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Wesson News

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 PO Box 1028
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Volume 5, Number 10

“Good News You Can Use”

October 10, 2017

Annual flea market expects thousands

Wesson News

Thousands of browsers and shoppers are expected to flood Wesson Streets on Saturday, October 21, for the forty-sixth annual Flea Market Outdoor Arts and Crafts Show. Individuals, church groups, clubs, civic organizations and businesses will line Highway 51, Factory, and Spring Streets from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to sell their wares, promote their work, and meet and greet the public.

“We will have vendors from surrounding states, as well as nearby and from throughout the Mississippi,” says Ken Carraway, Wesson Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD) Chief. WVFD manages and coordinates the event, which is a major fundraiser for the department. Some 200 vendors will be on hand.

That special book to read, a gift for someone or a pet dog or cat to keep you company will be there, along with much, much more in the display areas, where shoppers, who know what they want, and browsers, who are looking for an opportunity or deal, can sort through the numerous and varied arts and crafts



Wesson News

items, antiques, jewelry, clothes and assorted flea market knick knacks.

“There will be everything from antiques to quilts and candles to gourmet foods, jellies, jams and honey; home decor and landscape items for yards,” says Carraway. “Local artisans will offer a variety of hand-crafted items.”

Local civic clubs and church groups will serve an array of foods and snacks in the bazaar-like atmosphere to quench the thirst and maintain the energy levels of visitors, while raising money for their organizations and their projects

and causes. “Porkskins -- a special treat available at the Flea Market -- will be cooking,” says Carraway.

The Wesson Lions Club will again be selling sweet potatoes, offering five-pound, ten-pound, twenty-pound and forty-pound assortments at 50 cents per pound. Friends of the Library will also hold its annual book sale in the building next to the Wesson public library pavilion. Town Hall staff will be in a special tent, where residents can get to know government officials and anyone can pick up a Wesson Huggie to handle a

cold or hot drink comfortably.

Started by a local merchants association, WVFD turned the event, better known today as the “Wesson Flea Market,” into a major fundraiser held annually on the third Saturday in October. The volunteer fire fighters generate some \$5000 each year on sales of the 10-foot-by-10-foot display areas at \$45 each. The funds support purchase of equipment, such as new digital radios, for the fire department, Carraway says.

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

Vendors and exhibitors can still reserve display areas. They must furnish their own tables, chairs, and other display equipment and may sell from tents, booths or their cars and trucks. Set-up for the Flea Market is after 5 p.m. on Friday, October 20, and before 8 a.m. on Saturday. For information, contact Ken Carraway at Wesson Volunteer Fire Department: carraway3@yahoo.com.

Co-Lin homecoming October 27 & 28

Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin alumni, friends and students will re-connect, enjoy varied activities, and stroll on the newly completed pedestrian corridor at the college’s Homecoming weekend on Friday and Saturday, October 27 and 28 on its Wesson campus.

The annual President’s Reception will kick off the weekend on Friday at 5 p.m. at the home of Dr. Ronnie and Rosie Nettles. The college’s president will honor local elected officials from

the Co-Lin district. Former Colettes will also meet for their reunion at the Thames Center at 6:30 p.m. on Friday. For information, contact the alumni office at 601-643-8498.

Saturday events include:

- The annual Big Wolf 5K run at Stone Stadium, starting at 7 a.m., and the Homecoming Golf Tournament at the Wolf Hollow course at 8 a.m. A portion of the proceeds from the 5K will benefit the men’s basketball team and golf tour-

namment proceeds will benefit the Wolf-pack golf team. Leigh Easterling (601-643-8435) and Dr. Stephanie Duguid (601-643-8341) are contacts for those interested in the 5K as participants or sponsors. Ronny Ross (601-643-8379) is the golf tournament contact.

- The Athletic Alumni Association annual meeting and Sports Hall of Fame induction at 9 a.m. in Rea Auditorium.
- The Band and Colette Alumni Chapter Hall annual meeting, the Band/Colette

Hall of Fame induction and presentation of the Stanley Stewart Outstanding Young Alumni award at 9 a.m. in Taylor Chapel. At the event and throughout the Homecoming weekend, band and Colette history books will be on sale for half price at \$25. Individuals who pay lifetime Band and Colette Alumni Chapter membership dues will receive complimentary books.

- The annual Alumni Association awards luncheon at 11 a.m. in Henley
- cont. on page 4*

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Police Blotter

Special to Wesson News

In September, Wesson Police closed an illegal drugs operation near Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) in the culmination of a several months investigation that included the undercover sale of a controlled substance. With the arrest of Israel Heath Newman on Grove Street, town authorities also confiscated six marijuana plants, drug paraphernalia, including crystal methamphetamine syringes; 7.8 grams of crystal meth, 16.7 grams of marijuana, \$2,500 in cash and a surveillance system. Newman, who is in Copiah County jail awaiting a possible indictment, was charged with conspiracy, possession of controlled substances with intent to distribute and child endangerment. During September, Wesson Police Department activity also encompassed:

- Response to:**
- **A dog at large**
 - **Two harassments**
 - **One use of counterfeit money**
 - **One malicious mischief**
 - **One cyber stalking**
 - **Two petty larcenies**
 - **One trespassing**
 - **One credit/debit card fraud**
 - **One grand larceny**
 - **Three general complaints**
- Citations & arrests:**
- **One driving without a license**
 - **One contempt of court violation**
 - **One obstruction of traffic**
 - **One utility theft**
 - **One dog ordinance violation**
 - **Two speeding**
 - **Eight disregard of traffic device (stop sign)**
 - **One improper equipment (headlight)**
 - **One expired tag**
 - **One possession of marijuana in a motor vehicle**

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.

Community Calendar

October weather forecast: The Old Farmer's Almanac calls for an average of temperature 67° (two degrees above average) with precipitation of six inches (three inches below average), October 10-13: A few t-storms, cool; October 14-21: Scattered t-storms, cool; October 22-26: T-storms, warm; October 27-31: Scattered t-storms; cool.

OCTOBER 10
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.

WorkKeys Assessment for Career Readiness Certificate. Each day through October 31. Phoenix Project Community Development Foundation, 1005 Main Street, Suite B, Fayette, Mississippi. Contact 601-786-6164.

OCTOBER 11
Keep Copiah County Beautiful meets. USDA Service Center (27169 Highway 28, Suite A, Hazlehurst). 9 a.m.

Fire Prevention & Safety, an Institute for Learning in Retirement Fire Prevention and Safety Week workshop with advice and demonstrations led by Stanley Dixon from the Brookhaven Fire Department and Chuck McCall, a Co-Lin Workforce Educator. Co-Lin Thames Center. 10 a.m.

OCTOBER 12
Music and Art in Trinity Park features music and local artists every Thursday through October. Vocal groups and instrumental ensembles perform today. Other musical entertainment during the month will be provided by the Old Brook Clarinet Ensemble (October 19), and the Mississippi School of Arts Praise Choir (October 26). Artists are invited to set up displays. Local food vendors and restaurants will sell light lunches and refreshments. Bring a blanket or chair. The park at Church of the Redeemer Episcopal Church on Monticello Avenue across from the Mississippi School of Arts in Brookhaven. 12 noon-1 p.m.

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

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

OCTOBER 13
Lincoln County Farmers Market sponsored by Lincoln County Extension Service. Local growers and others will sell fresh vegetables and baked goods every Friday through October and at least through the first three weeks in November, with a Thanksgiving market on November 21. Live music. The Farm Bureau will sell hamburgers. Railroad Park in downtown Brookhaven. 7:30 a.m.-12 noon.

OCTOBER 15
Sylvarena Baptist Church revival services starts with Rev. Gene Henderson as guest speaker and Joe Elliot as music leader. Sylvarena Church on Sylvarena Road. 11 a.m. service followed by covered dish luncheon and 6 p.m. service. Services continue through Wednesday, October 18, at 6:30 p.m. For information, call 601-643-2660.

OCTOBER 16
Beginner clogging classes for persons of all ages beyond five-years-old are held every Monday night. A small fee is charged each month. Brookhaven Recreation Department on Highway 51. Call 601-833-3791.

OCTOBER 17
Overcoming Generational Barriers, an Institute for Learning in Retirement workshop followed by the movie, *Lion*. Dustin George will discuss inter-generational communication, including an overview of social media. *Lion* recounts the true story of Saroo Brierley, a young man, who tenaciously seeks to find his family in India twenty-five years after he loses them as a five-year-old on the streets of Calcutta and is adopted by an Australian couple. Co-Lin Thames Center 9:30 a.m.

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 601-563-5438.

OCTOBER 19
Fifty Plus Club luncheon. Anderson Building on Co-Lin campus. 10:30 a.m.

Institute for Learning in Retirement luncheon with entertainment provided by Kenneth Jolly from Copiah Academy. \$10. Co-Lin Thames Center. 10:30 a.m.

Brookhaven Regional Arts Guild (BRAG) reception and Art Competition awards presentation. BRAG started displaying entries (oils, acrylics, pastels, watercolors, drawings, 3-D art, mixed media and photography) in the Vernon Room at Lincoln County Public Library on October 3. Lincoln County Public Library. 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

OCTOBER 21
Wesson Flea Market. Downtown Wesson. Arts and crafts, clothing and jewelry and much more. All day. See story elsewhere in this issue.

Inheritance, southern gospel group, in concert at Royal Chapel Church. 6 p.m.

OCTOBER 23
Blood drive every second and fourth Monday. King's Daughters Medical Center Hospital Annex. 1 p.m.- 6 p.m. Call 800-817-7449 for information.

OCTOBER 24
Brookhaven Animal Rescue League (BARL) fundraising celebrity dinner and auction. Sarah Thomas, the first female full-time National Football League official, is the feature celebrity. Advance tickets are \$25. BARL still needs volunteer waiters and auction items. Lincoln Civic Center. 6 p.m.

OCTOBER 25
Beginner & Intermediate Excel classes. Learn basic formulas, data entry & sorting, charts, printing options. \$10 fee for each class. October 18 registration deadline. Beginner class 9 a.m.-11 a.m.; Intermediate class 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Contact 601-643-8707

OCTOBER 26
Red Ribbon Festival in elementary school at Wesson Attendance School to raise funds for Parent Teachers Organization. Fun, games and refreshments from 5 p.m.-7 p.m. Haunted House created by Junior High/High School Beta Club follows in hallways of Wesson High School.

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

The Lincoln County Historical and Genealogical will feature Stacie Cross about her restoration of the Butterfield/Edgewood mansion in Brookhaven. Jimmy Furlow Senior Citizens Center, Brookhaven. 6:30 p.m. For more information, call 601-850-1733.

OCTOBER 27
Co-Lin Homecoming weekend begins with reception hosted by Co-Lin President Dr. Ronnie Nettles and continues on Saturday, October 28, with reunions, alumni honors, luncheon, tailgate party and more. See story elsewhere in this issue.

OCTOBER 28
Homochitto River Fest & 5K walk. Pre-registration is \$20 & \$15 for walk. Same-day registration is \$25 & \$20 for walk. 8 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

OCTOBER 31
Halloween. Trick of Treat Downtown during morning hours with children from Precious Moments day care center, the Wesson Baptist Church pre-school program and kindergarten at Wesson Attendance Center going to local merchants and businesses. Fall festival in the municipal park on Beech Street from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., with fun and games for young and older children, youth and adults. Trick or treating on Wesson streets, normally running from 4 p.m.-10 p.m.

NOVEMBER 7
Institute for Learning in Retirement luncheon featuring Ken Carraway -- 911 responder and volunteer fire fighter -- as guest speaker. \$10. Co-Lin Thames Center. 10:30 a.m.

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

NOVEMBER 9
BARL, an Institute in Learning in Retirement workshop, followed by the movie, *A Dog's Purpose* as part of National Animal Shelter Week. Beth Adcock from Brookhaven Animal Rescue League (BARL) will discuss her organization. The movie explores the relationships of canines and humans through the story of a devoted dog and his young master, Ethan. Fee: donation of a supply items needed by BARL. Co-Lin Thames Center. 12 noon.

NOVEMBER 13
Lincoln County Master Gardners meet the second Monday of each month. Mississippi State University Lincoln County Agricultural Extension Service at Lincoln County Court House in Brookhaven 5 p.m. The meeting is not open to the public, but persons interested in becoming a Master Gardener should contact Rebecca Bates at 601-835-3460.

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.

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

Email Community Calendar items to:
Bobarnold@wessonnews.com

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cont. from page 1

Co-Lin homecoming October 27th & 28th

Cafeteria at 11 a.m. and a tailgate party starting at 12:30 p.m. near the center of campus and on the new pedestrian corridor. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased at the Alumni Office, morning registration in Rea Auditorium, or the cafeteria just before the luncheon. At the alumni luncheon, various reunion groups will be recognized.

• The college class of 1967 will receive golden anniversary pins at the alumni luncheon and later meet at Oswalt Library. The High School Class of 1952/College Class of 1954 will sit together at the luncheon and meet in the Mutton Building afterward. A table will be reserved at the luncheon and at the tailgate party for all Co-Lin high school and college graduates during the 1970s decade. Under tents at the tailgate party, former Colettes will meet and perform with the band. The 1965-1957 football team will also meet at the tailgate party. The alumni office (601-643-8498) will help classes and groups with no reunion plans to organize events and is particularly encouraging classes that end in '7.

Co-Lin plays Pearl River Community College in the Homecoming football game at 3 p.m. Pre-game activities begin in Stone Stadium at 2:30 p.m.

For more information on all Homecoming events and activities, visit www.colin.edu/alumni/homecoming.

Co-Lin Homecoming Schedule of Events October 27-28, 2017

Friday, October 27, 2017

5 p.m. President's reception honoring city and county officials. President's Home
6:30 p.m. Colette reunion. Thames Center.

Saturday, October 28, 2017

7 a.m. Big Wolf 5K Walk/Run. Stone Stadium.
8 a.m. Homecoming Golf Tournament sponsored by Co-Lin Golf Team. Wolf Hollow Golf Course.
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. General Registration. J. M. Ewing Administration Building.
9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Sports Hall of Fame induction & annual business meeting of the Co-Lin Athletic Alumni Association. Rea Auditorium, Ewing Administration Building
9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Band/Colette Alumni Chapter business meeting, Hall of Fame induction & Outstanding Young Alumni presentation. Taylor Chapel.
11 a.m. Co-Lin Alumni Association Awards Luncheon and annual business meeting. Cafeteria, Henley Building.
12:30-2:00 p.m. Tailgate Party, with food, music, children's games and activities and pep rally featuring the Blue Wave Show Band and cheerleaders. Center of campus.
1 p.m. Reunions: High School Class of 1952/College Class of 1954. Mutton Building. Class of 1967. Oswalt Library. 1965-'67 football team, former Colettes, other classes that end in '7." Under the tents at tailgate party.
2:30 p.m. Pre-Game ceremonies. Stone Stadium.
3 p.m. Football game. Co-Lin vs. Pearl River. Stone Stadium.

Co-Lin program to focus on wider community



Wesson News

Under a new grant, Co-Lin will help the Town of Wesson increase use of its municipal park in line with its goal of promoting wellness at the school and in the wider community. Town Hall staff has already started scheduling regular family events in the park, such as Back-to-School Bash (above), which drew hundreds of children, youth and adults for fun and games last month, and a Halloween night festival set for October 31.

By Bob Arnold

Fueled by a new \$432,950 grant awarded by the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation (BCBSMF) to Co-Lin for its Wolfpack Wellness program, the college is planning to expand its community involvement through partnerships with the Town of Wesson and Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) in promoting wellness and healthy lifestyles.

Although the nature of the greater involvement has yet to be fully developed, the Co-Lin Wolfpack Wellness program has been working with K-3 teachers at WAC, and officials say they want to initiate activities at the new Wesson municipal park on Beech Street, possibly in conjunction with efforts by Wesson Town Hall staff to create regular family events that utilize the park and Old School Community Center facilities.

Co-Lin launched its Wolfpack Wellness program in 2010 with a \$110,000 BCBSMF grant to support physical fitness and healthy lifestyles among its employees, students and members of the public it serves, according to Dr. Ronnie Nettles, the college's president. The new BCBSMF grant of nearly a half million dollars is the third one awarded to Co-Lin for the program and will build on activities it implemented under a 2015 Phase Two \$251,310 grant.

"Blue Cross has been very generous over the past few years," said Stephanie Duguid, Co-Lin dean of academic instruction. "The application process on this third phase of the grant took over a year. We're very excited to have received the new funding."

In its first phase, the Wolfpack Wellness program concentrated on upgrading facilities -- resurfacing a walking track at the football field, installation of exercise equipment on a nature trail and placing mile markers around the campus for runners. The emphasis of the program changed under second phase funding towards building a wellness culture, including involvement of the wider community in developing off-campus activities, a health fair and educational

components, a new student orientation wellness module, special walks, a yoga class and healthy cooking demonstrations in dormitories. At the same time, an employee fitness center was created, the student fitness center was expanded and the Oswalt Nature Trail was rerouted and resurfaced. A student health and wellness organization assumed a central role in promoting events, providing information, and working with community organizations off campus.

Beyond its plans to expand work with WAC and the Town of Wesson, Co-Lin plans to grow projects already in place in the third phase of Wolfpack Wellness.

"We plan to bring on a nutritionist/personal trainer who will offer services to students and employees," Duguid said. "We will also host a men's health event once a semester and send out quarterly challenges and health tips electronically. At the employee fitness center, a bathroom/shower and dressing room will be added, the conference room will be expanded and new cardio equipment will be installed."

The major feature of the Phase Three plans is upgrading and expanding the student cafeteria, she added. "We're going to concentrate on offering healthier food options in the cafeteria, particularly for grab and go meals," she explained. "We will revamp the deli and salad bar. We'll start a community garden as a source for a farm-to-table station."

Funding for the new grant started October 1 and will run through December 31, 2018. BCBSMF presented a check to Co-Lin in ceremonies before its October 5 football game.

BCBSMF is seeking to build a healthy Mississippi in which health and wellness is the foundation of its schools, communities, colleges and universities and its entire culture; healthy, active children learn the importance of good health and lifestyle habits at school each day and communities of active residents exercise in parks and enjoy healthy produce from local community gardens or farmers' markets.

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As Good as the Best & Better than the Rest

Deemie Letchworth -- Wesson's organizer

By Bob Arnold

From childhood, Deemie Letchworth remembers favorite advice her grandmother and mother would offer to encourage her in varied endeavors: "Whether a task be great or small, do it well or not at all." It's advice she has continued to heed as she has grown up, gone to work, participated in church activities, managed a family and, most recently, become a member of the Wesson Chamber of Commerce board of directors. It's why, when people in Wesson want to get things done, they go to her to organize the job.

"I don't leave things unfinished after starting them," she says.

Letchworth recalls a pleasant childhood in Wesson when "it was always safe to ride a bike, play outside, you didn't lock the doors of your house and people knew their neighbors." She believes changes that have occurred since those days stem from "losing trust in God" and parents "not teaching their kids respect."

The daughter of Shealy and Ronnie Montgomery, Letchworth graduated from Wesson High School in 1991, received an Associate Arts degree in political science and pre-law from Co-Lin in 1993 and earned a BA in paralegal studies from Southern Mississippi University in 1995. She married Brian Letchworth in 1995 and worked for a Hazlehurst law firm for three years. In 1998, Letchworth joined Co-Lin, where she has worked nineteen years -- three years as secretary at its counseling center, twelve years as assistant director of financial aid and four years as information systems specialist.

In January 2016, she became a member of the Wesson Chamber of Commerce board of directors as the Co-Lin representative. "Outside of work, church and family, it's the first major thing I have taken on," she says. "I enjoy learning about the community as a board member and have become something of its



Wesson News

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

go-to person in producing events, such as our recent car show."

Letchworth and her husband have

a son, Ashton, 17.

What are your hobbies?

Church chiefly. I am a 44-year

life member of Sylvarena Baptist Church. For the past eight and one half years, I have been its music director. I am the Church Clerk and I have worked with youth as part of its Missionary Union program.

Do you have any favorite books?

The Holy Bible, for sure. Beyond that, would you believe murder mysteries -- the more gruesome, the better? Patricia Cornwall, who writes about a chief medical examiner in her fiction, is my favorite author. Probably because I once thought I might like to be a mortician. I also like Mississippi's Greg Iles.

Favorite movies?

I like the fun and music of *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, with Gene Wilder.

Music favorites?

Christian music. I listen to K Love radio in Jackson. Natalie Grant's *Clean* about God's acceptance and forgiveness is a favorite.

In the third grade, I started playing the piano. Although I quit taking lessons in the sixth grade, I have continued to play. I played snare drum in high school band and the marimba in Co-Lin's Blue Wave Show Band.

Would you change anything about your life?

I am happy with my life. Everything that has happened to me was for a reason and brought me to where I am.

What if you won a lottery jackpot? How would you spend it?

I would never play the lottery. But if someone else gave me their winnings, I would give to my church first, pay off debts, and save for later needs.

Do you have any special wishes you want granted?

I have everything I need. However, I would wish that lost people would come to love and trust in Christ.

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Parade & seminar spotlight patriotism & heroism

Wesson News

Over two days last month, a parade led by children from Wesson Baptist Church's pre-school program and an Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) seminar on World War I heroes and warriors in other U.S. foreign fighting brought different perspectives to the meaning of national heroism and patriotism.

Jack Rutland, a speaker at the ILR American Heroes seminar, however, may have summarized the mixed messages best: "Heroes are not supermen," he said. "They are people like you and me. They simply did their jobs to the best of their abilities, knowing that, although the price of freedom may be high, it has to be paid."

On Patriot Day, a national observance on September 11 to remember persons who were injured or killed in terrorist attacks on the U.S. during September 11, 2001, the pre-schoolers, led by Volunteer Fire Department Engine #2, paraded up and down Highway 51 between Wesson Baptist Church and the stop light at Beech Street. They carried on a tradition started in 2003 to teach children in the church's program about patriotism and how to appropriately honor the men and women who died in the tragedy.

Riding their bikes and tricycles



Special to Wesson News

and in wagons, which were decorated with American flags and red, white and blue balloons and ribbons, the children, accompanied by their parents, helped turn Patriot Day -- an otherwise solemn occasion marking a sad day in national history -- into a

celebration of heroism and patriotism. More than 100 children participated, with spectators lining both sides of Highway 51 for what started as a one-time event fourteen years ago.

ILR followed the next day with its seminar that featured presentations by Co-Lin's Tricia Russell on the occasion of the World War I centennial and Rutland, who retold stories of local heroes in foreign wars.

Russell reminded ILR seminar participants of the impact of World War I on American culture because of the different set of heroes it produced: Women on the home front, who bolstered their quest for voting rights in assuming critical economic and social roles. The four million American troops -- "doughboys," including minorities, which testified to the strength of the nation in its rich diversity, and established U.S. global leadership. Russell showed video clips that captured the life of World War I soldiers, who lived underground during the historic trench warfare that characterized the fighting. Food cans, pots and pans, tobacco pouches, and images on underground walls reflected the day-to-day routines of the trench warriors. Among the underground sites, Indian carvings at one of them evidenced participation of Native Americans in the fighting.

"For all their heroism, U.S. World War I vets are not commemorated by a national war memorial," Russell noted. "Yet out of World War I, red poppies became a symbol of war veterans because of their life, death and rebirth cycle, which encompasses hundreds of years."

Rutland, who interviews veterans for Brookhaven SuperTalk Radio's *True American Heroes* segments, started

talking to local war veterans about their stories five years ago as part of the tenth anniversary of the military museum based in Brookhaven's old railroad depot. The son of an Air Force officer and a retired State Bank & Trust Company executive, he grew up on military bases and was honored to be selected as the interviewer of the "kinds of people I learned to respect in my youth." "These heroes are modest about themselves, humble when they share their stories," he said. Among the stories of veterans he recalled for the seminar:

- An Army engineer lost his way with a squad on a night patrol during World War II. In the midst of the cold and snow, with the enemy nearby, he and his buddies smelled smoke coming from a shack. Black Americans, who were reading scripture, welcomed them to the shelter, where they feared they might meet German soldiers. They saw a star shining in a crystal clear sky when they left the shack.
- A soldier on an Italian beach in World War II survived a mortar round, while his two buddies lost their lives. To this day, he continues to ask: "Why did I survive?"
- Another World War II veteran found himself and his squad surrounded by the enemy and followed the order to "just shoot." One soldier was lost because he stood up. He picked up and carried another wounded buddy to safety.
- A soldier who didn't take off his body armor slept in it, and was asked "how did you get dressed so fast?"
- A pilot who flew eight to ten hours on a Desert Storm mission.



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School of Arts forges ahead despite finances

By Guest Columnist Shaw Furlow

In 2003, Mississippi School of the Arts (MSA) came to our area to offer intensive studies in theatre and the performing, visual, literary, dance and media arts for gifted eleventh and twelfth grade students from all over Mississippi. At the co-ed residential state-supported school in Brookhaven, students attend for free, similar to The Mississippi School for Math and Science at Columbus, Mississippi, on the campus of the Mississippi University for Women. When searching for an MSA location, the beautiful old buildings and campus at former Whitworth College stood out as a logical choice. The campus had laid dormant for many years, and the City of Brookhaven owned the property. Today, fourteen years later, the campus features six restored buildings on an upper level and contemporary dorms, a cafeteria and student life center on a lower level.

MSA students are selected through a rigorous audition process in their particular areas of study. Their day goes from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., not including study groups, studio and practice time. In today's financial environment, providing an appropriate setting for them is challenging. It's no secret that Mississippi public schools are facing tough financial times and MSA is no exception. The confusing way state monies are allocated complicates the problem, too. While money may be available to fund one project, it cannot be used in another area. At MSA, for example, money that funds paper products is running extremely low.

"We are almost out of funds for toilet paper -- and that isn't hyperbole," says Suzanne Hirsch, director of the



Special to Wesson News

school. "Our school is a twenty-four hour a day operation. It's expensive to operate."

Yet MSA has found ways to forge ahead.

Grants and donations are important for the school.

"We have a foundation and a very supportive board," says Hirsch. "These are especially critical, particularly in this time of budget cuts. We don't have millions of dollars, but we are building up the foundation." MSA also stretches its dollars with hand-me-downs. Many of its desks, chairs and other furniture pieces, and even buses it uses for transportation as needed have been handed down from other state schools and offices. "That's what artists do," Hirsch points out. "We take something and make it into something else."

So the process of changing the old Whitworth College into a learning and nurturing environment for young

artists is ongoing. Grants and donations covered renovation expenses associated with the old Whitworth College president's home, Elizabeth Cottage, creating space for visiting lecturers and artists in residence. They are funding renovation of Enoch Hall, another old Whitworth College campus building, which houses an art gallery, media center and the Black Box theatre on its first floor.

"We don't have the money yet to redo the second floor, but with help from the Brookhaven Trust, we are getting closer to completing that part of the building," says Hirsch. On the north side of the campus, a grant is

funding another project: MSA graduate Michael Roy is about to begin painting a mural on the wall that leads to the lower campus. Roy, who has painted murals all over the world, will complete his MSA work over two to three weeks.

In creating a campus environment for arts students, MSA has also been able

to bring established artists to the school. For example, Elizabeth Cottage has provided a venue for John Maxwell, the award-winning actor and director from Jackson. At MSA, Maxwell recently directed the Beth Henley play, *Crimes of the Heart*. "We had a lot of fun, and the kids are real good," he said. In January, he will perform his highly acclaimed one man show, *Oh, Mister Faulkner, do you Write?* The ticket price is \$50, including a dinner and the show.

MSA is a credit to our part of the state, and it deserves the support of area residents. Attend plays or concerts. Donate, if possible. You'll be investing in Mississippi. All MSA shows and concerts are open to the public. Seating is generally limited. Check the MSA website and click the school store link for information.

Until next time, my friends, support the arts

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



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Community colleges request \$228 million. In their annual hearing last month before the Legislative Budget Committee, leaders of the 15 Mississippi community colleges, including Co-Lin President Dr. Ronnie Nettles, requested \$37 million to restore lost funding, \$25 million for salary increases, \$5.25 million for career-technical programs, \$10.68 million for the MIBEST Career Pathway for adults without high school diplomas, and a two-year bond bill for \$150 million to fund capital improvements and technology upgrades. Cuts last year forced them to collectively increase tuition an average of \$356 per student (13 percent), lay off 65 employees, leave 122 positions vacant, eliminate three other jobs, and close fifteen career-tech programs at eight colleges and eleven athletic programs at five colleges -- actions that conflicted with their mission to provide education and training at affordable prices, so the state and its taxpayers can prosper, they said. "We want to do everything we can in our power as a community college system to help our state increase tax revenues," Dr. Andrea Mayfield, executive director of the Mississippi Community College Board, said. "We want to be able to produce the trained workforce that is needed throughout the state to be sure that our businesses and industries are productive and that our citizens are independent and are able to enjoy a good quality of life." Committee member Greg Snowden agreed "community colleges are one of the best things we have going on in the state," but added "we're not going to have that much money, we're going to have to look hard to find it," and "we've got to pick and choose."

Volunteer service awards. Mississippi U.S. Senators Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker, members of the National Service Congressional Caucus, are encouraging state students in grades five to twelve, who are involved in volunteer and community service projects, to apply for the



Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin has been recognized by AspirEDU as one of the top ten schools nationwide using Dropout Detective. Dropout Detective is a software solution that helps increase student retention by pro-actively monitoring those at risk of quitting their college studies and helping to assure that they get additional support. Pictured are (left to right) Vanessa Murphy, Co-Lin Director of eLearning; AspirEDU President/CEO Kimberley Munzo, Dr. Jane Hulon, Co-Lin vice president; and Co-Lin Dean of Academic Instruction Dr. Stephanie Duguid.

2018 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. The program honors students who contribute to their communities as volunteers and through acts of service. Two Mississippi students will be selected for a \$1,000 scholarship and a trip to Washington D.C., April 28 - May 1, 2018. Applications must be completed by Nov. 7, printed, signed and submitted to one of the following to endorse and forward for consideration: middle or high school principals, Girl Scout councils, county 4-H agents, American Red Cross chapters, YMCAs or affiliates of the HandsOn Network. For information and to download applications, visit <http://spirit.prudential.com> or www.nassp.org/spirit or call 855-670-4787 toll-free.

Equifax caution. Mississippi Attorney General Jim Hood advises using the website available through Equifax -- www.equifaxsecurity2017.com -- to access information about possible impact of the Equifax data breach. Shortly after Equifax established its legitimate website, domains were registered for fraudulent websites to trick consumers into providing their personal information at additional risk. People, however, should check to see if they've been affected by the Equifax data breach, Hood says. "When you click on the link, it asks you to enter the last six numbers of your Social Security Number, then it tells you whether you were potentially impacted," he

explains. The Equifax incident may have involved the personal information of 143 million U.S. consumers, including 1,299,254 Mississippians -- primarily their names, Social Security numbers, birth dates, addresses and, in some instances, driver's license numbers. In addition, hackers accessed credit card numbers for approximately 209,000 U.S. consumers, and certain dispute documents with personal information for approximately 182,000 U.S. consumers. To place a security freeze, contact each of the nationwide credit reporting companies and supply your name, address, date of birth, Social Security number, and other personal information. Keep the PIN or password they provide to lift the freeze

NEWS NUGGETS

in the future.

Driver assistance. The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) provides free travel resources for those on the road in the state to enhance their safety. At MDOTtraffic.com, drivers can open a free account to receive traffic alerts based on the routes travelled most often. Drivers will get updates on current road



Special to Wesson News

Wesson Mayor Alton Shaw (right) presents 29-year town employee special certificate recognizing his service in the public works department.

conditions, construction zones and weather, among other information via email or texts. MDOT also offers a mobile option with its MDOT Traffic App that can be downloaded from Google Play and App stores. Motorists can also call 511 for information about current traffic conditions 24/7.

Health agency accredited. The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) has joined a select group of other state health agencies as an accredited public health department that meets rigorous standards of policy, practice and quality improvement. The accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation (PHAB) culminates an effort started more than three years ago by MSDH, with statewide community collaborations, in-depth assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of agency policies and procedures, and a renewed focus on quality improvement initiatives. PHAB awarded the accreditation to MSDH after reviewing thousands of pieces of documentation demonstrating its primary and expert leadership in promoting and protecting the health of communities throughout the state, and that it meets or exceeds national standards of public health practices and performance. PHAB reviewed MSDH work in disease investigation, chronic disease prevention, public information and education, community collaboration and partnerships and quality improvement planning.

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Hobbyists receive car show awards

Wesson News

A 1972 Chevrolet Suburban restored by a Magnolia, Mississippi, hobbyist won Best of the Show honors among seventy entrants in the Wesson Chamber of Commerce Headlights and Tailpipes car and vehicles show last month.

Best of the Show winner Chad Smith was one of eighteen persons to receive award plaques at the event, which brought hundreds of fans to downtown Wesson to see the vehicles on display, talk to the hobbyists who brought their cars, trucks, tractors and motorcycles; shop at local stores and special vendor booths and feast at local restaurants.

The 1967 Chevrolet Camaro Convertible entered into show competition by Scotty Allen, Wesson, and 1965 Dodge Dart GT owned by Tom Kirkland, Crystal Springs, received the Mayor's Choice and Veterans' Choice awards on the votes of Wesson Mayor Alton Shaw and armed services veterans who attended the event. Seven local businesses, which donated \$25 each to sponsor award plaques, selected Business Choice awards:

- **51 Diner.** 1932 Ford Vicky owned by Tommy Duncan from Terry.
- **Ashley's 51 Stop.** 1957 Chevrolet Bel-Air owned by Hank Wallace from Wesson.
- **Copiah Bank.** 1974 Ford Bronco owned by Larry Presley from Natchez.
- **Mill Town Mall.** 1967 Dodge Monaco 500 owned by Steve Smith from Bogue Chitto.
- **Porter's Body Shop.** 1961 Chevrolet Impala owned by Steven Smith from Brookhaven.
- **Wesson News.** 1969 Ford F 100 owned by Rob Hathcock from Brandon.
- **Z & Z Seafood.** 1972 Chevrolet Nova owned by Anthony Smith from Brookhaven.

The Show presented awards in six vehicle categories:

- **Antique Cars Pre-1972.** Steven Smith's 1961 Chevrolet Impala, first place. 1967 Chevrolet Chevelle, second place to Harold Jones from Hazlehurst.
- **Antique Trucks Pre-1972.** 1976 Ford Bronco, first place to Lee Johnson from Silver Creek. 1950 Chevrolet Pick-Up, second place to Terrell Patterson from Byram.
- **Cars 1972-Present.** Anthony Smith's 1972 Chevrolet Nova, first place. 1986 Buick Grand National, second place to Preston Mullins from Wesson.
- **Trucks 1972-Present.** Chad Smith's 1972 Chevrolet Suburban, first place. 1972 Ford Truck, second place to Bobby Case from Brookhaven.
- **Specialty Vehicles.** 1969 Ford F 100, first place to Cody Hathcock from Brandon. 1929 Ford Model A Sedan, second place to Jeremy Jones from McCall Creek.
- **Motorcycles.** 2009 Harley Davidson CVO Springer, first place to Mike Douglas from Wesson.

Show entrants came from twenty different communities throughout Mississippi.

This year, the Wesson Chamber received funding and in-kind donations support from seventeen area businesses in producing the show, including the seven sponsorship plaque funders. Porter's Body Shop and Bak-40 Rhythms provided general support. Door prize donors included Porter's Body Shop, Home Depot, Brookhaven Auto Zone, Brookhaven O'Reilly's Auto Parts, National Parts Depot and Edlebrock. Goodie bag items were donated by Copiah County Tourism, Copiah Bank, Trustmark National Bank, Edelbrock, Painless Performance, Meguier's, Hagerty Insurance, National Parts Depot,

Wesson budget calls for \$1,103,710 in spending



Special to Wesson News

Water/sewer department revenue showed the biggest projected budget increase.

Wesson News

Wesson is projecting revenues of \$1,141,757 and expenses of \$1,103,710 for its 2017-2018 fiscal year -- increases of less than one per cent and three per cent respectively over 2016-2017.

The changes will require no increase in the town's 30.76 mills tax levy on real, personal and mixed property that generates general revenue and supports improvements and provides revenues based on one mill of the levy for the fire protection fund. During the 2016-2017 fiscal year, which ends September 30, Wesson budgeted revenues at \$1,136,157 and expenses at \$1,068,260.

"Unless Copiah County reassesses property, which it does every once in a while, there will be no increase in the amount of tax payments," Wesson Mayor Alton Shaw explained. "The value of a property goes up or down with a reassessment and there is an adjustment in the amount of tax payments due. As far as the Town of Wesson is concerned, it is not raising taxes."

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

Water/sewer department revenues showed the biggest projected increase, up six percent to \$519,000 from \$489,600, as a result of meter sales to customers (\$10,000) and customer

sewer charges (\$20,000). At the same time, projected water/sewer department expenses jumped four per cent to \$490,450 from \$467,450, largely as a result of a \$40,000 bond expense.

Total General Fund budgeted expenses jumped from \$577,410 to \$583,360, while revenues increased to \$583,600 from \$579,100, resulting in a projected decline in the surplus from \$1,690 in the 2016-2017 fiscal year to \$240 for the upcoming fiscal year. In the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the general fund surplus was budgeted at \$13,274, but dropped precipitously with an increase in budgeted Old School Community Center expenses last year. The increase in budgeted expenses reflected \$174,250 budgeted for general government operations -- up from \$166,150; a street department expenditures increase to \$97,350 from \$96,850; and a \$500 increase in Old School Community Center expenses to \$27,200. At the same time, projected expense for the police department and library were down to \$272,350 (a \$2,750 decline) and \$12,210 (a \$400 drop) respectively. For the new fiscal year, the town expects to realize up to an additional \$16,000 in varied tax revenues, including \$5,000 each from ad valorem (property) and sales taxes. The town is also eyeing a \$2,000 increase in rental income from the Old School Community Center -- up to \$10,000.

For the upcoming fiscal year, projected fire department revenues and expenses remain the same at \$31,352 and \$24,900 respectively as does water meter revenues and expenses at \$7,025 and 5,000 respectively.

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Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin Athletic Alumni Association will induct Leon Canoy of Crystal Springs, Victor Green of Alpharetta, Georgia, Rudy McGehee of Florence, Mississippi, and Jessica Prevot of Bogue Chitto into its Sports Hall of Fame during the college's Homecoming festivities on Saturday, October 28. They will be formally inducted at the Association's 9 a.m. business meeting and recognized at the alumni luncheon and during halftime at the Homecoming game.

As a junior, Canoy, a 1960 graduate of Co-Lin, was a junior college Little All-American for football. After Co-Lin, he attended Mississippi College, where he received a bachelor's degree in 1962. He was head football coach at Crystal Springs High School from 1964-1971 and won the Tiger Bowl Championship during his career there. He opened his own insurance agency, Canoy Insurance, in Crystal Springs in 1972 and has worked as an agent for 45 years. He is semi-retired. Canoy and his wife Amelia have two sons, Tommy and Tracy, and one grandson.

A 1989 graduate of Co-Lin, Green earned All-State, All-Region, and All-American honors as a player for the Wolfpack in football before attending Akron University, where he was the football team captain in 1991 and received a bachelor's degree in political science and criminal justice. Green played eleven

years in the National Football League, including nine years with the New York Jets, where he started as strong safety. He led the NFL in tackles in 1995 and 1996



Special to Wesson News

Leon Canoy

and set a team record with twenty tackles. He was named the Best Strong Safety in Jets history and placed on the Jets Four Decades Team. He is on the "Iron Man List" for 180 consecutive games played in his career. Green also spent a year with the New England Patriots and one year with the New Orleans Saints. He is currently a scout for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Green is also known for his philanthropic work, most notably his Victor Green

Foundation, which tutors, mentors, and provides educational services for children and youth in need. Americus, Georgia, awarded him its Key to the City for his



Special to Wesson News

Victor Green

work in his home town community and honored him, along with President Jimmy Carter, in a salute to "Americus Greats." Green and his wife Esther have three children.

McGehee, a 1964 graduate of Co-Lin, was named Second Team All-State for basketball and later played the sport at Livingston University, where he received a bachelor's degree in social studies and physical education. He received a master's degree in administration from Mississippi

College and enjoyed a 33-year career as a high school teacher, coach and principal at schools across central Mississippi. McGehee served eighteen years as



Special to Wesson News

Rudy McGehee

assistant principal, athletic director and coach at Byram Attendance Center and Terry High School. At Terry, he won state championships in golf four times and was named Mississippi Golf Coach of the Year four times. He is a member of the Mississippi High School Activities Association, the Mississippi Association of Coaches, which honored him with its 25-year service award; and the Mississippi and National Associations of Secondary School Principals. McGehee and his wife Linda have two daughters,

cont. on page 14

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Artists compete for awards



2016 Best of Show winner.

Wesson News

Wesson News

Area artists, who work in visual media, are vying for cash awards this week and next in the ninth annual Brookhaven Regional Arts Guild (BRAG) Art Competition.

BRAG received entries last week, which are on display in the Vernon Room at the Lincoln County Library in Brookhaven through Thursday, October 19, when winners will be announced and awards presented at a 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. reception in the Vernon Room.

Artists, who were at least 18-years-old, entered up to three works each in seven categories: oils, acrylics, water media,

pastels and drawings, photography, mixed media and 3-D (ceramics, sculpture, etc.). Before accepting works for the competition, a screening committee reviewed them to assure they were not objectionable (i.e., pornographic) and conformed to display standards.

At the reception, BRAG will present cash awards for Best of the Show and People's Choice (\$150); first, second and third places in the seven categories (\$100, \$75, and \$50); and honorable mention ribbons in all categories.

During display hours at the library, visitors will be able to purchase most of the works.

Grant funds to support training for senior jobs

Special to Wesson News

For the forty-fifth consecutive year, Co-Lin has received a Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) grant to prepare low income older adults for the workforce.

This year, Senior Service America, Inc. (SSA), awarded Co-Lin \$552,708, almost 90 per cent of which will provide temporary employment to at least 93 low-income older adults living in Adams, Amite, Claiborne, Copiah, Franklin, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lincoln, Pike, Simpson, Smith, Walthall and Wilkinson Counties, who will participate in SCSEP. SCSEP, a major program of the Older Americans Act and the only federal job training program focused exclusively on helping low income seniors, promotes personal dignity and self-sufficiency through work for eligible persons, who participate in it for up to only four years, although the average tenure nationally is 18 months.

"We are very pleased to continue our support of Co-Lin," Gary A. Officer, SSA Executive Director, said. SSA, a national nonprofit organization that provides employment opportunities to low-income and other adults aged 55 and older in 34 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, is the second largest U.S. Department of Labor National SCSEP Grantee and disburses more than \$38

million in SCSEP funds annually to a diverse network of 65 local partner organizations in 13 states.

Co-Lin Dean of Community Programs Brenda Brown Orr said SCSEP delivers a "triple win" for older adults and their communities: "First, SCSEP participants help some forty local community, faith-based, and public agencies, including Angel's Attic, Boy's and Girl's Club of Southwest MS, Copiah County Human Resource Agency, WIN Job Centers, and Natchez Senior Citizen Centers, carry out their missions. Second, older workers stay healthy by remaining connected and not isolated in their communities. And third, SCSEP is providing hope and the dignity of work to non-job-ready low income persons aged 55 and older, who are the toughest employment challenges. Older Mississippians are fortunate to be given the opportunity to work and transform their lives through SCSEP."

Employers who are interested in hiring older workers can find out more about SCSEP by contacting Anna Rogers, Co-Lin's Senior Community Service Employment Program Coordinator, at 601-643-8673.

For more information about SSA, visit www.seniorserviceamerica.org, call (301) 578-8826, email gofficer-ssa-i.org, or Twitter @SrSvcAmerica.

Last month, Co-Lin participated in celebrating National Employ Older Workers Week, which recognizes the value of older workers to local employers and public officials. Co-Lin receives grants from Southwest Mississippi Planning and Development District and Senior Service America, Inc., to administer SCSEP, which is funded through the U.S. Department of Labor and authorized under Title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965. SCSEP offers low-income people ages 55 and older paid community service and training opportunities as an entry into productive work. Co-Lin's SCSEP serves 13 counties in Southwest Mississippi, providing part-time training opportunities to prepare participants for jobs that deliver needed community services in non-profit and government agencies, such as schools, hospitals, libraries, nursing homes, nutrition sites, and thrift stores for 20 hours weekly at minimum wage.

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Halloween festivities usher in holidays

By Bob Arnold

Wesson's holiday season begins this month with Halloween-related events at Wesson Attendance Center, downtown and the municipal park for young children, youth and families.

Wesson Attendance Center's traditional Red Ribbon Festival on Thursday, October 26, sets the stage for Halloween on Tuesday, October 31, with fair-like activities for children in kindergarten and lower grades and a haunted house for older children, youth and adults. From 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., there will be games, a costume contest and food and refreshments, among other fun and festivities on the elementary school side of WAC. On the high school side, after the elementary school event, members of the Junior High and High School Beta Club, a service organization for youth, will create an obstacle course of horrors to entertain other students and anyone else seeking a scary experience in walking through dimly lit and dark halls populated by ladies coming at them with chain saws, vampires, zombies, goblins, ghosts, wicked witches and monsters, among an assortment of characters who will confront them.

The festival and haunted house will highlight WAC's week-long participation in National Red Ribbon Week -- the oldest and largest drug prevention



Wesson News

Beta Club at Wesson Attendance Center will create a haunted house.

program in the nation started in memory of Drug Enforcement Agency agent Kiki Camarena, who was murdered by drug traffickers in Mexico City in 1985. The campaign reaches millions of young people throughout the U.S. each year, and the High School Beta Club will spearhead activities throughout Red Ribbon Week to highlight its themes. Proceeds from the Beta Club haunted house will fund the group's statewide participation in the February Beta convention, while the elementary school's Red Ribbon Festival will benefit the WAC Parent-Teacher Organization.

On Halloween morning, children from Precious Moments day care center, the Wesson Baptist Church pre-school program, and the kindergarten at WAC will go to local merchants and businesses for candy and special treats in the annual Trick or Treat Downtown. A fall festival coordinated by Town Hall staff will run from 5 p.m.-8 p.m. in the park as both a supplementary event and alternative to traditional trick-or-treating on Wesson streets, which normally runs from 4 p.m.-10 p.m. Everyone -- young and older children, youth and adults -- is invited in or out of costume to participate in the event, which will also encompass the

annual Wesson Baptist Church's Family Fall Festival. Drivers will be on hand for trunk-or-treating with plenty of goodies. Persons are invited to bring their jack-o-lanterns from home for a pumpkin carving contest. Games, with prizes, will include spin-it-to-aim-it, plinko, water shoot out, goblin bowling, pumpkin bullseye, glow-bobbing and a ring-toss, among others. Contact Angela Hester at Town Hall (602-643-5221) to volunteer.

Wesson police expect the usual calm night of street trick-or-treating, but will have officers on patrol in cars and on foot.

"There are no rigid rules for the evening," says Police Chief Chad O'Quinn. "We just ask people to use common sense. Vandalism will not be tolerated." O'Quinn says young children should be supervised by their parents, with everyone "traffic-conscious," walking on sidewalks or beside roadways. Trick-or-treaters should go only to homes with porch lights on and respect residents of neighborhoods who do not want to participate in the door-to-door Halloween tradition. The Old School Community Center, which has haunted house stories associated with it, and Wesson Cemetery will be off limits. "Older youth and adults should be aware of where they are wearing masks and not alarm owners, clerks, and patrons in local businesses," O'Quinn adds.

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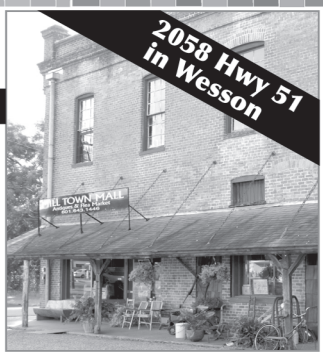
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Preparing for flu season

By Guest Columnist
Dr. Stephanie Duguid

Flu season, characterized by outbreaks of influenza (or flu), occurs routinely every year, but is a little concerning this year. Based on an analysis of the strains of viruses that are making people ill, the effectiveness of last year's vaccine and areas where the virus is spreading, a committee of scientists, as usual, formulated a flu vaccine with a combination of A and B virus strains for the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. Australia has been using the same vaccine now available in the U.S., and flu season has been worse than usual there, with almost 94,000 laboratory-confirmed cases -- about two and one half times more infections than during the same period last year. Although there is no certainty, this could mean that "the north will most likely experience a bad flu season," according to Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease.

It's important to understand the flu to better prepare for it and protect yourself.

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness and, at times, can lead to death. Older persons, young children, and people with certain health conditions are at high risk for serious flu complications.

The flu usually starts suddenly, and its symptoms may include fever or feeling feverish/chills (not everyone has a fever), cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, fatigue (tiredness) and sometimes vomiting and diarrhea, which is more common in children. Some flu complications are pneumonia, ear infections or sinus infections, dehydration, and worsening of chronic medical conditions, such as heart or

lung disease, asthma or diabetes.

Most experts believe that flu viruses spread mainly by droplets from infected persons who cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of persons nearby. Less often, persons might also become infected by touching a surface or object that has the flu virus on it and then touching their mouths, eyes or noses. Infected persons may be able to pass on the flu to someone else before they know they are sick, as well as while they are sick. Most adults may be able to infect others beginning one day before symptoms develop and up to five to seven days after becoming sick. Young children and people with weakened immune systems, especially, might be able to infect others for an even longer time.

Although flu shots are not 100 percent effective in preventing infection, they are the best way to protect against the virus and related complications. The

Center for Disease Control recommends that everyone aged six months or older should be vaccinated. About two weeks after a vaccination, antibodies develop that protect against

flu virus infection for the entire season. Flu vaccines will not protect against illnesses caused by other viruses, such as the common cold. Good health habits often can help stop the spread of germs and prevent respiratory illnesses like the flu. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Stay home when you are sick. Cover your mouth and nose. Wash your hands often. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill. Get plenty of sleep. Be physically active. Manage your stress. Drink plenty of fluids. Eat nutritious food.

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.

**LIVING
+HEALTHY+**

Fall is the time to shop for bulbs



The king of spring bloom bulbs.

Special to Wesson News

By Guest Columnist Rebecca Bates

It may be autumn, but it's time to think about spring bulbs, which are flooding the garden centers. Now is the time to purchase and plan for late fall or early winter planting. Planning is important.

Not all spring bulbs are suited for the South. Many of us dream of tulips, but sorry to say it, tulips belong in Holland where they are produced.

Tulips, like many of the Dutch bulbs, require a definite cold period during the winter to initiate flowering and a mild

growing season to develop foliage for next year's flower. Hyacinths are also one of the most popular spring flowering bulbs. Unfortunately, the same scenario for tulips applies to hyacinths. Tulips and hyacinths can be chilled for at least six weeks, planted in early winter and enjoyed as an annual for spring blooming. But that gets expensive.

The true king of Southern spring blooming bulbs is the narcissus. There are many species and types

of narcissus, including daffodils, jonquils and paperwhites. A good rule of thumb when purchasing these bulbs: The larger the flower or trumpet size, the less adapted it will be. The smaller flowered or cluster flowered types are easier and more permanent. Another general rule applies: Only the early blooming types are truly adapted. They will flower and produce foliage while the temperatures are still mild. If you choose those that naturalize well

and bloom very early or during early midseason, your chances of success will be much higher.

A country drive in early spring is proof that these bulbs do well and naturalize easily. Sweeps of blooms tumbling down hillsides at abandoned home sites are plentiful. Just remember a few rules and understand that fancier is not always better. Now, go shopping!

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

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News**

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cont. from page 10

Co-Lin Hall of Fame, 4H shooters



Special to Wesson News

Jessica Prévôt

Kim Griffin and Kristin Davis, and four grandchildren.

Prévôt, a 2005 graduate of Co-Lin, played both softball and basketball. She won NJCAA Second Team All-American, NJCAA First Team All-Region, MACJC First Team All-State, and NJCAA National Player of the Week honors in softball and holds the Wolfpack record for batting average and triples in a season. She was a two-year starter in basketball and helped the Wolfpack finish as runner-up in the Region 23 tournament, averaging 7.4 points, 3.8 rebounds, two steals, and 2.6 assists per game.

Prévôt completed nursing school at Southwest Mississippi Community College and now works at McComb Children's Clinic. She has a son,



Special to Wesson News

Joseph Carraway

Nicholas Clark.

4-H shooters finish fifth. The Mississippi 4-H Shooting Sports State Pistol team ranked fifth overall among sixteen teams from 34 states with 736 participants at National Shooting Sports Competition at Grand Island, Nebraska. It placed third in National Rifle Association Slow Fire, sixth in Silhouette and fourth in the Camp Perry round. Team member Joseph Carraway of Wesson finished in a three-way tie for eighth place in Silhouette's, participating in the national competition after qualifying at Mississippi Southwest District Competition and then at the Mississippi 4-H Shooting Sports State Invitational at Meridian, which sent its top four eligible participants to the Nebraska event.

Upcoming sporting events

OCTOBER 12

Co-Lin football Wolves plays Holmes Community College. 7 p.m.

OCTOBER 13

Wesson High School football Cobras play at West Marion. 7 p.m.

OCTOBER 16

Co-Lin Wolves golf team starts MACJC event at Grand Bear, Saucier, Mississippi, and continues play on October 17.

OCTOBER 19

Co-Lin football Wolves plays at Southwest Mississippi Community College. 6:30 p.m.

OCTOBER 20

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

OCTOBER 23

Co-Lin Wolves golf team plays in MACJC Preview Scrimmage at Dancing Rabbit, Choctaw, Mississippi.

OCTOBER 24

Wesson High School Junior High School basketball Cobras play at Simpson (Topeka). TBA.

OCTOBER 27

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

OCTOBER 26

Wesson High School Junior High School basketball Cobras play at Rod Paige (Topeka). TBA.

OCTOBER 28

Co-Lin football Wolves plays Pearl Community College (Homecoming). 3 p.m.

Wesson High School basketball Cobras play Jamboree in Franklin County. TBA.

NOVEMBER 2

Wesson High School girls and boys varsity soccer Cobras play Crystal Springs. 5:30 p.m. & 7 p.m.

NOVEMBER 3

Wesson High School girls and boys varsity soccer Cobras play Lawrence County. 5:30 p.m. & 7 p.m.

NOVEMBER 4

Wesson High School soccer Cobras play in Classic Tournament at Tatum Park, Hattiesburg. TBA

NOVEMBER 7

Wesson Junior High & High School girls and boys basketball Cobras play West Lincoln. 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Wesson High School boys junior varsity & girls and boys varsity soccer Cobras play at Sumrall. 5 p.m., 6 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 10

Wesson High School junior varsity & girls & boys varsity basketball Cobras play Enterprise. 5 p.m., 6 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Wesson High School girls and boys varsity soccer Cobras play North Pike. 5:30 p.m. & 7 p.m.

NOVEMBER 11

Wesson High School soccer Cobras play in Loyd Star Invitational Tournament at Brookhaven Complex. TBA

NOVEMBER 13

Wesson High School girls and boys varsity soccer Cobras play Raymond. 5:30 p.m. & 7 p.m.

NOVEMBER 14

Wesson Junior High & High School girls and boys basketball Cobras play Bogue Chitto. 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Wesson High School boys junior varsity & girls and boys varsity soccer Cobras play at Brookhaven. 5 p.m., 6 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Scoreboard

September 12-October 9

WHS Cobras

Football
Record: 3-3.

Recent Wins: Richland. 47-13. Recent Losses: Mize. 32-21. Columbia. 47-27.

Softball
Record: 14-7.

Recent Wins: Vicksburg. 7-0. West Lincoln. 18-3. Pearl. 11-2. North Pike. 3-2. Franklin County. 10-3. North Pike. 2-1. Warren Central. 13-3. Bogue Chitto. 17-16. Hazlehurst. 15-0. Recent Losses: Lawrence County. 13-2. Bogue Chitto. 5-2. Brookhaven High School. 11-10. Franklin County. 16-8.

Co-Lin Wolves

Football
Record: 3-3.

Recent Wins: East Central Community College. 27-24. Recent Losses: Mississippi Gulf Coast. 21-14. Jones County Junior College. 35-10 Hinds. 16-15.

Golf

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Municipal park gets new grant funding



Wesson News

Special to Wesson News

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation of Mississippi (BCBSM) has awarded Wesson a \$39,974 grant that will help fund equipment purchases and expenses for amenities associated with the municipal park.

The grant is part of the foundation's Healthy Heroes initiative, which is designed to engage children in healthy lifestyles through diet and exercise.

"All of the money we receive has to be used for some sort of recreational activity, and our focus will be on providing activities through the park," Mayor Alton Shaw said.

Another aspect of the program is encouraging interaction of K-5 students and police officers, who will conduct classes on health and safety at Wesson Attendance Center (WAC).

"We will be at WAC once a month to speak to kids on nutrition and exercise and organize activities, such as walks," Wesson Police Chief

Chad O'Quinn said. "I also hope we can begin to establish relationships between the children and law enforcement."

The town has twice applied for funds from the BCBSM Healthy Hometown program and finished second in the grants competition both times, Shaw noted.

"The Foundation, recognizing our need for funds, invited us to apply for the grant through its Healthy Heroes program, which is based on a model developed in Laurel, Mississippi." WAC Principal Marilyn Phillips approved the use of Wesson elementary school facilities as part of the town's grant application, Shaw added.

Shaw, along with Wesson Police Department (WPD) Chief Chad O'Quinn and WPD Patrolman Wayne Roberts, attended a train-the-trainer session on Healthy Heroes conducted by BCBSM on best practices and health and safety courses for children.

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