

INSIDE:	
Sports Shorts.....	2
Community Calendar.....	4
News Nuggets.....	5
Healthy Living.....	6
Area Arts.....	10
Meet Your Neighbor.....	11

Wesson News

SPOTLIGHT
Founders Day
Queen & Awards
 Page 12

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Volume 7, Number 5

"Good News You Can Use"

May 14, 2019

WAC students thank Lions Club

Special to Wesson News

Three eleventh graders and the faculty advisor to the Beta Club from Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) thanked the Wesson Lions Club for helping youth become leaders in their communities.

Recalling the observation by legendary football coach Vince Lombardi that although "perfection is unattainable," you "can reach excellence" by chasing it, Albert Brown, the WAC Beta Club advisor, said the Lions Club helped students pursue the chase through its youth leadership conferences in Mississippi.

This year, the Wesson Lions Club sent four WAC students, all members of the school's Beta Club, to its state organization's conferences for boys and girls in March. At the conferences, students hone leadership skills in interacting with peers in competitive sports, discussing issues important to them and hearing motivational speakers. Daniel Anderson and

Larson Lewis attended to the boys leadership conference. Caitlyn Williams and Emma Anderson participated in the girls leadership conference.

Although Larson could not be present to personally thank Wesson Lions Club members, he sent word through Brown that he appreciated the opportunity to attend the boys conference, which "gave me tools for my journey towards becoming a better man." Lewis cited Dog Patch is Olympic competition, which builds team leadership, as an important program. He and his cabin mates at the conference were winners.

At the girl's camp, Emma Anderson said she learned to speak easily one-on-one with new people and went away with greater confidence. Daniel Anderson cited robotics and tug-of-war and Dog Patch Olympics competitions at the boys conference, and Caitlyn Williams said she came "out of my shell," made new friends,

cont. on page 12

Summit initiates economic strategizing

Special to Wesson News

Southwest Mississippi economic leaders started thinking about cooperative strategic planning last week to help guide regional economic development.

Co-Lin and Entergy hosted an economic summit that featured more than one hundred local, state and national speakers and participants, including development specialists, educational leaders, elected officials, business stakeholders and others interested in the well-being of their communities for the five-hour meeting at the Thames Conference Center on the Wesson Co-Lin campus that looked at creating a regional economic development approach.

Dr. Jane Hulon, Co-Lin president, welcomed attendees, noting that she has made local economic health a priority at the college and wants it to be a leader in developing a regional approach to boost economic development in Southwest Mississippi. The summit focused specifically on

the seven counties that comprise the Co-Lin district -- Adams, Copiah, Franklin, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lincoln and Simpson.



Special to Wesson News

Dr. Jane Hulon

Five economic development specialists from the Co-Lin district

cont. on page 9

Volunteers sought to plant trees and flowers

Special to Wesson News

Wesson is looking for volunteers to plant trees and flowers in locations around town as part of its response to a beautification grant awarded the city by the Mississippi Urban Forest Council, America in Bloom and the Canadian National Railroad.

The town received \$12,500 from the organizations and they must match it with community involvement

in planting the trees and flowers it purchases with the grant funds, Town Clerk Angela Hester reports.

Four sites have been identified for planting:

- The municipal park near the railroad tracks.
- West Railroad Street and Main Street at the edge of the Ashley property.
- The fountain courtyard on Highway 51.
- Grounds of the Old School.

"We're asking anyone interested in

helping beautify the community," Hester says. "Boy Scout Troop 125 and Girl Scout Troop 4751 are already on board." Wesson Garden Club will schedule work days for different planting areas as volunteers sign up.

As the planting project moves through various stages, grant judges will come to Wesson periodically to evaluate local progress and compare it to activity in other community that have received similar grants. Judges

will first visit Wesson on June 13.

Nora Berch and Keep Copiah County Beautiful submitted the grant application on behalf of Wesson, Hester says. Mississippi State University and officials from the U.S. Agricultural Extension Agency based there are helping to guide the local project and participating in ongoing planning.

Already flowers and willow trees have arrived for planting to begin.

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Sports camps and Copiah-Lincoln NFL pick

Special to Wesson News

For children and youth who are aspiring athletes, play on teams or needs to shape up, Co-Lin will roll out a variety of camping options starting this month.

Among the options are specialty camps focusing basketball, softball and baseball guided by Co-Lin coaches on the college's Wesson campus facilities in which individual boys and girls in the first through eighth grades can work on fundamentals, mechanics and drills and players from junior high, high school and junior varsity teams can sharpen their skills in actual competition. The Co-Lin Simpson County Center will host an Archery Camp for kids ranging from age 10-15 that introduces them to the sport.

There is another camp conducted by Co-Lin Cheerleaders, who will teach a dance, cheers and jumps to would-be future cheerleaders from kindergarten up. Another summer day camp will provide youth ages 6-10 a 3-day opportunity to participate in structured recreation activities that features age and developmentally appropriate, engaging instruction promoting and fostering active participation.

The sports and athletic camps include (unless noted, visit www.colin.edu for camp information and registration forms):

May 22 & 23

Basketball Fundamentals Day Camp for first through eighth graders will teach sound fundamentals to each camper in a pleasant learning environment, regardless of the camper's level of ability. Two sessions and lunch from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. each day. \$85.00 camp fee includes instruction, limited insurance, a camp t-shirt, regulation basketball and lunch.

May 28-31

Girls High School Team Basketball Camp includes twelve games at Mullen Gymnasium for high school and junior varsity teams to sharpen their collective skills. There will be meetings for team coaches. The \$170 per player camp fee includes officials, rooms, meals, limited insurance, and camp t-shirt. Fees will be adjusted if players do not stay in dorms. Registrations must include at eight players for one team and fifteen to sixteen players for two teams.



Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin's Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (HPR) Division recently announced its annual awards. Pictured (left to right) are HPR Division Chair Brenda Smith, Corbin Lester of Ruth, Outstanding Men's Cheerleading; Ashlyn Locke of Brookhaven, Outstanding Women's Cheerleading; Damarius Brooks of Brookhaven, Outstanding Men's Basketball; Ciara Norwood of Mendenhall, Outstanding Women's Basketball; Lucas Brewer of Hohenwald, Tennessee, Outstanding Golf; Thomas Slagle of Roxie, Outstanding Baseball; Harmoni Ashley of Wesson, Outstanding Softball; Toby White of Brookhaven, Outstanding Men's Tennis; and Carmen Manicea of Wesson, Outstanding Women's Tennis.

May 28-29

Softball Skills Camp for first through eighth graders will teach sound fundamentals to each camper in a pleasant learning environment, regardless of the camper's level of ability. \$80 fee.

June 2-4

Girls Junior High School Team Basketball Camp includes nine games at Mullen Gymnasium for high school and junior varsity teams to sharpen their collective skills. There will be meetings for coaches. The \$135/per player camp fee includes officials, rooms, meals, limited insurance, and camp t-shirt. Fees will be adjusted if players do not stay in dorms. Registrations must include at eight players for one team and fifteen to sixteen players for two teams.

June 3-5

Baseball Summer Camp for six to twelve year olds teaches mechanics and includes drills for fielding, throwing and hitting and covers basics of pitching and catching. Head baseball coach Clay Smith and assistant coaches Bryan Nobile and Jack Edmonson, along with current Co-Lin baseball players, will provide instruction. \$80 pre-registration camp fee and \$100 walk-

up fee covers instruction, camp t-shirt and limited insurance.

June 5-7

Boys Junior High Team Basketball Camp includes games at Mullen Gymnasium for junior varsity and junior high school teams to sharpen their collective skills. There will be meetings for coaches.

June 9-12

Boys High School Team Basketball Camp includes games at Mullen Gymnasium for high school and junior varsity teams to sharpen their collective skills. There will be meetings for coaches.

June 10-11

Archery Summer Camp for ten-to-fifteen year-olds. Day one covers introduction to archery, safety rules, eye dominance test, practicing form with a string bow, bow fitting and shooting first shots on a range with a coach or mentor. Day two covers practicing form with a string bow, NASP 11 steps to Archery Success, introduction to NASP Targets and scoring and archery competition. \$50 fee. Co-Lin Simpson County Center. Contact jason.cooley@colin.edu/601-573-9844 or beverly.barnes@colin.edu/601-849-0121.

SPORTS SHORTS

June 13-14

Cheer Camp. Visit www.colin.edu for information on fees and program.

June 17-19

Wolf Pack Kids Recreational Summer Day Camp for six-to-ten-year-olds seeks to provide an active, positive and exciting environment for participants in a variety of recreations opportunities under the direction and supervision to health and physical education professionals. The \$40 fee includes backpack and water bottle. Register through June 7. Limited to thirty participants. Contact Dr. Stephanie Duguid for information or to register at 601.643.834/stephanie.duguid@colin.edu.

June 26-27

Softball Team Camp includes games for teams to sharpen their collective skills. \$50 per player registration team.

NFL draft pick. The Washington Redskins picked up Montez Sweat, a standout defensive end who played one season for Co-Lin in 2016, in 2019 NFL Draft at Nashville, Tennessee. The Redskins traded their forty-sixth pick and a second-round 2020 pick to grab Sweat as their twenty-sixth pick from the Indianapolis Colts. A Stone Mountain, Georgia, native, Sweat racked up 39 tackles and five sacks in his nine-game season with the Wolfpack. The 6-foot-6 edge rusher had many breakout plays and games for the Wolves, including one against East Central with a one-handed deflection and interception that led to a touchdown in a thrilling come-from-behind victory and another in which his three-sack performance helped Co-Lin beat Pearl River 31-17. Sweat joined the Mississippi State Bulldogs in Starkville after Co-Lin, becoming one of the most prolific defensive ends in the nation, posting 22.5 sacks and earning two First-Team All-SEC selections and Second-Team All-American honors. Sweat joins Nick Fairley (first round, thirteenth pick, 2011) as the only other Co-Lin player taken in the first round of the MFL draft. He will be the sixteenth former Co-Lin gridder to play on an NFL roster or practice squad, the third to suit up for the Redskins behind Randy Thomas and Super Bowl XXVI champion Stephen Hobbs.

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Foundation adds seven Hall of Famers

Special to Wesson News

The Co-Lin Foundation has inducted seven new members into its Hall of Fame, 121 other individuals, couples and organizations who have contributed \$10,000 or more in scholarship funds to Co-Lin since 1994. They are Bettye Lusk Boutwell of Wesson, Katrina Falvey of Meadville, Troy C. Greer of Mendenhall, Barbara Ann Richardson of Metairie, Louisiana (originally of Strong Hope), the Nathan Steele Foundation, Puckett Machinery Company, and the Southwest Mississippi Resource Conservation and Development Council.

Bettye Lusk Boutwell established the Lauri Alison Boutwell Mathis Memorial Scholarship in memory of her daughter, a 1996 honors Associate degree graduate of the Co-Lin nursing program. The scholarship is awarded to a deserving second-year Associate Degree Nursing student. Boutwell is a 1957 graduate of Co-Lin High School and 1959 graduate of Co-Lin college, who played in the college band and was head Colette during her sophomore year.

Katrina Falvey has supported the Arthur Boyte, Jr. Family Scholarship. A native of Meadville, she graduated from Franklin High School in 2000 with honors and received an associate's degree, with honors, in health from Co-Lin in 2002. She earned a Bachelor's of Science in athletic training from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2004 and worked briefly at Camp Shelby Youth Challenge. After a motor vehicle accident took the life of her husband and left her in a coma, she changed careers, graduated with honors with an associate's degree in Medical Radiological Technology from River Community College - Forrest County, and now works at the Family Practice After Hours Clinic as a radiographer.

Troy C. Greer of Mendenhall graduated from Mendenhall High School in 1954, served in the United States Marines from 1954-1956, and played football at Co-Lin, serving as captain in 1957, and then at Delta State



Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin President Dr. Jane Hulon (front) congratulates new Co-Lin Foundation Hall of Fame inductees (left to right): Barbara Ann Richardson of Metairie, Louisiana and a Strong Hope native, the Nathan Steele Foundation represented by Tyler Blalock and David Steele, the Southwest Mississippi Resource Conservation and Development Council represented by Martha Watts, Co-Lin President Dr. Jane Hulon, Troy C. Greer of Mendenhall, Bettye Lusk Boutwell of Wesson, Katrina Falvey of Meadville, and Puckett Machinery Company represented by Teresa Odom and Jerry Evans.

University in 1958 and 1959, where he also earned a bachelor's degree in 1960. He received a master's degree from Mississippi College in 1965. Greer served as Simpson County Superintendent of Education from 1976-1980 and 1992-1996, was an alderman for the City of Mendenhall for 11 years and served on the Co-Lin Board of Trustees for eight years before his retirement in 1996. Greer is a member of the Co-Lin and Mississippi Community and Junior College Sports Hall of Fames.

Barbara Ann Richardson of Metairie, Louisiana and a Strong Hope native, graduated from Co-Lin High School and Co-Lin College, where she was a Colette and honors student; was a secretary at the Naval Architects and Marine Engineers Firm of Friede & Goldman in New Orleans, and at nineteen years old, became Secretary to the Vice President of Exploration at The California Company, now Chevron. She was a partner in Boom Automobile, Truck and Equipment Leasing, Boom Rental Tools and Boom Auto Sales & Body Shop, with offices in New Orleans, Houston, and Lafayette and owned multiple bars in New Orleans and Metairie,

Nathan Steele Foundation was

created by David Steele, with Tyler Blalock, to provide rural emergency medical services to Southwest Mississippi and honor his son, who died in 2014 after battling colon cancer for five years. Born in Brookhaven in 1980, Nathan Steele graduated from Franklin County High School and attended Co-Lin from 1999-2001. In 2010, Steele collaborated in creating Rural Rapid Response, an ambulance company specializing in rural EMS. The Nathan Steele Foundation continues to provide scholarships to students working towards their EMT/Paramedic certification.

Puckett Machinery Company is a Mississippi born and bred family business -- the authorized Caterpillar dealer for central and southern Mississippi, with six heavy equipment branch locations and five rental services stores. Puckett employs nearly 450 full-time employees. It started partnering with Co-Lin's diesel technology program in the early 1990's, and has supported the program through donations of training aids and technology, sponsoring specialized Caterpillar training for Co-Lin's diesel instructor and hosting facility tours for diesel students and funding Co-Lin scholarships in partnership

with Caterpillar's Dealer Excellence Scholarship Program.

Southwest Mississippi Resource Conservation and Development Council (SWRC&D) has worked at accelerating the conservation, development and utilization of the natural resources of the area since 1991 to improve the general level of economic activity and to enhance the environment and standard of living in the area. It seeks to improve the economic opportunities for farmers through new and expanded products and markets, enhance woodland management and utilization, promote soil and water conservation, increase the quality of the environment through reduced water pollution and emphasis on erosion control, provide adequate recreation, wildlife and tourism opportunities; and advance educational and training opportunities. The Council established a scholarship in 2018 to be awarded to a Co-Lin student majoring in a field relative to SWRC&D interests, such as conservation or economic development.

Contributions can be made to Co-Lin Foundation, P.O. Box 649, Wesson, MS 39191, by calling (601) 643-8313, visiting www.colin.edu/alumni-foundation online.

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Publisher/Owner

Clay Mansell

ClayMansell@WessonNews.com

Editor

Bob Arnold

BobArnold@WessonNews.com

Designer

Brad Henderson

Designer@WessonNews.com

Special Contributors

Dr. Stephanie Duguid
Healthy Living

R. Shaw Furlow
Area Arts

Rebecca Bates
Tending Your Garden

Sales

Lynette McCaffrey
Sales@WessonNews.com

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ClayMansell@WessonNews.com

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Police Blotter

Special to Wesson News

During April, Wesson Police Department activity encompassed:

Responses to:

- One stolen debit card
- One vehicle accident involving a train & car
- One trespassing
- One vandalism
- One recovery of stolen property
- Two assist needs of Wesson Fire Department
- One assist need of the Co-Lin Police Department
- One assist need of the Copiah County Sheriff
- One family disturbance
- Three suspicious vehicles
- Five vehicle unlocks
- Two stranded motorists

Arrests & citations for:

- Sixteen speeding violations
- Two contempt of court violations
- Two without drivers' licenses
- Three without tags
- Possession of marijuana
- One disregard for a traffic device (stop sign)
- One failure to yield to blue lights

A Wesson Police officer is on duty during school hours at Wesson Attendance Center every day. Wesson Police also conduct nightly business checks at the school. On school days, they facilitate traffic, with officers on duty between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Community Calendar

May & June weather forecast: The Old Farmer's Almanac calls for an average temperatures 73 degrees (two degrees above average) with precipitation of eight inches (three inches above average) in May and 76 degrees (two degrees below average) and precipitation of three inches (two inches below average) in June. **May 14-18:** Scattered t-storms, warm. **May 19-23:** Sunny, warm. **May 24-27:** T-storms, then sunny, warm. **May 28-31:** A few t-storms, warm. **June 1-10:** Scattered t-storms, turning cool.

MAY 14

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.

Copiah County Master Gardeners meets. Mississippi State University Extension Office at Gallman. Member meeting at 5 p.m. & educational program open to the public at 6 p.m.

MAY 15

WorkKeys Assessment for Career Readiness. Must register in advance. 601-643-8707. Thames Center on Co-Lin campus 12:45 p.m.-5 p.m. Also May 16 & 29 from 8:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

MAY 16

Institute for Learning in Retirement end-of-year picnic at Slay Wilderness.

MAY 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.

MAY 21

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

MAY 23

Wesson Lions Club membership meeting. 6:30 p.m. Co-Lin Student Cafeteria.

MAY 27

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.

JUNE 4

Wesson Board of Aldermen meet. Wesson 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.

Email Community Calendar items to BobArnold@wessonnews.com

Songwriters festival moves forward

Special to Wesson News

A musical project that promises to bring singer/songwriters from beyond the area to perform locally to share their styles, ideas and songs with area artists this summer is moving forward.

Shaw Furlow, *Wesson News* arts columnist, reported he has raised almost half the funds required for the "Overbrook Songwriters Festival" at a Wesson Lions Club meeting last month. The Club gave him \$150 to support the project.

Furlow said he is tentatively planning to bring fourteen accomplished singer-songwriters -- mostly from out-of-town -- to Brookhaven on August 3 to discuss their art and perform in an inaugural event that he envisions as the beginning of a continuing and growing part of the local music scene. They will perform and discuss their music throughout the day at Magnolia Blues, Betty's Eat Shop, Georgia Blues Bakery and Recess. Award-winning

songwriter Tricia Walker, director of the Delta Music Institute at Delta State University, will be featured in an evening solo show at Recess.

"The event will bring music fans from outside Brookhaven to town, boost business at the venue-hosts, and, most importantly, support growth of the Brookhaven music scene," Furlow said. "Songwriter festivals are popping up all over, although there are only four in Mississippi of which I am aware. This could be the groundwork for a huge area festival.

Furlow is drawing on his background as a musician and producer-promoter to develop the event. For 41 years, he was a successful band director in Mississippi and has focused on producing and promoting events and shows since his retirement, while continuing to write his own songs and perform, which he started doing in his youth. His production work since his retirement experience encompasses *Brookstock: The Documentary*, about

the annual summer rock festival in Brookhaven; *Music from the Shady Side*, a web-based video series that has helped spotlight Brookhaven musicians; *Two Old Men on the Shady Side Porch*, a Facebook interview and entertainment program; "Music and Art in Trinity Park," a lunch time music and arts event held in April and October outside the Brookhaven Episcopal Church of the Redeemer; and "Tuba Christmas in Brookhaven."

Furlow is seeking \$4,600 for artists' fees and lodging, promotion and supporting venue needs. Headline sponsors contributing \$500 or more will get ten free tickets for the Tricia Walker show and the "meet and greet" for her at Recess. Secondary sponsors (\$250 to \$499) will get five free tickets for the Tricia Walker show and the "meet and greet" for her at Recess. Line sponsors (\$100 to \$249) will get two free tickets for the Tricia Walker show and the "meet and greet" for her at Recess.

Mill Town Mall

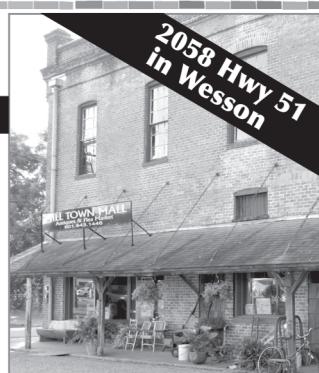
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Bob Arnold, Editor

Scholarships, lovebugs, awards & vaccines

Special to Wesson News

Science Quest winners. One hundred high school students from fourteen schools competed in the thirty-fourth annual Science Quest hosted by Co-Lin for full tuition two-year scholarships to the college awarded to first place winners, full tuition one-year scholarships awarded to second place winners, \$500 and \$250 scholarships awarded to third and fourth place winners and textbooks awarded to honorable mention winners. Winners in the biology competition were Rainey Gayten of Brookhaven High School, first place; Alex Dale of Cathedral, second place; Lucie LeBlanc of Brookhaven Academy, third place; Gracie Malone of Brookhaven Academy, fourth place; and Morgan Newman of West Lincoln Attendance Center, honorable mention. In the chemistry competition, winners were Gray Anding of Brookhaven High School, first place; Hannah Kinnison of Brookhaven High School, second place; Jarrett Lea of Brookhaven Academy, third place; Candace Johnson of Brookhaven High School, fourth place; and Lorelai Langley of West Lincoln Attendance Center, honorable mention. Physics competition winners were Samuel Freiberger of Cathedral, first place; James Gardner of Brookhaven High School, second place; Carley Craig of Brookhaven High School, third place; Hayden Lambert of Brookhaven High School, fourth place; and Hunter Brister of Lawrence County High School, honorable mention. First through fourth place winners also received plaques.

Academic scholarships. Co Lin's Board of Trustees has approved a new \$350 per semester quarter tuition Achievement Scholarship beginning in the Fall for students with ACT composite scores of 19 and 20. Earlier, the board approved increases of \$100 and \$200 to half and full tuition academic scholarships respectively. Current students with ACT composite scores of 21-24, 25 and 26, 27 and 28

and 29 and above receive scholarships providing half-tuition, full tuition, full-tuition plus \$250 per semester for books/eResources and full-tuition plus room, meals, and a \$250 per semester for books/eResources. For more information about Co-Lin's academic scholarships, call the Office of Enrollment Services on the Wesson Campus at 601-643-8490, Admissions

NEWS NUGGETS

Office on the Natchez Campus at 601-442-9111 or the Admissions Office at the Simpson County Center at 601-849-0122.

Lovebug population explodes. The first of two Lovebug mating seasons, which started last month, is winding down, but they will resume reproductive activities in August and September. During the warm, wet winter, they burrowed into the ground and gorged. So the spring population is huge.

Pro-business award for Senator. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has presented its Commerce Spirit of Enterprise Award to Brookhaven junior U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith for supporting pro-business policies and legislation. Hyde-Smith was one of 55 U.S. Senators recognized by the Chamber for a 70 percent or higher score on voting in favor of legislation supported by the organization. She has co-sponsored the Health Insurance Tax Relief Act, which the Chamber and National Federation of Businesses both endorse.

Cybersecurity studies. Co-Lin's Career and Technical program is

launching a new Cybersecurity Technology course of study that will begin in its Fall 2019 semester. The two-year program is responding to business and industry needs for more skilled computer technicians, specifically in the areas of information security. Cybersecurity students will learn to install, design, operate, manage, troubleshoot, and maintain hardware in a secure information technology infrastructure. Classes will include wireless security and privacy, network defense and countermeasures, security testing and implementation, and Linux/Unix security. Registration for the program is open now. For more information, contact 601-643-8426 or email cnt@colin.edu.

Vaccination-healthy state. With its strong vaccination laws, Mississippi is not facing the serious challenges and public health risks confronting other states with more vaccine exemptions and less regulated legislation, says the Mississippi State Medical Association (MSMA). First in the nation for childhood immunization rates, Mississippi has not experienced outbreaks of measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases occurring elsewhere, it reports. "Throughout medical history, no other invention has prevented more diseases, serious

injuries and deaths than vaccines," says Dr. Hugh Gamble II, MSMA president. "The junk science against vaccines is a total sham. The rest of the country is looking at Mississippi's laws as the standard to follow because they work."



Wesson News

National Library Month was an occasion in April for Wesson Public Library to bring story-teller Susan Hennington to discuss the joys of reading with students from Wesson Attendance Center.

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Battling allergies and asthma this season

By Guest Columnist
Dr. Stephanie Duguid

May -- Asthma and Allergy Awareness month -- heralds the arrival of the allergy season and is a good time to prepare to deal with the varied conditions that can be not only annoying, but sometimes life-threatening. An estimated 50 million Americans suffer from all types of allergies. They are the most frequently reported chronic condition in children, and account for more than 17 million outpatient office visits. More Americans than ever before say they are suffering from asthma -- one of the country's most common and costly diseases. Asthma is the most common chronic condition among children, with nearly 5 million asthma sufferers under the age of 18. Asthma is more common in adult women than adult men, more common in male children, than female children, and more common among children than adults.



Special to Wesson News

Allergies are characterized by an overreaction of the human immune system to a foreign substance that is eaten, breathed into the lungs, injected or touched. There are indoor and outdoor allergies, skin allergies, food and drug allergies, latex allergies, and eye allergies. The most common ordinary substances that trigger allergic reactions are plant pollen, molds, household dust, cockroaches, pets, industrial chemicals, foods, medicines, feathers, second hand smoke and insect stings. An allergic reaction may occur anywhere in the body, but usually appears in the nose, eyes, lungs, lining of the stomach, sinuses, throat and skin. It can cause coughing, sneezing, itchy eyes, runny nose, and a scratchy throat. In severe cases, it can cause rashes, hives, lower blood pressure, difficulty breathing, asthma attacks and even death. Some allergy problems may not need treatment. Others can be controlled with the occasional use of an over-the-counter medication. However, sometimes allergies can interfere with day-to-day activities or decrease the quality of life. Although there is no cure for allergies, they can be managed with proper prevention and treatment. If you have chronic allergies or frequent symptoms, you may benefit from visiting an allergist. You should see an allergist if:

• Your allergies are causing symptoms such as chronic sinus

infections, nasal congestion or difficulty breathing;

- You experience allergy symptoms several months out of the year;
- Over the counter medications do not control your symptoms;
- Your symptoms are interfering with your ability to carry on day-to-day activities;
- Or if you are experiencing warning signs of serious asthma.

Among services provided by allergists are:

- Allergy testing
- Prevention education
- Medication prescriptions

LIVING +HEALTHY+

- Immunotherapy (allergy shots)

Asthma is characterized by inflammation of air passages, temporarily narrowing of the airways that transport air from the nose and mouth to the lungs. It tends to occur within families. Symptoms are coughing, chest tightness, wheezing, and shortness of breath, caused by allergens or irritants that are inhaled into the lung, resulting in inflamed, clogged, and constricted airways. Triggers may also include exercise, viral respiratory infections, respiratory irritants, second-hand smoke, and aspirin. It is a chronic disorder with no cure, but can be managed with proper prevention and treatment.

Every day:

- 44,000 people have an asthma attack;
- 36,000 kids miss school due to asthma;
- 27,000 adults miss work due to asthma;
- 4,700 people visit the emergency room due to asthma;
- 1,200 people are admitted to the hospital due to asthma;
- Nine die due to asthma.

What can you do?

- See a physician who specializes in allergies or asthma;
- Learn about asthma -- what triggers symptoms and how to avoid them;
- Recognize the signs of an oncoming episode;
- Provide preventive care so that you or your child have the least amount of difficulty with symptoms;
- Learn self-management skills.

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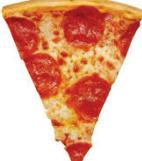
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Donation made to prevent child abuse



Special to Wesson News

Anne Houston and Carl Craig present donation check to Erin Culpepper from Southwest Mississippi Children's Advocacy Center.

Special to Wesson News

A popular area restaurant handed over one day's profits last month to help prevent child abuse.

Brookhaven-based Magnolia Blues, a *Wesson News* advertiser, gave \$3,500 realized in profits from a day's sales of its menu items and special Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month t-shirts to the Southwest Mississippi Children's Advocacy Center (SMCAC), which serves victims of abuse and neglect from Lincoln, Pike, Amite, Walthall and Copiah Counties.

The Mississippi Department of Family and Children Services investigates more than 21,000 cases of child abuse and neglect annually and serves almost 6,000 victims every year. In the area, SMCAC served 564 children in 2018.

This was the third straight year Carl Craig, Magnolia Blues owner, has held the "Smokin' Out Child Abuse" at his restaurant, each with bigger crowds coming to buy meals there to help him raise funds for SMCAC. Craig's wife, Anne Houston Craig, is a Brookhaven-based SMCAC therapist.

SMCAC provides services free of charge to child victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse and neglect. It conducts forensic interviews and offers therapy and advocates for victims and their families, and conducts a public education program. It also works with law enforcement, the Department of Child Protective Services, prosecutors and attorneys to ensure that children who need its services do not fall through the cracks.

Signs of child abuse include unexplained injuries and behavioral changes — fear of going home, changes in school performance & attendance, changes in eating, changes in sleeping, lack of personal care or hygiene, risk-taking, inappropriate sexual behaviors. When children disclose abuse, do not show anger or disbelief, believe them and make sure they know it, seek help from a professional trained to ask questions about child sexual abuse, report all cases of suspected abuse both inside and outside the immediate family. Don't panic. Sexually abused children who receive help can and do heal.

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Calm 2019 Legislature delivers significant acts

Special to Wesson News

The 2019 Mississippi legislative session adjourned early last month on its eighty-first day.

Although it was one of the shortest sessions on record, with looming November elections possibly providing a calming effect, key pieces of legislation were enacted. They included:

- **The Mississippi Broadband Enabling Act**, which allows the state's 25 rural electric cooperatives to offer broadband internet service in their territories, in addition to their current services. Under the new law, each individual co-op would be able to decide if they'll offer broadband, and customers will not be forced to pay for internet services.

- **The Landowner Protection Act**, which seeks to protect property/business owners from lawsuits if a crime is committed on their property or if a person is hurt on their property and decides to sue. Some lawmakers worried that the law would create a sense of "immunity" for business owners when it comes to liability, but the bill was ultimately passed and signed by Governor Bryant.

- **The Heartbeat Bill**, which prohibits an abortion in Mississippi as soon as a fetus has a detectable heartbeat. Already, the Center for Reproductive Rights is challenging the new law in court. Opponents of the bill say that a woman may not even know she is pregnant at that time, which is typically around six weeks into a pregnancy.

- **The Human Trafficking Bill**, which changes state law to ensure that minor victims of human trafficking cannot be charged with prostitution,

regardless of the circumstances. Also included in the bill is language requiring law enforcement to receive specialized training on human trafficking and the development of services for youth survivors of trafficking.

- **The Teacher Pay Raise**, which gives teachers a \$1,500 raise in the coming year. The legislation, which passed after lengthy debates in both chambers around final amount of the raise, started the pay hike at \$1,000. A House amendment increased it to \$4,000, but during budget negotiations, the raise was knocked back down to \$1,500.

- **The Criminal Justice Reform Act**, which seeks to expand drug courts in Mississippi and allows for more people with nonviolent offenses to apply for a one-time expungement to improve their chances of finding a job upon re-entering the community. Mississippi's push for reform mirrors the efforts in D.C. after the bipartisan 'First Step Act' was signed into law by President Trump in December.

- **The ESA Funding Increase**, which add \$2 million to the state's Education Scholarship Account Program. While bills to boost a funding increase died earlier in the session, the new monies were placed into the appropriations bill for the Department of Finance and Administration at the last moment. Created in 2015, the ESA program provides up to \$6,500 for parents seeking to find a new school for their child upon receiving a special needs diagnosis from their school district. The additional funds bring the program's funding up to \$5 million, but many students and families remain waitlisted.

cont. from page 1

Economic Summit

-- Chandler Russ (Adams), Garrick Combs (Lincoln), Arthur Evans, Jr. (Copiah), Dave Nichols (Lawrence) and Danny Caughman (Simpson)-- did a combined analysis of their counties, looking at particular strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that impact their activities, including demographics, infrastructure and labor. Ed Gardner, Director of Business & Economic Development at Entergy Mississippi, also explored his company's economic development vision for the state and local region to set a direction for planning the future. Casey K. Sacks, Deputy Assistant

Secretary for Community College in the U.S. Department of Education Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education, stressed partnerships that end duplication of efforts and leverage resources, with an examination of some of the best examples in rural areas. Fred McConnel, Director of the ACT Work Ready Communities, spotlighted his program as a tactic that is currently helping local businesses in hiring and retention of workers.

The meeting concluded with a brief look at possible next steps.

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A lot to do if you're bored

By Guest Columnist Shaw Furlow

"Mom, I'm bored. There is nothing to do." How many times have we, as parents, heard this sad lament from our children during the summer break? Children, whose lives are governed by a bell, suddenly find themselves free from the shackles of a tight, well planned schedule and need things to do. In an effort to help you with this problem, I have compiled a list of activities to help keep your child active. Of course, this list isn't totally complete, but this is a good place to start.

The obvious first place to check is your church's Vacation Bible School. I remember not only going to the VBS at my church but those of my friends, as well. If you plan right, you can get three weeks from VBS.

Unless your kids are participating in all star or travel teams, the baseball and softball seasons are over. That leaves time to attend any of the sports camps offered in the area. There are basketball, baseball and softball camps at Co-Lin. As a young boy, I



Special to Wesson News

attended sports camps. Now, I didn't develop into an athlete, but I had fun, made friends and worked hard all day, and learned a bit about tennis and golf.

At Co-Lin, there are also a number of non-athletic camps this summer on the Wesson Campus. My favorite, when I served on the college's faculty, was the Robotics Camp. Each week, campers assemble, program and learn to operate robots. Robots are a big part of our future, and these youngsters are getting an early start. Check Co-Lin's website for details.

Dr. Stephanie Duiguid at Co-Lin is also producing a day camp focused on healthy living. Co-Lin staff and students will provide leadership, covering healthy food choices and exercise. Again, check the Co-Lin website for specifics.

For the young musicians in the family, there are more opportunities than ever before to sharpen their skills. Los Angeles percussionist and Co-Lin alum Buddy Gibbons will host a week of percussion, featuring marching band and drum set lessons. Gibbons is well known in the LA area as a composer of theme songs for Fox Sports, ABC, ESPN and others. He is well known in our corner

of the world as a generous person who gives back to students whenever possible. For more information, contact Chad Austin at Co-Lin.

One of the most exciting opportunities for the young musician in your family is the Music Discovery Camp for Kids at the Downtown Music Academy on Railroad Avenue in Brookhaven. Students will be introduced to a number of musical instruments, different styles of music and composers. It will include introductory music-reading and other hands on activities are planned. The academy faculty will serve as instructors. Local musicians and entrepreneurs Greg Smith and Tony Norton opened the academy on March 1, and the number of students enrolled in their programs has grown weekly.

To work on band, vocal, guitar, violin or piano skills this summer, the Downtown Music Academy has a faculty of nine instructors, one of whom has just the program for your family's musician.

One more Co-Lin camp of note is the Art and Clay camp sponsored by the art department. Camp participants will make 3D figures and learn the process of glazing and firing their projects. Contact Janet Smith at Co-

Lin for more information.

A while back, I wrote an article about Brookhaven artist, Derek Covington Smith. Smith has recently moved his business to The Little Yellow Building on Highway 51 and has begun teaching students of all ages. So adults who need some quiet time should check out his art classes.

A resource often overlooked is your local public library. Libraries have weekly story times and special events. Check the website of your library.

One more stop: Brookhaven Little Theatre, which has an extremely strong summer workshop program for both teens and preteens. The teen workshop begins June 1, and a pre-teen program starts July 15. Again, check the website.

Plenty to do this summer. Limit the computer time. Put a guitar or a tennis racquet in your child's hand, and send them to the park. The splash pads are working.

That's it for this month, but it's a lot! Support the arts.

EDITOR'S NOTE: R. Shaw Furlow is a local composer, musician and arts promoter. He produces an internet-based video show -- From the Shadyside -- that spotlights area musical talent and is a consultant to school bands in the region.



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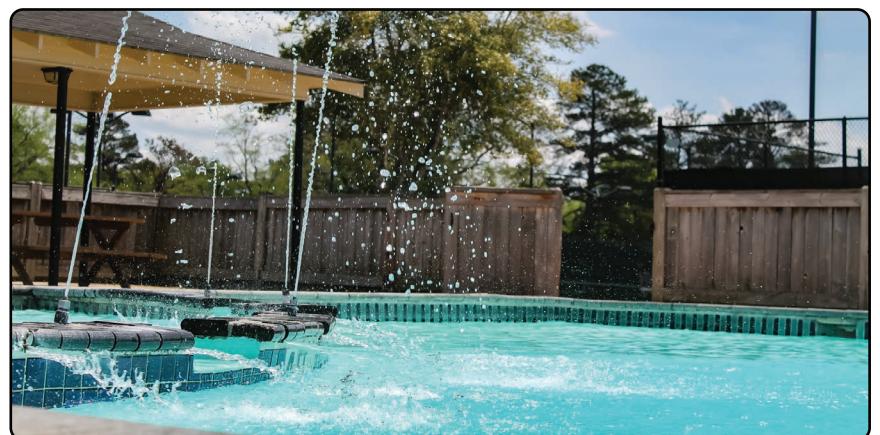
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Mike Webb — controversial history buff

By Bob Arnold

Although Mike Webb has lived in Copiah County for most of his life, he didn't settle down in Wesson until September 2018. "My wife and I came here to be near our three daughters, ten grand kids and seven great grand kids," he says. On Eighth Street next to their rental home, he opened Little Dixie Sutler in a small barn-like structure, where he sells "flags, bags, tags and rags" -- knick knacks of all sorts, many of which recall the old Southern Confederacy, his historical passion and hobby focus.

People who have come to know Webb appreciate his outspoken, often controversial, but largely fair commentaries on the world from his perspective as a history buff who offers sympathetic explanations of the Confederate and post-Civil War Southern culture.

Born in Magnolia in Pike County, Mississippi, Webb grew up in Crystal Springs, and recalls fishing in the Pearl River, rigging trout lines and camping in his youth before earning an honors degree in heavy equipment mechanics at Co-Lin, where he studied from 1975-77. For many years, Webb worked in the Jackson area as an auto parts salesman and warehouse manager, owning a small store in the late 1970s until, he says, "Walmart and other big stores put retailers like me out of business."

"My last real paying job was as a radiological technician at the old Hardy Wilson Memorial Hospital in Hazlehurst," he recounts. At that time in 2007, Webb returned to Co-Lin to study radiological technology to better equip him to do the work, but deteriorating eyesight caused by optic nerve atrophy forced him to abandon his new career ambitions, and he redirected his studies to history and political science for which he received a Co-Lin degree with high honors in 2011. The new studies at Co-Lin complemented his growing hobby interests around the Confederacy, inspired by visiting a Civil War

reenactment at Raymond, Mississippi, in 2001. The hobby has consumed his work life since then.

"They say there is a fine line between being a dedicated hobbyist and being mentally ill," Webb observes. "I was bitten by the bug at the Civil War reenactment I enjoyed at Raymond, and there's no doubt some people think I am crazy," he adds.

Webb started collecting Civil War and Confederate memorabilia and reselling it on the internet and as a vendor at flea markets and other Civil War reenactments. He joined the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV) -- an historical preservation society that advocates continuing official status of the current Mississippi state flag, which features a Confederate battlefield flag as part of its design; marks the unmarked graves of Confederate soldiers and maintains the old home/museum -- Beauvoir -- of Confederate States President Jefferson Davis. Webb is the immediate past Second Lieutenant Division Commander of SCV. Along the way, Webb has become something of a scholar on the history, symbolism and heraldry of flags, particularly those flown by Confederate militia on battlefields, the three Confederate national flags and various Christian flags, among others. His Wesson store sells hundreds of flags, and Webb can tell stories about each one.

Little Dixie Sutler began in the living room of an ante bellum home Webb still owns in Fernwood, Mississippi. Its name honors the salesmen -- called sutlers -- who followed Confederate armies to sell their wares to soldiers. His store now has about 300 online customers to whom he connects on Facebook for the most part. Increasingly, walk-in customers have become part of his trade at the Wesson Eighth Street location.

Your hobby has obviously become your business. Do you do anything else?

My disabilities limit me. In addition to my eyesight, I suffer from painful neuropathy in my feet. I used to enjoy



Wesson News

bass fishing, but I cannot be as active as I once was. So now it's largely the store. I am not making any money. But it gives me something to do. I enjoy meeting people and will engage in civil discourse with people willing to engage with me. I think I am a pretty good debater.

Are you a reader?

When I was a kid, I used to pick up encyclopedia volumes and read them cover to cover. I also devoured text

books, particularly anything related to history. I haven't travelled much, but my reading has taken me all over the world, and I can tell you about the pictures of places that I have never visited. Today, I focus on reading newspapers on my cell phone because of my eyesight. I follow military topics, particularly about the Navy -- aircraft carriers, submarines; and anything of historical interest. I try to steer clear of politics, which can get my dander up.

How about movies and theater?

I like action movies with Bruce Willis and Jason Statham.

Are you a music fan?

I like just about any kind of music, but still remember lyrics of songs from the 1960s and 1970s. My wife's family in northern Alabama got me into old folk mountain and gospel music. They made their own stringed instruments -- ukuleles, dulcimers -- and would gather on Friday nights to play and sing. I learned to read shaped notes, participating in their convention singing. I like to play drums.

How would you spend any lottery winnings?

After taking care of myself and family, I would find positive ways to help the local, state, national and world communities of which I am part. Our country, particularly, is deeply divided, and I would try to find ways to change its direction.

Do you have any great wishes for yourself?

I've been a lucky man, blessed with a good wife and family. Sometimes, we don't like each other, but we always love each other. But I would wish for better health. All else would fall into place.

How would you change the world?

We need to find our common values again in the foundational documents, sentiments and godliness that made our country great -- not perfect, but great. Our politicians are not the statesmen of history, who could find common ground.

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Founders Day queen and parade winners



All Photos by Wesson News

American Legion float.



Emma Anderson rides in Founders Day parade as new queen.



Wesson Wagon train in Founders Day parade.



Hearse from Brian King's Silent Oaks Cemetery Halloween exhibit participated with award-winning Wesson Garden Club in the Founders Day parade.

cont. from page 1

Students thank Lions Club

can now speak more confidently in social situations and enjoyed the talent show competition in which she won the second place award.

Brown said the conferences complemented student participation in the Beta Club, which seeks to build leadership skills of its members by giving them service opportunities. The Club, the nation's largest student service organization, requires members to complete at least twenty

hours of community service every school year, he explained. WAC has a junior Beta Club with seventh and eighth grade students and a senior club with high school students through the twelfth grade. Members must have a high grade point average, demonstrate good character and be active in service projects.

The Lions Club presented certificates to the students who participated in the spring leadership conferences.

Special to Wesson News

The Wesson Chamber of Commerce crowned Emma Anderson queen and recognized three organizations for their creative participation in the parade at Wesson's annual Founders Day last month.

The Chamber presented cash awards to the parade winners:

- **First place.** Wesson Garden Club, which carried its members in a floral-adorned horse-drawn carriage and convertible and the horse-drawn hearse from Brian King's Silent Oaks Cemetery Halloween exhibit
 - **Second place.** The Wesson American Legion Post, which carried its members in a patriotically-colored red, white and blue trailer honoring the hundredth birthday of the Legion, which is being celebrated throughout the nation.
 - **Third place.** The Wesson Wagon Train, whose members road atop horses in a caravan following a horse-pulled conestoga wagon.
- Anderson, the daughter of Tim

and Paige Anderson, will reign throughout the year as servant royalty at Chamber events.

She is an eleventh grader at Wesson High School, where she will be the 2019-20 drum major. In addition to her participation in the school's marching band, she is the head programmer on the school's robotics team and a member of the Wesson Attendance Center Beta Club, a service organization, and academics team.

Anderson, who wants "to make a difference in the world around me" and "help accomplish great things in my community" helped execute a toy drive for Tennessee wildfire victims, organize an arts and crafts program for the Vacation Bible School at her church and volunteered at Brookhaven Animal Rescue League. She plans to attend the University of Southern Mississippi and pursue a career in marketing and communications.

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