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# Wesson News

## SPOTLIGHT

### New Town Budget Page 12

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Volume 6, Number 10

*"Good News You Can Use"*

October 9, 2018

# October is Wesson's carnival season

By Bob Arnold

For Wesson area residents and visitors, October is carnival season in town, with its annual flea market, the festival culminating Red Ribbon Week at Wesson Attendance Center (WAC), two haunted houses that provide scary entertainment and adventure for those seeking such experiences, a town party at the municipal park and traditional trick-or-treating on Halloween.

## Flea Market

Wesson's forty-seventh annual Flea Market and Outdoor Arts and Crafts Show will draw thousands of browsers and shoppers to downtown streets on Saturday, October 20.

Individuals, church groups, clubs, civic organizations and businesses -- some 200 altogether -- will line Highway 51, Factory, and Spring Streets from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to sell their wares, promote their work, and meet and greet the public.

"Just a few weeks before the November mid-term elections, candidates for office will be on hand to talk to voters," notes Ken Carraway, Wesson Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD) Chief. "They will join vendors from surrounding states, as well as nearby and from throughout the Mississippi." WVFD manages and



Photo by Wesson News

coordinates the event, which is a major fundraiser for the department.

There will be everything from antiques to quilts and candles to gourmet foods, jellies, jams and honey; home decor and landscape items for yards and local artisans will offer a variety of hand-crafted items. That special book to read, a gift for someone special, or a pet dog or cat to keep you company will be there in the display areas where shoppers, who know what they want, and browsers, who are looking for an opportunity or deal, can sort through the numerous and varied arts and crafts items, antiques, jewelry, clothes and assorted flea market knick knacks.

Local civic clubs and church groups

will serve an array of foods and snacks in the bazaar-like atmosphere to quench the thirst and maintain the energy levels of visitors, while raising money for their organizations and their projects and causes. Porkskins -- a special treat available at the Flea Market -- will be cooking. The Wesson Lions Club will again be selling sweet potatoes, offering five-pound, ten-pound, twenty-pound and forty-pound assortments at 50 cents per pound. Friends of the Library will hold its annual book sale in the building next to the Wesson public library pavilion.

Started by a local merchants association, WVFD turned the event, better known today as the "Wesson

Flea Market," into a major fundraiser held annually on the third Saturday in October. The volunteer fire fighters generate some \$5,000 each year on sales of the 10-foot-by-10-foot display areas at \$45 each. The funds support purchase of equipment, such as new digital radios, for the fire department, Carraway says.

"We appreciate the community's continued support, and we're working to make this year's event a venue where friends and families can enjoy fellowship and do some shopping," he adds.

Vendors and exhibitors can still reserve display areas. They must furnish their own tables, chairs, and other display equipment and may sell from tents, booths or their cars and trucks. Set-up for the Flea Market is after 5 p.m. on Friday, October 19, and before 8 a.m. on Saturday. For information, contact Ken Carraway at Wesson Volunteer Fire Department, carraway3@yahoo.com.

## Red Ribbon Festival

The annual Red Ribbon Festival on Thursday, October 25, highlights Wesson Attendance Center's (WAC) participation in National Red Ribbon Week -- the oldest and largest drug

Cont. on page 6

# Silent Oaks Cemetery returns for Halloween



Photo by Wesson News

Silent Oaks Cemetery, the haunted yard display that is the product of Brian King's imagination, is again welcoming visitors through Halloween eve after a tornado forced King to cancel his seasonal attraction last year when it damaged elements of the unique display stored in an old barn. Guided by photos, King rebuilt part of a mausoleum and tombstones that will again be featured in the display, along with new additions he has created -- the Harris family crypt in which deceased HARRISES tell their story with lights shining on their vaults, the shaft of a mine with associated scents wafting from the pit where bodies of workers still lay after an accident claimed their lives, and new tombstones in memory of "Perry Noid," "Eve L. Kwen and "Kris P. Bykoy." King has developed the display over the past ten years in his front yard on Anderson Road. This year, his fiancée Mandy Sykes and stepdaughters Katelynn Palmer and Laci Sykes assisted him. Throughout October, travelers can stop at King's home three miles from the Wesson Timberlane Road turnoff and wander through the small, but growing mock cemetery as part of "a family-friendly experience -- spooky, but whimsical, and not scary" from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. King envisions it will be large enough to require a small drive-through. Visit Silent Oaks Cemetery on Facebook to track its progress.



# Vote

## David Baria for U.S. Senate

# Tuesday, November 6th

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# David

# BARIA

FOR MISSISSIPPI



# Marilyn Britt is getting to know herself

By Bob Arnold

Around town, people know Marilyn Britt as a trusted banker on whom they can count for financial advice and go to for a loan. Britt, on the other hand, over the past few months, has been getting to know herself since the untimely passing of her long-time husband Clifford, a retired AT&T employee and former Hazlehurst and Copiah County judge and state representative, on Christmas eve.

"For so many years, my identity was being part of couple," she says. "Now, I am developing a new normal in my life and finding out who Marilyn Britt is."

One thing she knows for sure about herself: "I have been blessed by my immediate and extended family. My Trustmark Bank and church family and the Wesson community have helped me get through a difficult time in my life. I know now how important family and friends are in facing the experiences, challenges and trials of life and life's changes." Britt also says her life remains centered around her work at Trustmark Bank, family and church, as it has been over the years.

"I love God, family, church, my job and friends," she says. She notes that since the death of her husband, she had been grieving until the recent homecoming at Sylvarena Church that helped her "finally let go" and "realize I could still be happy." At the event, her church recognized families who had lost loved ones and celebrated the monument she purchased to stand above the cemetery plot she will share with her husband. It features a pillared banking symbol and the inscription "A True Public Servant in Her Community."

Britt grew up in Wesson and says she loves the town and participation in its development through various organizations. "I am about Wesson," she affirms. Her community service has encompassed charter memberships in the Wesson Chamber of Commerce, which she served as president for twelve years; and Wesson Friends of the Library, involvement in Wesson Garden Club and the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary and service on the Old

Wesson School committee, which has turned the landmark and former school into a community center. She is active in Sylvarena Baptist Church as part of the women's group and Sunday school and assistant church clerk.

After graduating from Wesson High School, when it was based at Co-Lin, and subsequently studying at the college, she went to work for Trustmark Bank as a bookkeeper and has climbed up the job ladder as a teller, head teller, customer service representative and

assistant branch manager to her current position -- assistant vice president and Wesson branch manager. Except for ten years with Trustmark in Hazlehurst, she has worked at the bank's Wesson branch throughout her career. She has been recognized for distinguished service by the Mississippi Bankers Association and received the 2017 Trustmark President Club award. Outstanding Young Women of America also recognized her for her accomplishments.

Britt and her husband had two sons,

Van Britt and Hillary Britt. She has five grandchildren.

**What do you do when you aren't working?**

Since my mother, Elene Hutson, taught me oil painting, that has been my major hobby. I paint flowers and get inspiration from cards and pictures. I also enjoy decorating, crafts and travel. Spending time with my grandchildren is also important. Every Wednesday, I pick up three of them after school, take them to the 51 Diner and then to church. I want to be a part of encouraging and supporting them with their spiritual journey and, in general, be an important part of their lives.

**Are you a reader?**

I read books by John Grisham, Agatha Christie, Wyatt Waters, Robert St. John, Eudora Welty and Max Lucado.

**Do you enjoy movies or theater?**

My favorite movies include *Wicked*, *Wizard of Oz* and many produced by Hallmark for television.

**How about music?**

I enjoy Christian music, especially the hymns you can find in the *Baptist Hymnal*. I am also a country music fan and like classical as well as pop music.

**Would you change your life?**

No. I have been blessed. I grew up in a simple time when parents didn't have to worry about their children getting into serious trouble at play or in school. I had a good marriage and have good friends. I loved school and love my church.

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

I'd give it to charity and my church and treat myself, children and grandchildren.

**How would you change the world?**

The world needs unity and less divisions. I try to make the world better as a leader, particularly on the job, where I have tried to build a team that looks to me as an example. I try to be a person who other people can respect, and I try to respect everyone.

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Photo by Wesson News

Marilyn Britt with her oil paintings and plaques that have recognized her accomplishments.

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## Early detection beats breast cancer

By Guest Columnist  
Dr. Stephanie Duguid

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month -- an annual campaign to raise awareness about the importance of early detection of breast cancer. People, in general, are aware of breast cancer, but don't pay attention to detecting it in its early stages or aren't involved in motivating communities, organizations, families, and other persons to encourage early breast cancer detection.



Special to Wesson News

Only skin cancer is more common than breast cancer. One in eight women born today in the United States will get breast cancer. Every woman is at risk. It is the leading cancer death in women from fifteen to fifty-four years old. Black women have the highest breast cancer death rates of all racial and ethnic groups. It is 100 times more common among women than men. Every thirteen minutes, breast cancer claims the life of a woman.

The good news is that many women can survive breast cancer if it is found and treated early. With early detection, ninety-six percent of affected women survive breast cancer.

A mammogram, the screening test for breast cancer, can help find breast cancer early when it is easier to treat. Getting mammograms regularly can lower the risk of dying from breast cancer. Women over 40 years old need to talk to their doctors about how often they should be screened. Those over 50 years old need a mammogram screening every two years.

There are different breast cancer symptoms, and some people have none. Symptoms can include any change in the size or the shape of the breast, pain in the breast area, nipple discharge other than milk and a lump in the breast or underarm. Any worrying signs should trigger an immediate visit to the doctor.

The main factors that influence the risk of breast cancer cannot be controlled -- gender, being a woman; age, being older than 50; genetics, having the breast cancer gene (BRCA1 and BRCA2). But you can control other factors to help lower the risk of breast cancer: maintaining a healthy weight, adding physical activity to your daily lifestyle, avoiding the use of tobacco and alcohol.

*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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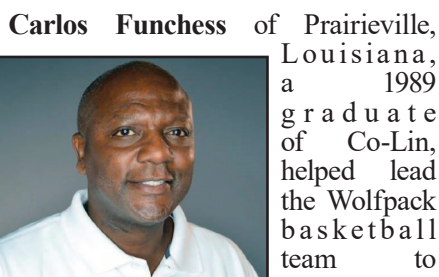
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# Five honored as Hall of Famers

*Special to Wesson News*

Five former Co-Lin athletes will become part of the college's Sports Hall of Fame during the its Homecoming weekend.



**Carlos Funchess** of Prairieville, Louisiana, a 1989 graduate of Co-Lin, helped lead the Wolfpack basketball team to two state championships and a seventh-place finish at the National Junior and Community College Association Tournament, earned All-State accolades and played in the state All-Star Game. After Co-Lin, he attended the University of Louisiana-Monroe (UL-M), where he was named first-team All-Southland Conference (SLC) and led the Indians to two tournament titles and NCAA Tournament appearances. He was also named the SLC's Co-Most Valuable Player. During his senior year at UL-M, Funchess won the 1991 College Slam Dunk Contest on ESPN. He received a Bachelor's degree in Health and Human Performance in 1992. Funchess played professionally for the Miami Heat, the Global Basketball Association, Continental Basketball League in Sioux Falls and Rockford, and overseas in Caracas, Venezuela. After serving as women's assistant basketball coach at Southern University since 2005, he has become the program's head coach. Funchess and his wife Sondia have two daughters, Tynee and Chelsea.

## SPORTS SHORTS

**Sherman "Adron" Hyatt** of



Hazlehurst, who died in 2009, was a 1951 graduate of Co-Lin and a two-time All-State selection in basketball. Hyatt served in the United States Air Force for 25 years, received the rank of Senior Master Sergeant and served one tour in Vietnam as a squadron leader at MACV, Saigon. He received multiple commendations and medals of service. During his basketball career in the military, he earned the Most Valuable Player award at the London Invitational and was named to the All-Unicom team four times. He played and coached numerous Air Force base teams for more than 20 years.

Hyatt served on the Board of Deacons for First Assembly of God in Prattville, Alabama, and Brookhaven, Mississippi. He also served as a purchasing agent for Copiah County for 15 years. Hyatt and his wife Joan were married

for 57 years, had two children, Sharon Armstrong and Ron Hyatt, and two grandchildren.

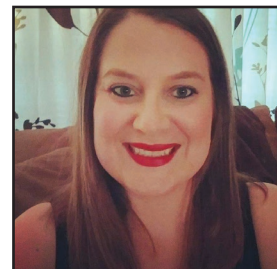
**Greg Briggs** of Houston, Texas, is a



1989 graduate of Co-Lin, where he played both basketball and football. He came to Co-Lin on a basketball scholarship, but later decided to try out for the football

team, and became the starting free safety, helping the Wolves win the South Division championship. After Co-Lin, he played for the University of Arkansas and Texas Christian University, where he received All-South West Association Conference honors during his senior year. Briggs played six years in the NFL for the Dallas Cowboys, Chicago Bears and Minnesota Vikings as a linebacker and on special teams. He is a two-time Super Bowl champion from his time with the Cowboys. Briggs also played for the Frankfurt Galaxy of the World League of American Football, leading his team in tackles and to the World Bowl in 1995. Briggs and his wife Joy have three children, Jordon, Brandon and Tiffini.

**Emily Horne** of Dayton, Texas,



is a 2006 graduate of Co-Lin, where she was named All-Region, All-State and All-American in softball.

Horne led the 2006 softball team to a third place finish in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) National Tournament and was named to the NJCAA All-Tournament Team. She still holds the pitching records at Co-Lin for ERA (0.72), opponent's batting average (0.155), career strike outs (366), single season wins (21 twice), and career wins (42).

After Co-Lin, Horne attended Arkansas Tech University on a softball scholarship and majored in history. She is the lead teacher at Berta Alyce Early Childhood Education Center and volunteers for Katie's Closet, providing used clothing

*Cont. on page 5*

## Police Blotter

*Special to Wesson News*

During September, Wesson Police Department activity encompassed:

**Responses to:**

- Two vehicle accidents
- One auto theft
- One petit larceny
- One disturbance
- Four suspicious persons
- One malicious mischief
- Three animal control incidents
- One EMS/fire assistance
- Two vehicle unlocks
- One business alarm
- Eleven service calls

**Arrests & citations:**

- Twenty speeding violations
- Five driving without a license
- Five no insurance violations
- Four possessions of a controlled substance
- Four possessions of paraphernalia
- Two open container violations
- One disturbing the peace
- Three contempt of court

Police conduct nightly business checks. On school days, the Wesson Police Department facilitates traffic flow at Wesson Attendance Center, with officers on duty between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

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Cont. from page 4  
for low income children. She has one son, Nathan.

**Ryan Belanger** of Zachary, Louisiana, is a 2005 graduate of Co-Lin, where he played baseball and was named All-State and NJCAA All-World Series and All-Region. He was a key member of the 2005 Wolves that won state, regional,



and super regional championships. He still holds the strikeout record for Co-Lin. After Co-Lin, he attended the University of Southern Mississippi, where he played baseball and was named second-team All-Conference USA. Belanger majored in sports administration and minored in business. After USM, Belanger committed to the Kansas City Royals Organization. He now works as an account manager at Nalco. He and his wife Dana, a 2005 Co-Lin graduate and former standout basketball player, have one son, Ty.

# SCOREBOARD

September 12-October 9

## WHS Cobras

Football:

Record: 6-1. Recent Wins: Bogue Chitto. 49-12. Loyd Star. 40-20. Richland (Homecoming). 47-14. Mize. 27-0. Columbia. 44-0. Recent Losses: Sumrall. 18-15.

## Co-Lin Wolves

Football:

Record: 3-2. Recent Wins: Northeast Mississippi. 21-7. Pearl River. 49-0. Mississippi Gulf Coast. 38-13 Recent Losses: Holmes. 29-28. Northwest. 23-14.

Golf:

Fifth in MACJC Conference Event at Eagle Ridge Golf Club.

# Upcoming Sporting Events

**October 11**

Co-Lin football Wolves play Hinds College. 7 p.m.

**October 12**

Wesson High School football Cobra plays West Marion. 7 p.m.

**October 15**

Wesson High School Junior High School Cobras play at Brookhaven. 7 p.m.

**October 19**

Wesson High School football Cobras play at Tylertown. 7 p.m.

**October 20**

Wesson High School football Cobras play Jefferson Davis County. 7 p.m.

Co-Lin football Wolves play at Jones County Junior College. 7 p.m.

**October 27**

Co-Lin football Wolves play Southwest Mississippi Community College in Homecoming game. 3 p.m.

**October 29**

Co-Lin Golf Wolves play in MACJC event at Windance Country Club, Gulfport, Mississippi

**November 1**

Co-Lin women's basketball Wolves play at Holmes. 6 p.m.

**November 3**

Wesson High School boys basketball Cobras play at Wilkinson County. TBA

**November 5**

Co-Lin men's and women's basketball Wolves play Mississippi Delta. 5:30 p.m. & 7 p.m.

**November 6**

Wesson High School girls & boys basketball Cobras play West Lincoln. TBA

**November 8**

Co-Lin men's basketball Wolves play Royal Ambassadors. 7 p.m.

Wesson High School boys basketball Cobras play Lawrence County. 6 p.m.

**November 12**

Co-Lin women's basketball Wolves play Baton Rouge Community College at Southwest Mississippi Classic Southwest Tournament. 1 p.m.

**November 13**

Co-Lin women's basketball Wolves play Louisiana State University Eunice at Southwest Mississippi Classic Southwest Tournament. 1 p.m.

Wesson High School girls & boys basketball Cobras play at Bogue Chitto. 6 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Co-Lin men's basketball Wolves play William Carey JV. 7 p.m.

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Cont. from page 1

# October is Wesson's carnival season

prevention program in the nation -- and generates funds for the WAC Parent-Teacher Organization. From 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the elementary school side of WAC, it will feature fair-like activities for children in kindergarten and lower grades -- games, a costume contest, and food and refreshments, among other fun and festivities.

The event contrasts with the more serious anti-drug focus of National Red Ribbon Week, which was started in memory of Drug Enforcement Agency agent Kiki Camarena, who was murdered by drug traffickers in Mexico City in 1985. At WAC, varied activities, including popular dress up days during which students wear clothing and costumes, will engage students and communicate messages that reflect the 2018 National Red Ribbon Week theme -- "Life Is a Journey: Travel Drug-Free." The Wesson Junior High/High School Beta Club -- a WAC student service organization -- spearheads the local program built around the campaign, which reaches millions of young people throughout the U.S. every year

## Haunted Houses

As part of the Red Ribbon Festival, the WAC Beta Club will turn Wesson High School into a haunted house with an obstacle course of horrors to entertain older children, youth, adults and anyone else seeking a scary experience. They

will be confronted by ladies coming at them with chain saws, vampires, zombies, goblins, ghosts, wicked witches and monsters, among an assortment of characters, as they walk through dimly lit and dark hallways. The adventure begins following the fun and games on the elementary school side of WAC.

Starting this weekend on Friday and Saturday, October 12 and 13, continuing on subsequent Fridays and Saturdays through the first weekend in November, and on Halloween, the Wesson Chamber of Commerce will provide a similar haunted house experience at the old Sunflower Store (2152 Highway 51). Those without faint hearts can visit the Chamber's house of horrors between 7:30 p.m. and midnight on October 12 and 13, 19 and 20, 26 and 27, 31 and November 2 and 3 and confront the disembodied spirits, monsters and witches for \$10. This Saturday, October 13, horror characters from the Twisted Carnival game will be on hand, as well. Throughout the month, visitors can also meet members of the Mississippi Paranormal Research Institute team.

## Town Party

Already, more than ten individuals, families, businesses and civic organizations have signed on to set up tents with games, prizes, food, and candy treats for the Tent-A-Treat Halloween party in Wesson municipal park.

Play-It-Up -- the community program coordinated by Town Hall staff in cooperation with local organizations and residents -- is orchestrating the second annual event set to start at 6 p.m. and run until 8 p.m. at the park. Close to 1,000 adults and children showed up last year for the supplementary event and alternative to traditional trick-or-treating on Wesson streets. Last year, motorists loaded down their vehicles with goodies to welcome kids and others for "trunk-or-treating." The event encompasses Wesson Baptist Church's Family former Fall Festival.

"This year, we're asking people and organizations to set up tents in the park, where trick-or-treaters can go," says Town Clerk Angela Hester. "They will also be the venues for fun events, like spin-it- to-aim-it, plinko, water shoot out, goblin bowling, pumpkin bullseye, glow-bobbing and a ring-toss, among others. Everyone -- young and older children, youth and adults -- is invited in or out of costume to participate in the event. A costume contest will be a feature of this year's event. There is no charge, with food, including hamburgers, hot dogs, candy and other refreshments all free.

Along with Hester and Libby Kirton, assistant Town Clerk; Brittany Ashley and Alana Hughes are coordinating the event. For information or to volunteer

and contribute funds, contact Hester at Town Hall (601-643-5221).

## Trick-or-Treating

Traditional trick-or-treating starts in Wesson on Halloween morning, when children from Precious Moments day care center, the Wesson Baptist Church pre-school program, and the kindergarten at WAC go to local merchants and businesses for candy and special treats in the annual Trick or Treat Downtown. Older trick-or-treaters will start going from house to house in Wesson neighborhoods during the late afternoon and continue into the evening. Wesson police expect the usual calm night, but will have officers on patrol in cars and on foot. They ask people to use common sense and stress that vandalism will not be tolerated. Young children should be supervised by their parents, and everyone should be "traffic-conscious," walking on sidewalks or beside roadways. Trick-or-treaters should go only to homes with porch lights on and respect residents of neighborhoods who do not want to participate in the door-to-door Halloween tradition. The Old School Community Center, which has haunted house stories associated with it, and Wesson Cemetery will be off limits. Older youth and adults should be aware of where they are wearing masks and not alarm owners, clerks, and patrons in local businesses.

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# Yards recognized



Photos Special to Wesson News

Wesson Garden Club recognized the landscaping efforts of Copiah Bank on Highway 51 (top), Jerry and Kimberly Hood at 1059 Gum Street inside Wesson corporate limits (center) and Gwyn and Velesta Young at 1060 Williams Road (bottom) outside the town's corporate limits with its September Yard of the Month awards. The awards, based on maintenance principles and elements of landscape design, seek to encourage ongoing beautification and cleanliness of the Wesson area and cultivate a citizenry that values and protects natural resources and assumes responsibility for enhancing the environment. The Garden Club's Yard of the Month awards honor properties in organizational and town and rural (limited to Wesson School District) residential categories during the spring, summer and fall.

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# Wesson area Community Calendar

October weather forecast: The Old Farmer's Almanac calls for an average temperature of 68 degrees F (3 degrees above average) with precipitation of 6 inches (3 inches above average).  
October 9 & 10: T-storms, then sunny, cool. October 11-19: Sunny, warm. October 20-24: Rainy, cool. October 25-27: Sunny, warm. October 28-31: T-storms, then sunny, cool.

## OCTOBER 9

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

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

## OCTOBER 11

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

Widows Support Group meets. The group supports widows, who are walking through the grief process, with programs on pertinent issues related to their situation. Brookhaven. 5 p.m. For further information, contact Becky Vaughn Furlow at bvaughnfurlow@gmail.com or 601-540-4308.

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

*The Newsies*, a Brookhaven Little Theater production. 7 p.m. Performances also on October 13 (7 p.m.) & 14 (2 p.m.). Haven Theater, downtown Brookhaven.

## OCTOBER 12

Special benefit starts on behalf of six-year-old Chloe Price, who is fighting stage 4 brain cancer. Food, family, entertainment, games, trail riding, auction. Rockin C Ranch in Brookhaven. Continues on October 13 & 14. For information, contact Wiley Calcote (601-754-9965), Kayla Calcote (601-754-9925), Jennifer Winborne (601-659-2905), Angela Hester (601-754-2116) and Brad Turner (601-209-9083).

Wesson Chamber of Commerce haunted house starts and continues on October 13, subsequent Fridays and Saturdays through the first weekend in November, and on Halloween (October 31). Those without faint hearts can visit the Chamber's house of horrors between 7:30 p.m. and midnight at the old Sunflower Store (2152 Highway 51). Confront the disembodied spirits, monsters and witches for \$10. Horror characters from the Twisted Carnival game and video and members of the Mississippi Paranormal Research Institute team will be on hand.

## OCTOBER 14

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.

## OCTOBER 16

Institute for Learning in Retirement Day Trip to Canton, Mississippi, Nissan and Rich Grain Distillery Company operations. Departs Thames Center on Co-Lin campus at 8 a.m. with 8:20 a.m. pickup at Hazlehurst First Baptist Church.

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

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

## OCTOBER 17

WorkKeys Assessment for Career Readiness Certificate. Must register in advance. 601-643-8707. Thames Center on Co-Lin campus. 8:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Also November 1 & 14.

Fifty-fifth reunion of Co-Lin High School class of 1963. Poppa's Buffet and Grill. 11 a.m.

## OCTOBER 21

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

## OCTOBER 20

Wesson Flea Market will feature fleas, arts and crafts. Downtown Wesson. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Setup on Friday, October 19, after 5 p.m. and on October 20 before 8 a.m. Contact Ken Carraway at Wesson Volunteer Fire Department for information about display/exhibit space at carraway3@yahoo.com.

## OCTOBER 22

"In Our Boots -- Voices of Our Soldiers," an Institute for Learning in Retirement workshop led by Mark LaFrancis from the Mississippi Humanities Council, will focus particularly on military service personnel of World War II. Thames Center on Co-Lin campus. 10 a.m.

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.

## OCTOBER 23

Brookhaven Animal Rescue League (BARL) celebrity dinner and auction. Filmmaker Travis Mills and his dog Bandit will be guest celebrities. Tickets \$25. Lincoln Civic Center. 5:30 p.m.

## OCTOBER 25

Red Ribbon Festival, Wesson Attendance Center Parent-Teacher Organization fundraiser features fair-like activities for children in kindergarten and lower grades, with games, food and refreshments. Elementary school at WAC. 5 p.m.-8 p.m. The Junior High/High School Beta Club will host a haunted house in the later evening hours to raise funds. The festival highlights WAC week-long participation in the national Red Ribbon Week anti-drug campaign.

## OCTOBER 26

Co-Lin Homecoming weekend begins and culminates with football game at 3 p.m. on October 27 against Southwest Community College. Activities include golf tournament, President's reception, Alumni luncheon, tailgate party, class reunions, awards and recognitions. Co-Lin campus.

## OCTOBER 29

Boxtar Originals, an Institute for Learning in Retirement workshop featuring led by Jeff Sutley, who builds custom box guitars, the unique sound of which dates to the Civil War. Thames Center on Co-Lin campus. 10 a.m.

## OCTOBER 25

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

## HALLOWEEN. OCTOBER 31

Traditional trick-or-treating starts in Wesson in the morning when children from Precious Moments day care center, the Wesson Baptist Church pre-school program, and the kindergarten at WAC go to local merchants and businesses for candy and special treats in the annual Trick or Treat Downtown.

Play-It-Up -- the community program coordinated by Town Hall staff in cooperation with local organizations and residents -- holds its annual Tent-A-Treat Halloween party with games, prizes, food, and candy treats in tents set up by individuals, families and civic organizations -- a supplementary event and alternative to traditional trick-or-treating on Wesson streets. Wesson municipal park. 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

Older trick-or-treaters will start going from house to house in Wesson neighborhoods during the late afternoon and continue into the evening.

## NOVEMBER 6

Reunion of Wesson Elementary School retired faculty and staff, with spouses. Poppa's Buffet and Grill. 5:30 p.m.

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

## NOVEMBER 8

ILR Luncheon, with guest speaker Stacey Cain from the Mississippi Food Network, who will discuss hunger needs in the U.S., community food banks, nutrition and disaster relief. A Centurion-led workshop on Native American history follows. \$10 for lunch; workshop is free. Thames Center on Co-Lin campus. 10:30 a.m. lunch. Workshop at 12 noon.

## CONTINUING

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

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

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

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

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## Co-Lin personnel changes, new businesses, clinics, grants & benefit

*Special to Wesson News*

**Staff & leadership changes at Co-Lin.** Angela Furr has become interim executive director of the Co-Lin Foundation and Alumni Relations Office, and Anna Grider has come on board as its assistant director. Furr, a 2002 Co-Lin graduate and an employee of the college since 2005, has served the school as an adjunct instructor in its humanities division, recruiter and associate director of alumni affairs. Grider comes to Co-Lin from the University of South Carolina, where she was responsible for fundraising and marketing for Reformed University Fellowship after receiving a Bachelor's Degree in hospitality and tourism management from Appalachian State University. Thomas Sasser, who has served on the Co-Lin Board of Trustees for 33 years, has also been elected to chair it. A Bogue Chitto native and resident, he attended Co-Lin and received a Bachelor's Degree from Southern Mississippi and Master's Degree from Mississippi College.

**New businesses on the hook.** A consulting organization that recruits businesses for cities and counties says it has at least three retail organizations looking seriously at locating in Brookhaven. Tupelo-based Retail Coach, which works for Lincoln County and Brookhaven, reports it is negotiating with drive-through style and sit-down restaurants and a hotel group on setting up shop locally.

**KDMC opening new clinics.** Brookhaven-based King's Daughters Medical Center will open two new specialized clinics over the next few months. The hospital will partner with Jackson (Mississippi) Heart Clinic to bring cardiologists to a new facility due to open close to Thanksgiving. A Behavior Wellness Center (BWC), which will focus on regular checkups and regulation of depression, anxiety,

post traumatic disorders and other conditions, will open by mid-October. Dr. David Richardson will practice at the new BWC and Dr. Harper Stone and Dr. Donny Stokes will provide cardiology care at the Heart Clinic.

**Entergy presents grant money.** Entergy, as part of its charitable support of communities, has awarded grants to promote the Wesson Old School Community Center and Copiah County tourism. The grant money -- \$750 to the Town of Wesson for the Old School and \$600 to Copiah County Tourism Board (CCTB) -- will fund special brochures. Bill Howard, Customer Service Representative for Entergy, presented checks to Wesson Mayor Alton Shaw and CCTB Director Nora Berch at a Wesson Town Hall ceremony.

**Benefit for cancer victim.** Wesson residents, rallying behind the family of six-year-old Chloe Price, who is fighting stage 4 brain cancer, will hold a benefit event on October 12, 13 and 14 at the Rockin C Ranch in Brookhaven. Throughout the weekend, starting at noon on Friday, a concession stand will offer luncheon and dinner plates. Starting at 9 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday, adults and children can ride on horses and ponies or in wagon trains and hay wagons in the ranch's wooded areas and along its creek. A benefit auction begins at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, followed by a band concert featuring 55 South. At 7 p.m., the haunted barn at Spooky Hollow on the ranch grounds will open for anyone seeking the excitement of ghosts and a scary experience that is all in fun. There will also be ongoing games for kids and a cakewalk. For information, contact Wiley Calcote (601-754-9965), Kayla Calcote (601-754-9925), Jennifer Winborne (601-659-2905), Angela Hester (601-754-2116) and Brad Turner (601-209-9083).

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# New budget calls for 2 percent spending hike

## Wesson News

Wesson is expecting to spend \$1,129,110 on revenues of \$1,144,257 for its 2018-2019 fiscal year -- a two percent increase above the 1,103,710 in its expenses and less than a one percent hike in its income of \$1,141,757 during the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Although a ten percent boost in the town's ad valorem tax to 33.84 on every \$1,000 of assessed property value is projected to generate an additional \$15,000 during the new fiscal year, revenues are expected to be flat, largely because of an estimated decline of \$10,000 in income from metered sales on water usage of customers.

Wesson's budget encompasses projected revenues and expenditures for a general fund covering general government operations, the police and street departments, the Old School Community Center and public library; and separate revenue and expenditure projections each for the fire department, water/sewer operations, and water meters.

The budget calls for general fund expenses to rise more than \$10,000, from \$583,360 to \$593,760, and water/sewer expenses to jump by \$15,000 from \$490,450 to \$505,450, with fire department and water meter spending remaining at 2017-2018 levels of \$24,900 and \$5,000, respectively.

In the general fund budget, the Old School Community Center shows the greatest increase in expenditures to \$30,200 from \$27,200, while its anticipated rental income declines to \$7,500 from \$10,000. The budget also projects general fund increases in bond expenses (\$1,000), travel (\$1,500) and Wesson Police Department (WPD) health and dental costs (\$1,750) and gas, oil and utilities (\$1,000).

Overall, general fund revenues should be up to \$596,100 from \$583,600, with budgeted spending increases for general government to \$180,950 from \$174,250 and WPD to \$273,350 from \$272,350, as well as for the Old School Community Center. The budget projects street department spending to be slightly down to \$97,050 from \$97,350 and library spending to remain at \$12,210.

The new budget also shows water/sewer revenues falling from \$519,000 to \$509,000, and fire department and water meter revenues remaining at \$31,352 and \$7,025, respectively.

Mayor Alton Shaw said the budget gets the job done, while allowing little spending on luxuries.

"It's just like anything else -- a lot of issues can be solved with a little more money," he observed. "More money, more amenities. But for the basic necessities, we're able to cover our general government purpose."

Although the 2018-2019 budget doesn't show it, Mayor Shaw and town Aldermen have high hopes that a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) through the Mississippi Development Authority could provide another \$300,000 for library renovations, including entrance and parking improvements and expanded space that will bring the facility into compliance with the Americans for Disability Act. Although the CDBG grant isn't a sure thing, Wesson's funds application has a high ranking among competing applications, and MDA has completed a site visit at the library.

"We've addressed amenities for fifteen years through grant opportunities," Shaw pointed out.

# Wesson women launch new mortgage business

## Wesson News

Two Wesson Women have teamed up to bring the options, speed and convenient service of a major national mortgage company to area homebuyers.

Claire Crow, a 20-year professional in the banking/mortgage industry in Copiah and Lincoln Counties, spearheaded the effort to bring Fairway Independent Mortgage Company to the area and serves as branch sales manager. She brought Jo Ann Miller, whose background encompasses new construction design, on board as an office manager, marketing specialist, and loan officer assistant. They launched the Fairway branch in Brookhaven in March.

"I was excited about bringing a national company's service to small towns," Crow explains. Miller adds: "After working with clients on custom house plans, remodels and additions, I was excited about the opportunity to go one step further in helping people see their dreams come true."

Over six months, the local Fairway business has steadily grown and closed 14 mortgages in August alone, which Crow and Miller attribute to the diversified mortgage products the company offers and the capacity to close mortgage loans quickly.

Fairway, Crow points out, is the nation's fourth largest mortgage lender -- first in USDA and FHA mortgage loans for which Copiah and Lincoln County homes are eligible. "We're also veterans-friendly," she says. "We wear

RED on Fridays for Remembering Everyone Deployed. More importantly, we waive all lender fees on VA mortgage loans for veterans buying homes." In addition, the Fairway menu includes conventional, renovation and refinance mortgages, and jumbo loans.

Add Fairway's technology and convenience to the mix of loan mortgages, and Crow and Miller are highly competitive.

"Our clients can apply for mortgages in person, over the phone, online or by using a special mobile phone app," Crow says. "They can calculate the terms of potential monthly payments, sign documents with electronic signatures and keep track of the loan process."

"Our goal is to provide speed, service and satisfaction to our customers," says Miller. "We can close loans quickly -- in at least one case, eleven business days. In the process, we establish relationships that produce new customers through referrals and repeat customers."

Crow and Miller say the thrill of their work comes not from making loans, but "about the lives we change and making dreams of owning a home come true."

"The most rewarding part of my job is attending closings," says Crow. "Whether customers are buying their first home, buying a larger one due to family grown, or downsizing because the kids have grown up, it's a great feeling to know that my experience and knowledge helped achieve their goals."



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# Pace & Fuller named Co-Lin Alumni of Year

Wesson News

John W. Pace of Hattiesburg and Barbara Dale Welch Fuller of Mendenhall will be honored as Alumni of the Year during Co-Lin's Homecoming on Saturday, October 27.

Pace received his Associate's Degree from Co-Lin in 1986 and, as a member of the band, was instrumental in changing its name from the "Co-Lin Show Band" to the "Copiah-Lincoln Blue Wave." He received a Bachelor's Degree in criminal justice and paralegal studies at the University of Southern Mississippi and a Master's Degree in counseling from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, started a career as a community-based social worker with the State of Mississippi Department of Mental Health and later served as a social program instructor, medical quality assurance director, and as a patient advocate before retiring in 2013 after serving at four different state institutions over 25 years.

Pace has volunteered for more than 40,000 hours of community service and directly or indirectly raised more than \$7 million for more than 300 Mississippi charitable causes. He received the Governor's Initiative for Volunteer Service Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Building Initiatives, was awarded the President's Call to Service Award for Lifetime Achievement in Volunteer Service, and is the only current recipient of both the State of Mississippi and U.S. highest honors for a lifetime of service.

He currently serves as the community outreach specialist for Papa John's Pizza and helps to raise money for veterans, law enforcement officers, and children. Pace is the founder of Team John Boy, a group that encourages volunteerism in local communities and charitable donations. He has one daughter, Brianna.

Fuller graduated from Co-Lin in 1967, was president of the Wesley Foundation, and received the Suzanne Boyd Christian Leadership Award. She was involved in the Dramatics and French Clubs, Future Teachers of America, and Young Women's Christian Association. She received a Bachelor's Degree in English, with a minor in secondary education, from the University of Mississippi and did graduate work at the University of Southern Mississippi and Mississippi College. She taught high school English for 44 years and retired from Simpson County Academy, which named the building in which she taught "The Barbara Fuller Building" to honor her service.

Fuller has received numerous professional recognitions. Selected as a STAR teacher ten times, she was inducted into the Mississippi STAR Teacher Hall of Fame in 2012. Fuller was recognized as the Simpson County Academy Teacher of the Year for three years and is a *Who's Who Among Teachers* selection. She was twice named a William Winter Teacher Scholar and Statewide Vance Teacher Scholar, and recognized at the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration.

Fuller is active in Rials Creek United Methodist Church and serves as the secretary/treasurer of the Smith/Simpson Counties' cluster of 13 United Methodist churches. She is also president of the Rials Creek United Methodist Women's Organization, treasurer of her church's Action Adult Sunday School Class, and a member of its choir. She is a co-contributor with her sister, Kathy, to the *Magee Courier* county newspaper, for which she has written a twice-a-month community column, "Rials Creek News." She and her husband, Jon, have been married for 48 years and have two sons, Scott and Jay. She also has six grandchildren.

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# Artist took many paths back home

By Guest Columnist Shaw Furlow

"Life takes you down several paths, and each one can be pretty interesting." If there's one thing Brookhaven artist Derek Covington Smith has learned over his career as painter, it's about the many paths your life can take.



Special to Wesson News

Upon finishing his art studies at Co-Lin, Smith decided to take one of those paths that led away from home to see the rest of the country. During his travels, he worked as a professional artist, veterinarian nurse, food server, sports photographer and pastry chef. This background has given him an interesting perspective on his art: "People should paint what they want to paint, not necessarily what they are told to paint."

On one of his paths, Smith quit painting, with the exception of taking a few commissions, for nearly ten years. "I needed money, but mainly I just got burned out," he recalls. Over that time period, Smith became a pastry chef -- and that path brought him back to

painting. For good. "I was on the forefront of the chefs who started painting on their cakes," he says. "And believe it or not, putting that brush in my hand after all those years rekindled a fire. I began painting again and haven't looked back."

While traveling his varied paths, teaching was always something in the back of his mind. Now back in his native Brookhaven, he has opened a downtown studio to students young and old.

"I teach students from six to ninety six," he says. "I really enjoy the older students. They come in here with different levels of skill and experience and have fun. They don't care if anyone else likes their work. No pressure. As long as they like it, it's okay, and I like that attitude."

Asked why establishing an art scene is so hard in this area, he denies that it is: "It isn't hard at all. We just need to do a better job of educating the public. Each one of us sees each piece of art differently. We see the value of art differently, so we just need more exposure." Smith has several ideas about how to do that: "Art walks are popular. Placing pieces in local bank lobbies and restaurants

work. Pop up art shows are a lot of fun." A pop up art show takes place in one day. Artists from all around enter work, and it is on display in a busy area, for one day. It creates a lot of traffic and buzz, and people are treated to a great show. "The more opportunities the better," he says. "I didn't have these options when I was growing up here. It's time for the art scene to explode here like the music scene has."

Not being a painter, I cannot accurately describe Smith's style, but I would call it intense and emotional. Even I can see the motion and the emotion in each work.

Twice a year, in January and September, Smith paints portraits. He chooses subjects who are famous and have had an impact on his life. And, while he paints, he dives into every aspect of his subject, either listening to their music, or watching their films or reading their books. "The people I paint all are important to me one way or another," he says. "And no, I haven't met most of them, but they are awesome people." He paints thirty portraits in thirty days.

Painters, like musicians, can create all day long, but they end up with "real" jobs to make ends meet if no one sees

their work. Smith is fortunate working with a New York City gallery which encouraged him to move back home and agreed to continue to represent his works. "Every now and then I send them some pieces," he says. "They have been good to me. I can basically live anywhere and just send them art."

So what's next on Smith's next path? "I am concentrating on teaching and painting right now," he says. His works have been on display in the Lincoln/Lawrence Library and his studio is spotted with complete and incomplete works. He joined Brookhaven Regional Arts Guild (BRAG), which meets monthly in his studio. "Now that's a lot of fun!" For a young man to have traveled so many different paths, the one he's on now makes him the happiest.

That's it for this month. There are a lot of things happening in our little corner of the world. Get out and experience it. You, too, may find a new path. Support the arts, my friends.

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



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I also serve as general counsel for various business and corporate clients and have handled litigation in both state and federal courts, as well as appeals before the Mississippi Supreme Court. In addition, I have sought to protect victims of criminal activity, tried over 1,000 cases to verdict, handled hundreds of cases before Chancery Courts in over 15 different counties throughout the State of Mississippi and served as Special Master for the 15th District Chancery Court of Mississippi.

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# Teacher's work honors brother

Wesson News

For Kevin Thomas, teaching and coaching is about making sure children and youth don't meet the same fate as his brother, Bill Rae Thomas, a former Brookhaven High School football player who was killed in a shooting, a victim of gun violence.

"I am honoring my brother," says Thomas, September Teacher of the Month at Wesson Attendance Center. At WAC, Thomas coaches cornerbacks, safeties and wide receivers as an assistant to Wesson High School Head Football Coach Jeremy Loy, serves as head coach of the girls track team and teaches physical education to students in all grades.

A 2010 graduate of Franklin County High School, Thomas signed on to play linebacker at Northwestern State University of Louisiana, transferred to Co-Lin, and then played football at Georgia Southern and the University of West Alabama. In the process, he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Sports Management and Master's Degree in Education.

Before coming to WAC, Thomas coached and taught at Northwest Rankin



Photo by Wesson News

High School at Flowood, Mississippi, and Crystal Springs. Loy, who coached Thomas at Franklin County, encouraged Thomas to apply for the coaching and teaching jobs at WAC.

Thomas, who aspires to coaching at the college level, says he loves his current job, "is lucky to be at Wesson," and seeks to motivate the youth he coaches and kids he teaches "to be the best they can be."

Thomas resides in Brookhaven and has a daughter, Kharson, 5.

# Judge Lamar Pickard seeking re-election

By Lamar Pickard

Judge Lamar Pickard, who has served as Circuit Judge for the 22nd District (Claiborne, Copiah, and Jefferson counties) since 1995, has announced he is seeking re-election.

"I am grateful to the citizens of the 22nd Circuit Court District for allowing me to help in the administration of justice for 24 years," Pickard said. "I will continue to make sure that the Court treats everyone fairly and with respect. As Circuit Judge, I remain dedicated to equal justice under the law for all Mississippians."

The election is set for November 6, 2018. Under state law, judicial candidates run non-partisan and without party affiliation.

"Judge Pickard is one of the most senior and respected judges in the state. His

record is spotless," said Dudley Lampton of Pickard's campaign committee.

State Representative Greg Holloway of Mississippi House District 76 agrees, "Judge Pickard has proven himself in his dedication and work ethic as our Circuit Judge for well over two decades," he said. "He has earned our support and trust."



Special to Wesson News

Judge Pickard and his wife, Marsha, have lived in Copiah County for nearly forty years. They have four children and three grandchildren. The Pickards are members of First Baptist Church of Hazlehurst. Judge Pickard is a graduate of Mississippi College and the University of Mississippi School of Law.

Judge Pickard humbly asks for your support and vote on November 6.

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# Children's parade honors dead & heroes



## Wesson News

Children from Wesson Baptist Church's pre-school program once again paraded up and down Highway 51 on Patriot Day last month, reminding Wesson of the events that happened on September 11, 2001.

On the national observance established to remember persons who were injured or killed in terrorist attacks on the U.S. during September 11, 2001, and the heroes who responded, the pre-schoolers, led by Wesson Volunteer Fire Department Engine #2, proceeded up and down Highway 51 between Wesson Baptist Church and the stop light at Beech Street, carrying on a tradition started

in 2003 to teach children in the church's program about patriotism and how to appropriately honor the men and women who died in the tragedy.

Riding their bikes and tricycles and in wagons, which were decorated with American flags and red, white and blue balloons and ribbons, the children, accompanied by their parents, helped turn Patriot Day -- an otherwise solemn occasion marking a sad day in national history -- into a celebration of heroism and patriotism. More than 100 children participated, with spectators lining both sides of Highway 51 for what started as a one-time event fourteen years ago.

All photos by Wesson News

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