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Wesson News

Volume 5, Number 5 "Good News You Can Use" May 9, 2017

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Town Clerk Retiring
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Wesson eyes competitive elections

By Bob Arnold

Although there are no seriously divisive issues, the Wesson municipal elections will feature four competitive races on June 6, with six challengers taking on the Mayor and three aldermen

Only Ward Three Alderman Billy Ellison and Ward Four Alderman Michael R. King are running unopposed. The competitive races are for:

Mayor. Incumbent Mayor Alton Shaw will face two challengers, Rosa Harris and Marty Stroud.

Alderman-at Large. Stephen Ashley is challenging incumbent Joel (Ric) Crockett, who is seeking his first full term after filling the unexpired term of Van Graham, who resigned from the Board of Aldermen.

Ward One Alderman. Incumbent Mike Douglas will face Larry Hall.

Ward Two Alderman. Challengers Dirk Chrestman and Jarrad Ashley are running against incumbent John Welter.

Mayoral Race

Mayor Alton Shaw is seeking re-election because he "enjoys helping others and wants to see our community grow." He cites accomplishments as "our first municipal park, with an upcoming splash pad; rehabilitation of the old Wesson school, repair and upgrade of our downtown sidewalks and lighting, renovation of city hall, the advances of our water and wastewater systems, including generators at all our critical facilities, rehabilitation of both water tanks and upgraded equipment at our wastewater plant; and nearly doubling the sales tax returned to the town from the state as a result of economic development over the years." Shaw is proud of the more than $6 million in grants that have been generated during his terms for varied projects, while not adding to taxpayer burdens. A resident-citizen of Wesson for thirty years, he came as a child with his father, who served as police chief, and his mother, a church secretary. He graduated from Wesson Attendance Center, worked with the Wesson Volunteer Fire Department when he was nineteen years old, recently completed a Master's Degree to become a Family Nurse Practitioner, and is involved with the Chamber of Commerce, Friends of the Library and Wesson Lions Club. He and his wife Christy started a Christian non-profit organization that raises funds to combat human trafficking. They have two children, Benjamin and Parker.

Alton Shaw *Special to Wesson News*

Rosa Harris *Special to Wesson News*

Marty Stroud *Special to Wesson News*

Mayoral challenger Rosa Harris is a businesswoman with wide-ranging community service interests, who came to Wesson from New Orleans in 2005 following Hurricane Katrina. She believes her broad links to the community and understanding of resource development have prepared her to cultivate and nurture new private sector partnerships for Wesson. Since receiving a business management degree in 1983 from Delgado Community College in New Orleans, Harris has pursued multi-faceted career and community service activities -- the floral design and lawn care business, merchandising for garden shop suppliers, Master Gardening projects, volunteer assistance at zoos, and teaching. In the Wesson area, she has assisted a designer florist in Brookhaven, served Wesson Attendance Center as a substitute teacher and cafeteria worker, is a member of Decell United Methodist Church and has been a kitchen volunteer at the Camp Wesley Pine United Methodist Retreat Center at Gallman. A widow, Harris has a 13-year-old daughter, Kathline, who is in the seventh grade at Wesson Attendance Center. Harris says she is "dedicated to the progress of Wesson," promises to "wakeup" the community, which she says is in "hibernation" and not sufficiently tapping its resources; and will challenge people to commit themselves to the town. Waterline repairs, a cooperative farmers' market, a community store that provides vocational opportunities to youth and partnerships with Co-Lin are on her campaign agenda.

Mayoral challenger Marty Stroud came to Wesson twenty-five years ago for a "place to raise his children that was safe, had good schools and activities for youth," and wants to "bring back some of the history of the town, support the schools and programs and reassure everyone that Wesson is a great place to live." He and his wife

cont. on page 4

Annual spring concert

Wesson News

For the twelfth consecutive year, Porches Restaurant in Wesson featured the Co-Lin Jazz Band in its annual "Jazz Under the Magnolias" concert, which celebrates the spring season in South Central Mississippi. Co-Lin bands program director Juanita Proffitt conducts the Jazz group, one of several instrumental and choral ensembles in which the college's music students enjoy opportunities to perform in public venues. Under a tent on property outside the famous landmark Wesson restaurant, diners savored the free musical appetizers and desserts served up by the band.

Budget imperils public higher education

By Bob Arnold

Budget cuts are making public higher education in Mississippi less accessible and less affordable, Dr. Ronnie Nettles, president of Co-Lin, warns.

Altogether, community colleges throughout Mississippi were hit with $28 million in cuts going into the next fiscal year, and Co-Lin will have ten per cent less -- $1.2 million below the funding it had going into the last fiscal year, Nettles says.

In recent weeks, Nettles has been on the speaking circuit, warning community leaders and organizations throughout the Co-Lin district that cuts will mean significant impact on programs and services that are important to students and the area. Students will pay more and get less for their money with direct effects in the classroom and rippling into local economies

Moreover, the news isn't getting any better, according to Nettles. "There is a real possibility that additional budget cuts will occur in the months and years to come," he says.

See the opinion piece by Dr. Ronnie Nettles on page 4 for full details on how the state budget affects higher education and specifics about how it will affect Co-Lin.

April honor yards

Special to Wesson News

Wesson Garden Club recognized the landscaping efforts of Twice at the Ice, a business at 2086 Highway 51 (top), Dennis and Tara Middleton at 1016 Dickerson Lane (center) in a residential rural setting and Bobby Britt at 1074 David Britt Street inside the town corporate limits through its April 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. The Garden Club's Yard of the Month awards honor properties in organizational, town residential and rural residential (limited to Wesson School District) categories during the spring, summer and fall.

Grim disease needs big research effort

By Guest Columnist
Dr. Stephanie Duguid

May is ALS Awareness Month to promote understanding of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a devastating neurodegenerative disease which destroys the ability to walk, speak, eat and breathe. ALS is a progressive disease that is 100% fatal. First recognized as a disease in 1869, ALS is sometimes referred to as Lou Gehrig's Disease, named after the famous New York Yankees baseball first baseman, whose career was stopped in 1939 when he developed the disease at the age of 36. At that time, ALS received widespread public attention as a result of Gehrig's high profile.

LIVING HEALTHY

ALS affects the body by attacking motor neurons (nerve cells) of the brain and spinal cord. Motor neurons are cells which process and transmit signals which help to control muscles. Destruction of motor neuron cells leads to symptoms related to loss of muscle control. Symptoms of ALS include progressive loss of muscle control, gradually affecting the ability to speak, swallow, walk, grasp objects, move, or breathe. ALS is diagnosed over many months, even years, by ruling out other diseases.

ALS usually strikes people between the ages of 40 and 70, and approximately 20,000 Americans have the disease at any given time. After the onset of this disease, fatality usually occurs within two to five years.

ALS is indiscriminate in the types of people who are affected. Famous people who had ALS include NBA player George Yardley, U.S. Senator Jacob Javits and former U.S. vice president Henry Wallace.

Facts about ALS:

- 5,000 plus people are diagnosed per year.
- Every 90 minutes, someone is diagnosed with the diseases, and someone dies as a result of it.
- Ten percent of cases are familial (inherited through mutated genes).
- Ninety percent of cases are sporadic (occurring without family history).
- $250,000 is the estimated out-of-pocket cost for caring for a person with ALS.
- Only one drug is currently approved by the FDA for ALS, and it extends survival by only several months.
- $2 billion is the estimated cost to develop a drug to slow or stop the progression of ALS.

ALS can be devastating to both affected persons and to their friends and family. At present, there is no known treatment or cure for ALS, but scientists have made significant progress in learning more about the disease. If a cure or greater understanding of ALS is achieved, it is likely that this will benefit research into related conditions, such as Parkinson's, Huntington's and Alzheimer's diseases. There could be a similar underlying neurodegenerative condition in each of them.

You can help change the facts by donating to The ALS Association (www.alsa.org).

EDITORS NOTE: 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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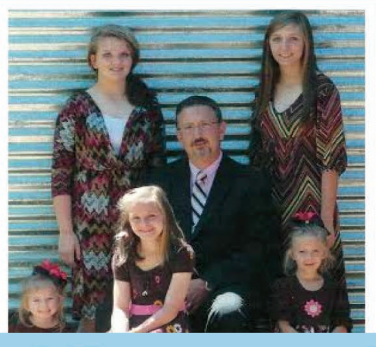

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Wesson News

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Volume 5, Number 5
Circulation 5,000

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

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Police Blotter

Special to Wesson News

During April, Wesson Police Department activity encompassed:

Response to:
- Two vehicle accidents
- One domestic violence
- One molestation
- One auto burglary
- Three complaints

Citations & arrests:
- One shoplifting
- Three petty larcenies
- One possession of drug paraphernalia
- One trespassing
- One credit card fraud
- One stalking
- One forgery
- Four expired tags
- Three driving with a suspended license
- Two possession of marijuana in a motor vehicle
- One open container
- Two stop sign violations
- Three speeding
- One resisting arrest
- One failure to comply

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.

Legislature, town audit & hospital rating

Special to Wesson News

Governor calls special legislative session. A special session of State Legislature will begin meeting on June 5 at the request of Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant to address unfinished business, including approval of budgets for the attorney general's office and Department of Transportation. The budgets remain in limbo because of disputes about collecting taxes on internet sales and check deposits related to the Attorney General's lawsuits. Although it is unclear how long the special session will last, Governor Bryant suggested the legislative process could move quickly.

City's fiscal management commended. Mayor Alton Shaw expressed pride in Wesson's fiscally conservative financial management reflected in a report by independent auditor Charles Hart to the Board of Aldermen last month. Total receipts, disbursements and charges during the last fiscal year totaled $1,007,336 for the general fund and $820,297 for the water and sewer fund. Due to HUD and Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) grants of $382,078 and $250,000 for City Hall renovation and water tank painting and repairs, the bottom line figures were slightly inflated, Shaw said. Although the town did not use grant money to complete the playground, it received reimbursements for expenditures after completion of the audit report.

KDMC gets "A" for safety. The not-for-profit Leapfrog Group has awarded King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC) in Brookhaven an "A" safety rating for its commitment to reducing errors, infections and accidents that harm patients. Among 2,649 hospitals Leapfrog graded across the nation, KDMC was one of 823 to receive the "A" grade and one of 13 among 39 Mississippi hospitals. Leapfrog, which has created a culture of safety in U.S. hospitals, bases its grades on thirty measures of publicly-available hospital safety data. The grades it assigns are calculated by top patient safety experts, peer-reviewed, fully transparent and available free to the public.

NEWS NUGGETS

State improves emergency readiness. Since 2013, Mississippi's capacity to respond to public health emergencies related to disease outbreak, natural disasters and human-caused catastrophes has improved at a faster rate than the nation as a whole, but still lags with a 6.3 rating on a ten point scale compared to the 6.8 national average, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) reports. Although state health departments are key players in preparing for and responding to public health emergencies, the RWJF index considers a broad range of resources needed to respond to a crisis -- more than 130 measures in five categories. The Centers for Disease Control created the index, which now involves more than thirty participating organizations. Mississippi only has about two-thirds of protections experts say it needs. States in the Deep South and Mountain West continue to trail states in the Northwest and on the West Coast.

Museum donation honors Wesson native. The Military Memorial Museum at Brookhaven has received a new exhibit that commemorates the service of the *U.S.S. Oklahoma* and its 429 crewmembers, who perished when it was sunk in the December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor. Lincoln County resident and Army veteran Randall Smith donated a replica of the battleship to the museum in memory of the deceased and, particularly, twenty-three-year-old Fireman First Class Jim H. "Jimmy" Johnson, a Wesson native who was one of the dead and whose remains were identified in 2015 and buried last year in Wesson Cemetery on the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack. Last month, area veterans from every branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, their families and local dignitaries attended the unveiling of the exhibit. Among those on hand were Senator Sally Doty, Representative Becky Currie, Representative Vince Mangold, Lieutenant Governor Tate Reeves, U.S. Representative Gregg Harper and Johnson's niece and nephew Mary Howell and Frank Springs.

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Wesson elections

Cathy of 35 years have three children and five grandchildren. He is manager at the Brookhaven Wal-Mart service operations, where he has worked since 1989. Stroud sees Wesson's problems "as a sense of urgency in addressing residents' problems, cleanliness of the downtown area, road and street repairs and support of businesses, athletics, Wesson High School and Co-Lin." For his work as Mayor, he draws on a background that includes support of the Lincoln County/City of Brookhaven Chamber of Commerce for the last ten years and service on the Wal-Mart State Giving program selection committee on which he has helped for the past two years to review grant requests from all over Mississippi for recommendations and approval. He helped secure a grant for Brookhaven Outreach Ministries for $80,000 and Berean's Children's Home building fund for $50,000 in Lincoln County. Stroud promises to be "approachable, honest and transparent, address citizen concerns in a timely manner -- not just in the months leading up to an election, work with business owners and Aldermen to improve the look of the downtown area, acquire grants and funding, make responsible budget decisions towards increasing ability to match grants and repair streets and roads and work with the Chamber of Commerce to support community events and programs."

Board of Aldermen Races

Incumbent Aldermen all tout the Board's accomplishments in recent years, including completion of the new municipal park and playground, continuing development of the Old School community center, street paving, repair of the water tower and Family Dollar Store's decision to locate in Wesson; and talk about the growing professionalism of Board members, who have been trained and certified by the Mississippi Municipal League.

Ward 2 Alderman John Welter and Ward 3 Alderman Billy Ellison both cite the need for a grocery store and pharmacy in Wesson, but don't want to see "explosive" growth. Welter, who was born in Wesson in 1941 and has worked in construction and homebuilding in the area for many years, says his vision of Wesson is "a small town that is a nice place to raise children and have a family." Ellison, who was born in Dr. Friedman's office in September, 1960, one hundred yards from where he grew up and has continued to live and work in sales related and maintenance jobs in the area, wants Wesson to "grow enough to sustain a tax base that supports services."

Ward 4 Alderman Michael King, who is running for his second full term in an area annexed by Wesson in 2007, wants the town to be "a friendly, safe place to live that maintains the advantages of a small town while preparing for and facing the challenges of the future."

"We have numerous challenges facing us -- among them, attracting, promoting and keeping our town's businesses, repairing our deteriorating infrastructure, providing services to our residents, maintaining day-to-day operations -- all while managing a limited town budget," says the retired U.S. Marine Lieutenant Colonel, who is currently owner/president of Summerwind Consultants, Inc.

Alderman-at-Large (Joel) Ric Crockett, a Louisiana native who chose Wesson as his retirement home with his wife Annette in 2006, organized the town's current zoning board and is concerned about finding a quality tenant for the facility formerly occupied by API -- a matter that is largely the focus of local and state economic development authorities. Welter flags property cleanup and drugs as challenges facing the town, while Ellison says "water breaks and addressing our water woes" remain issues.

The challengers come to the Aldermen races for varying reasons. Lifelong Wesson resident Stephen Ashley, current president of the Chamber of Commerce, an AT&T employee for nineteen years and member of Zion Hill Baptist Church and the boards of the Old Wesson School and Wesson Athletic Foundation, says he wants to be Alderman-at-Large "to be able to work for and help more of the town and the people that I love."

"The Town of Wesson faces the same problems as any other small Mississippi town," he observes. "As president of the Chamber, the mayor and I have always worked together toward growing our community and tackling some of these issues. I love our town, and I love the people here."

Ward 1 candidate Larry Hall, who visited Wesson in 1985, decided to stay, and met and married his wife of 29 years, Melanie Wilkinson Hall, says he makes "no unrealistic promises," but "will respond to all calls and concerns." Hall, who does volunteer work, including fundraising for Socks for Heroes and various local charities, is concerned about the number of houses for sale in Wesson and believes the town needs to determine if there is an underlying problem.

Ward 2 challenger Jarrad Ashley, on the other hand, wants to promote development of Wesson around what he sees as its primary assets -- Wesson Attendance Center, Co-Lin, Wesson Athletic Association and small businesses -- to recapture some of its old greatness. Born in McComb, Ashley grew up in Brookhaven and worked in construction with his father, Larry, studied business for two years at Co-Lin, while also working for his father at the Shop 'N Wash, and worked six years in Atlanta area restaurants. He now manages Ashley's 51, which he has renovated and converted into a modern sandwich shop and to which he is gradually adding a restaurant, with seafood specialities, which he calls Z&Z in honor of the children he and his wife Brittany are raising -- Zoey, 6, Zada, 4, and Zane, an infant.

"I would promote our assets and seek greater working relationships between them and the town towards bringing more people into Wesson with more revenue to build our infrastructure," says Ashley.

Budget changes threaten public higher education

By Guest Columnist Dr. Ronnie Nettles

Like most Mississippians, I grew up in a working class family. My mother was a school teacher, and my father was a house painter. We lived and worked hard on a small family farm in rural Jefferson County. After graduating from high school, my brother, sister, and I were able to take advantage of the public higher education system in our state that was both accessible and affordable.

Unfortunately, that same public higher education system is now becoming less accessible and less affordable. Recent state budget cuts to Mississippi's community colleges totaled $28 million. At Co-Lin, we will begin the next fiscal year with a 10 percent cut and 1.2 million dollars less in state appropriations than what we had when we began the last fiscal year. There is also the real possibility that additional budget cuts will occur in the months and years to come.

As I explained to many of our supporters in recent weeks, the cuts are significant and will impact the programs and services that we offer our students and the communities we serve. Specifically, these reductions will mean fewer learning resources for our students, limits on scholarships and dual enrollment, delays on equipment purchases, and increases in tuition and fees. It will also mean cuts in student activities, professional development opportunities for faculty, and reductions in student and staff travel. Finally, we will have to put renovation and improvement projects that are important to our college's facilities and infrastructure on hold.

Most concerning to me is the increased financial burden that will be placed on the working families of our district, who want their children to take advantage of a higher education system that provides a high quality and low cost pathway to careers in education, healthcare, industry and engineering.

The trend of reducing state funding in Mississippi community colleges is alarming, and it should concern everyone that believes public higher education is important to the long-term future economic success of our state. This is especially true in rural areas of Mississippi like ours that depend on the availability of affordable higher education and training programs close to home.

I will admit that I do not understand the long-term benefits of corporate tax cuts and reductions in state support of higher education, but I do know that when college costs go up, it reduces the number of students who can afford to go to college. It also reduces the degree attainment levels in a community and the quality and quantity of the available workforce. That is true even with the availability of state and federal financial aid programs that so many of our students now depend on.

I believe that our mission at Co-Lin as a community college is one that is important to our state. With reduced funding, all of our state community colleges will be considering steps to address the budget crisis, while attempting to preserve the quality of instruction. It will be a difficult task, but we are committed to do all that we can to support our students, employees, and the communities we serve.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Ronnie Nettles is President of Copiah-Lincoln Community College. .

Organic control of fire ants

By Guest Columnist Rebecca Bates

TENDING YOUR GARDEN

It is possible to control fire ants organically with several treatment options that are quite effective. Many of these contain the active ingredient spinosad, a biopesticide produced through commercial culture of a soil-born microbe that yields metabolites toxic to certain insects. The metabolites are harvested and formulated into insecticide with no living microbes. Note that not all products containing spinosad are completely organic. Some contain non-organic inert ingredients. Usually the label indicates if the spinosad product is approved for organic use.

Organic fire ant control products containing spinosad are available as baits and as liquid drenches:

Organic fire ant baits. Most organic fire ant baits contain spinosad as the active ingredient. Safer Fire Ant Bait and Greenlight Fire Ant Bait with Conserve are two examples. Baits are best used by broadcasting them over an entire yard according to label directions. Spinosad-based fire ant baits are relatively fast acting and should produce results within two to three weeks. Depending on the level of control you expect, you may need to treat two to three times a year.

Organic mound drenches for fire ants. There are several organic insecticides labeled for use as fire ant mound drenches. The most common contain spinosad or d-limonene. Two examples of liquid spinosad products are Monterey Garden Insect Spray and Ferti-Lome Borer, Bagworm, Leafminer and Tent Caterpillar Spray. These products are used primarily to control caterpillar pests in home gardens and landscapes, but they also have directions for use as mound drenches for fire ants. D-limonene is an extract of citrus peels that has contact activity on certain pests, including fire ants. Orang Guard and Safer Fire Ant Killer are two examples of mound drench products containing d-limonene.

Apply mound drenches by mixing the specified amount of insecticide per gallon of water and drenching the fire ant mound. The ants are killed by contact activity. The amount of drench needed depends on the size of the mound. Not using enough drench to thoroughly soak the mound is the main reason for control failures.

One of the most effective ways to control fire ants with these organic treatments is to use the baits as the foundation of your control program and to use liquid drenches to spot treat mounds that survive the bait treatments or that 'pop up' between bait treatments.

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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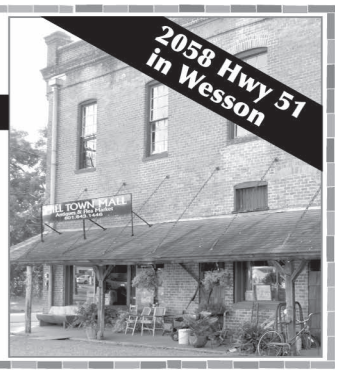

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Jayess artist perfects glass-blowing

By Guest Columnist Shaw Furlow

Retirement means different things to different people. I chose to take on a few low-stress jobs that contribute to the art scene in my hometown. I've never really had a hobby. So I just continued what I was trained to do, but on a smaller scale. Roger Smith of Jayess, on the other hand, looks like a whirling dervish compared to me, with my-laid back lifestyle. For eleven years, Smith was the band director at Lawrence County High School. He started the band program at what was then Topeka-Tilton High School and mentored any number of young people. He is an accomplished pianist and has sung gospel music his entire life, originally with his brother. The man likes to stay busy. Since 1970, Smith has become known for his artistry as a glass blower.

Living in Florida at the time, Smith met a glass blower at his church, who offered to show him around his shop. From the first meeting, he was hooked on the art. Smith worked with his mentor for seventeen years, first as an apprentice. He eventually bought his mentor's business for himself and moved it from a small store front to the Cypress Gardens Art Center, where the foot traffic alone numbered a million guests a year.

Glass blowing traces to the Roman Empire some one thousand years before the birth of Christ. While the tools of the art have evolved somewhat over the years, its techniques have remained the same.

Glass blowing is a very labor intensive art form. The process begins with a four foot, hollow tube of clear glass. It is cut, heated, turned and blown into a bubble, which the artist shapes to the desired form. Smith, who has been working with glass for nearly fifty years, makes it look easy, but you break a lot of glass while learning the craft. As a piece is taking shape, color is added to the form with other solid glass rods, which go through the same process as the clear tube and are layered into the piece. No two pieces are ever the same.

Photo Special to Wesson News

Photo Special to Wesson News

For Smith, one glass hobby led to another, as he acquired an interest in stained glass. "I haven't been doing stained glass very long -- only about eighteen years," he chuckles. An avid fly fisherman, who ties his own flys, he spends time in the Ozarks hip deep in a stream. But on most weekends, he has a booth at art shows and festivals throughout the region. Recently, Smith -- a member of the Mississippi Craftsman Guild -- showed many of his pieces at the Craftsman Guild building on the Natchez Trace.

His shop, located behind his house, is frequently visited by school classes, scout troops and others interested in watching a master craftsman at work. A teacher at heart, he is more than willing to share his knowledge.

Smith's art, by the way, is just one of the things you may encounter this time of year at the many outdoor festivals featured in the area, with the variety of food, music and fun that they offer. Crystal Springs' Tomato Festival is June 24 under the new downtown pavilion. The three nights of Brookhaven's traditional Brookstock festival are just around the corner. A new downtown Brookhaven concert series is also being initiated by the tourism committee of the Brookhaven-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce. The first show, May 19, will feature the band Ghost Town. The music kicks off at 7 p.m. in front of Brookhaven Music and Sound. This is a family friendly event that is free to the public. There's a lot going on right now and I've only scratched the surface.

AREA ARTS

If you know of an event I should cover, let me know. Have you made your summer reading list yet? Let me know what you're reading. Until next time friends, support the arts.

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

MACJU All-State trio, tryouts & ball season

Special to Wesson News

Three Co-Lin hoopsters -- freshman Lemarcus Lee from the mens team and freshman Brittany Rose and sophomore Tenazhia Hinkson from the Lady Wolves -- have received All-State honors.

Lee was named to the MACJC All-State Second Team. The Baton Rouge, Louisiana, native led the Wolves during the 2016-2017 season with 15.6 points per game. He started eighteen contests and also led the team in minutes played, with 32.2 per game. Lee finished the season shooting over forty percent from the field and thirty-five percent from the three-point range.

Rose and Hinkson had stellar seasons for the Lady Wolves, leading the team to a 20-5 record and and helping Head Coach Gwyn Young secure his 900th career victory.

Special to Wesson News
Lemarcus Lee

Special to Wesson News
Brittany Rose

Special to Wesson News
Tenaahia Hinkson

Rose, a Jackson, Mississippi, native, received first team honors as she led Co-Lin with 15.2 points per game. Rose started in 24 games and shot 44.8 percent from the floor and 35.8 percent from beyond the arch. Hinkson, a Pearl, Mississippi, native, finished the year with 10.9 points per game, while shooting 43.3 percent from the floor, and 37.9 percent from three-point range. Hinkson started in 23 games, but saw action in all 25. Hinkson's standout season landed her second team recognition.

Baseball tryouts. The Co-Lin Wolves will hold baseball tryouts for the 2017-2018 team today at Sullivan Field on the Wesson Campus. Tryouts are open to any 2017 graduates who have finished their current season. Interested participants should bring a copy of a recent physical, and a ten-dollar workout fee. For more information, contact Co-Lin head coach Clay Smith at clay.smith@colin.edu, assistant coach Bryan Noblie at bryan.nobile@colin.edu, or assistant coach Jack Edmonson at jack.edmonson@colin.edu.

Wesson News

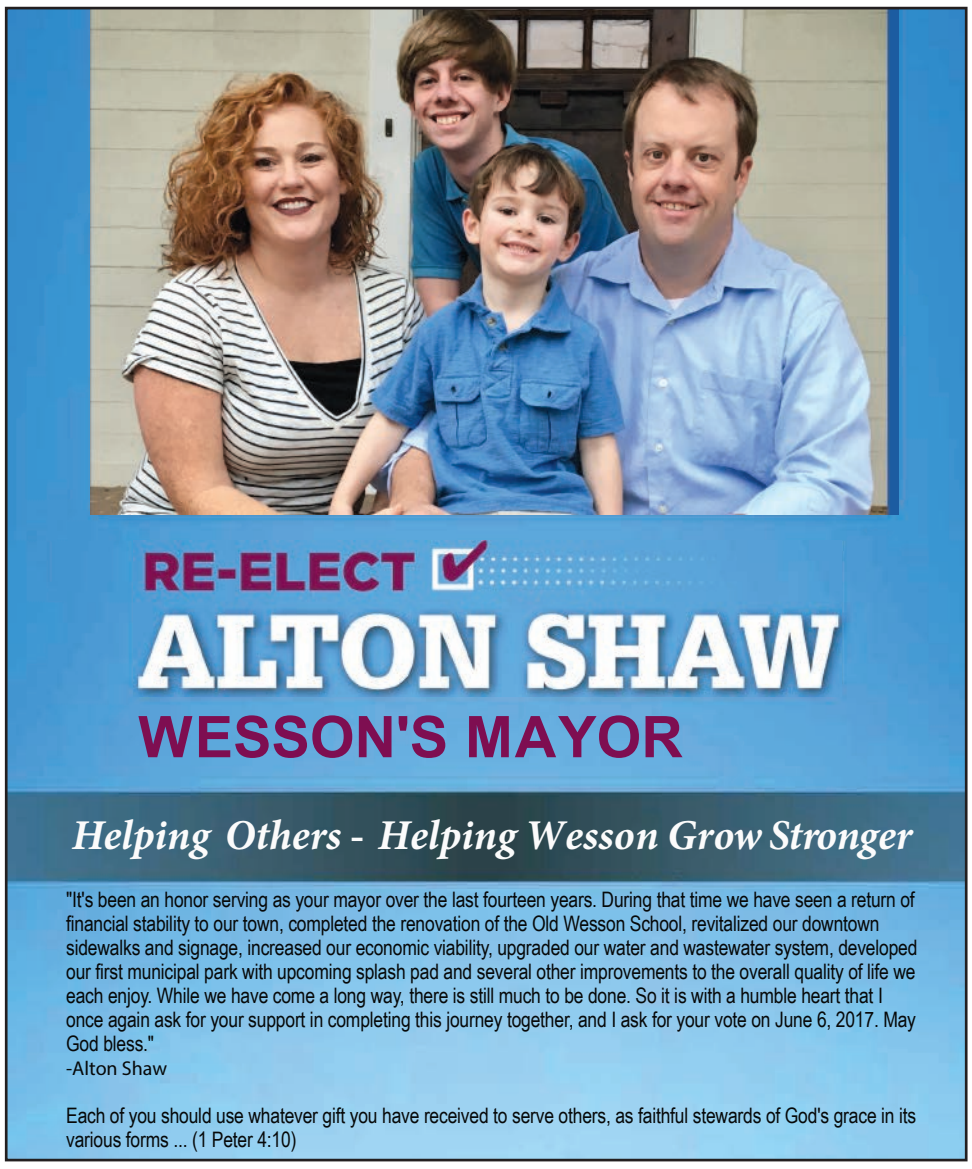
Wesson Athletic Foundation's ball season runs through May.

Ball season starts. A tradition dating to the 1970s in Wesson is continuing, with some 400 children from four-years-old to twelve-years-old from throughout the area returning to Hiram C. Newman Memorial Fields on Grove Street for baseball, softball, coach pitch and tee ball play on Saturday afternoons and evenings through May.

The Wesson Athletic Foundation (WAF) is fielding Tee Ball teams for boys and girls aged four, five and six years old; Coach Pitch softball teams for girls and boys aged seven and eight years old; softball teams for girls nine, ten, eleven and twelve years old; and baseball teams for boys nine, ten, eleven and twelve years old. Tee Ball introduces children to baseball and softball skills. Batters hit a ball placed on an adjustable tee atop home plate. Coach pitch baseball or softball (sometimes called Buddy Ball) is the next step for children. The teams' coaches pitch to batters on the opposing team with the intent of allowing them to hit the ball or put it into play.

The season for the varied WAF teams includes twelve to sixteen games. WAF chooses All Star Teams at the end of the season to compete with similar All Star Teams from throughout Mississippi. WAF attracts children from Copiah, Lawrence, and Lincoln Counties. Parents and grandparents pay fees for each child to play on WAF teams. WAF concession sales and sponsorship of teams by business and civic organizations also funds the program.

SPORTS SHORTS



SCOREBOARD

April 11-May 9
Wesson High School Cobras

Baseball (Varsity)
Record: 10-13. Recent Wins: Choctaw Central. 14-1, 13-3. Recent Losses: Franklin County. 13-7. North Pike. 8-3. St. Andrews Episcopal. 8-4, 10-7.

Softball (Varsity)
Record: 8-6. Recent Wins: Warren Central. 16-9. Recent Losses: West Lincoln. 11-1. Choctaw Central. 11-1, 7-5.

Tennis
Record: 7-0. Recent Wins: Franklin Country. 7-0. Morton. 6-1.

Co-Lin Wolves

Baseball

Record: 18-23. Recent Wins: Coahoma. 10-8. Holmes. 12-7, 3-1. Hinds. 7-4. Itawamba. 9-6. Recent Losses: Jones. 16-6, 3-0. Coahoma. 13-8. East Central. 11-9, 16-8. Hinds. 11-0. Itawamba. 5-2.

Softball
Record: 17-23. Recent Wins: Holmes. 1-0. Hinds. 8-0, 9-0. Coahoma. 11-3, 11-1. Pearl River. 9-7. Northeast. 4-3, 12-5. Recent Losses: Holmes. 4-1. Pearl River. 9-7. Mississippi Golf Coast. 5-0, 2-1. Itawamba. 10-1, 7-0.

Tennis
Men's Record: 9-6. Recent Wins: Hinds. 7-2. East Central. 6-3. Holmes. 8-1. Recent Losses: Golf Coast. 5-4. Meridian. 8-1, 8-1.

Women's Record: 6-8. Recent Wins: East Central. 5-4. Holmes. 9-0. Recent Losses: Hinds 8-1. Golf Coast. 9-0. Meridian. 7-2, 8-1.

Golf
First place in MACJC conference event at Lions Hills Country Club, Columbus, MS. Second place in MACJC conference/state championship at Wolf Hollow Golf Club, Wesson.

Linda Dykes looks forward to retirement

Wesson News

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

After almost seventeen years, Linda Dykes will retire as Wesson Town Clerk at the end of next month.

Dykes had just returned to the Wesson area to assist her mother after career stops in Jackson; Raleigh, Mississippi; East Central Community College; Fort Worth, Texas; Houma, Louisiana; and Fort Walton Beach, Florida, and was substitute teaching when the town approached her about the position. "I interviewed for the job and went to work the next day on August 31, 1994," she recalls.

Over the years she has served as Town Clerk, Dykes has seen Wesson's finances stabilize, growth of the town, with development of properties around the Wood Hollow Golf Course, renovation of the Old School to serve as a community center and creation of a park and playground downtown.

Wesson News

"It has been an honor and privilege to serve as Wesson Town Clerk," she says. "I wouldn't trade the experience for anything. I will miss the job, but it will be a good miss."

The world of politics was new to her -- "learning what to say and to whom."

"I have been particularly honored to serve Mayor Alton Shaw and the current Board of Aldermen; mostly being quiet, but sharing my thoughts when appropriate."

Dykes grew up in Stronghope, attended four years of elementary school at what is now the Old School Community Center, completed her elementary education at Wesson Attendance Center and graduated from high school at Co-Lin, where she also went to community college before going on to Mississippi State University.

Before coming back to Wesson in 1994, she worked as a telephone operator for Bell South, served in the Mississippi state office of Home Economics and Vocational Education, was a teaching assistant at Raleigh, Mississippi, where her husband James was director of the bands program; and worked as public relations director for East Central Mississippi Community College. In Fort Worth, Texas, she taught in school while helping her husband earn a seminary degree in music for the church. She also worked in Houma, Louisiana, and Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

Dykes and James have three children -- Jim of Mobile, Alabama; Joseph of Florence, Mississippi; and Bethany of Mobile, Alabama -- and three grandchildren. On the same day that Dykes leaves her Wesson job, James, who retired some years ago from his teaching career, will be retiring again from Wal-Mart in Florence, Mississippi, where he has been working as an assistant manager.

What do you plan to do in retirement?

We want to relax and enjoy our home in Florence. We moved there three years ago, but we have used it only for sleeping because of our work schedules. It's in a neighborhood with lots of kids, who will help keep us young. We also plan to enjoy our grandchildren. Travel is also on the agenda. I have never been overseas, so an ocean cruise to Europe is in the planning. Our church -- First Baptist of Florence -- is involved in mission work in the Ukraine, so we want to go there as well.

Do you enjoy reading and movies?

As a Sunday School teacher who has worked with women and children, the Bible is an important part of my reading. I also enjoy John Grisham novels. I have followed the *Die Hard* film series. *Christmas with Klump* is a favorite comedy.

How about music?

I sing in the church choir. I like gospel music particularly.

What wish do you want the good fairy to grant you?

Good things for my family and, more broadly, for all people throughout the world, peace on earth.

How would you spend the money if you won the lottery?

Pay my debts and take care of my family. Invest it for the futures of my children and grandchildren.

Would you change anything in your life?

I would want to devote more time to studying the Bible and religion.

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Community Calendar

May weather forecast: The Old Farmer's Almanac calls for an average temperature of temperature 71 degrees (one degree below avgerage) & precipitation of three inches (two inches below avgerage); May 4-12: Scattered t-storms, cool; May 13-23: Isolated t-storms, warm; May 24-31: Sunny, cool, the hot.

MAY 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.

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and VFW Auxiliary Post 2618 meet. $5for meal. VFW Hall on Industrial Park Road, Brookhaven. 5:30 p.m.

Medical first responder classes started yesterday (May 8) and continue today and May 11, 15, 18, 23, 29, 30, June 1 & 5. Crystal Spring Station 2, 308 Harmony Road. 6 p.m. Contact David Herrington at 601-720-2877.

MAY 10

Keep Copiah County Beautiful meets. USDA Service Center (27169 Highway 28, Suite A, Hazlehurst). 9 a.m.

MAY 11

The Widows Support Group meets on the second Thursday & encourages widows in walking through the grief process with programs on pertinent issues related to their situation.. 5:00 p.m. For information, contact facilitator Betty Vaughn- Furlow at Bvaughnfurlow@gmail.com or 601-540-4308.

Wesson Lions Club board of directors and regular meetings. Co-Lin student cafeteria conference room. 6 p.m.

MAY 14

Mother's Day.

MAY 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. Call 601-833-3791.

MAY 16

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

MAY 18

Brookhaven Regional Arts Guild meets. Bring art work for Artist of the Month competition. 5:30 p.m.

Fifty Plus Club luncheon. 10:30 a.m. Porches of Brookhaven at Brookhaven Country Club.

MAY 19

Brookhaven Farmers Market, sponsored by Brookhaven-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce and Mississippi State University Agricultural Extension Services, begins season. Throughout the growing season, vendors will be at the Amtrak Station in downtown Brookhaven on Tuesdays from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. and at Railroad Park in downtown Brookhaven on Fridays from 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

New downtown Brookhaven concert series sponsored by the tourism committee of the Brookhaven-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce begins with the band Ghost Town. In front of Brookhaven Music and Sound in downtown Brookhaven. 7 p.m. This family-friendly event is free to the public.

MAY 22

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

MAY 25

Wesson Lions Club meets. Student cafeteria conference room at Co-Lin. 6:30 p.m.

MAY 27

Copiah County Master Gardners host tour of Nugget Wilson's container garden. 2114 Bethesda Road, Crystal Springs. For information, visit, Copiah County Master Gardeners Facebook page.

JUNE 6

Wesson Board of Aldermen meet. City Hall. 7 p.m.

JUNE 8

Girls Night Out in downtown Brookhaven. Shopper specials from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tickets now on sale at Brookhaven locations.

JUNE 12

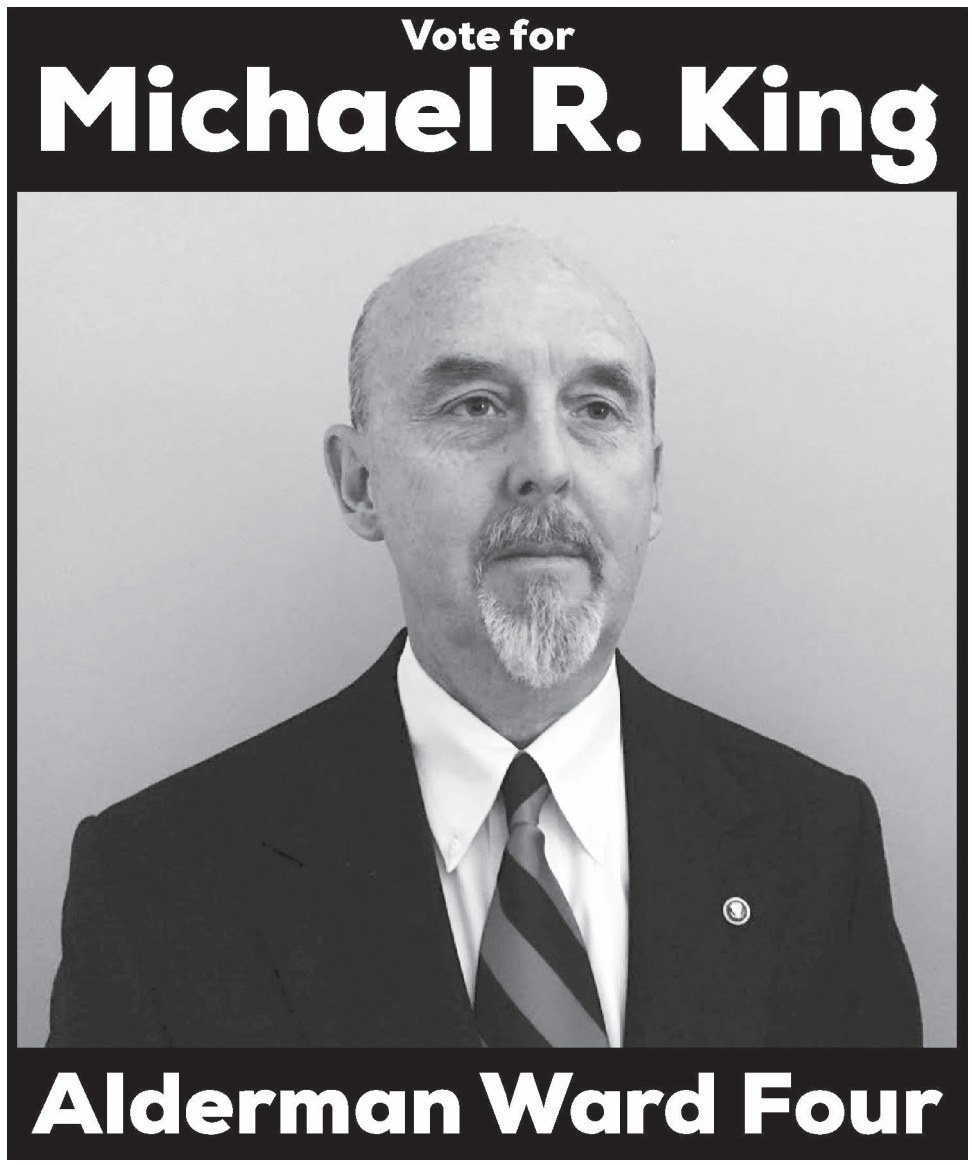
Copiah County Master Gardeners meet. Mississippi State University Extension Building in Gallman. 6 p.m.

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.

Email Community Calendar items to: Bobarnold@wessonnews.com.



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2010 Buick Enclave CXL,Leather,Third Row Seat,Rear A/C-Heat,Backup Camera,Like New;
2006 Mercury Grand Marquis LS with Leather, Sunroof,Loaded,Sharp;
2005 Ford Ranger Edge Super Cab, 6 cyl, 5 speed, Bright Red, Sharp;
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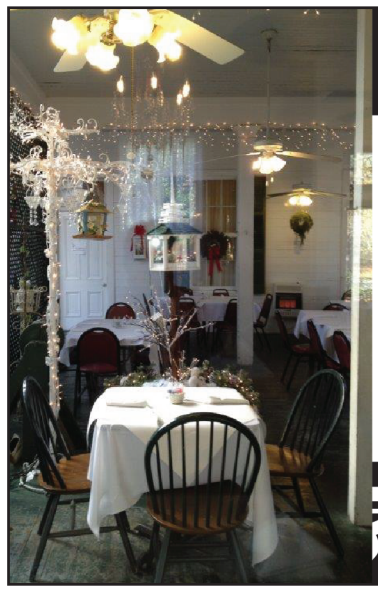

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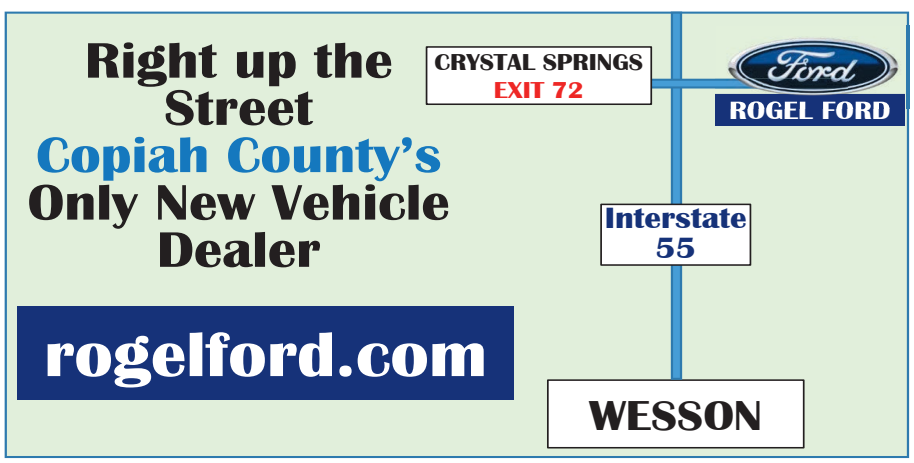

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