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Wesson News

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Founders Day in Wesson

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Volume 10, Number 6

“Good News You Can Use”

June, 2022

Local mom authors children's book



Wesson News

Kris Sullivan

By Bob Arnold

A Wesson mom's literary gift to her nine-year-old daughter -- a story about growing up -- is delighting many others beyond town today as a recently-published book.

Brookhaven-based Epiphany Publishing House is now distributing *Truly Too Green*, a birthday book Kris Sullivan presented to her daughter Mary Grace, a May 2022 graduate of Wesson Attendance Center (WAC), when she was nine years old.

The Sullivan book is a modern-day fable which plows up issues of rejection, resilience and acceptance with whimsical color illustrations by children.

Truly Too Green is a sunflower who becomes who God created her to be after living through stages as a sweet small seed and an all-green seedling, recognizing her true self and experiencing ongoing growth through interactions with the surrounding world -- other flowers, insects, the sun, reflections in a pond. She enters the world with a fresh outlook, is rejected by peers and uncovers a hidden reservoir of resilience.

From another sunflower, she learns "every flower needs time to grow into

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WHS Class of 2022 graduates 66



Special to Wesson News

Valedictorian Kayla Smith



Special to Wesson News

Salutatorian Zoe Johnson

Special to Wesson News

Wesson High School graduated sixty-six Class of 2022 seniors in ceremonies last month. Kayla Smith was Valedictorian and Zoe Johnson Salutatorian. Also graduating were:

Alexis Ashley, Kimberly Ayers, Callie Brooke Barlow, Carson Barlow, Brett Boutwell, Jesse Brewer, Kamryn Bridges, Ja'Kyle Brown, William Brown III, Anyel



Special to Wesson News

Wesson High School Class of 2022

Butler, JaKayla Butler, Tamiya Byther, Chloe Clark-Neese, Tyler Coghlan, Adam Curtis, Paris Dickerson, Alayna Everett, Tyler Fuller, Ki'onna Gibson, Breanna Grant-Hall, Turner Green, Alexis Guess, Anna Katherine Harrell, Carl James Harrison, Daizy Hernandez, Jaron Hisaw, Zachary Hoffman, Logan Hux, Destini Jones, Andrew Lee, Kayla McElveen, Collin McGowan, Samuel McInnis, Vivian McRee, Pierre Merrill, Macie Moore, Jared Mora, Baylee Newman, Kayla Oberschmidt,

Dayton Odom, Dalton Orgeron, Ty Perry, Kelly Grace Raiford, Jimmy Robbins, Nyla Ross, Shakera Sanders, Gage Smith, Cooper Smith, Karleigh Smith, Sarya Smith, Sebron Smith, Suzanna Smith, Mary Grace Sullivan, Jaylon Suttles, Alex Taylor, Troy Thigpen, Malliyah Walker-Clay, Brianna Westbrook, Amber Westbrook, Cenana Westmoreland, Alayna Westrope, Lane Westrope, Adam Wolfe and Zackary Woods.

Wesson honors veterans during May

Special to Wesson News

Wesson folk took several occasions last month to celebrate and remember U.S. armed forces veterans who have served and continue to serve at home and abroad in wars and peacetime.

The occasions included a dinner at Wesson Baptist Church for the latest group of military personnel who contributed their labor to building a camp for kids with serious health issues in Covich County, a tribute to fallen heroes of the Vietnam War on Interstate 55 overpasses and a special wreath-laying ceremony.

Volunteers from Wesson-based Socks for Heroes, a veterans assistance organization, cooked



Special to Wesson News

Airmen from Puerto Rico helped at Camp Kamessa.

and served Southern fare at a dinner for more than 60 airmen from Puerto Rico stationed at Crystal Springs to help build Camp Kamessa on 326 acres in Covich County to serve children with cancer, sickle cell and other serious illnesses, kids in foster

care and adults with special needs. They are the most recent of the military groups that have come from dozens of states, as far away as Alaska and Hawaii, to donate more than \$6 million worth of free labor to get the job done. Air

cont. on page 9

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Graduating seniors receive awards

Special to Wesson News

Wesson Attendance Center honored its graduating seniors for performance in classes and on college entrance exams, service to the school and community and overall character. Awards included:

- **Senior Class President Award:** Lane Westrope
- **Financial Literacy Awards:** Kamryn Bridges and Alayna Everett
- **Teacher Academy Two-Year Program Completer Awards (given cords for graduation):** Kimberly Ayers, Paris Dickerson, Anna Katherine Harrell, Macie Moore, Baylee Newman, Gage Smith
- **Yearbook Awards (given plaques for their service):** Kamryn Bridges, Kelly Grace Raiford, Amber Westbrook, Kayla McElveen, Anyel Butler, Alayna Westrope (senior members), Alexis Ashley (Yearbook Editor)
- **Student Council Awards:** Alexis Ashley (senior member), Lane Westrop (Student Body President)
- **Robotics Team – Senior Award:** Adam Curtis (Driver of the Year – Bionic Cobra Award)
- **Senior Beta Club Members:** Alexis Ashley, Nyla Ross, Sam McInnis, Zoe Johnson, Logan Hux, Amber Westbrook, Kamryn Bridges, Gage Smith (Special Senior Recognition/Awards)
- **Lindy Callahan Scholar Athlete Award:** Kyla Smith (Girl School Winner), Sam McInnis (Boy School Winner)
- **Star Student, Star Teacher:** Sam McInnis (Student), Daniel Hux (Teacher)
- **Senior Citizenship Awards:** Kamryn Bridges and Logan Hux
- **Senior Service Awards:** Kyla Smith and Lane Westrope
- **Senior Cobra Character Awards:** Alayna Everett and Gage Smith
- **Hall of Fame Inductees:** Kamryn Bridges, Logan Hux, Gage Smith

Classes

- **US Government:** Logan Hux, Zoe Johnson, Mary Grace Sullivan (Outstanding Achievement), Alayna Everett (Highest Average).
- **Economics:** Logan Hux, Kamryn Bridges, Alayna Everett (Outstanding Achievement), Zoe Johnson (Highest Average).
- **Accounting:** Alayna Everett (Outstanding Achievement), Sam McInnis (Highest Average)
- **Law Related Education:** Tyler Coghlan and Sam McInnis (Outstanding Achievement)
- **Humanities:** Sam McInnis (Highest Average)
- **English IV:** Chloe Neese, Daizy Hernandez, Breanna Westbrook (Outstanding Achievement), JaKayla Butler (Highest Average)

- **English Comp I:** Alayna Everett, Sam McInnis, Lane Westrope (Outstanding Achievement), Kayla Smith (Highest Average)
- **English Comp II:** Alayna Everett, Zoe Johnson, Gage Smith (Outstanding Achievement), Kayla Smith (Highest Average)
- **College Algebra:** Alexis Ashley, Logan Hux, Kimberly Ayers, Vivian McRee, Zoe Johnson, JaKyle Brown, Destini Jones, Alayna Everett (Outstanding Achievement), Sam McInnis (Highest Average)
- **Algebra III:** Kamryn Bridges (Outstanding Achievement)
- **Essentials for College Math:** Anyel Butler, Turner Green, Kelly Grace Raiford (Outstanding Achievement), Kayla McElveen (Highest Average)
- **Resource Management:** Kimberly Ayers, Logan Hux (Outstanding Achievement), Lane Westrope (Highest Average)
- **Family Dynamics:** Anyel Butler, Logan Hux, Lane Westrope (Outstanding Achievement), Kimberly Ayers (Highest Average)
- **Environmental Science:** Logan Hux (Highest Average)
- **Genetics:** Logan Hux (Highest Average)
- **Physics:** Kayla McElveen and Nyla Ross (Outstanding Achievement), Kamryn Bridges (Highest Average)
- **Zoology:** Destini Jones, Troy Thigpen, Amber Westbrook (Outstanding Achievement)
- **Botany:** Troy Thigpen and Amber Westbrook (Outstanding Achievement)
- **Human A & P:** Kyla Smith, Alayna Everett, Zackary Woods (Outstanding Achievement), Zoe Johnson (Highest Average)

ACT Club

- **Bronze (19-20 ACT Scores):** Alayna Westrope, Anyel Butler, Breanna Grant-Hall, Caden White, Cenán Westmoreland, Dalton Orgeron, Kayla McElveen, Kelly Grace Raiford, Troy Thigpen, Turner Green, Ty Perry.
- **Silver (21-24 ACT Scores):** Adam Wolfe, Vivian McRee, Andy Lee, Brett Boutwell, Callie Brooke Barlow, Collin McGowan, Daizy Hernandez, Destini Jones, Gage Smith, Jakayla Butler, JaKyle Brown, Jared Mora. Kayla Oberschmid. Kimberly Ayers, Lane Westrope, Malliyah Walker-Clay, Nyla Ross, Sebron Smith, Suzanna Smith, Tyler Coghla.
- **Gold (25-29 ACT Scores):** Adam Curtis, Carson Barlow, Kamryn Bridges, Lexi Ashley, Logan Hux, Mary Grace Sullivan, Pierre Merrill, Zackary Woods
- **Platinum (30-34 ACT Scores):** Sam McInnis, Alayna Everett. Amber Westbrook. Kyla Smith, Zoe Johnson.



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Students receive 17 scholarships

Special to Wesson News

Forty-four Wesson High School graduates are going on to college studies with assistance provided by seventeen scholarships. Scholarship recipients included:

- Minister’s Alliance Scholarships: Kamryn Bridges (\$1,000) and Kimberly Ayers (\$500)
- Wesson Lion’s Club Scholarships: William Brown III (\$500), Lexie Guess (\$500), Anyel Butler (\$500)
- Ole Miss Scholarships: Zoe Johnson, Nyla Ross, Kyla Smith, Mary Grace Sullivan
- Mississippi College: Logan Hux
- Alcorn State University: Malliyah Walker-Clay
- Southwest MS Community College: Brett Boutwell (ACT and Baseball)
- The University of Southern Mississippi: Sebron Smith
- Pearl River Community College: Lane Westrope (Rodeo Team Scholarship)
- Southern Agriculture Scholarship: Vivian McRee
- Greg Holloway Scholarship: William Brown III, Kelly Grace Railford
- American Legion Boys State: Sam McInnis
- American Legion Girls State: Mary Grace Sullivan
- Girl Scouts: Malliyah Walker-Clay and Nyla Ross
- US Army: Troy Thigpen and Andrew Lee
- Junior Auxillary Crystal Springs Ann Gulledge Scholarship: Gage Smith
- Zeta Phi Beta: Anyel Butler and Malliyah Walker-Clay
- Jim Lowery Memorial Scholarship: Lane Westrope

Co-Lin: Alexis Ashley (Academic Achievement), Kimberly Ayers (Academic Achievement and Endowment Scholarship), Callie Brooke Barlow (Academic Achievement), Carson Barlow (Academic Achievement/Band/Endowment).

Kamryn Bridges (Academic Achievement/Band/Presidential Scholarship), JaKyle Brown (Academic Achievement/Band), William Brown III (Band), Tyler Coghlan (Academic Achievement), Adam Curtis (Academic Achievement/Band), Paris Dickerson (Band), Alayna Everett (Academic Achievement/Endowment), Breanna Grant-Hall (Basketball), Alexis Guess (Endowment), Anna Katherine Harrell (Band/Endowment), Daizy Hernandez (Academic Achievement).

Destini Jones (Academic Achievement), Collin McGowan (Academic Achievement/Football/Endowment), Vivian McRee (Academic Achievement/Cheer/Endowment), Pierre Merrill (Academic Achievement/Endowment), Jared Mora (Academic Achievement), Kayla Oberschmidt (Academic Achievement/Endowment), Dalton Orgeron (Academic Achievement/Band/Endowment).

Ty Perry (Academic Achievement), Kelly Grace Raiford (Academic Achievement/Endowment/Collette), Gage Smith (Academic Achievement/Band/Endowment), Karleigh Smith (Band), Suzanne Smith (Academic Achievement/Band/Endowment), Amber Westbrook (Academic Achievement/Collette/Leadership), Alayna Westrope (Academic Achievement/Endowment), Adam Wolfe (Academic Achievement/Endowments/Band) and Zackary Woods (Academic Achievements/Endowments).

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Wesson Garden club Honor Yards



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Chamber of Commerce downtown garden



Floral basket display at corner of Church Street and Highway 51.



Floral basket display at corner of Church Street and Highway 51.

Photos special to Wesson News

Special to Wesson News

In May, Wesson Garden Club recognized landscaping efforts of Mrs. Lois Hawkins and Beth and Rusty Adcock at 1029 Main Street, the Wesson Chamber of Commerce garden at Highway 51 and Main

Street and Casey and Cynthia Granger at 1029 Beauregard Road in its Yard of the Month town residential, organizational and rural residential categories. The Club also spotlighted its floral basket displays at the corners of Church Street and Highway 51

and Factory Street and Highway 51 for Spring Design. 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 that 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.

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Chamber crowns Founders Day Queen

Special to Wesson News

Wesson Chamber of Commerce crowned Ally Sullivan the town's new Founders Day Queen at the annual event last month that celebrates the life and culture of the community.

Over the next year, Sullivan will represent the local Chamber as Wesson's ceremonial royalty at business grand openings and other special events.

The daughter of Kandi and Dwight Sullivan is a junior at Wesson Attendance Center, where she is also a member of the Cobra Yearbook Staff, National Beta Club, Student Council Representative, Vice President of the Junior Class and member of the Wesson High School Band and Color Guard. She plans to attend Co-Lin after graduating from Wesson High School, and to major in Cybersecurity/ Criminal Justice or Pediatric Nursing.

Why did she want to be Founders Day Queen? "I would love to represent my town as Founder Day Queen to meet new people, give back to the place I was raised and show my love for our small town."

In addition to the entertainment, food, shopping specials and fun time, Founders Day festivities featured a 5K Run/Walk that kicked off the two-day event and a car show.

Overall winners of the 5K Run in the men's and women's categories were Logan Hux and Yemy Wolf. Under age 20, over age 21 and over age 36 division winners were Logan Hux (first), Noah Brister (second) and A.J. Perkins (third); Yemy Wolf (first), Amber Brinson (second) and Jessica Breazeale (third); and Brian Norwood (first), Toby Williamson (second) and Ricky Breazeale (third).

Karley Shannon (first), Kate Norwood (second) and Jenny Selman (third) were the winning



Special to Wesson News

2022 Founders Day Queen Ally Sullivan

walkers.

In the car show, the Participant Choice winner was a 1956 Oldsmobile Rocket 88 owned by Roxanne Douglas of Wesson, and Chamber of Commerce Choice



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winner was a 1915 Ford Model T Tourer owned by Brian and Mandy King of Wesson.

Wesson Chamber Commerce organizes and manages the annual Founders Day events.

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Now, she goes home at 4

By Bob Arnold

Working behind the window at City Hall -- meeting town residents about their concerns, answering telephones, processing payments and doing anything else the City Clerk assigns -- may seem less than an ideal job, but after working in grocery stores, cleaning houses, cutting hair and driving an ambulance, Deputy Town Clerk Cristy Griffin isn't looking at the help-wanted pages in newspapers.

"I like my job, and am happy to be going home at four o'clock," says Griffin, now in her second year working for the Town of Wesson.

In October, 2020, Griffin came off an American Medical Response (AMR) ambulance as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) to help her old friend Angela Hester, Wesson City Clerk, part-time as the Deputy Clerk. Last October, after injuring her back as an EMT -- driving and helping patients, she came on board full-time.

A Terry, Mississippi, native, Griffin has lived mostly in Crystal Springs, now just west of the town on an old 400-acre farm near Calling Panther Lake.

She recalls a childhood during the 1980s and 1990s in which she worked with her brother Jason in grocery stores managed by their parents -- a Real Value in Wesson, among others, including a Bells in Terry and Sunflower in Byram.

After earning a General Education High School Diploma from the State of Mississippi, she started a house cleaning business in 1996, which transitioned into caregiving "as my clients aged," she recounts. Along the way, she also became certified in cosmetology at Hinds Community College (HCC) in 2010, and then "tried operating" a beauty salon in Crystal Springs for a year, along with her house cleaning and caregiving business.

Griffin joined AMR after earning EMT certification in 2019 at HCCC -- a career cut short by her back injury after eight months

on the job.

Griffin and her husband Aaron, a Clinton police officer, reared two daughters, now grown, on their old 400-acre farm, which he inherited from his grandfather -- Brandie, 26, a former police officer now employed by Renasant Bank, and Aleaha, 24, who will graduate from the HCC LPN program in July.



What are your hobbies?

On the old farm, I raise cattle and horses, and reared my kids. Soon, I will have a garden to occupy me. I attend the First Baptist Church at Terry.

Are you a reader?

I used to be into science fiction before I became too busy.

How about music?

I listen to all kinds of music, but particularly enjoy Country music.

Do you enjoy movies or theater?

I watch movies on the basic television channels. In the country where I live, we have no cable or internet.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

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

I would pay off my debts, and give back to people who have helped me to become what I am -- family, friends,

others.

How would you change the world?

The world has become a mean place. People don't have respect for themselves and others. I would bring back the old values -- just being nice to each other.

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Tea party celebrates WGC year



Special to Wesson News

Special to Wesson News

The Executive Committee of Wesson Garden Club (WGC) turned the Wesson American Legion Post 79 lodge into a beautiful setting for a 1950s/1960s retro tea party, with vintage decor, including tea pots and cups and tables accented with floral designs, to mark the Club's year end.

Club members wearing 50s and 60s styles contributed to the ambiance of a meeting that focused on the organization's work during 2021 and 2022.

Jean Ricks led in the reading of the Club's Collect, June Owens blessed the food, and Debbie Smith read a poem -- "The Meaning of Garden Club Work" from the National Garden Clubs' "A Collection of Inspirations and Installations."

After enjoying a time of fellowship and a tea with delicious refreshments and treats prepared and served by the Club's Executive Committee, WGC President Dixie Thornton reviewed the Club's year and thanked the members for their hard work, which brought it considerable recognition -- five first place awards, one second place award, and one honorable mention at the 93rd Annual Convention of The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc. in April at Brandon, Mississippi.

The Club's convention first place honors encompassed the Garden Education Center category, the Carrie Avent Bird Award, Container

Gardening, Social Media by Club Members and National Garden Week. Second place recognition encompassed Public Relations, and the Club received an Honorable Mention for its Publicity Press Book.

First time competitors in the "Girl Power" National Garden Clubs State Petite Design Specialty Flower Show held at Brandon were Debbie Smith and Dixie Thornton. Smith received honorable mention in the "Serving Others" Reflective Design Class and Thornton received second place in the "Preparing to Entertain" Table Design.

The Club also received First Place Bird Award from Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc., for the Club's "Blue Bird Trail" project spearheaded by JoAnn Miller.

Those attending the year end meeting were Marilyn Britt, Sherri Carty, Sherry Davis, Rebecca Harrison, Debbie Hoaglin, Denise Jackson, Vickie Martin, Pam McLemore, Ashley Munn, June Owens, Pam Owens, Jennifer Peets, Joy Phillips, Jean Ricks, Debbie Smith, Lisa Smith, Nancy Sullivan, Dixie Thornton, Brittney Warren, Cathy Warren, and Joy Wesbrooks. Invited guests in attendance were Paige Anderson and Cherry Head.

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

cont. from page 1

Local mom authors children's book

who God created her to be. You have just seen your true self for the first time, but that's who you really were all along" and comes to understand "who I am is who I have always been, but I never really knew myself until now; I expect there are many other new things for me to know, too."

In its conclusion, the book asks readers to cull from its narrative to answer questions about growing up and relationships.

The author is a sixth-grade language arts teacher at WAC with a Master's degree in school counseling and a journalism background. She and her husband Ken Sullivan have two daughters and own Dumps, a barbeque restaurant in Wesson. Sullivan enjoys travel, Bible study, bass fishing, sipping hot coffee and the outdoors.

Three sixth graders at WAC contributed the colorful art featured in *Truly Too Green*: Carley Clayton Smith, Anye' L. Tanner and Blayten Wayne Windom. Jimmie Cain, a visual designer who works at Co-Lin, assisted in design of the book.

To order the book, visit <https://www.target.com/p/truly-too-green-by-kris-sullivan-hardcover/-/A-86662114>.

Great songwriters without big names

By Guest Columnist R. Shaw Furlow

I've tried nearly my whole life to turn out that perfect song, the one audiences knew and sang along to. That one song that the audience comes to hear. Unfortunately, it hasn't happened. But, that hasn't stopped me from trying. Every time I get an idea, I think this may be the one. My "American Pie" or "Hotel California" is just a few chord changes away.

I've discovered since retiring from Co-Lin that I'm not the only one. I have made a whole new group of friends in the songwriters community, particularly since starting the Overbrook Songwriters Festival, which will run for the third time in Brookhaven in August. I've asked a few of them to help me tell the story of songwriting. They haven't had big hits, and you don't know their names. They have regular jobs and write when possible. But their music is great, and all they want to do is to share it with you.

Nancy Bryant Roppolo and her husband Joe own a nursery in St. Francisville, Louisiana. They play together in a couple of bands, and she has a solo act. Nancy is a multi-instrumentalist and plays piano in her church. Roppolo wrote her first song at



the age of twelve and performed it in a school talent show. In the 44 years that have followed, she has written hundreds of songs.

"It's hard to define my style," she says. "It's rootsy, bluesy, country and gospelly. They call it Americana these days."

I met Tommy Ike Hailey four years ago at a festival in Baton Rouge. An accidental meeting has turned into a friendship. Hailey, who says he lives in Greater Trout, Louisiana, wrote his first song in elementary school with his brother -- "Hailey's Square Dance Special" based on a routine from a Bugs Bunny cartoon. Since then, he has gone on to write hundreds of songs. His most popular song, "Man Alive," references the two words his grandfather used to say for any occasion. "That song took less than an hour to

write," he says, while "John and Elizabeth (True Love Never Dies)" -- another song -- took nearly twenty years. He lists Jim Croce, James

Taylor and John Denver as early influences, but discovered Jerry Jeff Walker and other "redneck rock" artists from Austin. "Later on, I discovered the folk-oriented songs of Nancy Griffith and Robert Earle Keen," he adds. All these influences can be heard in his songs, along with his very smart lyrics that reflect Hailey's real work as Professor of Archaeology & Anthropology in the School of Social Sciences & Applied Programs at



Northwestern State University of Louisiana.

Garbriel Bass is the youngest. For the most part, the songwriters telling their stories in this column have been creating their songs longer than Gabriel has been alive. Bass, from Natchez, is a physical therapist and gigs every weekend. He is a talented songwriter with more depth than most writers his age.

"The first song I wrote was eight years ago sitting around a campfire," he says. "I decided the old bridge on my road needed an eerie story, so I wrote 'The Bridge of Curly Jones,' a song about a man who haunts the old bridge. Turns out Curly worked for the City of Natchez, heard the song and liked it and I was honored." Now Bass has thirty songs that are finished, and hundreds more unfinished. His style ranges from Americana, country (not pop country), rock and soul.

"My message is that your song may touch someone who needs it," he says. "Music is the key

of life."

Libby Rae Watson, Pascagoula, is a performer. That's her job. She has written or co-written hundreds of songs over the span of her career. Watson, known as one of the women of the blues, has toured the world proclaiming Mississippi's birthright as home of the blues.

"I've been writing songs for over fifty years, don't consider myself a songwriter, but rather someone who writes songs. I'm not a wordsmith with clever lyrics. My songs are about people and their stories." The word Americana comes up again. Watson's new album with Burt Deivert includes cuts from her buddy, fellow Mississippian and harpist Charlie Musselwhite.

You can download the music of all these artists on streaming services, and Roppolo, Hailey and Bass will perform at the Overbrook Songwriters Festival in Brookhaven on August 6. Check Watson's website to see where she will be on the road.

That's it for now. Next month, the Brookstock Music Festival returns to Brookhaven. Until then, support the arts, my friends.

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.



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cont. from page 1

Wesson honors veterans during May

Force Reservists, who are gaining construction skills as they work at the developing camp, have been at the forefront of construction.

Crowds poured onto area Interstate 55 overpasses to salute war heroes honored on the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall that was being escorted by Mississippi-based Patriot Guard motorcyclists along the thoroughfare from Camp Shelby, Mississippi, to be displayed at Jackson before continuing its trip to Washington, D.C., for Memorial Day. The Florida-based traveling wall is a 3/5 scale replica of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., and is accompanied by the "Some Gave All" 9/11 Tribute. The Patriot Guard motorcycle escort included state law enforcement officers and many veterans.

Wesson Garden Club (WGC) and American Legion Drane-Prine Post #79 members led a pre-Memorial Day weekend wreath lay ceremony at the Blue Star Memorial Marker on Highway 51 at the four-way stop coming into town. Among guests were Wesson Alderman Mike King, American Legion Department of Mississippi Finance Officer and Commander of Drane-Prine Post #79 Bobby Thornton, Sarah Lassiter, Mississippi American Legion Auxiliary District Seven Director and Sharon Langley, President of Drane-Prine Auxiliary Unit #79 as well as WSG and Legion members and townspeople. The National Council of State Garden Clubs (now National Garden Clubs, Inc.) started the Blue Star Highway system to remember and honor veterans in 1945.

The wreath-laying ceremony included remarks by WGC and American Legion members about the significance of Memorial Day, Taps played by Duval Salvant, band director at Wesson Attendance Center, and prayer.

"It is a somber day, but it is also a day of thanksgiving for the sacrifices made by these brave men



Special to Wesson News

Salute to Vietnam heroes.

and women," said WGC's Debbie Smith. "In remembering the brave men and women who gave it all, we place a Memorial Wreath at our Blue Star Highway Marker to remind us of their bravery and their fight for freedom for the greatest country in the world."

"Throughout this Memorial Day weekend, let us reflect as a nation on the price of freedom and the many soldiers, airmen, marines, and sailors' lives that were lost to protect it," WGC's Joy Philips implored.



Special to Wesson News

Wreath-laying at Blue Star Marker.



For lack of the real thing, they were only stickers for clothing, but American Legion members still appropriately reminded folk at the Blue Star Marker wreath-laying about an important symbol worn to honor military service personnel: poppies. After World War I, the little red flowers flourished in Europe, blooming above the battle graves because the ground soil had been churned and dug up. The dormant seeds had been beneath the ground and needed cultivation to make them grow.

In 1918, Moina Michael popularized the idea of wearing a poppy flower in memory of the war dead, inspired by "In Flanders Fields," a poem by Lt. Col. John McCrae.

...the blood of heroes never dies
But lends a luster to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders Field

Michael later started a campaign to adopt the poppy as the national symbol of sacrifice. The American Legion family passes out paper poppies on Memorial Day and throughout the year to raise funds for veterans. Poppies have a long history of being used to honor the dead, having roots in Greek and Roman mythology.

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DAVE PACE
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Time to tackle Alzheimers

By Guest Columnist Stephanie Duguid

June marks Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month. The goal is to get involved and raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Everyone who has a brain is at risk to develop Alzheimer's, a disease that is often misunderstood, according to www.alz.org, a web site information source.

Alzheimer's is the only cause of death among the top ten in the United States that does not currently have a way to prevent, cure, or even slow its progression. As we all become more aware of the seriousness of this disease, the more likely we will take action to stop it. Alzheimer's is fatal, not a part of normal aging and is more than memory loss.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia, which is caused by damage to nerve cells in the brain that leads to problems with memory, thinking and behavior. Experts agree that in most cases, it probably develops because of complex interactions among multiple factors, including age, genetics, environment, lifestyle, and coexisting medication. You cannot control some risk factors like age and genes, while others, such as high blood pressure and lack of exercise, can be controlled.

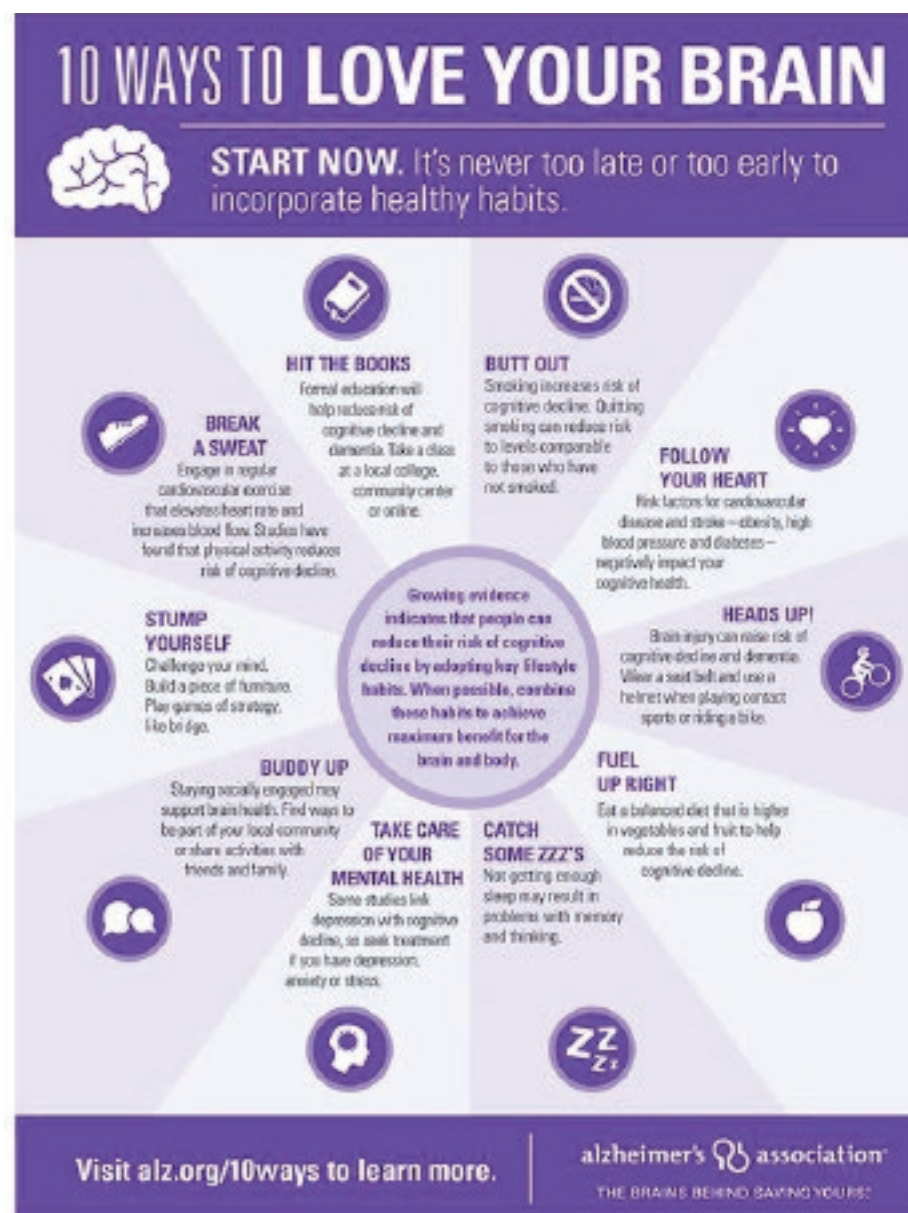
As of 2021, Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, and is responsible for one in three deaths of people 65 or older. Every 66 seconds, someone in the United States develops the disease, with nearly 55 million people worldwide recently diagnosed. However, only one in four people with Alzheimer's is diagnosed, so many are living with the disease and do not know it. The disease kills more than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined. Since 2000, deaths from heart disease decreased 14%, while deaths from Alzheimer's disease have increased 145%. In fact, in 2020, COVID-19 contributed to a 17% increase in Alzheimer's and dementia deaths. More than five million Americans are living with Alzheimer's. By 2050, this number is projected to rise to more than 16 million, according to www.alz.org.

So, what can you do to help reduce your chances of developing Alzheimer's? First, you can focus on the six pillars of a brain-health and adopt an Alzheimer's prevention lifestyle:

1. Regular exercise
2. Healthy diet
3. Mental stimulation
4. Quality sleep
5. Stress management
6. An active social life

As you age, it is also important to recognize the warning signs. More than 80% of Americans know little or are not familiar with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) which can be an early stage of Alzheimer's. Early detection can improve access to medical and support services. It also provides an opportunity to make any legal, financial, and care plans while you can. And finally, it may reduce health care costs by delaying placement in a care facility.

According to the Alzheimer's Association, there are ten warning signs of Alzheimer's disease that are key:



1. Memory loss that disrupts daily life;
2. Challenges in planning or solving problems;
3. Difficulty completing familiar tasks;
4. Confusion with time or place;
5. Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships;
6. New problems with words in speaking or writing;
7. Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps;
8. Decreased or poor judgment;
9. Withdrawal from work or social activities;
10. Changes in mood and personality.

Now is the time to get involved, learn more, to help spread awareness about Alzheimer's and to be an advocate for those affected. Contact the Alzheimer's Association for more information at alz.org or at 1-800-272-3900.

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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- 2007 Honda CRV, **SOLD!** EX package, Sunroof, Automatic, great gas mileage, dont miss it!
- 2014 Ford Explorer XLT, 3rd Row Seat, Rear A/C, Power Seat, Family Size!
- 2012 Lexus RX 350, AWD, Leather, Sunroof, NAVI, Rear Camera, Clean, Like New!
- 2013 Honda V6 Touring Sedan, Leather, Sunroof, Low Mileage, Super Nice!
- 2010 Honda Accord EX-L, Leather Sunroof, great gas mileage, Don't miss this one!
- 2015 Jeep Cherokee Limited, Leather, Rano Roof, 4wd, Pwr seat, windows, mirrors, Like New!
- 2017 Malibu LT Sedan, 36 MPG, Pwr seat, windows, locks, mirrors, Rearview camera, Sharp!
- 2011 Land Rover, Range Rover HSE, Full Size, Low Mileage, 4wd, Leather, Sunroof, Super Clean!
- 2015 Nissan Rogue SL model, Leather, Sunroof, 33mpg, Well Kept!!

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Botanical fashions



Special to Wesson News

Sisters (left to right) Melinda Causey, May Hall and Paula Grayson, who have served The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc. over the years, treated Wesson Garden Club members to a "Through the Years" fashion show which incorporated botanical art and jewelry and clothing with embellished accessories. The Club met at the American Legion Post 79 lodge. Attendees were Marilyn Britt, Sherri Carty, Sonya Cowen, Robin Furr, Debbie Hoaglin, Rhonda Ishee, Denise Jackson, Vickie Martin, Pam McLemore, June Owens, Pam Owens, Jennifer Peets, Joy Phillips, Marilyn Phillips, Jean Ricks, Debbie Smith, Ramona Smith, Nancy Sullivan, Dixie Thornton, Brittany Warren, Cathy Warren, and Joy Wesbrooks. Members and guests enjoyed refreshments prepared by hostesses Robin Furr, Rhonda Ishee, Ramona Smith and Brittany Warren.

Butterbeans end year



Special to Wesson News

Wesson Garden Club youth gardeners – Butterbeans – held their final meeting of the school year last month at the Wesson Municipal Park. The third- through-sixth graders enjoyed ice cream and snow cones at Park Place Ice Cream, and Kris Sullivan read her recently published book – Truly Too Green – to them. The Butterbeans presented to Wesson Public Library's Ann Clark a book, We are The Gardeners.

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Wesson Garden Club Marker dedication guests



Special to Wesson News

Wesson Garden Club members were guests of Mississippi's First Lady Elee Reeves at a reception held at the Governor's mansion to commemorate the dedication and unveiling of the Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc., Blue Star Marker placed on the Mississippi Capitol grounds. The Blue Star Marker stands as a tribute to the Armed Forces from Louisiana, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, Florida and Mississippi who have defended the United States. Pictured are (left to right in first row) Nancy Stringer, First Lady Reeves, Dixie Thornton; (left to right in second row) Ramona Smith, Cathy Warren, Pam McLemore and Lisa Smith; (back row) Vickie Martin and Jennifer Peets.

Gardening workshop



Special to Wesson News

Members of the Wesson Garden Club attended the Natchez Trace District Spring Workshop hosted by the McComb Garden Club at the Fernwood Country Club. The Club received a Certificate of Appreciation Award for Social Media/Website from the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Seated (left to right) are Debbie Hoaglin, Denise Jackson, Pam Owens, Jennifer Peets, Lisa Smith and Jean Ricks. Standing (left to right) are Debbie Smith, Pat Young (President of The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc.), Marilyn Britt, and Dixie Thornton. The Wesson Garden Club is a member of The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc., National Garden Clubs, Inc., Deep South Garden Clubs, Inc., Natchez Trace District-Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc.

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Cade Signs with Delta State



Special to Wesson News

Malori Cade (center) at signing.

Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin softball sophomore Malori Cade will continue her playing career at Delta State University.

Cade, a Brookhaven native, played in 38 games for the Lady Wolves as the primary right fielder during her sophomore season. She finished the year with a .258 batting average, .324 on-base percentage, and a .516 slugging percentage with two doubles, two home runs, seven RBIs, and three stolen bases. In the field, Cade had a .926 fielding percentage with 24 putouts and one assist.

As a freshman, Cade played in 27 games for the Lady Wolves and had a .400 batting average, .424 on-base percentage, and a .533 slugging percentage with one double, one home run, seven RBIs, and four stolen bases.

Cade finished her Lady Wolves career with a .328 batting average, .373 on-base percentage, and a .525 slugging percentage with three doubles, three home runs, 14 RBIs, and seven stolen bases.

“I am so excited for Malori and can’t wait to see what she accomplishes at the next level,” said Co-Lin head coach Meleah Howard. “She is such a hard worker and great young lady!”

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Softballers earn post-season honors

Special to Wesson News

Members of the Co-Lin Softball Lady Wolves have racked up post-season honors in the wake of their team's advance into the 2022 National Junior College Athletic Association's (NJCAA) Region-23 tournament.

Cera Blanchard (Metairie, La.) and Shelbi Maxwell were named to the NJCAA Region-23 First Team, and Maddie Weeks (Clinton) and Madalyn Wilkinson (Madison) to the Second Team. Weeks, Maxwell and Blanchard along with shortstop Faith Kivett (Tallulah, La) were also named to the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) All-South Region team.

Blanchard had a sophomore season for the record books in 2022. The Southeastern Louisiana commit finished the season with a 1.37 earned run average allowing 55 runs, 37 earned, on 131 hits with 56 walks. The Metairie, Louisiana, native also finished the season 25-6 setting a single season record for wins and had 183 strikeouts in 189.1 innings pitched (both marks are Top-5 for a single season) through 33 appearances which is also a Top-5 single season mark.

Maxwell also had a strong sophomore season while being critical to the Lady Wolves success on offense and defense. The Wesson native played all 52 games at centerfield and was Top-5 in many offensive categories including stolen bases where she led the Lady Wolves, the MACCC, and was Top-10 in the nation with 40. Maxwell had the third-most hits (56) and the fourth-most at-bats (139) while being tied for fifth on the team in doubles with four. Maxwell also had one triple and 18 RBIs while posting the second-highest batting average for the Lady Wolves at .403 with a .472 on-base percentage and slugged .446 while also posting a .986 fielding percentage.

Maddie Weeks had a freshman year that saw her put her name in the single season record books as she led the Lady Wolves in RBIs with 61, which is tied second-most for a single season. The Lady Wolves second baseman also was fourth on the team in hits with 55 in the third-most at-bats with 147, while also having the third-most doubles with seven. She shared the team lead in triples with six, and led the Lady Wolves in home runs with 12. Additionally, the Clinton native had the third-most stolen bases with 25 while finishing the season with a .374 batting average, .456 on-base percentage, and a slugging percentage of .748, which led the Lady Wolves in that category.

Wilkinson had a superb sophomore season finishing in the top five on the team

Photos special to Wesson News



Cera Blanchard Faith Kivett Shelbi Maxwell Maddie Weeks Madalyn Wilkinson



in nearly every offensive category while playing in 51 games for the Lady Wolves as the primary left fielder. The Madison native was second on the team in home runs and RBIs with six and 49 respectively and had 49 hits in 132 at-bats with 36 runs scored and seven doubles. Wilkinson finished the season with a .371 batting average, .477 on-base percentage, and .561 slugging percentage while carrying a .969 fielding percentage.

Kivett had a fantastic freshman year and was one of the key pieces for the Lady Wolves during the 2022 season. She led the team with a .438 batting average while also having a .500 on-base percentage and slugged .538 during the season. The Tallulah, Louisiana, native also led the Lady Wolves offense in total at-bats with 160, hits with 70; tied for the team lead in triples with six, had the fourth-most doubles with six and the third-most RBIs with 31. She had the second most stolen bases with 25, and had one homerun during the 2022 season.

Weeks, Maxwell, Blanchard and Kivett were also named as members of All-Mississippi Association of Community Colleges teams, and Blanchard earned the MACCC Pitcher of the Year honor.

The Lady Wolves finished the 2022 season with a 42-10 overall record, setting a single season record for wins, while also winning its first conference championship since 2009 and earned the number one ranking in the NJCAA Division II Softball poll for the first time in program history.

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What is the Transfer Portal?

By Guest Columnist Yancy Methvien

A few months ago in a column, I tried to clear the smoke surrounding the new Name Image and Likeness (NIL) rule that benefits college athletes financially. "NIL" is a term that analysts and announcers mention a lot, while never fully explaining its impact on the college sports landscape. Another term that you hear about more often in college sports these days is "NCAA Transfer Portal" -- my focus this month. What is it? Why does it exist? Who benefits from it? Who is negatively impacted by it?

The NCAA transfer portal is simply a technology created in 2018 by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) to facilitate transfers of student athletes between schools. It is an on-line database in which student athletes enter their names if they want to transfer from the school they are attending to another school.

It doesn't seem like a big deal until you consider the way things were done before the transfer portal existed. Prior to the creation of the transfer portal, student athletes faced an arduous process if they wanted to transfer. They had to ask their current coaches for permission before they could attempt to contact other schools. Coaches could deny the request, in which case the student athletes could ask schools' athletic directors for permission. ADs could also say "no," forcing student athletes to then petition designated campus administrators who could also deny requests, triggering appeals to campus committees consisting of campus employees and students. Losing on their final option, student athletes then also faced loss of financial aid from schools to which they intended to transfer.

If student athletes were granted permission to transfer to other schools anywhere along the way, compliance administrators at their current schools had to send correspondence to the schools to which they were interested in transferring. In turn, each of those schools would then have to send back a "transfer tracer" with a questionnaire and forms to be filled out by hand and officially returned. The process was inefficient, not beneficial to the student athletes, and seemed designed to lock them in their original choice of schools.

In 2018, the transfer portal was introduced and streamlined things dramatically. Now, if student athletes seek to transfer to other schools, all they have to do is notify their current schools of their intent to do so. Then their current schools have two business days to enter the names of athletes into the transfer portal database. Once a name is in the database, coaches from other programs are allowed to contact the



student athlete in what amounts to a new recruiting process.

Another big change associated with the transfer portal were regulations enacted in 2021 that allowed student athletes to transfer to schools one time without having to potentially sit out a year from their sport. Previously, playing eligibility of student athletes after transferring to new schools were determined on a case by case basis by a clearing committee.

Without question and beyond any shadow of a doubt, the biggest winners in the change to the transfer portal are university compliance administrators. A job that used to be a headache to do and sometimes took weeks filled with paperwork now only takes a couple of days. They win hands-down.

Student athletes, of course, are also big beneficiaries. All they have to do is notify compliance administrators that they intend to transfer to other school. They no longer have to beg their way out of situations, or at least feel like that is what they have to do. Student athletes still face risks entering the portal. Schools they are currently attending are no longer obligated to provide financial aid to them beyond the current quarter, and the schools to which they want to transfer may not want them. If they want to remove their names from the portal, their existing schools may not return their scholarships. Thus student athletes want to be very sure about their decisions to enter the transfer portal.

Who doesn't benefit from the transfer portal is a question that is still in the process of being answered.

It would seem that simplification of an arduous process would be fairly well-received across the college landscape, but there have been some complaints by coaches. Lane Kiffin of Ole Miss, for example, complains scholarship allocations for recruiting classes have been impacted by the use of the transfer portal, and the NCAA has done nothing yet to address the issue. Nick Saban at Alabama complains that schools with big donors could use the transfer portal along with the NIL to lure top talent away from other schools. It will take time to see if these complaints are justified, or if they are just the bristlings you sometimes get when something new is introduced and changes have to be made.

Hopefully, this give you a better understanding of the impact that the transfer portal on your favorite college team.

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.

Co-Lin to target area high schools

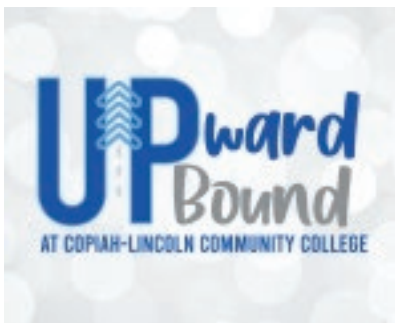
Special to Wesson News

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Co-Lin's Wesson Campus more than \$1.4 million to fund an Upward Bound Program for the next five years beginning September 1, 2022.

Co-Lin's Upward Bound program will serve 60 low-income and first-generation students at Bogue Chitto Attendance Center, Brookhaven High School, Crystal Springs High School, Enterprise Attendance Center, and Hazlehurst High School. It will provide participants with academic tutoring; second and post-secondary advisement; college entrance exam preparation; instruction in assistance completing financial aid applications; financial and economic literacy; instruction in mathematics, laboratory science, foreign language, and literature; exposure to cultural events

and academic programs; career exploration, and an on-campus residential program. Participants must have completed the eighth grade and be at least 13 years old, but not older than 19.

The purpose of the Upward Bound program is to provide opportunities for participants to succeed in their precollege performance and ultimately in their higher education pursuits. Upward Bound serves high school students from low-income families; and high school students from families in which neither parent holds a bachelor's degree. The goal of Upward Bound is to increase the rate at which participants complete secondary education and enroll in and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education.



Speeg new Student Services Dean

Special to Wesson News

Samantha Speeg of Brookhaven has been named Co-Lin Wesson Campus Dean of Student Services overseeing athletics, campus police, enrollment services, housing, military community services, student life, and student discipline, and will continue to serve as the college registrar. Speeg most recently served as the school's Director of Enrollment Services.



Speeg has been employed in the Student Services division of the college for the past 13 years, also serving as an academic counselor, college registrar, disabilities services coordinator, college recruiter, and counseling center assistant. During her time at Co-Lin, Speeg has also served as a Phi Theta Kappa advisor, Trailblazer advisor, chaired the Presidential and Leadership Scholarship committees, and been a member of the enrollment management task force. She serves on the college's Behavioral Intervention Team and Audit Advisory Committee for the Mississippi Community College Board.

A graduate of Co-Lin, Speeg earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mass Communication and Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Graphic Communications from the University of Southern Mississippi. She received a Master of Science Degree in Higher Education Administration from Mississippi College. Speeg is a member of the Mississippi Association of College Registrars and

Admissions Officers (MACRAO) and the Southern Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions Officers (SACRAO).

Speeg's has been honored as a Co-Lin Outstanding Staff Member and Mississippi's ACT Postsecondary Champion, and received the Phi Theta Kappa Paragon Regional and International Advisor Award, Ann Bradberry Award, along with numerous design awards from the College Public Relations Association of Mississippi. She is a graduate of the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy.

Speeg and her husband Adam are the parents of three children, Julia, Eden, and John Daniel.

647 on spring Honor Roll

Co-Lin has named 647 students to its spring semester honor roll -- 147 on the President’s List, 226 on the Vice President’s List, and 274 on the Honors List. A grade point average of 4.0 is required of full-time students in at least 12 semester hours for listing on the President’s List. A grade point average from 3.6 through 4.0 is required of full-time students carrying at least 12 semester hours for listing on the Vice President’s List. A grade point average from 3.2 through 3.6 is required for full-time students carrying at least 12 semester hours for listing on the Honors list.

Area President’s List students included:

- **Bogue Chitto:** Hugh Greer, Ashlynn Hamilton, Lorelai Langley
- **Brookhaven:** Jaylie Barfoot, Jaycee Case, Julianna Crosby, Kassidy Cupit, Dylan Fortenberry, Brooke Foster, Billy Givens, Zakarria Hill, Zoey Hinton, Jordan Kramer, Brianna Landfair, Ladericka May, Lindsey Norton, Julian Parker, Zabien Price, Paige Shedd, Gracie Sivils, Payne Walker, Carly Beth Wallace, Bailey Wilson, Kiera Young
- **Bude:** Maeghan Lee and Isaac Sivils
- **Crystal Springs:** Landa Alhanshaly, Amber Brewer, Deva Hooks, Samuel Papizan, William Walker
- **Fayette:** Ahmaad Chapman and Albertian Felton
- **Hazlehurst:** Aaliyah Dixon and Christopher Sheppard
- **Jayess:** Alissa Ladnier and Dylan Martin
- **Magee:** Mercy Bishop, Tyrese Gatlin, Gretta Graves, Montana Grubbs, Nevaeh Hayes, William May, Noah Overstreet, Jonas Pudas, Jered Smith, Cameron Wallace
- **Meadville:** Jordan Clanton, Tracy Cloy, Helen Hutto, Joanna Petty
- **Mendenhall:** Kristopher Ayala, Destiney Brown, Dane Griffin, Ramsey Jones, Lila Redd, Eli Thomas, Justin Ware, Jackson Waters, Nicholas Wester
- **Monticello:** Jason Barnes, Kamryn Boyles, Noah Espy, Dylan Howell, Naomi Smith
- **Sontag:** Nezhiah Smith
- **Wesson:** Kayla Barfield, Shelby Barnett, Louis Kenner Bizot IV, Michael Bonsall Jr., Garrett Boutwell, Jacob Bowman, Gavin Brister, Abbigail Brown, Malori Cade, Hannah Jarreau, Shelby Martin, Shelbi Maxwell, Chloe McManus, Monisha Pendleton, Danna Roses, Allie Smith, Travis Walker, Christalyn Penn

Area Vice President’s List students included:

- **Bogue Chitto:** Morgyn Brister, Tristan Buffington, Julianna Frazier, Gracie Guynes, Jana Jackson, Anna Johnson, Triston Lee, Makayla Martin, Jeremy Porter, Carson Rounsaville, Samaria Tate, Gracee Warren, Kylie Windmiller
- **Brookhaven:** Brian Anderson, Brooklyn Attaway, Lily Bardwell, Cara Bowman, Gillian Boyd, Kelly Brister, Cade Brown, Allison Covington, Katie Dykes, John Farr, Naya Fleming, Hugh Fortenberry III, Deanthoni Freeman, Hayley Freeny, Jordan Hall, Skylar Hall, Jaynie Grace Henning, Bradley Hodges, William Hodgson, Robert Johnson, Alece Jones, Madeline King, Hannah Linzey, Lauren Mabry, Karli Martin, Goldiette McCall, Joshua McCreary, Hayden McCurley, Payne McGowen, Kairi Milton, Gabriel Netterville, Maggie Newman, Jalen Porter, Natasha Porter, Gage Reeves, Cassidy Roberson, Keegan Smith, Timothy Smith, Logan Thames, Chase Thompson, Atlanta Williams, Nathan Williamson
- **Crystal Springs:** Alexis Brown, Ellis Fair Jr., Kendan Funchess, Jaquis Jackson, Kamira Kemp, Shay Matrick, Brandi Redus, Catrina Robinson, Jennifer Santosmarcelino, Hannah Stutzman, Justin Zeigler
- **Fayette:** Kelnecia Ellis, Kendriana Gibbs, Jacari Hayes, Weston Watts
- **Hazlehurst:** Akura Brown, Jakayla Davis, Jaquashia Hillard, Anna Holley, Jakeela Minor, Raven Payne, Thomas Ramsey

- **Jayess:** Elizabeth Boyd, Joseph Conn, John Davis Jr., Joseph Lee Rutland, Annaleigh Zachary
- **Magee:** Parker Berry, Selena Bush, Greyson Graves, Erika Hawkins, Madisyn Lee, Jordan Magee, Madeline Mullins, Kelli Newsome, Keanna Walker\
- **Meadville:** Hayden Cannon, Mason Clanton, Jami Dawson, Joshua Griffin, Jenna Long, Clark McGehee, Kylie Robinson, Anna Holland Tyson
- **Mendenhall:** Vincent Chung, Maizy Fewell, Sadie Kennedy, Sabrina Legister, Lillian McDonald, Justin Russell, Anna Beth Sullivan, Tytiana Willis
- **Monticello:** Kayleigh Atwood, Tucker Bass, Anna Hedgepeth, Matti Johnson, Gabrielle Ladd, Latavia Montgomery, Madison Norwood, Kylie Ready, Raylee Ready, Chloe Russell, Skyler Speights, Reagan Spence
- **Ruth:** Kaylee Price and Bailey Raiford
- **Sontag:** Tara Ervin and Kailey Francis
- **Wesson:** Marisa Becerra, Jennifer Blue, Peyton Burns, Ariel Carlisle, Brooklyn Chase, Kaitlyn Davidson, Kiera Hemanes, Hannah Henderson, Seth Jackson, Laney Jones, Larson Lewis, Jane Marchand, Madaleine McReynolds, Brooklyn Miller, Matthew Oster, Katelynn Palmer, Lacie Pearson, Robert Waltman

Area Honors List students included:

- **Bogue Chitto:** Kylie Chapman, Amber Cupit, Lauren Gartman, Landon Greer, Emma Hodges, Kyler Patton, James Thompson, Parker Whittington
- **Brookhaven:** Karmyn Barlow, Paxton Bessonette, Desiray Boswell, Gavin Brogden, Lauren Brown, Madison Brown, Marleigh Bullock, Tychina Byrd, Skyler Coley, Chloe Corkern, Michael Davis, Lansley Dedeaux, Delivante Dillon, Alexia Dixon, Austin Durr, Isaac Ebbers, Aubrey Everett, Destiny Fairman, Shareka Fairman, Rylan Fortado, Margaret Foster, Krysten Garibay, Esmeralda Hernandez, Whitney Howell, Jena Hughes, Harrison Hux, Hannah Hylender, Isyss Jackson, Douglas James, Michael Kelly, Christopher Keyes, Olivia Lewis, Isabella Little, Zackary Mannon, Caroline Martin, Zykerion McCalup, Ashlyn McEwen, Hannah McKee, Kathryn Meilstrup, Madeline Miller, Caleb Myers, Chloe Phelps, Claire Posey, Justin Pratt, Pamela Price, Dramarius Ross, Roger Rushing, Allie Smith, Lawson Smith, Brady Spring, Laura Spring, Tucker Watts
- **Crystal Springs:** Jarodrick Barnes, Robert Clower, Sarah Ellis, Henry Jackson Jr., Angela Kelly, Cade Romano, Blakeney Skinner
- **Fayette:** Kadasha Oliver and Lashaunta Williamsmiller
- **Hazlehurst:** Pryce Ainsworth, Jnessa Daniels, Sabra Fortenberry, Harrison Granger, Dinetta Hillard, Dion Jones, Pacilla Jones, Bryce Ledet, Janyla Robinson, Jennifer Sanders
- **Jayess:** Sebastian Bijeaux and Emmileigh Gatlin
- **Magee:** Hattie Grace Ashmore, Emma Cockrell, Nicholas Cook, Erin Davidson, Ryan Freshour, Quashonda Grant, Thomas McAlpin, Sara McLain, Dakota Parish, Nathaniel Rodriguez Mendez, Zachary Suber, Melanie Summerlin
- **Meadville:** Josalyn Brown, Elijah Bullion, Korbyn Cummings, Chelbie Newton
- **Mendenhall:** Bailee Barlow, Elizabeth Goodman, David Meadows, Destiny Nobles, Hope Sullivan
- **Monticello:** Tony Ellis Jr., Abeni Fuller, Alaina Killingsworth, Evan Lambert, Megan Reynolds, Grace Sikes, Joshua Taylor, Stacy Taylor, Keegan Thurman, Laura Thurman, Michael Wilson
- **Ruth:** Ashlyn Bourn, Eduardo Delangel, Mamie Hilbish
- **Sontag:** Katherine Lambert
- **Wesson:** Jasmine Barner, Victoria Benton, Mary Brabham, William Brinson, Harrison Brownlee, Hannah Burgess, Caitlyn Burns, Shelby Carwyle, Emily Covington, Abby Delaughter, Cullen Hogan, Ryleigh Sheppard, Kelsey Smith, Breanna Sullivan

Policemen, health officer & infant formula

Special to Wesson News

Four join WPD. On the recommendation of Police Chief Chad O'Quinn, the Wesson Board of Alderman has beefed up its law enforcement personnel with the addition of four officers: Garrett Starkey, who is returning to the force as a full-time officer; Robbie Douglas, also a former WPD officer who is coming back in a part-time position; Blake Wallace, who is joining WPD part-time; and James Norwood, a new full-time officer in training who will be attending the Mississippi Police Academy. In other actions at its May meeting, Wesson Aldermen approved travel of Mayor Alton Shaw, Aldermen and Town Clerk Angela Hester to the Mississippi Municipal League Conference June 27-29 at Biloxi and Police Chief Chad O'Quinn and Officer Tim Stevens to the Mississippi Police Chiefs Conference June 13-17 at Biloxi.

New State Health Officer. Daniel P. Edney, MD, FACP, FASAM, currently Deputy State Health Officer, will move up to the position of State Health Officer at the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) effective August 1, 2022. He will be replacing Thomas Dobbs, MD, MPH, who is resigning from his position at the end of July. Edney initially joined MSDH as chief medical officer and regional health officer for the Central Public Health Region in February 2021. A summa cum laude graduate of both William Carey University and the University of Mississippi School of Medicine, he completed his internship and residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Virginia, and is a board-certified General Internist with subspecialty board certification in Addiction Medicine. He has practiced general primary care internal medicine in Vicksburg since 1991 and has worked actively in the field of addiction medicine since 2013, now serving various inpatient residential facilities and outpatient programs. He is a former president of the Mississippi State Medical Association, serves as a board member on the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure, was a fellow and laureate for the Mississippi Chapter of the American College of Physicians and a fellow of the American Society of Addiction Medicine.

WIC confronts formula shortage. The Mississippi WIC program, which does not have a reserve of infant formula during the national shortage, has added infant formula products and package sizes that will be available through August 31 to the approved list. WIC participants who are unable to find their prescribed medical formula in stores can contact their WIC clinic to quickly change to an alternate formula that is currently

available, and can return recalled products directly to the location of purchase for cash back, store credit, or a similar product. "Nationwide manufacturing shortages mean we, too, are experiencing constraints in our ability to order medical formula," says Jameshya Ballard, WIC Director of Vendor Management. For complete information, visit the WIC website at www.healthylms.com/wic.

Reeve's pro-life agenda. Governor Tate Reeves says Mississippi "will strengthen our social services" and "build grant programs" in arguing that the pro-life movement must be more than anti-abortion. In an opinion piece published in the Family Research Council's *Washington Stand*, he offered few specifics on his pro-life agenda, but wrote that "being pro-life is about more than just being anti-abortion" and "requires working to ensure that every child who is brought into the world, no matter their situation, is given every opportunity for future success." As an example of steps his administration is already taking, Reeves cited the \$3.5 million tax credit for the state's crisis pregnancy centers, which he signed into law in April.

Census undercount. Mississippi's population is larger and most likely more diverse than what was reported last year in the official 2020 U.S. Census. Mississippi's population was undercounted by 4.11%, according to the bureau. Based on the follow-up reports, the state gained about 100,000 people and has a population of more than 3 million. If the state's minority population is growing at a faster pace than originally cited, it could mean redistricting did not fairly represent it. In addition, the state may not be getting its fair share of federal funds, which are based on the official census.

Domestic violence reporting. The Mississippi Attorney General's Office has launched a new tool for law enforcement and courts statewide to use in reporting and updating incidents of domestic violence. MSDVR (Mississippi Domestic Violence Reporting) is a single statewide repository for domestic violence reports, utilizing existing report platforms to make integration for law enforcement as seamless as possible. The system utilizes the same platform as the Department of Public Safety's eCrash system and was created by the same developers, the University of Alabama Center for Advanced Public Safety (AL CAPS). It also includes geolocating to easily save accurate location information; injury diagrams to mark size, type, and location of injuries, as well as a function for uploading photographs and fields for utilizing the Lethality Assessment Protocol to ensure the safety of victims.

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- 2010 Honda Accord Crosstour, Rare Find, Leather, Sunroof, Almost new tires!
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- 2015 Jeep Cherokee Limited, Leather, Rano Roof, 4wd, Pwr seat, windows, mirrors, Like New!
- 2017 Malibu LT Sedan, 36 MPG, Pwr seat, windows, locks, mirrors, Rearview camera, Sharp!
- 2011 Land Rover, Range Rover HSE, Full Size, Low Mileage, 4wd, Leather, Sunroof, Super Clean!
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MSA earns Exemplary School Designation



Special to Wesson News

The Arts Schools Network (ASN) Board of Directors has designated Mississippi School of the Arts (MSA) as an Exemplary School in recognition of its commitment to excellence. The five-year designation is awarded for 2022-2027.

ASN, the nation's largest professional membership organization of specialized arts schools, awards Exemplary School designations to members that follow "A Guide to Assessing Your Arts School" in strategically evaluating their school's purpose, operations, and educational programs. The Guide is a collaborative effort by ASN and the Accrediting Commission for Community and Pre-collegiate Arts Schools (ACCPAS).

ASN will honor MSA at an Awards Ceremony during its 2022 Annual Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

MSA was established by legislation in 1999. It is a public, residential high school for eleventh- and twelfth-grade Mississippi students specializing in intensive arts training in dance, literary art, media art, theatre, visual art, and vocal music. Students at MSA are selected through a highly selective audition process. Students attend high school academic classes required for graduation and arts classes in selected disciplines of study.

On average, approximately 125 students from 51 Mississippi counties are represented in the population of the school. MSA is governed by the Mississippi State Board of Education and funded by the Mississippi legislature. Located in downtown Brookhaven on the historic campus of Whitworth College, MSA provides a centerpiece for activity to the downtown community with a vibrant environment for youth to create, imagine, and realize.



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