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Wesson News

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“Good News You Can Use”

August 9, 2016

Governor helps celebrate new employer

By Bob Arnold

Governor Phil Bryant and state business and economic development leaders joined Copiah County officials and top management from McNeely Plastics at the official grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony that celebrated the expansion of the Clinton-based manufacturer of flexible packaging products into the Copiah County Industrial Park (CCIP) at Gallman.

Bryant lauded McNeely as a Mississippi company that is expanding in the state, in contrast to companies that have come into the state from around the world. Jay Moon, president and CEO of the Mississippi Manufacturers Association, called McNeely part of the “bedrock of small and medium companies” that help make the state’s manufacturing sector one of the strongest in the nation.

McNeely, founded in 1983 as a diversified distributor of plastic products, is operating in the former 59,000 square foot MMI building at CCIP, which it acquired in a \$1.5 million lease-purchase deal. Altogether, it invested \$6.5 million and is employing twenty-five workers in the operation, which is producing plastic bags that can be used by the Copiah County poultry industry for packaging, among other customers.

“It’s great to bring industries into Mississippi from around the world, but we also appreciate and encourage the companies that are here,” Bryant said. “They have helped create 44,000 jobs in the state over the last four years, bringing our unemployment rate down to 5.9 per cent currently.” Moon added that



Photo by Wesson News

Participating at ribbon-cutting that celebrated expansion of McNeely Plastics in Copiah County were (left to right) Arthur “Pokey” Evans, executive director of the Copiah County Economic District; Perry Hood, president of the Copiah County Board of Supervisors; Glenn McCullough, Jr., Mississippi Development Authority executive director; Wayne Davis, Shannon Watts, Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant, Greg McNeely, president and CEO of the company, who cut the ribbon; Jay Moon, president and CEO of Mississippi Manufacturers Association; Jimmy Phillips, Kenneth Powell, Ronnie Barlow, Terry Channel, and Daryl McMillan, Sr.

McNeely was a growing component of Mississippi’s manufacturing economy, which employs thirteen percent of the state’s workforce and creates two to three other jobs for everyone employed in the sector.

Copiah County Economic Development District executive director Arthur (Pokey) Evans described the recruitment of the company as a “victory for Copiah County” involving cooperation among members of a unique public-private partnership, “who didn’t give up” trying to make it happen when they faced issues and

obstacles. “Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) provided a loan to purchase and renovate the building which was asleep in the Industrial Park and is alive again,” he said.

Commenting on the growth and success of his company that made possible its expansion, Greg McNeely, its president and CEO, cited “timing -- going into business at the right time in the right industry,” “our people,” “our corporate values of honesty, integrity, environmental stewardship and giving back to the community, and “treating people with whom we work well --

customers, employees, suppliers.”

“When Mississippi’s existing businesses, such as McNeely Plastics, choose to grow and create new career opportunities, they show the world Mississippi is a great place for business,” said MDA Executive Director Glenn McCullough, Jr. “We appreciate our partners at the Copiah County Economic Development District, the Copiah County Board of Supervisors and the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District, whose teamwork with MDA played an important role in this expansion.”

WAC graded B in state accountability system

Special to Wesson News

Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) received a B grade for 2014-15 from the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) based on its A-F accountability system that evaluates how schools and districts perform during the school year. WAC scored better than Crystal Springs and Hazlehurst High Schools (C) and Middle Schools (C) in Copiah County, which had an overall C grade. Only West Lincoln High School in Lincoln County School District, among area schools, scored better than WAC with an A grade.

Official district grades for 2014-15 included 19 A districts, 43 B districts, 54 C districts, 30 D districts and no F districts. More districts moved from a D to C grade than in the 2013-14 school year, while the number of A and B districts remained unchanged from the previous school year.

This 2014-15 results reflected the final year of a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education that allows schools to retain the letter grade it received in the 2013-14 school year if the 2014-15 grade is lower as a result of assessment results. Without the waiver, WAC would have received a C grade. The waiver compensates

for the state’s transition to higher standards of learning.

“Our superintendents have worked diligently to implement higher learning goals in their districts, and the teachers and administrators should be commended for their hard work as evidenced by Mississippi’s performance on the National Assessment of Educational Progress,” said Dr. Carey Wright, state superintendent of education. “The waiver has enabled them to continue this important work without having to worry about being sanctioned if their test scores dropped during the transition period.”

The MDE accountability system, which is designed to present a transparent picture of how schools are serving students at all levels, factors in student proficiency, a standards-based growth model, and the four-year graduation rate, if the school has a twelfth grade. The system also emphasizes student academic growth, particularly of the lowest performing twenty-five per cent of students. Students meet growth if their scores improve from one proficiency level to the next, or move sufficiently within the lower proficiency levels.

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Police Blotter

Special to Wesson News

During July, Wesson Police Department activity encompassed:

Response to:

- Three petty larcenies
- Two simple assaults
- One harassment
- One joy riding
- One credit card fraud
- One runaway
- Two traffic accidents
- One trespassing
- One domestic violence

Citations & arrests:

- One driving with license suspended
- One driving without a license
- One expired tag
- Three no-insurance violations
- One seatbelt violation
- Three controlled substance possession
- Two conspiracies to commit crimes
- One beer possession
- One disturbing the peace

On school days, the Wesson Police Department facilitates traffic flow at Wesson Attendance Center with officers on duty between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Woody Woodpecker -- my backyard neighbor

By Guest Columnist Rebecca Bates

A cartoon star lives in my yard. The pileated woodpecker. Large as a crow and sporting a red cockade, it must have been the inspiration for the cartoon character, Woody Woodpecker!

The pileated woodpecker is one of the largest woodpeckers found in North America. Only the Imperial woodpecker of Mexico and the suspected extinct Ivory-billed woodpecker are larger.

Before I ever saw the bird in my yard, I heard it! Its call is a loud, far-carrying laugh, sounding more like a “jungle bird” than what we expect to hear in our southern forests. Next came the rapping – sounding like someone banging a hammer against a tree.

Once I realized what inhabited the forest behind my house, I was intrigued, curious and smitten. My cartoon character neighbor has a large red crest, black body and white stripes on its neck and face. It also has yellow bristly feathers over its nostrils that keep out wood chips. Male and female pileated woodpeckers are similar.

Males have a red forehead, and females have a gray to yellowish brown forehead.

A large part of its diet consists of carpenter ants and beetle larvae. The pileated uses its sharp bill to pull bark off a tree, exposing colonies. It then uses its long, sticky tongue to poke into holes and drag out the ants. It also digs out large rectangular holes in trees to create roosting and nesting spots and to expose insects.

The pileated is quite adaptable and can live in many wooded habitats, which has allowed it to survive human habitation much better than the more specialized

Ivory-billed woodpecker. Pileated woodpeckers have a large population size, and, despite being non-

migratory, are protected under the U.S. Migratory Bird Act.

I’m proud to have Woody Woodpecker living in my backyard. I love hearing the jungle-like laugh and constant rapping. On those days when I’m lucky enough to catch a glimpse of this handsome bird, I smile thinking of my cartoon neighbor.

Editor's Note: Rebecca Bates is the Mississippi State University Agricultural Extension Agent based in Brookhaven at the Lincoln County Court House.



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Employers honored for working environments

Special to Wesson News

One of the reasons the Wesson area is a nice place to live is because its employers offer great places to work, as documented by recent honors received by Co-Lin and Brookhaven-based Reed's Metals. *The Chronicle of Higher Education* has designated Co-Lin as one of the best colleges in the nation for which to work, and *The Mississippi Business Journal (MBJ)* has similarly named Reed's Metals one of the best workplaces in the state.

"The Academic Workplace," a report published by *The Chronicle*, a top trade publication for colleges and universities, cited Co-Lin among only ninety-three institutions recognized as a "Great College to Work For" in its ninth annual edition. Based on a survey of 281 colleges and universities, the report honored institutions in small, medium, and large categories, with Co-Lin included among the medium colleges and universities with 3,000 to 9,999 students. For the second consecutive year, *The Mississippi Business Journal* also recognized Reed's Metals as one of twenty-three

"Best Places to Work in Mississippi."

Only three Mississippi community colleges, including Co-Lin, and twenty-five two-year colleges nationally received the "Great College to Work For" honor this year. Three of Mississippi's four-year colleges and universities also were so honored by *The Chronicle* report.

"The colleges and universities that make the list are highly rated by their employees for creating great working environments, an important achievement that helps them recruit top academic and administrative talent," said Liz McMillen, editor of *The Chronicle*.

The Chronicle survey rates institutions in 12 categories in the fields of leadership, careers, the workplace, and compensation. Co-Lin received recognition for "Confidence in Senior Leadership" (its leaders have the knowledge, skills, and experience necessary for the success of the college), "Job Satisfaction" (there is an overall sense that the job is meaningful to the employee and to the college) and "Professional/Career

Development Programs" (employees get chances to develop skills and understand requirements for career advancement).

"We are very pleased to be included among the listing of colleges and universities that have been recognized as 'Great Colleges to Work For,' said Co-Lin President Dr. Ronnie Nettles. "For over one hundred years, Co-Lin employees have impacted the lives of our students and the communities we serve, and we have been blessed with instructors and staff who truly care about the success of our students."

In administering the survey and analyzing results, *The Chronicle* works with ModernThink LLC, a strategic human capital consulting firm that has conducted numerous "Best Places to Work" programs, surveying hundreds of thousands of employees nationwide. The survey results are based on a two-part assessment process: an institutional audit that captures demographics and workplace policies, and a survey of faculty, administrators, and professional support staff. The primary factor in deciding whether an institution receives recognition is

the employee feedback.

The Mississippi Business Journal also based its 2016 selections of mega-large, large, medium and small "Best Places to Work" on employee surveys. Reed's, a medium-size company selection, was founded in 1998 and today is a multi-million dollar metal building provider with nine stores across the southeast United States and manufacturing facilities in Brookhaven.

MBJ produces the best places to work program each year with the help of Southern Research, which surveys employees of all nominated and participating companies. "We are so pleased to have such great companies that set the example of a great place to work," *MBJ* Associate Publisher Tami Jones said. "It is even more exciting that this award comes from how the employees view their employers. What better way to gauge how you interact with employees?"

For more information and to view all the results of *The Chronicle* colleges and universities survey, visit the publications website at <http://chronicle.com/interactives/greatcolleges16>.

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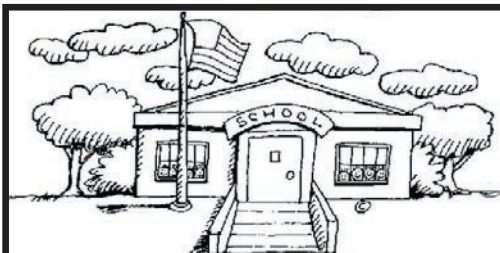


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Reed's Metals expanding in Brookhaven

Special to Wesson News

Reed's Metals, Brookhaven-based metal roofing and building manufacturer, is planning a two-phase \$3 million expansion at its Lincoln County headquarters on Highway 84 that will boost employment locally and enable the company to service the forty-eight continental U.S. states.

Phase one of the expansion -- an \$800,000 31,000-square foot new building -- has already begun, with completion expected within the next forty-five days, Reed's Metals President and CEO Bernie Reed announced.

In phase two of the expansion, Reed's will invest approximately \$2 million in facilities and equipment to construct a second 48,000 square-foot manufacturing plant for producing build-up frames for bigger industrial rigid frame buildings. The 80-foot-by-600-foot, 28-foot-high structure will house overhead cranes.

"Phase 2 is going to be a very impressive building," Reed said.

The company launched the phase one expansion in response to a thirty-three per cent sales increase over last year in the component parts of its business, which includes roofing, purlins, insulation, roll-up doors and metal trusses.

"We haven't been able to keep up," Reed said. "We needed more room and machines. We are really excited about this phase, because it will allow us to continue providing the service that built this company. We want to make sure we make all the products correctly and accurately, and provide fast service. We've always prided ourselves on 'order today, pick up today,' but we truly like it to be 'order it and pick it up in 15 minutes.'"

The second phase of the expansion will allow Reed's to grow its product line to an industrial level.

"Once this is all in place, it's truly going to allow Reed's to service 48 states with metal buildings," Reed said.

In the process, Reed said, the company is seeking to provide "the best experience possible" for its customers. "I feel like the experience the customer is going to get will exceed their expectations," he said. "That's what drives me. I love when customers have a great experience. I don't really think about the revenue side. I just think how amazed they will be if they can pull in, get a whole custom cut roof and leave in 15 minutes."

Reed expects the company's sales "to explode" starting in January as a result of the phase-one expansion and foresees the overall expansion making a "huge economic impact" in the area and Mississippi, not just from the number of jobs it will create, but also in the revenue stream it will build.

"Once the expansion is nearly complete, we're going to hire salesmen who live in many different parts of the country to work for Reed's Metals and sell our product," Reed said. "It is hard for me to put a number on the total job positions I hope to create, but I expect it to be many, especially in the Brookhaven area. I'm making a big investment, and I'm hoping for a great return to create many more jobs and do more for the community."

"We are the biggest metal roofing company in the state of Mississippi," Reed said. "I have nine locations, and we're going to build the metal buildings for those locations out of Brookhaven. The expansion will allow us to sell more products throughout the country. That will increase our revenue here and, in turn, will bring a lot of tax money to Lincoln County."

Eighteen years ago, Reed's started as a small company serving a local market, he

recalled. "It's huge," Reed said. "Seeing this expansion come to life is very rewarding, because, when we started out in 1998, we were focused on one county. Then we got pretty competitive in the state, and now we're a big player in the region. Hopefully, we're about to be a national competitor."

"I don't know how to explain it. I just have a drive to work and achieve goals."



Photo special to Wesson News

Reed's Metals President and CEO Bernie Reed expects his company's \$3 million expansion to create more local jobs and allow it to service 48 states.

You have to work hard to get where you want to be, and you have to be able to see where you want to be way down the road. Be patient, and just keep grinding away. I don't take anything for granted. I try to be very grateful. I know I can't take anything with me, but I truly try to be a good CEO of what I've been blessed to manage. No matter where this thing ends up, I just want to treat people fair and give back."



Photo special to Wesson News

The Reed's Metals expansion is being completed in two phases that will consist of constructing buildings with 79,000 additional square feet.

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Kids reading program

Special to Wesson News

Six prolific readers in five age group categories received Wal-Mart gift certificates as awards for completing the most books during the four-week summer reading program at Longie Dale Hamilton Memorial Library.

The winning readers were Cassady Pickering among three-to-four-year-olds, Forrest Graves in the five-and-six years-old age group, Brendon Duguid among seven-and-eight-year-olds and Chloe Graves and Jazmin Graves in nine-and-ten and eleven-and-twelve-year-old age categories.

Over the course of the program -- "On Your Mark, Get Set, Read" -- for children three-to-twelve years, speakers introduced a variety of subjects to them to stimulate their reading.

Storyteller Dianne Butler, a school librarian known as "a weaver of story magic," used creative techniques, including magic tricks, to present folktales and other fictional narratives -- both original and based on published books -- that delighted the upwards of thirty children who attended and generated excitement about reading and exploring literature. Copiah County Extension Service's Gladys Brown taught the program participants about cooking and worked with them in baking blueberry smoothies. A representative from Home Depot discussed planting and nurturing plants and sewed seeds with the young readers. Nurse Graham Carter talked about health issues and how to increase and maintain fitness through exercise, nutrition and other health-enhancing practices.



All photos Special to Wesson News

Five children were honored by Wesson Public Library's Ann Clark for reading the most books in a summer reading programs. From left to right are Brendon Duguid, Cassady Pickering, Clark, Forrest Graves, Chloe Graves and Jazmin Graves.

July honor yards



All photos Special to Wesson News

Wesson Garden Club recognized the landscaping efforts of Bradley and Nena Smith at 1041 Grove Street inside the town limits (above), Richard and Ruth MacBeth at 3077 Midway Road outside town (center) and Trustmark Bank, a business/service organization at 1027 Spring Street (below), through its June Yard of the Month awards. The awards, based on 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. Through October, the Garden Club selection committee will tour the Wesson area each month to identify properties in the organizational, town residential and rural residential (limited to Wesson School District) categories for the Yard of the Month awards. Call or text 601-757-7724 to nominate qualified yards, especially those outside Wesson.

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Community Calendar

August weather forecast: *The Old Farmers Almanac* calls for an average temperature of 79 degrees F (one degree below average) and precipitation of 5.5 inches (one inch below average). **August 10-13:** hurricane threat; **August 14-19:** scattered t-storms, warm; **August 20-27:** t-storms; **August 28-31:** hurricane threat, sunny elsewhere.

AUGUST 9
Diabetes support group. Meets weekly on Tuesdays. Education Annex at King's Daughters Medical Center, Brookhaven. 1:30 p.m. For information, call Natalie Ybarra at 601-835-9489.

Brookhaven Farmers Market. Every Tuesday throughout the summer. Amtrak Train Depot. 3 p.m.-6 p.m.
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and VFW Auxiliary Post 2618 meet. \$5.00 for meal. VFW Hall on Industrial Park Road, Brookhaven. 5:30 p.m.

AUGUST 11
Orientation/registration session for all freshmen and new students entering Co-Lin this fall to become further acquainted with the college and obtain academic and career-technical curriculum-planning advice, schedules for the semester, identification cards and parking permits as well as to register. It is to the student's advantage to have ACT scores on file in Co-Lin's admissions office before attending an orientation session as all academic and technical students are required to take the placement test. Those attending orientation without ACT scores will have to take the test (\$40 fee) and show photo identification before pre-registering. Tuition and fees may be paid, but are not required at orientation. Sessions begin at 8:30 a.m. Dow-Young Instructional Technology Building on the Wesson campus and at convenient locations on the Natchez campus and at the Simpson County Center. Call (601) 643-8490 for information.

Widows support group meets second Thursday of each month. Furlow Senior Center, Brookhaven. 5 p.m. Call 601-823-6376 or email bvaughnfurlow@gmail.com.

Wesson Lions Club Family Night. Papa's Restaurant, Brookhaven. 6 p.m.
American Legion Post #79 meets. American Legion Lodge on Main Street, Wesson. 6:30 p.m.

AUGUST 13
Wesson Old Wesson School reunion. Former students, faculty and staff socialize, reminisce and enjoy lunch together with friends in the restored building, now a community center, where they once studied and worked. \$20 per person payable no later than August 8 (mail to Trustmark National Bank, Wesson Branch c/o Old School Reunion, P.O. Box 307, Wesson 39191). Wesson Old School Community Center. 12:30 p.m. For information, call Sonya Cowen at 601-643-5256.

AUGUST 14
54th Case family reunion. Covered dish luncheon served at 12:30 p.m. Family Live Center, Sylavarena Baptist Church.

AUGUST 15
Beginner clogging classes for persons of all ages beyond five-years-old are held every Monday night. A small fee is charged each month. Brookhaven Recreation Department on Highway 51. Also on March 21 & 28. Call 601-833-3791.

AUGUST 16
50-Plus Club meets. Thames Center on the Co-Lin campus. 10:30 a.m.

AUGUST 18
Brookhaven Regional Arts Guild will host a reception in the for local watercolorist Janet Smith in conjunction with s month-long exhibit of her works and those of her mother. Free. Public is invited to meet Smith and discuss her works. Refreshments served. A short BRAG business meeting will follow. Vernon Room at the Lincoln County Library in Brookhaven. 5 p.m. For information about BRAG, contact Kathy Behan at Kathybehan5@gmail.com.

AUGUST 20
Wesson Cruise-In for antique cars and trucks and car show fans is the third Saturday of every month. Food and drinks available. Mill Town Mall, Wesson. 5 p.m.-9 p.m.

AUGUST 21
Southwest Mississippi chapter of American Bikers Aimed at Education (ABATE) monthly meeting. Discussion about Toy Run raffle fundraiser. Tickets will be available for the Advance State Field Meet (\$15 for members, \$20 for non-members). 2 p.m. Log Cabin Smokehouse, Brookhaven. For information, contact Carmen Hill at 601-833-8500.

AUGUST 22
Blood drive every second and fourth Monday. King's Daughters Medical Center Hospital Annex. 1 p.m.-6 p.m. Also on March 28. Call 800-817-7449 for information.

AUGUST 26
2016 NRA basic personal protection in the home and enhanced carry course starts and continues on August 27. Southwest Gun Club. 5:30 p.m. on Friday and 8:30 a.m. on Saturday. For information, call 601-341-8797.

AUGUST 25
Wesson Lions Club meets. Conference Room at Co-Lin student cafeteria building. 6:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 6
Wesson Board of Aldermen meet. City Hall. 6 p.m.

CONTINUING
Alcoholics Anonymous meets at convenient times seven days of every week. First United Methodist Church, 215 West Cherokee Street, Brookhaven. Open meetings are Mondays at noon and Tuesdays (Big Book Study), Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. Closed meetings are Wednesdays and Fridays (Big Book Study) at noon and Thursdays and Sundays at 7:30 p.m.
Brookhaven Regional Arts Guild members work on projects every Thursday of the month from 9 a.m.-12 noon at the Brookhaven-Lincoln County Public Library in the Vernon Room when it is available.

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Filmmaking growing part of local arts scene

By Guest Columnist Shaw Furlow

For the last twenty years or so, Mississippi has been the backdrop for many films. Major motion pictures and others produced by independent filmmakers have used our cities, countryside and talent. They have boosted local economies and provided a quick thrill for residents. The biggest hit, of course, is the great Coen brothers film, *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* Lately, *The Help*, *The Hollars*, part of which was shot in Brookhaven, *Get on Up*, shot in Natchez and Jackson, and most recently, *The Free State of Jones*, which was shot partially in Jones County, are just a few of the locally-produced films.



The cast included many locals, some with acting experience and others who were making their film debut. Many locals were also extras. The three amateur sleuths are portrayed by Lynn Forney of Jackson, Marlene Cupit of Brookhaven and Mississippi School of the Arts senior Elise McMurray.

I spoke to McMurray, a young, aspiring actress, before she boarded a plane to return home from New York City, where she was filmed for a non-speaking role in the Showtime feature, *Survivors*. She said that she had gained invaluable experience in the small part. "Any time you are working with a camera, you learn something new," she said. She will be heading to Savannah School of Art and Design this fall.

According to Greg Russell, out-going executive director of the Brookhaven Little Theatre, there is a real interest in growing the film business in southwest Mississippi, and a group is trying to persuade at least one filmmaker a year to choose our little corner of the planet for a project. With the success of

Porches and Private Eyes, this could well happen.

The importance of film has not been lost on the School of the Arts. Beginning this semester, Media Arts is part of its curriculum, with Copiah County native John Kelly Shelburne as the teacher. Shelburne graduated from Copiah Academy, Co-Lin and Southern Mississippi, and completed his MFA at the renowned Savannah School for Art and Design. In school, Shelburne worked on several films and found his niche as a film editor as well as a director. His film, *The Woman in the Room*, was included in the prestigious Dollar Baby series sponsored by Stephen King.

"I am terribly excited to begin this new chapter in my life as well as starting a new program at MSA," Shelburne said.

Porches and Private Eyes will premier at the Haven Theater in downtown Brookhaven on September 3. It's a sellout, but you can also see it, if you don't have tickets, on September 10 at the FilmHaven Film Festival as

one of a dozen or so films, which must either be made by a Mississippian or filmed in the state. The festival, also at the Haven Theater, will feature many shorts by young filmmakers, including *Brookstock: The Documentary*, which is directed by Brandon native Kelli Leach, produced by Don Jacobs and me, and focuses on the annual rock music festival in Brookhaven. As we go to press, the full schedule for the festival is not complete, but *Porches and Private Eyes* will end the day. The doors open at 12 noon, and the Mills film is at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for the full day.

Music, theatre, the visual arts and now film are bigger and bigger parts of the area culture. It's getting exciting!! As always, let me give you a gentle reminder to support the arts!!

Editor's Note: As a local composer, musician and arts promoter, R. Shaw Furlow knows the area arts community. He produces an internet-based video show -- From the Shadyside -- that spotlights area musical talent and is a consultant to school bands in the region for Brookhaven Music and Sound.



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Nena Smith leads NYC visitors



All photos Special to Wesson News

Nena Smith from Nena Smith's School of Dance again escorted a group to New York for a week of learning, laughing and seeing the sights -- a twenty-year tradition. Smith herself has visited New York City some thirty-eight times. The tour group saw many Broadway Musicals, including "Bright Star," "Wicked," "The Lion King," "Kinky Boots" and "Aladdin." They visited the Empire State Building, Statue of Liberty, Ground Zero and historic Coney Island and attended a New York Mets baseball game. Some went to the 9/11 Museum, Museum of Natural History, Star Wars Exhibit and World Stamp Show. Members of the group were (front row left to right) group leader Nena Smith, Kaylen Boyte, Lana Aguzzi, Kena Aguzzi, Deb Hoaglin, Lacie Tarver, Mary Beth Munn, Taylor Beasley, Laura Jill Speights, Prissy Aguzzi, (second row left to right) Olivia Clark, Kathy Boyte, Peggy Smith, Tonya Hughey, Carson Hughey, Valarie Oglesby, Marilyn Barker, Libbie Hennington, Kathy Dugas, Elise Munn, Ann Williams, (back row left to right) Patsy Wallace, Nan Clark, Phylis Smith, Diane Watson, Cameron Watson, Madalyn Oglesby, Ramona Smith, Lauren Langham,, Sonia Henry, Emma Coleman, Beth Adcock, Carly Stanley and Cindy Schobey. Many of the 2016 travelers have accompanied Smith to New York City in the past and are looking forward to joining the next trip scheduled to depart in May, 2017.

Playing your way to better health

By Guest Columnist
Dr. Stephanie Duguid

Play isn't just for fun. It's an important part of healthy living. Did you know children cope better with being hospitalized when given a chance to play? Or people recovering from physical injuries or adapting to disabilities stay healthier longer when they are physically and socially active?



And older adults maintain a sharper mind and a higher level of social involvement when they recreate?

Today, specialized health professionals are working to make sure people with physical, mental and emotional disabilities play in a variety of therapeutic recreation programs and services to improve their health and well-being. Therapeutic Recreation (TR) takes play and recreation very seriously, and the people who do the work are producing some amazing results, too. It is an established health-related profession committed to promoting the connection between health and recreation involvement. It has a unique role in the health and human services system in promoting play, recreation and leisure for psychological and physical recovery, health and well-being among individuals with disabilities.

According to the American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA), recreational therapy is a treatment service designed to restore, remediate and rehabilitate a person's level of functioning and independence in life activities, promote health and wellness and reduce or eliminate the activity limitations and restrictions to participation in life situations caused by an illness or disabling condition. Recreation therapists use individual and group counseling techniques and play, recreation and other activity-based interventions to maximize an individual's functioning and promote quality of life.

Within a clinical facility such as hospitals, substance abuse programs, skilled nursing facilities, psychiatric

facilities, and rehabilitation centers, a recreational therapist may conduct individualized assessments, respond to physician orders for assessment and treatment, and provide individual and group-based interventions to advance the health goals of their patients. On a typical day, recreational therapists will also document any interventions provided, note patient progress and help to develop a discharge plan with aftercare for patients on their caseload. Because reintegration is a primary

goal, recreational therapists often address the issue of limited knowledge of opportunities and transportation resources. Often, they help their clients to develop

support groups, advocacy programs, and social networking strategies.

Exercise and recreation benefits everyone regardless of age. It doesn't have to be expensive or time-consuming. What might at first have seem overwhelming -- like improving your heart health -- can end up becoming an enjoyable, new way of living. Something as simple as walking each day, for example, can drastically improve health. Here are some tips for getting started on the path to good health through recreation.

1. Assess yourself and create your overall health plan.
2. Focus on one healthy-lifestyle area as the starting point.
3. Line up your resources and supporters.
4. Make a few small changes and integrate them into your routine.
5. Reward yourself -- and keep at it.

Start playing!

Stephanie Duguid is Assistant Dean of Academic Instruction and the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Division Chair 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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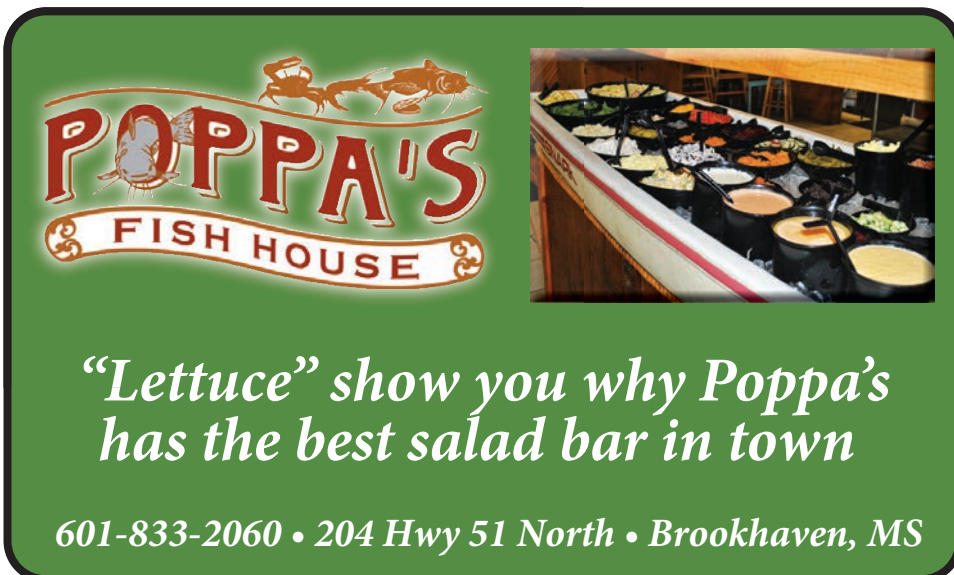
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Robotics team places eighth despite snafus

Special to Wesson News

Overcoming technical difficulties, Co-Lin's SeaWolves Underwater Robotics Engineering (SURE) team finished in eighth place at the 2016 Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) International Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) Competition in late June at the National Aeronautics Space Agency (NASA) Johnson Space Center's Neutral Buoyancy Lab in Houston, Texas. The Co-Lin team's robotic vehicle also captured the 2016 Design Elegance Award for its aesthetics, simplicity, and functionality.

In total, thirty-one colleges, universities and other technical education organizations in Asia, Canada, Europe, the Middle East and U.S. participated in the competition.

At the Neutral Bouyancy Lab, also the pool in which NASA astronauts train on a replica of the international space nation, the waters of Europa, a moon of Jupiter, were simulated for exploration in the competition. The competitive exercises also used the waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

This year's MATE competition required a "first-of-its-kind, dual purpose remotely operated vehicle that could operate in the harsh environments of both the deep ocean and outer space." The competing teams, which functioned as commercial robotic design and development companies, responded to a request for proposal (RFP) ostensibly written by scientists and engineers from customer organizations.

The RFP in the competition manual specifically called for a robot that could:

- Survive transport to Europa and operate in the ocean under its ice sheet to collect data and deploy instrumentation;
- Find and recover critical equipment that sank in the Gulf of Mexico after a recent series of testing programs;
- Collect samples and analyze data from oil mats located in the northern Gulf of Mexico to determine their origin;
- Photograph and collect samples of deep-water corals to assess their health post-Deepwater Horizon oil spill;
- Prepare a wellhead for decommission and conversion into an artificial reef.

SURE had hopes of improving on its fourth place finish in 2015 MATE ROV competition, but its SeaWolf V ROV started to experience technical difficulty with faulty parts just days before the team left for Houston. The team scrambled to troubleshoot and make needed repairs that enabled it to enter the first run of the competition, but experienced a second

hardware outage that stemmed from the earlier one and had a scoreless first run. For the second run the next morning, the Co-Lin team worked through the night to reroute the robot operations and have a semi-functioning ROV. Although SeaWolf V was not operating at 100 percent, the team worked hard to overcome the faulty equipment and completed a portion of the second run missions before the ROV ceased operating.



All photos Special to Wesson News

Members of Co-Lin's SeaWolves Underwater Robotics Engineering (SURE) team who attended the 2016 MATE International Remotely Operated Vehicle competition were (left to right) Lauren Westrope (CEO, Public Relations, Drafting), Thomas Westrope (Assistant Pilot, Precision Machining, Drafting), Reginald King (Pilot, Engineer, Electronics), all of Wesson; Bryan Miles (Missions Facilitator, Engineer, Electronics), and Colby Phillips (Safety, Drafting), both of Brookhaven and Blake Pryor (CFO, Technical Writer, English) of Laurel. Not pictured: Philip Dinicola II (Drafting, Fundraising) of Wesson, and mentors Dr. Kevin McKone, Carey Williamson, Wes Burkett, and Celeste Williamson.

product demonstration, SURE scored well in other areas of the competition, earning the full 40 points in the safety inspection -- one of eight teams to do so; receiving the best score in the engineering presentation; technical documentation and a marketing display. Even with technical problems in the

technical documentation and marketing display categories, the Co-Lin team also improved its scores over previous years.

Although the mission run was a challenge, SURE came away with a very positive learning experience this year, according Dr. Kevin McKone, the team's faculty advisor, who shared the team's excitement about the 2016 competition. "It has been a privilege to work with another really great group of students," McKone said. "Even with electronic issues at the competition, we were able to place eighth internationally out of 31 teams and received recognition for the best designed robot. I am very proud of this team."

Sponsors and friends of the 2016 S.U.R.E. team include Georgia – Pacific LLC, Monticello Division, Brookhaven Country Club, Exxon Mobil, I-55 Engineering, Canvas Next Door, Concens, Tim Jones, Josh Hart, SeaTrepid, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Copiah-Lincoln Community College Foundation, Co-Lin Workforce Education, Dr. Ronnie Nettles, Dr. Jane Hulon, Jackie Martin, Dr. Jill Logan, Howard Johnson and the MATE Center.

For more information about SURE, contact team advisor Dr. Kevin McKone at 601-643-8450 or kevin.mckone@colin.edu. Follow SURE on Facebook (www.facebook.com/colinseawolves) or Twitter (@colinseawolves). For more information about the MATE ROV competition, visit www.marinetech.org/rov-competition/.

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Special to Wesson News

Wesson aldermen are reviewing an ordinance that regulates fires on private property in response to safety concerns and wording in the law that some of them say is ambiguous and lacks specifics. In July, they tabled an amendment to the ordinance until Mayor Alton Shaw reformulates it based on research of burn ordinances in other municipalities. An incident in which a property owner bulldozed a dilapidated house and set fire to the remains of the entire structure prompted review of the ordinance, which requires a permit be obtained for a burn that is started and completed before dark and attended throughout its duration under the supervision of an adult. "The property owner conferred with the fire department about whether he could burn planks, but didn't indicate plans to burn an entire house," Mayor Alton Shaw explained in suggesting the amendment to the ordinance that would require the Wesson fire department to review the nature of a burn and safety precautions before a permit is granted.

In the discussion of the proposed amendment, several aldermen noted that the wording of the current ordinance seemed to be overly broad and possibly applicable even to pit fires for roasting hot dogs and marshmallows. Mayor Shaw and City Attorney Jeff Varas suggested the ordinance could be amended to also define the types and sizes of applicable fires, but Wesson Police Chief Chad O'Quinn warned about making the wording too complex for enforcement, which often relies on common sense. "If somebody's got a huge fire going at 7 p.m., we deal with that," O'Quinn pointed out. "If someone's roasting weenies, it's a different matter."

Mosquito warning follows virus reports. The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) is warning state residents, particularly those traveling abroad, to protect themselves against mosquitoes in the wake of eight new cases of the Zika virus last month

and four cases of the West Nile virus (WNV) during the year. Mosquitoes transmit both viruses. During July, two laboratory-confirmed cases of the Zika virus were reported in Rankin County, and one each in Chickasaw, Desoto, Hinds, Madison, Neshoba and Oktibbeha counties for a total of eleven this year. The three Rankin County residents had traveled to Guatemala, and the others to St. Thomas, Jamaica, Nicaragua and St. Lucia. The four WNV cases in Hinds, Grenada, Lamar and Rankin counties compared to thirty-eight, including one death, last year. At least forty-six other U.S. states and territories have reported travel-associated cases of the Zika virus, which is common in parts of Africa, Southeast Asia and some Pacific Islands and has been reported recently in some thirty countries, mostly in the Caribbean, Central and South America.

The Zika virus normally causes a mild illness that lasts for several days or a week with a fever, joint pain, conjunctivitis or a rash; rarely causes death, but has been associated with birth defects. WNV, which usually produces mild symptoms, including fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, a rash, muscle weakness or swollen lymph nodes, has been reported throughout Mississippi in past years and all residents, even in areas where cases have not been reported, are potentially at risk. In a small number of cases, a WNV infection can cause encephalitis or meningitis, which can lead to paralysis, coma and possibly death. MSDH is monitoring mosquito populations in all Mississippi counties for the *aedes aegypti* breed, which spreads the Zika virus, and strongly advises pregnant women not to travel to countries where it is actively being transmitted. Although

the *aedes aegypti* mosquito has not been detected in Mississippi since the early 1990s, MSDH also suggests taking simple precautions for protection against

mosquitoes: Using an EPA-registered mosquito repellent that contains DEET when outdoors. Removing all sources of standing water around

the home and yard to prevent mosquito breeding. Wearing loose, light-colored, long clothing to cover arms and legs when outdoors. Avoiding areas where mosquitoes are prevalent.

Call for blood donors. In the face of a seasonal slump in blood donations, which is aggravating an abnormal drop in donations during the year, Mississippi Blood Services (MBS) is calling on old and new donors to build up "an extremely low inventory" to meet blood needs of patients suffering from trauma and serious illness and recovering from major surgery. Whole blood, double red cells and platelets in all blood types are needed. As part of its donations campaign, MBS is partnering with Mac Haik Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram Flowood, a Wesson News advertiser, in the Road to Life 8 Blood Drive Promotion, which runs through August 19. Blood donors throughout Mississippi will be automatically registered for a chance to win a 2016 Jeep Renegade at blood drive locations, draw stations or fixed sites. MBS will draw the names of fifteen finalists at Mac Haik Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram on Friday, August 26. "Blood donors often play a crucial part on a patient's road to recovery,"

Merle Eldridge, MBS Manager of Public Relations and Communications, said. "They may never meet those patients who received their blood, but the very fact blood was available means they helped save those lives." Donating blood is safe and simple. Donors must be at least 17 years old (16 years old with parental consent), weigh at least 110 pounds and have a valid ID. An MBS Donor Coach is on site every second and fourth Monday of the month from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at King's Daughters Hospital in Brookhaven. For information, visit the MBS website (msblood.com), follow it on Facebook (Give21Live) and Twitter (Msbloodservices) or call 888-90-BLOOD.

Early college experience. Wesson High School (WHS) eleventh and twelfth grade students who meet the eligibility requirements can take elective academic and career and technical education courses at Co-Lin through a dual enrollment program in which WHS is partnering with the college. In 2016 WHS graduation ceremonies, Marty Jones received his high school diploma and a Co-Lin welding degree through the program. Two other WHS seniors earned twenty-four college credits, and several others finished their senior year with twelve to eighteen. A total of twenty-one students participated in the program during the 2015-16 school term, and almost forty will take courses in the program during the upcoming school year. In academics, WHS students currently participate in English composition classes on the Co-Lin campus and take classes in college algebra, world civics, speech and music appreciation, among others, online. This fall, WHS is offering students facilitated lab times for online work.

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Wesson was a wedding gift for the Lightseys

Wesson News

For Jim Lightsey and his wife Martha, Wesson was a wedding gift of sorts -- the place where they have spent their married life together since July, 1971, immediately following their honeymoon.

Lightsey from Bay Springs, Mississippi, and Martha from Utica, Mississippi, met at Mississippi State University, where he was doing post-graduate work in sociology and she was studying elementary education. Just before they were married, Co-Lin hired Lightsey, who had been an administrator and teacher at Jones Junior College and East Central Mississippi Community College, to teach sociology at Wesson.

"I arranged to rent a house into which we could move and immediately start living," Lightsey recalls. "We settled in Wesson after honeymooning in Key Biscayne, Florida." Lightsey, then 26, started his thirty-year teaching career at Co-Lin, from which he retired in 2001, right away. Martha, 23, found a teaching job at Wesson Attendance Center and moved to Co-Lin in 1984, where she taught reading and educational courses until her retirement in 2002.

Over their forty-six years in Wesson, Lightsey and his wife have not only made their careers as educators, but also reared a daughter, and been active in community service. Lightsey's daughter, Jessica Pavey, who now lives with her husband in Baton Rouge, has seven children of her own, ranging in age from eight months to twelve years old, whom their grandparents thoroughly enjoy. Lightsey and Martha have worked with Wesson youth at Decell Memorial United Methodist Church, and he served twenty-one years as a town Alderman. For thirty-five years, Lightsey has taught the Mississippi Alcohol Safety Education course at Mississippi State -- a four-session, twelve-hour class that helps court-referred persons convicted of DUI or those at-risk develop DUI avoidance plans.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

In 1981, Lightsey and Martha purchased and moved into a landmarked historic white Victorian two-story home built in 1895 on Collier Street, which they have maintained and upgraded over the years. "Shortly after we retired, Martha and I thought about moving from Wesson to a senior living facility, but after packing a few boxes, we just couldn't do it," Lightsey relates.



Photo by Wesson News

What is your hobby?

Martha and I have always been travelers. Over the years, we have visited forty to fifty countries. This year, we're planning a road trip in the U.S. that encompasses the Grand Canyon and a Mississippi State football game at Brigham Young University. I played linebacker for the Bulldogs in the 1960s as an undergraduate. So I have followed the team. When we're at home, I do a lot of reading. Martha and I also garden. I also enjoy visiting and talking with friends. I find all people to be friendly and interesting.

Do you have a favorite book or movie?

I read mostly non-fiction and recently finished *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* by Yuval Noah Harari, which I recommend as very insightful. I also enjoyed *A Confederacy of Dunces*, a Pulitzer Prize parody on

New Orleans life by the late John Kennedy Toole. I begin most days with short readings after doing stretching and balancing exercises. I am currently reading *The Book of Awakening, Don't Sweat the Small Stuff* and *It's All Small Stuff* that help me in a brief quiet time of reflection in which I try to get settled for the day. I very frequently find myself off track in my thoughts and behavior and get back on track the best I can.

Although I have no favorite movie, I enjoyed *Cold Mountain* -- a 2003 British-American-Romanian-Italian epic war drama film directed by Anthony Minghella about a wounded deserter from the Confederate army returning to the love of his life. I also liked *Free State of Jones* written and directed by Gary Ross and starring Matthew McConaughey -- a 2016 American war film inspired by the life of Newton Knight and his armed rebellion against the Confederacy in Jones County, Mississippi. Of course, I grew up in Jones County, where I graduated from Jones Junior College.

What kind of music do you like?

I am eclectic in my tastes -- blues, jazz, country, classical -- and like many singers, including Elvis, Patsy Cline and Frank Sinatra, among others.

Would you change anything in your life?

I have enjoyed my life. Marriage to Martha has been one of the best parts. Finding her was my best discovery. For the most part, we have similar values and interests and enjoy learning and sharing with each other. Learning together is fun. Often, we are thinking about the same thing before we speak. We share a sense of "I am because you are and you are because I am." Apologizing to each other for something we have said or done is not unusual.

Do you have a wish you want granted?

I would wish to live to be a hundred-plus years old and be happy and healthy. Towards this end, Martha and I are health-conscious. We both do stretching and weight lifting at home and walk and jog on the Co-Lin track that encircles the football field and on its nature trail.

If you won a multi-million dollar lottery, how would you spend the money?

I would probably give most of it away. Martha and I have everything we need and live frugally. So we wouldn't change our lives much. Over the years, we have established scholarships at Co-Lin, Jones Junior College, Hinds Community College and Mississippi State. I would expand my giving to organizations to which we have donated in the past, many of which reflect the concern for human rights and justice that Martha and I share. Among them are Stewpot, Mississippi Food Network, Decell Memorial United Methodist Church and its food pantry, American Civil Liberties Union, Southern Poverty Law Center, the Democratic Party, the United Methodist Committee on Relief and the United Methodist Church Children's Hospital.

Editor's note: Suggest neighbors you want to read about via email to bobarnold@wessonnews.com.

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Wolves are fast & deep in 2016

Special to Wesson News

Duplicating last year's success seems like a daunting task for the 2016 Co-Lin Wolfpack football team. The team had seven victories at mid-season and a National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) number one ranking last year, but head coach Glenn Davis and his staff believe it has the speed, power, and raw talent to meet high expectations.

Offense

Dominic De Lira (6-1, 195/Lake Travis, TX) will play quarterback following a redshirt season at Iowa State in 2015. The Austin, Texas, native threw for 2,200 yards and 25 touchdowns in his senior at the same high school that produced a number of college quarterbacks, including Todd Reesing, Garrett Gilbert, Michael Brewer and now Oklahoma starting Quarterback Baker Mayfield. Mississippi Delta Community College transfer Nick Conley (6-2, 190/Jackson Academy) will compete with him for playing time.

In the backfield, sophomore do-everything back Ladarius Galloway (5-10, 200/Gentry) is looking to build on a sensational freshman season, with 500 yards rushing, three scores

and 89 carries, complemented by speedster John Ferguson (5-9, 185/Natchez), Brenton Spann (5-10, 185/New Hope), whose ability to outrun defenses excited high school crowds last



season; and DeNarius "DJ" Knight (5-11, 190/Warren Central), who hopes to fill the shoes of Co-Lin power running Lakedric Lee.

At tight end, Gemarta' Jackson (6-4, 270/Madison Central), an aggressive, physical blocker, returns, joined by freshman Erick Grossley (6-3, 250/Greenville) from Wesson, a versatile player, who can be used in multiple positions.

At the wideout position, where Co-Lin has produced four All-Americans over the last four years, the Wolfpack will turn to Oregon State transfer Datrin Guyton, Jr. (6-5, 185/Manor, TX) to carry the load as the number one target with his speed and big play ability. Backing him up will be Alexander Hollins (6-1, 185/

Yazoo County), who grabbed 11 passes for 210 yards and three scores last year; DeAndre Barnes (6-3, 195/Seminary), who placed second as the Wolfpack's rookie of the year last season and will seek to improve on his 26 catches, 372 yards and two touchdowns; DeAnthony Blake (6-4, 185/Jefferson County), who is coming off an injury; and Jaylen Smith (6-0, 190/Germantown), one of most all-around improved players. Rookies are Ryan Drew (5-10, 175/Copiah Aca), a quarterback and wide receiver on the practice squad last season; Nero Nelson (5-10, 180/Simmons), a speedster who signed with Mississippi State before inking with the Wolfpack in the spring; Tyson Penn (6-5, 185/Bellevue, WA), a former high jump champion in the Northwest region and Oregon State signee; and freshmen Jermarcus Weatherall (6-1, 205/Greenwood) and Alton Conerly (6-0, 180/Gulfport).

Tommy Champion, who will play for the Mississippi Bulldogs in 2017, and Lawayne Lenoir, who returns after sustaining a season-ending injury on the first offensive drive last year, will lead the Wolfpack offensive line this season. Joe Nelson (6-5, 350), a guard, and Mitchell Cross (6-2, 265), who will compete for the starting center position, also bring experience to the line. Freshmen are Kyante White (6-5, 335/

Callaway), Javious Bardney (6-2, 275/Callaway), Elbert Watson (6-5, 315/Rosa Fort), Eddie 'BJ' Maxon (6-4, 305/South Panola), Jason Trumbley (6-2, 290/Long Beach), and Jacob 'JJ' Jones (6-3, 270/Parklane Aca) join the Wolves. Bardney, Trumbley and Jones will compete with Cross for the starting center position.

Defense

The Wolfpack defense, which has earned national respectability under coordinator Coach Otis, sports future SEC players and possible NFL talent again this season: Montez Sweat from Stone Mountain, Georgia, a transfer from Michigan State, who promises to terrorize quarterbacks all season long with his speed and agility; former West Virginia Mountaineer Tyree Owens (6-4, 290/Oviedo, FL), who will add strength to the defensive interior; returnees Deion Pope (6-4, 290/Collins), who is committed to the Mississippi State Bulldogs in 2017, defensive end Joe Anderson (6-5, 290/Riverside Aca, LA), tackles Quadarius Reed (6-2, 270/Yazoo County) and Devin 'DD' McLaurin (6-1, 285/Collins); and freshmen Damion Dickens (6-3, 245/Holmes County Central), Didravious Henry (6-5, 245/West Marion) and Charles Cameron (6-2, 270/Morton).

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Michael Graham (6-0, 230/De Soto), who returns from a redshirt sophomore year; James Allen Coley, a University of Louisiana-Monroe commit out of Cathedral in Natchez, who decided to enroll at Co-Lin this summer; and freshmen Lamoni Jones (6-1, 235/Yazoo County) and Juwan Gladney (5-11, 230/Rosa Fort). Colton Magee (6-0, 210/North Pike) returns at outside linebacker after a stellar freshman season with 27 tackles and six sacks and Germany McLaurin (5-10, 230/Pearl) is looking for another big season at the strong side linebacker spot. Joining them are freshmen TJ Gray (6-3, 200/Lake) and Travez Moore (6-4, 245/Bastrop, LA).

McComb High School graduate Jaquarius Landrews (6-2, 190), best known for his victory clinching interception in overtime against East Mississippi last season, will lead the defensive secondary with Kelvin Thomas (5-11, 190/Charleston), who will patrol the middle of the field, and athletic comer Rhoy Williams (6-2, 190/Yazoo County. Also returning after solid freshman seasons are corner Stacey James (5-11, 190/Pearl), safety Josh Applewhite (5-11, 190/Bassfield) and deep safety Mike Collum (5-10, 185/Yazoo County). A talented group of freshmen DBs will fill the holes left by graduates: Jeffery Drake (5-10, 180/West Point), Isaiah Toler (5-10, 185/Ocean Springs), RJ Jarrett (6-2, 175/Simmons) and Graham Eklund (6-2, 185/Jackson Prep) will compete to play

safety, while newcomers Isaiah Swopes (5-9, 180/Ocean Springs), a transfer from Belhaven, and Paul Wilson (5-9, 180/Vicksburg) are eyeing the corner slot.

Special Teams

Griffin Sublett (5-11, 170/Pascagoula) promises to keep the kicking game at a high level with Brandon High School Graduate Chance Herbert (5-10, 230/Brandon) as his ball snapper.



Photo special to *Wesson News*

Sophomore back Ladarius Galloway (5-10, 200/Gentry) is looking to build on his freshman season to help lead a Co-Lin football team ready to meet high expectations during its 2016 season.

Upcoming Sporting Events

August 18

Wesson High School football Cobras play at McLaurin. 7 p.m.

August 23

Wesson High School varsity girls softball Cobras play North Pike. 5 p.m.

August 25

Wesson High School varsity girls softball Cobras play at Franklin. 5 p.m.

August 26

Wesson High School football Cobras play Sumrall. 7 p.m.

August 27

Wesson High School varsity girls softball Cobras play Laurance County. 11 a.m.

August 30

Wesson High School varsity & junior varsity girls softball Cobras play at Clinton. 5 p.m.

September 1

Co-Lin football Wolves play Mississippi Delta. 7 p.m.

September 2

Wesson High School football Cobras play at Bogue Chitto. 7 p.m.

September 6

Wesson High School varsity girls softball Cobras play Franklin County. 5 p.m.

September 8

Wesson High School varsity girls softball Cobras play Mendenhall. 5 p.m.

Co-Lin football Wolves play Coahoma. 7 p.m.

September 9

Wesson High School football Cobras play Seminary. 7 p.m.

September 13

Wesson High School varsity girls softball Cobras play Hazlehurst. 5 p.m.

September 15

Co-Lin football Wolves play at Gulf Coast. 7 p.m.

September 16

Wesson High School football Cobras play at Raymond. 7 p.m.

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the support here. **Cotiah County people are smart, they know that if they spend their car money in Lincoln or Hinds County that it is GONE, GONE forever! People are proud to do business at home, that's what makes our economy go!"**

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