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Wesson News
PO Box 1028
Wesson, MS 39191

Volume 3, Number 8

"Good News You Can Use"

August 11, 2015

Pre-season poll ranks Co-Lin Number 1

Special to Wesson News

Heading into the 2015 football season, Co-Lin's Wolfpack is technically rebuilding after losing all but two starters from last year's squad. But it's more akin to reloading if the unofficial JCGridiron.com poll reflects reality. The poll by Rivals.com writer Brad Hoiseth ranks Co-Lin number one among the top thirty junior college/community college football teams in the country.

Gone are a two-year starter at quarterback, a National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) First Team All-American wide receiver and 24 sophomores who graduated and signed with colleges and universities to continue their football careers. But experienced freshmen from 2014, transfers and a crop of talented new freshmen are plugging the holes.

The offensive line will include a group that saw extensive playing time as freshmen, Kent Flowers, a quality lineman who transferred to Co-Lin from Mississippi State; and two freshmen that the coaches expect to strengthen the offensive line depth. Freshman quarterback Garrett Kruczek, who prepped at Lake Howell High School in Winter Park, Florida,

appears ready to step in where Daniel Fitzwater, who threw for 41 touchdowns and 5,764 yards in his career, left off. Lakedric Lee (North Pike), who rushed for 277 yards and three touchdowns as a freshman, returns at running back. Receiver, coaches say, may be the deepest position on the team with Julius Craft (Mendenhall), who caught ten passes for 100 yards and one touchdown as a freshman, returning at wide receiver, joined by Dayall Harris, a transfer from Ole Miss whom the coaches expect to make a major contribution; John Bridges, a Hazlehurst alum, who will move to receiver after playing cornerback as a freshman; and freshman receivers vying for playing time.



Wesson News

Wide receiver Julius Craft returns to Co-Lin in 2015 after making 10 catches for 100 yards and one touchdown last year.

On defense, Co-Lin returns its leading tackler in Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) Second Team All-State linebacker Zachary Williams and fleet-footed linebacker Marico Page, while Mississippi State commit Tre' Brown is returning to anchor the defensive line after making 22 tackles last season. Sophomore Ronald Walker has made the move to cornerback after seeing action at safety last season, and Mississippi State commit Lashard Durr will anchor another spot at cornerback after breaking up nine passes and grabbing two interceptions in 2014.

At safety, Adrian Scott and Joseph Ester return, joined by freshmen

Scooter Jones and Jaquarius Landrews.

MACJC Second Team All-State kicker Greg Nickles, who made 38 of 44 extra point attempts and 14 of 17 field goal tries, will be one of the top returning players at his position in the NJCAA. Nickles will also assume punting duties this season after the graduation of two-year starter Trent Furr.

Co-Lin will play nine games in 2015, including four home games. In its home opener on Thursday, September 3, Co-Lin plays the East Mississippi Lions, the defending NJCAA champions who twice defeated the Wolfpack last year 46-3 in the regular season and 54-15 in the MACJC State Championship game at Wesson.

Season tickets for mid-field chair back seats are available for purchase for \$100. Walk-up individual tickets in the reserved section are \$15 each. General admission tickets are \$5 for students and \$8 for adults. Co-Lin students are admitted free with their student ID. Wolfpack home games are video streamed live at www.colinathletics.com courtesy of the Co-Lin Electronics Technology Program and the Co-Lin Technology Department.

In memoriam



Wesson News

Charles Langley, long-time Commander of Wesson American Legion Post 79, died last month. Langley became active in American Legion leadership in Mississippi in the late 1980s after retiring from the armed forces in 1969 and then teaching electronics at Co-Lin. In addition to his local service, he served in a variety of state positions for the Legion, including State Commander in 1993-94.

September 15th set for Special Alderman election

By Bob Arnold

Wesson's Board of Aldermen set Tuesday, September 15, for a special election to choose a new Alderman-at-Large after accepting the resignation of a long-time fellow member who had to make a choice between his employment and service to the community as a result of a State Ethics Commission opinion.

Van Graham, an employee of Wesson Ace Hardware who was an Alderman for eleven years, resigned from the Board following a ruling by the Mississippi Ethics Commission that the Town of Wesson could not make purchases from any vendor for which an alderman works.

Potential candidates for Graham's

position can obtain filing papers from City Hall and must complete and submit them by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, August 26. Anyone filing as a candidate must provide signatures of fifty registered voters in Wesson.

If a candidate does not receive a majority vote in the September 15 election, a run-off election between the two candidates with the highest vote totals will be held two weeks later. In the case of a tie vote, a publicly drawn lot supervised by an election commission determines the winner. The Board of Aldermen will appoint without an election any unopposed candidate or fill Graham's vacancy with its own selection if no candidates file.

cont. on page 3



Wesson News

Mississippi Ethics Commission Executive Director Tom Hood.

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Kids Fire Academy returns in weekend format



Wesson News

Dropping, rolling, crawling to protect themselves from smoke.



Wesson News

Breaking in to a burning building from a roof.



Wesson News

Rescuing a victim.



Wesson News

Escaping from a window.



Wesson News

Kids Fire Academy participants experienced what it was like to be dressed for fire fighting.



Wesson News

Using a hose to extinguish a blaze.

Special to Wesson News

The Kids Fire Academy returned last month in a new condensed version for Wesson children in the seven-to-twelve-year-old age group.

The Wesson Fire Department (WFD) event took a hiatus last year when conflicts with church vacation Bible schools and pre-school year summer vacations forced its cancellation because of lack of participants.

This year, fourteen children participated in the Friday and Saturday program, which is designed like an academy for regular fire fighters. In the past, the program required a full week to complete.

WFD Kids Fire Academy leaders divided participants into small groups named for fire department functional teams such as the truck squad and rescue squad. The small groups took turns attending special learning sessions, including:

- Turnout drills in which the children put on and took off fire fighting uniforms and gear,
- A home safety class emphasizing the steps to take if fire breaks out or smoke is detected in a residence, including escape techniques.
- A Kids Combat Challenge -- a simulation exercise in which participants escaped from a burning building, carried a hose to a fire scene, hosed down a fire, broke into a burning building from the roof, and drop-rolled-crawled to protect themselves from smoke conditions.
- A class on first aid and CPR.

Wayne Roberts from the canine corps at the Copiah County Sheriff's Office talked about the perils of substance abuse and his work with a dog in finding illegal drugs. Wesson Police Chief Chad O'Quinn spoke about law enforcement.

The hands-on learning experience teaches fire safety, introduces children to the wider realm of

emergency response and, in the process, builds trust in the people who fight fires and protect the public, says WFD volunteer Frank Newell, also pastor at Decell Memorial United Methodist Church.

"Young children particularly, and even older kids, may know the principles of fire safety, but freak out when fire fighters and emergency responders show up in their uniforms and full gear," Newell points out. "We can look pretty scary. The Kids Fire Academy is important in building their trust and assuring they remain calm when an emergency occurs."

The Kids Fire Academy also can spark interest in fire fighting careers among children who participate in it. Newell points to at least one youth "who is chomping at the bit" to join the Wesson Fire Department when he turns 18 because of his Kids Fire Academy experience. "Even if they join other fire departments in the future, we can be proud of our role in stimulating excitement about fire fighting."

Kids Fire Academy participants included Ayden Carraway, John Rowan Dearing, Katlyn Horne, Brooklynne Hux, John Brayden James, Taylor McClain, Ben McKenzie, Martin McKenzie, Carter McLemore, Channel Shelton, Luke Shelton, Gandalf Sublett, Talon Sublett and Martin Tripp.



Wesson News

Wesson Volunteer Fire Department Chief Ken Carraway talks to Kids Fire Academy participants.

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Three arrested in three-year-old crime

Special to Wesson News

The investigation of an armed robbery at the Wesson Dollar General store three years ago has concluded with the arrest of three Brookhaven men.

Wesson Police charged Laterence Lenoir, 26, and Desmond Williams, 27, with armed robbery and Binshaun Motley, 23, with conspiracy to commit armed robbery in the aftermath of an ongoing joint investigation with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office.

The crime occurred on September 6, 2012, after closing time at the

Dollar General. Two masked men robbed the store at gunpoint in the incident.

"The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office was instrumental in solving the crime, and we greatly appreciated their work," Wesson Police Chief Chad O'Quinn said.

O'Quinn added that the Wesson Police Department does not close felony crime cases and has no time limit on investigations. "Once a crime is committed, we will investigate it to pursue justice and maintain the safety of our community, whether it takes two weeks or ten years," he said.

cont. from page 1

September 15th Set for Special Alderman election

The State Ethics Commission's advisory opinion last month that precipitated Graham's resignation responded to an inquiry by Wesson City Attorney Jeffrey Varas after the town became aware that there might be an issue around Graham's employment by Wesson Ace Hardware. Specifically, Varas asked the Ethics Commission: "May a town make purchases from a local vendor which has an alderman as an employee?"

"The ethics board's opinion, which has the status of a ruling, made clear that we could not do any business with Wesson Ace Hardware as long as it employed Alderman Graham," Mayor Alton Shaw said. "The opinion also is clear that we cannot do business with Ace over twelve months following Graham's resignation."

The Ethics Commission cited Section 109 of the Mississippi Constitution and Section 25-4-105(2) and (3)(a) of the *Mississippi Code of 1972* as the basis for its opinion. Commission Executive Director and Chief Counsel Tom Hood said that public officials who, in good faith, follow the directions of the Commission's opinions face no civil

or criminal liability.

Shaw announced that Graham would be honored at the September Board of Aldermen's meeting as "a dedicated public servant who had to make a difficult choice between his job and continuing community service."

At the August Aldermen's meeting, townspeople expressed frustration that the ethics board not only is prohibiting Wesson's municipal government from doing business with a major local retailer, but that the town will lose the benefit of the economic multiplier effect of spending that is diverted to Brookhaven or Hazlehurst stores, and will ultimately lose tax dollars as well. They also complained that small towns like Wesson often don't have competing businesses that need the protection of rigid ethics laws. At the same time, they pointed out that these communities can lose competent leaders and public servants, which are so vitally important for them. Graham noted that filing papers for Aldermen candidates don't warn about potential ethics problems.

"The issues are not simply addressed, however," Shaw noted. "They are constitutional in nature and not a matter of changing laws."

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Historic places register honors Wesson church



Wesson News

The community turned out to help Wesson Presbyterian Church celebrate the designation of its building as an historic edifice in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). At the event were (first row left to right) Ron Hartgraves, Paula Smith, Edward Graham, Tricia Nelson from the Copiah County Historical and Genealogical Society, who presented NRHP plaque to church; George Mercier, a church leader; Dottie Mercier, Mary Clopton, Wanda Smith, Dianne Jones and Bob Pettigrew; (second row left to right) Scott Speights, Camil Johnson, Anna Hartgraves, Ann Williams, Nena Smith, Mike Ganucheau, pastor of the church; Marilyn Britt, Carolyn Graham, Joe Smith and Renee Pettigrew; (third row left to right) Sharon Speights, Ed Smith, Hank Smith, Wesson Mayor Alton Shaw, Stephen Ashley, Beverly King, Linda Brent and Jerry Brent.

Wesson News

The Wesson Presbyterian Church building, which was constructed in 1887, has been recognized as an historic edifice with its placement on the *National Register of Historic Places* by the U.S. Department of the Interior (USDI) National Park Service (NPS).

More than thirty townspeople, including Mayor Alton Shaw, Wesson Chamber of Commerce board members and citizens who are interested in Wesson's history helped celebrate the NPS selection at a special ceremony last month in the sanctuary of the historic church building.

Tricia Nelson, a Mississippi College historic preservation instructor and a Copiah County Historical and Genealogical Society (CCHGS) volunteer, presented the plaque describing the honor to George Mercier, a leader of the church.

Mercier credited CCHGS as "the sparkplug" of the four-year process that culminated in the placement of the church building on the NPS register. In fact, Nelson, one of CCHGS's founders, jump-started the process back in 2008 as a Savannah College of Arts and Design Master's Degree student.

"As a graduate school project, I developed a draft nomination for a placement in the National Register of Historic Places," Nelson recalls. "From my volunteer work with the Copiah County Historical and Genealogical Society, I was familiar with old buildings throughout Copiah County and selected Wesson Presbyterian Church as the basis of my project because of Wesson's rich history and no churches in the town were on the national register."

Among buildings that house Wesson churches, the Presbyterian structure is the only one that has

served continuously for worship and other uses since the organization of the congregation that constructed it, Nelson notes.

In 2010, a couple of years after completing her project, Nelson learned that the church leaders wanted to pursue the register placement process and offered to help. Starting in 2011, Nelson and church members partnered to develop the official nomination, which included a full background on the building -- who designed and built it, materials used in its construction, plans and a description of its architectural significance -- along with a detailed history of the Wesson area. The nomination first went to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) for review. After going back and forth with MDAH, making changes and additions, Nelson and the church presented the nomination to an MDAH review board, which approved its submission to the National Park

Service.

"On January 16, NPS approved the nomination and placed the church in its National Register of Historic Places," Nelson relates.

Captain William Oliver, a devout Presbyterian from New Orleans who managed the historic Mississippi Mills which birthed the Town of Wesson, founded the church in 1871. His wife Mary, an artist, designed the building. For many years, the buildings octagonal steeple was a Wesson landmark standing over the town until a lightning strike and hurricane forced the church to take it down.

In 1889, the church's membership reached 215 at a time when Mississippi Mills employed 1,200 people. Today less than ten persons attend the church's Sunday worship services, which are held at 8:30 a.m. and led by an itinerate preacher associated with the Presbyterian Church in America.

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Police Blotter

Special to Wesson News

During July, Wesson Police
Department activity encompassed:

Response to:

- Report of a deceased person
- Four malicious mischievous incidents
- One suspicious person
- One petty larceny
- One simple assault

Citations & arrests:

- Thirty traffic violations
- One bond-jumping warrant
- Three contempt of court warrants
- One public drunkenness, disturbing the peace & resisting arrest
- One possession of marijuana
- One possession of paraphernalia
- One open container violation

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.

Habitat dedicates Wesson home



Wesson News

Copiah County Habitat for Humanity officials (left to right) dedicated a new home in Wesson: Brenda Harper (secretary), Daryl McMillian, Randall Day, James Mitchell (treasurer), David Yowell, Terry Channell, Kenny Powell and Jimmy Buchanan (president).

Wesson News

Belinda Thigpen and her five children have a new home on Machinery Street thanks to Copiah County Habitat for Humanity (CCHH).

CCHH officials dedicated their house at a special ribbon-cutting ceremony there last month. It is the third house the local Habitat chapter has completed since its founding 15 years ago.

At the ceremony, CCHH president Jimmy Buchanan said the mission of Habitat is to create quality affordable housing for persons who otherwise could not afford homes. He noted the Copiah County group has been slow to develop housing, but envisions building one home per year.

CCHH built the Thigpen home on property it purchased on Machinery

Street in 2010 from Starkey Coleman. The property also includes a lot next to the Thigpen home.

CCHH laid the foundation for the new home in June 2013 and identified Thigpen and her children as recipients of the home in that same year. Thigpen, a surgical technician at Hardy Wilson Memorial Hospital in Hazlehurst, is a single mom. Her five children, who attend Wesson Attendance Center, are Jerimiah Giles, Frank Thigpen, Jr., D'Arrius Thigpen, D'Asia Thigpen and Troy Thigpen.

"People fill out an application for a Habitat home," CCHH secretary Brenda Harper explains. "Habitat does a credit check. Although we select homeowners based on need, including the number of people in their families and income, they must have good credit and a job.

"Once Habitat builds a house and chooses the occupant, the homeowner repays Habitat the appraised value of the home with zero interest. Homeowners choose how many years they want to pay on a house, which determines their monthly payments. Their payments go into the bank to build up the Habitat account so it can begin building another home for another family."

The local Habitat chapter also has built homes in Crystal Springs and Hazlehurst, as well as the new one in Wesson.

In addition to Harper and Buchanan, local Habitat board members are James Mitchell (treasurer), David Yowell, Robert McCreary, Randall Day, John Hollon, Nicole Van Norman, Bob Berch, Terry Channell, Kenny Powell and Daryl McMillian.

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Community Calendar

August weather forecast: The Old Farmers Almanac calls for an average temperature of 81 degrees F (one degree above average for this time of year) and precipitation of 5.5 inches (three inches above average for this time of year).

AUGUST 11

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.

AUGUST 13

Final orientation/registration for Co-Lin freshmen and transfer students for the Fall 2015 semester. Dow-Young Building on Co-Lin campus. 9 a.m. For information, call (601) 643-8490.

Lions Club Family Night. Papa's Restaurant, Brookhaven. 6:30 p.m.

AUGUST 15

Old Wesson School reunion for former students, faculty and staff. Old School Community Center, Eighth Street, Wesson. \$20 fee to cover lunch and reunion costs. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For information, contact Carolyn Graham at (601)-643-5215.

AUGUST 17

Fall classes begin at Co-Lin. For information, call (601) 643.8490.

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.

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

Heating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Contren Level 1 starts. Classes, which provide 175 hours of training, meet Mondays and Thursdays. \$250 fee. Youngblood Building Rooms 11 and 12 on Co-Lin campus. 6 p.m-9 p.m.. For information, call (601) 643-8707.

AUGUST 18

Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) membership social. Fall semester classes, workshops, activities and events will be announced. Learn how to become a member. ILR is for adults at least fifty -years -old who are retired or semi-retired and want to participate in fun classes, interesting workshops, social events, monthly luncheons and trips. Thames Center at Co-Lin. 1:30 p.m.

Meet the Cobras. Program. Open house. Parent-Teachers Organization meeting. Wesson Attendance Center. 6:30 p.m.

AUGUST 20

50+ Club. Donna Bellech, horticulturist in Central Mississippi for the Mississippi State University Extension Service will speak. Mitchell's, Brookway Boulevard, Brookhaven. 10:30 a.m.

Lunch and Learn sponsored by Friends of Lincoln County Public Library. Jim McKennon from Tarkenton Financial will speak on "Women, Power and Money" about the need for a financial strategy, understanding yourself financially and becoming financially smart and strong. Men are welcome. 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. Lincoln County Public Library's Vernon Room. To be considered for the Artist of the Month honor, bring a work reflecting the August theme, which is "Friendship." After the meeting, artists can use the Vernon Room until 7:30 p.m. to work, watch others work, or visit. 5:30 p.m. For information, contact Brookhavenregionalartguild@gmail.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.

AUGUST 22

Copiah Animal Shelter's (CAS) fifth Annual Fundraiser Gala. Fun casino games, prizes, a silent auction featuring a diamond ring valued at more than \$1,000, a Grub Grab Raffle for food items donated by restaurants and bakeries, delicious heavy hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar courtesy of Brando's and a dance floor with music provided by The Mayflies. Attendees dressed in a casino theme -- as gangsters like Al Capone and Don Corleone, flappers, James Bond, Bond girls or Vegas entertainers like Celine Dion or Wayne Newton -- can win prizes. A High Roller King and Queen will be crowned for winning the most chips in the casino games. Tickets -- \$20 for adults, \$10 for children and youth seven-to-seventeen-years-old and free for children up to six years-old -- are available from CAS volunteers, at the All About Animals Veterinary Clinic in Crystal Springs and on the CAS website events page. The Warehouse, 216 East Railroad Avenue, Crystal Springs. 6 p.m. For more information, visit copiahanimalshelter.net or telephone (601) 954-6447.

AUGUST 24

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.

AUGUST 27

Thursday Theater sponsored by Friends of Lincoln County Public Library will feature the movie *Ethan Frome*. Bring snacks. 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 1

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

Occupational Safety and Health Agency (OSHA) training provides employees and other personnel with a broad awareness of recognizing and preventing hazards at general industry work sites. Students receive an OSHA Safety and Health 10-Hour Completion Card. Registration deadline is August 25. \$125 fee. Co-Lin campus. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Class also held on September 2. For information, call Toni Dobbins at (601) 643-8716.

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 on Co-Lin campus. 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. For information about registration and fees, contact Toni Dobbins at (601) 643-8716

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WESSON, MS

Contractor named for City Hall renovation

Wesson News

Renovation of City Hall will begin August 15.

The Wesson Board of Aldermen awarded Paul Jackson & Sons of Brookhaven a \$298,000 contract for the job.

The project, funded by a \$450,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) through the Mississippi Development Authority, includes complete exterior and interior repairs, alterations and upgrades that will make the government building on Spring Street accessible to persons with physical disabilities as prescribed by the Americans with Disabilities Act and asbestos removal and abatement as needed.

The building's facade will be replaced, floors leveled,



bathrooms remodeled, new doors installed and office space revamped.

The Paul Jackson contract covers construction alone. The total project cost is expected to be \$406,240 with all architectural, engineering, contingency, and other professional fees, as well as construction.

While the work is underway, the town's business will continue with personnel, files and equipment temporarily relocated to the building just east of the Wesson Public Library pavilion.

The Board of Aldermen previously named the Joseph Orr architectural firm based in Canton to develop precise plans for the renovation and Jackson-based Sample & Associates to manage the project grant.

DINING GUIDE



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Dancers honored



Special to Wesson News

Nena Smith's School of Dance presented its 2014-15 Hall of Fame Awards to students on the basis of attitude, attendance, talent, cooperation with teachers and dance classmates and participation in extra dance activities. They are pictured here with their teachers: (front row from left) Amelia Morehead, Allie Runnels, Ryleigh Sheppard, Aysha Thomas, Selena Ross, Anna Carolyn Graves and Erin Buckley; (middle row from left) Whitney Case, Anna Paige Verdecchia, Rachel Bozeman, Julianna Crosby, Parker Newman, Candace Johnson and Isabella Little; (back row from left) studio owner and teacher Nena Smith, administrative assistant Tammy Caruthers, assistant teacher Lindsey Alford, teachers Taylor Crane Berry, Kaitlyn Rhoads, Elizabeth Meese, assistant Teachers Abigail Hynum and Kaylen Boyte, teachers Jessa Martin, Marsha Mullins Raiford, Jessica Bueto Breazeale, Alexis Phillips Smith, assistant Teacher Lacie Tarver and teacher-in-training Mary Beth Munn.



Special to Wesson News

Nena Smith's School of Dance presented its prestigious 2015 Who's Who Awards to select dancers among more than eighty eligible girls in the seventh-to-twelfth grades. They are pictured here with their teachers: (front row from left) Mary Beth Munn and Megyn Rhoads – tied for Miss Spirit of Dance; Abigail Hynum, Dancer Of The Year; Anna Frances Speights, Most Talented; Rebekah Shirley, Most Godly Example; (middle row from left) Abi Douglas, Miss Hustle; Lindsey Alford, Miss Speedy; Kaylen Boyte, Most Dependable; Carly Fleming, Best Showmanship; Lacie Tarver, Best Dressed To Dance; Parker Newman, Most Improved, and Holly Steen, Best Workshop Worker; (back row from left) administrative assistant Tammy Caruthers, studio owner and teacher Nena Smith, teachers Jessica Bueto Breazeale, Taylor Crane Berry, Kaitlyn Rhoads, Alexis Phillips Smith, Jessa Martin and Marsha Mullins Raiford.

Birthday Trophy



Special to Wesson News

Micah Britt (left) enjoys the summer months, but he can't wait for the fall and spring turkey seasons. For the last two years, he has celebrated his March 16 birthday by bagging a wild turkey. He and his father, Van Britt, are pictured here with one he killed in Sonora, Texas, on March 14 of this year -- a turkey sporting a nine-and-one-half-inch beard with one-inch spurs. A year earlier on March 13, 2014, before he turned six, Micah bagged his first turkey in Copiah County. It had an eight-inch beard with 5/8-inch spurs.

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Winning the cholesterol battle

By Guest Columnist
Dr. Stephanie Duguid

During August -- National Cholesterol Awareness Month, think about your cholesterol. What is it? Are you at risk because your cholesterol level is not healthy? How do you address the issue through treatment and prevention?



Cholesterol is a waxy, fat-like substance that your body needs. When you have too much in your blood, it can build up on the walls of your arteries and lead to heart disease and stroke, the leading causes of death in the United States.

About one in every six adult Americans has high cholesterol. Anyone, including children, can have high cholesterol levels.

- 73.5 million adults (31.7 per cent) in the United States have high low-density lipoprotein (LDL), or "bad," cholesterol.
- Fewer than 1 out of every 3 adults (29.5 per cent) with high LDL cholesterol has

the condition under control.

- Less than half (48.1 per cent) of adults with high LDL cholesterol are getting treatment to lower their levels.
- People with high total cholesterol have approximately twice the risk for heart disease as people with ideal levels.
- Nearly 31 million adult Americans have a total cholesterol level greater than 240 mg/dL.

High cholesterol itself does not have symptoms. Many people do not know that their cholesterol level is high. Several factors that are beyond your control can increase your risk: your age, sex and heredity. But your risk is also affected by eating an unhealthy diet, being overweight and not getting enough exercise -- things you can change. So it's important to schedule regular visits with your doctor and ask about having your cholesterol tested. Doctors can do a simple blood test to check your cholesterol. Most adults should get their cholesterol levels checked every five years.

What levels of cholesterol are healthy?

- Total cholesterol: less than 200 mg/dL
- LDL ("bad" cholesterol); less than 100 mg/dL
- HDL ("good" cholesterol): 40 mg/dL or higher
- Triglycerides: less than 150 mg/dL

without heart disease. If you have high cholesterol, you will need to eat a healthy diet, exercise regularly, quit smoking, and possibly take medication.

A high amount of saturated fat and cholesterol in food you eat can increase blood cholesterol. Maintain a healthy weight. Being overweight can increase your cholesterol level. Losing weight can help lower your LDL cholesterol and total cholesterol level, and raise your HDL cholesterol level. Exercise regularly. Regular physical activity can help lower LDL cholesterol and raise HDL cholesterol. Be physically active for two hours and thirty minutes (150 minutes) each week. And finally, do not smoke.

LIVING +HEALTHY+

If your total cholesterol is 200 mg/dL or more, or if your HDL is less than 40 mg/dL, you will need to have a lipoprotein profile blood test done.

Lowering high cholesterol levels is important for people of all ages, with or

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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SPORTS

SHORTS

WAC athletes recognized.

Wesson Attendance Center athletes recognized for their 2014-15 performance included:

Boys basketball:

Arthur Harris (Coaches Award), Anthony Jones (Most Valuable Player, Most Valuable Offensive Player), DeMarkeyus Combs (Most Improved Player), Jermaine James (Most Valuable Defensive Player), Will Huton (Most Improved Player, Hustle Award) and Eric Rhymes (Most Valuable Offensive Player).

Boys soccer:

Seth Cone (Most Improved Player), Jose Bello (Rookie Award and All District Team), Marcus Jones (Most Valuable Offensive Player and All District Team), Dylan Ingle (Most Valuable Mid Fielder and All District Most Valuable Player), Preston Middleton (Rookie Award and All District Team), Eric McElveen (Coaches Award), Justin Morgan (All District Team), Eli Hernandez (Most Valuable Defensive Player and All District Team), Fred Arzate (Most Valuable Player and All District Most Valuable Mid Fielder) and Fidel Mellado (Most Valuable Defensive Player and All District Team).

Dance:

Arelica Cameron (Most Improved), Brittany Moore (Heart of a Champion), Anna Speights (Dancer of the Year, Leadership, Team Captain), Chelsea McManus (Rookie of the Year), Mary Beth Munn (110% Award) and Lindsey Alford (Most Versatile).

Fastpitch softball:

Shelbi Maxwell (Hustle Award),

Cheyenne Gladden (Most Versatile Player), Nekevia Frye (Most Improved Player), Harmoni Ashley (Best Defensive Player and All District Team), Catherine Wilson (All District Team), Brooke Jones (Most Versatile Player), Kayla Britt (Most Valuable Player and All District Team), Carrie McSweyn (Coaches Award and All District Team) and Amber Brinson (Coaches Award, Best Offensive Player and All District Team).

Girls basketball:

Carnesha Green (Most Improved Player), Kayla Britt (Most Valuable Player, Hustle Award), Jashia Smith (Most Valuable Offensive Player, Best Rebounder), Alaysha Vaughan (Most Versatile, Hustle Award), Aurianna Vaughn (Most Valuable Offensive Player), Tashay Glasper (Most Valuable Defensive Player) and Aysha Thomas (Coaches Award).

Girls soccer:

Kimberly San (Most Valuable Offensive Player and All District Team), Cheyenne Gladden (Most Valuable Defensive Player and All District Team), Amber Brinson (Most Valuable Player, All District Most Valuable Mid Fielder), Zoe Davis (Coaches Award) and Alisanne Hall (Most Improved Award and All District Team).

Tennis:

Reid Crow (Hustle Award), Logan Channel (Golden Racket Award), Erich Fischer (Most Valuable Player), Maya Granger (Most Improved Player), Ray Drane (Rookie of the Year) and Kimberly San (Most Valuable Player and Most Team Spirit).

Co-Lin Wolfpack Football Schedule

August 27	at Itawamba	7 p.m.
September 3	East Mississippi	7 p.m.
September 10	as Mississippi Delta	7 p.m.
September 17	Southwest Mississippi	7 p.m.
September 24	at East Central	6 p.m.
October 3 (Homecoming)	Pearl River	2:30p.m.
October 8	at Hinds	7 p.m.
October 15	Mississippi Gulf Coast	7 p.m.
October 22	at Jones County	7 p.m.



Special to Wesson News

David Elsenrath (above) has joined Co-Lin's football squad as offensive line coach. Elsenrath last coached at Valdosta (Georgia) State, where he served as the assistant head coach, offensive line coach, and recruiting coordinator and was part of the 2007 team which won the NCAA Division II National Championship. Over seven seasons, Elsenrath also served as assistant head coach, offensive coordinator, quarterbacks coach, tight ends coach, offensive line coach and director of football equipment at Tusculum College in Greenville, Tennessee, and from 1997 to 2000 was the head coach at Adams State College in Alamosa, Colorado. He also had previous coaching stops at Eastern Kentucky University, University of Louisville and Auburn University. Elsenrath played collegiately at the University of Missouri-Rolla and holds a master's of education from Auburn University.



Arie Douglas of Wesson was part of the 12U (twelve-and-thirteen-year-olds) girls fastpitch softball champion Byram-based Mississippi Crush, which won the United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) World Series last month among forty-three competing teams from the U.S., Canada and Mexico at Orlando, Florida. Douglas played second base this year for the 12U Crush team. Mississippi Crush is a private organization that fields select 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U and 18U "travel ball" fastpitch girls softball teams which compete throughout the Southeast during the year in weekend games with other teams from similar organizations. At Orlando, the Crush 12U team bested the international competition, winning the final USSSA World Series game 6-0. Douglas, who also plays softball, soccer and basketball at Wesson Attendance Center, started her playing career with Mississippi Crush for its 10U team three years ago. Girls from throughout Mississippi, Louisiana and other Southeastern states compete in tryouts every year for positions on its select teams. Arie is the daughter of David ("Mike") and Whitney Douglas.

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Don't ignore suspicious incidents



Wesson News

The biggest reason that crime occurs in Wesson is people writing off suspicious incidents as having no significance, says Wesson Chief of Police Chad O'Quinn.

"The key to preventing crime is timeliness," says O'Quinn. "Call the police if you see something suspicious -- when you think something may be about to happen or his happening."

Special to Wesson News

O'Quinn says Wesson police are on duty 24/7. "Call any time of the day or night," he says. "We're ready to respond. To prevent crime, we need to respond during the time of an incident."

O'Quinn says citizens should be looking not just at what's happening around their property, but at their neighborhood as a whole. "Look out for your neighbors," he says. "And above all, call when something is happening."

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Seawolves place fourth in robotics competition

Special to Wesson News

The Co-Lin Seawolves robotics team placed fourth ahead of an array of major four-year universities, including Ohio State, Mississippi State, Arizona State, the University of New Hampshire and the University of Washington, in the Fourteenth Annual Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) International Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) Competition at St. John's, Newfoundland, and Labrador, Canada. Jesuit High School from Carmichael, California, won the event, followed by Memorial University and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. The competition, hosted by Memorial University of Newfoundland, the Fisheries and Marine Institute and the National Research Council's Ocean, Coastal, and River Engineering facilities in St. John's, centered on utilization of ROVs in the arctic environment for underwater research and performing work to maintain oil and gas fields. Teams demonstrated their ROVs in counting and sampling organisms, deploying scientific instruments, gathering iceberg data, replacing corroded pipeline, testing oil platform grounding and directing pipeline oil flow. They also organized vehicle technical documentation, prepared a sales presentation before a judging panel, and presented a marketing display. In 2012, the first year Co-Lin competed in MATE, it placed twenty-third and, in subsequent years, finished sixth and seventh. In addition to its fourth place finish this year, it received the 2015 Martin Bowen Memorial Inspiration for Future Engineers Award for demonstrating passion, creativity and ingenuity with a sense of humor, professionalism, and kindness towards fellow competitors. Co-Lin's Brian Miles of Brookhaven was named an MVP in sales and engineering presentations.

Local businesses recognized.

Two area companies -- Trustmark and Reed's Metals -- have been spotlighted for going beyond their basic commercial roles in conducting business.

• The Financial Services Roundtable (FSR) presented Jackson-based Trustmark, along with twenty-two other FSR members, its 2014 Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Award for demonstrating a commitment to strengthening the communities they serve through leadership, volunteerism, monetary contributions and promotion of financial literacy education. "At Trustmark, we realize the significance of practicing good corporate citizenship and the added value it brings to all stakeholders involved," says Trustmark CEO Jerry Host. "We are actively engaged in corporate social responsibility initiatives, such as the contribution of financial resources and most importantly, thousands of volunteer hours from our associates, who are devoted to supporting stability and sustainability in the communities we serve." FSR is the leading advocacy organization for America's financial services industry. Trustmark has more than 200 locations in Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas, including Wesson.

• The Mississippi Business Journal named Brookhaven-based Reed's Metals, a finalist among medium-sized businesses for Best Places to Work in Mississippi. MBJ selects businesses for the honor based on the

vote of employees. Reed's officials say its positive work climate reflects the company's motto: "Treat others as you want to be treated." Along with

good salary and benefits, Reed's Lead Supervisor Andy Maldonado says "the family atmosphere, the good people I work with and the customers we have make me like working here." Reed's

owner-president Bernie Reed says the company "strives every day to take care of our employees and our customers" and "believes in kindness, fairness, teamwork, encouragement, and comradeship."

Highway named for late grid player.

Residents of Loyd Star have dedicated a stretch of Highway 550 running through the community in honor of Peyton Flowers, a football player who collapsed and died at Loyd Star's homecoming game in November. Local state legislators Becky Currie and Bobby Moak co-sponsored a bill for the memorial to Flowers.

Scholarship winners.

Co-Lin Foundation has awarded the Wayne King Memorial Scholarship for Lincoln County Career-Technical students with financial needs to Colby Philips of Brookhaven; the Puckett Machinery Diesel Technology Scholarships for sophomore diesel mechanic majors to Alec Rollins of Jayess and Marcus Minniger of Madison; and the Nigel Wentworth Memorial Scholarship for Wesson campus freshmen graduates of Franklin County High School with

at least a 3.5 grade point average to Alyssa Beach of Meadville.

State group elects KDMC CEO.

The Mississippi Hospital Association (MHA) has elected Alvin Hoover, CEO of King's Daughters Medical Center in Brookhaven, 2015-16 chairman of its Board of Governors. MHA has represented state hospitals, healthcare networks and their patients and communities since 1931 with the mission of strengthening the unity and cohesiveness of its membership, which encompasses more than one hundred Mississippi healthcare organizations.

Student gains community service insight.

Wesson Attendance Center student Kierra Brown was among summer participants in the University of Mississippi Lott Institute for Rising Ninth Graders. They gained new insights about community service through classroom study and discussions focused on "The Problem of American Democracy" and visits to the William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas. In a required paper at the end of the program on what she wanted to do help her community, Brown proposed an organization that would discourage high school dropouts.

WAC honors teachers.

Three Wesson Attendance Center teachers have been recognized for their outstanding service during the 2014-15 school year: Ruthie Bowman (Teacher Assistant of the Year), Rhoda Shirley (Elementary Teacher of the Year) and Philip Knight (Secondary Teacher of the Year).



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Wesson, Mississippi



Library honors young book lovers

Wesson News

The Wesson Public Library honored five book lovers among some forty to fifty children who participated in its summer reading program last month.

One child from five different age groups was recognized for reading the most books over the course of the four-week program: Lexi Ryan (three-to-four-years old), Allie Ryan (five-to-six-years-old), Chloe Graves (seven-to-eight years-old), Jazmin Graves (nine-to-ten-years-old) and Melissa Bradford (eleven-to-twelve-

years-old).

A mix of presenters told stories and introduced the children to new subjects during the Tuesday morning programs to encourage the love of reading in fiction and non-fiction topics. They included:

Storyteller Dianne Butler, known as "a weaver of story magic," who has told stories to Mississippi children and adults for more than 25 years. A school librarian, she used a variety of creative techniques to present folktales, original stories and stories

based on published books to both entertain and generate excitement about reading and exploring literature. An amateur magician, she involved her young audience with magic tricks.

Sandra Deaton Matthews, with her dog Boomer, read from the array of books she has written for young children about the adventures of her friendly basset hound and his interactions with other animal characters in her Hazlehurst neighborhood.

Gladys Cheroni, a cook, and

Greg Flynn, from the Mississippi Emergency Management Office, opened up new subject areas for summer reading program participants. Cheroni taught the art of pizza-making and Flynn concluded the program series with a presentation on disaster preparedness and safety, based on a comic book on the topic oriented to children. Flynn also brought along comic book characters Delta the Disaster Dog, Pearl the Preparedness Pup, and Jake the Mitigation Wizard to meet the children.



Wesson News

Greg Flynn, from the Mississippi Emergency Management Office, used comic book characters in a presentation on disaster preparedness and safety.



Wesson News

Delta the Disaster Dog and Pearl the Preparedness Pup helped teach disaster preparedness and safety.



Wesson News

Summer program reader award winners with Ann Clark, Wesson Public Library manager, are (left to right) Melissa Bradford, Allie Ryan, Lexi Ryan, Jazmin Graves and Chloe Graves.



Wesson News

Cook Gladys Cheroni taught pizza-making.



Wesson News

Dianne Butler told stories and involved her young audience with magic tricks.



Wesson News

Sandra Deaton Matthews read from books she has written about her dog Boomer.

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Local arts beyond the music

By Guest Columnist Shaw Furlow

It's wicked, crazy hot -- too hot to even walk in the morning. My car dashboard thermometer registered 106 degrees twice today. Here's to cooler weather. And the summer, with its bats and balls, fading into October with high school, college, and pro gridiron season and the marching bands that come with it. Our Co-Lin Wolfpack is picked preseason number one in the nation. Good luck to Glenn and his coaches, trainers and team! I am very interested in seeing as many halftime shows as I can, although I am no longer planning, developing or executing a show. The creativity, the work ethic and the final product require hours and hours of rehearsal time mostly in the heat. Good luck to our area bands and take breaks and remember to hydrate!

In midst of the heat, however, I want to focus on things not related to music and other local arts opportunities, including those available during these hot summer months:

• The Brookhaven Regional Arts Guild (BRAG) is hosting an art show featuring well-known local artists Maxine Minter and Sue Minters in the Vernon Room at the Lincoln County Public Library during August. Maxine, a prolific painter for many years and her daughter in law, Sue, will exhibit some of their many works. Maxine works in oils, while Sue prefers acrylics. The show is free and open to the public during regular library hours. On Thursday, August 13, BRAG will honor the Minters at a reception in the Vernon Room from 4:00-6:00 p.m. -- an excellent time to meet the artists



and take in the show. The library does a great job bringing in exhibits from afar and locally. Thanks to BRAG, the local visual arts scene is growing. Artists and art patrons can join BRAG at any of its monthly meetings.

• Brookhaven Little Theatre's (BLT) new season begins in early December with the Christmas classic and great family show, "It's a Wonderful Life." The play will debut Marvin Curtis, a local musician and teacher, in the directorial role. BLT offers something for everyone. In March, long-time BLT member Greg Russell will direct a "Funny Little Thing Called Love" a five-act comedy with unconnected stories tied together by a romantic full moon. In May, "The Fantastics," the longest running musical in off-Broadway history, returns to Brookhaven's Haven Theater. Back

October 15, it will host its annual membership party at the Haven Theatre on Cherokee Street. The party will feature a Beatles sing-along. Join the festivities and check out BLT.

• Many of us find the summer months a time for enjoying the literary arts. It seems we all have beach books. My Kindle is loaded with books by David Baldacci, the well-known mystery writer. I go through periods in which I "discover" an author and binge on all of the writer's works I can acquire. While I am a "book guy," Ereaders are more convenient. Let me know what you are reading. Email me at shaw.furlow@yahoo.com.

You may want to visit Martha's Used Book Exchange in Brookhaven while you have chance. I did not know about this great little bookstore. I searched it out after hearing about it and was pleasantly surprised. Tucked away in an old house on west Cherokee street, Martha's is chocked full of used, paperback books, all priced far below retail

-- row after row of everything from children's books to mysteries, whatever you are looking for. I had a pleasant visit with the shop keeper, Sandra Richardson, daughter of the actual owners. The store has been open for thirty-five years. Unfortunately, Martha's is closing. It seems that the Ereader business has changed the face of the book store business, much like the way downloads affected record stores. Patrons found it easier to go online to get their reading material, and that means there are fewer used books to exchange. That is sad. There is nothing like going to a book store where the people working there

have actually read the books. While supplies last, Martha's is having a going-out-of-business sale, with all books marked down from the already low prices. Drop by and pay them a visit.

School is back in session. This heat wave will soon be a memory. Kids will be back in dance class, or playing sports and bemoaning all the homework they have to do. Its been a great summer, y'all, but I look forward to the cooler days of fall. Until next time, support the arts. You'll be glad you did.

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



Special to Wesson News

Sue Minter was Brookhaven Regional Arts Guild (BRAG) Artist of the Month for July for her painting, which reflected a patriotic theme. Throughout August, she and her mother-in-law, Maxine Minter, will have their works on display at a BRAG exhibit at Lincoln County Public Library.

AREA ARTS

in the early years of BLT, John Landress, the founding father of the theater, first directed the play. I will be directing it this time. In June, BLTeens will perform "Hairspray, Jr." The teen show is usually one of the better attended performances of the year. Once again in July, BLT will host its annual theater camp for school age children.

BLT needs not only actors, but is looking for carpenters, make-up artists and audience members. On

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Minor league GM likes job



Wesson News

Mississippi Braves General Manager Steve DeSalvo speaks to Wesson Lions Club

Wesson News

As general manager of the Mississippi Braves, Steve DeSalvo is one of only 150 people in that kind of minor league baseball job, and he can think

of no other work he would like to do more.

DeSalvo discussed his 35-year career and shared baseball stories with the Wesson Lions Club.

Asked if he aspired to work in major league baseball management, he said he enjoyed “having my hands on everything as a minor league general manager -- concessions, sales and marketing, maintenance of the ball park, as well as overseeing our primary mission of developing major league players. I would be confined to an aspect of the work in major league baseball and would not enjoy it as much.”

DeSalvo, a Long Island, New York, native, started his career as a management intern for a minor league team at Daytona Beach, Florida, for \$400 per month on a leave of absence from his sports management studies at St. John’s University in New York City. “The team’s management welcomed me enthusiastically when I arrived,” he recalled. “They told me they had no one to cook hotdogs for the game that day. That was my first job in baseball management.” DeSalvo moved on to pulling tarps on and off the field when it rained and picking up trash -- “which I still do in my current position,” he added.

After receiving his degree from St. John’s, DeSalvo “bugged the Houston Astros” for work and became the youngest baseball general manager in 1982 for the minor league franchise at Auburn, New York. He was the general manager briefly for the Florence, South Carolina, Blue Jays, where he tried with minimal success to excite fans about an organization with the parent team in Canada. After stops at Fort Myers, Florida, and Tucson, Arizona, he went to work for the Atlanta Braves organization as general manager of its Greenville, South Carolina, franchise, which moved to Pearl, Mississippi, in 2004 after negotiations to build a new stadium for the team collapsed.

Over eighteen years at Greenville and now eleven years in Mississippi, DeSalvo said he has been in “a great venue for watching future baseball stars.” For many years, the Atlanta Braves developed its own talent, then started trading away young players for older veterans, and now has returned to its former strategy of using its minor league system to feed it players. In recent years, DeSalvo said too many of them have had success on teams outside the Atlanta organization to which they were traded, but that is changing. “This year, baseball observers predicted Atlanta would have a poor season, but it has done better than expected with young players from its minor league teams,” he pointed out.

In Mississippi, DeSalvo said he enjoyed his involvement in the design and construction of Trustmark Park at Pearl, which is recognized as an example of what a ballpark should be. Known for its wide concourses, pavilion and suites, Trustmark Park “has helped make the Mississippi Braves more than just about baseball,” he said.

With its mascots, fireworks displays, contests, and give-aways, Trustmark Park is a venue for group outings, birthday parties and fund raising, among other community events.

“Involvement in the community is an important part of the Mississippi Braves,” DeSalvo said. “We work with the ALS and Diabetes Foundations, the Salvation Army, and other groups. I serve on their boards and charities. We host silent auctions and fundraising walks at the ballpark.

“I tell our players they are paid not only to perform on the field, but to be role models. The organization as a whole seeks to be a role model as well in the community.”

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Greg Smith, Service Director from Rogel Ford, pictured along with Blake Oberschmidt, Technology Service Director from Copiah Lincoln Community College

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