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Wesson News

SPOTLIGHT

**New Pastor
in Town**
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PO Box 1028
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Volume 7, Number 8

"Good News You Can Use"

August 13, 2019

Seawolves finish twelfth in contest

Special to Wesson News

The Seawolves -- the Co-Lin underwater robotics teams -- again upheld its tradition of surpassing top notch collegiate competitors, placing twelfth among 71 teams in an international event.

The Seawolves travelled to Kingsport, Tennessee, for international remotely operated vehicle (ROV) competition hosted by Marine Advanced Technical Education (MATE), which included teams from eighteen countries. Co-Lin finished twelfth in the 25-team Explorer class, above all other Mississippi colleges, and even Purdue University. MATE promotes science and environmental education, encouraging students to build underwater ROVs that are eco-friendly and can positively impact the oceans. In the competition, MATE judges score teams on how well their ROVs address assigned underwater tasks within a limited time frame and how well they explain and sell them through technical documentation, product presentations and marketing displays.

At the Tennessee event, the Sea-



Wesson News

Co-Lin underwater robotics team practiced for international competition at Brookhaven Country Club pool.

wolves and competing teams formed simulated businesses around their robots, with CEOs and engineering and marketing divisions. Their underwater ROVs were tasked with completing various underwater missions -- moving debris away from an engine block or transporting a mooring into water -- in a simulated environment in an Olympic-size pool housed in the Kingsport Aquatics Center in front of a panel of judges. The missions revolved around the theme "Innovations for In-shore: ROV Operations in Rivers, Lakes, and Dams." To compete effectively, the teams included not only science, technology, engineering and math students to create and handle a robot, but others in English, Pre-Medical Biology, Chemistry, Biology Research, Drafting and Design, Graphic Design and Electronics to write technical reports and press releases for the media and make presentations about their robots.

"I think we were nervous going into the competition, because none of us had been in it before, but the team performed well under pressure," McInnis said. "I learned that coordination is a lot harder than it looks. It took a lot of time, but it was a great learning experience."

Members of the Seawolves met twice a week to design and manufacture an underwater robot during the 2018-2019 academic year. The team, including students Jenner McInnis (captain), Andrew Tanksley, Trey Dorsey, Jesus Vasquez-Marcelino and advisors Kevin McKone and Carey Williamson, spent countless hours ensuring the robot satisfied strict standards to qualify for the international contest.

Although Co-Lin's robot ran well in the competition, the Seawolves did confront some technical difficulties that required troubleshooting. "This is part of the learning experience," McKone said.

This is the eighth year the Seawolves

cont. on page 4

Community block party



Wesson News

Some 300 persons turned out last month for the third annual Wesson Baptist Church community block party in the municipal park to celebrate the town and honor its residents. There was free food and drink, an inflatable for the kids and a disk jockey with music. The event is part of the church's outreach to the wider community led by Outreach Pastor Josh Hood. The outreach program has encompassed assistance with home construction and yard work and last month featured a bilingual worship service with a visiting mission group from Puerto Rico participating.

New company acquires Advanced Auto facility

Wesson News

A little more than six months after Advanced Auto Parts (AAP) closed the doors of its Copeh County facility at Gallman, a Georgia-based distribution company has acquired it and plans to begin full scale operations there next month.

Premier Transportation, headquartered at Forest Park, Georgia, near Atlanta, drew some 500 area people to an open house at the facility last month who wanted to learn about the company and apply for the office, warehousing and trucking jobs that will be there when it starts up in Sep-

tember.

Premier Transportation is an irregular route common and contract carrier which specializes in providing integrated transportation and logistics solutions to the retail and consumer products industries nationwide.

As part of a corporate consolidation program, AAP completed the shutdown of its Gallman operation at the end of December last year. "For Premier, its former facility was perfect for its needs, with a centralized location accessible to its distribution points, parking and loading and

cont. on page 12

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Trustmark workers donate their time



Wesson News

As part of Trustmark's "A Gift of Time" campaign, associates of its Wesson office partnered with the Wesson Public Library as volunteers in the Summer Reading Program, which involved 75 children during July. They are (left to right) Marilyn Britt, Diane Anding, Patty McCardle and Mamie Sherrod. Over the last eight years, Trustmark associates at more than 200 locations in Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas collectively donated more than 12,000 volunteer hours through the "A Gift of Time" campaign.

Honored veterans called to leadership



Wesson News

Wesson News

Wesson Baptist Church celebrated the contributions and leadership of local veterans last month, giving them a special breakfast as their reward.

Military chaplain Chris James talked to the audience of more than 70 former and current service men and women about leadership as exemplified by "our general Jesus Christ," who demonstrated leadership in servanthood, washing the feet of his disciples; and in his love and compassion.

"Christians walk with God, but have gotten away from discipleship and growth," he observed. "We must lead by example, be manager-doers, who teach and grow each other -- pastors who equip and teach."

James pointed out that Jesus' remarkable leadership -- "three years with twelve people" -- changed the

course of human history. He said Jesus' leadership encompassed:

- Being honest
- "Keeping his eyes looking forward to the prize" -- vision consisting of planning for the future with imagination
- Courage -- not being afraid and overcoming
- Humility -- "looking at the greater under you," loving them, and finding motivation in God
- Strategic planning -- charting life's course with focus
- Communication that understands people hear differently and is grounded in knowing to whom you are communicating

"Our call to leadership means looking to Christ, having a relationship with him, focusing on God and not our sin, and being a footprint of Christ," James concluded.

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DAVE PACE
KEVIN LAIRD

Kathy Dungan returns after eventful year

Special to Wesson News

Kathy Dungan has lived in Wesson for 27 years, but she has been relatively scarce for the past year, during which she has served as national president of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) -- the first Mississippian in the ninety-nine year history of the 650,000-member organization.

Over the past year, Wesson has been a stop for packing her suitcases before traveling to visit Legion Auxiliary units and departments throughout the U.S. and representing the Legion at special events around the world. Before ending her one-year term as president of the organization, she will have spent 320 days on the road.

A native of Cleveland, Mississippi, Dungan made Wesson her home, following her husband Bill, whom she met at Delta State University, to where he grew up. For 25 years, she worked as judicial assistant for Mississippi Supreme Court Justice Mike Randolph, now the Court's Chief Justice. She and Bill, who taught at Hazlehurst High School and served as Principal at Hazlehurst Elementary School, reared one son and they have two grandchildren.

Dungan's involvement with the American Legion Auxiliary started 40 years ago in Cleveland, Mississippi, where her father, Wittie Card, a World War II veteran, was a Legion member,

making her eligible for membership in the Auxiliary.

"Dad was what they call a 'blue cap Legionnaire,' who served locally and did not aspire to state or national status in the organization," Dungan says. "I have sought to honor him through my involvement in the Auxiliary."

Dungan has held numerous leadership positions in the organization at the unit, district, department, and national levels. At the national level, she chaired ten committees and did special appointed work on the ALA's 5-Year Centennial Strategic Plan, Future Focus Committee, 100th Anniversary Committee

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

and Succession Planning Committee. She also served as ALA Mississippi Girls State director for three years.

During her year as ALA president, Dungan made "Serving Our Heroes" her theme because, she says, "veterans -- service men and women -- and their families are my heroes." She focused especially on "women who have served," emphasizing related issues, including homelessness, transitional housing and Veterans Administration healthcare. "On any given night, nearly 40,000 veterans are homeless, and homelessness among women veterans is the fastest grow-

ing segment of this population -- an estimated 10,000 today from 150 in 2006," she says. "In the male-dominated VA, they face unique barriers to care because they are not perceived as veterans. Twenty-two percent experienced a sexual assault. Yet thirty-two percent of VA PTSD disability claims related to military sexual trauma were rejected. Women veterans aged 18 to 29 are twelve times more likely to die by suicide than non-serving women."

Since assuming the ALA presidency in September last year, Dungan's travels have taken her to the Tournament of Roses Parade at Pasadena, California, with four metal of honor recipients; Pearl Harbor, the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia where she helped strike a new coin honoring veterans and the New York Stock Exchange, where she rang the opening bell. She attended the 75th D-Day ceremonies at Normandy, France, participated in wreath-laying at seven memorial sites in France, Luxembourg and Belgium; and visited the Landsuhl medical center in Germany -- a stopover for wounded veterans before they return. Over the course of the year, Dungan met President Trump and former Presidents Obama and George W. Bush.

When Dungan resumes her life in Wesson, she will take some time to rest, but plans to return to active membership in the local Drane-Prine Auxiliary Unit 79. Little Bahala Baptist Church,

where she volunteered as church treasurer for more than a decade, served as Youth Sunday School teacher and was a member of the widows' ministry committee and planning committee, will also get her back.

Do you have any hobbies when you aren't doing Legion Auxiliary work?

I am a gardener. I enjoy yard work and nurturing flowers. I am looking forward spending time with my grandchildren when my national Legion service ends.

Do you enjoy movies and theater?

I enjoy movies on television. My favorite actor is Robert Redford. As for movies, I could watch *Pretty Woman* over and over again.

Are you a music fan?

County. Soul. 60s music. My favorite artists include Otis Redding, Elvis, Charlie Daniel, Charlie Pride, Conway Twitty.

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

I would give back to veterans and their families through the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.

How would you change the world?

Addressing homelessness has become my passion over the past year. I would also seek to make the world a kinder place.

Summer reading program honors 19

Wesson News

Wesson Public Library recognized Landon Cline and Cassady Pickering as top overall readers for consuming 1,508 and 859 pages in books and other literature respectively, inspired by its July summer reading program. The Library also recognized voracious readers as first, second and third place winners in three categories:

- **Pre-Kindergarten:** Dalila Young (48 books), Alyssa Sones (nine books) and Rossy Cruz (one book).
- **First & Second Grades:** Addison Lee (402 pages), Bailey Lee (401 pages) and Brenham Hutson (310 pages).
- **Third & Fourth Grades:** Lillian Sones (792 pages), Levi Cline (617 pages) and Britly Cruz (120 pages).

For their participation in the reading program, the Library also recognized eight Kindness winners: Fourth graders Cameron Lyons and Laiken Luke, third graders Michael Smith and Tiffany Rials, second graders Lillian Smith and Lucas Bowlin and first graders Bently Burns and Mackenzie Smith.

The award ceremonies at Wesson Municipal Park concluded the summer reading program, held on Tuesday mornings throughout July. "Space: A Universe of Stories" was the theme of the program which introduced children to new subject areas that they were encouraged to pursue through library resources.



Ann Clark (right), Wesson Public Library Clerk, with top overall readers in summer reading program, Landon Cline and Cassady Pickering.

Mill Town Mall

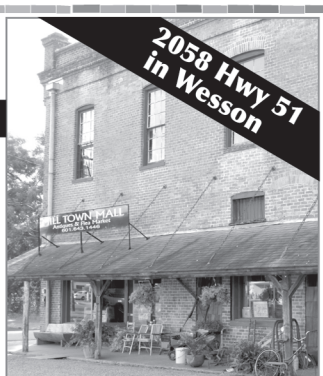
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Police Blotter

Special to Wesson News

During July, Wesson Police Department activity encompassed:

Responses to:

- Child abuse
- Request by Copiah County Sheriff to assist in capturing homicide suspect at Beauregard
- Credit care fraud
- Three petit larcenies
- Threat/simple assault
- Malicious mischief
- Vehicle accident
- Two trespassing

Arrests & citations for:

- 35 speeding
- For expired tags
- Two possession of drug paraphernalia
- Three no insurance
- Two driving with suspended licenses
- One driving with no license
- Two contempt of court
- Stolen vehicle (juvenile)

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.

Decell welcomes new pastor

By Bob Arnold

When Heather Hensarling was in her late teens, she started feeling an "inner urgency," knowing that she was called to do something special, a call to serve God. Through her twenties, Hensarling "ran away" from it, she relates, but at 31 years old decided to respond and start a journey in the professional ministry with the United Methodist Church (UMC).

Last month, Hensarling's journey brought her to Wesson and Decell Memorial United Methodist Church as the congregation's new pastor. She is an "Elder in Full Connection" -- her denomination's highest level of ordination.

Hensarling grew up in Mississippi at South Jackson, went to school there, and spent her childhood summers on the non-working farm her grandparents owned on Highway 583 outside Brookhaven, two and one half miles off Highway 84. She remembers nurturing flowers and vegetables in a large garden, particularly peanuts; swinging on a rope in the barn and swimming and playing in the creek that runs through the property. She studied at Millsaps College, a liberal arts Methodist School in Jackson, waited tables in restaurants, tended bars, and worked for a large corporation that sold lighting and fixtures before deciding to pursue the ministry.

At age 31, Hensarling completed her degree at Millsaps and headed off to study for the ministry in 1993 at the St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City. She started her ministerial career as a student pastor at a small rural East Central Kansas congregation, where agricultural families affected by the 1990s farm crisis worshipped. Over ten years, she continued to serve congregations in Kansas before she told her Bishop she wanted to return to pastor in Mississippi. In 2002, she transferred to the Methodist conference in Mississippi and started a four-year pastorate with two small congregations south of Florence in Rankin County at the Wesleyanna charge in Star and a Braxton church. Before coming to Decell, her Mississippi ministerial journey also encompassed two years at St. Lukes in Jackson, four years at a Bay St. Louis congregation, two and half years as the Sea Shore UMC District Superintendent on the



Wesson News

Gulf Coast, two years in a similar position in the Brookhaven UMC District and two years at Wells Memorial UMC in Jackson following the retirement of a pastor who had served it for 48 years.

"I asked to be assigned to a church like Decell and am thrilled to be here," Hensarling says. "It reminds me of the first congregation I served in Kansas as a student. The authenticity and transparency of its people. Who you see is who they are. Being a small church doesn't discourage them. They are tenacious and resilient."

The measure of Decell's vitality, she says, is not its size, but its "involvement in the life of Wesson and finding ways to be Christ's presence in the community." It's something Hensarling will continue to encourage, including the Decell Igniting Ministries committee, which seeks and implements new connections to the community, including a meal to recognize and honor Wesson leaders that the church hosted for the second consecutive year earlier this month, and a cleanup Wesson project.

As she begins her pastorate at Decell, Hensarling is getting to know members of the congregation, including

shut-ins and people who haven't been worshipping with it recently. She also plans to "layer-in" personal connections to the community, initially becoming involved with the Lions Club, and seeking over time to relate to the Chamber of Commerce, Wesson Attendance Center and Co-Lin. "Methodist pastors are, in fact, assigned to communities and expected to engage them," she notes. "I am moving gradually, however. My inclination is to move at 200 miles per hour when I come to a new church, but I have learned that isn't sustainable. So I am moving at the speed limit as my ministry evolves here."

Hensarling believes she brings skills in administration, pastoral care and spiritual formation to her job at Decell. "I also love to preach, but I'll leave it to others to judge me," she jokes.

When Hensarling isn't at Decell or practicing her pastoral skills, you might find her listening to classical jazz, fishing at a local fresh water pond or spending time with her two dogs -- a Beagle and Weimaraner. She lives on that old farm near Brookhaven where she spent her summers as a child.

cont. from page 1

Seawolves finish eighth in contest

have participated in the competition and the 18th year MATE has hosted it. The Co-Lin team placed fourth in the nation in 2015, eighth in 2016, and ninth in 2017. This year's team used the Brookhaven Country Club pool to practice with its robot. It also received financial support from Tim Jones and

Georgia Pacific Monticello as well as Co-Lin.

All Co-Lin students can participate in the Seawolves, which provides opportunities to gain skills in machining, computer assisted design, electronics, engineering, and marketing. Co-Lin is the only community college in the

state that has an underwater robotics team.

For information about MATE and the International Robotics Competition, visit www.marinetech.org/rov-competition. Contact mentor Dr. Kevin McKone at kevin.mckone@colin.edu for information about the Seawolves.

Academic & baseball all-stars & schedules

By Bob Arnold

The National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) has recognized 37 Co-Lin student-athletes for excellence in the classroom.

Named to the NJCAA All-Academic First Team (4.0 GPA) are Carmen Manicea of Castellion de la Plana, Spain, and Kara Clark of Brookhaven women's tennis; Connor Mire of Natchez, Landon Murphy of Hazlehurst, Tristan Mosley of Cleveland, and Swayze Bozeman of Flora, football; Harmoni Ashley of Wesson, Katelyn Hayman of Clinton, and Marley Poole of Brookhaven, softball; Houston Mims of Columbus, Kylar Fielder of Bogue Chitto, Thomas Slagle II of Roxie, and Trey Frierson of Canton, baseball; and Logan Pitts of Laurel, golf.

On the NJCAA All-Academic Second Team (3.8-3.99 GPA) are Amber Brinson of Wesson, Callie Fortenberry of New Hebron, and Carly Polk of Brookhaven, softball; Ashlyn Locke of Brookhaven, Katy Clark of Brookhaven, Madison Shows and McKenzie Shows, both of Mendenhall, women's tennis; Ryan Zimmerman of Mandeville, Louisiana, baseball; Bryson Jones of Madison and Peyton Miller of Southaven, golf.

Named to the NJCAA Academic Third Team (3.6-3.79 GPA) are Alex Mooney of Wesson, Austin Tidwell of Calhoun, Louisiana, Brooks Italiano of Ridgeland, and Zachary Smith of Hattiesburg, baseball; Deion Dampier of Pinola, Quentin Euell Jr. of Jackson, Tedric Campbell Jr. of Southaven, and Trenton Tyre of Madison, football; Felicity Norwood of Magee, women's basketball; Ky'Albri Washington of Laurel, Makenzie Gros of Labadieville, Louisiana, and Tori Pettit of Florence, softball; Lance Madison of New Orleans, Louisiana, men's basketball.

Fifty-five Co-Lin student athletes also earned All-State recognition for academic performance. Earning Distinguished All-State recognitions for maintaining of GPAs 3.8 and higher were Swayze Bozeman, Conner Mire, Tristan Mosley, and Landon Murphy, all football players, Bryson Jones, Peyton Miller, Logan Pitts of the golf team, Kyler Fielder, Trey Frierson, Houston Mims, Thomas Slagle, and Ryan Zimmerman of the baseball team, Harmoni Ashley, Amber Brinson, Callie Fortenberry, Katelyn Hayman, Carly Polk, and Marley Poole of the softball team, and Kara Clark, Katy Clark, Ashlynn Locke, Carmen Manicea, Madison Shows, and McKenzie Shows of the women's tennis

team.

Named as Academic All-State student-athletes for maintaining a 3.25 GPA were Lance Madison and Lazorian McNulty both men's basketball players, Dellesheonia Dixon, Orien James, and Ciara Norwood of the women's basketball team, Mackenzie Gros, April Lynn, Tori Pettit, Julie Scheuermann, Hannah Walls, and Kyalbri Washington of the softball team, Clint Stephens, Austin Tidwell, Zach Smith, Joshua Day, Conner Ingram, Brooks Italiano, Tucker Jones, Zach Joyner, Landry McQueen, and Alex Mooney of the baseball team,

Lucas Brewer, Bryce Chapman, and Will Marble of the golf team, and Keshawn Brinkley, TJ Campbell, Deion Dampier, Hayden Davis, Quentin Euell, Rico Owens, and Trent

Tyre of the football team.

"Our coaching staffs, faculty, and administration are committed to guiding these student-athletes to graduate and be in the best position possible while at Co-Lin," said Co-Lin Athletic Director Bryan Nobile. "We are so proud of what they have accomplished on



Wesson News

The Co-Lin Lady Wolves tennis team was recognized as the National Junior College Athletic Association's (NJCAA) Academic Team of the Year in women's tennis.

the field and off the field."

Wesson All-Stars hot in post-season. Wesson Athletic Foundation baseball and softball teams fared well in post season games. The 7U baseball All-Stars competed in the USSSA state finals, while 10U baseball All-Stars and 12U softball All-Stars copped their USSSA championships. The 7U All Stars were Parker Elliot, Walker Breazeale, Hunter McCollough, Robbie Lowery, Ty Morris, Sawyer Warren, Hayden Rushing, Jax Poole, Brody Ponder, Rosson

Falvey, Levi Highfill and Owen Davis. The 10U players were Layton Earls, Baylor Smith, Levi Lockhart, Demarion Smith, Bryant Parker Robins, Layton Cloy, Tripp Martin, Aiden Wallace, Dawson Selman, Tyler Berch and Jack Wilson. The 12U team member were Mary Loy, Allie Dawsey, Miranda Anderson, Baleigh Parks, Annaston Poole, Mackenzie Hux, Kailee Nuckles, Kensy Covington, Laney Kat Earls, Emme Barrett, Lily Kat Channell and Marley Grace Russell.

CO-LIN FOOTBALL

August		October	
29	Holmes 6:30 p.m.	3	East Central 6:30 p.m.
September		10	at Hinds 6:30 p.m.
5	Northeast Mississippi 6:30 p.m.	19	Jones College (Homecoming) 3:00 p.m.
12	at Pearl River 6:00 p.m.	26	at Southwest Mississippi 5:00 p.m.
19	at Northwest Mississippi 7:00 p.m.		
26	Gulf Coast 6:30 p.m.		

WESSON HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

November		December	
2	Laurel Classic TBA	9	West Lincoln 5 p.m. (G) 6:30 p.m. (B)
5	at Magee 5:30 p.m. (G) 7 p.m. (B)	12	at Bogue Chitto 5:30 p.m. (G) 7 p.m. (B)
7	McLaurin 5:30 p.m. (G) 7 p.m. (B)	13	Crystal Springs 5:30 p.m. (G) 7 p.m. (B)
9	Brookhaven Invitational TBA	16	Hazlehurst 5 p.m. (G) 6:30 p.m. (B)
11	Brookhaven 5:30 p.m. (G) 7 p.m. (B)	19	Franklin County 6 p.m. (G) 7:30 p.m. (B)
14	North Pike 6 p.m. (G) 7:30 p.m. (B)	January	
18	Terry 5:30 p.m. (G) 7 p.m. (B)	7	Magee 5:30 p.m. (G) 7 p.m. (B)
21	McComb 5 p.m. (G) 6:30 p.m. (B)	9	Loyd Star TBA
December		14	Bogue Chitto 5:30 p.m. (G) 7 p.m. (B)
2	West Lincoln 5 p.m. (G) 6:30 p.m. (B)	16	at Franklin County 6 p.m. (G) 7:30 p.m. (B)
5	at North Pike 6 p.m. (G) 7:30 p.m. (B)	21	at Hazlehurst 5 p.m. (G) 7:30 p.m. (B)
		23	at Loyd Star TBA
			*G - Girls
			*B - Boy

Community Calendar

August & September weather forecast: The Old Farmer's Almanac calls for an average temperatures 79 degrees F (one degree below average) with precipitation of 7.5 inches (three inches above average) in August and temperatures of 74 degrees F (two degrees below average) with precipitation of 4.5 inches (average) in September. August 12-18: Sunny, warm. August 19-26: Scattered t-storms, warm. August 27-31: Showers, cool. September 1-4: Hurricane threat. September 5-9: Isolated t-storms, warm.

JULY 9

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

AUGUST 15

WorkKeys Assessment for Career Readiness Certificate. Call 601-643-8707 to registers in advance. Thames Center on Wesson Co-Lin campus. 12:45 p.m.-5 p.m. Also August 29 & September 10.

AUGUST 18

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.

AUGUST 20

Institute for Learning in Retirement membership social. Introduction of events calendar. Refreshments served. Thames Center on Co-Lin Wesson campus. 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Call 601-643-8705 for information.

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

AUGUST 22

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

AUGUST 26

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.

SEPTEMBER 2

Labor Day.

SEPTEMBER 3

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.



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Airport, truckers, band, comfort & pay

Special to Wesson News

Airport improvements. Over the next twelve months, Brookhaven-Lincoln County Airport will complete four projects costing \$1.2 million funded in part by \$554,000 in grants. It has won a \$190,000 competitive grant from the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) to rehabilitate a hangar on Heucks Retreat Road and will use another \$190,000 from the Federal Aviation Administration to extend a taxiway -- part of a \$12 million twenty-year airport improvement plan approved by the Brookhaven Board of Aldermen earlier this year. Also on the improvement agenda is construction of new hangars and relocation of the airport's fuel farm after demolition of hangars.

Legalizing truckers. Wesson's Board of Aldermen and local law enforcement authorities are looking at ways to legalize driving 18-wheelers on Sylvarena Road for truckers who live there. The Aldermen have deemed Sylvarena a "no-truck road" and truck drivers have asked board members how do they go to work or get home if the law is strictly enforced. Mayor Alton Shaw admits it's a quandary, noting "the way the law is written, it's a question as far as what

can be allowed and not allowed."

Lions band reigns. The Mississippi Lions Club All-State Band continues to reign as one of world's top performing groups. The 144 student musicians in the 2019 edition of the band has returned from Europe after winning the first place award in the Lions International Parade of Nations competition. Since 2003, the Mississippi band has placed first in the competition every year except in 2008 and 2012, when it did not go to the Lions annual international convention.

On-the-road fun & comfort. The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) advises packing age-appropriate items for fun and comfort on long road trips: Books and magazines, crossword puzzles or word searches and podcasts for youth and adults. Coloring books or a small hand-held gaming device for children. Classic travel games such as "20 Questions" or "I-Spy" are other entertainment options. To enhance comfort, pack water, snacks and maybe even a little caffeine for those long stretches on the highway; blankets

and pillows so passengers can nap, tissues, disinfectant wipes and paper towels; a cell phone charger. "Comfortable passengers, especially when traveling with children, makes for more alert and focused drivers," says MDOT Executive Director Melinda McGrath. For longer road trips, take breaks and stretch your legs every couple of hours, MDOT suggests. For additional summer travel tips or other travel related information, visit MDOTtraffic.com.

Teacher pay raises. The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) has determined that 40,991 teachers and teacher assistants are eligible for the state-funded \$1,500 pay raise. The number of teaching positions exceeds the original estimate of 31,157 and will increase the overall cost of the pay raise to \$76.9 million with benefits -- \$18.5 million more than anticipated. The expanded list of teaching positions eligible for the pay raise goes beyond classroom teachers, counselors, teacher assistants and librarians to include specialized positions such as dyslexia therapists, intervention

specialists, audiologists and psychologists, among others. Districts will be allocated enough money through the current appropriation to cover the monthly cost of the teacher pay raise.

Equifax restitution. People affected by the massive 2017 Equifax data breach will receive 10 years of credit monitoring and may be eligible for restitution following a \$600 million multistate settlement reached with the consumer reporting agency by attorneys general across the country, Mississippi Attorney General Jim Hood reports. The state of Mississippi will receive almost \$1.4 million of the \$175 million going to states, with the remaining \$425 million set aside for eligible consumers. In September 2017, Equifax, one of the largest consumer reporting agencies in the world, announced a data breach, affecting more than 147 million consumers -- nearly half of the U.S. population, including 1.3 million Mississippians. Breached information included Social Security numbers, names, dates of birth, addresses, credit card numbers, and in some cases, driver's license numbers. A multistate investigation found hackers penetrated highly sensitive personal information because Equifax failed to implement an adequate security program.

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- 2010 Chev 1500 LT Ex Cab.....5.3V8, PW,PL, Chrome Wheels, Sharp!
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July Honor Yards



Wesson News

Wesson Garden Club recognized the landscaping efforts of Wesson Baptist Church (top), Jason and Mandy Jones at 1046 A.D. Whitt Drive (center) and Ricky and Dana Gunter at 1025 West Street (bottom) Yard of the Month honors. The awards, based on maintenance principles and elements of landscape design, seek to encourage ongoing beautification and cleanliness of the Wesson area and cultivate a citizenry that values and protects natural resources and assumes responsibility for enhancing the environment. The Garden Club's Yard of the Month awards honor properties in organizational, town residential and rural residential (limited to Wesson School District) categories during the spring, summer and fall.

Grand opening launches new business location

Special to Wesson News

"I have always believed that arrogant businessmen die," Dwayne McLemore told close to a hundred community leaders and other townspeople who showed up last month to help officially open his new business location -- the 55,000 square foot building on Highway 51 in Wesson that formerly housed API Technologies, which left it two years ago.

At the grand opening ceremony, McLemore singled out "God's blessings," his family, including his wife Pam, "my partner in everything," the workers his business employs, Copeiah County Economic Development District Executive Director Arthur Lee (Pokey) Evans, Jr., among other help beyond himself that led to his new beginnings at the Highway 51 facility.

On hand at the special event along with those especially cited by McLemore were Wesson Chamber of Commerce members, Town Aldermen Billy Ellison, Mike King, Larry Hall and Stephen Ashley; Terry Chanell from the Copeiah County Board of Supervisors, District 76 State Representative Gregory Holloway and District 39 State Senator Sally Doty. They participated with McLemore in a ribbon cutting in front of his new business quarters, offered him congratulations and best wishes at a reception, toured the facility and enjoyed



Wesson News

More than one hundred community leaders and government officials helped launch new businesses at former API Technologies facility on Highway 51.

refreshments.

McLemore moved two metal fabricating companies -- Steel Outdoors and Alpha Machine & Welding -- from a 10,000 square foot facility in his Hazlehurst backyard, where he started them in 2005, to the former API building. At the facility, he is also launching a retail business that sell archery supplies and has installed an indoor archery range.

Steel Outdoors sells more than thirty

products throughout the United States, including varied types of deer feeders, deer blinds, fire pits and cookers and metal art. Alpha Machine & Welding engineers, builds and installs custom metal products for saw mills, food plants and other industrial customers located predominantly in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee.

McLemore's metal fabricating businesses currently employ fifteen persons

and the retail operation is adding seven workers.

The Highway 51 facility started as a garment factory and later housed Potter Production Corporation after Spectrum Control acquired the company in 1998. API Technologies, based in San Jose, California, acquired the Spectrum plant and consolidated the operation with its facilities in Pennsylvania in 2017.

Celebrity hairdresser comes to town

By Bob Arnold

When William Whatley meets cosmetologists to teach them about new tricks for their trade, there are usually thousands of them in his audience, but last month the celebrity stylist and television personality showed up at the Mill Town Salon & Spa in Wesson to talk to forty of them from a fifty miles radius encompassing the Brookhaven, Crystal Springs, McComb and Natchez areas, who paid up to \$40 each to learn about a styling, color and an advance technology beauty product line.

Just off a plane from Amsterdam, where he conducted a seminar for 2,000 cosmetologists, Whatley explained he loved the South ("I was born in Alabama. When I got off the plane, I just naturally started talking about 'y'all.'"),

but admitted the real reason he was in town was to help Kascy Falvey and her Wesson-based Southern Salon Supply Company, which has been successfully introducing Prorituals -- the product line he was here to discuss.

"Normally, cosmetologists have to go looking for seminars to keep on top of their profession, but we brought one to them for a change," Whatley said.

At the Wesson event, he demonstrated new coloring techniques, formulating and advanced cutting and styling with the new Prorituals line, which he described as "cutting edge for coloring and hair care for our industry."

Whatley, who came to California from Alabama at 11 years old and started selling beauty products at age 19, has worked his way beyond the client chair to salon

owner, stage artist and entertainer. He has taught coloring, cutting and styling for major beauty manufacturers, including Scruples, Sebastian, Aerorazor, and All-Nutrients, for thirty years.

A cosmetologist in his own right, he has owned salons serving the elite of Las Vegas and names like Tiffani-Amber Thiessen, Rita Rudner, Chippendales, Thunder from Down Under, Shirley MacLaine, Diana Degarmo, Page Davis, and Kristine W. He has worked with celebrities Christina Aguilera, Pink, Justin Timberlake, Cindy Crawford and many of the headliners on the Las Vegas strip.

At Las Vegas-based Robanda International Hair Brands, his teaching focus as Creative Artist Education Director encompasses eleven brands of beauty products used by salon professionals, includ-

ing Prorituals. When he is not in front of live seminar audiences, Whatley teaches on television. He hosted Fox's nationally syndicated *Ambush Makeover*, and has been featured on the Style Network, *The Today Show*, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *The Rachael Ray Show*, *On Air with Ryan Seacrest* and *Good Day LA*; and has done beauty segments for FOX Denver, FOX Minneapolis, FOX LA, FOX Atlanta and FOX New York.

Whatley has been featured for his work in *People Magazine*, *Modern Salon*, *American Salon*, *Sophisticate's Hairstyle Guide*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times*, *NY Times*, *Denver Post*, and was spotlighted in "Top 40 Under 40" by the *Las Vegas Review Journal*. He was named one of the top 50 hairdressers of the year two years in a row in *Behind the Chair*.



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Time to savor local marching bands

By Guest Columnist Shaw Furlow

If you are a regular reader of this column, you know I like marching bands, having spent forty-one years dreaming up new shows that were interesting and challenging to the students and entertaining for the audience. To this day, I still piddle with drill and music ideas.



Special to Wesson News

I loved riding over the bridge on Co-Lin's campus the week before band camp and looking at the yard lines that had been cut into the green field that served as my office for the next twelve weeks. I always said there was something romantic about a new season, with a new band and a new show. About eight weeks later the romance was shoved to the back and the real, hot work was front and center.

Marching bands work hard. Memorizing all the music in two weeks time is a challenge. Learning forty pages of drill sixteen steps at a time, and then putting it all together with the color guard and dancers on a now rutted and dusty field in ninety degree weather becomes a job for all concerned. But on performance night, when the stadium is full and the lights are on, all the work pays off. There is nothing like knowing you just nailed your show!

At Co-Lin, at least, I had a team of super smart, talented people to help with the creative side. I would pick the overall theme, and then the ideas just flowed like a swollen river over the dam. Cutting it down to ten and a half minutes then became the challenge. But I didn't always have a team. I spent a lot of my career being the entire staff.

A lot of hard work, but joys, too. So the directors, band members, and their supporters continue to stir the pot in our little corner of the world.



Wesson News

Award-winning Lions Club All-State Band.

Mark Dickerson, who was the assistant at Wesson, has moved on to become the head director --the only staff member, by the way -- at Loyd Star. Before coming to Wesson, Dickerson was in residence at Ole Miss, working



on his PhD in music education, with an eye on one day teaching at the University level. But in a recent conversation, he said "that's sorta on hold."

"I love teaching kids, and I'm not ready to stop doing that," he related.

"I'm looking forward to working here with this band." Loyd Star's theme this year is "Chess -- A Game of Revolution." The combination of classical music and rock and roll will depict the movement of chess pieces. Pretty cool idea, I think.

Director Andrew Bonner is beginning his third year at the helm of the Brookhaven High School Band. The 124-member band will present a show entitled "Moments of My Life," which features mostly original music, written specifically for this show. Bonner is one of those directors whom I like to watch rehearse a band. Positive, always prepared and moving forward. Fun to watch, for a band geek like myself.

With the departure of Suzi Phillips and Mark Dickerson, the Mighty Cobra Band from Wesson has all new leadership. The team guiding the band is Duval Salvant and Cody Spurlock. We wish them the best!

The Blue Wave Show Band at Co-Lin will bring the music of the First Lady of Soul, Aretha Franklin to Stone Stadium. Every song is a hit you will know. Tap your toes, clap your hands and sing along on.

Congratulations to the Mississippi Lions All-State on again winning first place in the Lions International band competition in Milan, Italy. Former Wesson director Suzi Phillips was on its staff this year. Well done, y'all.

That's it for this month. Get your hotdogs after the bands perform their show. They've worked awfully hard to entertain you. Support the arts and marching bands, my friends. You'll be glad you did.

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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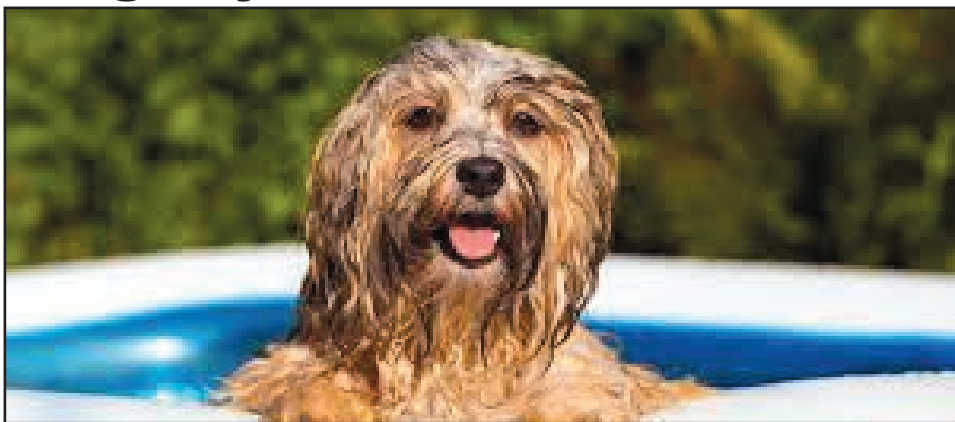
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'Dog Days'—summer's last blast



By Guest Columnist Rebecca Bates

There is no mistaking that the "dog days" of summer are here.

We all know the period between July and late August when the heat is oppressive, air is stagnant and there is no relief even at night. The "dog days," I always thought, were those summer days so devastatingly hot that dogs would do nothing other than lie around panting on a shady porch.

Originally, it had nothing to do with dogs, or even with the lazy days of summer. Instead, it turns out, dog days refer to the Dog Star, Sirius, and its position in the sky. To the Greeks and Romans, the "dog days" occurred when Sirius appeared to rise just before the sun in late July. They referred to these days as the hottest time of the year.

I look at these days as the last blast before fall. Children returning to school, the Exchange Club Fair, and my summer vacation. As I rest and recharge for a few weeks, I will dream of cooler weather, a fall vegetable garden, pansies, snapdragons and pumpkins on my door step.

TENDING YOUR GARDEN

It has been a very good summer — full of friends and family, dairy month activities and farmers markets. The "dog days" are

here for a while, so look to the sky for Sirius, and take a nap on a shady porch. I think those dogs have the right idea!

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

cont. from page 1

New company acquires Advanced Auto facility

unloading docks for its trucks, and close proximity to a major interstate highway," said Arthur Arthur Lee (Pokey) Evans, Jr. executive director of the Copiah County Economic Development District (CCEDD). "The only thing it lacks is access to a rail line, and Premier did not need that for its operations."

Evans credited the nature of the former AAP building and the efforts of Jackson-based Carpenter Properties in marketing it for the unusual speed in finding a new tenant for the facility.

"Rob and Philip Carpenter also kept us in the loop to provide the economic development assistance Premier required," he added.

Premier has committed to using local people in preparing the new facility for operations and working in the new jobs it is bringing to Copiah County, Evans reported. It has already hired Robert Collins for Hazlehurst as general manager of its operations. Local people have been hired to landscape the property and make needed repairs to the parking lot.

The turnout of job applicants for

the Premier open house last month demonstrated that Copiah County has a labor force that wants to work and has the necessary skills employers need, Evans said. "It shows the potential here," he affirmed.

Advance Auto's closure of its distribution center after fifteen years in the Copiah County Industrial Park affected 284 employees whom the Roanoke, Virginia, firm helped relocate and assisted in job searches. Premier is looking to expand slowly towards employing one hundred workers and then adding jobs as it continues to grow, Evans noted.

The AAP building is the second former industrial building occupied by a new employer in Copiah County in recent months. Outdoor Steel, which had previously operated metal fabricating facilities in smaller quarters at Hazlehurst, took over the former API building at Wesson in June.

"We're blessed to have companies recognize the positive economic climate in Copiah County and plan their future growth here," Evans said.

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