

INSIDE:	
Area Arts.....	2
News Nuggets.....	5
Community Calendar.....	9
Healthy Living.....	10
Tending Your Garden.....	11
Thanksgiving Meditation.....	12

Wesson News

SPOTLIGHT

**Restaurateur
Realizes Dream**
Page 6

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Volume 6, Number 11

"Good News You Can Use"

November 13, 2018

WAC 'C' grade called 'unfair'

Wesson News

Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) dropped from a B grade to C grade in the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) 2017-18 school year performance ratings, but WAC Principal Marilyn Phillips says the grade does not provide an accurate picture of the hard work of WAC teachers and students.

The Mississippi Statewide Accountability System does not have a good model for assessing performance of Attendance Centers with K through grades 12 on the same campus, Phillips charges.

"MDE admits it does not have a model that fits the situation at Attendance Centers," she says. "Significantly, not one of the thirty-three Attendance Centers in Mississippi earned an A grade. MDE has a task force studying the problem, but it's very frustrating

for teachers and students in the mean time. For teachers, who aren't getting incentive pay raises based on the performance ratings, it is particularly unfair."

Although WAC's grade dropped to C, only West Lincoln School in Lincoln School District scored higher with a B grade in the area. In the Copiah County School District, of which WAC is part, Crystal Springs High School, Crystal Springs Elementary School and Crystal Springs Middle School received F, D, and D grades, respectively. In the Brookhaven School District, Lipsey and Mamie Martin elementary schools received Cs, Alexander Junior High School, a D; and Brookhaven High School a C. Loyd Star, Enterprise and Bogue Chitto received Ds in the Lincoln School District.

In the state accountability system,

schools and districts earn points based on performance in:

Proficiency/performance. Did students meet achievement expectations?

Growth. Did students improve as expected?

Participation. Did students participate in assessments/classes?

Graduation rates. Did students graduate from high school as expected in four years?

College and career readiness. Did students meet the ACT national benchmarks in math and English?

Acceleration. Did the student participate and perform well in accelerated courses -- Advanced International Certificate of Education, Advanced Placement, International

Cont. on page 8



Photo by Wesson News

U.S. News found Wesson High School to be one of the best schools in Mississippi, while Mississippi Department of Education gave Wesson Attendance Center a C grade.

Santa Claus arriving early this year

By Bob Arnold

Santa Claus is coming to town early this year.

The annual Wesson Christmas parade, which normally brings Santa to town on the first Friday in December, will roll at 4 p.m. on Friday, November 30 -- a week earlier in deference to band competition that would have a diminished the holiday music that entertains the crowd at the holiday event. Because Santa agreed to come then, the Wesson High School band, which will participate in competition on Friday, December 7, will also continue its tradition of marching in

the Christmas parade.

Upwards of a thousand persons, including children and youth who are let out of school to attend, will line both sides of Highway 51 from the south stop light north to Wesson Baptist Church, to welcome Santa and enjoy the high school and Co-Lin Blue Wave Show bands accompanied by dignitaries and special townspeople in cars and floats created by local organizations.

In the weeks ahead, a host of activities, including the parade, will turn Wesson into a unique southern holiday setting,

with merriment, conviviality, food, sounds and colors that create a special community spirit at this time every year.

Today, Co-Lin will host its annual buffet luncheon for more than 300 persons, including its staff and employees, officials of the Town of Wesson, area businesses and not-for-profit organizations, members of social and civic groups and families and individuals at the Thames Center from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. They will enjoy good food and fellowship in a relaxing atmosphere at the event, which

started in 2002 to showcase the Co-Lin meetings facility for prospective users and has evolved into a traditional community holiday get-together. The cost is \$15 per person.

The parade will include football homecoming Queens and maidens and members of cheerleading squads from Co-Lin and Wesson High School, children from the Wesson Baptist Pre-School and Precious Moments Day Care Center programs, Nena Smith Studio dancers and Co-Lin Collettes, Wesson Attendance Center beauty

Cont. on page 3

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Christmas musical spectacular planned

By Guest Columnist Shaw Furlow

Christmas can be a chaotic time in the lives of our families. School plays. Selecting just the right tree. All the decorating, shopping trips, extra rehearsals for the church program and packing the car to get to grandma's house can be overwhelming at times. At a time when we should be celebrating and enjoying each other's company, at the end of the day we just want to crash in the quiet of our homes.

This year, Brookhaven musician/composer Blake Scafidel has a remedy for all the chaos that comes with Christmas Holidays: A show he has imagined the likes of since his early days of playing the piano. "A Cure for the Christmas Chaos," including an orchestra, soloists, lights and sound, will transform The Brookhaven Building (formerly the FEMA Building) into a great concert hall under the auspices of the producers of "Carols by Candlelight" at Jackson's First Baptist Church.



Special to Wesson News

"Yes, it's going to be a big show and a very professionally staged one," he affirms.

Scafidel is a talented and busy man. He is Worship Pastor at Lakeshore Methodist Church in Bryam, writes film scores, edits video, and, with his wife Careen, is active in the live music scene.

Years ago, when he was a child growing up in Brookhaven, the music of film composer Hans Zimmer and piano showmen like Yanni influenced Scafidel.

"In Yanni's concerts, everyone got a solo," he recalls. "It wasn't all Yanni. He shared the spotlight with the masterful players that surrounded him." Big shows like their productions intrigued him and have simmered in the back of his mind all these years.

Scafidel, who went to Co-Lin, credits his long time piano instructor Joan Harris for teaching him his technique.

"She and I didn't always see eye to eye, but she taught me more technique than anyone else," he says. He used that technique and many other skills he learned along the way in working at his studio on "A Cure for the Christmas Chaos," his newest project.

"It seems to me Christmas can be hectic and we get all uptight, but the one thing that calms the season is Christmas music," he observes. "No other time of the year has so much music dedicated to it." So following his successful album of Christmas music last year, he stepped up his game.

Although he either wrote or arranged all the music you'll hear, Scafidel, like Yanni, doesn't mind shining the spotlight on others. He has secured some of the best musicians in the state. Many play in the Mississippi Symphony and others are names you may recognize -- former Miss Mississippi Laura Lee Lewis, outstanding violinist Temperance Babcock and local

favorite Sam Mooney, on whom he spares no accolades. "Sam has everything going for him -- talent and stage presence, and he is a great songwriter," he says. They are all scheduled to perform. "This is quite a lineup," he understates.

There will be two opportunities to see what promises to be the biggest show in the area this year, both on Thursday, December 6, one at 2 p.m. and the second at 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at blakescafidel.com and Brookhaven Music and Sound. They are \$18 in advance and will be \$20 at the door. There will be discount packages for groups of fifteen or more and students.

Kudos to Scafidel for undertaking such a production. I look forward to being present at least once, maybe twice.

That's it for this month. Support the arts and buy some tickets for the "Cure for the Christmas Chaos."

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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Cont. from page 1

Santa Claus arriving early this year

and beau winners, local business leaders, community service volunteers from Keep Copiah County Beautiful, Wesson Chamber of Commerce, Wesson Volunteer Fire Department and Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Before the parade, city officials will light the town Christmas tree in the municipal park, and the Co-Lin Sojourners are expected to provide popular musical entertainment as the crowd starts to gather.

After the parade, Santa will meet children, hear their Christmas wishes and give them gifts of candy and fruit at the Wesson Volunteer Fire Department fire house on Spring Street. Across the street at the Public Library and on its outdoor pavilion, Friends of the Library and the Town Hall-coordinated Play it Up program will host an open house and reception that is still being planned. Mrs. Claus will read *The Night Before Christmas*. There will be refreshments, including cookies and hot chocolate; face painting, other children's activities and possible caroling and a movie with popcorn.

Other activities and events in the coming weeks include:

Holiday decorating. Following the town Halloween party in the municipal park, Wesson started decorating for Christmas, putting up the town Christmas tree to be lit before the Christmas parade. On the Sunday afternoon following Thanksgiving

(November 25), members of the Wesson Volunteer Fire Department will climb their ladders and install ornaments on downtown lamp posts. This year, Wesson Garden has purchased a variety of new ornaments, which will replace some of the older traditional decorations.

During December, area residents will light up their homes and yards. *Wesson News*, along with the Wesson Garden Club, will encourage displays by sponsoring the Spirit of Christmas Awards to recognize special creativity. David and Kelly Parks also will provide a pace-setting example again with their spectacular display that runs along an eighth of mile stretch of road winding past their house, utility buildings, yard and fields on a 43-acre property in southwestern Copiah County near the Claiborne County border 25 miles from Wesson, Hazlehurst, Brookhaven and Port Gibson. It includes more than 100,000 stationary lights and a synchronized display with flashing lights controlled by 330 electrical circuits. Visitors can enjoy the multi-color Santa Runway, with scenes of Santa, his elves and the nativity, from December 1 until Christmas (5 p.m.-9:30 p.m. on Sundays through Thursdays and 5 p.m.-10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. They can tune their car radios to a low-power FM station on which the Parks broadcast Christmas music to accompany the display.

Christmas musical. On Thursday,

November 15, the Institute for Learning in Retirement will bus members to the Bill Clark Christmas Extravaganza at Ridgeland for a Branson-style show featuring an array of Mississippi talent, including Candy Lee Dobbs, Andrew Ishee and 2018 Miss Mississippi, Asya Branch. \$50 includes bus and show. Departs Thames Center on Co-Lin campus at 8:30 a.m. with 8:44 a.m. pickup at Hazlehurst First Baptist Church

Community Thanksgiving worship. On Sunday, November 18, at 6 p.m., the traditional community Thanksgiving service will resume after a hiatus last year. Decell Memorial United Methodist Church in Wesson will host the event, with Wesson Baptist Church, Wesson Presbyterian Church, The Homeseekers Bible Church in Wesson, Beauregard United Methodist Church and Zion Hill Baptist participating. Rev. Mike Assinks will preach and Pat McClendon will offer prayer and thanksgiving. The Co-Lin Choir will provide the music. Donations at the service will go to the choir. Those attending are invited to bring their favorite snacks to share at a fellowship gathering following the worship service. The cooperative event started in the 1980s.

Thanksgiving Day dinner. Wesson Baptist Church will host a community Thanksgiving Day dinner at noon for persons who do not have friends or family with whom they can spend the holiday.

Wreath-laying. As part of Wreaths Across America, Socks for Heroes (SOH) and the American Legion Auxiliary will lay close to 200 fresh evergreen wreaths in Wesson Cemetery at grave sites of town military heroes, who sacrificed for their country. Nationwide, wreaths will be laid at Arlington National Cemetery and more than 1,200 veterans cemeteries in fifty U.S. states and overseas. SOH is seeking contributions from individuals, businesses, clubs and civic organizations and churches to cover the purchase price of each wreath laid at Wesson Cemetery. For information, contact Cathy Stroud (601-695-4140) or Sharon Alexander Langley (601-757-2085).

Institute for Learning in Retirement events. Four-day overnight trip to Branson, Missouri, features sightseeing, local tours, seven meals and admission to four shows -- Baldknobbers Jamboree, Shoji Tabuchi Christmas Show, Showboat Branson Belle and Sight & Sound Theater's Samson. \$662 single room/\$599 double/\$580 triple/\$568. Departs Thames Center at 6:30 a.m. November 27-30. Luncheon, Christmas music presented by Dr. Roy Daughdrill, organist at Brookhaven First Baptist Church, on the piano. \$10. Thames Center. 10:30 a.m. December 4.

The Man Who Invented Christmas, a movie starring Christopher Plummer and Dan Stevens about Charles Dickens writing A Christmas Carol. Thames Center. 10 a.m. December 11.



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Police Blotter

Special to Wesson News

During October, Wesson Police Department activity encompassed:

Responses to:

- Five vehicle accidents
- Two malicious mischief
- One scam
- One simple assault

Arrests & citations:

- One possession of marijuana
- Four driving without a license
- One driving under the influence
- Seventeen speeding violations
- Six driving without insurance
- Five disregard for a traffic device
- One lack of child restraint
- One following too close while driving
- One careless driving
- Two contempt of court warrants

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.

Band & Colettes honor Nix & Giangrosso

Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin's Band and Colette chapter of the college's Alumni Association inducted Rebecca "Becky" Nix of Meadville into its Hall of Fame and honored Jonathan Giangrosso of Mt. Olive as the Stanley Stewart Outstanding Young Alumni recipient.

Nix, 1955 graduate of Co-Lin, where she studied business education and accounting, was a Colette, a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, and active in the Baptist Student Union. Over her career, she has served as secretary to the Mississippi Supervisor of Special Education, as a mathematics teacher in a New Orleans middle school, a ministry assistant at a Presbyterian church in Laurel, an executive secretary to the superintendent of Forest Municipal School District, a real estate agent in Keystone Heights, Florida, executive secretary to the hospital administrator in Russellville Humana Hospital, and as a ministry assistant to the United Methodist Church district superintendent in Roanoke, Alabama. Nix was also a stay-at-home mother before each of her children entered school.

Nix is an active member of Meadville Baptist Church, where she sings in the choir and participates in the church's Women on Missions group. She served her local Lions Club as president and has received the Outstanding Lion Award, James A. Torrey Outstanding Service Award, and the Melvin Jones Fellow Award for dedicated human service. In Meadville, Nix has chaired the Arts Committee, served on the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, participated in the Pine Burr Garden



Photo by Wesson News

Jonathan Giangrosso

Club, and served on the Board of Directors for the Franklin County Museum.

A charter and lifetime member of the Co-Lin Band and Colette Alumni Chapter, which she served as vice president and then president in 2013-2014, Nix has been married sixty-three years to her husband James, whom she met at Co-Lin. They have three children, seven grandchildren, and one great granddaughter.

Jonathan Giangrosso graduated from Co-Lin's RN nursing program in 2007, received an Associate of Arts in 2008, and earned an Emergency Medical Technician certificate in 2009. He was a member of the Blue Wave Show Band, the basketball pep band, the symphonic band, and ran soundboard for the jazz band. He was also president of the band in 2006 and a member of the Baptist Student Union and Alpha Omega



Photo by Wesson News

Becky Nix

Science Club. Giangrosso received a Bachelor of Science in nursing from William Carey University, where he was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa national leadership honor society and Upsilon Theta of Sigma Theta Tau international honor society of nursing. He is currently working on a Master's Degree in Nursing as a family nurse practitioner at the University of Alabama Capstone College of Nursing.

Giangrosso is a traveling emergency room nurse and has worked in Utah, California, Texas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Vermont, and Hawaii. When he is not on a travel assignment, he works at the Magee General Hospital emergency room. He is a member of Harrisville Baptist Church and has volunteered as a medical team leader on multiple medical mission trips to Honduras with Country Woods Baptist Church.




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Grant funds coming. The Town of Wesson has received notification that it will receive a \$314,489 Community Development Block Grant through the Mississippi Development Authority for renovations at Wesson Public Library that will make it compliant with the Americans for Disability Act (ADA). While Wesson applied for the grant based on ADA-related improvements at one of its facilities, most grant applicants throughout the state who are getting funds will use them for water/sewage infrastructure, Mayor Alton Shaw noted. Plans for the library encompass entrance and parking improvements, expanded space, renovated bathrooms and installation of accessible shelving.

New honor society members. The National Technical Honor Society has inducted new members on Co-Lin's Wesson campus. They include students from the colleges Precision Machining Technology (MPT), Computer Networking Technology (CNT), Culinary Art Technology (CAT) and Medical Radiologic Technology (MRT) programs. The Precision Machining students were Lucas Brewer of Hohenwald, Tennessee; Aaron Ebbers of Brookhaven; Herman McGehee

of Meadville; and Tyler Turnbo of Wesson. Andrew Bates of Wesson and Daniel Dunn of Wesson are the new CNT and CAT members. New MRT members are Lindsey Alford of Wesson; Mallory Allen and Sara Bales, both of Bogue Chitto; Adrian Brewer of Mendenhall; Danica Fuller, Chandler Gagliardi, Karlisa Garcia, all of Brookhaven; Joanna Kincaid of Mendenhall; Ariyanna Mason of Lorman; Harley McKey of Centreville; Jordan Petty of Natchez; Megyn Rhoads and Nikki Rowells, both of Brookhaven; Kayla Tyler of Sontag; and Shelby White of Liberty. NTHS encourages and rewards outstanding student achievement in workforce education. The students were selected for membership, based on skilled workmanship, honesty, responsibility, leadership, citizenship and scholastic achievement, and recommended by their instructors.

Certification renewed. Lisa Smith, a Teacher Academy and Family & Consumer Science teacher at Wesson Attendance Center, is among 4,446 teachers across the United States to renew their certification as a National

Board Certified Teacher (NBCT). The certification is seen as the profession's mark of accomplished teaching and is being pursued by 20,000 teachers nationally. The National Board helps set the expectation that all teachers should demonstrate accomplished teaching via its certification and become leaders in their schools and communities.

Cookbook hunting. The McCain Library and Archives at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) is looking for old community cookbooks that help preserve and share Mississippi's culinary interests. Among its some 3,000 regional, national and international cooking-related books are more than 1,100 community cookbooks from throughout the state. USM Associate Professor of American cultural history, wants to add at least four more very rare ones to the collection: *The Twentieth Century Cook Book* (1902, Young Woman's Guild of St. James Episcopal Church, Greenville), *Newton Cook Book* (1903, Presbyterian Church Ladies Aid Society, Newton), *Power School*

Cook Book (1950s, Power School, Jackson), *Kosciusko Cooking for Everyday and Sunday Too* (1950s, Kosciusko Garden Club, Kosciusko).

Hospital closures loom. Among the 87 rural hospitals that have closed across the nation since 2010, five have shut down in Mississippi, and more closures are possible in the face of small, declining populations with high unemployment rates, uninsured patients, run-down facilities, issues recruiting doctors and financial burdens, according to *Healthline Media*. One of the most contentious debates over shoring up rural hospitals in Mississippi involves Medicaid expansion, which the state has not done under the Affordable Care Act. Between 2016 and 2017, states that expanded Medicaid eligibility saw a decrease in the uninsured rate for people living below 100 percent of poverty and an increase for people living at or above 400 percent of poverty. Those that didn't expand saw increases for both. Advocates of Medicaid expansion in Mississippi argue it would extend coverage to more than 300,000 of the poorest Mississippians, or 10 percent of the state's population, while opponents contend the long-term costs outweigh any benefits of insuring such a large part of the population.

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New local restaurateur realizes lifelong dream

By Bob Arnold

Last year, when the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) in Jackson made him Associate Director of Environmental Services, Ken Dale Sullivan thought he had reached a career pinnacle with a bright future ahead that built on his ten years as a mortician at the complex, where he focused on body donations, crime scenes and trauma cleanup. On December 1, however, his UMMC bosses told him that the facility planned to contract out the work of his department, and his services would no longer be needed.

Today, after months of searching for employment in related fields, Sullivan is pursuing a lifelong dream: operating a restaurant.

Sullivan has opened Dump's Barbeque in the old Newman's Liquor Store.

"It wasn't my first thought, but I looked at other jobs, and they just didn't quite fit," he says. "At every turn since my unemployment started, my career has moved in this direction. When I had questions and concerns, people came along. God opened every door."

Sullivan worked in small delicatessens during his youth, but the new restaurateur recalls growing up in a family that liked food and cooking. Sullivan's father served as Copiah County Superintendent of Education, and his mother taught in schools at Crystal Springs, where he grew up. But the family's real passion was cooking. He gives particular credit to his father and grandfather for nurturing his meal preparation skills.

"We cooked for hundreds of people at events," he says. It was obviously in the family's genes, because his cousins have owned and operated Louise's Barbeque, a Crystal Springs institution, which has built a reputation for good eating over the years.

Dump's Barbeque honors Sullivan's father, whose nickname is "Dump," and his family's food service tradition will continue there, with Sullivan's wife Kris and their daughters Mary Grace and Kenzie active in the business. Kris, who lived and worked in Louisiana, Florida



Photo by Wesson News

Ken Dale Sullivan (left), his wife Kris (right) and daughters Kenzie and Mary Grace at Dump's Barbeque in Wesson.

and North Carolina before settling down with her husband in Wesson, in fact, brings her special double deck chocolate moon pie with ice cream to Dump's as a featured dessert, along with banana pudding. Initially, Dump's menu is offering barbeque ribs, chicken, sausage, and pulled pork selections featuring meats from local markets. It also includes burgers and chicken strips, a pulled pork sandwich and sausage dog. A barbeque sauce developed by Dump is a highlight.

The old Newman's store looks deceptively small from the outside, but Sullivan has created ample space inside from what used to be warehouse product. The relatively small space just inside the entrance houses an intimate dining area and the check-in/checkout counter. In a separate room at the side of the building is a hangout with a bistro-style environment designed to attract college students and a young crowd for coffee and sodas. The large area at the rear of the building is for overflow from the main dining area and parties. The overall ambiance is family-oriented. There is an open barbeque pit outside.

Customers can order to take-out, and the new restaurant will cater for parties and special events.

"We want to give back to the community," Sullivan says. "We love Wesson and like serving people."

Dump's serves lunches and dinners Tuesday thru Saturday.



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Cont. from page 1

WAC 'C' grade called 'unfair'

Baccalaureate, dual credit/dual enrollment and industry certification?

Elementary and middle schools can each earn up to 700 possible points, and schools with a twelfth grade and school districts can earn up to a 1,000 possible points.

"For Attendance Centers, points are spread out over K-12 and hence diluted," Phillips explains. She argues it would be fairer to establish a point score separately for Attendance Centers or average the performance of their elementary, middle and high school components, as is the case for school districts, to grade them. Applying such alternative models would have meant a B grade for WAC, she says, noting that WACs elementary, middle and high school components would have received A, B and C grades respectively if assessed separately.

Dr. Carey Wright, state superintendent for Mississippi, defends the state accountability system on the whole as "an opportunity for school teachers to recommit themselves to providing a quality education to every Mississippi child and for parents to ask important

questions about their child's education."

"We're seeing the results of greater accountability," she says. "Mississippi's students are meeting and exceeding the high expectations set for them. More students than ever are graduating from high school, earning college credit while in high school, reaching proficiency in reading and math, passing Advance Placement courses and earning industry based credentials valued by Mississippi business and industry."

The Mississippi Legislature adopted a law in 2013 that established the A-F accountability system, so that parents could find out how students are achieving and progressing.

"Without transparent information, how can parents celebrate their school's success or call on school and district leaders to improve academic programs that will lead to student success," asks Wright. "The simple answer is they can't, but with the right information, they can."

For information about Mississippi's A-F accountability system, visit <https://www.mdek12.org/OCGR/mact>.

Hoopsters look to build on successes

By Bob Arnold

Both the Co-Lin men's and women's basketball Wolves are looking to build on 2017-18 season successes.

Coach Kenny Bizot's men's team, 19-6 last year, hopes to use a balance of sophomores and freshmen, with an offense that is not afraid to shoot the three if necessary. Coach Gwyn Young's Lady Wolves, 24-5 last year, has a roster filled with talent on both the offensive and defensive side of the court and has a group of scorers who can find the basket from under the goal and the perimeter.

Damarius Brooks, a 6'1 guard, and Lazorian McNulty, a 6'0 guard from Brookhaven; Miles Daniels, a 6'2 guard from Gulfport, Mississippi; and Xavier Heidelberg, a 5'11 guard from Meridian, Mississippi, will return as sophomores to the men's team. Brooks played all 25 games last season, averaged 10.5 points per game, scored in double figures 15 times, and shot 44.6 percent from the floor and 35.3 percent from beyond the arc, while hauling in 85 rebounds. McNulty also played all 25 games a year ago, averaged 5.6 points, down 48 rebounds and shot 39 percent from the floor. Daniels saw action in 23 games as a freshman and shot 43.5 percent from beyond the arc in conference play.

Heidelberg played in 22 games last season and shot 42.3 percent from the field, while dishing out 22 assists.

Nine freshmen look to make an immediate difference on the floor:

Cameron Woodall from Raymond, Mississippi, who averaged 17 points and seven rebounds, helped lead his team to back-to-back 4A State Championships as a First Team All-District selection. Malik Wright, a guard from Meridian, Mississippi, averaged 15.1 points and 5.2 rebounds during his senior year at John Hardin High School in Kentucky, where he helped lead his team to a Region 5 Championship. Craig Philip, a forward from Bronx, N.Y., averaged 20 points and 12 rebounds per game at Our Saviour Lutheran, where he was named league MVP and First Team All-Area. Dajon Whitworth, a point guard from Gulfport, Mississippi, averaged 16.8 points, 2.9 assists, and 2.4 steals to earn the local newspaper's All-South Team and Player of the Year honors. Dayquan Perkins, Whitworth's teammate, scored over 1,000 points during his high school career to earn the local newspaper's All-South team honors in 2017 and 2018.

Lance Madison, a Warren Easton High School guard from New Orleans,

Cont. on page 12

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Wesson area Community Calendar

November & December weather forecast: The Old Farmer's Almanac calls for an average temperature of 60 degrees F (5 degrees above average) in November and 46 degrees (2 degrees below average) in December with precipitation of 6.5 inches (average) in November and 4 inches (one inch below average) in December. November 13-20: Scattered t-storms, some heavy; warm. November 21-25: Sunny, cool, then warm. November 26-30: T-storms, then sunny, cold. December 1-6: Sunny; cold, then mild. December 7-11: Showers, then sunny, cold.

- NOVEMBER 13**

Annual community buffet luncheon hosted by Co-Lin for its staff and employees, officials of the Town of Wesson, area businesses and not-for-profit organizations, members of social and civic groups and families and individuals. \$15 per person. Thames Center on Co-Lin campus. 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. See story on page 1.

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.

American Legion Post #79 meets. American Legion Lodge on Main Street, Wesson. 6:30 p.m. For information, call 601-563-5438.
- NOVEMBER 14**

WorkKeys Assessment for Career Readiness Certificate. Must register in advance. 601-643-8707. Thames Center on Co-Lin campus. 8:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Also December 12.
- NOVEMBER 15**

Institute for Learning in Retirement day trip to Bill Clark Christmas Extravaganza at Ridgeland for a Branson-style show featuring an array of Mississippi talent, including Candy Lee Dobbs, Andrew Ishee and 2018 Miss Mississippi, Asya Branch. \$50 includes bus and show. Departs Thames Center on Co-Lin campus at 8:30 a.m. with 8:44 a.m. pickup at Hazlehurst First Baptist Church.

Introduction to Microsoft Word starts and continues on November 16. Learn word processing skills, including basic commands and ribbon navigation techniques, starting, saving & retrieving. \$10. Thames Center on Co-Lin campus. 9 a.m.- 11:30 a.m. Call 601-643-8707.

Copiah County Master Gardeners meeting on third Tuesday of each month. Mississippi State University Extension Office at Gallman. Member meeting at 5 p.m. & educational program open to the public at 6 p.m.
- NOVEMBER 18**

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

Community Thanksgiving worship service. Decell

- Memorial United Methodist Church in Wesson will host the event, with Wesson Baptist Church, Wesson Presbyterian Church, The Homeseekers Bible Church in Wesson, Beauregard United Methodist Church and Zion Hill Baptist participating. Rev. Mike Assinks will preach and the Co-Lin Choir will provide the music. Donations at the service will go to the choir. Those attending are invited to bring their favorite snacks to share at a fellowship gathering following the worship service. 6 p.m. See story on page 1.
- NOVEMBER 19**

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.
- NOVEMBER 22**

Thanksgiving day.

Wesson Baptist Church hosts a community Thanksgiving Day dinner at noon for persons who do not have friends or family with whom they can spend the holiday.
- NOVEMBER 25**

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.
- NOVEMBER 26**

OSHA 10-hour General Industry Course starts and continues on November 27. Covers hazard prevention and compliance issues at general industry work sites. \$50. Co-Lin Wesson campus. 8 a.m.- 3 p.m. Call 601-643-8707.
- NOVEMBER 27**

Four-day overnight Institute for Learning in Retirement member trip to Branson, Missouri, starts and continues through December 30. Sightseeing, local tours, seven meals and admission to four shows -- Baldknobbers Jamboree, Shoji Tabuchi Christmas Show, Showboat Branson Belle and Sight & Sound Theater's Samson. \$662 single room/\$599 double/\$580 triple/\$568 Departs Thames Center on Co-Lin campus at 6:30 a.m.
- NOVEMBER 29**

Introduction to Microsoft Excel starts and continues on November 30. Learn basic commands and ribbon navigation techniques, starting, saving & retrieving. \$10. Thames Center on Co-Lin campus. 9 a.m.- 11:30 a.m. Call 601-643-8707.

- NOVEMBER 30**

Annual Wesson Christmas parade. Bands, floats and arrival of Santa Claus. Rolls at 4 p.m. Downtown. Town Christmas tree lighting precedes event at municipal park and Friends of the Library open house with refreshments and activities for kids follows at public library. Santa will also meet kids at fire house after parade. See story on page 1.
- DECEMBER 4**

Institute for Learning in Retirement luncheon. Christmas music presented by Dr. Roy Daughdrill, organist at Brookhaven First Baptist Church, on the piano. \$10. Thames Center. 10:30 a.m.

Wesson Garden Club's Bah Humbug flower show. Wesson Baptist Church. 2 p.m.- 4 p.m.

Wesson Board of Aldermen meets. City Hall. 6 p.m.
- DECEMBER 6**

Wesson Lions Club meets. Co-Lin student cafeteria conference room. 6 p.m.
- DECEMBER 11**

The Man Who Invented Christmas, a movie starring Christopher Plummer and Dan Stevens about Charles Dickens writing *A Christmas Carol* presented for Institute for Learning in Retirement members. Thames Center on Co-Lin campus. 10 a.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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Get serious controlling diabetes

By Guest Columnist
Dr. Stephanie Duguid

November -- National Diabetes Awareness Month -- is time to turn your attention to a health condition often ignored.



Special to Wesson News

Diabetes involves the relationship between glucose (sugar/carbohydrates) and insulin. There are two main types:

• **Type 1 diabetes** develops very early in one's life. Persons with the condition essentially have it from birth. With Type 1 diabetes, the pancreas, which produces insulin in response to glucose levels, does not function correctly or at all. Type 1 diabetics are required to take insulin injections or have an insulin pump for their entire lives, under the direction of a physician.

• **Type 2 diabetes**, on the other hand, develops over time due to poor choices around activity/exercise and nutrition. When persons are inactive or eat foods high in carbohydrates and fats (fried foods included), their pancreas cannot release enough insulin to keep up with the high levels of glucose (sugar) consumed. The pancreas begins to function improperly, causing higher and higher levels of glucose (sugar) in the body. Normal levels of glucose should be between 80 and 120 mg/dl. Anyone with glucose levels consistently below the normal levels are considered hypoglycemic, having low blood sugar. Anyone with glucose levels consistently above those levels would be considered hyperglycemic, or diabetic. See your doctor to determine your level and the next step in care.

Many individuals do not have annual physicals, which include blood tests, and therefore do not know they have

diabetes. This is the major challenge. Diabetes affects more than thirty million people in the US (9.4 percent of the population) and seven million more are undiagnosed. As many as 84 million people in the United States live with pre-diabetes. Although we typically think diabetes is a condition of older individuals, some 193,000 people younger than twenty-years-old in the U.S. have Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes.

Diabetes is not a disease in itself. Diabetes is the leading cause of kidney failure, new cases of blindness and the need for non-traumatic lower limb amputations.. It is also the major cause of heart disease and stroke. It can contribute to the development of hypertension and nervous system diseases.

In Mississippi, 13.6% of the population is diagnosed with diabetes, ranking forty-eighth of the fifty states in 2017. Only Alabama and West Virginia have higher rates -- 14.63 percent and 15 percent respectively. Colorado has the lowest rate at 6.6 percent.

The good news is that Type 2 diabetes can be managed, reducing the risk of complications. Research shows that lifestyle intervention to lose weight and increase physical activity can reduce the development of Type 2 diabetes by 58 percent for most adults and up to 71 percent for adults over the age of 60. Be active for sixty minutes every day, give up tobacco, get a blood test for glucose and cholesterol (lipids) annually, regularly check your blood pressure, and practice preventive care for your eyes, feet and kidneys. For those with challenges controlling glucose or cholesterol levels, see your doctor.

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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Math teacher finds joys in career



Photo by Wesson News

October's WAC Teacher of the month is Kim Hamilton of Wesson.

By Wesson News

When Kim Hamilton sees the success of her former students and that "something suddenly clicks" in the minds of her current students, she knows why she became a teacher.

The October Teacher of the Month at Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) decided to pursue a teaching career after receiving a BS in Psychology at Mississippi College (MC) in 2001, where she enrolled in the school's alternate route in elementary education, so she could pursue the joys of being an educator.

Hamilton landed at WAC's elementary school seven years ago after a half-year in the Clinton, Mississippi, school system as an assistant teacher meeting requirements of the MC elementary education program, which she completed during 2002, and then teaching at a Byram, Mississippi, intermediate school for three years and Brookhaven Elementary School for three more years.

She moved to Wesson with her husband, Brad Hamilton, a Wesson High School graduate whom she met at MC, who had been hired by Co-Lin to teach math. It was a pleasant change, she says, after growing up in Metairie, Louisiana, outside New

Orleans, and doing her college studies in the Jackson, Mississippi, area. "I enjoy the friendliness, community support, and family nurture you find in the country," Hamilton affirms.

Like her math-teaching husband at the college level, Hamilton brings a love and understanding of numbers to the classroom at WAC, where she teaches math to students in grades four through eight.

Hamilton and her husband have three young children -- a kindergartner and elementary school student at WAC and one in the Co-Lin childcare center. In what spare time she has, Hamilton enjoys shopping -- "not necessarily to buy stuff" -- particularly at flea markets, playing with her kids at Jump and Jive and taking them to their grandparents in Wesson to visit. She and her husband are part of Zion Hill Baptist Church, where Brad is a Deacon and teaches junior high Sunday School and she is nursery coordinator.

"I am blessed to here," she concludes.

CORRECTION: *Wesson News* identified Tevin Thomas, WAC September Teacher of the Month, as "Kevin." His deceased brother is Billy Ray Thomas and he has a five-year-old son.

Fall is soil testing time

By Guest Columnist Rebecca Bates

Fall is a great time to take a soil sample. Soil test results tell you how much lime and fertilizer you need to apply to your garden, depending on the crop you will be growing. In general, every three years is a good 'rule of thumb' for testing.

A soil test will reveal:

- Current pH level of your soil.
- Principal nutrient levels.
- Quantity of lime you may need to apply.
- Amount of fertilizer needed.

The results of your soil test are only as good as your sampling method. Good sampling procedures include:

Divide your gardens into areas for sampling. If you have areas with different crop growth, soil colors, or lime and fertilizer histories, take a sample from each area. Keep the samples separated.

Collect samples that provide a general example of the area sampled. Do not sample areas that are too small to be fertilized or limed separately. Do not sample unusual areas such as wet spots, burn piles, feeding areas, old fence rows and other problem areas.

Use a proper sampling tool, such as a soil tube or auger. A shovel or trowel may be used if necessary.

Take a six-inch-deep core of soil from at least 15 different places in the sampling area. Lawns may be sampled at a three-inch depth. Mix together the cores from one area. A pint of the mixed soil is adequate for a soil test.

Identify the samples by letter or number. Make a sketch or record of



Special to Wesson News

some kind so you will know where the sample was taken.

Soil testing boxes and submission forms are available at the Lincoln County Extension office. The price for testing is \$8.

TENDING YOUR GARDEN

Normally, soil test results are returned within two weeks. This will give you time to apply recommended amounts of lime that will react with your soil over the winter months. Call the Agricultural Extension Office if you have questions about sampling or interpretation of your results.

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

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Giving thanks from a transformed heart

By Guest Columnist Brandon Halford

When each of us thinks about Thanksgiving Day, we almost immediately focus on the banquet tables at our families' houses. Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday set apart for giving thanks to God. There are many people who believe that Thanksgiving Day traces to a pagan holiday and that Christians simply made it about God. That is simply not true. Thanksgiving Day is celebrated in the United States on the fourth Thursday of November. The pilgrims, who came to North America on the Mayflower, were devout men and women of God who gave thanks to their loving, caring Father in the midst of all conditions of life. They were always thankful. It was bitter cold, and the short farming season was already over. During that first winter, more than half of the pilgrims would die. At one point in this treacherous environment, only seven pilgrims were well enough to

take care of the rest.

By the Grace of God, they survived, and in the springtime when the Mayflower set sail and returned to England, only the sailors were aboard. The others chose to remain despite the hardships and the losses. Gov. William Bradford of Plymouth Colony issued a thanksgiving proclamation in the autumn of 1621. This first Thanksgiving lasted three days, during which the Pilgrims feasted on wild turkey and venison with their Native American guests.

In the early days of New England, it came to be the custom to put five grains of corn beside each plate on Thanksgiving Day. These five grains of corn were to recall the first days of Plymouth settlement, when the early colonists were in such drastic and difficult circumstances. They were in the midst of starvation, food supplies had been so low that only five grains of corn were rationed to an individual at a time from the

common storehouse. With only five grains of corn came survival! This is a reminder of God's provision. Thanksgiving is possible for all who take time to remember where God's grace has led them through the darkest storms in their lives.

So this Thanksgiving, let us all receive from God a deeply grateful heart so that we do not merely say just a word of thank you, but we are truly deeply moved in body, mind, and spirit with great gratitude. We do not merely want to be polite or say "thanks" as an obligation. We want to, as God's children, be grateful from our hearts. True gratitude is a grace and a gift from God which comes from a transformed heart. This Thanksgiving, let our deeply resonating thanks naturally flow from a thoughtful experience of gratitude. This Thanksgiving, let our gift of thanks come from the truth of a transformed heart.

Would you pray with me? Thank

you God, Creator of the universe, for the people gathered around us this Thanksgiving season. We give profound thanks for the things of the earth that give us the means of life. Thank you for the plants, animals, and birds that we use as food and medicine. Thank you for the incredible world in which we live and find the means to be clothed and housed. Thank you, Lord, for the ability to use these gifts of this beautiful amazing world. Help us to see our place this Thanksgiving season, among these gifts. Help us not to squander them, take for granted, or think of them as means for selfish gain. May we respect the life of all you have made. May our spirits be strengthened by using only what we need, and may we use our strength to help those who need us. Amen.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rev. Brandon Halford is pastor at Decell Memorial United Methodist Church in Wesson.

Cont. from page 8

Hoopsters look to build on successes

averaged 14 points, six rebounds, and four assists per game, earning All-District and Honorable Mention All-State.

Kenna Bryant, a Provine High School guard from Jackson, Mississippi, averaged 19.5 points and 8.5 rebounds per game, earning MVP and Best Offensive Player honors. Jekevious Williams, a Raymond (Mississippi) High School forward, averaged five points and five rebounds a game and helped lead his team to back-to-back 4A State Championships. Darius Kent, a guard from Ridgeland (Mississippi) High School, averaged 19.3 points, six rebounds, and 4.3 assists, scored over 1,000 points during his high school career and earned Best Offensive Player and Best Male Athlete honors.

"These guys have a really good relationship with each other so far," says Bizot. "We work toward that, we almost demand it, outside of just playing basketball. Last year's team set the tone, and we show this year's team video clips of our bench supporting each other during games, and that kind of mentality just leads to success."

Three sophomores return to the Lady Wolves: T'Kyra Hicks (TK), started in 24 games last season, shot 36 percent from the field, averaged 10.7 points per game, with nearly 30 percent of three-pointers and downed 107 rebounds. Alexandria Patton saw action in all 28 games, shot 36.7 percent from the floor, downed 100 rebounds and averaged five points per game. Ciara Norwood, a guard who played in 25 games, shot nearly 30 percent from the floor and hauled in 39 rebounds.

A host of freshmen will join the Lady Wolves from across Mississippi and Louisiana:

Jordan McCoy, a 5'9 forward from Magee High School, averaged 12 points and 12 rebounds per game during her senior year, which landed her on First Team All-Region and her MVP honors.

Sha'Quandra Carter, also a 5'9 forward, comes from Neville High School in Monroe, Louisiana, where she averaged 19 points, 13 rebounds, and nine steals per game last year, earning her First Team All-State, All-North Eastern Player of the Year, and All-District MVP honors. Dashell Davis, a 6'1 forward from New Orleans, averaged 19 rebounds and earned most improved honors on her high school team. TaMara Riley, a 5'7 guard from Durant, Mississippi, averaged 20 points, five rebounds, and seven assists per game as a senior. Camryn Davis, another 5'9 forward, a Monticello, Mississippi, native from Lawrence County High School, averaged 15.4 points and 4.3 rebounds per game, earned MHSAA All-District team as a sophomore, All-State, as a junior, and All-State Tournament Team as a senior and helped lead her team last season to a 4A State Championship.

Azaria Magee, a 5'9 guard from Bassfield, Mississippi, scored 639 points at Jefferson Davis High School on her way to earning All-District and All-State honors. Darien Tubby, a 5'6 guard from Choctaw (Mississippi) Central High School, averaged 8.2 points, 3.5 rebounds, and 4.2 assists per game in high school, earning All-District recognition in all four years and Fourth Team All-State honors in helping to lead

her team to a 3A State Championship as a senior. Dellesheonia, a 5'6 guard from McComb, Mississippi, averaged 14.6 points, 7.4 rebounds, and 3.5 assists in high school, earning her All-District honors in her sophomore, junior, and senior seasons. Chardonay Williams, also a 5'6 guard who played with Dixon at McComb, Mississippi, averaged 10 points, six rebounds, and seven assists, with All-District honors. Orion James, a 5'8 forward from A.J. Ellender High School at Houma, Louisiana, averaged 10.5 points and five rebounds, earning

her Class 4A State Champion MVP, First Team All-District twice and First Team All-Region and Second Team All-State.

The Lady Wolves have always been a team that can beat opponents from both the inside and out, and coach Young hopes for the same this season.

"We are going to be getting under the goal and playing from the outside," says Young. "Our post players aren't very big, but they are very athletic. So we should be talented under the goal."

SCOREBOARD

October 9 - November 11

WHS Cobras

Football

Record: 4-6. Recent Losses: Columbia. 44-0. Seminary 41-20. West Marion 21-12. Tylertown. 28-26. Jefferson Davis. 55-27.

Boys Basketball

Record: 1-0. Recent Wins: Mendenhall. 65-30.

Boys Soccer

Record: 1-1. Recent Wins: Bogue Chitto. 7-4. Recent Losses: Green County. 2-0

Co-Lin Wolves

Football

Record: 6-4. Recent Wins: Hinds. 41-27. East Central. 42-17. Southwest. 31-17. Recent Losses: Jones. 28-23. East Mississippi. 31-7 (MACJC Playoff Game).

Men's Basketball

Record: 0-1. Recent Losses: Holmes. 88-75.

Women's Basketball

Record: 1-0. Recent Wins. Holmes. 62-55.

Golf

Seventh among 13 total teams and fourth among MACJC teams in Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Fall Invitational at Windance County Club, Gulfport, Mississippi.