

INSIDE:

News Nuggets.....	2
Book giveaway.....	4
Healthy Living.....	6
Meet Your Neighbor.....	7
Sports Shorts.....	9
Little Theater.....	12
Page 13-18 online at www.WessonNews.com	

Wesson News

SPOTLIGHT

Preparing for Cyber Attack

Page 10

Visit www.wessonnews.com for our complete issue!

Volume 10, Number 3

“Good News You Can Use”

March, 2022

\$30 million arts & athletic facility planned



Special to Wesson News

By Guest Columnist R. Shaw Furlow & Bob Arnold

If you're riding south toward Brookhaven from Wesson on Highway 51 you'll soon notice some construction on the east side of the road. Trees removed, access roads and, eventually, what could be the capstone of the Co-Lin campus -- a new Educational Performing Arts and Athletic Center (EPAAC).

The \$30 million complex, designed to host basketball games, other athletic events and arts shows, has been in the dreaming and hoping stages, and is now moving into the planning stage and, before too long, into the construction stage. It will include a 1,500-seat performing arts theatre and a 2,000-seat athletic arena with shared ticketing, concessions, and restrooms, along with a shared lobby area combining two impressive structures.

"The addition of the EPAAC facility will be monumental for Co-Lin," said Co-Lin President Dr. Jane Hulon Sims. "There is no other facility of this kind in our region of the state. We want to see our students, our employees, and our citizens have the opportunity to utilize this type of unique and impressive facility. It is just as exciting to think about the economic development impact that the EPAAC facility will have on Southwest Mississippi."

This will be a facility on par with the Bologna Center at Delta State and the Ford Center at Ole Miss, and will require a building manager and technical expertise as the project moves along.

The auditorium will be at least two levels, and maybe three, and will have the capability to fly in scenery. There will be classrooms and meet-



ing rooms. While not in the current plans, a walking bridge from the front of the main Co-Lin campus over the railroad track may be built. "We've made sure the architects know the back of the building has to be as pretty as the front," said Hulon Sims. "We'll have two nice entrances. But for now, the main entrance will be from Highway 51."

\$30 million is a lot of money. Where is it coming from?

"We have a plan," Hulon Sims said. "We call it braided funding. It's a formula that draws money from different sources, including grants, gifts, alumni and others sources. The college will seek funding from federal grants, local/state support, corporate sponsorships. An aggressive fundraising campaign is already underway. I am very optimistic. This has been long-time needed. It will be a great facility for the area. Hopefully, we will host basketball tournaments, as well as known performers, band and choir concerts, and other regional athletic and arts events."

Co-Lin and the Mississippi School of the Arts have expanded their partnership for the project development. MSA has an excellent black box theatre, but it needs a full-sized area for larger productions, and the EPAAC will provide that, increasing educational and performance space for both Co-Lin and MSA.

"The Mississippi School of the Arts (MSA) is excited to expand our partnership with Co-Lin for the EPAAC project," said MSA Executive Director Dr. Susanne Hirsch. "We [MSA] are landlocked and do not have the capability to build a proscenium theatre, which is an integral part of the performing arts."

The performing arts center at Co-Lin will enable us to have larger productions and provide an educational opportunity to industry standard better preparing our students for their artistic careers. Students will gain the ability to function in all aspects of the theatre

cont. on page 3

GENERAC®

FREE

7-Year Extended Warranty*

A \$695 Value!

Prepare for power outages
with a Generac
home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!

601-460-0256



Broadband, housing, marijuana & fire

Special to Wesson News

Broadband expansion. Lincoln County is among 10 Mississippi Counties that are sharing \$32.7 million the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has for broadband infrastructure expansion, which will bring broadband to 12,487 underserved households across the state. The Franklin Telephone project is receiving more than \$3 million. The nine other projects getting funds are in Smith, Calhoun, Issaquena, Madison, Covington, Benton/Union, Pontotoc, Coahoma and Calhoun Counties. "Mississippi received the second highest award total out of any state – a testament to the strength of our application and proof positive just how important these ten projects are to not only Mississippi but to our country," Governor Tate Reeves said.

Housing subdivision. Wesson native Anderson Jackson, Jr., plans to offer lots for homebuilding on 115 acres to provide a "gracious country living" environment north of Brookhaven off Linwood Avenue near Earls Trail Northeast. A new lake is being built there and roads, not yet paved, have been laid. Already, one house is going up, with lots in two sections -- a large area called Pleasant View Ranch with 28 two-acre and 2.5-acre properties and a smaller area called Magnolia Estates with 15 three-acre and 2.5-acre properties. With the water features, there will also be walking and biking trails. Jackson expects to start selling them in September and October after a few spec houses are ready to tour.

Marijuana licensing. The Mississippi State Health Department (MSHD), charged with implementing and overseeing the state's new medical marijuana law recently passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, will begin accepting applications of licenses in June. MSHD is currently working on licensing and patient registry structures. The Department anticipates products will become

NEWS NUGGETS

Butterbeans exhibit camellias



Wesson News

Wesson Garden Club's youth gardeners --The Butterbeans-- competed in Brookhaven Camellia Society's sixty-ninth annual show's Youth Division last month at The Whittington Farm. A total of eleven young gardeners entered the show with camellias in multiple varieties and colors. The young gardeners learned about how to choose and prep a flower for the show and see how a flower show is staged and judged. Anne Houston Peets won best overall in the youth division with her combination entry of white camellias. Other first place winners were Brenham Hutson with his pink camellia and Katie Grace Garcia for her red camellia. Second place winners were Courtney Davis in the white division, Lily-Ann Sykes in the pink division and Anne Houston Peets in red and striped division. The winners were gifted with potted camellias and gardening tool sets. All young gardener participants received a gardening tool for entering the show. Mizell's Camellia Hill Nursery owners, David and Mary Mizell, were impressed with the young gardeners' participation in the camellia show and enthusiasm. They gifted The Butterbeans with 24 potted camellias to be placed in their school. The Wesson Garden Club is a member of Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc., and National Garden Clubs, Inc.

available to patients in late 2022 following cultivation of marijuana and safety testing. The new law allows patients to purchase up to three ounces of marijuana per month as prescribed by medical professionals within the scope of their practices after in-person patient visits.

Restaurant burns. A fire that apparently started in the rear and spread throughout the building destroyed Backwoods Bayou, a landmark restaurant known for seafood and steaks on Highway 550 West, last month. Owner David Fortenberry, who is also the pastor at Church of the Way in Brookhaven, said he and his wife, who operated the restaurant for nine years, were concerned about their full-time employees and plan to either rebuild or start something new.

Electric vehicle production. Nissan is investing \$500 million to transform its Canton, Mississippi, assembly plant to build the company's new electric vehicle line, with plans to begin production in 2025. The company will manufacture two of the most scientifically advanced vehicles in the world and batteries for them at Canton. The move will preserve and upskill some 2,000 jobs at the facility. The plant opened in 2003 and currently employs about 5,000.

Bruce Willis film. A Bruce Willis action movie, which included controlled explosions and gunfire near the Governor's mansion, premiered at the Jackson (Mississippi) Convention Complex last month. *A Day to Die* also stars Frank Grillo, Leon Robinson and Kevin Dillon, with Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba in a cameo appearance. The movie was released on March 4.



P.O. Box 1028

Wesson, MS 39191

601-990-3003

ClayMansell@WessonNews.com

Volume 10, Number 3

Circulation 5,000

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

Clay Mansell

ClayMansell@WessonNews.com

Ursula Hooks

ursula@wessonnews.com

Wesson News is published on the second Tuesday of every month in Wesson, Mississippi.

For submission information, email ClayMansell@WessonNews.com

Copyright © 2021 All rights reserved.

Materials may not be reproduced in whole or in part without written permission of the publisher.

For reprints of any article, please contact the editor.

www.WessonNews.com

CHECK US OUT ON
facebook

cont. from page 1

\$30 million arts & athletic facility planned

with the EPAAC included in our curriculum. We also hope to partner with Co-Lin to bring guest artists and performances to our area, which is a largely underserved part of the state."

Who knows. Maybe we'll see productions by Co-Lin students again. This facility will also create new economic development opportunities within Co-Lin's seven-country district and the region of Southwest Mississippi, as the EPAAC welcomes performing groups, traveling theatre productions and athletic events. Area economic developers foresee current lodging and restaurant businesses enjoying increased traffic and new ones opening.

Back to the \$30 million. There will be plenty of opportunity for you to give to the building funds. I am proud that the Co-Lin Colette and Band Alumni Chapter was the first organization to donate \$5,000 to the project. Hopefully, other band and choral alumni will follow suit. Construction is scheduled for 2023, with the opening in the fall of 2024. I've ended each of my columns with the same sentence, and it is more apropos now more than ever: Support the arts (and sports) by being a part of the braided financing for EPAAC.

"A project of this size does not happen overnight," said Hulon Sims. "We are sensitive to the fact that our community needs a place to host things like graduation ceremonies, award ceremonies, band clinics, dance recitals, and pageants. We look forward to the future with the EPAAC for both our students and employees and the citizens of our community."

If you'd like to support the EPAAC project, contact the Co-Lin Foundation at 601-643-8332.

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.

Hearing set on Wesson medical marijuana options

Special to Wesson News

Wesson Aldermen have scheduled a public hearing at their next meeting to hear comments about whether or not the municipality should be open to licensed producers or distributors of medical marijuana under the new state law or opt out,

Wesson Police Department (WPD) personnel also continued to be a focus of the Aldermen at recent meetings. The Aldermen voted unanimously to hire Brookhaven Police Officer Ashley McDuffey as a certified part-time officer for WPD and Richan Tilman, who has worked in law enforcement in Hazlehurst, as a certified full-time officer. They also accepted the resignation of Officer Ron Boyce and rehired former WPD Police Chief Chad O'Quinn as a full-time Officer.

In other actions, the Alderman approved:

- Travel and associated expenses for the Mayor, all Aldermen, the City Clerk, Public Works Director and Police Chief to the Mississippi Municipal League conference in Biloxi June 26-30.
- Travel and associated expenses for City Clerk Angela Hester to the Mississippi Municipal Clerks Association at Ridgeland April 27-29 and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks conference at Little Rock, Arkansas, May 22-26.
- Advertising for sale of a 2009 Dodge Charger police car and the building on Spring Street just east of the municipal library, with March 7, 2022, as the closing date for receiving bids and when they will be opened for public announcement and discussion at the April meeting of the Aldermen.

INTRODUCING
A New
FUNDRAISER

You Will
LOVE!

Brought to you by:

ITALIAN RESTAURANT & BAR
B-R-A-V-O!

LOCAL FARMERS MARKET
BROAD STREET

Sal & Mookie's

PIZZERIA & BAKERY

1000 N. RIVER ST. • WESSON, MS 39191

Contact Katie Leach for more
information 601.362.2900 or
email katiel@broadstbakery.com



We are proud to announce our new program that allows non-profit organizations, schools, and churches, to offer our delicious food to their constituents as a fundraising project and make money for their organization!

Our Delivered Dinners for Dollars Fundraising Program is as easy as 1-2-3!

Delivered Dinners for Dollars offers an array of delicious meals prepared from scratch: main course, salad, dessert, and bread, all sized to feed a family of 4 - 6!

1. Meals are ordered via a secure online ordering system, and payment is made with a credit card by each participant at the time of ordering.
2. Each meal is prepackaged and chilled, so it can be warmed up when it's dinner time!
3. The ordered meals are then delivered to your predetermined drop-off and distribution location at the time and date of your organization's choosing.

The process couldn't be easier, and the results couldn't be better!

Wesson
News

We will continue with both a larger online issue and our standard print issue. Free copies will be available in distribution racks at high traffic locations in Brookhaven, Crystal Springs, Hazlehurst and Wesson.

The print issue will be delivered to homes by subscription only.

\$12 per year

Mail in your form and payment TODAY and be an inaugural subscriber and get 3 extra months before your first renewal!

Mail to: The Wesson News
P.O. Box 1028
Wesson, MS 39191

Wesson
News

Name _____

Address _____

Monthly books giveaway at library



Special to Wesson News

By Bob Arnold

Wesson Public Library is starting a monthly books giveaway to build traffic, including both new and existing users. Friends of the Library (FOL) is funding the prize books -- one

awarded to an adult and one to a child in drawings every month starting in March. Book winners will have to come to the library to register for the drawings. FOL says registrants new to the library will learn about its

services and resources when they come in, and registrants who are already library users will be reminded of its value to members of the community. For voracious readers, the giveaway will introduce new authors, and it will encourage others to dis-

cover the pleasures of books and expand their reading. FOL is a support organization that conducts fundraisers for the library and assists in its programming through advice and counsel, volunteers, and donations.

YOUR HEART IS IN THE RIGHT PLACE.

THEY SAY HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS, SO WE PROVIDE HEART CARE CLOSE TO HOME.

Our team of heart specialists are here for your routine and preventive cardiac care through lifestyle support, minimally invasive treatments and in emergent situations.

When you put your heart in our hands, you get the benefit of skilled, experienced cardiovascular specialists and Merit Health Heart's collaborative approach to care.

To learn more, visit [MeritHealthHeart.com](https://www.MeritHealthHeart.com)



If you are experiencing a medical emergency, call 911.

Quarterly chats with Copiah sheriff



Special to Wesson News

Copiah County Sheriff Byron Swilley hosted the first of four Chat with the Sheriff meetings at a meet-and-greet breakfast last month at the Safe Room in Gallman.

More than 50 enjoyed fellowship and breakfast, engaging with Sheriff Swilley and members of his staff, along with Representative Greg Holloway, and Mayors Sally Garland of Crystal Springs and Kenneth Ramsey of Hazlehurst.

Hazlehurst High School Student Government Association members served sausage biscuits, donuts and orange juice, compliments of Burger King in Hazlehurst and State Farm in Crystal Springs.

The quarterly Chat with the Sheriff meetings provide a venue in which members of the public can raise concerns and offer suggestions. The gatherings introduce the faces associated with the names of law enforcement personnel who answer calls and provide assistance and depend on public assistance many times for vital clues that drive their successful work.

The next breakfast chat event will be scheduled in the spring.

Copiah County Sheriff Byron Swilley and staff met with the public at the first of quarterly meet-and-greet breakfasts.

WESSON AREA DINING GUIDE



Magnolia Blues Sports Bar & Restaurant

**We Have Reopened
At Our New Brookhaven Downtown Location**
Steaks & BBQ Specials
Tuesday-Saturday
Live Music Friday & Saturday
3 p.m.-9 p.m.

218 S. Whitworth Avenue, Brookhaven 601-990-2366



To advertise your restaurant in our dining guide, call Bob Arnold at 601-990-3003 ext. 700

Takeout Food & Groceries

Monday - Saturday 4 a.m.- 9 p.m. Sunday 4 a.m.- 6 p.m.



CHICKEN ON A STICK



• SWEET TEA •



HUNT BROTHERS PIZZA
Whole or By the Hunk



SHOP 'N WASH

510 Main Street • Wesson
601-643-5676 • Open Everyday

ASHLEY'S 51 STOP

2061 Hwy 51 • Wesson • 601-643-0072 • Open Everyday

MUCH MORE THAN A C-STORE!

for all your feed needs



\$1.00 BAG ICE • 12 PACK COKE PRODUCTS • NON-ETHANOL GAS

Eating healthy on the run

By Guest Columnist Stephanie Duguid

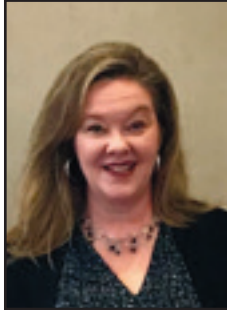
You probably eat out a lot—most Americans do. People are looking for fast, easy and good-tasting foods to fit a busy lifestyle. Whether it's carry-out, food court, office cafeteria or sit-down restaurant, there are smart choices everywhere. Here are a few tips to help you eat healthy when eating out.

Think about your food choices for the entire day. If you're planning a special restaurant meal in the evening, have a light breakfast and lunch. Think ahead and plan where you will eat. Look for restaurants or carry-out with a wide range of menu items. Take time to look over the menu and search for the "healthier" choices. Be sure to read restaurant menus carefully for clues to foods that have less fat and calorie content including terms such as: baked, braised, broiled, grilled, poached, roasted, and steamed. Menu terms that can mean more fat and calories: batter-fried, pan-fried, buttered, creamed, crispy, and breaded. While out, it may be a great idea to split your order with others at your table. This tip goes for desserts as well.

It is always a great plan to eat your lower-calorie food first. Soup or salad is a good choice followed by a light main course. Ask for sauces, dressings and toppings to be served "on the side." Then you control how much you eat. It is best to pass up all-you-can-eat specials, buffets and unlimited salad bars.

If you do choose to go to the salad bar, pile on the dark leafy greens, carrots, peppers and other fresh vegetables. Lighten up on mayonnaise-based salads and high-fat toppings. Enjoy fresh fruit as your dessert. When choosing pizza as your meal, load up with vegetables rather than meat.

If you would rather visit a sandwich shop, boost the nutrition in all types of sandwiches by adding tomato, lettuce, peppers or other vegetables. Be sure to choose lean beef, ham, turkey or chicken on whole grain bread or in a soft tortilla. Ask for mustard, ketchup, salsa or low-fat spreads. And, don't forget the veggies! When considering your side



**LIVING
+HEALTHY+**

options, be sure to replace fries or chips with a side salad, fruit or baked potato.

One great tip is to order the regular or child-size portion. Hunger can drive you to eat too much. So also consider holding the bread or chips given before a meal until your main meal is served.

If you are grabbing dinner at the supermarket deli, select rotisserie chicken, salad-in-a-bag and freshly baked bread. You can also try sliced lean roast beef, onion rolls, potato salad and fresh fruit.

Are you always eating on the go? Tuck portable, nonperishable foods in your purse, tote, briefcase or backpack for an on-the-run meal. Some suggestions are peanut butter and crackers, granola bars, a piece of fresh fruit, trail mix, single serve packages of whole grain cereal or crackers. For desk-top dining, keep single-serve packages of crackers, fruit, peanut butter, soup, or tuna in your desk for a quick lunch.

And finally, do not forget the liquid portion of food, everything that we drink! Sugary drinks are the leading source of added sugar in the American diet. Try to stay away from sugary drinks such as soft drinks/soda, fruit juice or punch, and sweetened iced tea. Also watch out for all the canned/bottled drinks like energy drinks, sports drinks, and sweetened coffee drinks. The liquid portion of food tends to be filled with calories and does not fill you up! So, rethink what you drink. Limit sugary drinks and focus on water or sparkling water. If you need more flavor, add a piece of real fruit like lime, lemon, berries, or cucumber to your water.

In summary, you can eat out and stick to your healthy eating plan! The key is to plan ahead, ask questions and choose foods carefully. Compare nutrition information, if available, and look for healthier options that are grilled, baked, broiled or steamed. How, when, why, and where we eat are just as important as what we eat. Develop a mindful eating pattern that includes nutritious and flavorful foods. That's that best way to savor the flavor of eating right.

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.

WESSON ACE HARDWARE
2057 Hwy. 51 South • PO Box 547
Wesson, Mississippi 39191
wessonacehardware.com
TIM SUTTON – owner
601-643-2636
601-643-9906 fax
601-695-4144 cell

Skeetburger in Beauregard
Best Burger in Town
Salads, Baskets, Plate Lunches,
PoBoys & Beverages
Open 11-6 Daily Tuesday-Saturday
Closed on Sundays and Mondays
601-643-0048
all major credit cards

Wesson News
visit us online at **WessonNews.com**

Become an **AVON** Independent Sales Representative!
Only \$25 to start!
THE COST OF LUNCH COULD CHANGE YOUR LIFE
Set your own hours! Unlimited earnings!
Work from home! No inventory to keep!
For more information, contact Julia at
601-643-2704
www.youravon.com/juliaarnold • 113streetman@msn.com

Mill Town Mall
Over 50 Vendor Booths & 15,000 sq. ft. of Merchandise
Antiques, Collectibles
&
Flea Market Items
Something for everyone!
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Saturday
601-643-1446
2058 Hwy 51 in Wesson

Singer-pianist still performs locally

By Bob Arnold

Back in the 1960s when Babs Wood packed her bags and guitar and headed off to New Orleans at 18 years old to find a job in the French Quarter, she never dreamed her journey would start her in a multi-decade career as a musical entertainer.

Wood learned music from her grandmother, whom she visited in western Copiah County as a child during the summer months. Wood accompanied her as a singer at Brandywine Methodist Church in Claiborne County where she played the piano, learned to play the piano herself and took up the guitar as well, but never had any formal musical training.

Sonny Oschner, assistant manager at Pat Obrien's in New Orleans, however, saw something in the young girl seated in the garden at the famed French Quarter restaurant-bar, where she was thinking through her job search. Oschner engaged her in a casual conversation that turned out to be a job interview. "Do you sing?" he asked. "Yes," Wood said. "Do you play the piano?" Oschner inquired again. "Yes," Wood affirmed. "Why don't you come to work for us?" Oschner invited.

"It was a God-send," Wood recalls. Oschner's father, who managed Pat Obrien's and later bought the establishment, directed her to a Quarter clothier who helped outfit Wood to appropriately dress her to begin her career as a singer-pianist at the Quarter landmark. Wood started performing for \$300 per week and continued her work there on and off until 2013.

A Baton Rouge native, Wood traveled with her family from Pascagoula, Mississippi, to Long Island, New York, and places in between where her father worked in construction and repair as a contract electrician. "I was always

the new girl in school," Wood says. Twice because of her father's work and her grandparents' home in Copiah County, school brought her to Wesson -- for fifth grade at the Wesson Old School just before it closed and then to high school based at Co-Lin, where she graduated after starting in the tenth grade just before it, too, closed.

Before going to New Orleans, Wood attended college classes at Co-Lin briefly, but she explains that "at that time, my two sisters and me were expected to marry and do housework."

In the 1970s, after six years entertaining daily at Pat Obrien's from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m., Wood moved to California, where she hired an agent who booked her at bars, clubs, and hotels. She performed throughout Southern California and then Las Vegas. "I hated working Las Vegas," she recounts. "At one casino, my pit boss -- a scary dude -- told me to take a break when the audience was too big, and taking the patrons away from slot machines and gambling tables." During a performance there, she recognized a familiar face in the crowd. Unbelievably, it was Sonny Oschner. "Are you ready to come home," he asked her. "I am under contracts here," she told him. Oschner said he would get her out of them.

Thomas also recorded some songs she wrote.

Wood also took time off from her musical career for other work. "As



Wesson News

a legal secretary, I was terrible," she recalls and jokes: "There may be some couples in Copiah County

marriage, whom her husband is now adopting as they approach 50 years old -- Chris Viramontez, the owner of a trucking business; Dona Wood Pell, a nurse at Brookhaven Pain Clinic; and Brandy Gremillion, an elementary school teacher at Wesson Attendance Center. Wood also has eight grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Her family lives in the Wesson area.

Today, Wood also continues to perform regularly at Le Soul restaurant in Hazlehurst and venues in the Jackson area.

"At Wesson High School, I had no plan, and I never thought I would have been in the places or met the people I have," Wood concludes.

What are your hobbies?

I love traveling. Anywhere. Nashville, however, is a favorite place, where I have a lot of friends.

Are you a reader?

I enjoy John Grisham's novels, particularly *The Testament*.

How about music -- beyond your own?

I like Linda Ronstadt and Chris Stapleton.

Do you enjoy movies or theater?

I watch the old episodes of *NCIS New Orleans* on television, mainly because I know the spots where it was made. My favorite movie is *Blazing Saddles* and I like *Chicago*, the play. I am very much into little theater, particularly Brookhaven Little Theater, in which I performed in *Annie* -- my only acting credit.

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

I would invest the money and set up trust funds for my children, grand children and great grandchildren. And I would eat out for the rest of my life.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Soon, Wood was back on stage at Pat Obrien's singing and playing the piano.

In the 1980s, another break from Pat Obrien's took Wood to Nashville, where she recorded her own CD, and worked with George Jones, Jim Nabors, Slim Pickens and Rex Allen. Helen Reddy and Rufus

who are not legally divorced now because of my legal work." For 11 years, Wood also was a florist with a store in Hazlehurst.

Wood now lives in Crystal Springs, and since 1985, has been married to Bubba Wood, whom she met at the Old Depot in Hazlehurst. She has three grown children by a previous

Brookhaven Funeral Home

Pre-arrangement Special Offer

\$2,350.00 off of original price!

Full Traditional Funeral Services and your choice of either quality steel or wood casket
Pre -arranging locks in todays price and ensures your family will know your true wishes

for \$6,195.00*

*monthly payments are available



"A Family Serving Families"

As a minister and a father to five daughters, Lance Moak understands the importance of family. Lance specializes in helping people pre-arrange funeral services, taking away the difficult task of tough decisions at a most stressful time from your loved ones. To discuss the many options available to you, contact Lance Moak at 601-384-7290 or Wayne Smith 601-833-1441

"Because a Life Well Lived Deserves a Service Well Planned"

894 Natchez Dr. & 230 N. Jackson St., Brookhaven • 601-833-1441 • www.brookhavenfuneralhome.net

All that glitters isn't Gold

By Guest Columnist Yancy Methvien

Last month, I used this column to explain the new collegiate NIL rule and why I supported it. I am in full support of athletes making as much as they can while their bodies allow them. This month, I want to say that everything has a limit, even when it involves athletes getting paid a fortune.



If you've been following sports or watching golf recently, there's a solid chance that you have heard of a potential competitor to the PGA Tour called the Super Golf League, or SGL. LIV Golf Investments, the group sponsoring the SGL, made a big splash hiring Greg Norman to be its CEO, and recently made even more waves with rumors of offering many of the top stars on the PGA tour astronomical amounts of money to compete in their new golf league. The SGL was in talks with the Trump Organization to host several events at Trump golf venues, and it was rumored that at least 20 of the biggest stars on the PGA Tour were in negotiations with the SGL to join the league. Some of the names were Lee Westwood, Adam Scott, Jason Kokrak, Bryson DeChambeau, Dustin Johnson, and most notably, Phil Mickelson.

I love golf. I'm all for competition to drive league improvements, and I'm in full support of athletes making as much as they can. At first, I was extremely excited at the prospect of this new league, but my feelings changed immediately after researching the sources of money funding this venture. After learning that, I can tell you with no uncertainty that I will not be supporting the SGL in any way whatsoever.

Why?

Aside from being known as the Super Golf League, the SGL is also called and known among golfers as the Saudi Golf League. LIV Golf Investments (the financial backer of the SGL) is simply a subsidiary of Public Investment Fund, the sovereign wealth fund of Saudi Arabia. The investors in that fund include many individuals linked to criminal activity, acts of human-rights abuse, and terrorism.

The most notable and one of the richest among the members of this group is Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, colloquially known as MBS, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia -- the same individual behind the bombing campaign in Yemen, who escalated a diplomatic crisis in Qatar, started a diplomatic spat with Canada, tried to detain the Prime

Minister of Lebanon, kidnapped other Saudi royalty and billionaires in 2017 to financially shake them down, recently sent assassins to murder Jamal Khashoggi inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, and currently rules over an authoritarian regime where anyone who attempts to speak of democracy or rebel is jailed, tortured or murdered.

This is not even close to what can be considered a complete list of the atrocities committed by MBS, and he is but one of the investors. The rest of the group includes several individuals with alleged ties to funding the 9/11 terrorist attacks here in the U.S.

Many members of the PGA Tour have said they will not be leaving the PGA for the SGL. Tiger Woods recently said that his legacy is with the PGA. For some, the entire idea of the SGL is being looked at as an attempt at "sportswashing" (hosting large sporting events in an attempt to draw favor with people and draw attention away from horrible deeds). Rory McIlroy is the most vocal. Jack Nicklaus, despite his golf relationship with and endorsement of Donald Trump prior to the 2020 election, has recently leveled criticism at his friend for entertaining the idea of hosting a league the likes of MBS. Even Phil Mickelson himself acknowledged, in leaked audio from a phone call, that the financiers of the new league were "some really scary motherfus." But I'm afraid that Norman and Mickelson were blinded by ambition, ego, and greed.

I know Norman and I know Mickelson. I respect them both and I respect what they are trying to do, but I have no respect for who they are trying to accomplish these goals with. Make no mistake about it, MBS is a calculated killer and any money that flows from him or any investment group tied to him may as well be soaked in blood.

It remains to be seen how the general public reacts when they discover what the rest of the golf world already knows about the sources of the new money. To the athletes and individuals working on their behalf on all the new NIL endorsement deals, please take this advice to heart: Do your due diligence and follow the money before you put ink to it. Your reputation is important and is worth more than a dollar amount. All that glitters isn't gold.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Yancy Methvien holds the world's record for the most rounds of golf played in a single year; referees local high school football games and follows all Mississippi sports.



Riverwood Family

Funeral Service • Memorial Park • Cremation Service • Monuments



- Honoring ALL policies and arrangements made and written by any other funeral service provider
- Most Experienced Staff to serve your family
- Most Spacious Facility offered in our area
- Best Priced and Most Thoughtfully arranged services
- Offering the most affordable pricing on Pre-Arrangements or Time of Need Services
- Also offering Monuments and Markers for all Cemeteries for any budget

601-833-6680

76 US-51, Brookhaven www.riverwoodfamily.com

GENERAC®

Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!

601-460-0256

FREE

**7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!**

Limited Time Offer – Call for Details

Special Financing Available

Subject to Credit Approval

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.



Diamond teams expect success

Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin's diamond sports have high expectations this year.

The baseball men are looking to build on their 2021 season when they finished 19-24 and 15-13 in conference play, making the playoffs and coming up just short of making the Region 23 Tournament field. The softball women came just one game shy of making a national tournament appearance during 2021, which makes Head Coach Melah Howard and Assistant Coaches Amber Beall and Drake Flowers optimistic and excited about the current season.

According to Head Baseball Coach Clay Smith, a full schedule during the fall season gave "our guys some playing time, and they got to learn and adjust to the speed of the game while also getting some exposure to coaches at four-year schools, which is our ultimate goal for the fall." Following a successful fall season, Howard cautioned her girls that "those games didn't count, and now it is time to see how we respond when the games matter."

The Wolf Pack baseball roster includes 30 players -- 14 sophomores, with 12 returning. In 2021, the Wolves hit 33 homers and posted a team batting average of .273 with 201 RBIs, and they will have some of their biggest offensive threats coming back:

Tom Biggs, a redshirt sophomore infielder and pitcher from Columbia, Louisiana, led the team in batting average last season at .360. The Stephen F. Austin University commit also accounted for three home runs and was second on the team in RBI and stolen bases with 32 and 13 respectively. Biggs also posted a .971 fielding percentage for the Wolf Pack last season.

Kenner Bizot, a sophomore utility player from Wesson, had the third highest average last season at .316. The Mississippi College commit also posted three home runs, four doubles, and 25 RBIs, while also posting a .983 fielding percentage.

Brady Spring, a sophomore infielder from Brookhaven, transferred to Co-Lin from Jones College and brings a season's worth of experience to the team. As a freshman, Spring posted a .233 batting average with five doubles,



Special to Wesson News

14 RBIs, and seven stolen bases. The Freed-Hardeman University commit also posted a .989 fielding percentage during his freshman season.

Reed Barlow, a sophomore outfielder from Florence, returns with a .280 batting average with one triple while **Noah Freeman**, a sophomore outfielder from Mendenhall, is coming back after hitting .234 during the 2021 season with one home run and eight RBIs.

Braydon Muse, a sophomore catcher from Florence, is another familiar face for Wolf Pack fans and brings back a .211 batting average with two home runs and nine RBIs.

DJ Walker, a sophomore outfielder from Brandon, transferred from Panola College in Texas. During his freshman season, Walker posted a .250 batting average with four doubles, one triple, and seven RBIs while also posting a .980 fielding percentage.

Coach Smith is high on incoming freshmen: "Kade Parker (Cadeville, Louisiana) has come in and done really

well. We expect him to play infield and to pitch for us this season. We have had a couple of outfielders that had a good fall, and one of those is Harrison Mohead (Madison). We have had some other guys that did not statistically have the best fall, but they have plugged in and shown great energy and leadership for our team."

The schedule for the Wolf Pack features contests against multiple ranked opponents during conference



Special to Wesson News

play and a non-conference schedule that Smith believes will get his team ready for the tough conference schedule.

"Every team in this league has good facilities, and the teams are full of good players who are well coached by some of the best coaches in the nation," says Smith. "We have a really good brand of baseball at the junior college level in our state. Our non-conference schedule is full of quality teams that will get us ready to play in the best NJCAA Division II league in the country."

Meanwhile, the Lady Wolves 10 sophomores include nine returning players and one transfer along with 10 incoming freshmen. In 2021, they posted a team batting average of .336 with 61 doubles, seven triples, 49 homeruns, 242 RBIs, and 69 stolen bases, and a big chunk of that offense returns in the form of five of the top seven batting averages.

Madi Miller, a sophomore catcher and outfielder from Brookhaven, led the Lady Wolves in at-bats with 146 and posted a .356 batting average, and had four doubles, four triples, 19 RBIs, 11 stolen bases, and posted a .891 fielding percentage.

Madalyn Wilkinson, a sophomore outfielder/pitcher from Madison, posted a .358 batting average while leading the Lady Wolves in doubles with 12. Wilkinson also had five home runs, 30 RBIs, 10 stolen bases, and a .920 fielding percentage, earning Mississippi Association of Community

College Conference (MACCC) Honorable Mention All-Conference honors.

Shelbi Maxwell, a sophomore outfielder from Wesson, posted a .351 average last season. Maxwell also had five doubles, two triples, one home run, 16 RBIs, and led the team with 12 stolen bases, along with a .986 fielding percentage that earned her Honorable Mention All-Conference honors for her performance.

Bela Dekovic, a sophomore utility player from Belle Chase, Louisiana, had a .259 batting average with six doubles, five home runs, 22 RBIs, and one stolen base. Dekovic also carried a .979 fielding percentage last season.

Malori Cade, a sophomore outfielder from Brookhaven, posted a .400 average with one double, one home run, seven RBIs, and four stolen bases.

Cera Blanchard, a sophomore pitcher and first baseman from Metairie, Louisiana, posted a .367 batting average with eight doubles, one triple, three home runs, 20 RBIs, and seven stolen bases. She pitched 140.1 innings in 24 appearances with 22 starts, posting a 15-4 record with a 1.55 earned run average and 138 strikeouts. The Southeastern Louisiana University commit earned NJCAA Second Team All-American, MACCC First Team All-Conference and National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) All-South Region Second Team, and NJCAA All-Region 23 honors.

"We also have a great group of very strong freshman coming in, and they want to win it all," Howard says.

The schedule for the pre-season 10th ranked Lady Wolves features matchups against four conference opponents that are ranked in the NJCAA Division II Preseason Poll, including number 2 Jones College, number 5 Itawamba, number 8 Gulf Coast, and number 17 Pearl River, and also Parkland College (IL), ranked ninth nationally.

"We tell the girls every year that no game is an easy game," Howard says. "Our motto is that no matter who are we playing...our opponents may change, but we still play Co-Lin softball," adds Howard. "If we do that and take care and focus on ourselves, then everything else will fall into place."



MIKE'S HANDYMAN SERVICE, LLC

601-757-0266

PUMBLING · ROOFING · CARPENTRY · SMALL REMODEL
EXTERIOR HOUSE PAINTING · HOME MAINTENANCE

TUESDAY - THURSDAY
WESSON, MS
MICHAEL WILLIAMS



TOP QUALITY MEMORIALS

WHEN IT'S PERMANENT, TRUST THE PROFESSIONALS
CHECK OUT OUR HUGE SELECTION
REMEMBER THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE

WITH A TOP QUALITY MEMORIAL FROM BROOKHAVEN MONUMENT COMPANY.
SPRINGTIME MEANS NEW INVENTORY ARRIVING WEEKLY

**BROOKHAVEN
MONUMENT
COMPANY, INC.**
YOUR FIRST CHOICE FOR OVER 70 YEARS

DAVE PACE
KEVIN LAIRD



887 HIGHWAY 51 NORTH • P.O. BOX 727 • BROOKHAVEN, MS 38802

601-833-5701

Preparing for a cyber attack



Special to Wesson News

Special to Wesson News

Warfare in Ukraine may seem far away from Copiah County, but modern life in a computer-dominated virtual environment is vulnerable to cyber attack, and the threat increases with tensions wherever they are.

While there is no information to suggest a specific credible cyber threat against the U.S. homeland, it is the responsibility of everyone who depends on modern technology at home or in the office to prepare, says Copiah County Emergency Services Director Randle Drane. Russia, he notes, has significant offensive cyber capabilities, and the potential for the Russian government to consider escalating its destabilizing actions in ways that may impact others outside of Ukraine is real.

- It is particularly important to be especially watchful for phishing and social engineering attempts at work and home. Messages that ask for personal information, ask you to take immediate action, or make suspicious offers may be attempts at phishing or cyber-attack.
- Do not open emails from unknown senders. Instead, reply to an email before clicking links even if the sender looks legitimate. If an email address changes from what is in the received email, it is not legitimate.
- Keep software applications and operating systems up to date.

The Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA) recommends all organizations adopt a heightened posture when it comes to cybersecurity and protecting their most critical assets. The CISA Shields Up alert is available at: <https://www.cisa.gov/shields-up>.

Drane also points to general personal and professional preparedness actions everyone should take no matter what the potential emergency:

- Have basic food and emergency preparedness supplies available.
- Have some cash on hand in case ATMs or credit card readers are unavailable.
- Do not allow your vehicles to get low on fuel.
- Ensure that you have a family emergency plan.
- Store important documents on the cloud.

**art
wine+
wheels**
may 6-8, 2022
RIDGELAND, MISSISSIPPI
Three signature events in
one epic weekend!



artwineandwheels.com



JOB FAIR

MARCH 24, 2022 | 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The Billy B. Thames Conference Center, 1084 Lake Road, Wesson, MS

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Be Prepared!

- Dress for success.
- Bring multiple copies of your resume.
- Follow our social media for updates.
- Check the job fair website for the list of attending employers . . .



Scan for more
event info.

WWW.COLIN.EDU/JOBFAIR

Copiah-Lincoln Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, or other factors prohibited by law in any of its educational programs, activities, admissions, or employment practices.

MARKETPLACE MOTORS

LITTLE LOT - BIG SAVINGS



Roland Price
110 Market Place
Hazlehurst, MS 39083

MarketplaceMotors.net
601-750-2277
Across from Walmart

NEW ARRIVALS

2014 Mercedes C-Class 250 Sport



Sunroof, Leather, Only 92,000 Miles, Super Nice

- 2016 GMC Sierra Crew Cab, 4x4, Leather Buckets, Lifted, Custom 22's, Sharp!
- 2014 Mercedes C Class 250 Sport sedan, Sunroof, Low miles, Leather, Beautiful!
- 2012 Chev Traverse LT, 3rd row, Rear A/C, low mileage, leather, dvd!
- 2015 Chevy Silverado LT, Crew Cab, 4x4, Leather Buckets, Low mileage, Super nice!
- 2013 Audi A4 2.0 Quattro Premium AWD Leather, Sunroof, Navi, Super Nice!
- 2012 GMC Acadia SUV **SOLD!** car, 3rd row, Rear A/C and heat, low mileage!
- 2013 Honda Accord EX-L w/Leather, Sunroof, 36mpg, Nice car!
- 2017 Honda Accord, Only 63,000 miles, like new, great Gas mileage!
- 2015 Nissan Altima 2.5 S package, super nice with great gas mileage, Silver beauty!
- 2013 Mercedes C250 **SOLD!** Low Mileage, Sunroof, Leather, Super Nice!
- 2010 Lincoln MKZ, Red **SOLD!** leather, Sunroof, Chrome Wheels, Loaded, Come look!
- 2009 BMW X5, xDrive48i, AWD, Black with Peanut Butter Leather, Sunroof, Nice!
- 2015 Toyota Tacoma Prerunner, Crew Cab, New Tires, Professionally serviced, Pwr Wind, Locks, Mirrors!
- 2010 Mercedes E-Class Luxury, E350, Only 86,000 Miles, Perfect!
- 2014 Nissan Frontier Crew Cab SV model, One Owner, Almost new tires, 6 Cyl. Hard bed cover, super nice!
- 2010 Honda Accord Crosstour, Rare Find, Leather, Sunroof, Almost new tires!

2014 GMC Sierra 2500HD SLT 4x4



Duramax, Leather Buckets, NICE, NICE!



WE FINANCE

Just bring in your last pay stub and your down payment and drive out TODAY!

Wesson store affected by recall

Special to Wesson News

The Family Dollar store in Wesson last month was among those affected by a product recall and forced to temporarily close.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned Family Dollar customers in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi and Tennessee that they may need to return or dispose of food, cosmetics, drugs, drinks or dietary supplements purchased between January 1 and February 18 in the chain's retail units.

The FDA said products from a West Memphis, Arkansas, distribution center had a possible risk of salmonella contamination after finding "unsanitary conditions, including a rodent infestation," at the facility. The recall did not include frozen or refrigerated products, as those are shipped directly from the manufacturer to individual stores. No specific products or brands were cited, but FDA said the recall covered:

- **Human foods**, including vitamin, herbal and mineral supplements.
- **Cosmetics**, including skincare products, baby oils, lipsticks, shampoos and baby wipes.
- **Animal foods**, including kibble, pet treats and wild bird seed.
- **Medical devices**, including feminine hygiene products, surgical masks, contact lens cleaning solutions, bandages and nasal care products.
- **Over-the-counter medications**, including pain medications, eye drops, dental products, antacids and other medications for both adults and children.

They included not just Family Dollar-branded items, but items from brands sold at Family Dollar, such as Covergirl, Blistex, Campbell's, Kraft and Pedigree.

Salmonella can cause fever, nausea, vomiting and, in cases where the organism gets into the bloodstream, illnesses like arterial infection and endocarditis. According to the FDA, its investigation into the distribution facility began after a consumer filed a complaint. During that inspection, the FDA reportedly found "live rodents, dead rodents in various states of decay, rodent feces and urine, evidence of gnawing, nesting and rodent odors throughout the facility, dead birds and bird droppings, and products stored in conditions that did not protect against contamination." Since March 2021, 3,400 rodents have been removed from the facility.

BANKRUPTCY

CHAPTER 7

DEBT ELIMINATION

\$545 + court cost
uncontested

CHAPTER 13

DEBT CONSOLIDATION

\$200 + court cost
gets it filed

Richard R. Grindstaff

Attorney At Law

840 E. River Place Ste 605
Jackson MS 39202
601-346-6443

121 1/2 W. Cherokee St
Brookhaven, MS
601-684-1798

WE ARE A DEBT RELIEF AGENCY, WE HELP PEOPLE FILE FOR BANKRUPTCY RELIEF UNDER BANKRUPTCY CODE

BLT producing Disney Musical

Special to Wesson News

Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, a musical, is next up on the Brookhaven Little Theater (BLT) stage, starting on Thursday, March 31, at the historic Haven Theater (126 West Cherokee Street, downtown Brookhaven).

The modern classic and an international sensation played a remarkable 13-year run on Broadway and has been produced in 37 countries worldwide. It tells of Belle, a young woman in a provincial town, and the Beast, who is really a young prince trapped under the spell of an enchantress. If the Beast can learn to love and be loved, the curse will end, and he will be transformed into his former self. But time is running out. If the Beast does not learn his lesson soon, he and his household will be doomed for all eternity.

Based on the Academy Award-winning animated feature, the stage version includes all of the songs written by Alan Menken and the late Howard Ashman, along with new songs by Mr. Menken and Tim Rice. The original Broadway production ran for more than thirteen years and was nominated for nine Tony Awards, including Best Musical.

The Brookhaven run is from March 31 through Monday, April 4, and Thursday, April 7 through Sunday, April 10. Matinees on Saturdays and Sunday are at 2 p.m., with evening performances at 7:30 p.m. on weekdays and Saturdays.

The production follows the February 25 and 26 rock/country concert, "Nashville Unplugged," which featured Trent Harmon, Steve Fee and Steven and Jason Nix.

The 2021-22 BLT season started September 30 with *Anne of Green Gables* and a Christmas musical, *Elf*, December 3-12. In January, the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra returned to the Haven to play Mozart on the BLT stage. The BLT season concludes with productions June 23-26 and July 21 and 22 of the Disney musical, *Descendants*; and *The Aristocrats KIDS* in conjunction with BLTeens and Haven Kids Summer camps in June and July.

The Descendants is a brand new musical comedy featuring the beloved characters and hit songs from Disney films. In the kingdom of Auradon, all of them are living happily ever after, safe from the terrifying villains and troublesome sidekicks who have been banished to the magic-free Isle of the Lost until Ben, the benevolent teenage son of Belle and King Adam (The Beast), offers a chance of redemption for the troublemaking offspring of the evilest villains.

Based on the beloved Disney animated film, and featuring a jazzy, upbeat score, *The Aristocats KIDS* is a non-stop thrill ride of feline fun, complete with unbelievable twists and turns.

For information about tickets and BLT membership packages, call 601-990-2243 or email tickets@brookhavenlittletheater.com.

Founded in 1968, BLT is the longest continuously running community theatre in Mississippi, entertaining theatre-goers with an array of musical and dramatic classics, as well as modern Broadway hits. In recent years, the theatre has expanded to include the BLTeen Summer Camp and the Haven Kids Camp that provide entertainment and educational outreach to teenagers and children, introducing them to the excitement of theatre and the arts.

WessonNews.com

Visit Wesson News online for 8 more pages of the Wesson News!



LP&L
LOWERY, PAYN & LEGGETT
Certified Public Accountants

Patrick E. Lowery, CPA
Sharon E. Payn, CPA
Stacy B. Leggett, CPA

Lowery, Payn and Leggett, CPA's strives to ensure our clients accomplish their financial goals by providing the highest quality accounting, tax, audit and consulting services.

601-833-1456
www.lplcpas.com

207 South Railroad Avenue Brookhaven, MS 39601



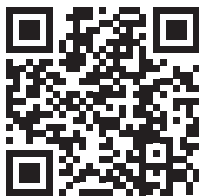
JOB FAIR

MARCH 24, 2022 | 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
The Billy B. Thames Conference Center, 1084 Lake Road, Wesson, MS

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Be Prepared!

- Dress for success.
- Bring multiple copies of your resume.
- Follow our social media for updates.
- Check the job fair website for the list of attending employers...



Scan for more event info.

WWW.COLIN.EDU/JOBFAIR

Copiah-Lincoln Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, or other factors prohibited by law in any of its educational programs, activities, admissions, or employment practices.

MSU team wins diversity award

Special to Wesson News

A team led by a Mississippi State University unit has been recognized on the national level for its contributions to race relations.

The Coming Together for Racial Understanding (CTRU) project received the 2021 National Diversity in Extension Award from the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities, Cooperative Extension and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

CTRU is a team of Extension specialists and administrators from 22 land-grant universities from 17 states coordinated by the Southern Rural Development Center (SRDC) at MSU. The team helped train facilitators who guided community dialogues across the country focused on race-related issues. The program was established in 2016 by the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy with the intent of growing a community of Extension professionals capable of facilitating dialogues on race relations.



Special to Wesson News

Rachel Welborn.

The CTRU curriculum has four components: a train-the-trainer workshop that equips teams to launch the initiative in their own states, Cooperative Extension Service capacity building for state teams to recruit and train more participants, community selection to identify locations for dialogues and dialogue when teams work in their communities to facilitate local race relations discussions.

SRDC Associate Director Rachel Welborn says the project involved 29 states sending teams for national training, with more than 100 participants completing train-the-trainer workshops. These participants have, in turn, led more than 900 Cooperative Extension System staff members through training sessions at the state level.

"Coming Together for Racial Understanding is a dialogue-to-change process for communities seeking new pathways for working together across racial/ethnic lines that seeks to foster understanding and build trust in order to take informed collective action for meaningful change," Welborn says. "Investing ourselves in the important task of trust building through dialogues is essential for meaningful change."

More information is available about the SRDC at srdc.msstate.edu.

EDITOR'S NOTE: A Mississippi State University Extension Service report.

ASHLEY'S 51 STOP

2061 Hwy 51 • Wesson • 601-643-0072 • Open Everyday

MUCH MORE THAN A C-STORE!

for all your feed needs

\$1.00 BAG ICE • 12 PACK COKE PRODUCTS • NON-ETHANOL GAS

Brookhaven Funeral Home

Pre-arrangement Special Offer

\$2,350.00 off of original price!

Full Traditional Funeral Services and your choice of either quality steel or wood casket
Pre-arranging locks in today's price and ensures your family will know your true wishes

for \$6,195.00*

*monthly payments are available



"A Family Serving Families"

As a minister and a father to five daughters, Lance Moak understands the importance of family. Lance specializes in helping people pre-arrange funeral services, taking away the difficult task of tough decisions at a most stressful time from your loved ones. To discuss the many options available to you, contact Lance Moak at 601-384-7290 or Wayne Smith 601-833-1441

"Because a Life Well Lived Deserves a Service Well Planned"

894 Natchez Dr. & 230 N. Jackson St., Brookhaven • 601-833-1441 • www.brookhavenfuneralhome.net

Co-Lin Community College 2021-22 Who's Who

Special to Wesson News

Their leadership, scholarship, character and potential for success after graduation has earned an array of Co-Lin students selection for the college's 2021-22 Who's Who at Copiah-Lincoln Community College.

Students enrolled full-time in two-year programs are eligible for consideration for Who's Who at Co-Lin. Nominations are made by faculty, staff and other students. A committee of administrators, staff, and faculty members make the final recommendations on selections. They were:

o **Wesson Campus:** Trenton Adams-Johnson of Hazlehurst, Alli Grace Albritton of Summit, Hanna Arnold of Summit, Megan Arnold of McComb, McKenzie Arthur of Braxton, Geneva Ashley of Brandon, Javarous Austin of Lorman, Jacob Barlow of Florence, Colby Beard of Wesson, Kenner Bizot of Wesson, Cera Blanchard of Metairie, LA; Janya Blue of Brandon, Jacob Bowman of Wesson, Hannah Boyd of Jayess, Landon Brewer of Florence, Kelly Brister of Brookhaven, Morgyn Brister of Bogue Chitto, Collin Britt of Brookhaven, Kristin Busby of Magee, Blakeney Byrd of Hazlehurst, Malori Cade of Wesson, Walter Collins of Hazlehurst, Hagen Conn of Jayess, Samantha Cothorn of Sarah, William Coumbe IV of Utica, Julianna Crosby of Brookhaven, Kassidy Cupit of Brookhaven, Izabela Dekovic of Belle Chasse, LA; Gabriel Denham of Richland, Zachary Felton of Roxie, Eli Fratesi of Leland, Adaisha Freeman of Byram, Krysten Garibay of Brookhaven, William Giachelli of Leland, Cody Goodman, Matthew Grady, Molly Granger, all of Wesson.

Greyson Graves of Magee, Henry Guess of Bogue Chitto, Emonuel Harper of Hazlehurst, William Hearn of Florence, Kiera Hemanes and Hannah Henderson, both of Wesson, Jaynie Grace Henning and Zoey Hinton, both of Brookhaven; William Hodgson, Sabra Hubbard of Mt. Olive, Samari Hughes of McComb, Gayton Johnson and Alece Jones, both of Brookhaven; Bridjette Jones-Talbert of Summit, Balies Jones IV of Byhalia, Aliza Jordan of Smithdale, Briana Kelly of Mendenhall, Christopher "Draven" Keyes of Brookhaven, Gabby Ladd of Monticello, Charlotte Lammiman of Hull, England; Emalyn Langley of Bogue Chitto, Abdural Lee of Starkville, Maeghan Lee of Bude, Triston Lee of Bogue Chitto, Olivia Lewis of Brookhaven, Anacia Leyland of St. Helens, England; Hannah Linzey of Brookhaven, Jacob Lofton of Smithdale, Emily Lunn of D'Lo, Zackary Mannon of Brookhaven, William Marcellus of Ridgeland, Shelbi Maxwell of Wesson.

Clark McGehee of Meadville, Payne McGowan of Brookhaven, David McKenzie of Summit, Josie Meggs of Kosciusko, Madeline Miller of Brookhaven, Rachel Montalvo of Brookhaven, Madison Moore of Pearl, Elise Mullins of Roxie, James Muse of Florence, Tyson Nelson of Monticello, Daryl Nichols, Jr. of Brandon, Matthew Bryce Oster of Wesson, Mickie Palfreman of Cheshunt, England; Julian Parker and Christie Rose Patterson, both of Brookhaven; Kyler Patton of Bogue Chitto, Lawson Pearson of Perkinston, Joanna Petty of Meadville, Mason Pounds of Magnolia, Micah Powell of Bogue Chitto, Matthew Preston, Jamal Pye of Bahalia, Jermel Quezaire of Brandon, Bella Ready of Jayess, Raylee Ready and Megan Reynolds, both of Monticello; Alondra Rivera, Daniel Scott and Paige Shedd, both of Brookhaven; Nyla Sims of Hattiesburg, Jordan Slonaker of Wesson, Naomi Smith of Monticello.

Neziah Smith of Sontag, Tanner Smith of Silver Creek, Taylor Smith of Brookhaven, Marvia Spann of Canton, Jacob Spinks of Jonesville, LA; Sheryl Spraggins of Bogue Chitto, Anna Beth Sullivan of Mendenhall, Anna Thomas



Special to Wesson News

of Wesson, Julian Toloza of Bucaramanga, Colombia; Ana Torres, Marty Trott of Silver Creek, Mallory Turner of Brookhaven, Anna Holland Tyson and Braden Tyson both of Meadville; Zachary Upkins of Bogue Chitto, Sarah Walker of Magnolia, Carly Beth Wallace of Brookhaven, Gracee Warren of Bogue Chitto, Beyonce Washington of Brookhaven, Macie West of Magee, Hunter White of McCall Creek, Madalyn Wilkinson of Madison, Bailey Wilson and Tabbetha Wyant both of Brookhaven; and Jakrya Young of Kosciusko.

o **Natchez Campus:** Kyla Baskin, Timothy Blalock, Reise Blanton, Connally Bourke, all of Natchez; Genesis Brown of Magnolia; Erika Burkes, Landon Cox, Murray Donald, Chelsey Ellis, Israelii Franklin, Daisha Green, Eddie Hawkins, Kaitlyn Hayes, Hallie Holland, all of Natchez; Nathaniel Hull of Woodville; Jailyln Hurst of Natchez; Hunter Hux of Bogue Chitto; Niyah Jones of Natchez; Alexis June of Woodville; Senia King, Grace Knight, Carl Knight, Khyra Knight, all of Natchez; T'Ambler Lee of Fayette; Whitney McIntosh, Donato Miller, Tomaz Minor, all of Natchez; Carlin Nations of Bogue Chitto; Itzel Ortiz, Brandy Owens, Aysia Pollard, Cailyn Proby, Calvin Proby, Haley Robertson, all of Natchez; William Rouse of Meadville, Eric Smith of Natchez, Madeline Smith of Vidalia, LA; Samaria Spears of Woodville, Hugh Taylor IV of Natchez, Max Thomas of Roxie, Gillian Thompson, Trinity Tucker, Benjamin White, Keiana Wilcox, Destiny Williams, Zhure Williams, Tyrese Wilson, Randy Woods, and Kayla Wright, all of Natchez.

o **Simpson County Center:** Hattie Grace Ashmore and Parker Berry, both of Magee; Blake Boleware of Collins, Troy Brock and Landen Chapman, both of Mendenhall; Erin Davidson of Magee, Austin Harris of Mendenhall, Brennon McNair of Magee, Brady Nations of Silver Creek, James Rankin III of Magee, Lauren Sistrunk of Mount Olive, and Mandrell Sullivan of Mendenhall.



Magnolia Blues Sports Bar & Restaurant

**We Have Reopened
At Our New Brookhaven Downtown Location**
Steaks & BBQ Specials
Tuesday-Saturday
Live Music Friday & Saturday
3 p.m.-9 p.m.

218 S. Whitworth Avenue, Brookhaven 601-990-2366

Takeout Food & Groceries

Monday - Saturday 4 a.m.- 9 p.m. Sunday 4 a.m.- 6 p.m.



CHICKEN ON A STICK



• SWEET TEA •



HUNT BROTHERS PIZZA
Whole or By the Hunk



SHOP 'N WASH

510 Main Street • Wesson
601-643-5676 • Open Everyday

Education, nursing & social work scholarship

Special to Wesson News

A new Co-Lin scholarship will benefit students pursuing a degree in education, nursing or social work.

The Marjorie Aiken Rector Memorial Scholarship was endowed with the Copiah-Lincoln Community College Foundation through donations from Rector’s daughter, Dr. Stephanie Rector Duguid, Dean of Academics at Co-Lin and a *Wesson News* columnist, her husband Brent Duguid, Dean of Career-Tech at Co-Lin, and other friends and family of Marjorie Rector to honor and celebrate her passion for education and life of giving and supporting those in need.

“My mother was the typical Texas woman with big hair, a big personality, and an even bigger heart,” said Stephanie Duguid. “She cared for everyone around her, especially the students she taught for more than 40 years. Mom believed that with quality post-secondary education, you can do anything. In fact, she strongly felt that service professions were the key to developing our society. She was a teacher, her sister was a nurse, and she had many friends who were social workers. That is why Brent and I decided to create the Marjorie Aiken Rector Memorial Scholarship supporting those striving to work in education, nursing, or social work.”

Born the youngest of five on February 18, 1940, Rector’s passion for education was instilled from a young age by her mother who had a goal that all her children would attend college and earn a degree. Rector went on to earn bachelor’s and a master’s degrees before beginning her career in teaching. She taught government, economics and leadership for more than 40 years, most of which were at Dulles High School in Stafford, Texas. She was an active member of All Saints Episcopal Church in Stafford, and was involved in the choir, was a lay reader, and Chalise bearer.

Rector spent her days and nights dedicated to her family and students. She had two girls that were the center of her life, but also considered her students her “kids.” She was a teacher students trusted and with whom they felt safe. On many occasions, she would open her home and heart to students in need. Not only was Rector an educator, but later in life, she was a chaplain in local hospitals, while dedicating her time and resources to Habitat for Humanity.

At the end of August 2001, Rector was in a fatal single car accident. She was 61 years old. The scholarship in her honor was endowed on February 18, on what would have been Rector’s 82nd birthday.

“We’re so grateful to the Duguids and their family for this new scholarship in memory of Marjorie Rector,” said Co-Lin Foundation director Angela Furr. “Their com-



Special to Wesson News

The Marjorie Aiken Rector Memorial Scholarship was recently endowed with the Copiah-Lincoln Community College Foundation. Rector’s daughter, Dr. Stephanie Rector Duguid, Dean of Academics at Co-Lin, and her husband Brent Duguid, Dean of Career-Tech at Co-Lin, along with donations from other friends and family of Marjorie Rector, established the scholarship to benefit students pursuing a degree in education, nursing or social work to share Rector’s passion for education and her life of giving and supporting those in need. The scholarship was endowed on February 18, on what would have been Rector’s 82nd birthday. Pictured from left are Foundation Director Angela Furr, Co-Lin Foundation director; Brent Duguid, and Stephanie Duguid.

mitment to education through their work at Co-Lin and this gift will have a lasting impact on countless students.”

Contributions to the Marjorie Aiken Rector Memorial Scholarship can be mailed to the Co-Lin Foundation at P.O. Box 649, Wesson, MS 39191, or made online at <https://www.colin.edu/alumni-foundation/give-now/>.

BANKRUPTCY



CHAPTER 7
DEBT ELIMINATION

\$545 + court cost
uncontested

CHAPTER 13
DEBT CONSOLIDATION

\$200 + court cost
gets it filed

Richard R. Grindstaff
Attorney At Law

840 E. River Place Ste 605
Jackson MS 39202
601-346-6443

121 1/2 W. Cherokee St
Brookhaven, MS
601-684-1798

WE ARE A DEBT RELIEF AGENCY, WE HELP PEOPLE FILE FOR BANKRUPTCY RELIEF UNDER BANKRUPTCY CODE

Thanks for supporting our expanded digital issue!

LPL
LOWERY, PAYN & LEGGETT
Certified Public Accountants

Patrick E. Lowery, CPA
Sharon E. Payn, CPA
Stacy B. Leggett, CPA

Lowery, Payn and Leggett, CPA's strives to ensure our clients accomplish their financial goals by providing the highest quality accounting, tax, audit and consulting services.

601-833-1456
www.lplcpas.com

207 South Railroad Avenue Brookhaven, MS 39601

Skeetburger In Beauregard
Best Burger in Town
Salads, Baskets, Plates lunches,
PoBoys & Beverages
Tu-Th 11-7 • Fri-Sat 11-8
Closed on Sundays and Mondays
601-643-0048
Checks and all major credit cards

WESSON ACE HARDWARE
2057 Hwy. 51 South • PO Box 547
Wesson, Mississippi 39191
wessonacehardware.com
TIM SUTTON – owner
601-643-2636
601-643-9906 fax
601-695-4144 cell

MIKE'S HANDYMAN SERVICE, LLC
601-757-0266
PUMBLING • ROOFING • CARPENTRY • SMALL REMODEL
EXTERIOR HOUSE PAINTING • HOME MATINENCE
TUESDAY - THURSDAY
WESSON, MS
MICHEAL WILLIAMS

Mill Town Mall
Over 50 Vendor Booths & 15,000 sq. ft. of Merchandise
Antiques, Collectibles
&
Flea Market Items
Something for everyone!
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Saturday
601-643-1446

2058 Hwy 51
in Wesson

TOP QUALITY MEMORIALS
WHEN IT'S PERMANENT, TRUST THE PROFESSIONALS
CHECK OUT OUR HUGE SELECTION
REMEMBER THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE
WITH A TOP QUALITY MEMORIAL FROM BROOKHAVEN MONUMENT COMPANY.
SPRINGTIME MEANS NEW INVENTORY ARRIVING WEEKLY

BROOKHAVEN MONUMENT COMPANY, INC.
Your FIRST CHOICE FOR OVER 70 YEARS

DAVE PACE
KEVIN LAIRD

807 HIGHWAY 51 NORTH • P.O. BOX 727 • BROOKHAVEN, MS 39602
601-833-5701

MARKETPLACE MOTORS

LITTLE LOT - BIG SAVINGS



Roland Price
110 Market Place
Hazlehurst, MS 39083

MarketplaceMotors.net
601-750-2277
Across from Walmart

NEW ARRIVALS

2014 Mercedes C-Class 250 Sport



Sunroof, Leather, Only 92,000 Miles, Super Nice

- 2016 GMC Sierra Crew Cab, 4x4, Leather Buckets, Lifted, Custom 22's, Sharp!
- 2014 Mercedes C Class 250 Sport sedan, Sunroof, Low miles, Leather, Beautiful!
- 2012 Chev Traverse LT, 3rd row, Rear A/C, low mileage, leather, dvd!
- 2015 Chevy Silverado LT, Crew Cab, 4x4, Leather Buckets, Low mileage, Super nice!
- 2013 Audi A4 2.0 Quattro Premium AWD Leather, Sunroof, Navi, Super Nice!
- 2012 GMC Acadia SUV **SOLD!** car, 3rd row, Rear A/C and heat, low mileage!
- 2013 Honda Accord EX-L w/Leather, Sunroof, 36mpg, Nice car!
- 2017 Honda Accord, Only 63,000 miles, like new, great Gas mileage!
- 2015 Nissan Altima 2.5 S package, super nice with great gas mileage, Silver beauty!
- 2013 Mercedes C250 **SOLD!** Low Mileage, Sunroof, Leather, Super Nice!
- 2010 Lincoln MKZ, Red **SOLD!** leather, Sunroof, Chrome Wheels, Loaded, Come look!
- 2009 BMW X5, xDrive48i, AWD, Black with Peanut Butter Leather, Sunroof, Nice!
- 2015 Toyota Tacoma Prerunner, Crew Cab, New Tires, Professionally serviced, Pwr Wind, Locks, Mirrors!
- 2010 Mercedes E-Class Luxury, E350, Only 86,000 Miles, Perfect!
- 2014 Nissan Frontier Crew Cab SV model, One Owner, Almost new tires, 6 Cyl. Hard bed cover, super nice!
- 2010 Honda Accord Crosstour, Rare Find, Leather, Sunroof, Almost new tires!

2014 GMC Sierra 2500HD SLT 4x4



Duramax, Leather Buckets, NICE, NICE!



WE FINANCE

Just bring in your last pay stub and your down payment and drive out TODAY!

Eddie Britt NISOD Excellence Award recipient

Special to Wesson News

Eddie Britt is the Co-Lin 2022 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Award recipient.

Britt, who has been employed as a mathematics instructor at the college since 2004, will be honored at the Excellence Awards Celebration held during the annual NISOD Conference in Austin, Texas, in May 2022.

Britt also serves as chair of the Co-Lin Mathematics and Computer Science Division and is the Mu Alpha Theta (the mathematics honor society for two-year colleges) sponsor and advisor. During his time at Co-Lin, he has also been honored as the Phi Theta Kappa Faculty Scholar and Outstanding Instructor of the Year (2016).

The NISOD Excellence Awards have an over 30-year history of recognizing and honoring extraordinary faculty, administrators, and staff whose service to their students, colleagues, and community deserves special recognition.



Special to Wesson News



Riverwood Family

Funeral Service • Memorial Park • Cremation Service • Monuments



- Honoring ALL policies and arrangements made and written by any other funeral service provider
- Most Experienced Staff to serve your family
- Most Spacious Facility offered in our area
- Best Priced and Most Thoughtfully arranged services
- Offering the most affordable pricing on Pre-Arrangements or Time of Need Services
- Also offering Monuments and Markers for all Cemeteries for any budget

601-833-6680

76 US-51, Brookhaven www.riverwoodfamily.com

PSC weighs solar power incentive

Special to Wesson News

As utilities and clean energy advocates battle over expanding a seldom-used renewable energy program, the state's regulators must soon decide: what is rooftop solar worth in Mississippi?

This month, the Mississippi Public Service Commission is due to update the state's net metering rule -- a system in which homeowners can generate their own solar power and receive credits from their utility company for any leftover electricity.

The program is relatively new in Mississippi, which became the 46th state to adopt net metering in 2015. By their most recent counts, Mississippi Power and Entergy Mississippi have roughly 300 net metering participants combined, or fewer than one in a thousand customers. Among the states, Mississippi ranks second to last in the number of residential adopters.

The idea of net metering is to create another path to clean energy outside of just what the utilities produce, helping reduce emissions and at the same time easing pressure on the state's existing power grid. Advocates also say friendlier policies would attract a booming solar industry into the state, as well as other companies hoping to offset their own emissions.

But to the utility companies, the idea

makes less sense in practice, especially in the short-term: home solar installations cost thousands of dollars, so in order to encourage homeowners to participate, the utility has to reimburse those customers at a rate that makes the investment worthwhile. They argue that such high reimbursement rates means less money those customers are contributing to maintain the power grid, and that those costs get shifted to the utility's other customers.

Thirty-nine states, plus Washington, D.C., have net metering rules that require utilities to pay customers at the retail rate. Mississippi is one of six states with rules that don't. Increasing Mississippi's low participation comes down to raising that credit rate, but Autumn Proudlove, senior policy program director at the NC Clean Energy Technology Center, says that Mississippi's very large, powerful, vertically-integrated utilities have influenced state policies and there hasn't been sufficient customer demand to pressure utilities or policy makers.

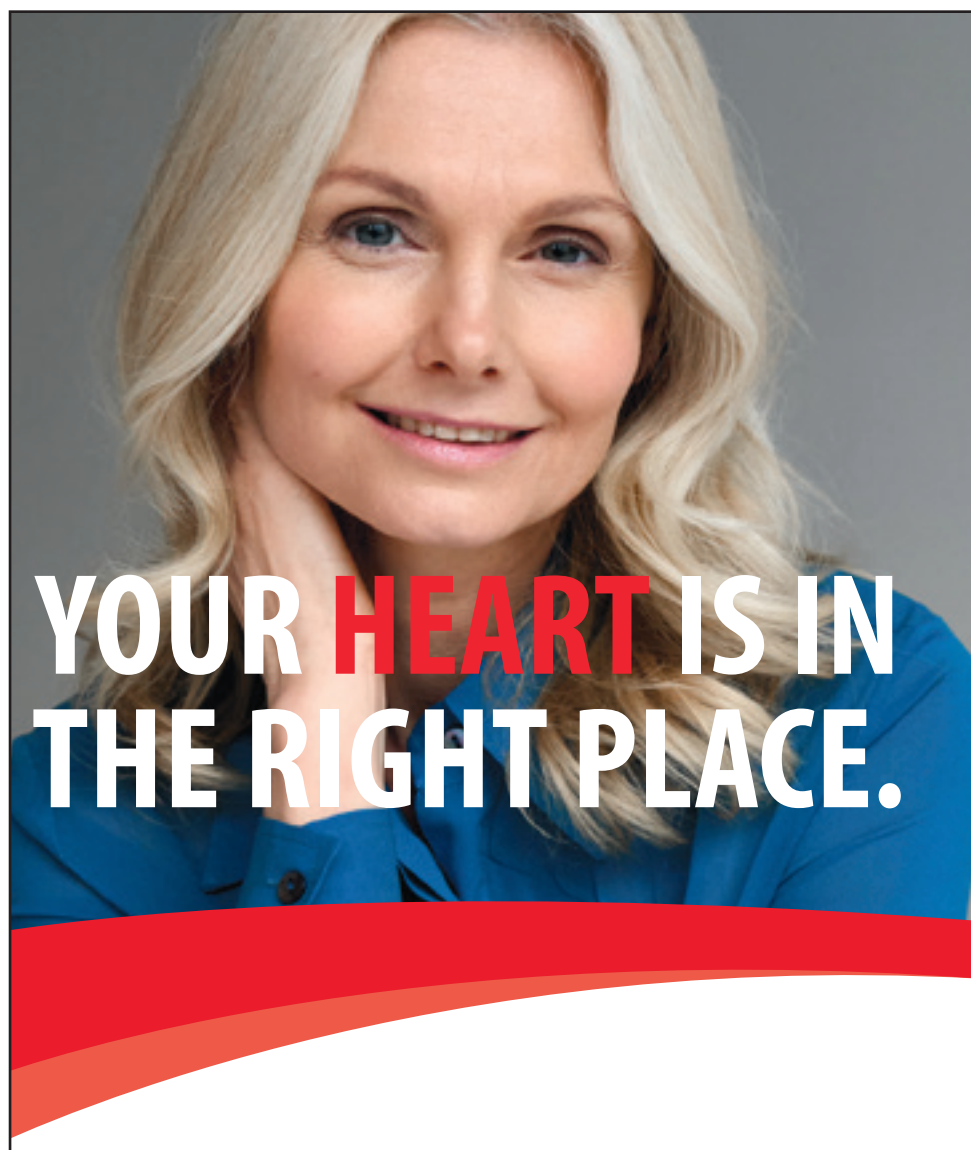
In the PSC's proposed update, which it released in January, utilities wouldn't increase the overall credit rate, but would offer a \$3,000 rebate for some homes and a higher credit rate for customers at or below 250% of the poverty line.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Excerpted from a Mississippi Today report.

**art
wine+
wheels**
may 6-8, 2022
RIDGELAND, MISSISSIPPI
Three signature events in
one epic weekend!



artwineandwheels.com



**YOUR HEART IS IN
THE RIGHT PLACE.**

**THEY SAY HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS,
SO WE PROVIDE HEART CARE CLOSE TO HOME.**

Our team of heart specialists are here for your routine and preventive cardiac care through lifestyle support, minimally invasive treatments and in emergent situations.

When you put your heart in our hands, you get the benefit of skilled, experienced cardiovascular specialists and Merit Health Heart's collaborative approach to care.

To learn more, visit MeritHealthHeart.com



If you are experiencing a medical emergency, call 911.