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Wesson News

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Wesson News
PO Box 1028
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Volume 4, Number 11

“Good News You Can Use”

November 8, 2016

Voters elect President today

Special to Wesson News

Wesson area voters, along with those throughout the country, will select the forty-fifth President of the United States today.

Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. in the 39191 Wesson Postal Zip Code area, which includes parts of Copiah, Lawrence and Lincoln Counties.

In addition to selecting Presidential electors to officially choose the President in the U.S. Electoral College, area voters will also elect members of the House of Representatives in the second and third Congressional Districts, State Supreme Court Justice in state Districts 1 and 2 and election commissioners.

Local ballots, in total, list eight Presidential choices. Beyond the Democrat and Republican President and Vice President tickets of Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine, and Donald J. Trump and Michael R. Pence, voters can cast their ballots for federal electors for Darrell Castle and Scott N. Bradley (Constitution Party), “Rocky” Roque

De La Fuente and Michael Steinberg (American Delta Party), Jim Hedges and Bill Bayes (Prohibition Party), Gary Johnson and Bill Weld (Libertarian Party) and Jill Stein and Ajamu Baraka (Green Party).

In the Congressional races, incumbent Democrat Bennie G. Thompson in the Second Congressional District is running against John Bouie II (Republican), Johnny McLeod (Reform) and Troy Ray (Independent); and Third Congressional District Republican incumbent Gregg Harper is running against Dennis C. Quinn (Republican), Roger I. Garrard (Veterans) and Lajena Sheets (Reform).

In the non-partisan judicial elections, Kenny Griffis and Jim Kitchens are on the ballot in District 1 in Copiah County, and Dawn Beam, and Michael T. Shareef are running in District 2 in Lincoln County.

In the Wesson area of Copiah County, Republican District 2 Election Commissioner Frances Taylor is running unopposed for re-election.

Wesson area polling places include Wesson Town Hall (1018 Spring Street, Wesson), Stronghope Fire Department (4196 Monticello Road, Wesson) and the Copiah County South Barn (1009 Beauregard Road, Wesson). Wesson area voters in Lincoln County will vote at the Burk’s Company Building on 2423 Clear Branch Lane at Furrs Mill Road, Montgomery, and the Voting House at 3699 Caseyville Road NW, Caseyville.



Photo by Wesson News
Wesson Presidential candidate with supporter Stacy Wade Herrin.

You won't find his name on the ballot, and Mississippi election laws prohibit you from writing in his name, but Wesson has its very own Presidential candidate this year.

Former Co-Lin bands program director Stanley Stewart jokingly, but to make a serious statement about the Presidential choices this year, has offered himself to his Facebook friends as an alternative candidate, and is willing to accept support from outside that network, as well. Reflecting his career in music, Stewart tells people he is a candidate of the Modulation (Key Change) Party. Although forty-three states with more than 400 electoral votes allow write-in votes for President, Stewart's quest, unfortunately, is an impossible one.

Even in his home state, voters cannot cast ballots for him, since Mississippi, along with Arkansas, Hawaii, Louisiana, Nevada, Oklahoma and South Dakota, does not allow write-in Presidential choices.

Stewart also has failed to comply with election laws in thirty-five other states that require at least submission of an affidavit to register as a write-in candidate. Some of them also want a filing fee at least one month before the election. In North Carolina, write-in candidates must also circulate a petition and collect a minimum number of names. Qualifying write-in candidates are posted on a list at polling places in North Carolina, which tosses out write-in votes for any other candidates.

Stewart's current campaign is thus limited to Vermont, Wyoming, Oregon, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Iowa, Delaware and Alabama, which do not require write-in candidates to register.

So, Wesson will not have one of its own in the White House in 2017.

Wesson holiday festivities begin

By Bob Arnold

Halloween celebrations last month ushered in the holiday season in Wesson, which will continue in the weeks ahead with a community dinner, special worship services and events at area churches, holiday decorating, the annual downtown Christmas parade and other activities that will stir the spirit of the town with merriment, conviviality, food, sounds and colors characteristic of this time of year.

Halloween-related celebrations included the Wesson Baptist Church Family Fall Festival, the Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) Parent Teacher Organization’s annual Red Ribbon Festival, downtown trick or treating by young children from the WAC kindergarten and first grade classes, the First Baptist Pre-School Program and Precious Moments Day Care Center and Halloween night trick or treating by older children and youth.

On Wednesday, November 16, more than 300 persons, including staff and employees from Co-Lin, the Town

of Wesson, area businesses and not-for-profit organizations; members of social and civic groups and families and individuals will enjoy a relaxing atmosphere, good food, and fellowship at a buffet luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Co-Lin’s Thames Conference Center. The conference center and college food service host the event, which was started in 2002 and evolved from a marketing showcase of the Co-Lin meetings facility for prospective profit and not-for-profit users into a traditional community holiday get-together. Cost is \$15 per person, and reservations are suggested. Contact Marilyn Brown or Tricia Russel at 601-643-8701 or 601-643-8702.

Wesson Baptist Church will host the Wesson-Beauregard Community Thanksgiving Service at 6 p.m. on Sunday, November 20. Wesson Baptist Church, Decell Memorial United Methodist Church and Beauregard United Methodist Church started the collaborative event, held each year on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, in the 1980s. Zion Hill Baptist Church

joined the collaboration for the first time last year. Combined choirs of the cooperating congregations will provide music, and a time of fellowship with light food and refreshments will follow the service. The community Thanksgiving service is hosted on a rotating basis by the participating congregations.

On Sunday, November 27, following the Thanksgiving holiday, the Wesson Volunteer Fire Department will unpack the town’s stored Christmas decorations and lights and put them up in the downtown area, transforming Wesson into an old town post card Christmas scene and setting the stage for the annual Christmas parade and the arrival of Santa Claus on Friday, December 2.

With Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) letting its students out of school early on parade day, upwards of 1000 children and adults will line both sides of Highway 51 from the south stop light north to Wesson Baptist Church. They will welcome Santa, enjoy the Co-Lin Blue Wave Show Band and Wesson High School marching band and wave

to dignitaries and special townspeople in cars and floats created by local organizations.

The parade, which rolls at 4 p.m., will feature football homecoming Queens and maidens from Co-Lin and Wesson High School, Wesson Baptist Pre-School and Precious Moments Day Care Center children, Co-Lin and Wesson High School cheerleading squads, Nena Smith dancers and Co-Lin Colettes, Wesson Attendance Center beauty and beau winners, local business leaders, and community service volunteers from Keep Copiah County Beautiful, the Wesson Chamber of Commerce, Wesson Volunteer Fire Department and Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Prior to the parade, the Co-Lin choir will perform at the Wesson Public Library pavillion. Following the parade, people, who want to linger and relish the Christmas spirit, will find local restaurants and eateries, including the 51 Diner, Los Lobos and Porches, open,

cont. on page 4

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Police Blotter

Special to Wesson News

During October, Wesson Police
Department activity encompassed:

Response to:

- One simple assault
- One petit larceny
- One counterfeit currency

Citations & arrests:

- Three open container violations
- Four driving with suspended license
- Two obstructing traffic
- Two driving with improper equipment
- Three driving without a license
- One handicap parking violation
- One careless driving
- Four driving without a tag
- Three disregard for traffic device
- One failure to yield to blue lights
- One contributing to the delinquency of a minor
- Ten possession of controlled substances

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.

Give thanks for God's unconditional love

By Guest Columnist
Rev. Nelson Santa Ana

As we come to the time of year when we are intentional about being thankful to God and others for this past year of blessings, I'd like to share a brief story with you about a time when God opened my heart to a deeper level of thankfulness.

It all began when I became a father for the first time. Now, being a new father put a fresh perspective on life. I began to view sin with a little more disgust, because I wanted to protect my son from it. I took the responsibility of being the spiritual leader of my household more seriously, because I desperately wanted my son to be saved at a young age and devote his life to the Lord. But the most significant change was my view of love.

When Carson was first born, I remember holding him in the hospital and telling him: "I love you, but I don't know why." After mulling that personal emotion over-and-over in my head, I realized that I had always had a reason to love those closest to me. I loved my parents because they raised and cared for me. I loved my siblings because I was told to do so and, being the youngest, they loved me first. I loved my friends because of the unique relationships

I had with each of them. I loved my wife, because God created her to be the perfect fit for me. I loved my God, because He loved me first. But Carson had done nothing, but I loved him intensely. Love for my child that I did not know existed had been born in me. This love had no conditions, and this love had no reasons. Yet, somehow, it was alive and growing!

Knowing these new feelings in me and experiencing similar emotions herself, my wife asked me an excellent question back then: "Does God love us as much as He loves Jesus?" I declared: "Of course He does," as I spouted out a couple of verses about being the children of God when we accept Christ. But even as I was answering her question, I was not convinced that my answer was right. How could that be true? Despite all I had learned about God's love and Christ's sacrifice, could God really love me as much as His Son?

It so happens (according to God's good plan), I was reading through the Book of John as I was dealing with this question. In chapter seventeen, Jesus uttered a passionate prayer for Himself, for His disciples, and for all believers. As He was praying for the believers, like many of you reading this article, He said: "May

they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you loved me." In that moment, my heart erupted with joy, because my God could and does love me so dearly! He loves me without condition and without reason! This freed me to be myself instead of some cookie-cutter Christian. God's expectation wasn't for me to become something. God's expectation for me, like my son, was simply to be His and to be loved. And here's the best part: He loves you the exact same way!

I was always told that when I had children I would understand God's love in a completely new way. As the Lord has blessed me with three more beautiful little ones, that nugget of wisdom certainly came true. So, this Thanksgiving, as we celebrate all the good and common graces God has blessed us with, may we remember that He didn't do it because we earned it, because of how special we are, or because He's trying to make us into something. God blesses us simply because He loves us!

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever." (Psalm 136:1)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rev. Nelson Santa Ana is the pastor at Wesson Baptist Church..

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cont. from page 1

Wesson holiday festivities begin

as well as some local retailers where they can begin Christmas shopping. The Wesson Volunteer Fire Department hopes to have Santa on hand at the fire house on Spring Street to visit with children, hear their Christmas wishes and give them special gifts of candy and fruit. Contact the Volunteer Fire Department about Santa's schedule.

Following the parade, motorists may also want to travel through Wesson neighborhoods to see Christmas displays or even travel a few miles to see Santa's Way -- a spectacular synchronized light show created by David and Kelly Parks on the sides an eighth of a mile stretch of road that winds past their house, utility buildings, yard, and fields on their 43 acre property. The Kelly display features 256 channel and static lights, scenes of Santa and his elves and the nativity and accompanying Christmas music, which can be heard on car radios (106.3 FM) in the display area. It is located off Highway 547 in southwestern Copiah County near the Claiborne County border, 25 miles from Wesson, Hazlehurst, Brookhaven and Port Gibson and runs from December 2-27 from dark to 9:30 p.m. on weekdays (except Mondays and Tuesdays) and to

10 p.m. on weekends.

Among other upcoming holiday events around town:

- The Boswell Center choir will perform at Wesson Baptist Church on December 4 at 5 p.m. with a fellowship afterwards.
- The Institute for Learning in Retirement will have Christmas Brunch & Workshop on December 8. The brunch will showcase holiday recipes, which will be available to take home to create snacks and meals. Participants will make a Christmas tree craft, including a tea light snowman to keep or give away; collect ideas for things to do later, and use on-site computers to produce a Christmas newsletter with graphics and photos to stay in touch with family and friends. There's a \$15 fee for the event at the Co-Lin Thames Center, which starts at 10 a.m.
- Institute for Learning in Retirement will conduct a three-day/two-night trip to Natchitoches, Louisiana -- the first village in the Louisiana Purchase established in 1714 -- from November 30 through December 2. It will include a guided tour of the village with an overview of its architecture, heritage and lifestyle; the Festival of Lights on

the Cane River, visits to the General Mercantile Store and the home in which Steel Magnolias was filmed, free time for shopping in boutiques and antique stores, the Christmas Gala Concert at Northwest State University and tour of the 200-year-old Cane River Plantation at Melrose.

- Brookhaven Little Theater will present *A Christmas Carol*, the timeless bizarre and ultimately heart-warming story of Scrooge, Bob Cratchit, Tiny Tim that illuminates the meaning of the Christmas season in a way that has resonated for generations. Performances are December 2, 3, 4, 9, 10 and 11.

- At Wesson Attendance Center, there will be Christmas programs for the elementary school before Christmas holidays start on December 21.

See the Community Calendar elsewhere in this issue for full details.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Wesson News will continue to report on area holiday events in its December 8 issue. Send information on events to bobarnold@wessonnews.com.

Wesson News, in partnership the Wesson Garden Club, will again sponsor the Spirit of Christmas Awards, which recognize business and residential Christmas decorators for distinctive and creative displays. The Wesson Garden Club will judge displays in the Wesson area, encompassing the corporate limits of the town and the Wesson School District, and select the Overall Best and Design Excellence winners.

"The Spirit of Christmas Awards seek to encourage efforts of businesses and residents to make Wesson a special place during the holiday season," says *Wesson News* editor Bob Arnold. An official entry is not required, but those who want to assure they are considered should complete the form in the display ad in this issue and mail it to P.O. Box 1028, Wesson, MS 39191, or email bobarnold@wessonnews.com.

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- 2005 Honda CRV-EX-4WD, one owner, Low Mileage, Sunroof Super Nice;
- 2005 Ford Ranger Edge Super Cabo, 6 cyl, 5 speed, Bright Red, Sharp;
- 2007 Chev Tahoe LTZ with Leather Buckets, Sunroof, 20" Wheels, Bose, Sharp! ;
- 2011 Chevrolet Impala LTZ, Leather Seats, Spoiler, New Tires, SHARP!
- 2003 Mercury Grand Marquis, ONLY 33,000 one owner miles, Leather interior;
- 1984 Dodge Ram Charger with only 81,000 actual miles, Super Nice!
- 2005 Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited Low Mileage, Sunroof, Leather, Power Seat, Nice SUV;
- 2005 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer, One Owner, Leather, Sunroof, DVD, Nice ;
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Community Calendar

November weather forecast: The Old Farmer's Almanac calls for an average temperature of 54 degrees F (three degrees below average) and precipitation of five inches (one inch above average). November 4-10: sunny, turning warm; November 11-14: showers, cool; November 15-17: rain; November 18-27: rainy periods, cold; November 28-30: rainy, mild.

NOVEMBER 8

Election Day. Polls are open from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. See page 1 story.

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. \$5.00 for meal. VFW Hall on Industrial Park Road, Brookhaven. 5:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 9

Friends of Lincoln Public Library Christmas decorations sales starts and continues on November 10. Proceeds will support purchase of materials and programs for use by patrons. Public Library, downtown Brookhaven. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. (November 9) and 12 noon-5:30 p.m. (November 10).

NOVEMBER 10

Brookhaven Trust fundraiser -- Taste of the Trust -- will feature food samples from fifteen vendors, a silent auction, and music by local entertainment. Tickets are \$35 (\$40 at the door). Proceeds benefit Brookhaven Little Theater. Purchase tickets through Jason Snider at 601-695-8123, any member of Brookhaven Trust or at the Brookhaven-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce.

NOVEMBER 13

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

NOVEMBER 11

Annual Wesson Attendance Center Veterans Day Program. Breakfast, "thank-you-for-service" reception line and high school assembly honoring veterans. Wesson Attendance Center. 7:30 a.m.-11 a.m.

NOVEMBER 14

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.

NOVEMBER 15

Copiah County Master Gardeners monthly meeting. Master Gardener Shelley Batista will talk about how to grow winter vegetables and share her successes in turning her front yard into a fanciful cottage garden full of pumpkins and other vegetables. MSU Extension Office at Gallman. 6 p.m.

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

NOVEMBER 16

Annual Co-Lin sponsored community holiday luncheon for staff and employees of Co-Lin, the Town of Wesson, area businesses and not-for-profit organizations; members of social and civic groups; families; and individuals. \$15. Co-Lin Thames Conference Center. 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Reservations are suggested. Contact Marilyn Brown or Tricia Russell at 601-643-8701 or 601-643-8702.

NOVEMBER 17

50-Plus Club meets. Nancy Stringer Sullivan will speak on her retirement career as a flight attendant for American Airlines.. Anderson Building on the Co-Lin campus. 10:30 a.m.

NOVEMBER 20

Community Thanksgiving Worship Service, a collaboration of Wesson Baptist Church, Decell Memorial United Methodist Church, Beauregard United Methodist Church and Zion Hill Baptist Church. Wesson Baptist Church. 6 p.m.

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.

NOVEMBER 24

Thanksgiving.

NOVEMBER 27

Downtown Wesson Christmas decorating by Wesson Volunteer Fire Department and anyone who wants to help.

NOVEMBER 30

Institute for Learning in Retirement three-day/two-night trip to Natchitoches, Louisiana -- the first villages in the Louisiana Purchase established in 1714 -- starts and continues through December 2. Guided tours, shopping in boutiques and antique stores, Festival of Lights and Christmas Gala Concert at Northwest State University. \$319 (double occupancy)/\$370 (single room) at Marriott Fairfield Inn & Suites at Natchitoches. Departs Co-Lin Thames Center at 8:30 a.m. on November 30. Contact Marilyn Brown or Tricia Russell at 601-643-8701 or 601-643-8702.

DECEMBER 2

Annual Wesson Christmas Parade sponsored by Volunteer Fire Department brings Santa Claus to town. Downtown Wesson. Santa meets with children at fire house following the parade. Parade rolls at 4 p.m.

DECEMBER 4

The Boswell Center choir performs. Refreshments and fellowship follow. Wesson Baptist Church. 5 p.m.

DECEMBER 6

Wesson Board of Aldermen meets. 6 p.m. City Hall.

DECEMBER 8

Institute for Learning in Retirement Christmas Brunch & Workshop. The brunch will showcase holiday recipes. Participants will take away ideas, make Christmas tree craft and produce a Christmas newsletter with graphics and photos on computers to stay in touch with family and friends. \$10. Co-Lin Thames Center. 10 a.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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Puckett Rents **CAT** Rental STORE

Passion drives local performers to excell

By Guest Columnist Shaw Furlow

The next time you see a tip jar at a show, think about the time invested in the performance and all the work that went into it. In recent weeks, I have been talking to local talent about their work. Some are at the very beginning of their careers, and some are more established performers.



Above all, they talked about passion. It's passion that drives them. They spend hours alone, writing songs, choreographing for tomorrow's performance, learning blues guitar licks or memorizing lines for a play. Most of that is not fun, but so necessary. They never stop striving to better themselves.

Why do they do what they do? Is it for fame and fortune? Those questions drew a big laugh. Local musician Ricky Brown, one of the more established artists in the area, recalled leaving work early to load his trailer and drive to Natchez for a four-hour gig. At the end of the night, he realized it cost him a hundred dollars. "I gave up trying to make money years ago," he said. Others, like Charlie Hewitt, do make a living on the road, playing local taverns and Holiday Inn lounges. Today,

however, Hewitt prefers making music for his friends. He has recorded several CDs, which he regularly passes out for free at his shows.

I asked about the amount of time they practice, prepare or rehearse for shows. Their answers varied depending on their lives. Singer-songwriter Andi Cotten is a wife and mother of three young boys. Her time is limited. Betsy Berryhill, another singer-songwriter, spends her days in the practice rooms at Co-Lin, fulfilling the obligations of a music major. Piano, guitar, voice, band and Co-Lin Sojourners pretty much dictate how she spends her time. Leslie Guyton, who was a Colette when I was director of the Blue Wave Show Band at Co-Lin, is now teaching dance in a parochial school in New Orleans. She does a series of stretching and yoga exercises every day, whether or not she dances, to strengthen her body and mind. A friend of mine in Tennessee says he must practice three hours a day to stay even. To progress, he has to push past the three hour mark.

Where do these artists see themselves in the future? For the established artists, like Brown and Hewitt, it's more of the same. Playing where and when they can. Berryhill, in her first semester of college,

has the whole world ahead of her, on the other hand. Guyton wants to continue teaching and start a Burlesque Troupe much like one at Southern Mississippi for which she danced. My brother Brown Furlow's story is unique. After retiring from many years as a teacher in the New York City Schools, he hired a vocal coach, worked with a music arranger and started a whole new career as a saloon singer in Manhattan. He came to Brookhaven recently to record an album at Easy Travels studio, which should be released in early 2017.

In spite of the work and time they invest, each performer is very happy with where they are right now with careers and the development of their skills. Each one spends a lot of personal time working to look flawless when presenting to an audience, but all felt like they were where they should be in their careers.

For all of them, passion is the key.

So think about the performer's life the next time you see that tip jar.

Next month, I will highlight Christmas programs on the agenda of local churches, school, community choirs and bands. Please send any information about holiday

arts events to shaw.furlow@yahoo.com. Until then, support the arts and the artists.

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



Special to Wesson News

Singer-songwriter Andi Cotten is married with three young boys, but passion drives her music career.

KENNY GRIFFIS - VOTE NOV. 8TH



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October honor yards



Special to Wesson News

Wesson Garden Club recognized the landscaping efforts of Todd and Amy Runnels at 4031 Anderson Road in a rural setting (above), Jerry and Donis Hall at 1003 Pear Street inside the town limits (center) and Copiah Bank on Highway 51 through its October 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 will resume the Yard of the Month honors for properties in organizational, town residential and rural residential (limited to Wesson School District) categories in March following the fall the winter.





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Public works, budgets, fundraisers & taxes

Special to Wesson News

After fourteen years, Wesson Public Works Director Mark Brown has accepted a new job in Madison, Mississippi.

Brown's resignation took effect on October 15, but he has agreed to work for the Town of Wesson under a \$2,500 per month contract while it seeks a permanent way to continue the work he has provided.

Wesson Mayor Alton Shaw said public works will continue to operate as usual, but finding a replacement for Brown's administrative expertise is a priority.

"As the water and sewer operator, we have to meet certain requirements of the Department of Health," he said.

After City Attorney Jeff Varas confirmed that Brown could be employed under a contract without a bidding process, the Board of Aldermen approved the arrangement with him last week.

"Mark Brown has got another position, and you can't blame him for taking it," Shaw told the October Board of

Aldermen meeting, in reluctantly announcing the resignation.

Under Brown's purview, Wesson was recognized in 2010 for having the best water in Mississippi.

Budget-cutting. Co-Lin is facing at least a \$200,000 cut in its state appropriations. The college's total state appropriations account for 28.3 per cent of its revenues. Co-

cont. on page 15

NEWS NUGGETS



Photo special to Wesson News

Wesson Public Library staff and members of its Friends of the Library (FOL) support group celebrated the addition of two new computers at the facility made possible by funds contributed by FOL. The Town of Wesson also financed one new computer. Standing (left to right) are Sharon Langley, Ann Clark (librarian), Jacque Coons, Marilyn Britt, Viola Corrales, Lauren Alsbury Sones, Jo Ann Miller, Pat McCreary, Annie Ruth Welter and Susan Hennington. Seated are Mildred Twiner and Dan Twiner. The Asus brand computers, which run on the Windows 10 platform and feature 23.8-inch monitors, are faster and more user friendly.



Photo special to Wesson News

Former Wesson Old School students and teachers and sons and daughters of former staff members remembered and celebrated the one-time center of learning and teaching in town with friends and relatives. At their annual reunion were (front row left to right) Sonya White Cowen, daughter of principal N.B. White and teacher Catherine White; Jane Sander Waugh, Ann Beall Kimbrough, daughter of former teacher Mary Anna Beall Grammer; George Mercier, the oldest reunion attendee; Dottie Mercier, Mary Ann Smith Jasper, a former teacher; Miriam Middleton Moyer, daughter of former teacher Mary Pearly Middleton; Carolyn Graham, Julia Morrissey Arnold, (second row left to right) Bobbie Barlow Kimble, Toni Price Goza, Terry Goza, Sandra Cotton Upton, Larry Greer, Mike White, Marcia S. Teaster, Susan Hennington, (third row left to right), Herbert Kimble, W.L. Smith, James L. Teaster, Albert Hennington and Rev. Mike Assink. Not pictured is Larry Barlow, son of former staff member Virgie Barlow.



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Arts Guild honors 22 for works

Special to Wesson News

The Brookhaven Regional Arts Guild (BRAG) honored twenty-two area visual artists in its eighth annual Art Show last month.

BRAG awarded the Best of the Show honor to Gwin Robertson for his pastel, *Man and Best Friend*. BRAG also presented first, second and third place and honorable mention awards in oils, acrylics, water media, pastels, mixed media, photography, drawing and 3-D.

First place winners were Maxine Minter (oils, *The Foundry*), Kathleen Smith (acrylics, *Early Morning Stroll*), Caroline Kluge (water media, *Kachinas*; and mixed media, *All Knotted Up*), Rosemary Leggett (pastels, *The King*), David Gullledge (photography, *Appreciation of Art and Nature*), Patsy Kirkwood (drawing, *Concentration*) and Rusty Reid (3-D, *George W*).

Nine artists received multiple awards: Kluge with three, including honorable mention in mixed media for *Kachina*, as well her two first place awards. Other first place winners receiving additional awards were Robertson, an honorable mention in pastels for *Boot Scooting*; Minter, an honorable mention in oils for *Sailboard at Sunrise*; Leggett, an honorable mention in drawing for *CF*

I'm Kiddin; Kirkwood, the third place award in mixed media for *Creole Garden*; and Gullledge, second place in photography for *Blue*. Kay Calcote received second and third place awards in pastels for *Battered Buoys* and *Study in Red & Black*; Alan Creel, the third place award and honorable mention in photography for *1849 Gold Rush* and *The Color of Water*; and Janet C. Smith, the second and third place awards in 3-D for *Mandala Free Form* and *Footed Vase with Spots*.

Other Art Show winners were Hardy Kergosien, second place in oils for *Meal Time*; Mary B. Brailock, third place in oils for *Sunflower in the Meadow*; Kelly Parks, second place in acrylics for *Orange Crush*; Katherine Bumgarner, third place in acrylics for *Beach Fun*; Tracy Farrell, honorable mention in acrylics for *30-A Seagull*; Sue Brewer, second place in water media for *Golden Glory*; Kathy Behan, third place in water media for *St. Francis*; Darden Brady, second place in mixed media for *Mallards on Turkey Feather*; Rosemary Kahlmus, second place in drawing for *Lilies*; Rhonda Rich, third place in drawing for *Till Death*; and Holly Loyd, honorable mention in 3-D for *Tripod*.

Cash awards were presented for Best of the Show (\$150) and first, second and

third places in the seven competition categories (\$100, \$75, and \$50). Don Jacobs judged the more than one hundred entries.

Organized in 2014, BRAG also sponsors art walks and workshops and supports Brookhaven Little Theater silent auctions with donations of art works.



Special to Wesson News

The Brookhaven Regional Arts Guild presented awards in its 2016 art competition to (front row left to right) Janet Campbell Smith, Katherine Bumgarner, Tracy Farrell, Caroline Kluge, Rosemary Leggett, Gwin Robertson, David Gullledge, Kathleen Smith, Mary Blailock, (back row left to right) Dr. Rusty Reid, Hardy Kergosien, Maxine Minter, Rhonda Rich, Kathy Behan and Darden Brady.



Special to Wesson News

Best of Show honors in Brookhaven Regional Arts Guild competition went to *Man and Best Friend*, a pastel painted by Gwin Robertson.

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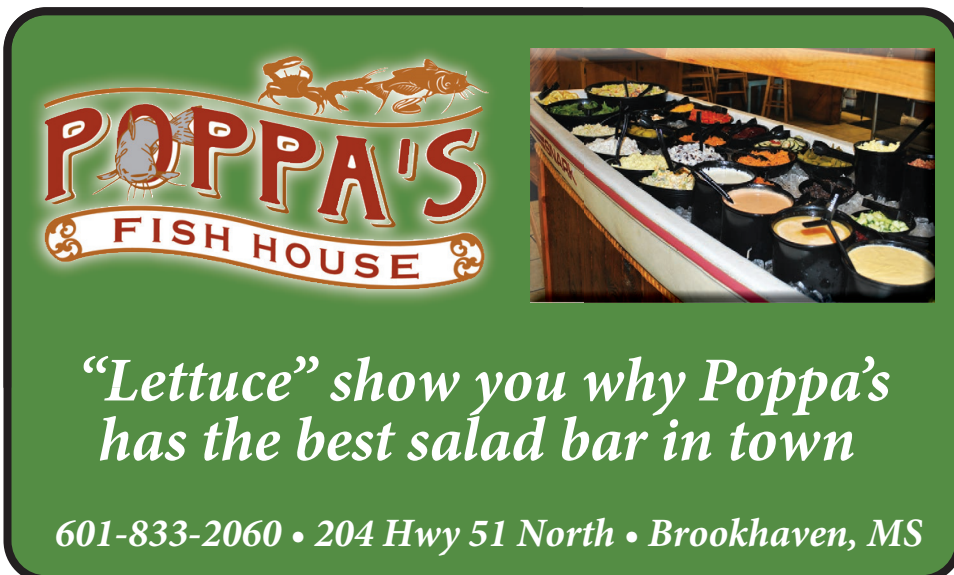
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Michelle Nunnery inspired by high school coach

Wesson News

Michelle Nunnery, softball coach at Wesson High School, recalls the career advice offered by her grandfather.

"He told me to do something for which I wouldn't care whether or not I was paid," she says. At Park Lane Academy in McComb, then Michelle Cochran discovered what she wanted to do as a basketball player under Coach Kim Weaver (now Kim Sawyer) in the early 2000s.

"She pushed us to be nothing less than our best, and was always there for us like a big sister," Nunnery relates. "She was an inspiration and made an impact on me. I wanted to be a teacher and coach like her."

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in education from Mississippi College at Clinton, Mississippi, and student teaching at Wesson High School, she accepted WHS's offer to teach mathematics and coach its girls' slow-pitch and fast-pitch softball teams. Over almost eight years in Wesson, her teams have become perennial winners, and she has won the support of townspeople.

"When I started coaching at Wesson, we practiced and played our games on the baseball field," she recalls. "Thanks to parents of the players and other people in Wesson, we have our own facilities. I appreciate the community very much."

Born in Baton Rouge, Nunnery grew up in Chatawa, Mississippi, in Pike County, and started playing softball

and basketball and participating in track and field events as a youngster.

"My father was a swimmer, and I guess my passion for athletics came from that side of the family," she says. She attended South Pike before completing high school at Park Lane and going to Southwest Community College at Summit, Mississippi,

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

and then to Mississippi College on softball and basketball scholarships. In addition to receiving her degree in education at Mississippi College, she earned teaching certifications in elementary, junior high, and senior high mathematics and physical education. Before coming to Wesson High School, she married Jeffery Nunnery, who retired from military service and now is the parts manager at the Brookhaven Toyota dealership. They have an eleven-month-old daughter.

What is your hobby?

When does a coach have time to do anything else? But I do enjoy playing with my daughter, who is a real handful. I am also a deer hunter, if I can find the time. My best kept secret is playing the piano, for which I try to find time. I started taking lessons when I was four-years-old, and played and practiced until I was 14. I also attend Brookhaven Baptist Church. But coaching is a full-time

24/7 job that doesn't end after a game or practice. I take the job home. The girls I coach are also my children. They call at night to talk about their concerns and seek advice.

Do you have a favorite book or movie?

I read pitchers rather than letters, but I am very much a movie person. I can't go to the theater like I could before I had my daughter, but I watch Netflix videos when I have the opportunity. My two favorite films, as you might imagine, revolve around sports: *Field of Dreams* and *A League of Their Own*.

Do you have a favorite actor or actress?

Above all, it would have to be Tom Hanks! He starred in *A League of Their Own*, which is about a women's professional baseball league that formed during World War II, when the military needed the men who played in the major leagues.

Do you have any favorite music?

When I took piano lessons as a child, I learned to appreciate all genres. Depending on my moods, I will listen to classical and everything else. I am a fan of late 1970s and 1980s music. AC/DC. Whitesnake.

Would you change your life in any way?

I've had a few ups and downs, bumps along the way to becoming what I am and getting to where I am. But I love my life. So I wouldn't change a thing.

Do you have a wish you want granted?

I would wish to make a difference off the playing field in the lives of the girls I coach. My goal is to make them better people, to give them life management skills, and to help them become productive citizens -- not to push them to become perfect players.

If you won a multimillion dollar lottery, how would you spend the money?

I am not a big spender and would give a lot of it away. I would support organizations that seek new and better ways to treat cancer. My grandmother passed away a year ago after fighting cancer. My mother fought cancer when I was a young teenager and, thankfully, beat it. But it takes a tremendous toll on families. I would also support organizations, which focus on helping sick children. I would also begin a fund to help secure the future of my daughter and any children she might have.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Suggest neighbors you want to read about via email to bobarnold@wessonnews.com.



Photo by Wesson News

Michelle Nunnery

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Hoopsters' goals vary at Co-Lin

Special to Wesson News

With six returning sophomores and a talented freshmen class, Co-Lin's women's basketball team again is looking to make a run for the state title. Head Coach Gwyn Young and assistant Nikki Williams point to "great height," "excellent shooting," and ability to "play down low and kick the ball to the perimeter and knock down shots." Head men's basketball Coach Kenny Bizot, meanwhile, has built a young team of talented freshmen around quickness on the floor and ability to shoot from the perimeter that "will be able to get many more things done than we have in the past."

Princess Cohen from Natchitoches, Louisiana, and Andreal Fleming from Canton High School, Danisha Davis from Hazlehurst, Dabraia Bell and Tenazhia Hinkson from Pearl, Mississippi, return as sophomores as to the women's team, joined by Xavier transfer Kiera Robinson from Arlington, Texas.

Cohen, Davis and Fleming played in all 28 games last year, with Cohen and Davis averaging 8.1 points and 5 points per game respectively, and Fleming shooting an impressive 48.5 per cent. Bell, who saw action in 25 games, averaged 3.7 points per game, while shooting 40.4 percent from the floor. Hinkson, who was redshirted for medical reasons last year, averaged 5 points per game in 2014-15 as a freshman. Wolves coaches describe Robinson as "a very vocal leader" and look for her to add important experience.

Incoming freshmen should provide offensive punch to the women's team. They include Kyeonia Harris from Raymond High School, Dominique Jackson from Terry, Mississippi, Brittany Rose from Jackson, Alexis Holt from Epps, Louisiana, Diamond Smith from Jefferson County High School, My'Neka Frazier from South

Pike, Caprice Coleman from Vaughan, Mississippi, and Karry Callahan from Vicksburg High School.

On the men's team, Coach Bizot is looking for freshmen to step up and help Brandon Brooks from Natchez,

SPORTS SHORTS

the Wolves' only returning sophomore, who finished last season averaging 22 rebounds and 13 points per game.

They include: 6-7 Youry White from Baton Rouge, who averaged 17 points and 10 rebounds during his senior

season. 6-4 Darrian Wilson from Brookhaven High School, who can play inside and out. 6-5 Carl Terrell from Gulfport, known for his outside shooting. 6-4 forward Johnnelius Anderson from Martin High School in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, who the Wolves hope will play well above the rim. 6-4 forward Mike McWilliams from Gautier High School, who averaged 14 points and 10 rebounds in his senior year. 6-5 Anthony Jones from Wesson, who led the state with a 29.8 scoring average. 6-0 Lazorian McNulty from Brookhaven High School, who averaged 14.8 points per game and play either guard position.

Other men's team freshmen are: 6-2 Trae Thompson, another versatile guard from Ridgeland High School. 6-2 Vincent Phillips from Edna Karr High School in New Orleans, who was named Second Team-All State in Louisiana

and averaged 15.1 points and 6.2 assists per game. 5-9 Jonathan "Biscuit" Floyd from Gulfport's Harrison Central High School, who can get around defenders and hit shots from beyond the arc. 5-10 guard Tyrell McArthur from Gulfport High School, who is known for making tough shots. 5-11 Ronnie Edwards, a gifted shooter who averaged 18.9 points per game at West Lincoln Attendance Center during his senior year. 6-2 guard Lamarcus Lee from Baton Rouge and Scotlandville Magnet, who finished his senior year averaging 13.6 points, 6.4 rebounds, and 4.3 assists per game.

The Lady Wolves sent three players to four-year schools last season: Tytiana Hall (Southeastern Louisiana University), Kelly Allen (Mississippi College) and Alexis Collins (University of Louisiana-Monroe). Three men's players also moved to the next level: Jonathon Dalton (South Eastern Missouri State), Terik Richardson (Belhaven University) and Donte Watson (North Carolina A&T).

Hall-of-famer. The Co-Lin Athletic Alumni Association has posthumously inducted Earl Coleman, a 1961 graduate of the college and player for the football Wolves, into its Sports Hall of Fame. After his career at Co-Lin, he played at Delta State University, where he was honored as an All American. Coleman retired in 2003 after working for Allied Chemicals and First Mississippi Corporation. He also specialized in obedience training for police dogs, for which he received numerous awards. He died in September and is survived by one daughter, Kristy McKnight, and two grandchildren.

Synthetic turf coming. The natural grass on the field at Co-Lin's Stone Stadium, subject to the abuses of weather and extensive use, may soon be replaced by synthetic turf. The college's board of trustees has approved a plan to receive proposals to install the artificial grass. The new turf will upgrade the field to the quality expected today.



Photo by Wesson News

Wesson Attendance Center's varsity slowpitch softball Cobras captured the district championship with a 17-4 record and subsequently fell to Choctaw Central in state playoffs. The junior varsity and varsity teams included (front row left to right) Alussa Carraway (eighth grade), Kyla Smith (seventh grade), Lexi Ashley (seventh grade), Emma Britt (seventh grade), Lexie Guess (seventh grade), Alayna Westrope (seventh grade), Bre Westbrook (eighth grade), Shaylin Green (tenth grade), Anna Claire Crow (ninth grade), Arie Douglas (ninth grade), Shelli Maxwell (ninth grade), (back row left to right) Natalie Bonds (ninth grade), Chloee McManus (eighth grade), Nikki Guess (eleventh grade), Brook Jones (eleventh grade), Sabria Green (twelfth grade), Harmoni Ashley (twelfth grade), Aurianna Vaughn (twelfth grade), Amber Brinson (eleventh grade), Catherine Wilson (ninth grade), Riley Smith (ninth grade), Katie Westbrook (tenth grade) and Laney Crapps (eighth grade). The same players will participate in fastpitch softball competition during the spring. Michelle Nunnery coaches the softball teams, assisted by volunteer Dale Lowery. They cite Sabria Green, Harmoni Ashley and Amber Brinson as strong team leaders during the season, but look forward to young talent to maintain competitive softball at Wesson Attendance Center in the future. Victories over Bogue Chitto, West Lincoln, Franklin County, Lawrence and North Pike -- always fierce opposition -- were sweet this year.

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Football
Record: 4-7. Recent Losses: Jefferson County. 48-34. Franklin County. 48-33. Wilkinson County. 90-47

Co-Lin Wolves

Football
Record: 6-3. Recent Wins: Holmes. 35-21. Southwest. 30-20. Pearl River. 31-17.
Soccer
Men's Record: 1-12. Recent Losses: Pearl River. 2-1. Mississippi Gulf Coast. 4-1. Jones. 4-2. Southwest. 4-1.
Women's Record: 0-11-1. Recent Tie: Southwest. 2-2. Recent Losses: Pearl River. 8-1. Mississippi Gulf Coast. 8-0. Jones. 12-0.
Golf:
MACJC tournament play: Grand Bear (Saucier, Mississippi). Second Place. Matthew Scoville & Zach Smith. All Tournament Team.

Upcoming Sporting Events

November 8

Wesson High School soccer varsity girls and boys Cobras play at Lawrence County. 5 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Wesson High School basketball junior varsity & varsity girls & boys Cobras play at St. Andrews. 5 p.m., 6 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

November 11

Wesson High School soccer junior varsity girls and varsity girls Cobras play West Lincoln. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.
Wesson High School soccer varsity boys Cobras play Raymond. 7:30 p.m.
Wesson Junior High School and High School basketball girls and boys & varsity girls and boys Cobras play at Enterprise. 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

November 12

Wesson High School soccer Cobras teams play in Brookhaven Complex Tournament. TBA

November 14

Co-Lin basketball men and women Wolves play at Southwest Tournament. 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.

November 15

Co-Lin basketball men and women Wolves play at Southwest Tournament. 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.
Wesson High School soccer junior varsity girls and varsity girls and boys Cobras play Brookhaven. 4:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Wesson High School basketball junior varsity & varsity girls & boys Cobras play West Marion. 5 p.m., 6 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

November 17

Wesson High School soccer varsity girls and boys Cobras play Magee. 5:30 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Wesson Junior High School basketball girls and boys Cobras play Tylertown. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

November 18

Wesson High School soccer junior varsity girls and boys & varsity girls and boys Cobras play North Pike. 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Wesson High School basketball junior varsity & varsity girls & boys Cobras play at Crystal Springs. 5 p.m., 6 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

November 19

Co-Lin basketball men and women Wolves play at Delgado (New Orleans). 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.

November 28

Wesson Junior High School basketball girls and boys Cobras play at Brookhaven. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.
Co-Lin basketball men and women Wolves play at Mississippi Delta. 6 p.m. & 8 p.m.

November 29

Wesson High School soccer varsity girls and boys Cobras play at Raymond. 5:30 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Wesson High School basketball junior varsity & varsity girls & boys Cobras play Salem. 5 p.m., 6 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

December 1

Wesson High School soccer junior varsity girls and varsity girls and boys Cobras play Sumrall. 5 p.m., 6 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Wesson Junior High School basketball girls and boys Cobras play North Pike. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

December 2

Wesson High School basketball varsity girls and boys Cobras play Enterprise. 6 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

December 5

Wesson High School soccer varsity girls and boys Cobras play Forest. 5:30 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Wesson Junior High School basketball girls and boys Cobras play at Lawrence County. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.
Co-Lin basketball men and women Wolves play at Jones. 5:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

December 6

Wesson High School soccer varsity girls and boys Cobras play at Magee. 5:30 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Wesson Junior High School and High School basketball girls and boys & varsity girls and boys Cobras play Bogue Chitto. 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

December 9

Wesson High School soccer junior varsity girls and boys & varsity girls and boys Cobras play at North Pike. 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Wesson High School basketball junior varsity & varsity girls & boys Cobras play at Bassfield. 5 p.m., 6 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

December 10

Co-Lin basketball men and women Wolves play Delgado. 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.

December 12

Wesson Junior High School basketball girls and boys Cobras play at Franklin County. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

December 13

Wesson High School soccer junior varsity boys & varsity girls and boys Cobras play at Brookhaven. 4:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Wesson Junior High School and High School basketball girls and boys & varsity girls and boys Cobras play Loyd Star. 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Sunlight is the source of fall foliage colors

By Guest Columnist Rebecca Bates

Fall is my favorite time of the year. Waking up in the morning and feeling that chill in the air. Even 70 degrees is chilly after a hot, humid summer in Mississippi. The best part always has been watching the trees change color. Red, yellow or orange and every color in between. Fall is truly the season when Mother Nature shows off her color palette.

Where do fall colors come from? In the structure of leaves. Leaves absorb sunlight to allow a plant to perform the miracle of transforming light energy into chemical energy, creating sugars that the plant uses for growth. The process of light absorption is called photosynthesis. Sunlight is made up of light with different wavelengths. Each wavelength is a different color. We have all seen these different wavelengths and colors of light before. Think of a rainbow. Leaves have many pigments that absorb these different wavelengths of light. The primary pigment in a leaf is chlorophyll which absorbs light in the blue and red range. Leaves are green because chlorophyll reflects

the green portion of sunlight. This masks the other pigments, including carotenoids (reds, orange and yellows) and anthocyanins (reds, blues and purples).

During the fall, there are strong environmental cues occurring. The day length and night time temperatures are decreasing. Trees can sense these changes and start recycling nutrients in the leaves and move them to the roots for next year. Chlorophyll is broken down very quickly in this process. Once the chlorophyll is gone, the other pigments become apparent by reflecting the other wavelengths (colors) of sunlight.

In Mississippi, our fall colors are not as spectacular as the mountains of North Carolina or New England, but they are beautiful all the same. Enjoy the red/oranges of the maples, dark purple of black gum, reds and purples of dogwood and yellows of the hickories.

It's feeling like fall, folks, and I'm going to take in every moment of it!

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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Time to get serious about Alzheimer's

By Guest Columnist
Dr. Stephanie Duguid

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan helped launch a national campaign against Alzheimer's disease. That same year, President Reagan called members of the Alzheimer's



Association to the White House for the signing of a proclamation declaring November as National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month (NADAM).

Alzheimer's is the only cause of death among the top ten in the U.S. that cannot be prevented, cured or slowed in its progression. The more we are all aware of the seriousness of this disease, the more likely we will take action to stop it. The statistics are staggering.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia. Caused by damage to nerve cells in the brain, it is ultimately fatal. Experts agree that, in the vast majority of cases, it probably develops as a result of complex interactions among multiple factors, including age, genetics, environment, lifestyle, and medication. Some risk factors like age and genes you cannot control, while others such as high blood pressure and lack of exercise, you can control.

Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States and the fifth leading cause of death in persons aged 65 and older. One in nine people over the age of 65 have Alzheimer's disease, while more than 200,000 under the age of 65 have been diagnosed with the disease.

More than five million Americans are living with Alzheimer's, and 3.2 million of those are women. Women in their 60s are twice as likely to develop Alzheimer's over the remainder of their lives. Deaths from Alzheimer's increased 66 percent between 2000 and 2008. In fact, one American develops Alzheimer's disease every 69 seconds. It is forecast that an American will develop the disease every 33 seconds in 2050.

So what can you do to help reduce your chances of developing Alzheimer's? Focus on the six pillars of a brain-healthy, Alzheimer's prevention lifestyle:

- Regular exercise
- Healthy diet
- Mental stimulation
- Quality sleep
- Stress management
- An active social life

As you age, it is also important to recognize the warning signs. Early detection can improve access to medical and support services. It also provides an opportunity to make any legal, financial and care plans while you can. And finally, it may reduce health care costs by delaying placement in a home.

There are 10 key warning signs of Alzheimer's disease that are key:

- Memory loss that disrupts daily life
- Challenges in planning or solving problems
- Difficulty completing familiar tasks
- Confusion with time or place
- Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships
- New problems with words in speaking or writing
- Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps
- Decreased or poor judgment
- Withdrawal from work or social activities
- Changes in mood and personality

Now is the time to get involved, learn more, to help increase awareness about Alzheimer's and to be an advocate for those affected. Contact the Alzheimer's Association for more information at

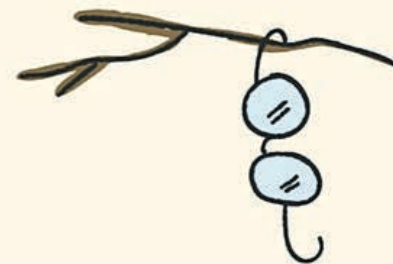
alz.org or at 800-272-3900.

EDITOR'S 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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WESSON'S SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS AWARDS

Wesson News, in partnership with the Wesson Garden Club, is again pleased to present and sponsor the Spirit of Christmas Awards. Business and residential Christmas decorators will be recognized for distinctive and creative displays by Overall Best and Design Excellence Award yard signs.

The Wesson Garden Club will judge displays and select winners in the Wesson area, encompassing the corporate limits of the town and the Wesson School District. Wesson News will announce winners.

You do not have to officially enter the competition. To assure consideration of your display by the judges, however, complete the form below and mail to P.O. Box 1028, Wesson, MS 39191, or email bobarnold@wessonnews.com.

REGISTRATION FORM FOR ENTRY IN WESSON'S 2014 SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS AWARDS COMPETITION

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CATEGORY ☐ RESIDENTIAL ☐ BUSINESS

*** THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTERING IS DECEMBER 2. ***

cont. from page 8

Public works, budgets, fundraisers & taxes

Lin president Dr. Ronnie Nettles said more cuts are possible and that “we’re being very conservative and cautious.” The college has told the state to take the money out of the capital expense fund for renovation and repairs.







Relay for Life events merged. The American Cancer Society (ACS) is merging Lincoln and Copiah Counties’ Relay for Life fundraising events to cut costs and assure it is “being a good steward of each and every dollar we raise,” reports Cindy Ashmore, community manager for the ACS Mid-South Division. She explained ACS is responding to decreasing participation in Relay for Life events nationally by consolidating fundraisers in close proximity. “We will still be engaging Copiah County and hope that past teams, volunteers, survivors, caregivers and donors alike will continue to support” the combined event, which is scheduled to be held April 21 at Brookhaven Exchange Club Park

from 6 p.m. to midnight, Ashmore said. She is continuing to encourage both Lincoln and Copiah Counties to localize team fundraising and events. “The only change will be that we will all come together to celebrate our survivors, remember those we have lost and fight back against cancer,” she explained.

Tax-friendly state. A financial web site ranks Mississippi as number nine on a list of the ten most tax-friendly states. Kiplinger.com based the ranking on the state income tax, with an effective rate of 4.6 per cent for single filers and 4.9 per cent of married filers that includes three percent on earnings less than \$5,000 and five percent on more than \$10,000; an 18 cents per gallon tax on all motor fuel plus .04 cents per gallon for environmental protection; and the nineteenth lowest property tax in the nation (\$854 for a median home valued at \$104,000). Mississippi is phasing out the tax on the first \$5,000 of income.



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