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# Funding increases highlight legislative actions

## Wesson News

With an extra \$56 million with which they could work, Mississippi state legislators approved small spending increases for education, Child Protective Services, the Department of Public Health and the Department of Public Safety and set aside two percent of the general fund for the state's rainy day fund as part of a \$6 billion budget that allocates half the monies to the state's share of Medicaid and K-12 public schools.

In the area, as a result of efforts by District 92 Representative Becky Currie (R-Brookhaven) and District 37 Senator Sally Doty (R-Brookhaven) during the 2018 session, those increases included \$1 million for

campus repairs at the Mississippi School of the Arts and restoration of \$125,000 cut from the school's budget.

Locally, Currie and Doty also managed to get Brookhaven Country Club established as a resort, which will allow it to sell beer, wine and liquor any day of the week at all hours as it chooses.

One of the most notable pieces of legislation passed during the Legislative session was the "Gestational Age Act," which Currie wrote. It prohibits abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy and will be one of the most restrictive abortion law in the country if it survives court challenges. Those opposing the bill argued that it is unconstitutional and the state should not be making



Wesson News

decisions about women's health, but Currie says "it will save 200 or more babies in Mississippi every year and that over 3 1/2 months, anyone should be able to decide whether or not they are going to end the life of a baby."

In another significant action following much discussion, a new Medicaid law mandates that managed care companies pay the reimbursement rate set by the legislature, deletes the annual limits on physician and home health service visits and monthly prescriptions, and provides payment options for rural

Cont. on page 2

## Town to seek library renovation funds

### Wesson News

The Town of Wesson is moving forward with plans to apply for Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) Small Cities Community Development Block Grant funding to make American Disability Act (ADA) improvements to public library facilities.

Last week, as part of the process, a public hearing at Town Hall provided citizen input into development of the application.

Wesson Mayor Alton Shaw told Aldermen last month that he envisioned renovation and construction encompassing 1,000 square feet, including a handicap accessible entrance at the rear of the library, new book shelving, upgraded restroom



Wesson News

facilities, carpeting and facilities expansion under a \$240,000 grant.

The State of Mississippi has been allocated approximately \$23 million that will be made available to cities and counties on a competitive basis to undertake eligible activities, including housing, public facilities and economic development to benefit low and moderate income persons.

## Advance closing Gallman facility

### Wesson News

The Advance Auto Distribution Center will start shutting down its operations at the Copiah County Industrial Park at Gallman next month and will permanently close by year end.

The Roanoke, Virginia, based auto parts retailer employs 284 persons at the sprawling warehouse just off Interstate 55. Discount Auto Parts opened the facility more than 15 years ago and sold it to Advance.

The company issued sample contracts to its employees that outline possible severance pay and/or retention bonuses, but it was not clear how many of them would receive them. In the first wave of layoffs at the Gallman facility, roughly 62 employees -- or less than 25 percent of the workforce -- may be offered severance and retention options, the company indicated. In total, Advance is planning five waves

of layoffs that will begin in late June.

Advance spokesman Kevin Nash said it was a "difficult decision" to close the Copiah County facility and did not indicate poor employee performance, but was rather part of a company overhaul of operations that includes "optimizing" fifty-four distribution centers towards improving profits. The company so far has announced only the Gallman closure.

At this point, most of the employees at the facility have received no official contracts that guarantee severance or retention payouts, and the company has announced no official date to issue them. It is expected that some employees may receive extended employment beyond the estimated December closure date to help transfer the distribution center's equipment to other locations.

Nash said Advance will likely seek to sell the Gallman warehouse.

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Cont. from page 1

## Funding increases highlight legislative actions

hospitals and reimbursements of OB/GYN and psychiatrists.

Although the Legislature failed to pass the BRIDGE Act -- a \$1 billion plan proposed by Lieutenant Governor Tate Reeves for road and bridge funding, it did authorize \$270 million in bonds, including \$50 million for the Local System Bridge Repair and Rehabilitation Program (LSBP) as well as monies for universities and community colleges, Ingalls Shipyard, the Department of Finance and Administration and a loan program to assist small cities and counties with water and sewer projects.

One of the biggest disappointments, especially for many Republican legislators, was the Legislature's failure to approve a new funding formula for the state public schools.

Other Legislative action covered:

• **Alcohol.** Unopened beer and light wine can now be transported legally on state and federal highways in dry areas of the state. In leisure and recreational districts designated by municipalities that have voted to permit alcohol sale and consumption, consumers can now walk from place to place with alcohol. The four distilleries in the state can now sell their products at their facilities and maritime retailers operating in Mississippi Sound or on the Mississippi River can obtain a permit to sell alcohol.

• **Criminal law.** "Katie's Law" allows destruction of DNA samples by Mississippi Forensics Lab only under certain conditions. Opportunities for former criminals to get and keep jobs have been enhanced. The maximum penalty for dog fighting is now a fine of \$10,000 or ten years in the State Penitentiary, and penalties have been increased for owning, possessing, buying, selling, transferring or manufacturing paraphernalia for dog fighting. Failure to have mandatory motor vehicle liability insurance has been changed from a civil violation to a criminal offense.

• **Economy & small business.** "Mississippi Small Business Investment Company Act" adds another \$45 million for assisting select enterprises that create or retain at least 300 jobs. Insurance companies doing business in Mississippi can also now obtain a 100% tax credit for investments in venture capital firms known as "Small Business Investment Companies" (SBICs) that assist "qualified businesses" which create – or retain – at least one job for every \$150,000 in subsidies.

• **Healthcare.** The "Prescription Drugs Consumer Affordable Alternative Payment Options Act" allows pharmacists to provide additional information to patients

with options for more affordable medication and group health insurance plans can now include medication synchronization for beneficiaries.

• **Military.** New re-employment protections ensure military servicemen and veterans are restored to previous positions after returning from training with the Armed Forces in another state.

• **Taxes.** Eight bills allow new taxes on restaurants and/or hotels in certain cities, subject to referendums. Ten bills extended such taxes.

• **Veterans.** County veteran service officers may now hold additional elected or appointed positions and the executive or deputy director of the State Veterans Affairs Board may be an active member of Armed Forces.



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## Police Blotter

*Special to Wesson News*

During April, Wesson Police Department activity encompassed:

**Responses to:**

- Two malicious mischief incidents
- Two vehicle accidents
- One trespassing
- One harassment
- One disturbing family peace
- Four suspicious persons
- Two vehicle unlocks
- Two stranded motorists
- Seventy-four general complaints
- On animal complaint
- Two Fire Departments requests for assistance

**Arrests & citations:**

- Twelve speeding violations
- Two expired tags
- Three expired licenses
- One no insurance
- One improper equipment
- Two possession of marijuana
- Two possession of controlled substances
- Two felony possessions of controlled substances
- Two possession of drug paraphernalia
- One shoplifting
- One failure to comply
- Three contempt of court

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

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# Marilyn Brown retires to cut hours

Wesson News

After thirty years, Marilyn Brown is finally cutting her working hours by retiring from Co-Lin. Brown, Director of the Thames Center and Program Coordinator of the Institute for Learning and Retirement, retires from the college effective June 30.

Not that she hasn't tried to cut back her hours previously. Brown came to Co-Lin in 1988 to work as the administrative assistant for former Co-Lin President Dr. Billy Thames until his retirement and then served his successor, Dr. Howell Garner, in the same capacity for two more years. At this time, she desired an opportunity to work part-time to help take care of her mother and devote some time to help her husband, H. W. "Buster" Brown, operate their two retail businesses in Brookhaven. To get the part-time hours, Garner suggested she assume directorship of the Thames Center, which was then under construction. From 1999 to 2006, she worked part-time in that position, but she assumed additional duties when she took over as ILR Program Coordinator on the retirement of Sharon Langley. It seemed she was almost back to full-time work with both duties on a part time basis.

But, at last, there will be no more working hours at Co-Lin for Brown after June 30. "I hope to volunteer, join a retiree group like ILR, become

part of Sharon Langley's senior dancing group and travel," she says. In addition, Brown says there are fifteen grandchildren, most of whom live nearby with Brown's son, Benji Sisco, and step daughters Leanne Brown McCaffery, Gretchen Brown Neal and Carly Brown Jordan. Only the children of Brown's younger son, Jamie Sisco, who lives in Ocean Springs, aren't within immediate striking distance.

Brown grew up in Wesson, which she still calls "home," with her parents, Charles "Monvil" and Mildred Britt, and her three brothers and one sister. "It was an active house," she recalls. She graduated from Co-Lin High School, then Co-Lin Community College where she received an Associate Arts Degree and certificate in business and secretarial science in its two-year career division. She worked in summer jobs to help with school expenses.

After first leaving Co-Lin following her student years, she worked in banking locally and in Louisiana before starting her thirty-year career there. Over the years, and even while working she was co-owner with her husband, of Vendor's Emporium and Magnolia Enterprises, two Brookhaven retailers.

## What are your hobbies?

I'm not really a hobby person, but I do like gardening and working with flowers. I've always been a spectator for sports and when the kids were

young, we always enjoyed boating. I would like to say travel is a passion although I've not traveled extensively.

## You mention travel as a hobby and as something you want to do in retirement. Where would you go?

I haven't seen a lot of the Western United States. That would certainly be an important destination. I also like the mountains.

## Are you a reader?

I read and review a lot of magazines because that was always helpful with getting ideas for our businesses and at the college with setups and decorating, but beyond that I haven't had a lot of time for reading.

## Favorite movies?

I get my movie fix by attending ILR movie days as part of its program, but Tricia Russell usually helps pick them. The one movie I have watched over and over again and enjoy very much is *Pretty Woman*.

## And how about music?

I'm just a country music fan. I enjoy listening to the "oldies but goodies", George Strait and maybe a little Willie Nelson.

## Would you change anything about your life?

I went right to work after graduating from Co-Lin. It turned out well, but I might continue my education if I had it to do over again.

## If the Good Fairy granted you one wish, what would it be?

It has been said "If you only knew then, what you know now." I would wish I could do-over some things life has taught me, which has been a lot.

## If you could change anything in the world, what would it be?

I just watched the sweetest video of a child on Facebook and she sums it all too well. She talks about trying to be your best and wanting everyone to be friends and smile. She even said, everyone needs to settle your "mean" down to the middle where the heart is.

I would also seek to find a way to eradicate litter. My pet peeve is litter.

## You've seen a lot of changes at Co-Lin over the years. What would you wish for the school as you retire?

Yes there has been change, but let's call it progress which is a nicer way to describe it. My wish for Co-Lin and the new incoming president and her staff is that change will be good. Change helps you grow, offering new opportunities and experiences. Change will make you flexible and change up routine. I also hope to see continued opportunities for students ready to enter the workforce upon leaving Co-Lin. I went to work right after my graduation from Co-Lin and have enjoyed a good career. I wish the same for students here now and in the future.

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# Awards, jobless, wildfire reporting & TB

Special to Wesson News

**Businesses recognized.** Three businesses and industries have been recognized by the Co-Lin Career, Technical and Workforce Education Division for their service and partnership. This year, Copiah County Medical Center (CCMC) received the President's Award for the support of its employees and providing a clinical site for training. Waters International Trucks of Natchez and PriorityOne Bank in Simpson County received Special Recognition awards. Waters has been a strong supporter of the diesel technology program on the Natchez campus in serving on the advisory council, providing input on training after site visits and donating equipment and other resources. PriorityOne trains employees through Co-Lin ground and online classes and has supported the college's ACT Certified Work Ready Community program in Simpson County. Co-Lin extended special thanks to Bracken Companies, CCMC, Empire Truck Sales, FLSmidth, Haven Hall Healthcare Center, Huntington Ingalls Industries, Georgia-Pacific, King's Daughters Medical Center, Peterbilt Truck Center, Pike National Bank, PriorityOne, Regions Bank, Rex Lumber Brookhaven, LLC, Sheldon Laboratory Systems, SuperTalk Southwest Mississippi, and Trustmark Bank in supporting its 2018 Pathways Job Fair.

**Under-40 Award.** Co-Lin's Dean of Career, Technical and Workforce Education Jackie Martin has received the American Association for Women in Community Colleges (AAWCC)

Women Under 40 award, which recognizes rising stars who are making a difference for the colleges they serve. Martin has been in her current position at Co-Lin for five years after previously serving as Director of Career Technical Curriculum and Assessment at the college and Brookhaven

## NEWS NUGGETS

Technical Center Director for Brookhaven School District and earning a Bachelor of Science Degree and Master of Science Degree from Mississippi State University, and her Education Specialist Degree from Mississippi College.

**Jobless rates.** Counties that participate in the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District, including Copiah, Hinds, Madison, Rankin, Simpson, Warren and Yazoo, collectively experienced a dip in unemployment in its 292,460 workforce to 3.9 per cent. Among the 11,250 workforce in Copiah County, unemployment was 4.8 percent in February compared to 4.5 percent in the state as a whole. The Co-Lin District, with a 54,050 workforce, including Copiah County labor, had a 5.1 percent unemployment rate.

**Wildfire reporting.** The Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) has replaced wildfire reporting phone numbers broken down by geographic areas with one easy-to-remember call-in number -- 1-833-MFC-FIRE (1-833-632-3473) that will facilitate quick public notification statewide to the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) Central Dispatch Center and prompt deployment of the necessary wildfire suppression resources to the appropriate location. MFC protects

the state's 19.8 million forested from wildfire, manages approximately 480,000 acres of forested School Trust Land, and delivers forest management services and assistance to both rural and urban landowners, including the \$12.8 billion forest products industries that employ 70,000 people. To learn more about the MFC, visit its website and follow it on social media: YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

**TB case at UM.** The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) has confirmed that a University of

Mississippi (UM) student on the Oxford campus has case of active tuberculosis (TB) and is working with officials from the UM to identify students and staff who may have been potentially exposed to the disease. Although exposure to an active TB disease can result in TB infection over time, TB infection is not contagious and has no symptoms. A course of treatment is recommended for those with the infection in order to prevent future TB disease. Symptoms of active TB include fever, weight loss, night sweats and cough. Cases of TB are seen every year.

## Named to academic teams



Photos Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin sophomores Alex Hamilton (second from left) and Kelsi Baldwin (fourth from left), both from Florence, Mississippi, receive congratulations on being named to state and national academic teams. Hamilton was one of twenty selections nationally on the All-USA Academic Team and an All-Mississippi Academic First Team selection. Baldwin was an All-Mississippi Academic Second Team selection. From left to right with Hamilton and Baldwin are Tiffany Perryman, co-advisor of the Co-Lin Eta Omega Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa; Dr. Jane Hulon, Vice President of the Co-Lin Wesson Campus and the college's President-Elect; and Eta Omega Chapter Co-Advisor Mary Warren. The All-Mississippi Academic Team recognized the scholarly achievements and leadership accomplishments of 48 community and junior college students, with fifteen First Team members receiving a \$1,000 stipend. The prestigious All-USA Academic Team is sponsored by Follett Higher Education Group and supported by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and Phi Theta Kappa. Baldwin serves as Vice President of Leadership for the Co-Lin Eta Omega Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and President of Sigma Kappa Delta. She is a member of Mu Alpha Theta, College Republicans, Centurions, President's Council and the Creative Writing Club. She was PTK Officer of the Year, is a Who's Who at Co-Lin selection, and Campus Favorite. Hamilton serves as Student Government Association President and Vice President of Research for the Eta Omega Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. He is a member of Mu Alpha Theta, Student Voices, Trailblazers and Phi Beta Lambda. He was selected as a Campus Favorite and for Who's Who at Co-Lin.



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# Wesson area Community Calendar

May weather forecast: The Old Farmer's Almanac calls for an average of temperature of 70 degrees F (one degree below average) with precipitation of 5 inches (average). May 9-12: Scattered t-storms, cool. May 13-20: Scattered t-storms, cool. May 21-24: Sunny, cool. May 25-31: A few t-storms, warm.

## MAY 8

Blood donations will be accepted by Mississippi Blood Services (MBS). Donating blood is safe, simple and it saves lives. Donors must be at least 16 years old (16-year-olds need signed parental consent/download form at [msblood.com](http://msblood.com)), weigh at least 110 pounds and have a valid ID. The MBS Donor Coach will be present. Donors will receive a T-shirt. 51 Diner on Highway 51 today. Wesson High School on May 9. 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Visit [msblood.com](http://msblood.com), [www.facebook.com/give2live](http://www.facebook.com/give2live) or call (888) 90-BLOOD (902-5663) for more information. Follow MSbloodservices on Twitter: download the free MBS app for smartphones and/or tablets. #Give1Save3.

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.

## MAY 9

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

Co-Lin Wesson campus spring commencement. Mullen Gymnasium. 9:30 a.m. exercises for graduates with last names ending A-J and 1:30 p.m. exercises for graduates with last names ending K-Z.

## MAY 10

Institute for Learning in Retirement trip to Bill Clark Spring Musical Extravaganza at Ridgeland, Mississippi. Motorcoach departs Wesson campus at 8:45 a.m., with Hazlehurst pickup. Performance at 10:30 a.m. Luncheon stop option at Red Lobster or Olive Garden.

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](mailto:bvaughnfurlow@gmail.com) or 601-540-4308.

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

Entry deadline for students across Mississippi to participate in the 2018 North Mississippi Fish Hatchery Youth Art Contest. Students must submit a portfolio, including entry form and artwork to the Visitor Education Center (VEC) at Exit 233 east off I-55. The Foundation for Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries, and

Parks sponsors the contest. Winners in four age categories will have their work published in the Mississippi Outdoors magazine and will receive a complimentary copy of the magazine displaying their work. Winners will also receive gift cards and have their work posted on the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks' website. For more information on entry forms and rules, visit [www.mdwfp.com](http://www.mdwfp.com) or call the VEC at (662) 563-8068.

## MAY 11

Institute for Learning in Retirement picnic. Pot luck lunch. Slay Wilderness off Highway 51 between Wesson and Hazlehurst.

## MAY 14

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.

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.

## MAY 16

WorkKeys Assessment examination for Career Readiness Certificate. Thames Center on Co-Lin campus. 8:45 a.m.-12 noon. Also May 30 & June 13. Participants must register in advance.

## MAY 18

Wesson High School graduation. Co-Lin. 7 p.m.

## MAY 19

Great American Cleanup Mississippi kickoff hosted by Keep Mississippi Beautiful and Keep Copiah County Beautiful. Lake Hazle at Hazlehurst. 8 a.m.-12 noon.

## MAY 21

Co-Lin Maymester & Summer registration begin on Wesson campus

## MAY 22

The Farm Fresh and Health Tour -- a day-long event for mothers and caregivers of school-age children -- will include visits to farms and a livestock facility, with a focus on the value and healthfulness of farm-fresh foods. Tour participants receive \$20 in farmers market bucks to use at the Starkville, Mississippi, Farmers Market. Free for the first fifteen adults who register before May 14. Mississippi State University Extension Service in Starkville, Mississippi. 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Contact Carley Morrison at [carley.c.morrison@msstate.edu](mailto:carley.c.morrison@msstate.edu) or 662-325-0749, or Laura Greenhaw at [laura.l.greenhaw@msstate.edu](mailto:laura.l.greenhaw@msstate.edu) or 662-325-1804.

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.

## MAY 24

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

## MAY 30

Auditions for the Dance and Media Arts/Filmmaking Departments in Mississippi School of the Arts at MSA in Brookhaven. Applications deadline is May 18. The MSA admission process involves as application, audition and interview. Accepted students attend their junior and senior years of high school at MSA. Applications are available online at [www.msabrookhaven.org](http://www.msabrookhaven.org). MSA is a public statewide eleventh and twelfth grade residential high school located in Brookhaven, Mississippi, on the Historic Whitworth College campus. For more information, call 601-823-1300.

## JUNE 2

ACT Prep Workshop for high school and college students who are interested in improving their ACT scores. Dot McClendon of Brookhaven will provide strategies that focus on the skills tested on the ACT. \$60. To pay by cash, check or credit card, visit or call the Enrollment Services Office at 601-643-8490. Registration deadline May 16. Space is limited with a maximum capacity of 45 students. Co-Lin Wesson campus. 9 a.m. to 12 noon. For more information, call 601-643-8397.

## JUNE 5

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

## CONTINUING

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

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

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

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



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## Insecticides - last resort treatment

By Guest Columnist Rebecca Bates

This is the time of year when our office is swamped with questions about pesticides. Many of us have become reliant on chemicals for insect, disease or weed problems. But pesticides are not the only tools we have for managing pests in our landscapes.

There are many things homeowners can do to reduce the potential for damaging insect problems. In most cases, insecticides should be used as the treatment of last resort. Wise gardeners use non-insecticidal insect management tools to help reduce their reliance on chemicals.

What you grow and how you grow it can have a huge influence on potential insect problems. Here are a few things you can do to reduce pesticide use:

**Grow plant species that tend not to have insect problems.** Some plants are just bug-prone. Fruit trees are a good example. If you don't want to spray, stick with pears. If you don't mind applying a few sprays each season, plant apples. If you like to spray all the time, then plant peaches.

**Plant resistant varieties.** Within a given species of plants, some varieties are more pest-prone than others. Knock Out roses are less susceptible to most pests than are the tea roses. Some varieties of Encore azaleas are resistant to lace bugs. Many popular varieties are

popular because they perform well under a variety of conditions.

**Buy pest-free plants.** Avoid paying for a pest problem. Inspect plants before you buy them.

**Right plant right place.** Plants growing in sites that are not suited for them are stressed plants. Stressed plants are more susceptible to problems. Example: Azaleas growing in full sun are more likely to suffer from azalea lace bug than azaleas growing in filtered shade.

**Grow healthy vigorous plants.** Fertilize, mulch, prune, water and maintain plants properly.

**Avoid over fertilizing, especially with nitrogen.** Excessive nitrogen can make plants more susceptible to insect and disease problems.

**Use cultural practices that help control specific insect pests.** Sanitation is a very effective control method. Cut and dispose affected material.

Take a look at how you are managing your landscape or home vegetable garden. Pesticides are poisons. They are also expensive and not fun to handle or apply. Use them as a treatment of last resort for a healthier environment.

*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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# Wesson area April Honor Yards



*Photos Special to Wesson News*

Wesson Garden Club recognized the landscaping efforts of Deb's Style Shop on Sylwarena Road (top), Robert and Betty Zehnder at 1096 Spring Hill Road (center) in a rural residential setting and Mitch & Christy Berch at 1016 Bayou Pierre Street in the Wesson corporate limits (bottom) for its April Yard of the Month honors. The awards, based on maintenance and landscape design, seek to encourage ongoing beautification and cleanliness of the Wesson area and cultivate a citizenry that values and protects natural resources and assumes responsibility for enhancing the environment. The Garden Club's Yard of the Month awards honor properties in organizational, town residential and rural residential (limited to Wesson School District) categories during the spring, summer and fall.



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Foundation grows in importance at Co-Lin



Special to Wesson News

Wesson News

In a fitting gesture, when he says goodbye to Co-Lin as president next month, Dr. Ronnie Nettles, along with his wife Rosie, will initiate contributions to a new endowment fund established in his honor to support the college's program.

The growing significance of funds managed by the Co-Lin Foundation in the college's finances is an important legacy of Nettles' service as president. During his ten-year tenure, the value of those funds has more than doubled to close to \$9 million.

Led by D.J. Preiss, who serves as its Executive Director and also Director of Alumni Affairs, the Foundation will award more than \$250,000 in student scholarships, \$25,000 in faculty and staff development funds and some monies to support special projects, such as campus beautification, during 2018.

"The bulk of the money generated by individual, family and organizational donations and endowments assists students through 150 student scholarships, but we're able to supplement budget allocations and out-of-pocket expenses paid by our employees for continuing education and conferences with fourteen faculty/staff development funds and even provide support for the physical plant to help the college, which doesn't borrow a lot of money,"

Preiss says. "The new endowed fund to honor Dr. Nettles, which we hope to grow significantly, will support college programs."

The Foundation has a 28-member Board of Directors, including three Co-Lin Board of Trustee members. The finance committee of the Foundation Board manages investments, guided by a conservative policy that dictates limited exposure and slow-growth, Preiss says.

The growth of the Foundation funds value from \$4.4 million to \$8.8 million over the past ten years is a tribute to fundraising efforts that generated \$400,000 in 2016, \$700,000 in 2017 and \$325,000 so far this year. The Alumni Affairs office is an important marketing arm for the Foundation that keeps alumni and other potential donors informed about changes at Co-Lin and the college's plans for the future through its publications and other communications channels.

The Foundation's fundraising efforts are aimed at individuals and families related to Co-Lin as alumni or who want to support an institution in their backyard, the college's business and industry partners, and other institutions with an interest in Co-Lin's success, Preiss explains. More than twenty-two percent of Co-Lin faculty and staff give to the

Cont. on page 15

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# Yard art -- beauty or evil spirits defense?

By Guest Columnist Shaw Furlow

*I asked that old lady sitting on the front porch, why you grow-in bottles in your yard. She said, keep away those evil spirits come around here and make life so hard.*  
- Bottle Tree, Virgil Brawley



Special to Wesson News

Virgil Brawley's song highlights a popular kind of yard art in the South.

I first became interested in bottle trees when I was a student at Co-Lin. I became friends with students from around the district and would occasionally spend weekends in their homes. I grew up four blocks from downtown Brookhaven, vacationed in Houston and shopped in Jackson. What did I know about rural life? The first bottle tree I saw was in Fayette, Mississippi. Clorox bottles in a tree in the front yard of a house. I really didn't think too much about it until I saw two more the next day. My curiosity got the best of me and I asked my host the significance.

It was believed if you hung the bottles on a tree, the evil spirits would be captured in them at night, thereby keeping your home safe. The morning sun would destroy the "haints," and the process started all over at sundown.

It's hard to discover the exact origins

of the bottle tree, but there are scads of articles and books on the subject. There is evidence that shows the trees were around as early as 1600 BC in Egypt and Africa. Today, many bottle trees can be found in Appalachia and the Mississippi Delta. Like so many of our customs, when slaves were brought to our shores from Northern

## AREA ARTS

Africa, they brought their traditions, including the bottle tree.

Today, cobalt blue seems to be the color of choice for trees but you can find multicolored bottles in yards and gardens throughout the South -- more decorative than functional.

But yard art is not limited to bottle trees, and is probably more than a defense against evil spirits. While driving around the country, I noticed the silhouette of a cowboy leaning on a post to be quite popular, as are old bed frames repurposed as flower beds, gasoline pumps, old metal signs and, in one case, two Penny Farthings.

Many home owners build their own yard art. In Wesson, the yard of Sheila and Stanley Stewart is a living, ever changing palette. Along with the hundreds of species of plants that bloom all through the year, there are globes, wind chimes and my favorite -- a walkway lined with upside down blue bottles buried in the ground that form



Wesson News

a path through the yard. An archway made with old metal cabling starts the trail. An old TV satellite dish is the roof of a gazebo, all hand-made by the Stewarts.

A musician friend of mine used to have The Blue Tuba party twice a year. To mark the location, he would hang -- you guessed it -- a blue sousaphone in the tree in his front yard. Occasionally, he left it up for a couple days because of its uniqueness.

And then, there are garden gnomes -- those pesky sprites that create havoc for humans. Usually dressed in red pants and suspenders and a point-

ed hat, they have become even more popular since the travel commercials hit TV several years ago.

Art, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder. I'm just happy to have my yard cut!! That's it this month, y'all. Art is where you find it. Go out and support your local artists.

*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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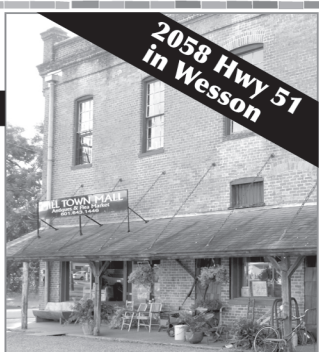
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# Sleeping your way to better health

By Guest Columnist  
Dr. Stephanie Duguid

The month of May celebrates Better Sleep Month. A good night's sleep, just like a healthy diet and exercise, is essential to your mental, emotional and physical well-being.



Special to Wesson News

According to the Better Sleep Council, many people do not get the recommended seven to eight hours of nightly sleep. You need different amount of sleep depending on your age: Babies require sixteen hours; children and youth between three years old and sixteen years old, ten hours; persons between eighteen and fifty-five years old, eight hours; and adults over sixty-five years old, six hours. People spend 600 hours a year dreaming, including blind individuals.

During sleep, the brain recharges, cells repair themselves, and the body releases important hormones. Yet Americans are in the middle of a sleep loss epidemic, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Snoring disrupts the sleep of ninety million Americans, and parents lose about 1000 hours of sleep in the first year of a baby's life. Nearly eight in 10 Americans say they would feel better and more prepared for the day if they had just one more hour of sleep.

If you are groggy and foggy in the mornings, you, like most Americans, are probably not getting enough sleep. Getting that bit of extra sleep may seem impossible to you as you stumble out of bed every morning, but the Better Sleep Council says there are secrets to getting more sleep.

· Make eight hours of quality sleep a regular part of your life by scheduling it. Put it on your to-do list and plan your bedtime like you would any other appointment. Doing the same things every single night signals to your body that sleep is coming and helps your body and mind relax so sleep comes easily.

· It's tempting to hit the snooze button over and over to squeak out just a little more sleep, but this hurts you more than it helps you. Break this bad habit and set your alarm for the time you actually need to get up.

· What you're eating and drinking and when you're enjoying it affects your sleep. Try to finish eating two to three hours before bedtime so your whole system is ready to relax.

· Exercise is important to help your body feel ready for sleep, and even just taking a walk can get your blood moving and improve your sleep. It's best to complete your workouts at least two hours before you go to bed, so your body is ready to rest.

· Taking a nap might seem counter-intuitive to good nighttime sleep, but short naps of 10 to 30 minutes actually help you gain extra energy during the day and don't disrupt your

sleep. Even a 10-minute nap can improve your alertness for two-and-a-half hours if you're sleep-deprived, and you can feel the benefit for up to four hours if you are well-rested.

Your environment matters, too. If you have ever tried to fall asleep in a hospital or airport, you know that the environment has a tremendous impact. Here are some other helpful hints:

· If your bedroom is not a comforting and relaxing place, you're not going to want to spend a lot of time there. Make adjustments to your bedroom so that it is dark, quiet, cool and cozy. A bedroom should have a temperature between 65 and 67 degrees for comfortable sleeping. Turn down the thermostat, plug in an air conditioner or open the window to get your room to the right temperature.

· Your bed plays one of the biggest roles in determining how long and how well you sleep. Your bed and your body naturally change over time. They are both aging. If your mattress is seven years or older, it's probably time to replace it.

· If you're bringing the stress of your job and daily life to bed with you, you're not going to sleep well. Family issues (23%), personal finances (16%) and current events (2%) are reasons why people don't sleep. Resolve to keep everything that's stressful out of your bedroom. Don't bring in work materials, your phone or even allow yourself to think about work while in your bedroom.

· Keeping a television, smartphone, tablet, laptop or computer in your bedroom makes it harder for you to sleep soundly. The lighting from electronics actually stimulates your brain while you're trying to sleep and wakes you up. Keep your electronics physically separated in another room. Use a simple alarm clock instead of your phone.

Sleep affects your productivity, health, and mood. Sleep doesn't cut into our productive hours, but rather sufficient sleep makes you more productive. Insufficient sleep causes you to be irritable, exhausted, easily distracted and make unsound decisions. Sleep deprivation can negatively affect your immune system, evidenced by weight gain, high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, bone loss, and depression. It can also impair learning, memory, alertness, concentration, judgment, problem solving, and reasoning. Eve Van Cauter of the University of Chicago says "lack of sleep disrupts every physiologic function in the body." It even hinders your ability to realize your performance is impaired, making you think you're functioning well when you probably aren't.

Make a commitment now to review your sleep habits. Better sleep can make for a happier, healthier life! Here is to your health!

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Stephanie Duguid is Dean of Academic Instruction at Co-Lin. She is also an athletic trainer and nutrition specialist and has been teaching courses related to those two areas as well as practicing what she preaches for more than twenty years.*

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# Golf success, 'famer' & All-state picks

## Special to Wesson News

Following the 2017 season when the Wesson High School tennis team had an undefeated regular season highlighted by a win over 5A contender Brookhaven and suffered only one loss -- a razor-thin 4-3 match with perennial state champion St. Andrews in the South State Playoffs, Coach Rod Martin faced a challenging rebuilding task after the losses of Erich Fischer, who signed to play with Jones County Junior College, and three other Cobras seniors, who went to Co-Lin. But last year's underclassmen came through to deliver a one-loss regular season in which Brookhaven achieved revenge and got off to a promising start in post-season play.

In spring practice, Reid Crow established himself as Fischer's replacement in Boys Singles. "In addition, Kimberly San assumed her place of dominance at Girls Singles, and the duo of Skyler Rasberry and Drew Hulon took over at Boys Doubles 1," Martin related. "Amber Brinson and Shaylin Green teamed up to make a terrific Girls Doubles 1 pair, and seniors Morgan Wesley and Jasmine King captured the Girls Doubles 2 positions for us pretty quickly." Junior Samuel Carraway and sophomore Olivia Clark won Mixed Doubles starting positions, and two new players -- sophomores Jaiden Smith and Zachary Franklin -- secured places on the starting roster at Boys Doubles 2.

In the new season, the Cobras defeated 3A rival Franklin County 6-1, earned a hard-fought 4-3 victory over the Loyd Star Hornets, and won their next three matches in district play against West Marion a 6-1, Columbia 6-1, and Magee 7-0. After downing a young team from Bogue Chitto 6-1, the Ole Brook Panthers, a powerful 5A team that lost no seniors from 2017, defeated the Cobras 6-1. Martin took some solace from the way the Cobras played, against Brookhaven, saying he was "not disappointed" and that "our players fought hard on every court, and both

girls doubles matches were decided by match tiebreakers, so it very easily could have been 3-4 instead of 1-6." Martin said.

After the Brookhaven loss, the Cobras moved into the district tournament in which ten of their twelve starters won spots in the State Individuals Tennis Championships in Oxford this week. Crow finished as undefeated District Champion, as did Rasberry and Hulon in Boys Doubles 1. Brinson and Green finished undefeated in District Champions as well and San, Wesley, King, Carraway, and Clark all finished as runners-up to also earn tickets to Oxford. In the first round of the State Team Tennis Championships, Wesson defeated a very good 8-3 team from Forest High School 5-2, but then lost to St. Andrews 6-1.

Several Cobras have signed to play for colleges next year. Crow is heading for Mississippi Gulf Coast. Rasberry and San will play at Southwest.

"All in all, it has been a terrific season," Martin summarizes. "We lost some really talented players last year, but I am so proud of our players on this team who have been undaunted as they have continued the tradition of excellence and success established by their predecessors. We have a great tennis program at Wesson, and I see nothing but great things for it and our student-athletes in the future."

**Basketball fundamentals camp.** Co-Lin's basketball program is hosting first to eighth graders at a basketball fundamental camp on May 23 and 24 at Mullen Gymnasium. The \$8 fee covers instruction, limited insurance, a camp t-shirt, and a regulation basketball. Registration is from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. on May 23 and camp hours will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 23 and 24. The camp seeks to teach sound fundamentals to each camper in a pleasant learning environment, regardless of the camper's level of ability. Co-Lin coaches and staff

will be on hand from 7:45 a.m. for drop-offs until the camp concludes at 4 p.m. All participants are asked to wear t-shirts, basketball shoes, shorts, and socks. For more information, visit [colinathletics.com](http://colinathletics.com) or follow @colinathletics on Twitter.

**Hall-of-famer.** Curtis McMillan of Mendenhall became a member of Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) Sports Hall of Fame last month at a banquet on the Rankin Campus of Hinds Community College. A 1960 Co-Lin graduate, he was named first team All-State as a member of the Wolfpack football team, attended Mississippi College and graduated from Delta State University with a bachelor's degree in education. He served as an assistant coach at Co-Lin for two years under Charlie King. McMillan is a former educator and coach at Wesson High School and currently is the owner of a real estate and appraisal service in

Mendenhall. He served eight years as an alderman and four as mayor pro tem and city judge in Mendenhall. He is a former member of the Mendenhall Lions Club and was active in the founding of Simpson County Academy. He is a member of Jackson Board of Realtors and is a past president of the Co-Lin Athletic Alumni Association. McMillan and his wife, Kay, have two children, Margaret Smith and Melinda Thomas, and five grandchildren. They are active in First Baptist Church of Mendenhall where he serves as a deacon.

**All-State selections.** Co-Lin hoopsters Jonathan Floyd, Alexis Holt, Anthony Jones, Brittany Rose, and Youry White were named first team MACJC South Division All-State. The group of sophomores led the Wolves and Lady Wolves in nearly every category on the stat sheet this season and helped lead the teams to unprecedented levels of success.

## Scoreboard

March 13-April 10

### WHS Cobras

#### Baseball

Record: 5-18. Recent Wins: Tylertown. 13-1, 15-1. Jefferson Davis County. 15-4. North Pike. 3-2. Recent Losses: Seminary. 11-0, 15-0. Loyd Star. 12-2. Morton. 11-1, 15-3.

#### Softball

Record: 17-5. Recent Wins: Tylertown. 20-0. Port Gibson. 15-0, 16-0. Franklin County. 8-0. Mize. 14-0. West Lincoln. 7-6. Recent Losses: Loyd Star. 8-3. Warren Central. 4-1.

#### Tennis

Record: 7-1. Recent Wins: Columbia. 6-1. Magee. 7-0. Bogue Chitto. 6-1. Forest High School. 5-2. Recent losses: Brookhaven. 6-1.

### Co-Lin Wolves

#### Baseball

Record: 18-15. Recent Wins: Northeast Mississippi. 12-5. Coahoma. 11-2. Holmes. 11-6, 13-5. Recent Losses: Northeast Mississippi. 14-3. Jones. 12-2, 18-6. Coahoma. 6-5. East Central. 15-14, 15-7.

#### Softball

Record: 25-17. Recent Wins: Northwest. 2-0. Mississippi Delta. 9-2, 10-9. Pearl River. 3-0, 6-5. Northeast. 4-2, 11-5. Hinds. 8-7. Holmes. 2-1, 4-1. Recent Losses: Northwest. 4-1. East Central. 8-3, 8-7. Hinds. 8-7.

#### Men's Tennis

Record: 9-5. Recent Wins: Jones. 5-4. Hinds. 5-4. Holmes. 8-1, 9-0. Marion Military Institute. 5-4. Recent Losses: Mississippi Gulf Coast. 7-2. Itawamba. 5-4.

#### Ladies' Tennis

Record: 10-3. Recent Wins: Jones. 5-4. Hinds. 6-3. Itawamba. 9-0. Holmes. 7-2. Meridian. 9-0. Recent Losses: Mississippi Gulf Coast. 8-1.

#### Golf

Third in Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) Championship at Dancing Rabbit, Choctaw, Mississippi.



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Cont. from page 11

# Foundation grows in importance at Co-Lin

Foundation, contributing more than \$11,000 during this year alone, much of it through payroll deductions.

The Foundation accepts monies that are pledged and contributed annually, endowment funds that are activated when contributions to them reach at least \$10,000 and in-kind donations, such as equipment and property. "Usually, someone comes to us with an in-kind donation and we'll seek a venue in which to plug and play it, but sometimes we will also hunt for specific donations," Preiss says. He cites two recent donations -- one from an organization and another from an area family -- that illustrate how Co-Lin fundraising efforts can work:

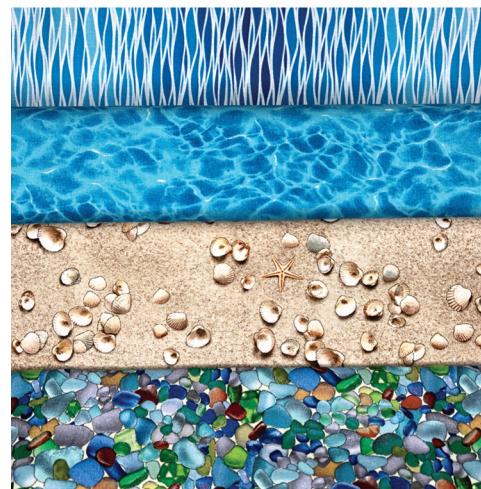
"When Hardy Wilson Hospital was transitioning to become the new Copiah County Medical Center (CCMC), it found an opportunity to receive grant funds to support nursing education," Preiss relates. "We helped write a proposal for the funds based on the Co-Lin nursing program. When CCMC was awarded \$252,000, it contributed

funds to Co-Lin in the form of an endowment for our program."

In Franklin County, a couple approached Preiss about setting up an endowment scholarship as a memorial to their deceased son. "They wrote to family and friends about the endowment scholarship and funds poured in to support it," Preiss says. "We now have an endowment scholarship fund valued at \$100,000 that provides two scholarships every year to Franklin County High School students."

A McComb native, Preiss received his BA in Communications Studies and MA in Higher Education Administration at the University of Southern Mississippi, where he then worked for thirteen years in admissions and recruiting and for the USM Foundation before coming to Co-Lin in 2016.

Preiss says it's an exciting time for Co-Lin, with Dr. Nettles retiring and new leadership taking over. "Dr. Nettles raised the bar, is leaving a legacy of leadership and Co-Lin is on a solid trajectory."



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