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Wesson News

SPOTLIGHT

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PO Box 1028
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Volume 7, Number 10

"Good News You Can Use"

October 8, 2019

Homecoming October 18 & 19 at Co-Lin

Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin alumni, friends and students will reconnect, enjoy varied activities and learn about the exciting changes at the college on Homecoming Friday and Saturday, October 18 and 19, on the Wesson campus.

Graduating classes in years ending in '9 are being encouraged to plan reunion events as part of the festivities.

The annual golf tournament sponsored by the college's golf team kicks off Homecoming weekend at noon on Friday. Proceeds benefit the Wolf Pack golf team. Co-Lin President Dr. Jane G. Hulon hosts The President's Reception Friday evening starting at 5 p.m. in the Thames Conference Center. The reception will honor current and former Co-Lin coaches.

Saturday's events include:

- The annual Big Wolf 5k race starting at 7:30 a.m. at Stone Stadium. Proceeds from this year's race will benefit the Co-Lin Centurion Club.



Special to Wesson News

Members of Co-Lin's 2019 homecoming court from (left to right) are freshman maids Madelynn Thornton of Brookhaven; Heidi Johnson of Ruth; Anna Kaitlyn Ashley of Magee; Homecoming Queen Carly Polk of Brookhaven; sophomore maids Sheridan Williams of Monticello; Maranda Hart of Brookhaven; and Jasmine King of Wesson. Coronation of the queen and her court will be Saturday, October 19 at 2:30 p.m. at Stone Stadium prior to the football game against Jones College.

- The Athletic Alumni Association's annual meeting and Hall of Fame induction on Saturday at 9 a.m. in Rea Auditorium.

- The Band and Colette Alumni Chapter Hall of Fame induction and presentation of the Stanley Stewart Outstanding Young Alumni award at its annual meeting at 10 a.m. in Taylor Chapel.

- Senator Chris Caughman of Mendenhall and Kathy Sutton of New Hebron will be honored as Alumni of the Year at the annual Alumni Association awards luncheon in Henley Cafeteria at 11 a.m. All reunion groups will also be recognized, and the college class of 1969 will be presented with golden anniversary pens. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased ahead of time at the alumni office, at morning registration in Rea Auditorium, or at the cafeteria.

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Flea market expects big crowds

Special to Wesson News

More than 200 vendors -- individuals, church groups, clubs and civic organization and businesses -- will line the streets of downtown Wesson in their special tents to offer arts and crafts items, clothing, food, snacks and refreshments, among other things, to thousands of browsers and shoppers expected to flood into town on Saturday, October 19, for the forty-seventh annual Flea Market and Outdoor Arts and Crafts Show.

Although this year's event is on the same day as Co-Lin's Homecoming festivities, Wesson Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD) Chief Ken Carraway, who is coordinating the Flea Market for WVFD, the managing organization, believes it will just mean

a bigger crowd browsing, shopping and munching on the concessions, particularly in the morning. The Flea Market will start at 8 a.m. on Highway 51, Factory and Spring Streets and run until 5 p.m.

"We will have vendors from throughout Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Texas and Tennessee," says Ken Carraway. Carraway ticks off a long potential shopping list for Market visitors: Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year decor; dolls; clothing for humans, dolls and pets; wood and iron work; candlesticks, jellies and jams; bath products, jewelry and leather crafts; plants and flowers. Local artisans will offer a variety of hand-crafted items. Local civic clubs and church groups and other not-for-profit organizations will

serve an array of foods and snacks to raise money for their groups and their projects and causes.

"Porkskins -- a special treat available at the Flea Market -- will be cooking," Carraway adds.

The Wesson Lions Club will again be selling sweet potatoes. Friends of the Library will hold its annual book sale in the building next to the Wesson public library pavilion. The Doll's House and Wesson Baptist, Smyrna Baptist and Mount Moriah Baptist Churches will be on hand. Town Hall staff will be in a special tent, where residents can get to know government officials.

Started by a local merchants association, WVFD turned the event, better known today as the "Wesson Flea Market," into a major fundraiser held annually on the third Saturday in Oc-

tober. The volunteer fire fighters generate some \$5,000 each year on sales of the 10-foot-by-10-foot display areas at \$45 each to purchase equipment for the fire department, Carraway says.

Vendors and exhibitors can still reserve display areas. They must furnish their own tables, chairs, and other display equipment and may sell from tents, booths or their cars and trucks. Set-up for the Flea Market is after 5 p.m. on Friday, October 18, and before 8 a.m. on Saturday. For information, contact at 601-265-1694 or wessonfd@gmail.com.

"We appreciate the community's continued support, and we're working to make this year's event a venue where friends and families can enjoy fellowship and do some shopping," he adds.

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Police Blotter

Special to Wesson News

During September, Wesson Police Department activity encompassed:

Responses to:

- Five accidents
- Two attempted breaking and entering
- One petit larceny
- On unauthorized use of a vehicle
- One identity theft

Arrests & citations for:

- Fourteen speeding
- Four expired tags
- Four disregard for traffic device
- One no insurance
- One controlled substance

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.

WAC's B grade leads region

Special to Wesson News

Using a new formula to more fairly score assessments of attendance centers across the state, the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) has awarded Wesson Attendance Center (WAC), which had the top testing proficiency rate in the region, a high B grade in its accountability ratings for the 2018-19 school year.

WAC received a C grade for the 2017-18 school year -- a rating WAC Principal Marilyn Phillips criticized as unfair because of a scoring system that did not consider the special nature of K-12 attendance centers compared to stand alone elementary, middle and high schools.

"We're more confident in the new scoring model and appreciate our B rating as a reflection of our true performance," Phillips said. "In past years, competing for ratings in the state's accountability system was like playing a football game in which your opponent had been spotted 20 points. The new scoring system gives WAC a deserved grade, which motivates our teachers and staff."

Mississippi's A-F accountability system evaluates how well schools and districts are performing each year. MDE bases the grades on points awarded, in part, for how well students at schools -- particularly the lowest-performing 25 per cent -- perform and progress from year to year on the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) tests, which are aligned with the Mississippi College and Career Ready Standards. Every year, students in

grades three through eight take tests in English language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics, and high school students take tests in English, Algebra I, Biology and History. The accountability system also considers the four-year graduation rate of schools, student readiness for the ACT college admissions testing and acceleration -- student participation and performance in advance coursework, such as Advance Placement and dual/credit enrollment courses.

ness (38 percent to 64 percent) and graduation rate (83 percent to 91.7 percent).

In ELA, fifth and eighth grade math, biology and history, WAC exceeded the state average, Phillips pointed out. The WAC kindergarten program, she added, also surpasses the state average in the Mississippi Kindergarten Assessment System. "In math, we were slightly below the state average," she said. "We need growth particularly in math."

In the region, MDE rated no other schools higher than WAC. Also receiving B grades were Alexander Junior High School in Brookhaven School District, Monticello Elementary School and Topeka Tilton Attendance Center in Lawrence County; and West Lincoln School in Lincoln County School District. The Lawrence and Lincoln County School Districts received B grades, and Brookhaven and Copiah County School Districts, C grades. Hazlehurst City School District received a D grade.

Across Mississippi, nearly three quarters of schools and 70 percent of districts are rated C or higher, moving towards realization of an MBE goal set in 2016 that all schools and districts be rated C or higher. Among the 140 districts and five charter schools, 46 increased their letter grade from 2017-18 to 2018-19. Among the state's 877 schools, 258 increased their letter grade from last year.

Phillips says WAC's high B rating was close to an A rating. "We missed it by a little bit and plan to be there next year," she said.



Special to Wesson News

Natalie Bonds and Catherine Wilson, Student Body President and Student Council President at Wesson Attendance Center (WAC), celebrate WAC's high B grade awarded by Mississippi Department of Education for its performance.

On the MAAP testing, WAC had the highest proficiency rate (58.3 percent) and highest passing rate (94.1 percent) among other schools and attendance centers in Brookhaven, Hazlehurst, and Copiah, Lawrence and Lincoln Counties. WAC also showed marked improvement in acceleration (62 percent to 77 percent), ACT read-



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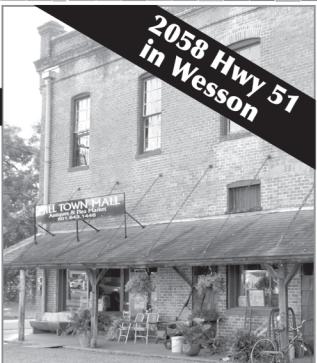


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cont. from page 1

Homecoming October 18 & 19 at Co-Lin

- A tailgate party beginning at 12:30 p.m. near the center of campus and the pedestrian corridor.
- College class of 1969 meeting at the alumni luncheon and under the tents at the tailgate party.
- High school class of 1969 meeting following the alumni luncheon in the Mutton Building.
- The Homecoming Court presentation and sophomore football player recognition beginning at 2:30 p.m. in Stone Stadium.
- Homecoming football game be-

tween Co-Lin and Jones Community College starting at 3 p.m.

For more information on all Homecoming events and activities, visit www.colin.edu. Contact Wolf Hollow Golf Course at 601-643-8379 about the golf tournament and Keith Stovall at 601-643-8449 about the 5K race. Visit www.colin.edu/alumni-foundation/alumni-association/homecoming/ for registration information about both the 5K and golf tournament. Contact the alumni office at 601-643-8313 for information about the President's Reception. For help planning a reunion for your class or group, contact the alumni office at 601-643-8313.

It's composting time

By Guest Columnist Rebecca Bates

Fall is the perfect time to begin composting. Simply pile up all those leaves you've raked with yard clippings, add some kitchen scraps, and microbes will naturally break down the organic matter to create a nutrient-rich soil additive. The decomposition process takes a few months.

So start your pile today, and by spring-time you'll have heaps of 'black gold' to add to your gardens.

Here are a few tips to get off to a good start:

1. **Site the pile** - Pick a level location, preferably out of direct sunlight. Pile up the material on the spot, or buy or build a bin. We just pile it on the ground.
2. **Get the right mix** - You need to follow the recipe. A compost pile needs "browns" and "greens". Browns include leaves, twigs, and wood chips. Greens would be fruit and vegetable scraps, grass clippings or even egg shells and coffee grounds.
3. **Don't add animal products** - Microbes have a hard time breaking down things like cheese, butter, milk, cooking oil or meat scraps. So avoid using your

compost pile as a garbage dump. Add only fruit and vegetable material.

4. **Turn, turn, turn** - Aerate the pile with a pitch fork or shovel about once a week to distribute air and moisture.

5. **Make sure it's moist but not wet** - It's easy to forget about watering stuff in the winter-time, but proper water content is the key for composting. Your

compost pile should be as damp as a wrung-out sponge - any wetter and microbes won't get enough air.

6. **Let it heat up** - Even in chilly weather, the pile will heat up as the microbes work away. You may even see steam rising from it. This is normal.

7. **See if it's done** - Finished compost looks like rich organic soil - dark and crumbly in texture.

Don't pile your leaves on the street! Start cooking that compost for next spring's use. Your shrubs, trees, flowers and vegetable garden will thank you for it.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rebecca Bates is the Mississippi State Lincoln County Agricultural Extension Agent based at the Lincoln County Court House in downtown Brookhaven.

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How you can beat the flu virus

By Guest Columnist Dr. Stephanie Duguid

Flu season is an annually recurring time period characterized by the prevalence of outbreaks of influenza (flu). Understanding how it spreads and what to do about it can prepare you for the season.



Special to Wesson News

Flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. Some of the complications caused by the flu are pneumonia, ear and sinus infections, dehydration, and worsening of chronic medical conditions, such as heart or lung disease, asthma or diabetes.

Those more likely to get flu-related complications if they get sick from influenza are: children younger than five years old, and especially children younger than two years of age; adults 50 years of age and older, and especially those 65 years of age and older; women who are or will be pregnant during flu season; American Indians and Alaskan natives; residents of nursing

homes and other chronic care facilities; people who have neurological and neurodevelopmental conditions, chronic lung disease and asthma, heart disease, blood disorders, endocrine disorders, kidney disorders, liver disorders, metabolic disorders, weakened immune systems due to disease or medication; those younger than nineteen years old who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy; people who are morbidly obese.

You'll have lots of company if you get the flu. Each year from October to May, millions of people across the United States come down with it. Kids get the flu most often. The flu usually starts suddenly and

may include these symptoms: Fever or feeling feverish/chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle of body aches, head aches, fatigue. Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, although this is more common in children than adults. Not everyone with flu will have a fever.

Most experts believe that flu viruses spread mainly by droplets when people with the flu cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby. Less often,

persons might also get flu by touching a surface or object that has flu virus on it, and then touching their own mouths, eyes, or possibly noses.

You may be able to pass on the flu to someone else before you know you are sick, as well as while you are sick. Most adults may be able to infect others beginning one day before symptoms develop and up to 5 to 7 days after becoming sick. Some people, especially young children and people with weakened immune systems, might be able to infect others for an even longer time.

The single best way to prevent the flu is to get a flu vaccination each fall.

There are two types of vaccines: The "flu shot," an inactivated vaccine with a killed virus given with a needle, or the nasal-spray flu vaccine, sometimes called LAIV for "Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine," made with live, weakened flu viruses that do not cause the flu. Talk to your health care provider about which vaccine is right for you and your family.

Everyone six months of age and older should be vaccinated against the flu. Vaccinations should begin as soon as

the vaccine is available. A vaccination to prevent flu is particularly important for persons who are at increased risk for severe complications from flu or at higher risk for flu-related outpatient, emergency department, or hospital visits.

About two weeks after vaccination, antibodies develop that protect against flu virus infection for the entire season. Flu vaccines will not protect against illnesses caused by other viruses, such as the common cold.

Good health habits often can also help stop the spread of germs and prevent respiratory illnesses like the flu. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Stay home when you are sick. Cover your mouth and nose. Wash your hands often. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.

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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Four join Co-Lin Hall of Fame

Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin's Athletic Alumni Association will induct four new members into the college's Sports Hall of Fame during its Homecoming festivities: Rebecca Baily, Tony Bryant, Richard I. Smith and Nikki Williams.

Bailey, a 2008 Co-Lin graduate,



Special to Wesson News

Rebecca Bailey

pitched for the softball team, leading it to a runner-up title in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) National Tournament. She was a NJCAA First Team

All-American, NJCAA First Team All-Region, Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) First Team All-State, and named to the NJCAA All-Tournament team. She established single season school records for strikeouts (221) and saves (3), tied the team record for wins (21), had a miniscule 1.34 Earned Run Average, allowed only 26 walks in 162 innings and held her opponents to a .173 batting average. Bailey continued her softball career for Lock Haven University following Co-Lin, helping it win an NCAA DII National Championship, while earning a degree in social work. She is now the program manager for Meridian Behavioral Services, where she runs an elementary program for traumatized children.

Bryant, a 1996 Co-Lin graduate, was an All-State selection, All-American Defensive End, NJCAA Most Valuable Player, number six Junior College Prospect and Top

Junior College Player in football for the Wolves and played post for the basketball team, receiving All-State and Most Valuable Player honors. In 1999, he was selected in the sec-



Special to Wesson News

Tony Bryant

ond round of the NFL draft (fortieth overall) by the Oakland Raiders after a football career at Florida State University, where he was named to the All-Atlantic Coast Conference

Second Team. He played for the Raiders during their 2002 Super Bowl season, and finished his pro career with New Orleans Saints and the St. Louis Rams. He has coached high school foot-

ball since retiring from the pros in 2006.

Smith, a 1972 Co-Lin graduate, was a two-time captain of the Wolf



Special to Wesson News

Richard Smith

Pack football team, named to the Mississippi Junior College All-Star team and recognized as best offensive player as best blocker at center for Co-Lin. He also threw discus for the Co-Lin track team. He has had a 40-year career in asphalt plant operations in state, federal, and private commercial work, and has been active in his industry's professional associations since graduating from Mississippi College in business administration. He competes at the national level as member of the American Historic Racing Motorcycle Association. He supports a variety of Copiah County charitable organizations.

Williams, a 2007 Co-Lin graduate, was an NJCAA First Team All-American and part of the NJCAA All Region XXIII All-Tournament Team and NJCAA All Region XXIII Team, who helped lead the basketball Wolves to the NJCAA Region XXIII Runner-up, NJCAA Region XXIII Championship and a sixth place finish in the NJCAA National Tournament. She returned to Co-Lin as women's assistant basketball coach from 2012 to 2017 after playing professionally overseas with the Rwanda National Team. She was a Third Team All-South-

land Conference (SC) and Second Team All-SC at Lamar University. She is currently an academic advisor at Abilene Christian University,



Special to Wesson News

Nikki Williams

and has bachelor's degree in general studies and a master's degree in education/school counseling.



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Chasing down art around town

By Guest Columnist Shaw Furlow

It's October once again, and time for local visual artists to show their works at the annual Brookhaven Regional Art Guild (BRAG) show.



Special to Wesson News

But these days, you don't have to go to art shows or galleries to find the works of local artists, as I discovered this summer.

This summer, they started popping up in unlikely places all over our little corner of the world. Little 4x6 paintings appeared in bank ATMs, the place you order at drive-through restaurants and elsewhere. Clues were left on Facebook about where you might find one of these little jewels. I was intrigued.



Special to Wesson News

Derek Covington Smith and three of his works

I found a clue on the Little Yellow Building Facebook page maintained by Derek Covington Smith, owner of



the Little Yellow Building, a studio on Highway 51 where he creates his own works and teaches classes. I set

out to find a painting that I believed to be at the Godbold Transportation Center in Brookhaven. I searched all around, but did not find it. Later that day, however, I found it in a planter on Railroad Avenue.

So what was up? Determined to get to the bottom of this mystery, I started my research, and in two minutes Smith solved it for me.

"Local graphics artist Stevie Lynn Bullock had been dropping art on her own," he told me. "When I learned about it on Instagram, I called her. Now several of us are doing it. We meet here on Saturdays, paint our pieces and then drop them around Brookhaven."

So far, fifty original works have been placed in public areas with notes

attached from the artists. The idea is for artists to place their works where they travel day to day. Someone else, who may unknowingly follow that same path, finds it and takes it home.

"I guess we'll keep doing this as long as everyone is having fun," says Smith, whose personal, more professional works can be found in galleries in New York, and locally hanging at Magnolia Blues BBQ and Downtown Music Academy.

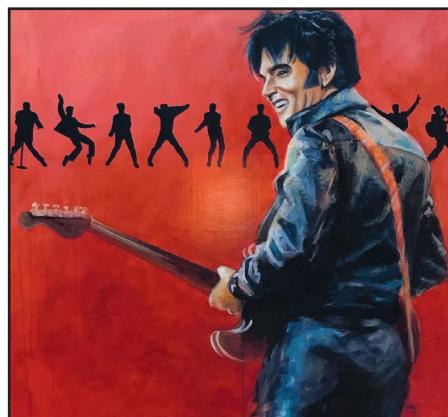
So if you're interested, you can find clues on Smith's Facebook page and chase down art in unexpected places. Go to Facebook and search for Little Yellow Building. But this month you can also find works of local and out-of-town artists hanging in the Lincoln County/Brookhaven Public Library until October 30 at the BRAG show. The judged competition is open to all, and entries have come from Jackson, the gulf coast and New Orleans, as well as from local artists this year.

Last year, the BRAG show had one-hundred-thirty entries. Besides being professionally judged for prizes, there is a People's Choice award that carries a one hundred dollar award. Show visitors are encouraged to cast a vote for their favorite. The reception and award ceremony is October 10, and free to the public.

If you're still looking for art, here's another suggestion: Every year, the Brookhaven Historical Society commissions painting for commemorative Christmas ornaments. This year, it commissioned Smith, who painted the iconic Haven Theatre -- home of the Brookhaven Little Theater. His original will be on display at the Haven.

A lot is going on. Take time to smell the roses, my friends, and support the arts.

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



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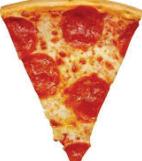
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Special to Wesson News

Some of the best sweet potatoes grown anywhere in the world will be available in the area over the next few weeks through the Wesson Lions Club.

For the sixth consecutive year, the club has brought a truckload of Landreth Farms-produced sweet potatoes from the Vardaman area in north central Mississippi -- the "Sweet Potato Capital of the World" -- to Wesson to sell at a bargain basement rate to locals and raise funds, in the process, for the international and local charities it helps support.

Wesson Lions Club members started selling them on October 1 and are continuing to offer them until their supply runs out. Wesson Flea Market visitors will be able to purchase them at a Lions Club tent on October 19 if they are still available.

This year, the Lions Club's inventory includes 400 forty-pound boxes of regular sweet potatoes, which it will sell for \$20 per box, or 50 cents per pound. In addition to individuals, area restaurants look forward to stocking up on the quality sweet potatoes during the Lions Club's annual fundraising effort.

Landreth Farms officials say it's the loamy soil -- along with timely early rains -- in the Vardaman area that make their potato crops sweet and special. Landreth plants sweet potatoes on 600 acres, among Mississippi farmers, who raise sweet potatoes on more than 18,400 acres across the state. The farm sells commercially to national food stores, such as Kroger and Wal-Mart; and canners, like Gerber; and produces a line of pre-wrapped sweet potatoes for microwave cooking.

The annual sweet potato sale is among three major fundraising activities of the Wesson Lions Club. The Club also has an annual spring pancake breakfast and manages the concession stands at Co-Lin athletic events. It disburses some \$10,000 every year to assist deaf and blind persons through the International Lions Club and to support local organizations and causes related to community improvement, children and youth, veterans, hospice care and other issues and concerns.

For information and to order sweet potatoes, contact Ric Crockett (985-285-1780) or Alton Ricks (601-643-2466).



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Wesson gears up for Halloween

Wesson News

Two haunted houses, a park party, a fundraiser for Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) and traditional trick or treating assure both ghosts, goblins and other scary things and fun and festivities for Wesson during the Halloween season, which ushers in the end-of-year holidays locally.

For the second straight year, the Wesson Chamber of Commerce will start providing Halloween scary experiences for Wesson residents and out-of-town visitors who want the excitement and stimulation that vampires, zombies, goblins, ghosts, wicked witches and monsters provide. Fear -- the Chamber's haunted house -- opens this coming Friday night (October 11) and will continue to offer its frightening show on Fridays and Saturdays through November 1 and 2, and on Halloween from 7 p.m. until midnight at the old Sunflower building (2134 Highway 51). Admission is \$10.

WAC's traditional Red Ribbon Festival is on Thursday, October 24, with fair-like activities for children in kindergarten and lower grades and their parents, and another haunted house for older children, youth and adults. They highlight WAC's week-long participation in National Red Ribbon Week -- the oldest and largest drug prevention program in the nation, which reaches millions of young people throughout the U.S. each year.

From 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., there will be games, a costume contest and food and refreshments on the elementary school side of WAC. Proceeds benefit the WAC Parent-Teacher Organization. Senior High and Junior High Beta Clubs, WAC-based service organizations, will host the annual Red Ribbon Week Haunted House, a student led event from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. in dimly lit halls of Wesson High

School with an assortment of frightening characters. Admission is \$5, and proceeds will help defray the cost Beta members incur for state and national spring conventions.

On Halloween morning (Thursday, October 31), children from Precious Moments Day Care Center, the Wesson Baptist Church pre-school program and the kindergarten at WAC will go to local merchants and businesses for candy and special treats in the annual Trick or Treat Downtown.

Tent-A-Treat -- a fall festival coordinated by Town Hall staff -- will run from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the park as both a supplementary event and alternative to traditional trick-or-treating on Wesson streets, which normally runs from 4 p.m.-10 p.m. Individuals, churches and civic organizations and businesses will set up and staff special tents for trick-or-treating and games with prizes. Contact Angela Hester at Town Hall (602-643-5221), Alana Hughes (601-754-9883) or Brittany Ashley (601-669-4475) to set up a tent, donate prizes, food and refreshments or volunteer to staff the event.

Wesson police expect the usual calm night of street trick-or-treating, but will have officers on patrol in cars and on foot. Trick-or-treaters should go only to homes with porch lights on and respect residents of neighborhoods, who do not want to participate in the door-to-door Halloween tradition.

"There are no rigid rules for the evening," says Police Chief Chad O'Quinn. "We just ask people to use common sense. Vandalism will not be tolerated." O'Quinn says young children should be supervised by their parents, with everyone "traffic-conscious," walking on sidewalks or beside roadways.

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Stephanie Sullivan returns to help Mississippi

Special to Wesson News

Since earning her Masters in Business Administration degree at Southern Alabama University at Mobile in 2003, Franklin County native Stephanie Sullivan explored several job opportunities that would bring her back to the area, but Co-Lin has finally brought her home as its new Workforce Center Director.

In late May, a friend called Sullivan in Arkansas to tell her about the job at Co-Lin, saying "it has your name written all over it." In early June, she applied for the job, and on July 25, she started her move to southwestern Mississippi to assume the position after an interview process in which Sullivan and Co-Lin officials came to the same conclusion as her friend.

Co-Lin's Workforce Division equips current and future employees for the career skills they need. During 2019, it provided 530,381 training hours to 7,554 students across Co-Lin's seven-country district. As Workforce Center Director, Sullivan is tasked with cultivating relationships and partnerships with employers throughout the district to create custom, affordable job training that addresses their unique needs in a broad range of work areas. In addition, she works with the Mississippi College Board, other state agencies, economic development stakeholders and local community leaders to help improve the local workforce, provide

training services to local industry and attract new employers to the area.

"It's exciting to move back to Mississippi with an opportunity to influence and contribute to the area that I proudly call home," Sullivan affirms.

Sullivan grew up on a farm near Meadville, which raised crops and cattle, as part of a tightly-bonded extended family, including her siblings, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins -- some twenty in all who enjoyed Sunday dinners together and playing and socializing along the river. She graduated from Franklin County High School and Co-Lin, where she played in bands while pursuing her studies, and received a degree in speech pathology and audiology with a business minor from the University of Southern Mississippi at Hattiesburg before going to Southern Alabama. She is a certified leadership trainer through the John Maxwell Leadership Certification program.

From 2003 to 2017, Sullivan worked in sales and marketing management positions at Kraft Foods in Mobile, Alabama, and Boise, Idaho; and Dr. Pepper Snapple Group and Wells Enterprises in Bentonville, Arkansas, in which she served Albertson's and Walmart. Over the past two years, she operated a private consulting organization that assisted companies seeking to distribute products through Walmart Stores.

Sullivan believes her experiences in business and professional develop-

ment, working with corporate executives, operating her own business and customized leadership training have amply prepared her for the challenges she faces at Co-Lin. Among her first priorities in her new job are developing an entrepreneurial training program -- a task Co-Lin President Jane Hulon has assigned to her in conjunction with college's emphasis on regional economic development -- and a road show to promote Co-Lin Workforce and Career Tech programs throughout the college's district.

Sullivan is living with her family in Meadville, where her father is renovating an old house for her.

Do you have any hobbies?

I like to travel both domestically and internationally. While I enjoy the pleasures of travel, I also try to plan it with mission and educational objectives. In recent years, I have travelled to India, France, Dubai, Italy, Montenegro and Bosnia. I try to travel at least two weeks every year.

Are you a reader?

Although I like to read print books, I've become a listener to audio books and podcasts -- for personal pleasure to professional development, ranging from novelists like James Patterson to leadership coach John Maxwell. On my commute from Meadville to the Co-Lin campus, I listen to sermons, such as Andy Stanley's; and "Lore" -- a podcast focusing on non-fiction stories that examines historical events and

showing the dark side of human nature in a campfire-style presentation

Do you enjoy movies or theater?

I am very much a Broadway theater fan. I enjoyed a performance of *The Lion King* in Jackson recently. I am a fan of Gerard Butler, Tom Hanks and Meryl Streep in the classics.

Are you a music fan?

My ipod has a mix of just about everything except rap and heavy metal music. Live concerts are my passion -- whether at a theater or at a venue for local bands, like Magnolia Blues Barbeque in Brookhaven.

How would you spend your lottery winnings if you were so lucky?

I would give back to benefit the neighborhoods in our area -- providing help to the working poor, supporting economic development and efforts to attract new industry. I would like to help our area to thrive, not just survive.

I grew up in Meadville Methodist Church and am a person of faith -- or more precisely, faith in action as a follower of Jesus. I helped found a mobile food ministry -- At-the-Table, and have fundraised for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and the American Diabetes Association.

How would you change the world?

In my travels, I have learned that people the world over want the same thing: to be happy and healthy, and to have purpose. I would seek ways to empower people to be the best they can be by helping them find purpose.



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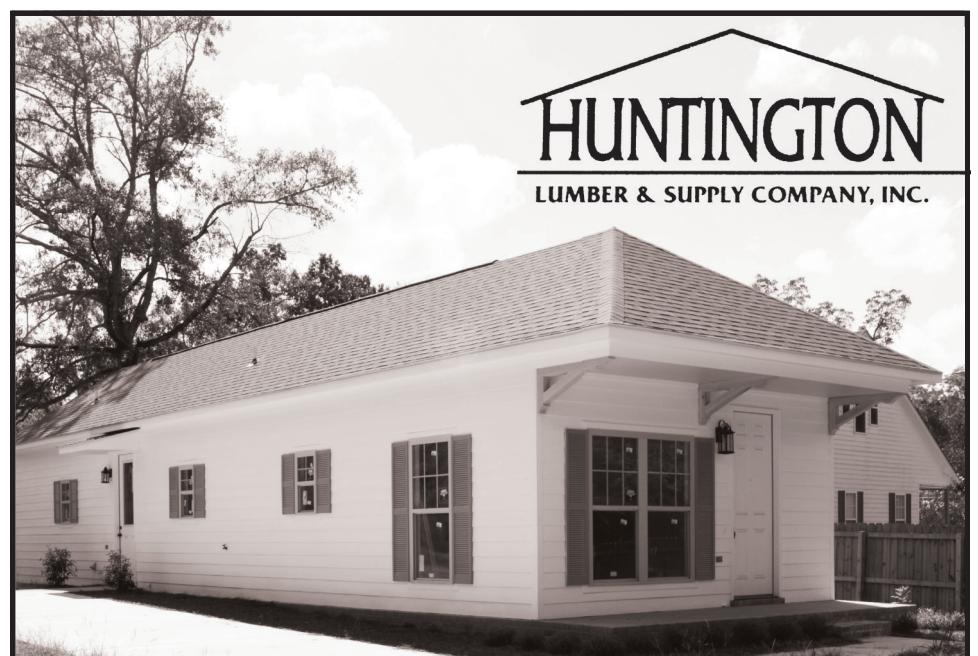
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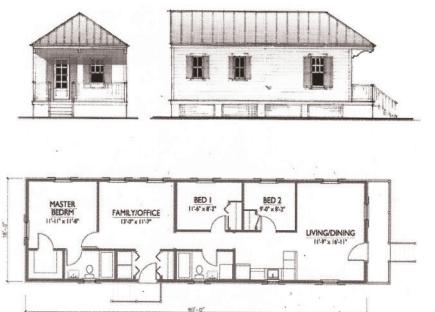
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Wesson Community Calendar

October weather forecast: The Old Farmer's Almanac calls for an average temperature of 66 degrees (one degree above average) with precipitation of 2.5 inches (.5 inches below average). October 8-16: Rain, then sunny, cool. October 17-26: Scattered t-storms, turning warm. October 27-31: T-storms, then sunny, cool.

OCTOBER 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.

OCTOBER 9

National Fire Prevention Week programs presented by Wesson Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD) at Sylvarena and Zion Hill Baptist Churches and Beauregard United Methodist Church. On October 11, WVFD will also present fire prevention and safety programs at Precious Moments Day Care, Co-Lin, Wesson Baptist preschool and Wesson Attendance Center (K-5). The programs are oriented to children and youth.

OCTOBER 10

Copiah County Master Gardeners meets. Mississippi State University Extension Office at Gallman. 5 p.m. business meeting.

Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) luncheon features Dr. Catherine Perry Cotton, University of Southern Mississippi, who will talk about her role and participation in the League of Women Voters and the one hundredth anniversary of women's right to vote. \$5. Anderson Building. Workshop follows with Idela Byrd, who will teach chair exercises and stretching techniques. Thames Center. Luncheon starts at 10:30 a.m. Workshop starts at noon. For information, call ILR at 601-643-8705.

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

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).

Music & Art in Trinity Park on Thursdays throughout October at the park adjacent to the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer on Monticello Avenue in downtown Brookhaven. 12 noon. Musical entertainment. Other artists are invited to set up tables with their works.

OCTOBER 11

Fear, Wesson Chamber of Commerce haunted house, starts providing scary experiences during Halloween season. \$10 admission. Continues on Fridays and Saturdays through November 1 and 2, and on Halloween from 7 p.m. until midnight at the old Sunflower building (2134 Highway 51).

Forty-first annual Fall Flower & Garden Fest starts and continues October 11 and 12. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day. Mississippi State University (MSU) Truck Crops Branch Experiment Station (2024 Experiment Station Road). Tours of three-acre display garden & research plots, educational seminars on specialty gardening, pond management and insect and disease control; antique tractor display, live animal petting zoo, more than 60 vendors with plants, yard art and other gardening merchandise for sale.

OCTOBER 13

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.

OCTOBER 15

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

OCTOBER 18

Co-Lin Homecoming weekend begins with Golf Tournament at noon and President's Reception at 5 p.m. Saturday, October 19 events include meetings, award ceremonies, tailgate party, reunions and football game. For information on all Homecoming events and activities, visit www.colin.edu.

Wesson Flea Market setup starting at 5 p.m. On Saturday, October 19, more than 200 vendors will offer arts and crafts items, clothing, food, snacks and refreshments, among other things, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on streets of downtown Wesson. For information, contact at 601-265-1694 or wessonfd@gmail.com. Visit the Wesson Flea Market Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=Wesson%20Flea%20Market>.

OCTOBER 21

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.

OCTOBER 22

Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) day trip to a performance of Fiddler on the Roof at Thalia Mara in Jackson at 7:30 p.m. Departures are at 3:30 p.m. and 3:45 p.m. from the Thames Center at Co-Lin and the Hazlehurst First Baptist Church. The cost is \$95 for ILR members (plus \$25 for non-members). The trip is fully booked at this time. For information, call ILR at 601-643-8705.

OCTOBER 24

Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) Red Ribbon Festival, with fair-like activities for children in kindergarten and lower grades and their parents from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on elementary school side of WAC, and Beta Club haunted house for older children, youth and adults in Wesson High School. Red Ribbon Festival proceeds support WAC Parent Teachers Organization and haunted house proceeds support the Beta Club, a high school service organization. The events highlight WAC's week-long participation in National Red Ribbon Week -- the oldest and largest drug prevention program in the nation started in memory of Drug Enforcement Agency agent Kiki Camarena, who was murdered by drug traffickers in Mexico City in 1985.

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

OCTOBER 26

Wesson High School beauty/beau pageant.

OCTOBER 31 (HALLOWEEN)

Trick or Treat. In the morning children from Precious Moments Day Care Center, Wesson Baptist Church Day Care program, and Wesson Attendance Center kindergarten trick or treat Wesson businesses. From 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., older children and youth with trick or treat throughout the town.

Tent-A-Treat -- a fall festival coordinated by Town Hall staff -- will run from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the municipal park. Everyone -- young and older children, youth and adults -- is invited in or out of costume to participate. Individuals, churches and civic organizations and businesses will set up and staff special tents for trick-or-treating, with plenty of goodies and games with prizes. Contact Angela Hester at Town Hall (602-643-5221), Alana Hughes (601-754-9883) or Brittany Ashley (601-669-4475) to set up a tent, donate prizes, food and refreshments or volunteer to staff the event.

NOVEMBER 5

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

CONTINUING

Alcoholics Anonymous meets at convenient times seven days of every week. First United Methodist Church, 215 West Cherokee Street, Brookhaven. Open meetings are Mondays at noon and Tuesdays (Big Book Study), Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. Closed meetings are Wednesdays and Fridays (Big Book Study) at noon and Thursdays and Sundays at 7:30 p.m.

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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Sales tax fuels projected surplus

Special to Wesson News

Wesson residents are facing no new taxes during fiscal year 2019, with a projected budget surplus of \$35,297 largely due to an estimated \$15,000 boost in sales tax income from \$145,000 budgeted in fiscal year 2018.

Along with the sales tax revenues, greater income from the mobile home and motor vehicle tax levy (\$5,000), franchise tax (\$1,000), Old School Community Center rentals (\$2,500) and municipal aid (\$1,000) are expected to boost the town's general fund revenues from \$596,100 projected in fiscal year 2018 to \$620,600 during the year ahead. The town's ad valorem tax of \$33.84 on every \$1,000 of assessed property value, which was increased by ten percent for fiscal year 2018, will continue to generate an estimated \$190,000 during fiscal year 2019.

Coupled with an increase in general fund expenditures from \$593,760 to \$598,860, the estimated general fund surplus ballooned from \$2,340 in fiscal 2018 to \$21,740 for fiscal year 2019.

Wesson's general fund budget encompasses projected revenues and expenditures for general government operations, the police and street departments, the Old School Commu-

nity Center and public library. The town also maintains separate revenue and expenditure projections for the fire department, water/sewer operations, and water meters.

Overall, fiscal year 2019 revenues are expected to climb to \$1,197,757 from \$1,144,257, with estimated expenditures jumping to \$1,162,460 from \$1,129,110.

In addition to the projected increase in general fund revenues, estimated increases in metered sales (\$10,000) and sewer charges (\$17,000), which are related to adjusted rates and Beauregard's use of the Wesson sewage system, pushed projected total water/sewer revenues up to \$538,600 for the 2019 fiscal year from \$509,600 during the previous year. Water/Sewer expenses will also increase to an estimated \$533,700 from \$505,450. Budgeted Fire Department and water meter revenues and expenses, on the other hand, should remain the same for the coming year as they were in fiscal year 2018. Fire Department income and expenses are estimated \$31,532 and \$24,900 respectively and water meter revenues and expenses are expected to be \$7,025 and \$5,000 respectively for the 2019 fiscal year.

In the general fund budget, projected street department expenses plunged from \$97,050 to \$78,850 due to esti-

mated declines in personnel expenses (\$10,300) and utility costs (\$5,000), while personnel costs pushed up projected Police Department expenses from \$273,350 to \$281,500, estimated expenses for supplies and insurance increased Old School Community Center budgeted expenditures from \$30,200 to \$38,500, and anticipated miscellaneous expenses related to

renovation hiked projected library expenditures from \$12,210 to \$17,460.

Wesson Mayor Alton Shaw notes that the town's budget does not include grant monies, which have traditionally paid for amenities the town enjoys. "We cover basic necessities in our budget," he says. "For more than fifteen years, we have addressed amenities through grant opportunities."

Wesson's Mock cemetery



Special to Wesson News

Silent Oaks Cemetery -- the family-friendly haunted yard Halloween display on Anderson Road that is the product of Brian King's imagination -- is welcoming visitors every evening through October starting at dark. The mock cemetery features a mausoleum, tombstones memorializing the likes of "Perry Noid," "Eve L Kwen," "Kris P Bykoy" and others, a family crypt and a shaft leading to a pit where bodies of miners lie following an accident -- all with lights, sounds and scents. Visitors can drive to King's home three miles from the Wesson Timberlane Road turnoff and wander through the small, but growing display, which is spooky, but whimsical, and not scary.

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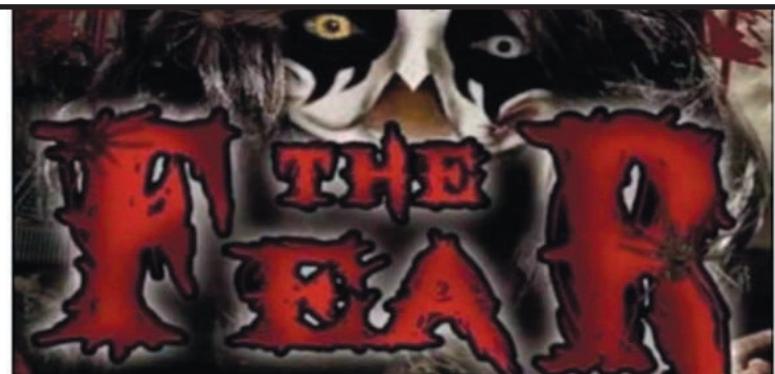
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