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Wesson News

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Spring Rummaging Thru Area Museums

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Volume 3, Number 4

"Good News You Can Use"

April 14, 2015

Founders Day events to celebrate community

Wesson News

A parade, an array of entertainment, shopping, games and contests, special events, dancing, and a spectacular fireworks display are expected to draw up to a thousand people to Wesson on Friday, May 1, and Saturday, May 2, for the annual Founders Day celebration.

"We've created a Founders Day celebration for all ages," says Marilyn Britt, president of the Wesson Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber board organizes and produces the event. "This is an occasion for our town's people to have fun in celebration of their community," says Britt.

The Riders, a Gospel music group, will kick off festivities at 7 p.m. in downtown Wesson on Friday with a special concert of sacred music.

At 11 a.m. on Saturday, the Founders Day parade will roll with the Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) marching band, the Wesson Fire Department truck; horse riders, wagons, buggies, and carriages from the Wesson Wagon



Photo by Wesson News

The Wesson Chamber of Commerce takes pride in planning events like Founders Day, but that also means work for its members. So the Chamber has invited Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) students to assist them as part of a Junior Chamber of Commerce. The first junior members of the Chamber are (left to right) Zach Adcock, Holly Steen, Laci Hamilton, Kaitlyn Smith -- also this year's Founders Day Queen -- Marybeth Munn, and Peyton Selman. At WAC, they are also members of the National Honor Society (NHS) and were eager to take on their new role with the Chamber to meet NHS community service requirements.

Train; colorful floats created by local businesses, service, civic, and fraternal organizations, churches, and individuals; and cars carrying local dignitaries. The Wesson Lions Club, which is celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary during 2015, is this year's parade's grand marshal.

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. In addition to shopping options, attendees can participate or cheer on contestants in a game based on *Family Feud*, or prove their prowess at eating hot dogs in a competitive match up.

Those who delight in vintage automobiles and trucks can enter their vehicle (\$10 advance fee/\$15 after April 24) or admire those owned by others in a classic car/truck show in the parking lot next to Trustmark Bank from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Stephen Ashley is organizing the event. Registration forms can be picked

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State and local contributions minimize war casualties

By Bob Arnold

Force protection technologies and proper training in utilizing them are keys in minimizing U.S. armed forces casualties in wars and special deployments. Today, protection products are being developed in Mississippi, including Wesson.

Statistics underscore the benefits of protection technologies and the training tools and methods that have accompanied their implementation. Although the ten major U.S. wars claimed some 2.7 million American lives, this disheartening number is about the same as the number of Vietnamese killed in the Vietnam War alone. And as horrible as the nearly

7,000 American deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan are, the numbers in most previous U.S. wars were far higher. The different nature of conflicts has made a difference, but U.S. stress on intentionally curtailing casualties through technology and training is a significant factor.

New technologies that are minimizing U.S. casualties in today's conflicts are coming out of the U.S. Army Engineer Research Development Center (ERDC) at Vicksburg. A Wesson-based consultant under ERDC contract is producing the associated training manuals and tools.

Some of the most exciting technological developments, including a Modular Protection System (MPS), have

been spawned from research by ERDC in the geotechnical research areas of protective concrete and materials and survivability engineering, explains Michael R. King, a retired U.S. Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel and Wesson resident who operates Summerwind Consultants, Inc., which produces manuals and web-based training tools for ERDC. "MPS in varied configurations has proven effective in resisting threats from small arms, mortars, rocket propelled grenades, and blasts," he says.

"The work being performed

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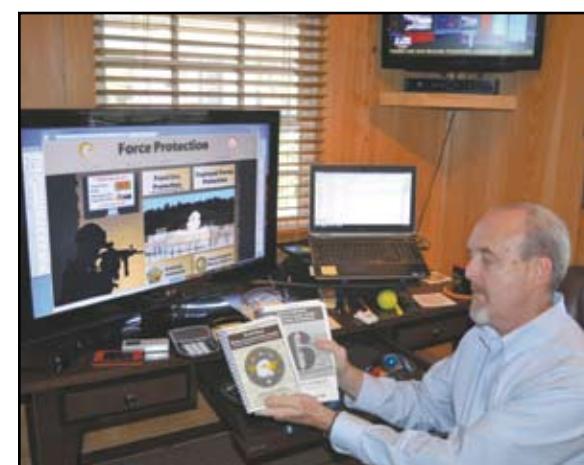


Photo by Wesson News

Michael King surveys web site and manuals his Wesson organization, Summerwind Consultants, Inc, developed for the U.S. Army Engineer Research Development Center (ERDC) at Vicksburg.



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Kids' program spotlights Wesson's library service

Special to Wesson News

Kindergarten and first grade classes from Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) will help the Wesson Public Library join libraries throughout the country in celebrating National Library Week.

The WAC children will come to the library at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday for a special program on cooking led by Melissa Morgan, Copiah County 4-H

Youth Agent for the Mississippi State University Extension Service.

The local program and participation of children dramatizes Wesson Public Library's unique role as a community center for people of all ages.

National Library Week is sponsored by the American Library Association and spotlights the contributions of libraries and librarians throughout the U.S. towards promoting support for them. School, public, academic, and

special libraries participate.

Best-selling author David Baldacci is Honorary Chair of the week-long event nationally. Baldacci's novels have been translated into more than 45 languages and have been adapted for film and television. Over 110 million copies of his books are in print worldwide. In addition, Baldacci is involved with several philanthropic organizations, including his family's Wish You Well Foundation, which

fosters and promotes the development and expansion of literacy and educational programs.

National Library Week will devote special attention to library staff, users, administrators, and Friends groups on National Library Workers day (April 14), bookmobiles and community outreach professionals on National Bookmobile Day (April 15), and young adult literature on Celebrate Teen Literature Day (April 16).

cont. from front page

State and local contributions minimize war casualties

at ERDC is saving soldiers' lives in Iraq and Afghanistan everyday," says Colonel Kaiser, 20th Engineer Brigade Commander.

King's operation interprets the research conducted by ERDC and packages the information into products that allows users (soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines) of the varied technologies to understand how to better protect themselves.

"Our products provide antiterrorism/force protection best practices, lessons learned, tactics, techniques and procedures, decision tools, templates and references," King relates.

At Summerwind, King orchestrates a 10-person staff, including his son Collin, a program analyst; his wife Nancy, who serves as the organization's Financial Officer; and various subject mat-

ter experts who, like King, work out of their homes in different locations. The consulting group has produced an array of manuals and created software and website applications.

Over 30,000 copies of the Joint Antiterrorism (JAT) Guide, more than 80,000 copies of the Joint Forward Operations Base (JFOB) Protection Handbook and almost 43,000 copies of the Small-Base Entry Control Point Guide, produced by Summerwind, have been distributed to military personnel worldwide. These products have also been incorporated into U.S. Army and Marine Corps doctrine and are part of the curriculum for the Army/USMC Engineer and Military Police schools. Summerwind developed ERDC's Force Protection Portal, a restricted web site, which has more than 3,000 registered

users who employ it to access manuals and other training tools online. Other computer-based products that Summerwind has created include the Fixed Site - Risk Management Tool, Deployed Force - Risk Management Tool, and a web application version of the Barrier Damage Assessment Module.

A Brookhaven native, King grew up in Jacksonville, Florida, graduated from Florida State University, and came back to Brookhaven where he started his career in security as a police officer.

During his Marine Corps career, he served in several positions that helped prepare him for the work he does today. He served as Deputy Chief of Military Police at the Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany, Georgia; Security Director for Marine Presidential Helicopter Squadron One at Quantico, Virginia,

supporting Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush; Commanding Officer of the Military Police Company at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; Chief of Antiterrorism/Physical Security and Military Police Policy Branch at the U.S. Marine Corps Headquarters in Washington, D.C.; and Director of the Antiterrorism Plans and Policy Division at U.S. Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida.

In 2003, after he and his wife had moved fourteen times in twenty-one years, King decided to retire from the USMC rather than accepting command of the Marine Security Guards at all U.S. Embassies in Africa. He settled with his wife, Nancy, and sons, Collin and Cody, in her hometown, Wesson, and started his consulting organization.

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News Nuggets

Special to Wesson News

Math prowess. Olivia Nelson from Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) placed fourth among seventh graders in the annual District Mississippi Council of Teachers Mathematics Junior High Math Contest at Co-Lin. Seventh- and eighth- grade students from Loyd Star Attendance Center, Copiah Academy, Cathedral Middle School, Topeka Tilton Attendance Center, New Hebron Attendance Center, Bogue Chitto, West Lincoln, Enterprise Attendance Center, Brookhaven Academy, and Rod Paige Middle School, as well as WAC competed. Will Sutton and Jackie Ward of Rod Paige Middle School placed first and second among eighth-grade students; and Brent Cade of Loyd Star Attendance Center and Graci Malone of Brookhaven captured first and second place in the seventh-grade divisions. They will move on to the state-level competition at Mississippi College.

Quicker response time. With the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) taking over dispatch services for King's Daughters Medical Center's (KDMC) Emergency Medical Service, response time is expected to improve. When LCSO receives a 911 call that requires medical attention, its dispatchers will stay on the line with callers while simultaneously paging KDMC to the address where assistance is required. Callers will not have to repeat information to KDMC after describing their situations to LSCO dispatchers, who merely transferred calls to KDMC under the old system. The new dispatching system for KDMC is similar to the service LCSO provides to the Brookhaven fire department, which reduced response time. To move to the new system, LCSO's eleven dispatchers received certification in emergency medical dispatch after completing twenty-four hours of classroom training and eight hours of field training.

Race for pets. Pet owners, dressed up as their favorite heroes along with their animals, will participate in the Brookhaven Animal Rescue League's (BARL) Hero for Rescues 5K Fun Run to raise money for the not-for-profit animal shelter and pet adoption volunteer organization on Saturday, May 9. Race participants will pay to compete for medals awarded to males and females in varied age divisions -- adults, \$25; children, \$10; pets \$5. The race, a feature of BARL's annual BARK-FEST on the campus of the Mississippi School of the Arts, starts at 8 a.m. The race name honors BARL's heroes -- its volunteers, people who adopt pets, and the animals for which it cares. At BARK-FEST, the Brookminster dog show (\$5 per entry/\$20 for unlimited entries) at 11 a.m. will also present awards for the Most Terrific Trick, Obedience School Dropout, Most Glamorous, Best Smile, Wiggliest Bum, Most Vocal, and Twinsies (owner/

dog look-alike). Day-long entertainment by local talent beginning at 9 a.m. will be part of the event as well, along with an exhibit of exotic animals, merchandise and food vendors, a grooming station, a photo booth, "Pupcasso" and face painting, a jump house, and balloons and games.

Reed's adds veep. Brookhaven-based Reed's Metals has named Linda Netterville Vice President of Operations. She will oversee the company's data and communication systems, as well as the company's five manufacturing facilities in Brookhaven and Tupelo; Jackson, Tennessee; Benton, Arkansas; and Lake Charles, Louisiana. Netterville was formerly an instructor in the Workforce Training program at Co-Lin. For more than twenty years, she has worked as a consultant to businesses in Mississippi, Texas and Arkansas in accounting software support, database design and implementation, and employee training and development.

Science winners. Co-Lin Research Group's presentation -- "Conventional Strain Energies of the Oxaphosphetanes and the Oxadiphosphetanes" -- captured second place among 200 presentations from students at two-year and four-year colleges and universities in the Mississippi Academy of Sciences Conference. Members of the Co-Lin research group were Marissa Westrope and Carey Hydrick of Wesson; Mason Boone of Hazlehurst; and Sam Walters of Crystal Springs. Shelley Smith is the group's adviser.

Skills USA awards. Josh Hart of Wesson, Electronics Technology student at Co-Lin, received a gold medal in the annual Skills USA Competition at Jackson -- one of three Career and Technical students at the college to win awards. Thomas Westrope of Wesson, a Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Milling technology student, received a silver medal and Ashley Bass of Sontag, a Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Milling student, won a bronze medal. Hart will go to national competition at Louisville, Kentucky, this summer. The students competed in Automotive Service Technology, Architectural and Technical Drafting, Precision Machining, Precision Machining Technology (CNC Milling and CNC Turning), Electronics Technology, and HVAC.

State students stay in school. More than forty-six percent Mississippi community college students complete their Associate Degrees over six years compared to slightly more than thirty-nine per cent of students nationally, a National Student Clearinghouse Research Center report reveals. The graduation rate is fifth among the fifty states. Among full-time students nationally, more than sixty-eight per cent of Mississippi students complete their community college studies compared to 57 per cent nationally -- fourth among the fifty states.

Lions Club celebrates 75th

Special to Wesson News

The Wesson Lions Club is celebrating its seventy-fifth birthday this month.

Nearly 100 persons, including local Lions Club members, their spouses, and invited guests, will be on hand at a gala anniversary banquet to honor the local service organization at the Co-Lin Thames Center on Thursday, April 30.

Highlights of the banquet will include remarks by a Lions Club of Mississippi official about the importance of Lions Club service to communities and introduction of Wesson members recently named as Melvin Jones Fellows -- the highest recognition in the Lions Club. Local business, government, and civic leaders will also present birthday wishes to the Wesson club, and a pictorial history of the local organization will be shown.

Already, the Wesson Lions Club has received special recognition on the occasion of its anniversary through unofficial proclamations by Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant and the Wesson Board of Aldermen.

In its service to the community, the Wesson Lions Club conducts sight screenings at Wesson Attendance Center each year and at special health fairs as invited, collects eyeglasses, and assists persons in financial need with eye examinations and purchase of eyeglasses. It also provides funding support for Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, substance abuse prevention, diabetes education and care, Habitat for Copiah County, Hospice Ministries, scholarships to Co-Lin, Lions state leadership camps for boys and girls, the League of Extraordinary Women of Wesson, Wesson Athletic Foundation, Wesson Garden Club and the Wesson Public Library.

cont. from front page

Founders Day events

up at Trustmark Bank.

At City Hall from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Founders Day visitors can learn about the Wesson of former years, its lifestyles, and the people, organizations, and institutions of its past in a scaled-down version of an historical museum, which was open for several months last year in temporary quarters and continues to seek a permanent home.

Up-tempo musical entertainment will maintain an exciting atmosphere on Saturday, with performances by the Co-Lin Sojourners rock band, Elvis (Wesson's Ricky Bell), singer Catlin Neal, pop and country singer Natalie Jo McKenzie, and the Wesson High School band.

On Saturday evening, Founders Day festivities will move to the Old School Community Center. After performanc-

es by the Camellia Line Dancers and Good Time Dancers at 5:30 p.m. and the Southern Classic Cloggers at 6:30 p.m. to establish the mood, street dancing will begin at 7 p.m., with Michael Wise's Morgan & Company providing live music, and Stephen Ashley and Brian King keeping it up as dee jays between their sets.

Everyone is invited to the dance party at which the Wesson High School Band Boosters will sell food and beverages to raise funds for a WAC band hall. High School classes from 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1972, and 1975 will also host tailgate-like private reunion events in tents set up on the grounds of the Old School.

A grand finale fireworks display sponsored by the Town of Wesson will officially conclude the Founders Day celebration, although dancing and merriment will continue to 11 p.m.

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Nine ways to control your stress

By Guest Columnist
Dr. Stephanie Duguid

Stress happens. It's unavoidable. At times, it's unbearable. It does not just afflict your mind, but can affect you on a cellular level, as well. In fact, long-term stress can lead to a wide range of illnesses – headaches to stomach disorders to depression – and increase the risk of serious conditions such as stroke and heart disease.



Special to Wesson News

Take a deep breath and relax during April -- National Stress Awareness Month -- and learn to better manage stress and improve your health and well-being.

Start by understanding the mind/stress/health connection. The sympathetic stress response -- also known as the "fight or flight response" -- is a survival mechanism that's "hard-wired" into our nervous systems. It mobilizes quick reflexes when there is imminent danger, such as swerving to avoid a car crash. When you perceive a threat, stress hormones rush into your bloodstream -- increasing heart rate, blood pressure, and glucose levels. Other hormones also suppress functions like digestion and the immune system, which is one of the reasons why chronic stress can leave you more vulnerable to illness. While danger triggers the stress response, so can work conflicts, worry over debt, bad

memories, or anxiety. Although one bad day at work won't compromise your health, weeks or months of stress can dampen your immune response and raise your risk for disease.

If you suffer from chronic stress and can't influence or change your situation, remember that you have the ability to choose your response to stressors. Here are nine positive ways you can respond to the stress in your life and keep your own stress levels in check.

1. Get and stay healthy. Taking control of your personal health can make a great difference in the amount of stress you feel. The best way to reclaim control of your life is by taking charge of your body. Whether it is through diet, exercise, or simply getting that medical checkup you've been putting off, make April the month you put yourself back in control.

2. Make a change. It can be as simple as clearing the clutter off your desk or as elaborate as taking a well-deserved vacation. But do something different. Even a small change can make a big difference when it comes to stress.

3. Focus on now. Most folks live their entire lives in yesterday or tomorrow. In truth, however, there is only NOW. Focusing on this perfect moment -- RIGHT NOW -- removes stress from the time warp in which it's stuck and provides a magical escape from the disappointment of what once was and the fear of what might be.

4. Talk to yourself. Sometimes a good pep talk is all that you need to keep stress at bay. Maybe it's high time you gave yourself one by affirming what is right with your life instead of dwelling on what's wrong.

5. Get the giggles. Laughter really is the best medicine. Watch a funny show or video or think about a joke. Whatever it takes, give yourself time for laughter each and every day.

6. Meditate. A still mind is a stress-free mind. So take a deep breath, quiet your thoughts, and let stress melt away. Even ten minutes of meditation daily for the next 30 days will do wonders for releasing stress in your life.

7. Keep a happiness journal. Every evening for the next 30 days, spend a few minutes reflecting on the day you just experienced, and list five things about the day that delighted you.

8. Put a positive spin on things. No matter what challenge you may be facing, do your best to think about it positively, and then let that new positive mindset become your focal point.

9. Help someone. Sometimes the best way to deal with stress is by providing relief to someone else. Putting your focus on others takes the focus off your own challenges and reduces stress. So look around you. See who needs a hand, and then offer yours.

You can't avoid stress. But you can minimize it by changing how you choose to respond to it. The ultimate reward for your efforts will be a healthy, balanced life, with time for work, relationships, relaxation, and fun.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. 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 20 years.

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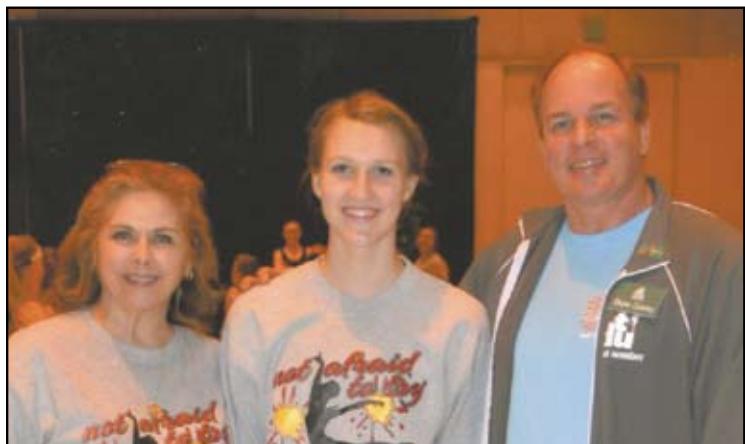
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Nena Smith School of Dance students attend workshop



Photos by Wesson News

At Dance Teachers United (DTU) winter workshop in Hattiesburg, Wesson High School Senior Anna Frances Speights (above, center), a Nena Smith School of Dance student (NSSD), received a college scholarship based on her dance experience, ability, resume, and an essay she wrote about dance in her life. DTU president Blake Coheley (right), also Director of the New Orleans School of Creative and Performing Arts, presented the award and offered her congratulations with Nena Smith (left), NSSD owner. Speights, who has been dancing for 14 years, is a member of the NSSD Hall of Fame; and head cheerleader, Color Guard Co-Captain, and Dance Team Captain at Wesson High School. DTU is a non-profit dance association organized to promote the finest in dance education for its members and their students. Its membership comes from seven different southern states.



Photos by Wesson News

More than fifty dancers, studio teachers, and chaperones from Nena Smith School of Dance (NSSD) in Wesson attended Dance Teachers United (DTU) winter workshop at the Hattiesburg Convention Center in Hattiesburg: (front) Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) Fifth Grade Class Captain Kelly Grace Raiford; (kneeling from left) NSSD owner Nena Smith, Lily Claire Smith, Carsyn Earls, Kayla Barfield, Amber Westbrook, Madison Fortenberry, Vivian McRee, Baylee Zumbro, NSSD teacher Marsha Raiford; (third row from left) teacher-in training and Fruit of the Spirit Class Captain Abigail Hynum, Selena Ross, Ashlyn Banes, Candace Johnson, Brianna Hynum, assistant NSSD teacher Lindsey Alford, Anna Frances Speights, Millie Fortenberry, assistant teacher Kaylen Boyte, Sophomore Class Captain Abi Douglas, Morgan Polk, NSSD teacher Jessa Martin; (back row from left) NSSD teacher Alexis Phillips Smith, Fifth/Sixth Grade Tri-County Class Captain Bre Westbrook, Laney Jones, WAC Seventh/Eighth Grade Class Captain Elizabeth Shirley, Amya Williams, Issy Morse, Jordan Slonaker, Katie Westbrook, Summer Roberts, Hailee Thompson, Carly Stanley, Kaylee Ezell, Emma Britt, Callie Brooke Barlow, Abby Kimble, Lainey Grace Brewer, and Kaleigh Frederick. Nena Smith is chaplain and a board member of DTU.

WESSON AREA DINING GUIDE



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Wesson Police Blotter

Special to Wesson News

During March, the Wesson Police Department activity encompassed:

Response to:

- One traffic accident
- One use of an unauthorized vehicle
- Four general complaints
- One credit card fraud

Citations & arrests:

- Twenty-eight traffic violations
- One non-alcohol DUI
- Six possession of marijuana
- One possession of beer
- Two open container

- Five possession of paraphernalia
- Four possession of a controlled substance, including two felonies
- Three warrants
- One resisting arrest

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.

Britt receives Best in Show Design award

Special to Wesson News

Several area gardeners and designers were recently recognized as winners in the Wesson Garden Club's spring show. The show included design dis-

horticulture displays at City Hall.

Marilyn Britt received the Best in Show Design for "Green Country." Janet Kelly received the Best in Show and three first place awards in horticulture and a third place in "Scavenger Hunt."

Others receiving awards included: Marjorie Cox (third place in "Green Country"), Kate Hampton (four first places in horticulture and honorable mention in "Green Country"), Kip Higdon (third place in "Feasts of Spring"), Debbie Hoaglin (third place in "Wee Spring Things"), Alayna Hughes (first place in "Spring Abundance"), Beverly King (honorable mentions in "Scavenger Hunt" and "Spring Abundance"), Dottie Mercier (first place in horticulture and second place in "Wee Spring Things"), Pam Owens (first place in "Wee Spring Things"), Jean Ricks (first places in horticulture and "Green Country"), Debbie Smith (first place in horticulture, second place in "Scavenger Hunt," second place in "Spring Abundance," and honorable mention in "Feasts of Spring"), Lisa Smith (first places in horticulture and "Feasts of Spring"), Opal Smith (first place in "Scavenger Hunt"), Shelia Stewart (20 first places in horticulture, second place in "Feasts of Spring," and honorable mention in "Wee Spring Things"), Stanley Stewart (three first places in horticulture), Angie Wade (third place in "Spring Abundance"), and Joy Wesbrooks (first place in horticulture).



Photo by Wesson News

"Green Country" design (above) by Marilyn Britt received the Best in Show Design award in the Wesson Garden Club's spring show.

plays at Wesson Hardware ("Scavenger Hunt"), Los Lobos ("Feasts of Spring"), Mill Town Salon and Day Spa ("Spring Abundance"), and Copiah ("Wee Spring Things") and Trustmark ("Green Country") Banks; and

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Rummaging through area museums in the spring

By Guest Columnist R. Shaw Furlow

Spring, my favorite season, is so much fun in the South! Pollen on your cars and front porches and the love bugs gumming up your windshields are small prices to pay to see the dogwood and Bradford Pear trees in full bloom and to hear children running up and down the streets, riding bicycles and jumping on backyard trampolines. The crack of the bat (or ping of the bat in college baseball) and pitchers and catchers reporting to Florida and Arizona are also part of the spring season. And how about visits to museums -- my topic this month?

If you read the *Wesson News* regularly, you know I am moving on from my position as Co-Lin's band director after sixteen great years to take charge of some museums, among other things. At 64, how many more years could I hang with the eighteen and nineteen year-olds who make up the Blue Wave Show Band? So I jumped on an opportunity to become Executive Director of the Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame (MMHF), which was started by Dr. Jim Brewer from Hazlehurst twenty years ago and runs three museums. At its oldest one



Special to Wesson News

at Jackson International Airport in the On Stage restaurant, you will find gold records, some of Peavey Electronics' original guitars, plaques of some of the Hall of Fame recipients, and other treasures of Mississippi's illustrious musical heritage. There is a new MMHF museum in the Iron Horse Grill in Jackson, where you also can enjoy a great meal.

In our area, MMHF has a museum in the old railroad depot next door to the Hazlehurst Chamber of Commerce, where you can see many interesting exhibits, mostly from our corner of planet earth, on Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There are pictures, guitars, and old records through which you can browse. There are stories about the two Johnson blues musicians -- Tommy, the elder from Crystal Springs and Robert, the younger from Hazlehurst. There are maps that show visitors locations where events in Mississippi's musical history took place. Every month, bus loads of tourists from other countries visit to see things about which they have read in history books. It costs nothing to view the exhibits, and you can spend as much or as little time as you want at the museum.

Recently, I had a great time rummaging through exhibits at the Lincoln County Historical and Genealogical Society, where I found a display case full of memorabilia from Whitworth College. I spent quite a bit of time on the campus of the old Brookhaven school, where my mother was not only a student, but served on the faculty. Of special inter-

est to me were the booklets of old recital programs. Piano recitals and girls ensembles seemed to be the biggest attraction of the period, but there were also dramatic and poetry readings.

At the museum, which is located in the old Brookhaven synagogue, I also found artifacts of Brookhaven's Jewish heritage. Many Jews immigrated to Mississippi in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, settling mainly in river towns. By 1852, however, some families had moved to newly incorporated Brookhaven with aspirations of becoming part of its mercantile economy. The growing town welcomed them. Milton Whitworth donated land for a Jewish Cemetery, which is located on Monticello Street across from Rosehill Cemetery. Creating a cemetery before building a synagogue was a common practice. Two of Brookhaven's major Jewish pioneers were brothers Israel and Sam Abrams, who opened a mercantile store. They later divided their business, with Sam opening a furniture store and Izzy maintaining the mercantile. As a boy, I shopped Abrams Mercantile, which was still in business on Whitworth Avenue and owned by "Mr. Cliff" Abrams. In 1918, Brookhaven voters elected Sam mayor.

Another Brookhaven museum features military memorabilia. I remember finding pictures of my dad and uncle in one of the displays a few years ago. A number of newspapers report on the war. There is a large wooden replica of the aircraft carrier on which Dr. Jim

Barnett served in WWII, a collection of vintage airplanes replicas hanging from the ceiling, old uniforms, and stories about war heroes from the area. The Military Museum, located in the old Illinois Central Depot, is only open two days a week, Tuesday and Thursday.

While not technically a museum, the Lincoln-Lawrence Library has rotating art exhibits. Also check out the art gallery in the Gertrude Mutton building on the Co-Lin campus. The Mutton building itself is of interest as one of the oldest on the campus and has had multiple uses over the years. When I attended Co-Lin, music classes were taught upstairs. Today, it houses the college alumni association and the foundation. The gallery is on the first floor. Yesterday Co-Lin's student art show started there and will run until the end of the semester. This annual show is one of my favorites, with works created by carefree students who were not trying to sell anything, but rather made art they themselves enjoy. Take in the show. You will thank me later.

I look forward to learning more about the operation of museums in my new work and will share my lessons with you in the future as I procure artifacts for them. In the mean time, continue to support live music. . . .

Editor's Note: R. Shaw Furlow is retiring as Director of Bands at Copiah-Lincoln Community College in June after sixteen years to become Executive Director of the Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame.



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Sports Shorts



Photo credit: Special to Wesson News

Sophomore guards Tyra Gibson (left) and Terry Morris represented Co-Lin women's and men's basketball teams in the 2015 Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) All-Star games this past Friday at East Central in Decatur. Gibson averaged 8.6 points and 2.7 rebounds per game and was the only member of the Lady Wolves to start in all 28 games during the 2014-2015 season. Morris averaged 10.4 points and 2.4 rebounds per game. Sophomore Claresa Banks, who led the Lady Wolves with 12.8 point per game, also was selected for the women's All-Star game, but did not participate because of a knee injury. Sophomore forward Jordan Lumpkins, who averaged 7.7 points and 5.2 rebounds per game, was selected as an alternate for the men's All-Star Game. Co-Lin head women's and men's basketball head and assistant coaches -- Gwyn Young and Nikki Williams and Kenny Bizot and Jack Reed -- coached the South Division All-Star teams.

Special to Wesson News

New coaches. Micah Beassie Allen and Junior Noel have joined Co-Lin as cheerleading and men's and women's team soccer coaches, respectively. Allen served on cheer squads at Brookhaven High School and Co-Lin, where she graduated in 2003 before completing a business degree at Mississippi College. A five-time National Cheerleaders Association All-American, she has coached children aged three-years-old and up at the Mississippi Gym of Dreams in Brookhaven for seven years and varied junior and senior high school cheer camps. Noel, a native of Trinidad, coached boys soccer at Quitman High School and Lamar School in Meridian, men's and women's soccer at East Mississippi Community College from 2007 to 2010, and most recently women's soccer at Cedar Valley College in Lancaster, Texas. He played for the Caribbean Republic's national soccer team before moving to the U.S. in 1994 to play soccer for the University of Mobile, where he was selected as a First Team NAIA All-American in 1995 and 1997 and then served as an assistant coach.

Cobra netters progress in tournaments. The Wesson Attendance Center varsity tennis team captured the 3A District VII Tennis Title, and has defeated West Marion (7-0 and 7-0) and lost to Lawrence County (4-3) in Region 7-3A matches. In the regular season, the Co-

bras defeated Enterprise (6-1), Franklin County (5-2 and 4-3), and Magee (7-0). Varsity and junior varsity Cobra netters are juniors Bryce Davis, Chelsea McManus, Cabe Stephens, Devin Wallace; sophomores Garrett Boutwell, Joseph Carraway, Logan Channell, Ray Drane, Cooper Earls, Erich Fischer, Maya Granger, Dakota Gray, Laci Hamilton, Andrew Hart, Will Hulon, Max Jackson, Alex Mooney; freshmen, Amber Brinson, Brianna Coley, Reid Crow, Kimberly San, Caitlyn Silvan, Morgan Wesley; eighth-graders Nekevia Frye, Shaylin Green, Drew Hulon, Abby Kimble; and seventh-graders Kenner Bizot, Aaron Mooney, and Issy Morse.

Hall of Fame selection. The Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) Sports Hall of Fame will induct former basketball star and now Wesson Attendance Center fifth-grade math teacher Cindy Hodges Williams in a special ceremony on April 28. Williams was a First Team All-State and First Team All-Region at Co-Lin from 1975 to 1979, an All-State, All-Region, and All-American at Southeastern Louisiana University (SLU), and played in 1979 and 1980 for the New Orleans Pride in a now defunct professional league. Sports Hall of Fames at both Co-Lin and SLU inducted her in 1998 and 1990, respectively. She and her husband, Johnny Williams, have two children, Ryan and Wade; and two grandchildren.

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Community Calendar

April weather forecast: The Old Farmers Almanac calls for an average temperature of 66 degrees F (three degrees above average) and precipitation of 4.5 inches (two inches below average).

APRIL 14

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and VFW Auxiliary Post 2618 meet. \$5.00 for meal. VFW Hall on Industrial Park Road, Brookhaven. 5:30 p.m.

Student art exhibit. Mutton Gallery on the Co-Lin campus. Runs through the end of semester (May 8). Monday-Friday 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Ole Brook Wind Symphony in concert. Co-Lin Fine Arts Building Auditorium. 7 p.m.

APRIL 16

Fifty Plus Club. Anderson Building on Co-Lin campus. 10:30 a.m.

Lunch and Learn Talk sponsored by Friends of Lincoln County Library. "Learning to Use E Books." Free. Vernon Room at Lincoln County Public Library in Brookhaven. 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Two free movies follow: "The King's Speech" (1:30 p.m.) and "Divergent" (3 p.m.). Bring a snack. For information, email modestyann@aol.com.

Brookhaven Regional Arts Guild (BRAG) meets. The meeting theme is "Spring or Budding Out," and members who want to vie for the Artist of the Month award are asked to bring works depicting their interpretations of the theme. BRAG membership encompasses both artists and art lovers. Lemanedi Arts and Interiors in downtown Brookhaven. 5:30 p.m. Email modestyann@aol.com for information.

I 55 Cruisers Club. An antique car & truck club in its formative stages. Wesson Fire Department. 6:30 p.m.

"Managing Mississippi Farm Ponds and Small Lakes," presented by Jerry Brown, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks biologist. Lincoln Civic Center. 6:30 p.m.

American Legion Post #79 meets. American Legion Lodge on Main Street, Wesson. 6:30 p.m.

APRIL 18

Lincoln County Master Gardeners Extravaganza. Plant-related vendors and concessions. Speaker Nellie Neal ("The Garden Mama"). Master Gardeners will help children pot plants to take home. Railroad Park, Brookhaven. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (speaker at 12 noon).

APRIL 19

The Southwest Chapter of American Bikers Active Toward Education (ABATE) meets. Jeffrey's Cycle Supply located eight miles south of Highway 84 on East Lincoln Road. The group, which promotes motorcycle safety, is seeking vendors for its June Motorcycle Rodeo. 2 p.m. Call Carmen Hill at 601-833-8560 for information.

APRIL 20

Beginner clogging classes for persons of all ages beyond age 5 are held every Monday night. A small fee is charged each month. Brookhaven Recreation Department on Highway 51. Call 601-833-3791 for information.

J.M. Wesson Masonic Lodge # 317 meeting. Masonic Lodge building on Highway 51. 6 p.m.

APRIL 21

Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR). Workshop on cell phone photography. Learn various ways to save your pictures; email, post, edit, and print them; move them to your computer \$5.00. "Virtual Style," an IMAX-style presentation on travel in U.S. national parks, follows. Co-Lin Thames Center. 9 a.m.

APRIL 25

Lincoln County Forestry Association's Spring

Field Day. Presentation and discussion on growth and development of young stands. Meal will be served. Steven Williams' tree plantation (3141 Harmony Drive, Brookhaven). 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Make reservations no later than April 22 at 601-835-3460.

APRIL 27

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

APRIL 29

Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) trip to Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Departs Co-Lin Thames Center 7 a.m. Returns May 2.

APRIL 30

Wesson Lions Club 75th Anniversary Dinner. Co-Lin Thames Center. 5:45 p.m.

Annie Jr., Brookhaven Little Theater's (BLT) spring musical, and Silent Auction in conjunction with Brookhaven Regional Arts Guild (BRAG). Performances of the musical are also May 1, 2, 7, and 9 at 7:30 p.m. and on May 3 and 10 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Contact Brookhaven-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce for information. The Silent Auction will be ongoing during the run of the play and will feature works of local artists. You do not have to attend the play to bid. The Haven Theater, 126 West Cherokee, downtown Brookhaven. Visit BRAG's Facebook Page after April 30 to see auction items.

MAY 1

Hope Day, the culmination of Relay for Life Week in Copiah County (April 27-May 1). Relay for Life event will honor cancer survivors. Hazlehurst High School football field. 6 p.m. Survivor's Reception. 7 p.m. Opening Ceremony. 9 p.m. Luminaria Ceremony. 10 p.m. Awards Ceremony.

MAY 1 & 2

Wesson Founders Day festivities. Historical museum at City Hall opens from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on May 1 followed by a gospel concert featuring The Riders. On May 2, the museum opens at 9 a.m. Parade rolls at 11 a.m. Car Show, entertainment, contests bazaar downtown until 5:30 p.m. Dance performances, street dancing, class reunions, and fireworks at Old School Community Center from 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

MAY 2

Cystic Fibrosis 5K. Downtown Brookhaven. \$25 entry fee. 8 a.m.

Relay for Life fundraising walk for the American Cancer Society. Exchange Club Park, Brookhaven. 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. Contact Relay for Life of Lincoln County community manager Cindy Ashmore at 601-384-6209 about participating. Businesses, churches, other organizations, or families, and groups of friends can form teams.

MAY 5

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

MAY 7

Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) annual picnic. Site undetermined.

MAY 9

BARKFEST. Day-long fundraiser for Brookhaven Animal Rescue League (BARL) with contests and entertainment on the campus of Mississippi School of the Arts in Brookhaven. 8 a.m.

Spring Art Walk. Meet local artists and view their works. Sponsored by Brookhaven Regional Arts Guild (BRAG). 9 a.m.

Email Community Calendar items to bobarnold@wessonnews.com.

WFD to review response role

Special to Wesson News

Seven volunteers from the Wesson Fire Department (WFD) will participate in a Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) refresher training course conducted by Copiah County Emergency Management.

The course will focus on responsibilities of Copiah County disaster responders for setting up and managing a reception center in the event of an incident at the Grand Gulf Nuclear Station near Port Gibson in Claiborne County.

WFD will send its radiological team,

including Chief Ken Carraway, Mike Rand, Frank Newell, Justin and Ashley Bland, and Jesse and Rhoda James, to the refresher course on May 12 and 13 at the Joe L. Johnson Safe Room at Gallman -- the facility which will shelter people affected by an emergency at the power plant.

Randal Drane, Copiah County Emergency Management director, will review the emergency worker and equipment monitoring, decontamination, and sheltering roles of Copiah County responders in a radiological emergency.

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Sports Shorts

Co-Lin baseball. Meridian 9-Wolves 0; Meridian 10-Wolves 8; Baton Rouge 16-Wolves 6; East Mississippi 8-Wolves 2; East Mississippi 8-Wolves 6; Jones 20-Wolves 13; Jones 8-Wolves 4; Northwest 6-Wolves 0; Northwest 9-Wolves 4; Wolves 8-East Central 4; East Central 5-Wolves 4; Wolves 18-Northeast 17; Wolves 7-Northeast 5; Hinds 2-Wolves 1; Hinds 10-Wolves 3.

Co-Lin softball. East Central 10-Wolves 0; East Central 2-Wolves 0; Wolves 3-Pearl River 2; Wolves 6-Pearl River 3; Hinds 1-Wolves 0; Hinds 5-Wolves 3; Gulf Coast 7-Wolves 6; Gulf Coast 4-Wolves 3; Wolves 5-Southwest 3; Wolves 8-Southwest 4; Jones County 10-Wolves 2; Jones County 12-Wolves 3; Wolves 7-Meridian 6; Meridian 9-Wolves 6; East Central 11-Wolves 3; East Central 11-Wolves 3.

Co-Lin tennis. Men. Wolves 7-Holmes 2; Jones 7-Wolves 2; Holmes 7 Wolves 2; Wolves 5-Northeast 1; Itawamba 9-Wolves 0; Wolves 9-Hinds 0; Wolves 8-Hinds 1; Meridian 7-Wolves 2; Jones 6-Wolves 3; Wolves 8-Hinds 1. Women. Wolves 9-Holmes 0; Jones 9-Wolves 0; Holmes 8-Wolves 1; Wolves 6-Northeast 0; Itawamba 8-Wolves 1; Hinds 5-Wolves 4; Meridian 8-Wolves 1; Jones 9-Wolves 1; Hinds 5-Wolves 4.

Co-Lin golf. Third in East Central Invitational at Dancing Rabbit (Philadelphia); Second with 616 in Mississippi Association of Community & Junior Colleges (MACJ) Event # 4 hosted by Northwest.

Wesson High School varsity baseball. Cobras 13-Crystal Springs 0; Cobras 11-Brookhaven 1; Cobras 14-Crystal Springs 1; Cobras 6-North Pike 5; Cobras 11-Franklin County 1; Cobras 11-Jefferson County 0; Cobras 15-Jefferson County 0; Cobras 14-Terry 3.

Wesson High School Lady Cobras varsity fastpitch softball. Bogue Chitto 9-Cobras 4; Brookhaven 5-Cobras 3; Cobras 2-Tylertown 1; Bogue Chitto 11-Cobras 2.

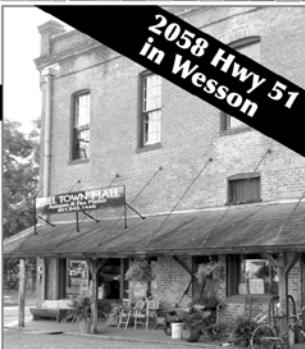
Wesson High School Golf. Brookhaven. 167-Cobras 193.

Upcoming events & games:

- April 14 Wesson High School junior varsity and varsity fastpitch softball Lady Cobras play West Marion. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.
Wesson High School varsity baseball Cobras play Hazlehurst. 6:30 p.m.
Co-Lin softball Wolves play double header at Pearl River. 3 p.m.
Co-Lin baseball Wolves play double header with Pearl River. 4 p.m.
- April 15 Co-Lin softball Wolves play double header at East Mississippi. 3 p.m.
Mississippi Association of Community & Junior Colleges men's & women's tennis tournament at Tupelo.
- April 16 Wesson High School junior varsity and varsity fastpitch softball Lady Cobras play at Tylertown. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.
- April 17 Wesson High School junior varsity and varsity fastpitch softball Lady Cobras play Salem. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.
Wesson High School varsity baseball Cobras play at Hazlehurst. 4 p.m.
Co-Lin softball Wolves play double header with Hinds. 4 p.m.
- April 18 Wesson High School junior varsity & varsity baseball Cobras play Lawrence County. 12 Noon & 2 p.m.
Co-Lin baseball Wolves play double header with Mississippi Gulf Coast. 4 p.m.
Co-Lin golf team plays in Mississippi Association of Community & Junior College Championship at Lions Hills Country Club at Columbus, Mississippi.
- April 20 Wesson High School junior varsity and varsity fastpitch softball Lady Cobras play Brookhaven. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.
Co-Lin softball Wolves play double header with Holmes. 3 p.m.
- April 21 Wesson High School junior varsity and varsity fastpitch softball Lady Cobras play Franklin County. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.
Wesson High School junior varsity & varsity baseball Cobras play Magee. 4:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.
- April 24 Wesson High School junior varsity and varsity fastpitch softball Lady Cobras play at McComb. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.
Mississippi Association of Community & Junior Colleges state softball playoffs.
- April 25 Co-Lin baseball Wolves play double header at Itawamba. 2 p.m.
- April 26 National Junior Colleges Athletic Association Region 23 Golf Tournament at Laurel Country Club, Laurel, Mississippi.
- April 27 Co-Lin baseball Wolves play double header with Southwest. 4 p.m.
- May 1 Mississippi Association of Community & Junior Colleges state baseball playoffs.
- May 7 Mississippi Association of Community & Junior Colleges state softball playoffs.
Mississippi Association of Community & Junior Colleges state softball tournament
Region 23 community & junior colleges softball tournament.
- May 12 National Junior Colleges Athletic Association Division II softball tournament at Clinton, MS.

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Wesson Fire Department presents annual awards



Special to Wesson News

Wesson Fire Department (WFD) recently honored several firefighters at its annual banquet. Pictured (l to r) are Randle Drane, Copiah County Emergency Manager; Rhonda James, WFD's Most Improved Fire Fighter; Cathy Stokes, WFD's Elizabeth Holcomb Award; Sandi Rand, WFD's 2014 Fire Fighter of the Year; Rand's husband Michael; WFD Chief Ken Carraway; Frank Newell, who was recognized by WFD for responding to the most calls; and Herbert Kimble.

Wesson News

The Wesson Fire Department (WFD) has named Sandi Rand its 2014 Fire Fighter of the Year.

Rand received the award last month at WFD's annual banquet. More than 40 persons attended the event at which fire department personnel celebrate the previous year, recall experiences, and honor their colleagues.

In addition to Rand, WFD also recognized Rhonda James as Most Improved

Fire Fighter and Frank Newell for responding to the most calls.

Cathy Stokes, who does secretarial work for WFD and runs its reports, received the department's Elizabeth Olivia Holcomb Award, which is named for the late wife of Wesson fire fighter George Holcomb and recognizes persons who provide "outstanding support" for the fire department.

Rand is a Certified Volunteer Firefighter and First Medical Responder with more than five years with the department.

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