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Volume 5, Number 4

"Good News You Can Use"

April 11, 2017

Copiah County Fine Arts Month

By Guest Columnist R. Shaw Furlow

Through April, Fine Arts Month is showcasing artists and their works in Copiah County.

The event produced by the Mississippi Museum of Music and the Hazlehurst Chamber of Commerce features music, floral arrangements and an art walk through Hazlehurst's historic downtown area

An ongoing art walk in Hazlehurst throughout the month features window and interior displays of visual art. The Tillman Building, Gallatin Street Antiques, Copiah Bank, the Curtis building, and Allreds Pharmacy have window displays. Interior displays are at Brummies, Trustmark Bank, Copiah Bank, City Hall, Hazlehurst Library, Pine Crest Home, Stanley Tire, Something Special Hair Salon, and Copiah County Medical Center.

Brummies and Allred's Pharmacy are showing works of Sandra Matthews and Judge Ed Patten's art is on display at the library. Other artists displaying works throughout Hazlehurst are Sheila Sanders, Renate Huntington, Ava Jane Newell, Patti Jackson, Linda Ferrell, Kelly Parks, Hardy Kergosien, Jim Brewer, Taylor Mangold, Linda Whittington, Antoine Lomax, Carl Henderson, Charles Jenkins, Lou Ann

Thornton and Phyllis Sanders.

Matthews and internationally-acclaimed floral designer Matt Wood are also conducting special demonstrations that will be open to the public. Matthews is presenting an art demonstration at Brummies on April 29 at 10 a.m. Wood, a past president of the American Institute of Floral Design who will also be signing copies of his book on the art, will demonstrate techniques of permanent flower arrangements, which he perfected over many years in China. A current resident of California, Wood was born and grew up in Mississippi.

Over the course of the month, several

musical performances will be presented, including the Copiah Academy Band in concert, directed by Ken Jolly, on April 29 at 5:50 p.m. at Crystal Springs First Baptist Church; Aladdin, a musical, at Copiah Academy running from April 21-23, and various recitals

At the Mississippi Music Museum, locally handmade guitars will be on display. Paul Ellis and Roger Berry will have three guitars each. Ellis builds his electric guitars from scratch and Berry is well known for his unique cigar box guitars.

EDITOR'S NOTE: R. Shaw Furlow covers area arts for Wesson News.

Founders Day spotlights state bicentennial

By Bob Arnold

Two gospel groups will kick off Wesson's Founders Day celebration on Friday evening, April 28 -- the first of an array of events that will continue into the evening the next day, including a parade, a flea market, musical performances, dancing and a spectacular fireworks display.

Upwards of 1,000 persons are expected to shop and have fun at the event that will take place in downtown Wesson. The Wesson Chamber of Commerce sponsors the annual festival for town's people and other visitors to celebrate the Wesson community. Vendors can still contact the Chamber at 601-643-5000 to reserve space.

This year's event will be funded in large part as a Mississippi bicentennial project made possible by a by a matching \$4,000 grant from the Mississippi

Humanities Council, through support from the Mississippi Development Authority. It will revolve around "Wesson Founders Day - A Celebration of State, County and Town History" as the umbrella theme. Mississippi's official bicentennial stamp will be on display and the history of Mississippi and the Town of Wesson will be a focal point of the event.

The Friday evening gospel concert, which starts at 7 p.m., will feature Zion's Way and The Riders.

The next day (Saturday, April 29) at 8 a.m., shoppers will begin looking at what Flea Market vendors are offering and opening ceremonies at 10 a.m. will feature Mayor Alton Shaw and Chamber of Commerce President Stephen Ashley.

At 10 a.m. on Saturday, the Founders Day parade will roll under the state

cont. on page 2

Happy Easter



Wesson Nev

For the thirty-third consecutive year, Agnes and Buck Ratliff are again helping to set the tone for the Easter season in their 500-square foot front yard on Timberlane road, where they display 300 colorful hand-crafted wooden decorations and replicas with Easter and spring motifs.



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Day spotlights state bicentennial Founders

bicentennial theme, with Mississippi culture and history television commentator Walt Grayson as the Grand Marshall. Among the parade participants will be the Wesson and Strong Hope Fire Department trucks, Wesson Police Department, Copiah County Sheriff's Department, Lions Club, John Green and his tractor; horse riders, wagons, buggies, and carriages from the Wesson Wagon Train; other colorful floats created by civic organizations, churches, and individuals; and cars carrying local dignitaries. A highlight will be members of the Wesson Garden Club in 1930s dress riding in a horse-drawn wagon. The American Legion and Ladies Auxiliary, which will salute the military, and Socks for Heroes will also participate in the parade. Co-Lin's practical nurses student organization will showcase Mississippi firsts in sports, government and medicine.

Throughout Saturday, numerous street vendors along with town merchants will offer food and sell a variety of crafts, antiques, and fleas to visitors in the downtown area. The Wesson Garden Club will have a variety of pots and potted plants for sale to help fund its beautification projects and raffle a painting created by Sheila Stewart, a member and local artist. It will also

offer a new brochure about the history of Wesson. The public library will be open throughout the day and feature historical information about the State of Mississippi and Town of Wesson. A day-long entertainment agenda, running into the late evening hours with street dancing, is still being developed, with Eric Sharp, Ryan Rushing and Reed Rodgers already committed to perform.

Among the features of the Mississippi bicentennial celebration:

- Make Mine Mississippi will introduce local artisans to its program that can help them promote their crafts throughout the state and a Chamber trade show will showcase local farmers and producers, providing a venue for them to sell homemade jellies, chickens, goats and other small animals.
- "History Lane" in front of City Hall will feature Richelle Putnam, the author of Dare to Dream Dare to Discover Dare to Do, whom the State of Mississippi has commissioned to write a portion of its bicentennial book. Limited prints of the Old Wesson School will also be available to purchase for \$10 to support the kitchen project at the facility, which is now a community center. At the Chamber of Commerce's hospitality tent, visitors can pick up a walking tour map that highlights historical buildings

and homes in Wesson. Inside City Hall and other buildings on "History Lane," items related to Wesson's history will be displayed.

- The work of Wesson Attendance Center students in preparation for Founders Day will be exhibited downtown, including art with Mississippi history motifs for a Wesson Elementary School contest and projects produced by Wesson High School class on Mississippi history.
- A Bingo game will teach history to players who complete cards by answering questions about Mississippi's and Wesson's past. The bingo cards will be available at the Chamber hospitality tent and players will find answers to the questions on display at various businesses. Those who complete their bingo cards will receive a Mississippi t-shirt designed by the Chamber in honor of the state bicentennial.
- Wooden nickels with the Mississippi bicentennial logo will be given to all Founders Day visitors, a momento of the current bicentennial celebration that also recalls wooden nickel tokens that were a tradition at Wesson events in past
- A spectacular fireworks display sponsored by the Town of Wesson will light up the skies and cap the celebration.

funding for the Wesson Chamber of Commerce Founders Day celebration is part of a program administered by the Mississippi Humanities Council and rounders Day Celebration is part or a program administered by the Mississippi Humanities Council and Mississippi Development Authority's Visit Mississippi. The Mississippi Bicentennial Grant Program is disbursing public funds made possible by the Legislature to communities throughout the state to foster appreciation of Mississippians for the state's remarkable story, educate people about its founding, growth and evolution; document, interpret, and explore the unique cultures of Mississippi communities and honor the resilience and creativity that continues to shape the state. It is awarding funds up to \$10,000 monthly to groups for bicentennial commemorations, projects and celebrations that are free and open to the public, relate to some aspect of Mississippi history or contemporary culture and celebrate the state's history and culture, music and food, industry and entrepreneurship and outdoors and recreation. Locally, Deemie Letchworth, Marilyn Britt and Nora Berch developed the grant proposal for the Wesson Chamber of Commerce.

Here is the schedule of events for the Wesson Founders Day celebration:

Friday, April 28

Gospel Concert

7 p.m.

Saturday, April 29

Flea Market vendors open for business

Welcome by Mayor Alton Shaw & Chamber of Commerce President Stephen Ashley. Introduction of Chamber board & Junior Chamber members.

Founders Day Parade

10 a.m.

Live entertainment on stage

12 Noon-7 p.m. 7 p.m.-11 p.m.

Street dancing & community party in downtown Wesson Fireworks display sponsored by the Town of Wesson

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2005 Ford Ranger Edge Super Cab, 6 cyl, 5 speed, Bright Red, Sharp;
2009 Dodge Dakota Club Cab SXT, 6Cyl, Auto, New Tires, Sharp!;
2012 Nissan Rogue, EX AWD, Navigation, Sunroof, Leather, Backup Camera, Super Nice;
2011 Ford Edge, SUV, Backup Sensors, Rear DVD, Only had Two Owners, Nice;

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Choral director shapes consummate musicians

Special to Wesson News

Christian E. Scott, director of choral activities at Co-Lin, says she seeks to develop "not just singers, but consummate musicians.'

Scott came to Co-Lin seven months ago, the third stop on a career that started at Provine High School in Jackson, while she was a student at Mississippi College, followed by a teaching position as an adjunct faculty member at East Central Community College in Decatur, Mississippi. At Co-Lin, her responsibilities encompass teaching some forty-five students and directing the college's current 25-member Concert Choir and 14-member Ambassadors chamber ensemble, both of which require auditions.

Born in Oakland, California, Scott grew up outside Vicksburg in Bovina, Mississippi, where her older sister homeschooled her from kindergarten through Scott says her father grade twelve. nurtured her love of music. He played piano as a church musician and now is a featured jazz keyboard performer at Jackson area clubs and restaurants

"Although I never learned to play a musical instrument, I started singing in a church choir when I was fourteen years old," she says. She started cultivating her musical interests at Hinds County Community College from 2007-2009, completed studies in Vocal Music Education at Mississippi College (MC) from 2009-2012, and earned a Master's Degree in Choral Conducting at MC.

Scott says she tries to give her students a foundation in choral music, focusing on "high quality standards and the best of the new," while cultivating their "discipline and personal responsibility" towards shaping "consummate musicians." Performing is an important component of the choral program. Earlier this month, her choirs participated in Co-Lin's annual spring performance and this week they are touring throughout Co-Lin's district to perform in schools.

Her goal is to expand the size of the Concert Choir by 85 percent over the next twelve months -- "or as big as we can get it" -- and is actively recruiting throughout the Co-Lin district in collaboration with her colleagues in the college's band program. Scott likes it that many of her students are part of the bands program and studying to become well-rounded musicians through experience with musical instruments as well as voice in classes and multiple special performing ensembles. On April 19, she has scheduled choir auditions from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in Choir Room 111 in the Ewing Fine Arts building at Co-Lin. "For our choral program, we want the best and brightest the building at co-time to be a program." students with a high interest in music and performing," Scott says.

When Scott isn't teaching or directing her choirs, she likes to travel, star gaze, and spend time with her family. She also has become part of the Co-Lin jazz ensemble, directed by Juanita Proffitt, as a singer.



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Police Blotter

Special to Wesson News

During March, Wesson I Department activity encompassed: Police

Response to:

- · Five vehicle accidents
- One family disturbance
- One petty larceny
- One auto burglary
- One residential burglary

Citations & arrests:

- · Fourteen speeding violations
- · Five failure to stop at signs
- Two possession of drug paraphernalia Five open container violations
- Twenty-two driving with suspended or no licenses · Three contempt of court violations
- Twelve possession of marijuana in a motor vehicle
- One possession of controlled substance with a firearm
- Three careless driving
- One child restraint violation
- Two driving without insurance • Four no turn signal
- Four expired or no license

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.

Community Calendar

March weather forecast: The Old Farmer's Almanac calls for an average temperature of 56 degrees F (average) and precipitation of four inches (two inches below average). February 12-14: sunny, warm; March 15-17: T-storms, then sunny, cool; March 18-22: rainy, cool; March 23-27: sunny, cool; March 28-31: T-storms, then sunny, cool.

APRIL 11

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

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

Fine Arts Month continues through April at Hazlehurst sponsored by Mississippi Music Museum & Hazlehurst Chamber of Commerce (HCC). The event is showcasing area artists and is presenting a broad range of paintings, visual art and musical productions. A walking visual arts tour with displays in windows and interiors of public buildings is ongoing. See story in this issue. For information, contact HCC at 601-894-3752.

Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) program at Wesson Attendance Center.

Institute for Learning in Retirement workshop. Expressions & What They Mean. Participants will discuss favorite expressions, their origins and meanings. Following the workshop, the film, Power of the Mississippi River, will be presented -- a three-part series that explores the life and culture on the banks of the Mississippi River from its source, south to the mouth. Thames Center on the Co-Lin campus. 10 a.m

APRIL 13

Music & Art in the Park features live music and visual artists on Thursdays through April 27. Trinity Episcopal Church Park. 12

The Widows Support Group meets on the second Thursday & encourages widows in walking through the grief process with programs on pertinent issues related to their situation.. 5:00 p.m. For information, contact facilitator Betty Vaughn-Furlow at Bvaughnfurlow@gmail.com or 601-540-4308.

Wesson Lions Club board of directors and regular meetings. Co-Lin student cafeteria conference room. 6 p.m.

APRIL 14

Wesson Attendance Center Easter holiday starts & continues through April 17.

APRIL 15

Income tax filings due.

Fly-In will feature upwards of seventy aircraft. Federal Aviation Agency safety seminar & potluck lunch for pilots. Open to general public. Free. Copiah County Airport at Gallman. 10 a.m.

Easter egg hunt. Snacks will be available. The Easter story will be shared. 10 a.m.-11 a.m. Wesson Baptist Church.

APRIL 16

Easter Sunday

APRIL 17

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.

APRIL 18

Beginner Excel 2016 & Intermediate Excel 2016. \$10 fee. Registration deadline is April 11. Thames Center at Co-Lin. Beginner class is from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. & intermediate class is from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Contact Toni Dobbins at 601-643-8716.

Copiah County Master Gardeners monthly meeting. Mississippi State University Extension Office at Gallman. 6 p.m

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

APRIL 20

Fifty Plus Club luncheon, with Ann McCain from the Brookhaven Social Security office as guest speaker. 10:30 a.m. Anderson Building on Wesson Co-Lin campus.

Brookhaven Regional Arts Guild will meet at Mississippi School of Arts to view the Senior Class art show at the art gallery and tour MSA facilities. Members should gather on the south side of the MSA campus off Cherokee Street at the T Hut Building, across from the Farm Bureau Building & bring art work for Artist of the Month competition. 5:30 p.m.

Refresher class for medical responders starts and continues on April 24 & 25. John Ellzey will be the instructor. No fee. Copiah County Safe Room (1060 Epps Lane, Hazlehurst). 6 p.m-10 p.m.

Brookhaven Little Theater (BLT) presents first evening performance of Mary Poppins. Haven Theater in downtown Brookhaven. Evening performances at 7 p.m. are also on April 22, 28 & 29. Sunday matinees on April 23 & 30. Call BLT for ticket information

Mississippi Federation of Music Clubs state convention hosted by McDowell Music Club of Crystal Springs.

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.

Wesson Lions Club meets. Student cafeteria conference room at Co-Lin. 6:30 p.m.

APRIL 28

Gospel concerts kick off Wesson Founders Day celebration in downtown Wesson at 7 p.m. Celebration continues April 29 with entertainment throughout day, parade, flea market, evening street dancing & events revolving around Mississippi bicentennial. 8 a.m.-11

Institute for Learning in Retirement workshop on Transforming Old Jewelry. Participants should bring a bag of old jewelry they no longer wear & will learn to use pieces from them in different forms to make new and interesting conversation items. Workshop leaders will demonstrate how to turn an old watch into something to enjoy wearing again. Cost is \$5. 1:30 p.m.

APRIL 29

Hogwild barbeque cook-off. Barbeque cooking teams from throughout the Southeast compete for awards. Food is sold to the public. Downtown Brookhaven. 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Judging with awards announced in mid-afternoon.

Musical tour of homes sponsored by McDowell Music Club of Crystal Springs.

MAY 1

Institute for Learning in Retirement trip -- Meet Me in Spectacular St. Louis -- starts and continues through May 4. Stops at Bass Pro World in Memphis and Cape Giradeau to visit Riverfront Park. The tour includes the famous Basilica Cathedral, Old Victorian Neighborhood, Forest Park, the Gateway Arch, Grant's Farm and Missouri Botanical

MAY 2

Wesson Board of Aldermen meet. City Hall. 7 p.m.

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.

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.

Email Community Calendar items to: Bobarnold@wessonnews.com.

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Indoor color guards & percussion groups blossom

By Guest Columnist Shaw Furlow

Since 1845, when Notre Dame (ND) formed the first one, the marching band has evolved as an entertainment art form and s p a w n e d related show ensembles, including color guards



and indoor percussion groups. In 1847, when the ND band first appeared at a football game, its members stood and played or marched in military block. In 1907, the Purdue University

Band broke tradition and formed a "P" on the field and opened the door for the entertainment now see every weekend at halftime. Today, marching bands are more theatrical than military, with jazz and show tunes replacing traditional marches, and

color guards that dance and spin their way through an intense, eight minute routine. Nearly every school district in Mississippi has a band program.

In 1997, band directors started producing color guard shows after the marching season ended. While some of the color guard students played instruments and joined the concert band, others didn't. So color guards moved into gymnasiums marching, dancing and spinning to recorded music

during the second semester. With the evolution of color guards, Winter Guard International (WGI) was organized with a governing body, competitions and unified rules, regulations and schedules. "Circuits" surfaced all over the country in which they competed as a handful of ensembles grew into a worldwide phenomenon. There are two circuits in Mississippi, each with several different classes, including those of a tender age up to college students. who compete in groups with other color guards that have members of the same age and abilities. Most older color guard members compete in the Open Class, while high school age students compete in the Scholastic Class. In our area, only a few schools participate. Brookhaven

High School has an indoor color guard group called "XtremeMsBhaven" that has been performing r four years and a member of the Misssissippi/Louisiana Indoor Association.

Next came indoor

percussion groups as band directors noted that concert percussion didn't challenge students. Following the successful color guard model, indoor percussion groups rapidly formed. They perform on a mat, which protects the gym floor from dropped equipment and scuff marks. With some groups, the gym floor is painted to match the theme of the show. Props and gimmicks are aplenty in their indoor shows and pieces are designed to enhance the music and movement. Brookhaven High School's indoor percussion ensemble directed by Chris Smith has chosen the old game of "Pinball" as its theme. On stage left of the floor are three bumpers that light up as the percussion group members march around them -- just like a pinball machine of old. The drum rims are lined with lights, creating the illusion of a game being played. The seventeen members not only play snare, tenor and bass drums, but mallet and keyboard players make up the front ensemble.

The newest member of the Mississippi Indoor Association circuit is Wesson High School's indoor percussion group directed by assistant band director Cindy Jennings. The theme for its show is Mythology. Seventeen students perform.

In recent competition, both the Brookhaven High School and Wesson High School indoor percussion groups captured first place in their classes.

Until next time, support the arts! Don't forget Mary Poppins at the Brookhaven Little Theatre April 21-23 and 28-30. You'll also find artists at varied outdoor at this time of years -- Music and Art events in Trinity Park on April 13, 20 and 27 from noon until 1 p.m. in downtown Brookhaven; the Hogwild barbeque cook-off in downtown Brookhaven on April 29; Wesson Founders Day on April 28 and 29

EDITORS 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.



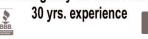
Indoor percussion group rehearses at Brookhaven High School.

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Time to act on azalea lace bugs

By Guest Columnist Rebecca Bates

Check your Azaleas now! Populations of lace bugs -- the most common azalea insect pests -- are building now. Not every planting of azaleas will be heavily infested, but when heavy infestations do occur, they can cause extensive, unsightly damage.

Both lace bug nymphs and adults cause damage by feeding on the undersides of the leaves with their sucking, piercing mouthparts. Initially, leaves have a 'stippled' appearance due to the light-colored spots that appear on the surface of the leaves. This leaf stippling is

s o m e t i m e s m i s t a k e n l y attributed to spider mites, resulting in i m p r o p e r treatments. C a r e f u l examination of the undersides

of the foliage will identify the true problem.

The adult lace bugs are approximately 1/8-inch long and have lacy white wings with dark markings. Nymphs are smaller, dark-colored and covered with spines. Cast skins of the nymphs accumulate on the undersides of leaves, along with dark-colored, shellac-like excrement.

Azaleas growing in sunny locations are more likely to be heavily infested than those growing in filtered shade.

Lace bug nymphs hatch from eggs in the spring and plantings can experience heavy infestations by mid-April. There are several generations every year, with populations continuing to build through the summer. Heavy infestations cause leaves to have a 'bleached' appearance and it can take quite a while for azaleas to fully recover from severe injury.

Systemic insecticides, such as imidacloprid, are generally more effective than contact insecticides. Contact insecticides can be effective, but only if you get good spray coverage on the undersides of the leaves. The imidacloprid soil drench is probably one of the easiest treatments for most homeowners. This is a good treatment to use preventively, especially on plantings that

plantings that are susceptible to lace bugs because they are growing in the sun. Early spring is the best time to apply this treatment, anytime during

but it can be used anytime during the growing season. A foliar spray using acephate, or one of the contact insecticides, is a better choice for fast control of heavy infestations, but the imidacloprid drench provides longer residual control. For best control of heavy infestations, you may need to use both types of treatments. Apply a foliar spray for quick control and follow-up with the imidacloprid drench treatment.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rebecca Bates is the Mississippi State University Agricultural Extension Agent based in Brookhaven at the Lincoln County Court House.



Special to Wesson News



The living Jesus ends your spiritual quest

By Guest Columnist Nelson Santa Ana

I would like to invite you to join me in examining a quest that took place some 2000 years ago. The quest takes us to Jerusalem during the time of Passover where a man named Jesus had been accused of crimes he did not commit, condemned to death for those crimes, flogged mercilessly and crucified. Upon His death, He was buried in a tomb and, where we pick up the story, it was His third day in the tomb.

Mark 16:1-3 says: "When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, 'Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" These women, who followed Jesus, were on a quest to see Jesus and tend to His body. But they began to realize that they couldn't move the stone on their own. Their quest to see Jesus was in danger. They faced an obstacle bigger than themselves.

Everyone reading this article and everyone all over the world is on a quest just like these women. Our quest is to know the reality of spirituality. There are many different kinds of beliefs. Atheists believe there is no God. Buddhists believe there is only enlightenment. Hindus believe there are millions of gods with differing roles. Muslims believe in one god, who is the ultimate judge of whether someone's good deeds outweigh their bad deeds. Jews believe in one God, who is merciful, but not personal. Christians believe that God loved people so much that He sent His Son to earth as a human to forgive all their sins. In all these different beliefs, we are all trying to accomplish the same thing: to fill a void in our lives.

Blaise Pascal, a Seventeenth Century philosopher, said that we are all on this quest because we all have a Godshaped hole in our hearts that we strive to fill. Many try to fill the hole in their lives with money or power or fame or knowledge or some form of pleasure. But rather than filling the void, they magnify just how big the hole actually is. It's like trying to complete a 1,000-piece puzzle with a missing piece yet none of the other puzzle pieces were made to fit the hole. The obstacle is bigger than ourselves. So what is the correct puzzle piece to fill what's missing in us?

Mark 16:4-6 says: "But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. 'Don't be alarmed,' he said. 'You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified...He is not here." What

the angel told these women is important in understanding our own quest. He essentially says, "You are looking for the wrong thing." They were seeking a crucified, dead and buried Jesus. That's often where our own personal quests get off track.

There are many misconceptions about Jesus. But, if you look at Scripture, as C.S. Lewis points out in his book *Mere Christianity*, there are only three real options. 1. Jesus was a liar. He claimed to be the Son of God, though He knew He was not. 2. Jesus was a lunatic. He claimed to be the Son of God and actually believed it was true, but was delusional. 3. The third option, and the one that is consistent with the teachings of the Bible, takes us back to the tomb. "He has risen" (Mark 16:6)! Jesus is the risen Lord. He was dead, but now He is alive! The message of Easter is



Special to Wesson New

this. He took our sins, He suffered our death, He was buried in our place. But sin could not control Him, death could not defeat Him, and the grave could not contain Him! He is alive! Easter is the fulfillment of mankind's quest. Listen to what Jesus says about Himself. "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full (John 10:10). Jesus is what fills the void in our lives, the missing puzzle piece. He brings lasting fulfillment, satisfaction and completeness. Only Jesus

Many of you reading this article are on a spiritual quest. God made sure you picked up this newspaper, read it and learned that Jesus is the only way to be fulfilled, complete, and satisfied in this life. Jesus is the only way to having a relationship with God. He said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father but through me" (John 14:6). I encourage you to find a church to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus this Easter and allow God to show you the conclusion to your quest -- His One and Only Son, Jesus.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Nelson Santa Ana is the pastor at Wesson Baptist Church.





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Athletes choose Co-Lin







Wesson High School tennis standouts Logan Channell and Maya Granger and golf standout Will Hulon have signed on with with Co-Lin to continue their sports careers. At the signing ceremonies were: In top photo (front row left to right) are Drew Hulon, Will's brother; Will, Dr. Jane Hulon, Will's mother; (back row left to right) Rusty Newman, former Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) golf coach; Eddie Lee Ashley, former coach; and Bobo Douglas, WAC Golf Coach. In center photo are (front row left to right) Cynthia Granger, Maya's mother; Maya, Casey Granger, her father; (back row left to right) Coach Misner and Coach Rod Martin. In bottom photo are (front row left to right) Logan's mother, Mildred Channell; Logan and Rob Channell, his father; (left photo in back row left to right) David Misner, Brookhaven Country Club coach; Rod Martin, Wesson High School tennis coach; and Ronald Greer, Wesson High School principal and athletic director.

SCOREBOARD

March 14-April 11 Wesson High School Cobras

Baseball (Varsity)

Record: 8-9. Recent Wins: Salem. 8-4. Crystal Springs. 13-1. Port Gibson. 9-0., 12-0. Hazlehurst. 15-0 Recent Losses: Brookhaven. 3-2., 4-2 Magee. 17-4. West Lincoln. 7-3.

Softball (Varsity)

Record: 7-3. Recent Wins: Tylertown. 20-0. West Lincoln. 6- Recent Losses: Bogue Chitto. 4-2.

Record: 7-0. Recent Wins: Enterprise. 7-0. Loyd Star. 4-3. West Lincoln. 6-1. North Pike. 5-2. Bogue Chitto. 7-0. West Marion. 7-0. Magee. 7-0.

Co-Lin Wolves

Record: 9-14. Recent Wins: Highland Community College. 17-3, 5-1. Meridian Community College. 7-6, 11-3. Mississippi Gulf Coast. 5-1. Southwest Community College. 17-10. Recent Losses: Delgado. 7-6, 5-4. Mississippi Gulf Coast. 9-6. East Mississippi Community College. 9-7, 10-2. Soutwest Mississippi Community College. 7-6.

Record: 9-17. Recent Wins: Mississippi Delta Community College. 4-0, 17-8. Northwest Community College. 5-2, 8-5. Recent Losses: Meridian Community College. 11-5. 9-6. East Mississippi Community College. 5-3, 3-1. Jones Junior College. 7-4, 16-0. East Central Community College. 11-0, 7-4.

Men's Record: 6-3. Recent Wins: Hinds County Community College. 6-3. Jones Junior College. 5-4. Women's Record: 4-4. Recent Losses: Hinds County Community College. 6-3. Jones Junior College. 6-3.

Sixth place in MACJC Conference event at Northwood County Club, Meridian; Third place in Ron Marshall Spring Fling at Gosse Pond Colony, Scottsboro, Alabama

pcoming Sporting

April 11

Co-Lin men & women tennis teams play at Holmes Community College. 2 p.m.

Co-Lin Lady softball Wolves play at Pearl River Community College. 3 p.m.

Co-Lin baseball Wolves play at Jones Junior College. 3

Wesson High School softball junior varsity and varsity Cobras play Franklin County. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Wesson High School baseball junior varsity and varsity Cobras play at Franklin County. 5 p.m. & 7 p.m.

April 13

Co-Lin men & women tennis teams play Meridian Community College, 2 p.m.

Co-Lin Lady softball Wolves play at Northeast Community College. 2 p.m.

April 14

Co-Lin baseball Wolves play Coahoma Community College. 1 p.m.

April 17

Wesson High School baseball junior varsity and varsity Cobras play at North Pike. 4:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Wesson High School softball junior varsity and varsity Cobras play at Warren Central. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

April 18
Wesson High School softball junior varsity and varsity Cobras play at West Lincoln. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

April 19

Co-Lin baseball Wolves play East Central Community

Co-Lin Lady softball Wolves play at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. 4 p.m.

Co-Lin Men & women tennis teams play in State/Region 23 Tournament, continuing through April 22 at Perkinston.

April 22

Co-Lin Lady softball Wolves play Itawamba Community College. 12 Noon.

Co-Lin baseball Wolves play at Holmes Community College.

April 24

Co-Lin Lady softball Wolves play Baton Rouge Community College. 3 p.m.

April 28

Co-Lin Lady softball Wolves begin tounatment play in MACJC Quarterfinals, continuing on April 29. MACJC Tournament is May 5-7. Region XXIII Tournament is May 11-3. NJCAA World Series is May 17-20.

April 29

Co-Lin baseball Wolves play at Itawamba Community College. 2 p.m.

May 3

Co-Lin baseball Wolves play Pearl River Community College. 3 p.m.

May 6
Co-Lin baseball Wolves play Mississippi Delta Community College. 2 p.m.

Co-Lin men & women tennis teams play at Meridian. 2 p.m.

May 11
Co-Lin baseball Wolves play in MACJC playoffs, continuing on May 12. Region 23 Tournament is May 17-21. NJCAA D2 World Series is May 27-June 3.

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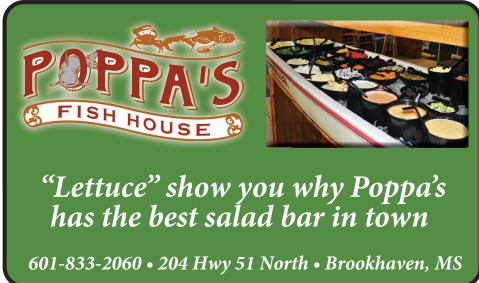
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Britney Clark wants to empower people

Wesson News

Twenty-five-year-old Britney Clark is back in town and looking for ways she can continue to help people "give themselves to the world" after a practical experience in Uganda, where she worked with women and their families to empower their development efforts in a community of 500 residents, who do not have electricity and running water.

During January, Clark and four other women served on a team for the The Glow Exchange (TGE) in Kasaali, Uganda, that trained teachers to build the capacity of other members of the underprivileged community to gradually change their lives for the better.

"I lived with the local families, ate their meals of starchy foods and was part of the culture," she says. "Our goal was to help finish the brick and mortar work at TGE's Glow Effect Centre in Kasaali and help build the confidence community leaders by teaching financial literacy, leadership, self-awareness, other social skills and business trades -- crafts-making, tailoring, and organic farming -- towards addressing intergenerational poverty and illiteracy."

Clark, who now lives with her sister in the Mount Zion area of Wesson, grew up in Loyd Star, the daughter of Frederick and Constance Clark. She attended the Center Street Church of Christ in Brookhaven. Her father served as a pastor in Bogue Chitto. It was a background that taught her "how to treat people, to respect and love people and love learning" she points out and ultimately led to her to choice to leave a corporate finance career after attending a conference for creative-minded entrepreneurial women who seek "to bring goodness to the world through everyday living."

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



Wesson News

Clark graduated from high school at Loyd Star, where served in student government, participated in the academic competitions in the Beta Club and accepted an opportunity to work as a page in the Mississippi Senate and House of Representatives and with Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture Cindy Hyde-Smith and Governor Phil Bryant. went on to study accounting at Co-Lin, where she was a Freshman Maid and Miss Co-Lin and elected president of the Phi Beta Lamda chapter and the Student Government Association. In 2014, she received a degree in business from Mississippi State University, where she also participated in the Entrepreneurial Club and Student Honor Council and partnered with Jasmine Murray, Miss Mississippi, to create and coordinate day camps that encouraged young girls in Brookhaven to "embrace their age and make adult decisions."

She about TGE learned Yellow the Conference entrepreneurial women in Los Angeles after pursuing a short career in finance, first as a management trainee in banking and then as an analyst for a chemical manufacturer. Before her Uganda mission, Clark worked with TGE founder Saren Stiegel and a planning team from Australia, Chicago and Virginia, studied leadership and sustainable development online for sixteen weeks and created a community development and global awareness curriculum geared to children and men, which she taught at Kasaali.

What are your hobbies?

Above all, reading. I read, on average, seven books every month. I am a learner. I enjoy travel. My goal is to visit five countries by my thirtieth birthday. I am also into various sports -- indoor rock climbing, kyacking, skydiving, jet skiing, archery.

As a learner, have any books or movies influenced you?

I am all over the place on books. But I would cite two that have influenced me: In *The War of Art*, Steven Pressfield discusses creative blocks and overcoming them. Russell Conwell's *Acres of Diamonds* is about mining your life for the valuables and assets you can exploit.

I am not a big movie person. Books keep me busy.

How about music. Any favorites?

I like all gospel music. It fills me up. I also get a lot out of J. Cole's rap music.

Would you change anything in your short life?

Nothing at all.

I have developed a ritual for getting each day started on the right note. When I wake up in the mornings, I spend five to ten minutes giving thanks for the past and present, the day ahead, things in my life. I follow that by focusing on a guided meditation for ten minutes. Then I spend time in devotion with spiritual music.

So I wouldn't change anything in my life.

What if you won millions of dollars in a lottery?

I would try to figure out a way to keep most of it. I would create a company with a product that self-generates ongoing residuals and requires little or no labor. I would also seek to help my family.

Is there any wish you would want a good fairy to grant?

I would wish that all persons would seek self-awareness towards being able to give themselves to the world. I would wish further that I could help people do this.

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Increasing life quality for autistic persons

By Guest Columnist Dr. Stephanie Duguid

During April -- National Autism Awareness Month, the Autism Society is promoting not only autism

awareness, but seeking to assure that persons with Autism Spectrum D is order (ASD) have opportunities to achieve the highest possible quality of life by encouraging



the rest of us to work for acceptance and inclusion of them in schools and communities. It's not so much

focusing on persons with ASD as about us becoming Autism Society partners in promoting autism awareness and autism acceptance, drawing attention

promoting autism awareness and autism acceptance, drawing attention

to the tens of thousands facing an autism diagnosis each year and valuing their unique talents and gifts. ASD is a complex developmental

disability, according to the Autism Society. Its signs typically appear during early childhood and affect a person's ability to communicate and interact with others. ASD is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a "spectrum condition" affects individuals that differently and to varying degrees. ASD has no known single cause, but increased awareness of the disorder along with early diagnosis/ intervention and access to appropriate services/support can mean significantly improved outcomes for persons affected by it

Behaviors associated with autism include delayed learning of language; difficulties in making eye contact, holding a conversations and executive functioning, including to reasoning and planning; narrow, intense interests; and poor motor skills and sensory sensitivities. A person might have many of these behaviors or only a few. The diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder is based on analysis of the behaviors and their severity.

Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability. About one percent of the world population has ASD, with prevalence increasing six to fifteen percent each year between 2002 and 2010. Prevalence in the United States is estimated at one in sixty-eight births. The cost of autism in the U.S. is about \$2.4 million

over a lifespan for a person with an intellectual disability and \$1.4 million for a person without an intellectual disability. It costs more than \$8,600 extra per year to educate a student with autism.

How can you partner with the Autism Society during April?

• Put on the Puzzle! The Autism Awareness Puzzle Ribbon is the most recognized symbol of the autism community in the world. The puzzle pattern reflects the complexity of the autism spectrum, with different colors and shapes representing the diversity of the people and families living with the condition. The brightness of the ribbon signals hope that increased

awareness of autism and early intervention and access to a ppropriate services/support will help people with autism lead full lives and be able to interact

with the world on their own terms.

Connect with your neighborhood.
 Many Autism Society local affiliates hold special events in their communities throughout the month of April.

•Donate to the Autism Society. Help improve the lives of people with autism by donating to the Autism Society. Every dollar it raises helps improve the capabilities and services of its more than one hundred nationwide affiliates, maintains the best national resource database and contact center specializing in autism and increases public awareness about autism and the day-to-day issues faced by individuals with ASD and their families.

• Watch a movie. The Autism Society is working with AMC Theatres to bring Sensory Friendly Films every month to persons with autism and their families, who cannot do something as simple as go to a movie. Support the project by seeing one of these movies at an AMC Theater.

The Autism Society has sponsored National Autism Awareness Month since the 1977.

EDITORS NOTE: Stephanie Duguid is Assistant Dean of Academic Instruction and the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Division Chair 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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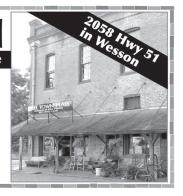
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Splash pad, frat winners & high performer

Special to Wesson News

Splash pad coming. The municipal park at the corner of Beech and Church Streets will soon feature a splash pad. Wesson's Board of Aldermen approved the purchase of the pad parts from Raindeck for \$12,000. Town employees will build and install the splash pad to save money, since Wesson did not receive a hoped-for \$50,000 from the state for the new equipment and installation. Wesson has been exploring splash pad options for the park for more than a year and the Aldermen selected Raindeck to supply the equipment because of its worldwide reputation and fast service.

Plans originally called for the splash pad to be located near the railroad tracks, but the flat, vacant area used for a children's bounce house during special events is another option. Installation may

not occur until after the April 28 -29 Founders Day weekend, since the park will be the site for many of the events. The installation involves laying and fitting pipe together under a 1,000-square-foot area.

Co-Lin PBL winners. Lin students representing the Nu Kappa Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda received thirty awards at the business fraternity's State Leadership Conference at Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, Mississippi, among competitors from thirty active chapters at colleges and universities across the state. First place winners were Nikki Castilaw of Wesson, Nicholas Dukes of Mendenhall, and David Thames of Wesson, Small Business Management Plan; Nicholas Dukes of Mendenhall and Ernest Matt Smith of Brookhaven, Economic Analysis and Decision Making; Nilay Naresh and Lane Simmons, both of Brookhaven, Business Ethics; Mack Smith of Hazlehurst, Contemporary Sports Issues; Ernest Matt Smith Brookhaven, Macroeconomics; and David Thames of Wesson. Entrepreneurship Concepts. Second Ruth, Project Management; Alex Hamilton of Florence, Client Service; Timecia Ingram of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Business Law; Libby Knight of Georgetown, Local Chapter Annual Business Report; Wayne Lambert of Wesson, Sales Presentation; Libby Knight of Georgetown, Retail Management; and Mack Smith of Hazlehurst, Programming Concepts. Receiving third place awards were Justin Hynum of Wesson, Networking Concepts; Cole Arsenault of Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Nikki Castilaw of Wesson, and Franklin Goodman of Monticello, Business Decision Making; Keiwonna

Holloway of Silver Creek and Tyonna Johnson of Pinola, Marketing Analysis and Decision Making; Timecia Ingram of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Business Communication; Nilay Naresh of

Brookhaven, Lane Simmons of Brookhaven, and Jashia Smith of Wesson, Hospitality Management. Fourth place award winners were Riley Falvey of Ruth, Computer Concepts; Franklin Goodman of Monticello, Project Management; and Alex Hamilton of Florence, Impromptu Speaking. Eighteen students qualified for the National Leadership Conference that will be held in Anaheim, California, in June.

High performer. Mary Price of Wesson has received Co-Lin's Howell C. Garner High Performance Award for her work as the college's Program Coordinator of Early Childhood Education Technology.

Online reading courses. Mississippi State University's Center for Continuing Education is offering a summer online reading skills program for children and youth from pre-school through high school. Instructors from the Institute of Reading Development will encourage independent reading in great books, stimulate love of reading, help students use phonics and develop reading fluency and comprehension and teach textbook skills and speed

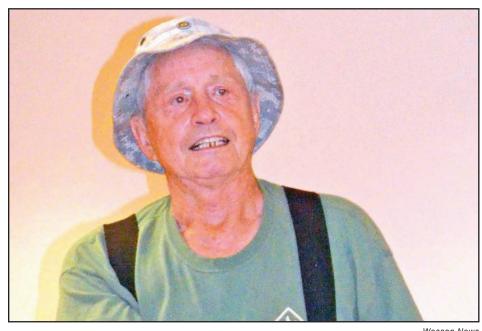
reading. Tuition varies by program level. For information or to register, call 800-964-9974.

Library Week celebrated. Wesson Public Library is participating in the national celebration of libraries, their services and workers by waiving fifty percent of overdue fines on borrowed materials and introducing children to the expanded world found in books. As part of the Copiah-Jefferson Regional Library System, it is forgiving one half of overdue fines on all borrowed books, DVDs and other materials returned to its locations through April 15. The fine forgiveness does not apply to replacement of damaged or lost materials. The library will also host kindergartners and first, second and third graders from Wesson Attendance Center (WAC)

on Thursday morning, with snacks served and Friends of the Library (FOL) members reading excerpts of age-appropriate books to them.

Reed's speakers discuss how to grow businesses. The Associated Builders & Contractors Association of Mississippi Industry Day in Pearl, Mississippi, last month featured Reed's Metals' Jessica Breazeale, marketing and public relations director, and Ira Ott, Richland store manager, who spoke on "Metal Buildings & Metal Roofing: Expanding the Business & Growing the Industry." Breazeale spoke about how she uses marketing and public relations to promote and sell Reed's products while Ott described projects in the Jackson area.

Bees feed us



Wesson New

George Philyea told the Wesson Lions Club that he doesn't recommend the hard and costly work of beekeeping either as a vocation or avocation, but it's still vitally important because bees pollinate one-third of the food we eat and provide honey and beeswax. Philyea, who operates Broken House Farms Apiaries with his son-in-law, John Whitiker, acquainted the local Lions audience with varied hives they build and their specialized tools. He warned that pesticides ingested by bees compromise their health and said his farm uses soapy water and vinegar water solutions on plants to avoid harming them. Europeans introduced honeybees to the U.S. in the Seventeenth Century and they have multiplied two-fold every year, he said.

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Rogel Ford's sales have soared

along with their unbelievable customer satisfaction rating, consistently in the top nationwide! Rogel Ford also gives back a load to the local community that supports them through scholarships, donations, sponsorships and involvement in education. Rogel Ford is simply the way, a model, of how small business should run.

Today they have 32 full time employees with an annual payroll of over \$1,500,000.

In the last 5 years Rogel Ford has completed over and has generated transactions revenues of over 78 Million Dollars.

The Rogels have recently added separate 12000 square foot service facility and have remodeled the existing

Ford Building. "We have got to the point where we were having a hard time servicing all of our clients" says Rogel. "We absolutely cant have that because Customer Service is #1 with us."

When asked what is the reason behind this incredible success Rogel said, comes down to 3 things.

"Number 1 is the Customer is first here, period. We are here to serve and earn the business both before and after the

Number 2 is having great people that understand and follow our program. We are blessed to have a great team. The best in the industry in my opinion.

Number 3 is the support from our local community. Smart people know that keeping the money in Copiah County is crucial to our economy. This community has got behind us and we work hand in hand with them.'

No one is more important than the other. All 3 have to happen to create the greatness that we have!

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Ribbon cutting for Rogel Ford Grand Opening

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