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# Wesson News

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**Wesson News**  
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Volume 7, Number 1

*"Good News You Can Use"*

January 8, 2019

## Scammers feature Wesson in fraud story

By Bob Arnold

Wesson, in recent weeks, was part of a fraudulent story told by internet scammers to sell quilts to web browsers.

According to a web site touting "Emacotton Quilts," which has since been taken down, the farm that produced them was located "near Wesson in South Mississippi" and operated by Riley and Layla Gibson, who acquired a license from Peter and Kath Lakey, "third generation farmers at Greenville in Mississippi," to manufacture the "exceptional chemical and allergy-free cotton bedding."

Buyers, who visited the "Emacotton Quilts" web site and ordered products, never received quilts for which they paid upwards of \$500.

The web site scammers claimed they employed a "fabulous team of people from our local Wesson community" and invited customers to visit their "RV-approved" farm at an address on Sylvarena Road, which a Google Earth search showed to be the truck stop off the Interstate 55 Wesson exit that obviously had no part in the internet fraud. "You can come and stay at the farm in your

self-contained motor home or caravan and enjoy the peace and quiet of rural life," the scammers said.

Along with the verbal description of the quilt-producing farm, the web site featured photos of a massive cotton field that would be unlikely even in the Mississippi Delta region and a fenced-off pasture with sheep ready for shearing.

In a flight of fantasy, the internet scammers also featured a testimonial about the "Wesson Escape package," saying visitors to their farm could "explore beautiful Wesson," into which

they transplanted attractions from around Victoria in Australia -- "the lakes, wildflowers, significant indigenous sites, olive groves, the museum and the amazing Spanner Man's sculpture garden." The testimonial cited nearby towns of Wycheproof, Ballarat and Loddon Shire; the Railway Hotel and Frank's Cafe, where you can enjoy a delightful afternoon tea.

Reacting to the scam, Wesson Mayor Alton Shaw said "we'd like to be known as a venue, but clearly not like this!"

## MSA literary students honored

Special to Wesson News

A Wesson senior literary student at Brookhaven-based Mississippi School of the Arts (MSA) was one of five top award recipients in a writing symposium competition at the Mississippi University for Women (MUW) at Columbus.

Katherine Westbrook, from Wesson, received recognition for her work "Splintered: The Story of an Almost Empath." Taylor Downs, an MSA senior from Yazoo City, also received Honorable Mention at the symposium for her work, "Parental Teachings."

The 2018 Ephemera Prize, in its fourth year, had 81 submissions from eight different schools around the state.

"The competition was steep, and our judges were impressed by the quality of writing coming out of Mississippi high

schools and home schools," Kendall Dunkelberg, Director of Creative Writing at MUW, said.

Westbrook's work has been published in Ringling College's *Shift: A Journal of Literary Oddities*, the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay's *Sheepshead Anthology*, the recent fall edition of *Snapdragon: A Journal of Art & Healing* and *Sink Hollow Anthology*. She was invited to be a part of the newly formed Mississippi Museum of Art (MMA) Teen Council for 2018, a group of high school students from throughout the state who are invested in the arts and learn about the work of the museum curator, help around the museum, study current exhibits, and plan their own events at MMA, such as Teen's Night last month

MSA is a public statewide eleventh and twelfth grade residential high school located on the Historic Whitworth



Special to Wesson News  
Taylor Downs (left) and Wesson's Katie Westbrook (right).

College campus in Brookhaven. Annually, MSA enrolls approximately 145 students who meet and exceed the traditional Mississippi high school curriculum and receive intensive instruction in dance, literary arts, theatre, visual arts, vocal music and media arts/filmmaking. Its 2018 graduating class of 65 seniors received \$10.8 million in college scholarship offers and MSA has the number two ACT average in the state. Students interested in MSA apply in their sophomore year and are selected to attend based on an onsite audition process.

MSA applications are available online at [www.msabrookhaven.org](http://www.msabrookhaven.org) for its February 1 deadline. For more information, call 601-823-1300 or e-mail [admissions@msabrookhaven.org](mailto:admissions@msabrookhaven.org).

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# The continuing evolution of rock

By Guest Columnist Shaw Furlow

I started writing this column to lament the end of an era - that of the guitar-led rock band. Instead, I ended up looking at rock with a new perspective.



Special to Wesson News

While I have an interest in most of the arts, music has always been number one with me. I started playing rock and roll in the sixth grade when three of my friends and I started a band -- The Escorts. Influenced by the Beatles and other bands of that era, we worked hard at learning the songs and getting the vocal harmonies right. And the electric guitar was right there with us.

The electric guitar led the way in rock and roll bands over forty years. Our lead guitarist, Bill Hickman, worked diligently to get the lead licks just like they were on the record. The fast licks from Alvin Lee. Jimi Hendrix on the strato-caster, which he burned up on stage, both literally and figuratively. The Funk Brothers from Motown, Steve

Cropper in Memphis, Jimmy Page and Eric Clapton all inspired us as young rockers and set us out to find an electric guitar. I purchased my first guitar, a Silvertone, from a local guitar hero for \$1.25. The only catch: I had to put it back together, which I did. I was determined to play in a band.

It seems to me over-produced synthesized pop has replaced the guitar. I have had several conversations with musicians about when this occurred. Was it over night? Or did it just slowly slink away while we were not paying attention? Acts like those of the the Jacksons, the Brittneys and Back Street Boys had a hand in it, adding choreography and backing tracks. Where are the Eddie Van Halens and Steve Vies?

Am I right? Well...Maybe not. Opinions that I thought would align with mine didn't. As I wrote this column, I could not even find agreement on the definition of rock and roll. Shane Wiggins, a young, local

heavy metal guitar slinger, rattled off so many subcategories of heavy metal, I couldn't keep up. And what about southern rock, which is making a comeback? And indie rock? Grunge? Art Rock? My head is spinning. I have discovered that rock and roll, like it or not, is a generational thing. There are plenty of guitar-driven bands that most young people know, but not known to those of us who are older. Most are indie rock or alternative. There are also bands like Life -- in your face with a heavy grunge style, The Velvet Hands, with their updated music influenced by the 1960s and 1970s, and Four Way Stop, among local favorites.

Like beauty, I guess we would have to agree, rock and roll is in the eyes of the beholder.

That's it my friends. Rock on and support the arts. And BTW, there is a lot of activity in the the arts in our little corner of the world, and I expect it to grow even busier over the next twelve months. I recently

had an interesting conversation with a friend of mine who is producing a film that will shoot in Copiah, Lincoln and Lawrence counties in the fall. So with this production and the ones Travis Mills is shooting, we are becoming a popular place to make movies. There will be more about my friend's film as we get closer to the production date.

Happy New Year!

*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.*



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# Griffis named to Supreme Court

Special to Wesson News

Gov. Phil Bryant has appointed Mississippi Court of Appeals Judge Kenny Griffis to the Mississippi Supreme Court. He replaces Chief Justice William L. (Bill) Waller, Jr., of District 1, Position 1, who is retiring Jan. 31. Griffis' appointment is effective Feb. 1.

Mississippi Supreme Court District 1 is comprised of Bolivar, Claiborne, Copiah, Hinds, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Jefferson, Kemper, Lauderdale, Leake, Madison, Neshoba, Newton, Noxubee, Rankin, Scott, Sharkey, Sunflower, Warren, Washington, and Yazoo counties.

"Judge Griffis has served exceptionally on the Mississippi Court of Appeals, and his wealth of experience on the bench will prove very valuable as he moves into his new role," Gov. Bryant



Judge Griffis. *Special to Wesson News*

said. "He has an outstanding legal mind and is highly respected among his peers. I have full faith Judge Griffis will be a real asset to the Mississippi Supreme Court. Additionally, I am thankful for Chief Justice Waller for admirably serving the people of Mississippi for more than 22 years on the state's highest court, and I wish him well in retirement. The people of Mississippi owe him a debt of gratitude."

Griffis has served since 2003 on the Court of Appeals for District 3, Position 2. He recently was named Chief Judge of the Court after the retirement of Chief Judge L. Joseph Lee.

"I thank Governor Bryant for this appointment, and I am humbled by his expression of confidence in me," said Griffis. "It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the people of

Mississippi on the Court of Appeals for the last sixteen years. I look forward to the opportunity to serve on the Supreme Court. I am committed to the rule of law, to apply the law fairly and impartially and to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the state of Mississippi."

Prior to being elected to the Mississippi Court of Appeals, Griffis was in private law practice at the Griffis Law Firm, PLLC, in Ridgeland, Mississippi, from 2001-2003. Additionally, he was in private practice from 1995-2000 with Lingle, Griffis & Southern, PLLC, in Jackson, Mississippi.

Griffis has served as an adjunct professor of law for both the Mississippi College School of Law and the University of Mississippi School of Law. He has also been an adjunct professor and instructor at Belhaven University and Meridian

cont. on page 4

## Six winners named in Garden Club show



Wesson News

Debbie Smith wins with Christmas Cactus.



Wesson News

Dixie Thornton with her prize winner.

By Bob Arnold

Wesson Garden Club's "Bah Hum-burg" seasonal flower show last month featured 43 horticulture and eighteen design exhibits.

The horticulture Best in Show winner was Debbie Smith, who exhibited her Christmas Cactus. Winners in the design division were selected in five classes representing the Charles Dickens' *Christmas Carol*.

A cascade design created by Dixie Thornton in the "Christmas Present" class was the Best in Show winner in the Design Division, and a creative line design by Lisa Smith in the "God Bless Us, Everyone" class won the

show's blue ribbon. Other winners were:

**Christmas Past.** A Victorian mass design created by Marilyn Britt.

**Christmas Yet to Come.** A reflective by June Owens.

**Tiny Tim.** A petite design by Denise Jackson.

The Garden Club staged the flower show to educate its members and the viewing public, stimulate interest in horticulture and floral design and to provide an outlet for creative expression. The Wesson Garden Club strives to make Wesson a more beautiful place to live and work.

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## Police Blotter

*Special to Wesson News*

During December, Wesson Police Department activity encompassed:

**Arrests & citations:**

- **Forty-one** traffic violations
- **One** malicious mischief
- **One** simple assault
- **One** trespassing
- **Two** breaking & entering
- **One** possession of paraphernalia
- **One** possession of marijuana
- **One** possession of a controlled substance
- **One** DUI/open container
- **One** child molestation
- **One** grand larceny

A Wesson Police officer is on duty during school hours at Wesson Attendance Center every day. Wesson Police also conduct nightly business checks at the school. On school days, they facilitate traffic, with officers on duty between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

# Four get lighting decor awards

*Wesson News*

Three residents and one business have been recognized for their Christmas decorating efforts in the annual Wesson News and Wesson Garden Club Spirit of Christmas Awards.

"Every year, Wesson businesses and residents turn their town into a Southern Christmas postcard-like setting with their special seasonal

decor and lighting," says *Wesson News* Editor Bob Arnold. "Along with the Wesson Garden Club, we honor these efforts towards promoting the Christmas spirit, which they help to spark and sustain, and encourage expanding efforts in future years through friendly competition among decorators."

This year's award winners selected by the Garden Club were recognized

in four categories:

**Best Town Lighting.** Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Frazier, 1020 David Britt Drive.

**Best Rural Lighting.** Mr. and Mrs. Todd Mooney, 1001 Dixie Garden.

**Best Window Display.** Mill Town Salon, 2053 Highway 51.

**Best Door.** Mr. and Mrs. Steve Barrington, 1106 Mill Town Drive.



*Special to Wesson News*

*Recognized for lighting decor in Wesson corporate limits.*



*Special to Wesson News*

*Recognized for lighting decor in a rural area.*



*Special to Wesson News*

*Window display winner.*



*Special to Wesson News*

*Best door decor.*

cont. from page 3

## Griffis named to Supreme Court

Community College.

He is a member of The Mississippi Bar, the Magnolia Bar Association, the Madison County Bar Association, the Capital Area Bar Association, and the Rankin County Bar Association. Griffis is also a member of the Downtown Jackson Rotary Club and is a Paul Harris Fellow.

He currently serves as a member of the Mississippi Supreme Court's Committee on Continuing Judicial Education and has also served on the Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on the Civil Rules, as Chair of the Bench Bar Committee of The Mississippi Bar, and the Committee on Electronic Filing and Case Management Systems.

He earned his Bachelor of Accountancy and Juris Doctorate from the University of Mississippi and was a Certified Public Accountant from 1984 through 2007.

Griffis and his wife, Mary Helen, are the parents of five boys. They live in Ridgeland, Mississippi, and attend Christ United Methodist Church.

# SSA scam, voting, medicaid & missions

Special to Wesson News

**SSA scam.** Mississippians are increasingly receiving fake calls supposedly from the Social Security Administration (SSA) that ask for Social Security numbers (SSN) and money -- some thirty reported to the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division in November and thirteen as of December 19.

Calls seem to come directly from the SSA because scammers spoof its real number (1-800-772-1213). Scammers may request a fee for a new SSN or to reactivate one that is blocked because an SSN has been linked to a crime. They may also advise withdrawing funds from bank accounts and sent for safekeeping because the accounts are about to be seized and benefits are at risk after someone used a stolen SSN to apply for credit cards.

The AG's Consumer Protection Division cautions: The SSA will never call and ask for a person's SSN, to pay anything or threaten SS benefits. A caller ID might show the SSA's real phone number (1-800-772-1213), but it's not the real SSA calling.

Never give any caller an SSN, confirm its last 4 digits, or provide bank account or credit card numbers. SSA does not ask for wired money or payment with a gift card or cash.

When a call from SSA is suspicious, get off the phone and call the real SSA at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). For more information, contact the Consumer Protection Division of the Mississippi Attorney General's Office at 1-800-281-4418 or 601-359-4230.

**College voting summit.** The Mississippi Future Caucus (MFC), a bipartisan group of state legislators under age 40 who are seeking to develop legislation and break partisan stalemates on issues that affect Mississippians, is hosting the GEN Summit on College Voting at the Mississippi State Capitol from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. this Saturday to look at what worked and what didn't in recent mid-term elections, and how to improve access of college students to voting.

The event, which MFC plans to hold bi-annually, is supported by the Millennial Action Project and hopes to draw students from different political affiliations and backgrounds to gain a diverse understanding of the voting process in college.

Up to one hundred students can

register free for the event at [www.jerameyanderson.com](http://www.jerameyanderson.com) under the GENSummit tab. Members of the Mississippi Future Caucus are Representative Jeramey Anderson (D), Co-Chair; Representative Roun McNeal (R), Co-Chair; Representative Shane Barnett (R), Secretary; and Representatives Joel Bomgar, Jarvis Dortch, Robert Foster, Lataisha Jackson, Chris Johnson, Trey Lamar, Orlando Paden, Noah Sanford; and Senators Jenifer Branning and Neil Whaley. Representative Anderson's office (228-206-2129) will answer questions.

**Quiet discussions.** Governor Phil Bryant has been engaged in quiet talks about expanding Medicaid in Mississippi. The discussions occurred as some 88,000 Mississippians sought 2019 coverage under the Affordable Care Act through the federal exchange -- twelve per cent more than last year, according to Mississippi Health Advocacy Program. Nationwide, sign-ups were down four per cent to 8.5 million. Only Magnolia Health offers healthcare coverage for Mississippians through the federal exchange, but it sells policies for residents of all 82 state counties.

**Mission work explained.** For Brother Tyson Windom, pastor at Hazlehurst's Bethel Baptist Church, a church's mission is about investing in local communities and laying the foundation for their future. They exist "where the word of God isn't," meet need where need is and seek to be solutions, he told the Wesson Lions Club, citing two that focus on local youth, which he believes are particularly important: First Priority, a school-based program in which students, who are empowered, trained and equipped by local churches, "tell God's story" of "hope, peace, faith and love" to other students on public middle and high school campuses in Copiah County.

Not only is it legal as a peer-to-peer program, but "revolutionizes lives, schools, communities and generations" because students reach other students, Windom says.

Reach One is an after-school program that meets three days a week, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 3:30-5:30 p.m., in which Hazlehurst, Crystal Springs, and Wesson volunteers help elementary school children, who have various social, economic and learning needs, with their homework, facilitate games for them and lead Bible studies.

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## Fast foods cooking again in Wesson

By Bob Arnold

A Wesson fast foods institution known by students and other people on the go for its breakfasts and lunches is cooking again.

Shop 'n Wash, which lost its kitchen in a May fire, has installed new state-of-the-art food storage and cooking equipment and is again meeting robust demand for the more than fifty items on its menu.

The new equipment includes a spacious walk-in combination cooler/freezer that stores the more than 120 pounds of livers and gizzards, 300 to 400 pounds of chicken and 150 pounds of fish it prepares each week; and a volume cooking system that features a vented-hood four-bank fryer and four-foot grill top.

Following the fire, Shop 'n Wash used the kitchen facilities of Ashley's 51, its sister convenience store less than a mile down the road on Highway 51, to prepare its menu items.

Larry Ashley started Shop 'n Wash between twelve and thirteen years ago and opened Ashley's 51 nine years ago.

As its name suggests, Shop 'n Wash also features laundry facilities. Over the years, it has increasingly emphasized a fast food menu.

"Our initial emphasis was grocery items, which we still feature, but Family Dollar and Dollar General stores have provided new grocery shopping options for the people of Wesson. We see ourselves now as a quick service food center."

Shop 'n Wash and Ashley's 51, which Ashley's son Jarrad now manages and



Larry Ashley in new kitchen.

operates, have increasingly differentiated their businesses, with the store on Highway 51 moving into sales of animal feed, while maintaining a small fast food service.

Ashley says giving customers what they want and need where they can get it easily has guided the evolution of the stores. The new kitchen at Shop 'n Wash illustrates his philosophy.

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# Automated car keeps driver behind wheel

By Bob Arnold

Following brain surgery last May to remove a small tumor, Bill Barksdale, a Co-Lin graduate and resident of Brookhaven, started wondering if he would be able to drive a car again.

Doctors warned that he might be left blind in one eye, which, fortunately, did not happen. But he definitely had vision issues -- "visual field cuts." "They aren't blind spots because I can see," he explains. "But I must constantly remain alert and ready to change my perspective."

Urged by his wife and mother-in-law to find a "safe car" and following a couple of close calls while driving, Barksdale found the future is here in automobiles. Brookhaven Honda dealer Mike Whatley introduced him to "driver-assist technology," which includes radar, sonar, cameras and computers that analyze their data, generate crash warnings and assist drivers in adjusting steering, braking and acceleration/deceleration to avoid accidents. Cars equipped with the technology aren't yet self-driving, but the day may not be too far off when they are.

Today, Barksdale drives a Honda Accord equipped with the technology. Sometimes, he can turn the car entirely over to the technology. Cameras watch lines in the middle and side of the road, and the car's computer keeps it going down the center of the road without Barksdale steering it. When the car needs his assistance steering it, the computer flashes a message on a dashboard screen that he needs to intervene. When Barksdale switches on cruise control, radar can track moving vehicles in front of his car, and the computer adjusts the car's speed accordingly. Radar on the sides of his car detects passing vehicles, and the computer flashes warnings in mirrors when they are in blind spots. When he pulls out of parking spaces, the technology shows possible collisions with moving vehicles and stationary objects on the sides and at the rear of his car, including cross traffic, even before it appears in mirrors. If he starts to drift into another lane or off the road, the technology sounds an alarm and helps him adjust the course of his car.

When Barksdale was driving on Interstate 55 near Terry recently, a car approached his Accord at rapid speed from the rear, went into the passing lane and cut sharply in front of him to get into an exit lane. "My car responded readily," he says. "It helped me brake and lower the speed, preventing an accident. I've enjoyed previous cars I have owned. But I love this car. This is the only car I have ever loved."

Today, new car buyers have a range of drive assistance technology options. Most automobile manufacturers

-- Chrysler, Ford, General Motors, Toyota, Nissan in Brookhaven -- offer their own variations of the "Honda Sensing" system and its suite of products. Barksdale paid \$30,000 for his new car.

Driver assistance technology is rapidly advancing, and it will be standard in most new cars by 2020, authorities agree. Fully automated systems in which a car controls itself in all circumstances and in all places a human could drive with no intervention is some years into the future, but not science fiction. It will open up vast opportunities for people who can't drive today, such as the blind, disabled and kids. Like Barksdale's Accord, new cars today, increasingly, feature technologies that are interactive with drivers. His Accord is partially automated, in which the driver is still responsible for the safe operation of the vehicle, although it can take over steering, braking and acceleration under certain conditions.

Less-equipped new cars today can take over at least one vital function -- steering or speed control -- while the human driver is responsible for safety and operation at all times. The next step above Barksdale's Accord is a conditionally-automated car that can drive itself, but in which a human driver must still pay attention and take over at any time when notified that intervention is needed.

In the next few years, ride-sharing or taxi fleets may well employ high automation vehicles in which a human drivers do not need to pay attention to their operation until requested by their computers, control such tasks as driving highways or set routes or areas. They will have backup systems for technologies that fail and pull over and shut down if they cannot operate safely.

Among the products available in today's driver-assisted vehicles are:

**Automatic emergency braking (AEB)**, which applies brakes to prevent a collision or reduce collision speed. AEB senses a potential collision and if you don't react in time, the car will initiate automatic braking.

**Forward-collision warning (FCW)**, which uses cameras, radar or laser (or some combination) to provide visual and/or audible alerts to the driver to prevent a collision. It scans for cars ahead and alerts the driver if they are approaching a vehicle in their lane too fast and a crash is imminent.

**Blind-spot warning (BSW)**, which provides visual and/or audible notification of vehicles in a blind spot.

**Rear cross-traffic warning**, which provides visual, audible, or haptic notification of an object or vehicle out of rear camera range, but could be moving into it.

**Rear automatic emergency braking (Rear AEB)**, in which brakes are automatically applied to prevent backing into something behind the vehicle.

**Lane-departure warning (LDW)**, with visual, audible, or haptic warning to alert drivers when they are crossing lane markings.

**Lane-keeping assist (LKA)**, which provides automatic corrective steering input or braking when crossing lane markings.

**Lane-centering assist**, which provides continuous active steering to stay in between lanes.

**Adaptive cruise control**, which uses lasers, radar, cameras (or a combination) to keep a constant distance between a car and vehicle in front of it, automatically maintaining a safe following distance. If highway traffic slows, some systems will bring the car to a complete stop and automatically come back to speed when traffic gets going again, allowing the driver to do little more than pay attention and steer.

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# Community Calendar

January weather forecast: The Old Farmer's Almanac calls for an average temperature of 52 degrees (7 degrees above average) in January with precipitation of nine inches (four inches above average). January 8-15: Showers, warm. January 16-21: Rainy, mild. January 22-24: Sunny, mild. January 25-31: Rainy periods, turning cooler.

**JANUARY 8**

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

**JANUARY 9**

WorkKeys Assessment for Career Readiness -- first of eight in January. Must register in advance. 601-643-8707. Thames Center on Co-Lin campus. January 9, 11, 16, 23 & 24 at 8:45 a.m. & January 17 & 31 at 12:45 p.m.

**JANUARY 10**

American Legion John Edwards Post 12 meets. All members, veterans and their spouses are welcome. 4 p.m. Jimmy Furlow Senior Citizens Center. For information, call 601-835-8137.

Widows Support Group meets. The group supports widows, who are walking through the grief process, with programs on pertinent issues related to their situation. Brookhaven. 5 p.m. For information, contact Becky Vaughn Furlow at bvaughnfurlow@gmail.com or 601-540-4308.

NAMI 4Rivers family support group meets on the second Thursday of each month. Free, confidential and peer-led, the group includes caregivers and loved ones of individuals living with mental illness. Cannon Hall at First Episcopal Church, Brookhaven. 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

Wesson Lions Club meets. Co-Lin Student Cafeteria. 6 p.m. (Board). 6:30 p.m. (Membership).

The Copiah County Forestry Association meets. Dr. Steve Dicke will speak on forestland taxation. Registered foresters will receive one CFE credit hour. A meal will be served. Annual \$20 family dues are payable at the door. Call Copiah County Extension Office (601-892-1809) to make reservations before 4 p.m. on January 8. Copiah County Fairgrounds Complex at Gallman. 7 p.m.

**JANUARY 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.

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.

**JANUARY 15**

Copiah County Master Gardeners meeting on third Tuesday of each month. Mississippi State University Extension Office at Gallman. Member meeting at 5 p.m. & educational program open to the public at 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.

**JANUARY 21**

Forty-hour training program for persons who want to become Master Gardeners begins in Copiah County and continues on Mondays and Thursdays through March 4. Gain horticultural expertise at a low cost, meet other avid gardeners, share gardening experiences, get connected to the community, and belong to a well-respected and educational organization. \$100 for supplies plus 40 hours volunteer service on community gardening-related projects. Registration deadline is January 10 through Copiah County Extension (601-892-1809) or Lincoln County Extension (601-835-3460). 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. 2040 West Gallman Road, Hazlehurst.

**JANUARY 22**

Chamber of Commerce annual banquet. Jenny Sanders Nolan Langley, Wesson native and nationally known entertainer, humorist and motivational presenter, is featured speaker. Tickets available from Chamber members. Thames Center on Co-Lin campus. 6 p.m.

**JANUARY 23**

Institute for Learning in Retirement membership social will announce workshops, seminars, trips, luncheons and other

programs for spring semester. Thames Center on Co-Lin campus. 2 p.m.

**JANUARY 24**

Wesson Lions Club membership meeting. 6:30 p.m. Co-Lin Student Cafeteria.

**FEBRUARY 5**

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

**FEBRUARY 7**

Planning, which started January 3, continues for 2019 Relay For Life of Copiah/Lincoln event scheduled April 5 at Exchange Club Park in Brookhaven. Team captains will meet. 12 Noon. Pike National Bank in Brookhaven. Planning meetings are also scheduled at 12 Noon on March 7 at Pike National Bank and March 28 at Exchange Club Park.

**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.

Overeaters Anonymous meets every Tuesday. Church of the Redeemer Episcopal, downtown Brookhaven. 6 p.m. Call 601-754-0213 for information.

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.

Brookhaven 55 South Flea Market is open on Saturdays and Sundays next to the Lincoln County Civic Center. Ten per cent of the profits each weekend are donated to a local charity. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Email Community Calendar items to bobarnold@wessonnews.com.

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# Making health a lifestyle

By Guest Columnist  
Dr. Stephanie Duguid

Looking forward to 2019, it is a great time to set wellness goals that focus on healthy living. In doing so, set realistic goals that are within reach, and continue to focus on achieving those goals.



Special to Wesson News

Here are some tips for setting goals to make positive changes:

1. Write them down and post them where you can see them.
2. Set short-term and long-term goals. Short-term goals are "milestones" that provide a continued sense of achievement.
3. Give yourself awards at "milestones" -- new clothes, shoes or a haircut. Try to stay away from habits that can derail your hard work.
4. Go for it! Little changes can make a big difference.
5. Make SMART Goals:

•Specific -- what exactly you want to accomplish.

•Measurable -- how progress will be tracked so you know when something is accomplished.

•Achievable action plan -- how to accomplish realistic, challenging goals.

•Relevant -- worthwhile as part of an overall life plan.

•Time Bound -- a realistic timeframe for accountability, you plan to realize the goal.

Achieving a healthy lifestyle requires work and development of positive habits. One approach is to focus on one specific aspect of wellness until you are ready to focus on another aspect. In time, you will be prepared to integrate several aspects, combining parts into a whole. Throughout your life, you will increase, maintain, and sometimes decrease your level of wellness. Yet a constant pursuit to health and well-

being will provide you with sweet rewards of a body that works for you, a mind that is constantly revived and rejuvenated, and a life balance that is essential for a satisfying quality of life.

Today is a new day. Fresh start! Think happy thoughts, exercise, drink lots of water, don't just eat, and fuel your body. Be healthy and happy!

In today's society, the availability of health and wellness products is so great that choosing the correct product can be very challenging. Here are a few common myths about exercise nutrition and health:

1. There is no easy way to get the benefits from physical activity. It requires work!
2. Herbal products are often assumed to be safer or better than other products, this isn't always true.
3. Products are not regulated. Be careful!
4. Beware of energy drinks with "boosts" sold at health bars in fitness clubs. They can be dangerous.
5. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!
6. Getting rid of cellulite does not require a special exercise, diet, cream, or device, as some books and advertisements insist.
7. Spot-reducing or losing fat from a specific location on the body is not possible. It is a fallacy.

It takes a great deal of time and effort to work through all of the health, nutritional, and fitness claims. Research the information, verify the sources, and check with the Better Business Bureau. You can protect yourself and your life in the process. We can all be successful when we take one step at a time toward our future health.

Being healthy and fit isn't a fad or a trend. Instead, it's a lifestyle.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Stephanie Duguid is Dean of Academic Instruction at Co-Lin. She is also an athletic trainer and nutrition specialist and has been teaching courses related to those two areas as well as practicing what she preaches for more than twenty years.*

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## Master Gardeners training program

*Special to Wesson News*

A forty-hour training program for persons who want to become Master Gardeners will begin in Copiah County on January 21.

Through the Master Gardeners Volunteer program, participants can gain horticultural expertise at a low cost, meet other avid gardeners, share gardening experiences, get connected to the community, and belong to a well-respected and educational organization.

The training will be held at 2040 West Gallman Road in Hazlehurst through March 4 on Mondays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The cost is \$100 for supplies and the registration deadline is January 10 through Copiah County Extension (601-892-1809) and Lincoln County Extension (601-835-3460).

In exchange for the training, participants are required to return forty hours of volunteer service within one year to help Extension offices with horticulture projects that benefit their local communities.

The class schedule and content is as follows:

### January 21.

Introduction (Shelby Bearden), Soils (John Malanchak), Master Gardener Record Keeping (Kelly Parks).

### January 24.

Weed Science (Shelby Bearden)

### January 28.

Ornamentals (Rebecca Bates)

### January 31.

Lawns (John Malanchak)

### February 4.

Botany (John Malanchak), Invasive Plants (Kelly Parks)

### February 7.

Plant Diseases (Tricia Nelson)

### February 11.

Fruits and Nuts -- Part I (Steve Edge), Entomology I -- Part I (Perry Smith)

### February 14.

Fruits and Nuts -- Part II , (Steve Edge), Entomology II -- Part I (Perry Smith)

### February 18.

Plant Propagation (Shelia Stewart), Entomology -- Part III (Local Bee Keeper)

### February 21.

Vegetables (Tricia Nelson)

### February 25.

Maintaining Home Landscapes (Dr. Shaun Robert Broderick), Test (Stan Stewart, Shelby Bearden, Kelly Parks)

### February 28

Something Fun -- Graduation Party,



*Special to Wesson News*

Buds and Bloom tour, plant swap

### March 4

Truck Crops Branch Field Trip at Experiment Station in Gallman

To obtain an application, visit: [http://extension.msstate.edu/sites/default/files/publications/miscellaneous/m1317\\_1.pdf](http://extension.msstate.edu/sites/default/files/publications/miscellaneous/m1317_1.pdf). See selection criteria for volunteers at <http://extension.msstate.edu/ms-master-gardener-volunteer>.

For more information, visit:

<http://extension.msstate.edu/community/leadership/master-gardener>

## Thumbing through garden catalogs

*By Guest Columnist Gary R. Bachman*

It seems like every day there is at least one new shiny thing in the mailbox that grabs my attention. And they're being delivered earlier than ever this year. Gardening catalogs!

Even though times have changed and most ordering is done online, there's still something I enjoy about thumbing through the latest catalog. The tactile sensation of turning the pages is like walking a winding garden path and

an acorn? In a nutshell, it's a tree."

When I look at a tomato seed weighing 1/100th of an ounce, I don't see that small seed. I see a tomato plant that in three months will gift me and my family with 10 to 20 pounds of fresh tomatoes. If only we all lived up to that much potential!

Now, I'm not going to bore you with a list of my very favorite garden catalogs. If you're that interested, you can search the Southern Gardening archives online



*Special to Wesson News*

wondering what's around the next curve.

When I'm looking through garden catalogs, I always have a stack of sticky tabs so I can mark the pages I want to go back to and have another look.

It's pretty common for me to get more than thirty different catalogs each year, not counting duplicates. That's a lot of reading that I thoroughly enjoy, but to tell you the truth, I only order from three or four favorites in any given year. I know avid gardeners who order from a completely different set of their favorites, demonstrating the wide variety to choose from in the garden catalog world.

I also start most of the plants I grow from seed. There's something I like about considering the potential that's contained in a tiny seed. It reminds me of an Internet meme: "Can you describe

to see what I shared from time to time in the past.

What I'd like to see you do is not just toss those garden catalogs you get. My New Year's wish is for you to take the time this winter to find some plants you are interested in growing next year. You may end up not ordering anything, but I guarantee you'll be inspired to have your best garden and landscape yet in 2019.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Gary Bachman is an Extension and research professor of horticulture at the Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center in Biloxi. He is also the host of the popular Southern Gardening television and radio programs. Contact him at [southerngardening@msstate.edu](mailto:southerngardening@msstate.edu). Locate Southern Gardening products online at <http://extension.msstate.edu/shows/southern-gardening>.*

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# Co-Lin gridders & head coach honored

## Special to Wesson News

Eleven Co-Lin football players have been named Mississippi Association of Community and Junior College (MACJC) All-State and National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) team selections, and the Wolves' head coach Glenn Davis is the MACJC South Division Coach of the Year.

Davis, in his fifteenth year at the helm of the Co-Lin gridders, led the Wolves to a 6-4 record this past season and to their first playoff bid in four years. During his tenure at Co-Lin, Davis has guided the Wolves to one MACJC State Championship, and MACJC runners-up on three occasions. Buddy Stephens of East Mississippi Community College also received MACJC Coach of the Year honors this year.

Co-Lin's Jalen Bell, a 6'5, 350-pound sophomore offensive lineman from Amory, Mississippi, was

named to the NJCAA All-Region XXIII team and All-MACJC First Team, and honored as MACJC Offensive Lineman MVP. Bell helped the Wolves rack up 1,281 rushing yards on the year.

Kundarrius Taylor, a freshman wide receiver from Memphis, Tennessee, also earned NJCAA All-Region XXIII and All-MACJC First Team honors. Taylor finished the year with 31 receptions, 547 receiving yards, and eight touchdowns, all team-highs. The freshman averaged 54.7 yards per game.

Swayze Bozeman, a sophomore linebacker from Flora, Mississippi, rounded out the Wolves NJCAA All-Region honors. Bozeman was also named All-MACJC First Team. He led the Wolves with 91 tackles on the year. The sophomore also posted 5.5 tackles for loss, one

sack, one forced fumble, one fumble recovery, and three pass breakups.

Freshman wide receiver Malik Heath, from Jackson, Mississippi, sophomore center Lee Sampson of Vaughn, Mississippi, sophomore quarterback Hayden Davis of Mad-

ison, Mississippi, and redshirt freshman Taijh Alston of Carthage, North Carolina, all landed All-MACJC First Team honors.

Heath finished the year with 333 receiving yards and four scores, while Davis was 120-of-205 in passing for 1,456 yards and 17 touchdowns. Alston finished the season with 78 tackles and a team-high seven sacks.

TK McLendon, a sophomore tight end from Soperton, Georgia; Jalen Bedell, a freshman defensive lineman from Greenwood, Mississippi; Harrell Blackmon, a sophomore defensive back from Jackson, Mississippi; and Natrone Brooks, a freshman defensive back from Starkville, Mississippi; all landed All-MACJC Second Team recognition.



Special to Wesson News

Wesson High School Region 8 football honorees included (front row) first team selections Cade Lowery, Antrelle Sims, Jim Guess and (second row) second team selections Malik Clay, Chamar Martin, Jason Edwards, Damien Smith and Scott Hutt.

# Teacher discovers career after selling cars

## By Bob Arnold

Rod Martin, December Teacher of the Month at Wesson Attendance Center (WAC), didn't intend to become a teacher and, in fact, had no background in education in the late 1990s, when he took a temporary job as a substitute teacher at Hazlehurst Middle School, where his wife Penny worked. But he loved the experience, and signed on there to teach language arts the following year to eighth graders. His work life hasn't been the same since.

"When I entered the classroom for the first time to teach my own students, I still had not studied education," he recalls. "My wife told me I could acquire the required credentials through an 'alternate route' as a college graduate in another area and completing three education courses for certification. So I became a teacher.

"I think I learned teaching the best way, going into a classroom knowing nothing about it and doing the job. It was an amazing six years at Hazlehurst. I loved it. I made lifelong friends and taught some amazing students, who now have their own careers in medicine, orthodontics, business, real estate and even teaching."

A native of Natchez, Martin grew up with relatives in Pascagoula, Mississippi, where he attended elementary and junior high school and survived Hurricanes Frederick and Elena, after his parents divorced when he was four years old. He returned to Natchez to attend high school, but left in his senior year to be near his girlfriend at Starkville,

Mississippi, and enroll at Mississippi State University (MSU). "It was a disastrous semester," Martin remembers. "I broke up with my girl friend and didn't know anyone." Unable to concentrate on his studies, Martin transferred to Co-Lin in 1991, where he had family.

Co-Lin welcomed him to studies, in spite of a lack of required credentials, after he told school officials he had attended MSU. There, he met the major people who have influenced his life -- "Durr Walker, under whom I fell in love with English and literature in his classroom; Baptist Student Union Director Brother Roy Smith, from whom I learned the Bible, and Penny King, my future wife." After Co-Lin, Martin graduated from University of Southern Mississippi (USM) in Hattiesburg, where he then went to work as a less-than-stellar new and used cars salesman for a Toyota dealer (he told customers the unvarnished truth, and it didn't work). When Penny got her teaching job at Hazlehurst, Martin moved with his wife to Strong Hope, her hometown, where they settled and had two children -- Jessa, 23, who works at Copiah Bank; and Noah, 19, who plans to study photojournalism at USM. After a year as a carpenter constructing frame hoods for high school chemistry labs, Martin landed in teaching.

Martin left Hazlehurst and came to WAC largely because his children were going to school there. His teaching duties at WAC have encompassed eighth, ninth and tenth grade English, seventh grade World History, eighth grade U.S. History

and ACT preparation. For eight years, he coached the Wesson High School tennis team, during which 15 members received scholarships to continue playing in college. In 2011, he supplemented his English and literature teaching specialties, earning endorsements in history and biology based on results of praxis tests that reflected his special passion for history, science and biology.

Martin calls himself a teaching "pragmatist," who is flexible and uses anything that works to teach his students -- videos, games, textbooks, discussions, projects and research.

"Although I believe the best teachers are quiet, I will even lecture to stimulate discussion," he says. "I also love seeing students teach each other." He says teaching's reward is "knowing you have played a small part -- like someone clapping as a parade goes by -- in helping your students be successful" not only in the present, but as future parents and business and professional people.

### What are your hobbies?

I read, fish in the Strong Hope area and play golf -- a terrible game that has been described as a "walk spoiled" -- a couple of times a month.

I am part of Strong Hope Baptist Church, and faith is more important to me than anything else, affecting everything I do -- when I am shopping, working, playing. At church, I serve as a Deacon, handle the media technology and teach.

### Are you a reader?

I will read anything. After the Bible, my favorite book is Douglas

Adams' *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. I enjoy the 700-to-800 word eclectic, futuristic and science fiction works of Neal Stephenson, such as *Cryptonomicon* about the history of code breaking, and *Seveneves* about the effect of the moon's exploding. I also like the Christian apologetics of Ravi Zacharias.

### Do you enjoy movies or theater?

I like the Harry Potter, James Bond and Jason Bourne movies; and Arthur Miller plays. I enjoy and support local arts, including the productions of Brookhaven Little Theater.

### How about music?

My taste in music is eclectic. Twenty One Pilots, with their mix of piano, synthesizers, drums, organs, bass, and occasionally the ukulele, guitar and trumpet; and sung and rap lyrics. Christian music by Third Day. Bluegrass-country singer, songwriter and fiddler Alison Krauss. Christian hip hop recording artist and songwriter Lecrae. Country music by George Strait, Alan Jackson and Billy Joel.

**If you won the lottery, how would you spend your winnings?** If I played it, which I wouldn't, I would give most of it away.

### Do you have great wish for the world?

World peace, of course. I would wish people could understand that love is real and most people are doing the best they can. We should judge others not by their weaknesses, but their strengths, as we judge ourselves.