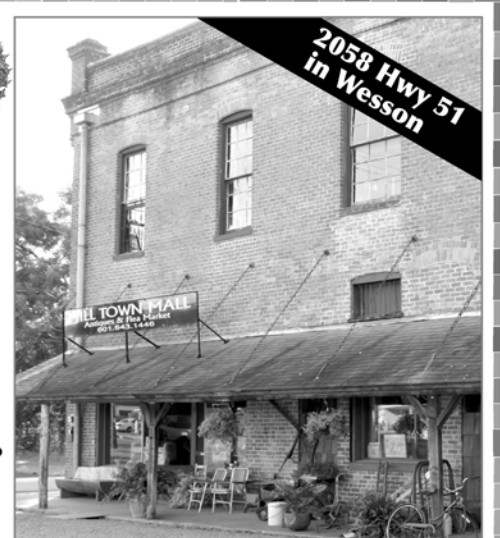
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# Overheard around town

Wesson News

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

## 50-Plus Club

"When my plane landed in India, it was like arriving on another planet," said **Dean Shirley**, a member of the 172nd Airlift Wing of the Mississippi, who recently returned to Wesson after three months in Delhi, India, working with the Indian Air Force.

For Shirley, the biggest adjustment he had to make in his new setting was dealing with people who would not act on their own initiative. "The people of India are smart, but they need permission to act even when it's obvious that you must do something," he said. Shirley also found the caste system, which still prevails throughout much of India, other-worldly: people cannot rise above the caste or status they were born into, but have to make the best of their situation throughout their lives. The best part of Shirley's Indian experience was "the good food." He also appreciated the clean streets covered with oak trees in a country in which garbage-handling was problematic.

"India is the largest democracy in the world with a developing middle class, but is still a Third World coun-



Photo by Wesson News

Fifty-Plus Club president **Janet Richardson** (left) confers with **Dean Shirley** of Wesson (second from left), who talked about life in India in presentation to club members; his wife **Rhoda Patterson Shirley** (second from right), dressed in traditional Indian attire; and **Ola Douglas** (right), club secretary and Rhoda's mother.

try where one-third of the population lives on less than a \$1 a day," Shirley related. "As a middle income white person from America, I was perceived as rich," he said. "There are beggars at every intersection. Street vendors are central to much of Indian commerce. Bicycles and motorcycles with two and three people riding on them are the predominant mode of transportation. People sleep and bathe on the streets."

## Institute for Learning in Retirement

**Roger Berry** of Hazlehurst demonstrated his custom-built cigar box guitars and discussed the roots of his business in the 1840s when cigar makers started shipping in small wooden boxes. "Cigar box guitars are the cornerstone of modern guitars, banjos, and slide guitars," he said. In fact, most of the best known Blues and Rock stars—among them, Carl Perkins ("Blue Suede Shoes"), "Beans" Hambone, Blind Willie Johnson, and Charlie Christian—started out making their own guitars out of cigar boxes, he pointed out. The earliest record of a cigar box guitar is a Civil War-era etching of soldiers playing one around a camp fire.

"The earliest form of cigar box guitars had no frets," Berry explained. "So they were played with slides, which led to the modern slide guitar in the Southern Delta. The one-string 'diddly-bow,' played with a Coke bottle or rum neck and string, is a primitive ancestor of the cigar box guitar." Slide instruments influenced famous Blues musicians—Son House, Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, and Elmore James—throughout their careers, he said. B.B. King's father supposedly made his son's first guitar from a simple cigar box because he couldn't afford the \$2.00 guitar sold in stores.

The use of cigar boxes, he said, was preceded by other cheap materials you could find lying around homes and barns. In Africa, the slaves, who were brought to America before the Civil War, made "banjars"—a precursor to the banjo made from a gourd with a neck and strings. In their new



Photo by Wesson News

Cigar box guitar-maker **Roger Berry** discussed his special trade.

home, they found other materials—for example, left-over wooden boxes, tin cans, string, broom handles, wire, screen—to fashion their instruments. When money was scarce following the Civil War, other people with a passion for music who could not afford string instruments in stores followed the example of former slaves in making guitars, fiddles, or banjos.

Co-Lin professor **Dr. Kevin McKone** discussed world energy supply and demand over the next 20 years, projecting the use of fossil fuels—natural gas, petroleum, and coal—will shrink from 85% today to 50% by



Photo by Wesson News

Co-Lin professor **Dr. Kevin McKone** discussed the world's energy future.

2030 while use of renewable energy—wind, waves, solar thermal, biomass, tidal gravity, and geo-thermal—expands more than three-fold to 17 per cent of the world's energy supply because of higher fossil fuel prices. Hydro and nuclear energy will supply another 17 per cent of world energy in 2030, he added.

"The cheapest way to close the gap between energy demand and supply," McKone pointed out, "is energy efficiency," noting that 27 per cent of energy used today is lost in transmission and generation. McKone also observed that energy efficiency "increases security of energy supplies, curbs environmental impact, and reduces fossil fuel use." Without out declining energy use, he said, the world would need to double its energy supply by 2030 to sustain economic growth.

He challenged skeptics who say climate change is not real. "Urban heating, data selection, station quality, and data adjustments do not bias" the indicators of climate change, he said. "The upward trend in temperatures is likely human-caused," he added.



Photo by Wesson News

**Dr. Bettie Bullard** reported on her Morocco trip to the Institute for Learning in Retirement.

**Dr. Bettie Bullard**, retired from teaching gifted education at Jackson County Schools and the University of South Alabama, reported on her visit

continued on next page

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# Overheard around town

to Morocco in June, 2013. She highlighted three important facts about the country: "It was the first country to recognize the U.S. as a country. The first University was established at Fez in Morocco in 859 AD. Morocco is safe for foreigners to visit because the plurality of its identity is united, and its diversity is enriching." A land of 32 million people, including Berbers, Arabs, and Jews, Morocco has been ruled by the French, Spanish, and Portuguese, she said. It is currently a Constitutional Monarchy where Arabic, French, and English are spoken. Casablanca, Rabat, Fez, Marrakesh, and El Jadida are Morocco's major cities.

## Lions Club

Lion **John Goza**, an agent with the Mississippi Alcohol and Beverage Control bureau, discussed state laws regulating liquor, wine, and beer as Brookhaven begins to implement its new comprehensive liquor law that permits sales of liquor and wine in restaurants and bars and through package stores—a change that has prompted one of two package stores in Wesson to move to Brookhaven.

"You've got a crazy situation in this area now," Goza noted. "You can buy wine and liquor in Wesson, but not beer. You can buy wine, liquor, and beer in Brookhaven. The eight miles between Wesson and Brookhaven is totally dry."



Photo by Wesson News

**John Goza (left), Mississippi Alcohol Beverage Control agent, confers with Wesson Lions Club president Ric Crockett about state liquor laws.**

How did this happen? Goza explained:

- From the 1920s prohibition era in the U.S until 1966, no liquor, wine, or beer could be sold legally anywhere in Mississippi. In 1966, the state implemented a local option law that allowed individual counties to vote on whether or not to allow wine and liquor sales, beer sales, or sales of all three. Municipalities with populations of 2,500 or more in counties where beer sales were not permitted could vote to allow beer sales.

- Copiah County has permitted liquor and wine sales, but not beer sales. Although Hazlehurst and Crystal Springs subsequently authorized beer sales, Wesson cannot because its population is less than 2,500. In Lincoln County, sales of liquor, wine, or beer are illegal, but Brookhaven voted to permit

beer sales under the 1966 law and voted to permit liquor and wine sales under a 2012 law that allows municipalities in dry counties to come out of Prohibition laws.

Goza said Mississippi is a "control state" which imports wine and liquor, resells it, and ships it to businesses. "In the process, the state realizes some \$69 million in revenues annually," he reported.

Distilling liquor in Mississippi is a felony punishable by two to five years imprisonment, Goza said. However, enforcers focus particularly on the illegal distillers who resell their products. Mississippi allows wine and beer production for home use.

"The Addie McBride Rehabilitation Center for the Blind may be the best kept secret in the state," **Dr. Rosie Gibson**, director of the facility, said in a report on the facility which serves low-vision and no-vision adults (persons over 16 years old) to enable them to enjoy independent and productive lives. The Center has been operating since 1972 on the campus of the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

"Between 150 to 200 residential and day students each year take classes to learn travel skills, communications through Braille, how to take advantage of recreation and leisure opportunities, typewriting/keyboarding and computer technology, techniques of

daily living," Gibson explained.

So the Addie McBride staff understands what they are asking people to do in classes, they experience the same instruction wearing blindfolds, she said.



Photo by Wesson News

**Dr. Rosie Gibson** talked about the Addie McBride Rehabilitation Center for the Blind—"the best kept secret in Mississippi."

"We push Braille because it's about literacy," Gibson said. "We teach handwriting so no one leaves Addie McBride without being able to sign their name—a basic protection in the modern world. We equip people with living skills—handling currency, budgeting, using debit cards, diabetic diet and self-care, marking and identifying medication, changing technologies. We also teach our students how to have fun—using bikes and treadmills at the gym, for example."

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cont. from front page

# Christmas fire safety tips can give us all a safer holiday

Carraway offers this preventative counsel on:

• **Home heating.** Call a heating and cooling specialist to inspect your furnace to make sure it is in working order and there are no leaks. Get a screen for your fireplace to contain flying sparks. Never leave a fireplace unattended when a fire is burning, and completely extinguish the fire before going to bed. Although space heaters are popular as an effective, convenient way to warm up a chilly Southern room, read the instructions on the unit before you use it. Vent heaters, if required, to the outdoors. Allow at least three feet of empty area around space heaters. If fire breaks out, get out and call the fire department.

• **Cooking.** If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove or stovetop. Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. Turn off the stove if you have to leave the kitchen even for a short time. If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly. Remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you when food is ready. Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from



Photos by Wesson News

Kindergarten and elementary school children (above) get hands-on experience with fire hoses while volunteer fire fighters (right) demonstrate their equipment.



your stovetop. Keep the lid of a pot or pan nearby to smother grease fires. Never use your stove or oven to heat your home (only use space heaters approved for this purpose). For an oven fire, turn off the heat, and keep the stove door closed.

• **Christmas trees.** Make a fresh cut on the trunk of your tree and place it in a sturdy holder away from heat sources (i.e., fireplaces and heaters). Fill the tree holder with water and check the water level daily. Spray the

tree with flame retardant. Safely dispose of your tree before it becomes dangerously dry. Never burn the tree or tree parts in your fireplace.

• **Christmas lights.** Purchase only UL or CSA approved lights. Mini lights are safest because they produce less heat. Use only outdoor lights, which generate excessive heat, outdoors. Check all indoor and outdoor lights for frayed cords, and replace if necessary. Never use lights that have an empty socket. Follow instructions carefully if you need extension cords, but avoid using them if possible. Do

not overload electrical circuits, such as wall outlets and extension cords; use a circuit strip. Lights should not touch combustible materials. Turn off all Christmas lights before leaving your home or going to bed.

• **Candles.** Never leave lighted candles unattended, especially with children around. Place candles in non-tip and noncombustible holders and well away from the Christmas tree, Christmas decorations or other combustible materials.

• **Christmas wrappings.** Gift wrapping paper and Christmas gift boxes are highly combustible and should be at least three feet away from heat sources, such as fireplaces, candles, portable heaters, lamps, and wood burning appliances. Never burn wrappings in your fireplace.

Carraway also offers these year-round safety reminders:

- Make sure your home is equipped with at least one working smoke detector on each level of your home.
- Implement and practice a family emergency home fire escape plan.
- Know the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning and install a CO detector in your home.
- Have an ABC fire extinguisher available in your home.



## Spring Registration

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