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# Wesson News

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Weekend  
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**Wesson News**  
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Volume 3, Number 9

*"Good News You Can Use"*

September 8, 2015

## Graham reflects on ten years of service

By Bob Arnold

Eleven years ago, Wesson's Board of Aldermen refused to agree to the removal of a railway crossing, walking away from \$60,000 in compensation offered jointly by the railroad company and Copiah County. Subsequently, the railroad company removed the crossing anyway, and Wesson received no money.

Van Graham does not recall the reasoning of the Board eleven years ago, but his disagreement with its decision and how it was made propelled him into Wesson politics.

"The Board could have obtained funds to pave five miles of streets," Graham says. "I thought it was a step backwards. I wanted to be part of a Board in which I could engage the key issues facing Wesson, express my opinions, and make decisions to



Wesson Mayor Alton Shaw (right) presents plaque to Van Graham honoring his service.

improve my community."

Wesson voters elected Graham to his first term as a town Alderman in July, 2005. Today, following his resignation from the Board of Aldermen because of a State Ethics Commission opinion that a town cannot do business with a company which employs an alderman, Graham believes he is leaving a board that reflects his vision a decade ago. And his vision is now broader, as well, encompassing wide involvement of citizens -- not just their aldermen -- who understand the issues affecting Wesson and how its government works, attend board meetings, take pride in the town, seek to contribute to it and have a sense of ownership in community development. He says this is vitally important in addressing the multifaceted issues that Wesson

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## Three contending for alderman post

By Bob Arnold

Wesson voters will choose from a management and budgeting executive in the oil and gas industry, a former administrator in Louisiana law enforcement, and a local plumbing and electrical contractor in a special election on Tuesday, September 15, for Alderman-at-Large.

Scott Allen, a process manager at Denbury Resources, which is based in Texas; Joel (Ric) Crockett, a retired purchasing agent from the Saint Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office in Louisiana; and Mark Douglas, maintenance director of Hazlehurst Public Schools, are vying for the seat on Wesson's Board of Aldermen vacated by Van Graham.

Graham resigned following an opinion issued by the State Ethics Commission that a town could not do business with any company which employs an alderman.

Allen, 39, a native of Loyd Star, married the former Joanne Stegall of Wesson and came to her hometown

thirteen years ago. He works in project management, scheduling, planning, and budgeting for Denbury Resources in Mississippi. Allen graduated from Loyd Star High School, Southwest Community College at Summit, and Co-Lin. He is a member of Zion Hill Church. Allen and his wife have three children, Bo, Chase and Maci.

Crockett, 70, and his wife Annette decided to make Wesson their retirement home after Hurricane Katrina forced them to leave Saint Tammany Parish, Louisiana, in 2006 to find shelter with relatives who live in the community. New Orleans-born and reared in Slidell, Louisiana, Crockett worked as a purchasing agent in the Saint Tammany, Louisiana, Parish Sheriff's Office for thirteen years after a career in automotive service. Crockett has served two terms as president of the Wesson Lions Club since relocating to Wesson and is a member of Wesson Baptist Church. He and his wife have three children, six grandchildren and three

cont. on page 3

## Wolfpack knocks off top team!

Co-Lin pulled off an unlikely come-from-behind gridiron victory in Wesson last week against the number one community college team in the nation. The Wolfpack tied East Mississippi 24-24 with less than a minute remaining in the fourth quarter, stopped a Lions drive to win the game in the final seconds, took a quick 31-24 lead in overtime and sealed the win on an intercepted pass. The number four team nationally going into the game, the Wolfpack should move up to number one this week in the official National Junior College Athletic Association poll. An unofficial pre-season poll ranked Co-Lin number one.



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# Old School reunion



Wesson News

At a memorabilia table, viewing photos from Old School days and copies of Wesson Enterprise about school events were (left to right) Bernice Furlow Benoit of Summit, Johnnie B. Watson and his wife Gladys of Lebanon, TN. The original Old School building was constructed in 1890, replaced in 1893 after a fire, served as both an elementary and high school until 1948 and operated with grades one through eight until 1960.



Wesson News

More than forty persons came together at the Old School Community Center last month to recall and celebrate the days the facility met educational needs. They included former students, teachers, and staff when the community center was a school and others with indirect ties as friends and relatives of those who attended. They were (left to right in first row) Billy Gordon, Annette Gordon, Carolyn Miller Graham, George Mercier, Dottie Mercier, Montra Wooten, Maudell Ashley Weeks, Margie Howington Fore, Margie Kelly Smith; (left to right in second row) Kenneth Furr, Julia Arnold, Miriam Middleton Moyer, Karen Weeks, Bobbie Barlow Kimble, Bernice Furlow Benoit, Harold Furlow, Dan Twiner, Middi Twiner, Marilyn Hutson Britt, Clifford Britt; (left to right in third row) Edward Graham, Sunny Wooten, Dale Smith, Johnny Weeks, Herbert Kimble, Larry Barlow, Doris Fay Teaster, Susan Hennington, Marcia Shehea Teaster, Gladys Watson, Sonya White Cowen; (left to right in fourth row) W.L. Smith, David Derrick, David Teaster, Albert Hennington, James L. Teaster and Johnnie B. Watson.



Wesson News

Among persons at the Old School reunion recognized or honored were (left to right) Larry Barlow, son of staff member Virgie Barlow; Mary Ann Smith Jasper, teacher; Johnny Weeks, son of staff member Mary Alice Weeks; Johnnie B. Watson, who traveled the farthest from Lebanon, Tennessee for the event; David Derrick, son of teacher Rev. W. E. Derrick; George Mercier, son of teacher Mrs. Inez Mercier and oldest former student in attendance at age 98; Miriam Moyer, daughter of teacher Mrs. Mary Pearl Middleton; and Sonya Cowen, daughter of Principal N. B. White and Catherine White, teacher. Margie Fore, daughter of staff member Virgie Howington, is not pictured.



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# Alderman election

City Clerk Linda Dykes says Wesson voters who have moved to new residences in the town need to complete change-of-address forms. In verifying signatures for candidates running in the special election for Alderman-at-Large on September 15, a number of unreported address changes were discovered. While this did not affect the validation of signatures for the special election, it could create problems for voters in the general election if they reside in different wards, Dykes warns. Change-of-address forms are available at City Hall.

great grandchildren.

Douglas, 57, was born in Vicksburg, and has lived in Wesson since he was fifteen years old after moving around Mississippi with his father, who served varied churches as a pastor, and his mother. He graduated from Wesson High School, completed a vocational course at Co-Lin and has worked as a plumber and electrician in the area. He started his career at Coleman Plumbing and Electrical Contractors, a former local company, worked as a maintenance technician for twenty-four years in Copiah County Schools, and has directed the Hazlehurst Public Schools maintenance program for the

past four years. He has also run his own local plumbing and electrical business. Douglas has participated in the life of Spring Hill and Zion Hill Churches. He and his late wife Sandy had two children, now grown, Mandy and Bobo.

Allen says Wesson lost a good Alderman in Van Graham and is offering himself as a candidate for his vacant position to provide the same kind of service to the community. Crockett says he intends to draw on his background to work on communications issues between Wesson citizens and their local government. Douglas says he is "a concerned citizen," knows the people of Wesson and wants to meet as many of them as he can during his campaign so he can better help his town as a public servant in the process.

If one of the three candidates does not receive a majority vote in the September 15 election, a runoff election between two candidates will be held two weeks later. In case of a tie vote on September 15 or in a subsequent runoff, a publicly drawn lot supervised by an election commission will determine the winner.

Polls will open at 7 a.m. on September 15 and close at 7 p.m.



Ric Crockett



Mark Douglas



Scott Allen

# Community Calendar

**September weather forecast: The Old Farmers Almanac calls for an average temperature of 79 degrees F (three degrees above average for this time of year) and precipitation of 3.5 inches (one inch below average for this time of year).**

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

**SEPTEMBER 9**

American Heart Association classes covering adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation and basic first aid techniques for non-medical professionals such as family members of people at high cardiac risk and workplace lay rescuers. Students who satisfactorily complete the skills performance receive a CPR/FA/AED certification card. Thames Center of Co-Lin campus. 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. For information about registration and fees, contact Toni Dobbins at 601-643-8716.

**SEPTEMBER 10**

Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR). Workshop and movie. At the Swap Ideas Day workshop, participants will trade creative and helpful ideas ranging from the serious to the whacky. Following a light lunch, the movie "McFarland" will be shown. Co-Lin Thames Center. 10 a.m.

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

**SEPTEMBER 11 & 12**

Lincoln County Wildlife Expo features vendors with hunting season products, an alligator demonstration and exhibit, a wild hog display, snake man Terry Vandeventer, 3-D archery, a laser hunting game and a silent auction to benefit a Wood, Wheels & Water Outdoors "hunt of a lifetime" for a physically-challenged person. A 5K Heroes Run on the morning of September 12 will honor emergency responders in the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the U.S., armed forces personnel and veterans. \$6 for adults; \$5 for children between five-years-old and twelve-years-old; free for children under five-years-old. Lincoln Civic Center, Brookhaven. 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. (September 11); 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. (September 12).

**SEPTEMBER 14**

Beginner clogging classes for persons of all ages beyond age 5 are held every Monday night. A small fee is charged each month. Brookhaven Recreation Department on Highway 51. Call 601-833-3791 for information.

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

J.M. Wesson Masonic Lodge # 317 meeting. Masonic Lodge building on Highway 51. 6 p.m.

**SEPTEMBER 17**

50+ Club. Sara Murphy of the Mississippi Alzheimers Association. Anderson Building at Co-Lin. 10:30 a.m.

Lunch and Learn sponsored by Friends of Lincoln County Public Library. "How to Start Tracing Your Roots" on genealogy will be the program. Free to the public. No need to register. Bring your lunch. Vernon Room at Lincoln County Public Library. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Brookhaven Regional Arts Guild (BRAG) monthly meeting for artists and patrons. Vernon Room at Lincoln County Public Library. 5:30 p.m. For information, contact Modestyann@aol.com and visit Brookhaven Regional Arts Guild on Facebook.

American Legion Post #79 meets. American Legion Lodge on Main Street, Wesson. 6:30 p.m.

**SEPTEMBER 19**

Prostate Awareness 5k Walk/10k Run to promote prostate cancer awareness and treatment. Funds raised will support the Prostate Cancer Foundation. Pick up and return forms at the front desk of King's Daughters Medical Center Fitness Center, Brookhaven. The event starts at the Chamber of Commerce building in downtown Brookhaven. Registration at 7:30 a.m. and the walk and run at 8:30 a.m.

**SEPTEMBER 22**

Institute for Learning in Retirement day trip to Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Departs Co-Lin Thames Center at 7 a.m.

**SEPTEMBER 24**

Thursday Theater sponsored by Friends of Lincoln County Public Library will feature the movie "My Cousin Vinny." Bring snacks. Vernon Room at Lincoln County Public Library, Brookhaven. 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

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

**SEPTEMBER 26**

Rockin' Railroad Festival features arts, crafts and flea vendors; a songwriters workshop and vocal competition. Downtown Hazlehurst. All day.

Nashville recording artist Jeff Bates in concert. New Sight Baptist Church. 6:30 p.m. For information, call 601-835-8809.

**OCTOBER 1**

Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) luncheon. Guest speaker will be Homer Richardson of Brookhaven on the history of Lincoln County. Anderson Food Service Lab on the Co-Lin campus. 10:30 a.m.

Registration deadline for artists at least eighteen years old to enter acrylic, oil, pastel and water color paintings; photography, ceramics, mixed media, 3D and drawings in the Brookhaven Regional Arts Guild (BRAG) Seventh Annual Arts Competition. Works must be original, no larger than 36 inches, no heavier than twenty pounds and have wire hangers (no sawtooth hangers). Nudes or objectionable subjects will not be accepted. Vernon Room at the Lincoln County Public Library. 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

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

Fundraiser for the Darlene "Doll" Slater Rehabilitation Center for Women. Tickets are \$30 for individuals and \$300 for sponsorship tables. Lincoln Civic Center, Brookhaven. 6 p.m.

**OCTOBER 2 & 3**

Ole Brook Festival features arts, crafts and flea vendors, entertainment, a Cure 5K Run/Walk and car show. Downtown Brookhaven. 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. (October 2) and all-day October 3.

Email Community Calendar items to [bobarnold@wessonnews.com](mailto:bobarnold@wessonnews.com)

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# Hardy Wilson Hospital moving to new building



Wesson News



Wesson News

Construction of the new hospital started in April.

## Wesson News

At age 65, Hardy Wilson Memorial Hospital (HWMH) is moving to a new home.

The 25-bed Hazlehurst critical access health care facility, which accepted its first patient in September 1950, will begin operations on October 2016 in a new one-story 54,000 square foot building on a 20-acre property on the south side of Highway 28 near the Interstate 55 Hazlehurst interchange.

Discussion about a replacement building for Hardy Wilson has been ongoing since 2010, and construction started on the \$12 million facility in April. A Copiah County bond issue is financing the project. Jackson-based architects, Dean and Dean Associates, designed the building, and Hattiesburg-based Hanco is the construction project contractor.

"We're very excited about our relocation to a new modern building," HWMH Chief Executive Officer William Giles says. "It is the product of a Country Board of Supervisors and commissioners who want to

provide the best patient hospital care possible in Copiah County."

Giles says Hardy Wilson is about "having personalized care close to home." It was established under the Hill-Burton Act, is a member of the American Hospital Association and Mississippi Hospital Association and is licensed by the Mississippi State Department of Health. "We offer state-of-the-art medicine and services provided by our physicians and devoted medical professionals," says Giles "Our emphasis is primary and preventative care, coordinating the right care at the right time, and in the right place, to keep our patients well. We have a longstanding mission of caring for our area residents with respect and dignity. We strive daily to create a culture of compassion and service excellence."

Under a contract, Keystone Medical Services operates a 24/7 emergency room (ER) for HWMH with a staff of doctors and nurses who provide care for Level IV trauma and sudden illnesses that require immediate intervention. Depending on how

critical the condition of patients, it may transfer them by private ground or air ambulance services to Brookhaven or Jackson. ER registered nurses are Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) certified, burn certified and stroke certified.

Local physicians use HWMH for patients who require:

- Short term outpatient care for emotional difficulties, including depression, anxiety, grief, family issues, relationship problems and difficulty with aging, among other issues.

- Twenty-four hour nursing care associated with medical and surgical needs.

- Cardiac-monitoring.

- Physical therapy for pain, surgical and medical rehabilitation and wound care.

- Occupational and speech therapy.

- Radiological services, including ultra sound, MRI, digital mammography, multi-slice CT scan, doppler echocardiograms, radiological imaging and PADNET arterial studies.

- Respiratory therapy, pulmonary function studies, EEG, EKG and asthma education.

- Spiritual care.

- Individual and group counseling to address needs related to dependencies, recovery from illness and adjustment to life.

- Assistance in reaching their maximum level of independent functioning following acute care.

- Surgical services and procedures, including colonoscopy, EGD, feeding tubes, general and pediatric dentistry, podiatry, plastic surgery, general surgery and wound care.

Medical technicians and board certified pathologists conduct physician-ordered lab tests at HWMH, including hematology, serology, pathology and chemistry profiles. A hospital pharmacy fills all medications for inpatients.

"The new hospital facility will offer an improved environment for our existing services, and its 20-acre site will allow us to expand easily as we develop capacity to meet new demands," Giles says.

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# Graham reflects on ten years of service

shares with other small towns not only in Mississippi, but throughout the nation.

Over the past ten years, Graham says he has learned to appreciate the value of municipal ordinances in functional communities, to work with limited resources and to reach beyond them to not only provide basic services, but to advance the community as well.

Graham cites Dollar General's decision to locate in Wesson as a high point during his service as an Alderman. "The Board had laid the groundwork for the new business; and Mayor Shaw made a personal telephone call to the company's officials to make it happen," he relates. Graham also considers the Old School community center, new sidewalks, work which is scheduled to begin on a municipal park and the renovation of City Hall as high points that "reflect recent emphasis the town has placed on developing sources of revenue outside sales and property taxes through grants from federal and state government and private organizations."

As for the low points, Graham says: "I have learned that things take time. It can be years after the photo opp with the giant cardboard check that you get the real check to begin a project."

Graham credits the town's relationship with the Mississippi Municipal League (MML) for helping improve governance by the Board of Aldermen and guiding it in serving Wesson. MML provides technical assistance and training to people in municipal government and advocates for municipalities with federal, state

and private entities. Mayor Shaw served as its president during 2014, and Wesson Aldermen attend the group's annual convention, where they go to basic, advanced and professional classes to become Certified Municipal Officials.

Board of Aldermen meetings reflect the impact of MML, Graham believes. "We address Wesson's key issues, thoroughly discuss them, and usually arrive at a consensus in making decisions," he observes. "It's because we're all on the same page in our approach to governing." Further, MML has equipped him personally to deal more effectively with the how and why questions about municipal government posed by voters, Graham says.

An MML speaker, who talked about "Changing the Character of Citizens," also shaped Graham's current vision of involved citizenry. The Board of Aldermen, he says, produces better solutions more quickly when interested citizens present issues to the board and engage in discussion with it on addressing them, adding that "Wesson is not a problem-free Mayberry of television fame. The town faces wide-ranging issues from the minor 'd and ds' -- dogs and ditches -- to infrastructure and crime and drugs," Graham explains. "Over the next ten years, Wesson will face significant challenges related to its water lines, which are old and fragile. The town will need to generate funds through grants and other sources to replace them."

Graham says if you had told him forty years ago he would be

employed in Wesson and serving as an Alderman, he would have laughed. A Wesson native and graduate of Wesson High School, he attended Co-Lin on a band scholarship, then started his career in the hardware business in the Jackson area, where he worked until 1991 with the exception of six months in Savannah, Georgia. He and his wife Wendi returned to Wesson to take over the home in which his grandparents had resided on Ninth Street. He joined Wesson Ace Hardware in 2000. He and Wendi have a daughter, Jessica Renee, and a son, John Marshall (wife Sarah) and two grandsons, Gabriel and Ian.

"I want to thank the people of Wesson who gave me the opportunity to serve and voice my opinions," Graham says. For the immediate future, however, he plans to devote his time to his increasing management responsibilities at Wesson Ace Hardware and his volunteer activities at Wesson Baptist Church, including the choir and committees on which he serves. He foresees no involvement in government, at least until he fully retires ten years or so down the road. "In some ways, I am relieved to scale back," he says. "Throughout my life, I have had a tendency to take on too much and put pressure on myself to meet the responsibilities I had assumed. I will not miss having to deal with the public on town issues at work when my mind is focused on the hardware business."

Graham's advice to his successor: "Expect the unexpected. Be proactive. Don't wait for things to break before fixing them."

## Police Blotter

Special to Wesson News

During August, Wesson Police Department activity encompassed:

**Response to:**

- Seven general complaints
- One traffic accident

**Citations & arrests:**

- Fifteen speeding violations
- Six driving with a suspended license
- Three with no tags
- One with an improper cover for a tag
- Two possession of marijuana
- Three possession of beer
- One stop sign violation
- Three child restraint violation
- One improper equipment
- One failure to yield to blue lights
- One open container

On school days, the Wesson Police Department facilitates traffic flow at Wesson Attendance Center with officers on duty between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

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- Member: Wesson Lions Club
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# Convocation & exhibit celebrate Co-Lin centennial

## Wesson News

Co-Lin, which started in 1915 as an agricultural high school, is celebrating its one hundredth birthday.

A convocation on the Wesson campus last week commemorated the occasion, and a pictorial history exhibit at the Evelyn W. Oswalt Library, which will run through homecoming, is continuing the centennial anniversary celebration.

More than 200 students, faculty members, and guests attended the September 3 convocation.

At the convocation, featured speaker Cindy Hyde-Smith, a Brookhaven native and Co-Lin graduate, who serves as the Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce, connected her current service to the state to her community college days and "getting a solid foundation" beyond academics in being "taught to care, to strive, to reach for dreams and how to make decisions." The people at Co-Lin told her "we can help you to learn, to achieve, and to become a better person," she said.

Dr. Ronnie Nettles, Co-Lin's current president, and his immediate predecessors, Dr. Billy Bass Thames, who served the college from 1968 to 1997, and Dr. Howell C. Garner, who

was the school's president from 1997 to 2008, also highlighted the convocation. They provided an overview of Co-Lin's expansion from an agricultural high school into a junior college and later a community college with branches in Natchez and Simpson County.

Thames and Garner recalled how student life had changed and pointed to additions to the school's physical plant and advances in its programs. Nettles noted the current construction of a pedestrian corridor and mall that will forever change the appearance of the Co-Lin Wesson campus with its landscaping, walkway and new places to congregate. Student government president Greta Carley recounted that she came to Co-Lin to advance her



R.L. Landis (standing) spearheaded drive to establish the agricultural high school that became Co-Lin.

Special to Wesson News

athletic career, but "became a student and leader and found memories and friends." She said that is what Co-Lin was about yesterday, is about today, and will be about tomorrow.

The convocation closed with the student choir singing the *Co-Lin Alma Mater*, which "isn't heard too much around here today," Nettles

admitted; and distribution of special one-hundredth anniversary booklets that tell the story of Co-Lin.

Following the convocation, the event audience and program participants adjourned to the Oswalt Library for a reception and to view the pictorial history of Co-Lin exhibit.

cont. on page 9

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# Pedestrian corridor construction begins



**Wesson News**

Construction has begun on a pedestrian corridor that will upgrade and re-establish walking access to historic sections of the Co-Lin Wesson campus. The project encompasses walkways, landscaping and connectivity to Wesson through existing pedestrian walkways and paths and will make several health, fitness and recreational areas and activities on campus safe and easily accessible to townspeople as well as the college population.

The target date for completion of the project is July 2016.

“We are very excited to finally get the project started at Co-Lin,” said Co-Lin President Dr. Ronnie Nettles. “It has been a three-year process of planning and preparation. When finished, it will transform the appearance of our campus. I am very grateful to our staff for getting us to this point, especially Dr. Jeff Posey who wrote the original grant proposal

and was very involved during the engineering and design process. All of us are very grateful to the Mississippi Department of Transportation and especially to central district Transportation Commissioner Dick Hall for assistance and support in securing the funds for this project.”

A \$1 million federal grant through the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is providing funds for the project. TAP works with local public agencies, including municipalities and community college districts, to construct, plan and design facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists and other non-motorized forms of transportation.

“It will have a positive and lasting impact on generations of students at Co-Lin,” said Nettles. “This project will complete our plan to move vehicle parking to the outer areas of campus and will allow the center of our campus to become a safe and accessible area for students.”



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**ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER**

September is Margaret Lackey State Missions Month

- Sept. 13th Mission Trip Fundraiser Meal
- Sept. 19th Annual Peanut Boil (Starts at 5:00 PM, Come Early to Fellowship)
- Sept. 23rd-26th REVIVAL, 6:30 PM (Wednesday-Saturday)

Speaker for Revival is "Jonathon Sherwin" and Music Leader "Hunter Runnels". You are invited for four days of worship. We all need revival regardless of our circumstances. As a member of the Body of Christ, Let's show our support. We are all a vital part of the One Body and all belong to each other.

# Inroads made against grim disease

By Guest Columnist  
Dr. Stephanie Duguid

September is Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Month.

"Muscular dystrophy" covers a group of neuromuscular disorders that cause muscles in the body to gradually weaken and progressively degenerate. A rare and fatal form -- Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), one of nine types -- affects one in 3,500 newborn boys throughout the world. It is caused by the absence of dystrophin, a protein that helps keep muscle cells intact. Symptoms begin in early childhood, usually between ages three and five.

Symptoms usually appear before age six



and may appear as early as infancy. They include fatigue, intellectual disability and learning difficulties (the IQ can be below 75), muscle weakness, problems with motor skills (running, hopping, jumping), frequent falls, trouble getting up from a lying position or climbing stairs and weakness that quickly gets worse. Muscle weakness can begin as early as age three, first affecting the muscles of the hips, pelvic area, thighs and shoulders, and later the skeletal (voluntary) muscles in the arms, legs and trunk. The calves often are enlarged. By the early teens, the heart and respiratory muscles also are affected.

A child with DMD who experiences difficulty walking may lose the ability

to walk by age twelve and require a wheelchair. Breathing difficulties and heart disease usually start by age twenty. Until relatively recently, boys with DMD usually did not survive much beyond

## LIVING +HEALTHY+

their teen years. Thanks to advances in cardiac and respiratory care, however, life expectancy is increasing. Many young adults with

DMD now attend college, have careers, get married and have children. Survival into the early thirties is becoming more common and, in some cases, men may live into their forties and fifties.

Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy (PPMD), a national not-for-profit organization founded in 1994 by parents of children with DMD and Becker muscular dystrophy, seeks a cure for

Duchenne and relies on the generosity of individuals around the world who believe in its mission and in the power to make a difference in the lives of those diagnosed with the disease and their families. For more information, visit [www.parentprojectmd.org](http://www.parentprojectmd.org) or [www.endduchenne.org](http://www.endduchenne.org). Those who attend the Co-Lin-East Central Community College football game at Decatur, Mississippi, on September 24 can support the September 26 Coach to Cure MD campaign of college coaches.

*Editor's Note: Dr. Stephanie Duguid is Assistant Dean of Academic Instruction and the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Division Chair at Co-Lin. She is also an athletic trainer and nutrition specialist and has been teaching courses related to those two areas as well as practicing what she preaches for more than twenty years.*

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cont. from page 6

# Convocation & exhibit

The library exhibit, created by Division of Fine Arts chairperson Janet Smith and library director Ken Chapman, presents photos that trace Co-Lin's history from its founding in 1914 and 1915 and capture the college's milestones over the course of one hundred years. The photo coverage encompasses, among other things, personalities and events in the life of the college, including:

- R.L. Landis and other Wesson leaders who promoted public awareness of the importance and value of education and spearheaded the creation of the agricultural high school that was the foundation of Co-Lin
- The first Co-Lin Board of Trustees
- The Wesson campus landscape has changed over the years with expansion
- The Natchez campus established in 1975
- The Simpson County Center, which opened in 1997
- The six presidents who have

directed the college and its four board chairmen

- State-of-the art equipment and tools used in career/tech training
- Championship teams in sports

Co-Lin expanded into a two-year junior college in 1928, discontinued its high school curriculum in 1979 when Wesson Attendance Center opened, and became a community college in 1988.



Cindy Hyde-Smith Special to Wesson News

# WAC homecoming court



Special to Wesson News

Members of the Wesson Attendance Center homecoming court are (front row, left to right) Blayten Windom and Bently Roberson, Mr. and Miss Wesson Attendants; Tyler Berch and Jaycee Heard, Homecoming Queen's Attendants; (second row, left to right) Justin Hynum, Mr. Wesson; Aysha Thomas, Miss Wesson; Olivia Allen Justin Hynum, Mr. Wesson; Aysha Thomas, Miss Wesson; Olivia Allen, Senior Maid; Nikki Castilav, Senior Maid; Cheyenne Gladden, Senior Maid; Lindsey Alford, High School Football Maid; Mary Beth Munn, Junior Maid; Aurianna Vaughn, Junior Maid; (third row, left to right) Natalie Bonds, Eighth Grade Maid; Charlotte Drane, Freshman Maid; Brooke Jones, Sophomore Maid; Amber Brinson, Sophomore Maid; Shaylin Green, Freshman Maid; Riley Smith, Eighth Grade Maid; (back row, left to right) Laynee Crapps, Seventh Grade Maid; Shelbi Maxwell, Jr. High Football Maid; and Shelbi Martin, Seventh Grade Maid.

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# Fall gardening means vegetables for winter

By Guest Columnist Rebecca Bates

Fall gardening means fresh vegetables right into winter. Many fall gardens carry over from summer gardens.

Tomato plants, okra, peppers and eggplant, if cared for during the summer, will continue to produce until a killing frost. To keep them producing, control insects, diseases and weeds, and keep them watered and fertilized.

A good fall garden also involves planting new vegetables to produce in fall and early winter.

Many cool-weather vegetables normally planted in the spring grow and produce better in the fall. Keep in mind that our median date of the first freeze is November 8 to 12. Vegetables typically planted in the fall are bush snap beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, chard, Chinese cabbage, lettuce, mustard, onions, radishes, rutabagas, spinach and turnips.

A fall garden is open to attack by insects and diseases just as the summer garden. In some cases, the insect problems are worse. Worms (cabbage loopers and imported cabbage moths) are serious problems for fall cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli and collards.

Control these leaf-eating worms with one of the biological sprays. Squash bugs are also troublesome on fall squash and pumpkins.

Fall vegetables also need fertilizer as much as spring and summer vegetables. Don't count on fertilizer applied in spring to supply the fertilizer needs of vegetables planted in late summer and fall. Fertilize before planting, and side-dress as needed.

As the danger of frost approaches, pay close attention to the weather predictions. Tender plants often can be protected from an early frost and continue to produce for weeks. When a killing frost is inevitable, harvest tender vegetables.

Don't abandon the garden when freezing temperatures kill the plants. Clean up the debris, store stakes and poles; take a soil test and row up part of the garden to be ready for planting early Irish potatoes and English peas.

*Editor's Note: Rebecca Bates is a Mississippi State University Agricultural Extension Agent based in Lincoln County courthouse at Brookhaven. Telephone: 601-835-3460. Email: rebeccab@msstate.edu.*

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# Homecoming weekend has full agenda

## Wesson News

A concert performance by the Co-Lin Tenors -- a trio consisting of Joe Elliot, Dwayne Nix and J.D. Longmire, who sang together in the 1980s and is reuniting for the occasion -- will begin Co-Lin's homecoming weekend at 6 p.m. on Thursday, October 1, at the Ewing Fine Arts Auditorium. An array of competitive events, receptions, parties, reunions and special ceremonies, along with the homecoming football game, also await returning alumni and other participants.

Homecoming festivities will feature a golf tournament sponsored by the baseball team and reception for former Alumni of the Year honorees at the President's home on Friday, October 2.

A full agenda of events, including a 5K Walk/Run, business meetings with awards and induction ceremonies, a tailgate party and reunions, highlight Saturday, October 3. Reunion groups will be recognized at the alumni luncheon, and the college class of 1965 will be presented with golden anniversary pins. For help planning a reunion a class or group, contact the alumni office at 601-643-8498.

The kick off at Stone Stadium for

the homecoming game against Pearl River is 2:30 p.m. on Saturday.

The full schedule of homecoming events includes:

### October 1

Three Co-Lin Tenors performance. Ewing Fine Arts Auditorium. 6 p.m.

### October 2

Homecoming Golf Tournament. Wolf Hollow. 12 noon. For more information, contact Clay Smith at (601) 643-8412

Reception honoring former Alumni of the Year. President's home. 5 p.m. Former Alumni of the Year who do not receive an invitation by September 15 should contact the alumni office.

### October 3

Running with the Pack 5K Walk/Run. Stone Stadium. 7:30 a.m.

General Registration. J. M. Ewing Administration Building/Ewing Fine Arts Building. 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Sports Hall of Fame induction & annual business meeting of the Co-Lin Athletic Alumni Association. Rea Auditorium, Ewing Administration Building. 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Band/Colette Alumni Chapter Hall

of Fame inductions, presentation of Stanley Steward Outstanding Young Alumni award and annual business meeting. Maggie Flowers Ewing Fine Arts auditorium. 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Co-Lin Alumni Association Awards Luncheon and annual business meeting. Cafeteria, Henley Building. Tickets are \$12 and may be purchased at morning registration at Rea Auditorium or at the door. 11 a.m.

Tailgate Party. Food, music, children's games and activities, pep rally featuring the Blue Wave Show Band and cheerleaders. Stone Stadium. 12:30 p.m.-2 p.m.

### Reunions:

College Class of 1955. Oswalt Library.

College Class of 1965. For information on the college reunion, contact Sonya White Cowen at 601-643-5256 or Patricia Smith Walker at 601-757-2627.

Former students and colleagues of the late Dr. Phyllis Lanier. Open house and dedication of the new chemistry lab in Smith Hall to be named after her. 1 p.m.

Class of 1975 will meet at the alumni luncheon and later at the tailgate

party. If you are a member of this class, contact Marilyn Brown at 601-643-8701 for details.

1985 Championship Football team. Tailgate party at Stone Stadium prior to the football game. If you played on the team, contact Coach Ray Ishee at (601) 757-7616 or the alumni office for details.

Former men's tennis coach Mike McIntyre's reunion with former players. Former players interested in attending should contact McIntyre at mike.mcintyre@colin.edu.

Other classes that end in "5." Under the tents at Stone Stadium.

2000 and 2005 College World Series baseball teams. Tailgate outside baseball field house 1 p.m. If you played on these teams, contact Clay Smith at 601-643-8412 for more information

Pre-Homecoming game ceremonies. Stone Stadium. 2 p.m.

Football Game. Co-Lin vs. Hinds Community College. Stone Stadium. 2:30 p.m.

High School Class of 1965 reunion. Thames Center. 6 p.m. For information, contact Anne Munson Daigle at 225-324-5243 or Gloria Smith Sweatman at 601-835-1444.



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**WE FINANCE**

# Five new sports Hall-of-Famers inducted

Special to Wesson News

Five former Co-Lin athletes -- Jacob Blakeney of Magee, Jaris Patrick of Mendenhall, Ralph Sanders of Wiggins, the late David Smith of Wesson and Corey Verrett of Opelousas, Louisiana -- will be inducted into the college's Sports of Hall of Fame by the Athletic Alumni Association (AAA) at its 9 a.m. annual meeting in Rea Auditorium during homecoming festivities on Saturday, October 3. They will be recognized

All photos Special to Wesson News



Jacob Blakeney



Jaris Patrick



Ralph Sanders



David Smith



Corey Verrett

later at the alumni luncheon at 11 a.m. in the cafeteria and also during halftime of the homecoming game.

Blakeney, a 2001 Co-Lin graduate, played on the 2000 Wolfpack College World Series baseball team and was named All-State, All-Region and All-District. After Co-Lin, he played baseball at Mississippi State University, where he received a Bachelor's Degree and All-SEC Academic distinction. He continued his playing career with an Atlanta Braves minor league franchise from 2003-2005 and was named Pitcher of the Week. Blakeney earned a Master's Degree at Mississippi College, obtained his teaching certification at William Carey University and was a teacher and coach for five years at McLaurin Attendance Center and Mendenhall Junior High School before joining Peoples Bank in Magee

as a loan officer in 2013.

Patrick, a 1967 Co-Lin graduate, played football for the Wolfpack and was named All-State and All-American. He lettered in football and was named Best Defensive Player at Delta State University, where he received a Bachelor's Degree before starting his career as a teacher and coach at Columbia City Schools in 1970. After a 20-year career as a private business owner, he returned

to teaching and coaching in 1993 in the Rankin County School District, in which he served as head junior high football coach, assistant high school football coach, and as athletic director and head high school football coach until his retirement in 2014. He was a District Coach of the Year for seven consecutive years, Blitz 16 Coach of the Year and *Clarion Ledger* Metro Coach of the Year twice. He led his teams to two state, three south state, and six district titles. Patrick currently directs Mendenhall's summer league baseball program.

Sanders, a 1960 graduate of Co-Lin, played football team for the Wolfpack and was an All-State selection.

He lettered in football at Delta State University, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree; taught and coached in Mississippi and Louisiana. He served in the Army National Guard for eight years, operated a Sears catalog store and enjoyed a successful career in real estate and appraisal.

Smith, a 1980 graduate of Co-Lin, was twice named Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges

Coach of the Year, leading Lady Wolves softball teams to five division titles, two state championships and

two runner-up finishes in the national tournament from 1992 to 2001. He first served as an assistant softball coach as a student at Co-Lin, earned a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and a Master's Degree from Jackson State University, and returned to Co-Lin in 1982 as the assistant to the dean of student activities and cheer coach. Smith left coaching when Co-Lin eliminated slow pitch softball and served as an administrator for Copiah County Schools until illness forced him to retire.

Verrett, a Co-Lin radiography applied science graduate, was a singles and doubles state and regional champion on the tennis team in his freshman and sophomore years in 1990 and 1991, helping it capture state and regional championships and place among the top ten in the nation with an undefeated season in 1990. He achieved national ranking in singles and doubles and is the only Co-Lin male tennis player to win eight individual state and regional

championships. Verrett was a tennis instructor for more than twenty years and continues to offer free tennis clinics in his community.

**WAC softball team returns eight.** Wesson Attendance Center's girls slowpitch softball, which includes players from seventh through the twelfth grades, is looking to improve its 12-15 record of last year. Eight players are returning, including Kaitlyn Smith, who led the team with a .518 batting average in 2014; Harmoni Ashely, Auriana Vaughn, Amber Brinson and Cheyenne Gladden, who had .473, .361, .346 and .329 batting averages respectively. Brooke Jones, Riley Smith and Catherine Wilson are also returning to a team Head Coach Michelle Nunnery describes as "a scrappy bunch that will not give up easily" and "will be a very solid team on defense."

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Wesson, Mississippi

## Upcoming sporting events

### September 8

Wesson Attendance Center junior varsity & varsity Girls Slowpitch Softball teams at Florence. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Co-Lin Men Soccer Wolves at Mississippi Gulf Coast. 7 p.m.

### September 10

Wesson Attendance Center junior varsity & varsity Girls Slowpitch Softball teams play Lawrence County. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Co-Lin football Wolves at Mississippi Delta. 7 p.m.

### September 11

Wesson High School football Cobras at

Seminary. 7 p.m.

Co-Lin Lady & Men Soccer Wolves play Pearl River. 5 p.m. & 7 p.m.

### September 12

Wesson Attendance Center junior varsity & varsity Girls Slowpitch Softball teams play Mendenhall. 1 pm. & 2 p.m.

### September 14

Wesson Attendance Center junior varsity & varsity Girls Slowpitch Softball teams play Lawrence County. 5 pm. & 6 p.m.

Wesson Junior High School football

Cobras play South Pike. 5 p.m.

### September 15

Co-Lin Lady & Men Soccer Wolves play Jones. 4 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

### September 17

Wesson Attendance Center junior varsity & varsity Girls Slowpitch Softball teams at Franklin County. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Co-Lin football Wolves play Southwest Mississippi. 7 p.m.

### September 18

Wesson High School football Cobras play Raymond in Homecoming Game. 7 p.m.

Co-Lin Men Soccer Wolves at Meridian. 4 p.m.

### September 21

Wesson Junior High School football Cobras team play at Lawrence County. 5 p.m.

### September 22

Wesson Attendance Center junior varsity & varsity Girls Slowpitch Softball teams at Hazlehurst. 4:30 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.

### September 23

Co-Lin Lady & Men Soccer Wolves play Northwest. 2 p.m. & 4 p.m.

### September 24

Wesson Attendance Center junior varsity & varsity Girls Slowpitch Softball teams at Lawrence County. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Co-Lin football Wolves at East Central. 6 p.m.

### September 25

Wesson High School football Cobras at Mt. Olive. 7 p.m.

Co-Lin Lady & Men Soccer Wolves at Northwest. 2 p.m. & 4 p.m.

### September 26

Wesson Attendance Center varsity Girls Slowpitch Softball team plays at Brookhaven Tournament

### September 28

Wesson Junior High School football Cobras team play North Pike. 5 p.m.

### September 29

Wesson Attendance Center junior varsity & varsity Girls Slowpitch Softball teams

play Franklin County. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Co-Lin Men Soccer Wolves at East Central. 4 p.m.

### October 1

Wesson Attendance Center junior varsity & varsity Girls Slowpitch Softball teams play Hazlehurst.

5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

### October 2

Wesson High School football Cobras at Hazlehurst. 7 p.m.

Co-Lin Lady & Men Soccer Wolves at Holmes. 2 p.m. & 4 p.m.

### October 3

Wesson Attendance Center varsity Girls Slowpitch Softball team at Crystal Springs. 11 a.m.

Co-Lin football Wolves play Pearl River in Homecoming Game. 2:30 p.m.

Co-Lin Lady Soccer Wolves play Xavier. 6:30 p.m.

### October 5

Wesson Junior High School football Cobras team play McComb. 5 p.m.

### October 6

Wesson Attendance Center junior varsity & varsity Girls Slowpitch Softball teams play West Lincoln.

5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Co-Lin Lady & Men Soccer Wolves play Southwest. 4 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

### October 8

Wesson Attendance Center junior varsity & varsity Girls Slowpitch Softball teams at Mendenhall. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Co-Lin football Wolves at Hinds. 7 p.m.

### October 9

Wesson High School football Cobras play Port Gibson. 7 p.m.

Co-Lin Lady & Men Soccer Wolves play Mississippi Gulf Coast. 4 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

### October 13

Wesson Attendance Center varsity Girls Slowpitch Softball team plays in first round of playoffs.

Wesson Junior High School football Cobras team play at Franklin County. 5 p.m.

## SCOREBOARD

### Wesson High School

**Football:** McLaurin 7-Cobras 6; Cobras 26-Sumrall 16; Cobras 44-Bogue Chitto 8.

**Girls Slowpitch Softball:** Cobras 11-Mize 0; Cobras 1-Raliegh 0; Cobras 6-Raliegh 5; Puckett 4-Cobras 1; Cobras Junior Varsity 15-Bogue Chitto Junior Varsity 4; Bogue Chitto 13-Cobras 0; Cobras Junior Varsity 6-Brookhaven Junior Varsity 5; Cobras 11-Brookhaven 1; Cobras Junior Varsity 5-West Lincoln Junior Varsity 1; West Lincoln 10-Cobras 0; Cobras Junior Varsity 4-Puckett Junior Varsity 0; Puckett 5-Cobras 2; Cobras 15-South Pike 0; Bogue Chitto 7-Cobras 0; Cobras 10-Clinton 0; Pearl 2-Junior Varsity Cobras 0; Cobras 7-Pearl 0; Cobras 24-Crystal Springs 1.

### Co-Lin

**Football:** Wolves 26-Itawamba 14; Wolves 31-East Mississippi 24.

**Mens Soccer:** East Central 3-Wolves 2; Holmes 4-Wolves 2.

**Womens Soccer:** Millsaps 4-Wolves 0; Holmes 5-Wolves 1.



Wesson News

Rod Gibson (center), a Mississippi Delta Community College (MDCC) assistant football coach for the past twelve years, has been named running backs and strength and conditioning coach for the Co-Lin Wolfpack football team. The Greenwood, Mississippi, native was an All-State running back for Greenwood High School and then at MDCC, his alma mater, where he played in 1996 and 1997. At Mississippi State University, where he earned a BS in Education Psychology and M.Ed. in Sports Administration, he played on the 10-2 1999 team that defeated Clemson in the Peach Bowl and served as a graduate assistant coach before going to Delta. He is best remembered at MSU in 1999 for his one-yard touchdown run with 1:39 remaining in the game to beat LSU 17-16. Gibson was on the Southeastern Conference Academics Honor Roll.

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# 'Places' for local musicians

By Guest Columnist Shaw Furlow

I have been thinking a lot about "place" lately. In an essay entitled "Place in Fiction," Eudora Welty, the great Mississippi author, discussed the value of one's home in writing stories. But "place" means different things to different people. For instance, Furr's Service Station in Wesson is the place for a group of long-time friends who gather daily in the shade of the canopy and solve the mysteries of the day. Others gather at their church. They volunteer to decorate the fellowship hall for wedding receptions, birthdays and children's programs. It's their "place," and they feel at home among their friends. And there are other places: lodges, clubs, deer camps, barber shops. The list goes on.



For musicians, local music stores and recording studios are important places.

Church pianists, country rockers, blues men, and the occasional touring band passing through town all pop into the music store for one reason or another. Some need sheet music or strings. Most just want to hang out and be among their

group. In our area, Brookhaven Music and Sound is that place. At Brookhaven Music and Sound, owner Tyler Bridge, who opened it 2009, has created a place that not only sells everything from ukuleles to trombones with a repair department second to none, but has a vibe so inviting, you just want to come in and hang out a while.

Located on South Railroad Street in one of the old downtown buildings, you instantly know you are among friends when you walk through the door. On

Saturday mornings, you may run into a local band director or two, discussing the previous night's half-time show. Or one of their students needing a new flip folder. Musicians of all ages and stripes coming together to solve the mysteries of the day.

If you have read my columns regularly, you know my son is in the recording business and I, too, recorded an album two years ago. I do not profess to be an expert on the industry, but I find recording studios fascinating places. In this area, the aforementioned Tyler Bridge and Nick Smith are recording engineers and producers with studios.

Smith and Bridge have been friends a long time, and their musical paths have often entwined. For several years, they played in Generations, a band which was legendary in south Mississippi. They both spent a lot of time in recording studios and are "first call" players, who have learned their trade on both sides of the microphone. Smith has opened the Dipping Vat Studio in the old Route 1 Studio just outside of Monticello where many great artists -- Duff Dorrough, Carey Hudson, Don Jacobs and Virgil Brawley -- cut memorable CDs in its

big, comfortable tracking room. With Smith in the control room, its tradition is continuing, most recently with the latest projects of the Jason Miller Band and Josh Brister.

"Nick is carrying on a legacy over at

Dipping Vat," Bridge says. "That studio is legendary, and Nick is doing great work."

Bridge's studio is located in the back of his music store. And while the tracking rooms at Dipping Vat and Brookhaven Music differ in appearance, they are big enough to set up a full band for live recording. Recently, Tyler recorded a project for the Mississippi School of the Arts' Total Praise Choir and Andi Cotten's wildly successful CD, "The Bridge."

Both producers will tell you technology has changed the recording business. Today, a person like my son Cole can open a studio in the bedroom of a home. All you need is a fast computer, a recording program like ProTools and a microphone. Sounds simple, doesn't it? It is anything but. Bridge and Smith worked as recording musicians long before they decided to produce.

You may think the two old friends are in competition with each other, but that is hardly the case. In fact, the two often send each other projects to work on. With technology as it is, Bridge can record a bass part in his studio and then via the internet send it to Smith.

Coming out of Dipping Vat is a young artist from Monticello, Mike McCall, who Smith says is a powerful singer/

songwriter. And from Brookhaven Music and Sound, my good friend Tony Norton is putting the finishing touches on his first album, "Songs From An Unfinished House." Good luck to both artists as they begin to promote their products.

Both studios also stay busy by recording demos for young, local musicians. Not everyone is a star. "A lot of our recording business comes from cutting tracks for dance teams and cheerleader squads," adds Bridge.

So we all have our place. That place where we feel at home. For musicians, it's music stores and recording studios.

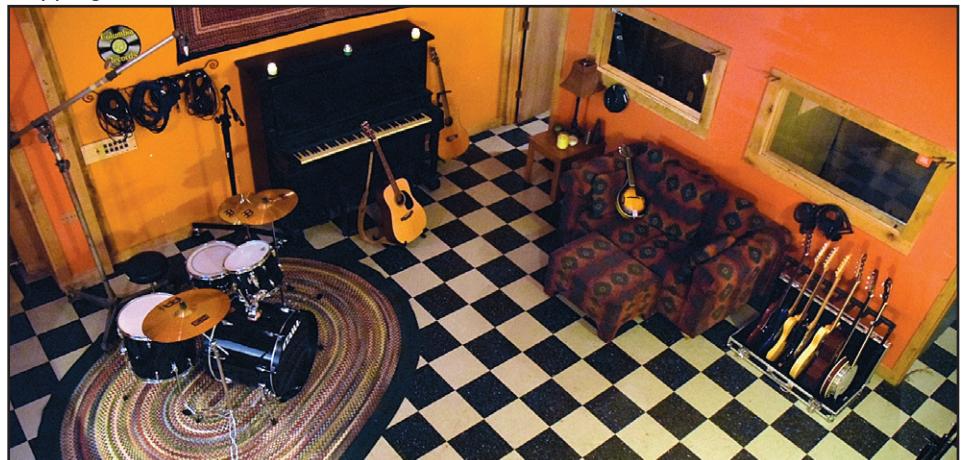
Until next time, support the arts!

*Editor's Note: Shaw Furlow is director of the Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame.*



Special to Wesson News

Dipping Vat Studio at Monticello.



Special to Wesson News

Area musicians Duff Dorrough, Carey Hudson, Don Jacobs and Virgil Brawley recorded at Dipping Vat when it was the Route 1 Studio.

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# Chamber planning holiday kickoff event



Wesson News

Honored as Co-Lin Outstanding Faculty Advisors are (left to right) Dr. Praveen Ramaraju, Natchez campus chemistry/physical science instructor; Keith Stovall, Wesson campus sociology/psychology instructor; Lane Flynt, Simpson County Center program coordinator of practical nursing; and Rhonda Posey, Wesson campus computer information systems technology instructor.

## Special to Wesson News

The Wesson Chamber of Commerce is urging area residents to mark Thursday, November 12, on their calendars and save the date for a special event to usher in the holiday season. Chamber president Marilyn Britt promises a festive occasion from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Old School community center.

"This will be a very special treat for Wesson area residents and a celebratory beginning to the holiday season," Britt says. The holiday celebration, which the Chamber is calling "Where Music Meets Art," is being built around the visual arts and music and will feature Brookhaven-born watercolorist Wyatt Waters and local bands in an informal ambiance with food and refreshments.

Waters, who now resides in Clinton and maintains a gallery there, is known for his paintings of Mississippi roadside subjects, rural landscapes, and cityscapes with scenes of Jackson. He started painting and exhibiting his works in the 1980s, and national magazines such as *American Artist* and *Watercolor* have focused on his art. He has taught at Mississippi College and Millsaps and worked as

an Artist in Residence in the Clinton and Meridian public schools.

More details on the program, including availability of tickets, will be announced in the coming weeks.

**Grant for theater.** As part of its \$1.61 million grants program made possible by the Mississippi State Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Mississippi Arts Commission awarded \$7,500 to Brookhaven Little Theater (BLT) to support its 2015-16 operations. Started in 1968, BLT is one of the oldest continually running community theaters in the state.

**New police officer.** A former Rockport, Massachusetts, police officer has joined the Wesson Police Department as a part-time patrolman. Peter Griffin and his wife Kelly relocated to Brookhaven, choosing the Southern lifestyle over that in suburban New England. Griffin also is working full time for the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office and plans to pursue a degree in criminal justice.

**Spotlight on yards.** In harmony with its vision of constantly beautifying the Wesson area, maintaining its

cleanliness and cultivating a citizenry that values and protects natural resources and assumes responsibility for enhancing the environment, the Wesson Garden Club is launching a Yards of the Month awards program. The program will recognize properties in three categories: The Town of Wesson residential. Rural residential, limited to the Wesson School District outside the corporate area of the Town. Business. The program will spotlight both property owners and tenants, with those who are recognized receiving Yard of the Month signs to be posted on their properties. Guidelines for selecting yards will encompass such criteria as grooming, attractiveness, property maintenance and cleanliness, among other things. The Garden Club selection committee will tour the Wesson area each month to choose yards for honors. Although formal nominations are not required, the Garden Club invites suggestions from local citizens. Call or text 601-757-7724 to nominate qualified yards, especially for those outside the Wesson corporate area.

**Co-Lin updates.** Georgia Pacific's Monticello mill has donated more than 1,200 items, including bearings, brushes, valves, motors, gauges and other parts and tools that are no longer relevant in its day-to-day operations, to provide hands-on experience for students in Co-Lin's new millwright career training program.

**The three-year-old** fast-track program for Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) to accelerate their studies towards receiving an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) from Co-Lin is ending. Dr. Jane Hulon, Vice President of Instructional Services, said the college's LPN and ADN programs will continue as normal, but the accelerated program was not as successful as hoped, with some students unable to pass their boards. The program will end when currently-

enrolled complete their studies.

**Plans for a new president's house,** estimated to cost around \$400,000 and to be located on the site of the current home, are being developed by a Co-Lin Board of Trustees committee. Trustee Melton King said the current home is outdated and "we need a president's home that is in keeping with what we feel like a president's home should look like."

**Co-Lin Associate Degree** nursing program graduates from Copiah County were Taraneika Bogan, Clair Mitchell, Reagan Mobley, Jessica Reeves, Carrington Sullivan, Kristin Traxler, Shannon Wallace, Ashley Young and Haley Young.

**Howell C. Garner** High Performance Award recipient is Glenda Silverii of Brookhaven, an English instructor who coordinates Co-Lin's Quality Enhancement Plan.

**Ralph and Dot Franklin** Scholarship has been presented by the Co-Lin Foundation to Anna Richardson of Brookhaven, also head Colette for 2015-16 at the college. Dot Franklin assisted in establishing the Colettes in 1949-50, and her husband, Ralph, directed the Co-Lin bands program.

**Six Copiah County** students were among thirty-nine inductees into the Co-Lin Delta Alpha Chapter of Sigma Kappa Delta (SKD) --

the national two-year honor society in English: Auston Crow, Brandi McInnis, Baily Middleton, Bailey Warren and Elise Whittington of Wesson and Taylor Smith of Crystal Springs. Pamela Reid and Nicole Donald are Delta Alpha Chapter advisors.

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