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Wesson News

SPOTLIGHT

Co-Lin Honors Alumni

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Volume 10, Number 11

“Good News You Can Use”

November, 2022

Holiday season begins in Wesson

By Bob Arnold

The Wesson holiday season begins November 15 with the annual community luncheon at Co-Lin, setting the stage for the highlight of the season here – the town’s Christmas parade on Friday, December 2.

In the weeks ahead, food, fellowship and holiday cheer inspired by music, lights and decorations combine to create a unique season in Wesson and throughout southwest Mississippi.

At its Thames Center November 15, Co-Lin is hosting its annual community luncheon with a traditional Thanksgiving style meal featuring turkey, ham, country vegetables, salads and a variety of desserts prepared by Chris McSweyn, the town’s premier chef, who cooked so many holiday meals at Porches Restaurant over the years and has settled in as the college’s top chef. The festivities with the buffet meal and the fellowship characterized by organizations and families coming together at tables begins at 11 a.m. and runs until 1:30 p.m. The \$20 per person price includes meal, beverage, dessert, tax & gratuity.



Wesson News

Santa will arrive at Christmas parade

This is the nineteenth year for the event, and it will bring some 300 persons, including Co-Lin employees, members of community social and civic organizations, employees of area businesses, families and individuals together. The community event evolved from a 2002 marketing showcase of the college’s Thames Conference Center facilities and food service into a venue for food, fun and fellowship involving an increasingly wider community.



Wesson News

Co-Lin community luncheon.

The community comes together again, with people lining Highway 51 downtown to welcome Santa Claus as part of an old fashioned small town parade.

The Christmas parade, which had to be scaled back in 2020 because of COVID-19 pandemic precautions, came

back bigger and better last year and will continue as the big town event it has been throughout its history. It will roll at 4

cont. on page 9

Wesson becomes fall postcard

By Bob Arnold

If you don’t know it’s autumn in Wesson, it’s not the fault of Wesson Garden Club (WSG), which has continued its tradition of decorating the town for the fall season.

Throughout the town, you can find scarecrows and wreaths, flowers, decorative scenes and interior displays that turn Wesson into the likes of a fall postcard and shout out “fall is here” through the work of WGC members.

Fall-colored mums in the club’s downtown planters complement the scarecrows and wreaths its members have scattered through the streets. The Chamber Garden and Fountain Garden Park have been graced by the fall touches of the club’s members. They have created fall designs at the Wesson Attendance Center and 51 Diner. In addition, the WGC Educational Committee set up a beautiful fall display in the Wesson Library.

Their fall decorations all add up to a backdrop for a festive fall season in Wesson.

The Wesson Garden Club is a member of The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc., National Garden Clubs, Inc., Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc. and Natchez Trace District-Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc.



51 Diner.



Wesson Attendance Center.



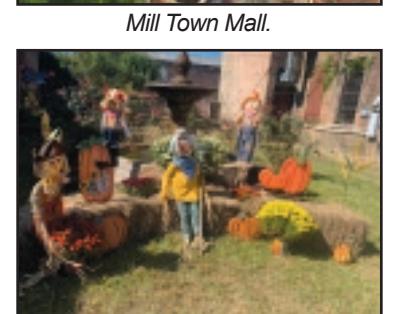
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Grass, trees & Co-Lin in new life

By Bob Arnold

Stephanie Duguid – the Dean of Academic Instruction at Co-Lin since 2017 -- and her husband Brent settled in Copiah County following Hurricane Katrina in 2006, attracted by its small towns and rural life with grass and trees and to get away from the hustle-bustle and congestion of Phoenix, Arizona, where they had spent most of their career lives.

“We discovered the area when we came to Hazlehurst in 2000 to attend the wedding of my college roommate and fell in love with it,” she says.

Over the next few years, the Duguids plotted their departure from Phoenix, where they experienced much of its burgeoning growth from a city of one million to 4.5 million between 1997 and 2007. After purchasing some land near Hazlehurst, they made their move with a lot of hope about the future, but no jobs or other certainties that more cautious people might have wanted.

“When locals asked us about why we relocated, my husband would joke that we were in the witness protection program,” she recalls.

Actually, Duguid was first introduced to Mississippi life in the 1990s when she played volleyball on a scholarship at the University of Southern Mississippi and earned a BS in Human Performance with an emphasis in athletic training at the Hattiesburg campus.

Duguid spent her childhood and youth in Sugar Land, Texas, southwest of Houston, where she grew up on a ranch, rode horses, competed in barrels, poles and goat-riding in rodeos, played volleyball and soccer, and was an active student at Clements High School, where she served on the student council and was voted Most Athletic in her senior class.

For 25 years, she has been an educator, starting at age 19 as a teaching assistant in college and an American Red Cross First Aid and CPR trainer and focusing on sports medicine throughout her career.

After graduating from USM in 1995, she headed for Phoenix and A.T. Still University’s Arizona School of Health Sciences, where she earned an MS in Sports Health Care in 1997 and then started her work life at Northern Arizona University as the assistant athletic trainer in charge of women’s sports from 1997 to 1999. From 2000 to 2007, Duguid taught math, biology, earth science and sports health care in junior high and high school, while earning an MA in education, curriculum and instruction at Ottawa University in Phoenix in 2006.

Her mother’s death in an automobile accident in 2001 was a life-changing event

and prompted her to pursue a Doctor of Education in educational leadership in 2003 at Phoenix-based Argosy University, which she received in 2006. “I had followed in my mom’s footsteps as an educator, and we had discussed my career direction and advancement by studying for a terminal degree,” she explains.

An education and career were not the only part of Duguid’s Phoenix life over 12 years. She also met Brent Duguid, now her husband, with whom she packed her bags and headed for southwest Mississippi for a future that has included Co-Lin for both of them and rearing kids, as well.

Soon after landing here, Duguid connected with the Co-Lin Health, Physical Education and Recreation (HPR) Division as a summer adjunct instructor, a former career and technical education (CTE) administrator who took note of her CTE experience in Arizona and hired her as Assistant Dean for the college’s CTE division on its Natchez campus. After a year there from 2007 to 2008, she took over as Division Chair/Instructor in the college’s HPR division on the Wesson campus in 2008, became Assistant Dean of Academic Instruction in 2012 and moved into her current position as Dean of Academic Instruction in 2017.

Her husband, meanwhile, worked as a handyman, served in part-time roles as a fifth and seventh grade teacher at Wesson Attendance Center and was an employee at Gatlin Hydraulics before Co-Lin hired him as a Navigator (counselor) for students



Wesson News

Stephanie DuGuid as a rodeo rider.

in its MI-BEST degree advancement program, and subsequently moved him into positions as Assistant Dean of CTE and then Dean of Career Technical, Workforce and Adult Education.

In her role at Co-Lin, Duguid is chief academic officer responsible for overall institutional rigor, including faculty credentialing, courses and educational growth opportunities for students, partnerships with other colleges and universities and grant development related to academic programs, including nursing.

Beyond Co-Lin, Duguid also is a speaker and consultant on making positive life changes, particularly in support of women educators and leaders, through her own organization – Do Good Enterprises LLC. Follow her on Facebook at Stephanie Rector Duguid or Do Good Leadership.

What are your hobbies?

I enjoy my family, including two boys aged 13 and 14, and a stepdaughter, who is 28 years old. My father, a retired engineer, also moved here recently from Texas, and has become part of the Mississippi family. I enjoy spending time with the boys and watching movies with them.

Are you a reader?

I am mostly into professional development books – Jon Gordon, John Maxwell and James Clear, among others.

Do you enjoy movies or theater?

I watch Hallmark, baseball and Marvel movies on family fun nights and weekends.

Do you enjoy any music?

I listen to Country and Christian music.

What would you do with lottery winnings, if you were so lucky?

I want to give back to the community. I recently set up a scholarship with the Co-Lin Foundation for students in nursing, education and social work in honor and memory of my late mother, a dedicated teacher who died much too early. I would provide opportunities for local individuals to apply for grants to the Town of Wesson for small business startups or community projects. Perhaps converting an old building in which new businesses and organizations could share office space.

How would you change the world?

That’s what I am trying to do with Do Good Enterprises as a speaker, trainer and coach, helping people to be good, do good, and feel good, while infusing positivity and balance into their lives.



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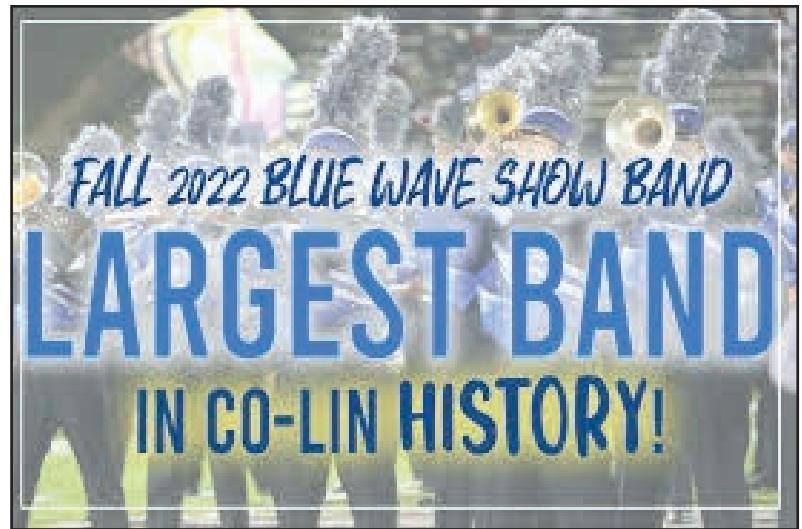
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Fine arts programs showcasing



Special to Wesson News

With the holiday season dawning, Co-Lin's Fine Arts Division is showcasing the diverse creative activities of its students.

Tonight at 7 p.m., it will bring the varied components of the program together in its annual Spectacular at the Ewing Administration Building. A sampling of everything that comes out of the Division's learning and practical activities will be featured.

On the music side in the free public event, the Division's choir, marching band and Sojourners ensemble will perform in concert in Rae Auditorium. The works of students in the visual arts will be on display in the lobby and halls at Ewing.

This year, historic numbers have participated in the marching band and choir. Overlapping participation of students in the two primary musical programs of the college spurred the growth of both of them, with the band reaching a membership of 147 and the choir, 47 – the largest for each.

The Spectacular follows a free choral production of Charles Dicken's *Christmas Carol* performed by the choir recently at Stewart Auditorium in the Fine Arts Building.

Throughout the holiday season, the marching band will also participate in Christmas parades throughout the area:

- Mendenhall. November 29. Evening.
- Bude. December 1. Afternoon.
- Brookhaven. December 1. Evening.
- Wesson. December 2. Evening.
- New Hebron. December 3.
- Monticello. December 3.

Members of the Fine Arts Division staff are Juanita Proffitt (chair/director of bands), Dr. Bobby Helms (director of choral activities), Chad Austin (assistant band director/percussion instructor), Cody McElwain (woodwind/color guard instructor), Kennedy Moore (Colette instructor), Steve Russell (piano accompanist for choir) and Carisa Mitchell (visual arts instructor).

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Leontyne Price: Mississippi's opera treasure

By Guest Columnist R. Shaw Furlow

One of my favorite stories about Mississippi musicians who blazed a trail for others wasn't born on the flat delta farmlands, but rather at Laurel in Jones county Mississippi. The story of the Diva of all Divas -- Leontyne Price.



Reared in Laurel, she was encouraged by her parents to take piano lessons, and played her first recital at age six. She took dance lessons, and, at age nine, her mother took her to Jackson to see Marian Anderson sing in concert.

Young Price was hooked, and opera became her focus. She studied music education in college and, upon graduation, was awarded a full, four-year scholarship to the famed Juilliard School of Music in New York City. While studying at Juilliard, she also took acting and dance classes, and appeared in many operas. One night, composer Virgil Thompson heard

her, and she was offered her first professional role in his opera *Four Saints in Three Acts*. Soon, she was touring the United States as the lead. European tours followed. In 1955, NBC Opera Company broadcast her debut from coast to coast.

Based on her success in *Four Saints in Three Acts*, Price took on one of her first iconic roles -- Bess in George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*.

In 1961, Price started her lengthy relationship with the Metropolitan Opera, appearing 120 times on its stage. She was the first African American to have lead roles at the Metropolitan Opera and other opera houses throughout the world.

Contemporary composer Samuel Barber approached Price about the lead role in *Anthony and Cleopatra*. He had written the role for her, and frequently spent time at her house with new pages. Her performance in it at Lincoln Center was plagued with problems from the onset, with the heavy-handed direction of Franco Zeffirelli, overwhelming sets and acting, which covered the music. Although the opera was not



Special to Wesson News

Leontyne Price

successful, Price's performance was notable.

In 1970, Price curtailed work in operas to concentrate on recitals and recordings. She retired in 1985 after performing in *Aida* at Lincoln Center.

While no longer recording, she has come out of retirement from time to time for special occasions. In September of 2001, she sang at

a special concert for the victims of 9/11. With artistic director James Levine at the piano, the 74-year-old diva belted out the gospel song "This Little Light of Mine" and then "God Bless America" unaccompanied, ending on a perfect B-flat.

Price earned 20 Grammy Awards, with millions of copies of her albums sold. She was the first opera singer to win America's highest civilian award, The Presidential Medal of Freedom, presented by Lyndon Johnson. President Ronald Reagan presented her with the Medal of Arts. The governments of France and Italy presented their highest arts awards to her. This just scratches the surface of the life and career of the Mississippi treasure. Once again, from a lowly acorn, a mighty oak grows.

That's it for now friends. Support the arts.

EDITOR'S NOTE: 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. Bob Arnold is Editor of the Wesson News.

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Hang out opens on Co-Lin campus

By Guest Columnist Kathryn Johnson

Wolf Den, the ultimate hang out spot, has begun offering food and fun on the Co-Lin for students, faculty and the wider community.

After many years of renovation and construction, the building formally housing the campus's Grill will now hold Co-Lin's Wolf Den. Vice President of Business Affairs Richard Baker explains the Wolf Den is intended to be a gathering place for students on campus, but it will welcome others looking for the unique atmosphere there.

"In the last couple of years, students have had no options anywhere to do anything on campus," Baker points out. "We are trying to remedy that."

The Wolf Den boasts 25 wide screen TVs, 3 gaming stations, a pair of pool tables, a signature smoothie bar, and a high-end rotating lunch menu. Aladdin Foods Nutrition Expert Leah Embry, Manager of the Wolf Den, plans an extensive menu

and an impressive lineup of her own signature smoothies and loaded teas. "It is going to be overrun for a few weeks," Baker predicts.

Although the Wolf Den will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., meals will be served at lunch and purchased with either a Co-Lin meal plan or debit card. During opening hours, customers will be able to purchase signature milkshakes, smoothies, loaded teas, and hand dipped ice cream served with a variety of toppings.

Pushing for a fun, energetic atmosphere, Baker assures that "I want students and other patrons to know that they can come, they can laugh, they can come as a group, they can enjoy each other, they can enjoy having time together. This is going to be something that people will enjoy and a place where a lot of great memories are made. I think I'm going to look back on my career here and say that this is maybe one of the coolest things I've



Special to Wesson News

been a part of."

Not only will the Wolf Den provide kiosks and an all-new Order Eat app to increase order efficiency, but it also will incorporate Co-Lin's first Wolf Bucks that can be used to purchase food on campus. Although Baker plans to allow Wolf Bucks to be earned through a campus group

or received from an award, every student on campus received an allotted amount with the opening of the Wolf Den.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Kathryn Johnson is a journalism student at Co-Lin and writes for Wolf Tales at the college.

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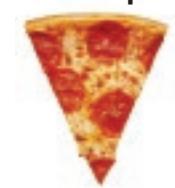
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→ How do I get the ERC?

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Henderson is Alumnus of Year

Special to Wesson News

Dr. Michael Anthony Henderson of Williamston, Michigan, originally of Brookhaven, is Co-Lin's 2022 Alumnus of the Year.

Henderson is a 1978 graduate of Co-Lin, where he was elected by his peers to the college's Hall of Fame. He was also chosen as campus favorite and served on the Student Government Association. He was selected for Who's Who in American Junior Colleges and served as co-chair of the President's Council, charter president of Alpha Omega, secretary of the Men's Resident Council and photographer for the *Wolf Tales* and the *Trillium*. He was a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the marching band, concert orchestra, jazz band, and the Christian Fellowship Club. He credits his time at Co-Lin as critical in preparing him to enter medical school at Michigan State University. One of his most influential instructors was Dr. Phyllis Lanier, an outstanding chemis-

try professor who challenged and inspired countless numbers of students to reach their potential.

After Co-Lin, Henderson attended the Millsaps College, where he received a Bachelor of Science in general chemistry. He taught Latin for one year in the Brookhaven School District before attending Michigan State University's College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed an internship with Detroit Osteopathic Hospital before entering its residency program in 1987. He then went on to complete a fellowship in medical imaging at Michigan State University's Department of Radiology.

Most of his career has been practicing in small community hospitals, a choice Henderson made because people within those communities have often been overlooked. Henderson says it is important to have someone present that can recognize a need to refer that patient to a tertiary care facility in a timely manner.

He is a fellow of the American Osteopathic Board of Radiology,



Special to Wesson News

serving as a member of the board of directors, as section leader for the Gastrointestinal Section, and as a member of the Radiology Case of the Week committee. He has also previously served as a member of the membership committee. Additionally, he is board certified by the

National Board of Osteopathic Medicine.

Henderson also serves on the board of directors at Peckham, Inc., and is a past board member for the Capital Area Humane Society. He continues to be involved with Michigan State University's College of Osteopathic Medicine, where he is the co-chair of Strategic Enrollment Planning for Diversity, a member of the admissions interview team, and a clinical associate professor in radiology. His professional memberships include the American Osteopathic College of Radiology, the American College of Radiology, the American Osteopathic Association, The Radiological Society of North America, the Michigan State Medical Society, the Mid-Michigan Radiology Society and the Gifted and Talented Advisory Board of Ingham County (emeritus).

He and his wife, Susan, have two children, David Rastall and Thomas Rastall.

Co-Lin's 2022 Homecoming Court



Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin's 2022 Homecoming Queen Ty'China Byrd of Brookhaven is pictured with her court. From left are freshman maids Marley Lott of Magee, Carmen Verser of Natchez, Kaytlin Humphreys of Brookhaven, Madelyn Barrentine of Crystal Springs; Queen Byrd; sophomore maids Hayley Freeny of Brookhaven, Cassie Whatley of McComb, Mercy Bishop of Magee, and Alexis Woods of Natchez.

Band, Colette Alumni honor Yarbrough & Bush

Special to Wesson News

The Band and Colette chapter of the Copiah-Lincoln Community College Alumni Association inducted Becky Yarbrough of New Hebron into its Hall of Fame and honored Robert D. Bush of Hattiesburg, formerly of Pinola, as the Stanley Stewart Outstanding Young Alumni:

Yarbrough is a 1967 graduate of Co-Lin, where she majored in music education. She was a member of the College Choir, Girl's Ensemble and the Colettes. During her time as a Colette, she performed with the Blue Wave Show Band in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York.

After Co-Lin, Yarbrough attended the University of Southern Mississippi, where she received a bachelor's degree in music education, with an emphasis in vocal. She taught music in Lawrence County schools for much of her career, including serving as band director at New Hebron High School.



Yarbrough.

After retiring in 1997, she began a band program at Simpson County Academy (SCA) and taught both elementary music and high school choral music. When she retired in 2001 from SCA, she had accumulated 30 years in the classroom.

Yarbrough was selected in 2000/2001 for inclusion in Who's Who Among American Women, and she received the E.M. Graham Award for Community Leadership from the Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce. In 2020, she was named grand marshal of the New Hebron Christmas Parade. She is past president of the Band and Colette

Alumni Chapter and the New Hebron Activity Club. She presently is a member of the Delta Kappa Gamma Professional Teacher's Organization.

She is a lifelong member of New Hebron Baptist Church, where she has directed adult choir, children's choir and handbell choir. She has served as the church organist for more than 50 years. She and her husband,

James ('72), have four children: Miles Riley, Christi Riley Chavis ('89), Josh Yarbrough ('96) and Jason Yarbrough (attended).

Bush is a 2008 graduate of Co-Lin, where he was a member of the Blue Wave Show Band.

After Co-Lin, Bush joined the Mississippi Army National Guard as a UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter Crewchief/Mechanic with Alpha Co, 1-185th Assault Helicopter Battalion. He deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom from 2010 to 2011. In 2015, he transferred to the 41st Army Band, where he currently serves as percussion

section leader and team leader for the unit. They perform for schools from kindergarten classes to colleges and universities across the state promoting the Mississippi National Guard, Army Bands and Army Music. Bush has been awarded the Air Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with M Device, two Army Achievement Medals, Army Commendation Medal, Combat Ac-

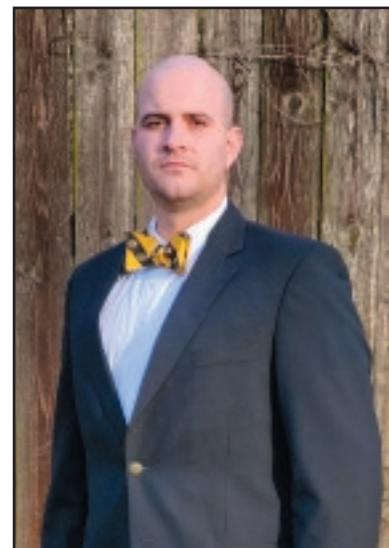
tion Badge and Aviation Wings.

Bush received a bachelor's degree in music education from the University of Southern Mississippi, with an emphasis in instrumental in 2017. He was involved with the Pride of Mississippi Marching Band, Southern Miss Steel Pan Orchestra, Symphonic Winds and many smaller musical and theater ensembles.

He currently serves as assistant band director for 6th through 12th grades at South Jones High School, where his focus is on percussion and sound engineering for the marching band. While there, he has helped the band program win back-to-back 5A State Marching

Championships (2019-2021), the 2019 Winter Guard International Open Class Winds Grand Championship and the 2021 Bands of America Class A Regional Championship. The band has also received all superior ratings for concert band during this time.

Bush is engaged to Emily Gruzinkas, and they plan to marry in May 2023.



Bush.

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Holiday season begins in Wesson

p.m. on December 2, going south through town and then back north.

Ken Carraway, who is the primary parade planner as Chief of the Wesson Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD), is still recruiting participants, but you can count on Wesson Police Department's siren-blaring cars leading the procession, followed by fire trucks from WVFD and other Copiah County fire departments and marchers from the American Legion.

Co-Lin's Blue Wave Show Band and the Wesson High School marching band will provide Christmas music. The exuberance of the Colette dancers and cheerleading squad from Co-Lin and Nena Smith Dance Studio marchers will create a celebratory mood. There will be floats and vehicles that feature members of the Wesson High School homecoming court and beauty and beau winners, area government officials, business leaders and community service volunteers.

Santa, as usual, will be at the rear of the parade, assuring that the crowd stays to the very end.

He will head to the fire house to meet kids from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. to hear their gift wishes and provide goodies from his bag. Cookies and punch will be served there.

Lights and decorations on Highway 51 and side streets downtown – installed by WVFD personnel on utility poles the Sunday before the parade (November 27) -- will provide an appropriate Christmas ambiance.

Anyone who would like to participate in the parade should contact the fire department through email (wessonfd@gmail.com) or phone (601-265-1694). There will be a registration form on the Wesson Volunteer Fire Department Facebook page.

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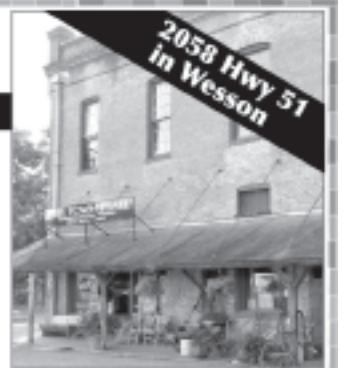
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Wesson Garden Club Honor Yards

In October, Wesson Garden Club (WGC) recognized the landscaping efforts of Barbara Ashley at 1009 Debbie Street, Blake and Amy Oberschmidt at 1104 King Road and Another Time. . . Another Place at 2056 Highway 51 in its Yard of the Month town and rural residential and organizational categories. WGC also recognized Jaymie and Amy Heard at 1013 Dickerson Road and Billy and Teri Ellison at 1047 Beech Street with its Autumn Design and Autumn Special awards. The Yard of the Month awards that recognize maintenance principles and elements of landscape design seek to encourage ongoing beautification and cleanliness of the Wesson area and cultivate a citizenry which values and protects natural resources and assumes responsibility for enhancing the environment. The Garden Club's Yard of the Month awards honor landscapes during the spring, summer and fall.



Another Time. . . Another Place property.

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Oberschmidt property.

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Be prepared for flu season

Special to Wesson News

Flu season is an annually recurring time period characterized by the prevalence of outbreaks of influenza (flu).

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

The flu usually starts suddenly and may include these symptoms:

- Fever or feeling feverish/chills (not everyone will have a fever)
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children



Most experts believe that flu viruses spread mainly by droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby. Less often, persons might also get flu by touching a surface or object that has flu virus on it and then touching their mouths, eyes or possibly their noses. Some of the complications caused by flu include pneumonia, ear infections, sinus infections, dehydration, and worsening of chronic medical conditions, such as heart or lung disease, asthma or diabetes.

You may be able to pass on the flu to someone else before you know you are sick, as well as while you are sick. Most adults may be able to infect others beginning one day before symptoms develop and up to five to seven days after becoming sick. Some people, especially young children and people with weakened immune systems, might be able to infect others for an even longer time.

The single best way to prevent the flu is to get a flu vaccination each fall. The CDC recommends that everyone age six months or older should receive the flu vaccination. Although the shots are not 100 percent effective in preventing infection, they are the best way to protect against the virus and related complications. About two weeks after vaccination, antibodies develop that protect against flu virus infection for the entire season. Flu vaccines will not protect against illnesses caused by other viruses, such as the common cold.

Although the single best way to prevent seasonal flu is to get vaccinated each year, good health habits can help stop the spread of germs and prevent respiratory illnesses like the flu.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose.
- Wash your hands often.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill.
- Get plenty of sleep.
- Be physically active.
- Manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.



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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Library winners



Special to Wesson News



Special to Wesson News

Eli Jeffery and Makinley Johnson, students in high school and elementary school, were September Wesson Public Library books giveaway winners. Jeffery received the adult category prize book – *6:20 Man* by David Baldacci – and Johnson received *The Four Fog Blues Band* by Lianne K. Takemori, the children/youth category prize. Friends of the Library (FOL) funds the prize books awarded in drawings every month. The goal of the giveaways is to bring people to the library to learn how it can meet their needs. In September into November, FOL has been tracking book checkouts by library patrons in its “Fall for Books” promotion that will award the top library user a \$50 gift certificate for purchases at any business in the Wesson area. FOL is a support organization that conducts fundraisers for the library and assists in its programming through advice and counsel, volunteers, and donations.

Water crisis-affected business loans

Special to Wesson News

Mississippi small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small aquaculture companies and private nonprofit organizations affected by the Jackson Water Crisis in six counties, including Copiah, can apply for low-interest Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

Applicants in the declared disaster area encompassing Hinds, Claiborne, Madison, Rankin, Simpson, Warren and Yazoo Counties as well as Copiah are eligible.

“SBA’s mission-driven team stands ready to help small businesses and private nonprofit organizations impacted by the Jackson Water Crisis,” said SBA Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman. “We’re committed to providing federal disaster loans swiftly and efficiently, with a customer-centric approach to help businesses and communities recover and rebuild.”

“Needless to say, safe drinking water is a necessity, and the loss of this essential resource has resulted in devastating economic impacts on the people and businesses of Jackson and surrounding communities,” said Francisco Sanchez, Jr., Associate Administrator, in the Office of Disaster Assistance of the U.S. Small Business Administration. “Those that have suffered economic losses should find comfort that the SBA is now ready to move rapidly to provide federal disaster assistance.”

“For eligible applicants, the SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster,” said SBA’s Mississippi District Director Janita R. Stewart. Interest rates for the loans are 3.04 percent for businesses and 1.875 percent for nonprofit organizations, with terms up to thirty years. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant’s financial condition.

Applicants may use online the online Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA’s secure website at DisasterLoanAssistance.sba.gov/ela/s under SBA declaration # 17621, not for the COVID-19 incident. Disaster loan information and application forms may also be obtained by calling the SBA’s Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing) or

emailing DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov. Loan applications may be downloaded at sba.gov/disaster. Completed applications should be returned to the center or mailed to U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155. The filing deadline to return economic injury applications is June 14, 2023.

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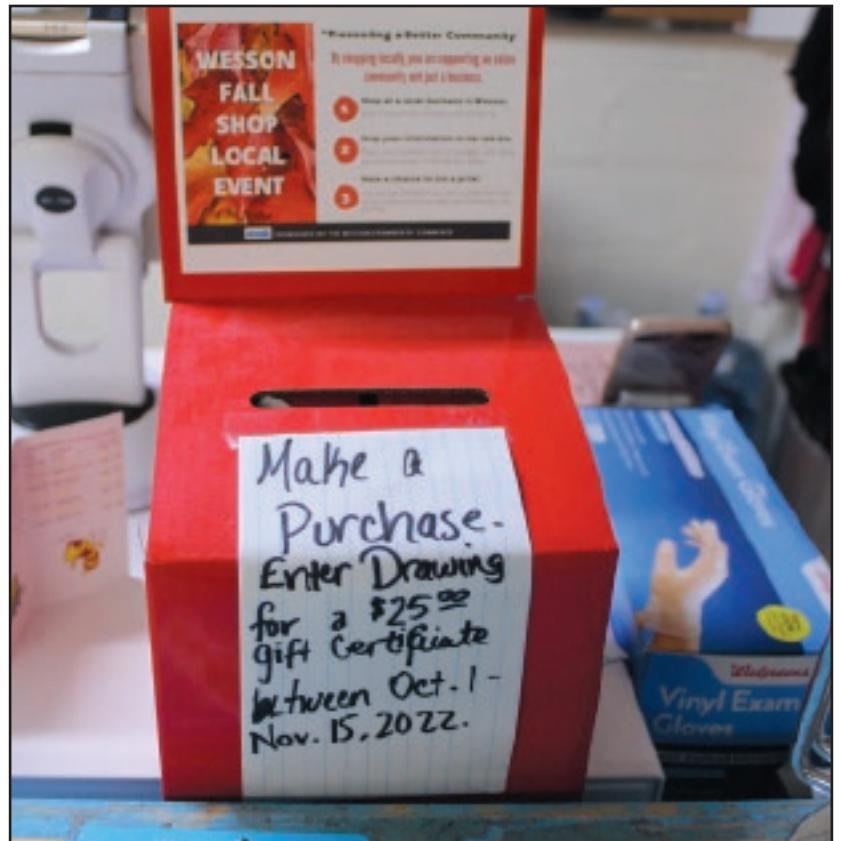
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Wesson News

Wesson Chamber of Commerce (WCC) once again is helping local retailers, eateries and other businesses attract shoppers at a time when they are thinking about holiday gift lists, entertaining and spending money for other needs.

This is the third year WCC has sponsored the Fall Shop Local promotion – a raffle in which shoppers and customers at local businesses complete entry forms and deposit them in a drawbox, hoping they win gift certificates and other prizes in drawings.

The Chamber gives participating businesses \$100 to cover gift certificate purchases or costs of other prizes awarded to winners in their drawings. It also provides specially-decorated drawboxes for their promotional displays and publicizes the raffle and spotlights participating businesses through mailings and on its Facebook page to encourage customers to visit and patronize them.

The COVID-19 business slowdown prompted the first Fall Shop Local promotion, and WCC has continued it in response to its popularity among businesses and their customers. The year's promotion stated October 1 and ended November 15.

Among participating local businesses are Copiah Nutrition, Nan Drane Massage Therapy, Copiah Bank, Skeetburger, Nena Smith School of Dance, Wolf Hollow Golf Course, Milltown Mall, Salon 5, Wesson Ace Hardware, Precious Moments Learning Center, Trustmark National Bank, Mill Town Salon and Day Spa and Dumps BBQ.

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Hoopsters looking for success

Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin basketball season has started, and its men's team is looking to new players on a revamped squad to bounce back from a disappointing season, while the Lady Wolves are looking to the experience of returners from a team that finished 17-9 overall and reached the quarter finals of the Region 23 Tournament to propel them to success.

The men feature a roster of 15 players with seven sophomores and eight freshmen, with just two returners -- guard Jemario Hersey (Brookhaven) and forward AJ Warnsley (Byram). Hersey played in all 23 games for the Wolves last season, starting in 14, and averaged 7.8 points, 5.6 rebounds, and 1.1 assists per game while Warnsley played in 20 games for the Wolves, starting in 18, and averaged 11.8 points, 10 rebounds, and 1.5 assists per game.

"Both of those guys are superior athletes, and that's always something that translates well to the game of basketball," says Head Coach David Sanders. "They are guys that can get up and down the floor quick, finish and make plays, and they showed a lot of veteran leadership for us last year, which I think will be important for us this season."

Five sophomores have transferred to the Wolves -- Kaeden Laws (Southaven), Cowandric Samuel (Jackson), Jahvon Smith (Hallandale, FL), Chanse Robinson (Ruston, LA), and Andrew Anderson (Hattiesburg). Incoming freshmen include Anterrian Hawkins (Hollandale), Chandler Hodges (Mathiston), Jabez Blaylock (Newton), Dylan Canoville (Plantation, FL) Justin Adams-Johnson (Hazlehurst), Deandre Brisco (Indianola), and Mike Smith (New Albany).

"I really like the group of guys that we have coming in this year," Sanders says. "We are going to have a lot of versatility, and I think we are going to have a great year, even though we have a lot of young guys that are going to have to step and make plays for us this season."

"Cowandric played for me at Callaway. He and Kaedan Laws transferred to us from Jones, where they were a big part of their success. Chanse Robinson, Jahvon Smith, and Andrew Anderson are all Division I transfers and their college experience will be tremendous for us. Our goal with them is to push them to the forefront and get them to lead our younger guys."

Sander calls last year "a learning experience for us as a staff, especially me with it being my first year at the college level and all the challenges we faced." He noted the Wolves were in a lot of close games and "had chances to win a bunch of those games and we just fell short in those."

"I feel very good about our chances against the conference teams this year especially with four players playing in their third year, those being Jemario, AJ, Cowandric, and Kaeden, that will all most likely be starters for us," said Sanders. "This year is a much better feel for us as coaches and the players, as we have more experienced players than what we had last year."

The 2022-2023 Lady Wolves roster, meanwhile, includes 15 players: Four returning sophomores -- Kiersten Ball (Louisville), Leilani Lewis (Baton Rouge, LA), Tandria Minor (Brandon), and Zykeria Anderson (Edwards), two transfer sophomores -- Brookhaven native Ayanna McNairy from Mississippi Gulf Coast where she played in 37 games, and Summit native Jamey McDaniel coming from Holmes where she played in 24 games; and incoming freshmen Lashaunte Payne (Magee), Kaileigh Bilbo (Gulfport), Kayla Howard (Shaw), A'Shante Fleming (Canton), Malaysia Tate (Summerfield, LA), Kyja Willis (Brookhaven), Ceara Myers (Baton Rouge, LA), Breanna Grant-Hall (Wesson), and Kyla Farmer (Conehatta).



Special to Wesson News

Lady Wolves hoopsters.



Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin men's basketball team.

Head Coach Gwyn Young says he expects the four returning sophomores to pick up where they left off last season, while "hopefully our two transfer sophomores, along with the incoming freshmen, will mesh well together and push us towards success this season."

"To be able to bring players in that have experience is a boost for us," he adds. "Ayanna comes to us with two years of experience at Gulf Coast, while Jamey comes in after one year at Holmes, where they both contributed for their teams, and I am expecting them to do that for us. Any experience that we can bring in helps us, especially when it is conference experience. They both know about the speed and quickness that we will face and have an idea of what the opposing teams will look like along with the level of play they need to bring for us to have success against them."

Coach Young, who has high expectations of his incoming freshmen, talks about the steps the Lady Wolves are taking to help them adjust to playing at a new level: "Most of the work goes back to focusing on fundamentals. Coach Alexis Holt, who has returned to Co-Lin as an assistant coach, is doing a lot of individual work that is helping to improve their game. Our sophomores are also helping the freshmen learn about making sure that they are in the right position and that the coaches are helping them to get better and prepare to beat the best team every time we play."

Young thinks Ceara Myers will be a big help for the team, along with Kyla Farmer, who is coming off an injury, and Malaysia Tate, another player who had an injury setback.



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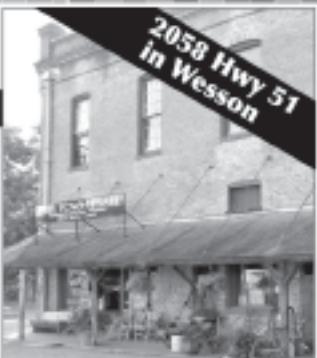
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Elections, enrollments, drought & taxes

Special to Wesson News

Election update. Elections in the area were U.S. House races featuring incumbent Representative Bennie Thompson in the Second District and incumbent Michael Guest in the Third District. Thompson, the longest-serving member of the state's current congressional delegation and chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee and the House select committee investigating the January 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, was challenged by military veteran Brian Flowers, the same Republican he defeated in 2020. Guest faced military veteran Democrat Shuwaski Young. During redistricting this year, legislators did not make major changes to the four U.S. House districts. Democrat Thompson kept his seat, as did Guest and Republican Trent Kelly of the First District. Mike Ezell, a Republican who defeated incumbent Republican Representative Steven Palazzo in the primary earlier this year, defeated Democrat Johnny Dupree to win the Fourth District seat. With the exception of Thompson, all statewide offices, including the governorship and both U.S. Senate seats, are currently held by Republicans.

Enrollment dip. Enrollment at Mississippi's public universities declined one percent last fall in line with combined undergraduate and graduate decreases of 1.1 percent nationwide and 3.2 percent since 2020. Nationally, undergraduate enrollment dropped 1.6 percent at public four-year universities; 0.9 percent at private nonprofits; and 2.5 percent at private for-profits. Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning shows 75,755 students are enrolled at public universities in the state this fall, compared to 76,510 students in fall 2021. The declines started with the COVID 19 pandemic. Mississippi State University (MSU) reported a slight decline in freshman enrollment "after seven years of unprecedented enrollment growth." Enrollment at six of Mississippi's seven other public universities also decreased, with the University of Mississippi the exception, where the largest freshman class in its history — 4,480 — paced a five percent enrollment increase up to 1,111 students. "Successful recruiting efforts are, of course, of the utmost importance, but the key to our future is degree completion," MSU President Mark E. Keenum said. "Our state needs more college graduates who can compete for the jobs of the future."

Barges stuck in the mud. Nearly the entire stretch of the Mississippi River — from Minnesota to the river's mouth in Louisiana — has experienced below average rainfall over the past two months, with water levels dropping to near-record lows, disrupting ship and barge traffic critical for moving recently harvested agricultural goods such as soybeans and corn downriver for export. The river moves more than half

of all U.S. grain exports, but barges are at risk of hitting bottom and getting stuck in the mud, and hiking shipping prices with no alternative, as the costs of shipping by rail have also increased. Storage at barge terminals is also filling up, preventing goods from coming in. The good news: For tourists, much of the river is still accessible because cruise ships are built to withstand the river's extremes. Also weather experts say the drought is a short-term weather phenomenon, and probably not a long-range problem due to climate change.

Income tax debate. Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves is promising to push for a full elimination of the state's income tax during the 2023 legislative session to make Mississippi the tenth state with no income tax. Mississippi's Republican-controlled legislature in 2022 eliminated the state's four percent income tax bracket starting in 2023 and reduced the five percent bracket to four percent over the following three years. Supporters of the 2022 Mississippi tax cut say it will spur economic growth and attract new residents to Mississippi,

while opponents point out that the income tax accounts for 34 percent of state revenue, and \$525 million will be lost for schools, health care, roads and other services, especially hurting Mississippi's poor and working-class residents. Republican House speaker Philip Gunn says ending the state income tax is "achievable," while Lieutenant Governor Delbert Hosemann, also a Republican who presides over the state Senate, has not expressed a position. The tax-cut proposals are a direct effort to compete with states that don't tax earnings, including Texas, Florida and Tennessee. Business interests, by and large, have not taken a strong stance on income tax elimination in Mississippi.

Alcohol hours. Starting this month, Brookhaven restaurants licensed to sell beer, liquor and wine can do so on Sundays from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. The change in the city's ordinance regulating alcoholic beverages will also extend hours liquor stores can remain open Monday through Friday to 10 p.m. and allow Sunday beer sales at convenience and grocery stores from noon until midnight on Sundays.

A great workplace. Brookhaven-based King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) is 74th on the list of Modern Healthcare's 2022 Best Places to Work — the ninth time KDMC has made it in the past 11 years. Modern Healthcare cited "tireless leaders of the organizations" it honored for standing by their employees "throughout an extremely challenging time" and remaining "committed to humanizing the patient experience." Healthcare leaders have proven that creating nurturing, supportive workplaces for the most valuable asset, their employees, is vital, it said. The Best Places to Work rankings are based on an extensive survey of healthcare employees.

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