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Volume 9, Number 10

"Good News You Can Use"

October 14, 2021

Co-Lin Homecoming week October 25-29



Special to Wesson News

Special to Wesson News

For its Homecoming Week Monday, October 25, thru Friday, October 29 -- designed traditionally to bring back alumni to their alma mater, Co-Lin is seeking to include the wider Wesson community.

A community-wide movie night at Stone Stadium on Monday will kick off the week-long events and activities. An array of events, including the Wolf Pack homecoming matchup against Jones Community College, will highlight Homecoming Day on Thursday, October 28. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, each will feature one major event:

- 5k glow run during the evening of Tuesday, October 26;
- Retiree brunch on Wednesday, October 27
- Homecoming golf tournament on Friday, October 29

Check exact times and get

cont. on page 12

Begin cruisin' through the holidays

By Bob Arnold

With October and Halloween, the holiday season has dawned.

If you don't believe it, the Wesson Chamber of Commerce has parked a 1957 Chevy pickup truck on the southeast corner lot at Highway 51 and Spring to remind folk that, indeed, the holiday season is here and to spark the spirit that makes this time of year special.

Lights and decorations on the truck will change over the next three months to reflect the autumn and Halloween season this month, fall and the Thanksgiving season in November and winter and the Christmas season in December.

Chamber officials say it's all about "Cruisin' Through the Holidays," and are urging townspeople and Wesson visitors to buy a special t-shirt to declare that's what they're



Wesson News

Wesson Chamber is urging townspeople and visitors to "Cruise Through the Holidays."

doing, capture themselves and their families pictorially posed by the truck and to begin cruisin' to

the events that are happening this month during Halloween season. You can start cruisin' to:

• **Fear** -- the Wesson haunted house that is a magnet for those who enjoy scary experiences throughout the state. The haunted house occupies the former Sunflower grocery store on Highway 51 and has been especially renovated for the new Halloween season, with ghosts, vampires, zombies, wicked witches and monsters who lurk in new settings among some 25 rooms in the old building. For \$10, you can enter and roam through Fear on Fridays and Saturdays throughout October and on Friday, Saturday and Sunday Halloween weekend. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Wesson Chamber of Commerce started Fear, but Wanda Westbrook, who purchased the Sunflower building,

cont. on page 4

New budget targets police salaries

Wesson News

With a goal of making police salaries more competitive, Wesson is projecting a 2.8 percent increase in expenditures for the 2021-2022 fiscal year on a 3.2 percent increase in revenues.

With forecasted revenues of \$1,170,757 and expenditures of 1,145,261 for the new fiscal year, the town projects a budget surplus of \$25,496 -- an increase of some \$5,000 or almost 20 percent above the surplus in the 2020-2021 fiscal year, which was down \$14,800, or 42 percent, in an austere pandemic year budget.

Again, no tax rate increase will be required.

The town's budget encompasses revenues that pay for general government expenses, the police and street departments, Old School Community Center and public library; and revenues and expenses for the fire and water/sewer departments, and water meters.

Government expenditures for the new fiscal year are budgeted to increase 4.5 per cent to \$607,960, reflecting \$200,000 for police salaries -- a 7.5 percent increase over funds budgeted in the previous fiscal year -- and a \$2,000 boost in police retirement expenses, or 10.7 percent, from \$25,000.

"Our priority beginning now is the Wesson Police Department and the salaries of its officers, particularly," Mayor Alton Shaw affirms. "We need to catch up with other municipalities."

Overall, revenues for government expenditures are projected to jump 4.4 percent to \$615,600, with funds from the ad valorem tax up 9.5 percent to \$210,000, the county road and bridge allowance up six percent to \$50,000, the mobile home and motor vehicle tax levy up 10 percent to \$50,000 and the sales tax up three percent to \$160,000.

Old School Community Center expenditures are budgeted to decline once again to \$20,200 from \$24,700 -- a 22.2 percent decrease -- while no income is anticipated from rentals in 2021-2022.

Street department and library expenses are budgeted at the same levels in the new fiscal year as they were in 2020-2021 -- \$83,350 and \$12,460 respectively. Fire department and water meter revenues and expenses are also budgeted at their levels in the previous fiscal year. Fire department expenses were projected to remain at \$24,900 on stable revenues of \$31,532. Water meter revenues and expenses are budgeted at \$7,025 and \$5,000 respectively.

Water/sewer revenues are forecast to increase by two percent to \$516,600, with metered sales to customers and sewer charges to customers projected to advance four percent and 7.5 percent respectively to \$250,000 and \$187,000. The projected 10 percent water/sewer expenditures increase to \$507,401 reflected a budgeted 10.7 percent increase in salaries.

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Wesson Garden Club announces honor yards for September



Lumley property.

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Jasper property.

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In September, Wesson Garden Club recognized landscaping efforts in three categories, honoring Mary Ann Jasper at 1044 Collier Street (town residential), Bobby and Teresa Lumley at 5196 Beauregard Road (rural residential) and Wolf Hollow Golf Club at Co-Lin (organizational). The awards, based on maintenance principles and elements of landscape design, seek to encourage ongoing beautification and cleanliness of the Wesson area and cultivate a citizenry that values and protects natural resources and assumes responsibility for enhancing the environment. The Garden Club's Yard of the Month awards honor landscapes during the spring, summer and fall.



Wolf Hollow Golf Club.

Special to Wesson News



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Flea market expects big crowds

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As many as 200 vendors -- individuals, church groups, clubs and civic organizations and businesses -- will line the streets of downtown Wesson in their special tents to offer arts and crafts items, fleas, clothing, food, snacks and refreshments, among other things, to thousands of browsers and shoppers expected to flood into town on Saturday, October 16, for the fiftieth annual Flea Market and Outdoor Arts and Crafts Show.

Wesson Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD) Chief Ken Carraway, who is coordinating the Flea Market for WVFD, the managing organization, predicts a big crowd will be browsing, shopping and munching on the concessions. The Flea Market will start at 8 a.m. on Highway 51, Factory and Spring Streets and run until 5 p.m.

Vendors from throughout Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Texas and Tennessee will be on hand to help visitors with their shopping lists for Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years with decorations, dolls, clothing and pets, wood and iron work, candlesticks, jellies and jams, bath products, jewelry and leather crafts, plants and flowers.

A feature this year will be a raffle with a special handmade turkey call donated by Primos Hunting as the award.

Local artisans will offer a variety of hand-crafted items. Local civic clubs and church groups



Special to Wesson News

and other not-for-profit organizations will serve an array of foods and snacks, including porkskins -- a special Flea Market treat -- to raise money for their groups and their projects and causes.

The Wesson Lions Club will again be selling sweet potatoes. Friends of the Library will hold its annual book sale in the building next to the Wesson public library pavilion. The Doll's House and Wesson Baptist, Smyrna

Baptist and Mount Moriah Baptist Churches will be on hand. Town Hall staff will be in a special tent, where residents can get to know government officials.

Started by a local merchants association, WVFD turned the event, better known today as the "Wesson Flea Market," into a major fundraiser held annually on the third Saturday in October. The volunteer fire fighters generate some \$5000 each year on sales of the 10-foot-by-10-

foot display areas at \$45 each to purchase equipment for the fire department, Carraway says.

Vendors and exhibitors can still reserve display areas. They must furnish their own tables, chairs, and other display equipment and may sell from tents, booths or their cars and trucks. Set-up for the Flea Market is after 5 p.m. on Friday, October 15, and before 8 a.m. on Saturday. Get information at 601-265-1694 or wessonfd@gmail.com.

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October is breast cancer awareness month

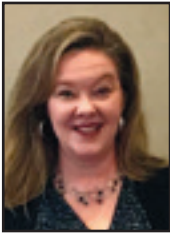
By Guest Columnist Dr. Stephanie Duguid

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month focusing on the importance of early detection for breast cancer.

While most people are aware of breast cancer, many forget to take the steps and have a plan to detect the disease in its early stages while encouraging communities, organizations, families, and individuals to get involved.

Other than skin cancer, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women. One in eight women born today in the United States will get breast cancer at some point.

The good news is that many women can survive breast cancer if it is found and treated early. A mammogram, the screening test for breast cancer, can help find breast cancer early when it is easier to treat. Getting mammograms regularly can lower the risk of dying from breast cancer. If you are over 40, you need to talk to your doctor about how often you should be screened. Those over 50 need to have a screening mammogram every two



years.

There are different breast cancer symptoms, and some people have no symptoms at all. Symptoms can include any change in the size or the shape of the breast, pain in the breast area, nipple discharge other than milk and a new lump in the breast or underarm. If you have any signs that worry you, be sure to see your doctor right away.

The main factors that influence your risk for breast cancer include those you CANNOT control such as being a woman, being older than 50, and having the breast cancer gene (BRCA1 and BRCA2). Other factors that can help lower the risk of breast cancer that you CAN control include maintaining a healthy weight, adding physical activity to your daily lifestyle, avoiding the use of tobacco and alcohol.

Fast Facts about Breast Cancer:

- Every woman is at risk.
- One in eight women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime.
- Every 13 minutes a woman dies from breast cancer.
- On average, every 2 minutes a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer in the United States.

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- In 2021, an estimated 281,550 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in women in the U.S. as well as 49,290 new cases of non-invasive (in situ) breast cancer.
- It is the leading cancer death of women aged 15-54.
- 96% survive with early detection.
- Although rare, men get breast cancer too. In 2021, an estimated 2,650 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer in the U.S.

- It is 100 times more common among women than men.
- Black women have the highest breast cancer death rates of all racial and ethnic groups.

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

cont. from page 1

Begin cruisin' through the holidays

has made it an ongoing part of the community, with friends, in honor of her late husband, whose seasonal pastime was helping to transform the old Sunflower building into a venue that has been a source of enjoyment of her children and many others -- both kids and adults.

• **Wesson Flea Market** on October 16, where a wide array of arts and crafts, fleas and food will be available. The Chamber of Commerce will also be selling its "Cruisin' Through the Holidays" t-shirts for \$20 each and Wesson Lions Club will have the world's best sweet potatoes on sale, among arts and crafts and fleas vendors. A handmade turkey call will be

raffled off (see page 3 story).

• **Co-Lin Homecoming Week** October 25-29, with events geared not only to the college's alumni, but to the wider Wesson community as well. A community movie night on Monday, October 25, kicks off events, which will also include a 5K glow run, brunch for retirees and golf tournament through Friday. The homecoming football matchup with Co-Lin and Jones is Thursday, October 28 at 6:30 p.m. (see page 1 story).

• **Trick-or-treating venues.** Halloween officially begins in Wesson on Friday morning, October 29, when children from Precious Moments day care

center, the Wesson Baptist Church pre-school program, and the kindergarten at WAC will go to local merchants and businesses for candy and special treats in the annual Trick or Treat Downtown.

Door-to-door trick-or-treating begins late Saturday afternoon (October 30) and will go into the evening hours. Wesson police expect the usual calm night of street trick-or-treating, but will have officers on patrol in cars and on foot. There are no rigid rules for the evening, but police urge people to use common sense, and they affirm that vandalism will not be tolerated. Children should be supervised by their parents, with everyone traffic-conscious, walking on sidewalks

or beside roadways. Trick-or-treaters should go only to homes with porch lights on and respect residents of neighborhoods who do not want to participate in the door-to-door Halloween tradition. The Old School Community Center, which has haunted house stories associated with it, and Wesson Cemetery will be off limits. Older youth and adults should be aware of where they are wearing masks and not alarm owners, clerks, and patrons at local businesses.

Due to COVID-19 safety issues, Wesson Attendance Center will not have its Fall Festival, and the Town of Wesson will not host a community Halloween party in the municipal park.

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Chamber continues 'shop local' project



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Wesson Chamber of Commerce is continuing a popular promotion for the second year to help local merchants, eateries and other local consumer-oriented enterprises rebuilding their businesses as the COVID-19 pandemic fades into their rearview mirrors.

"The Eat and Shop Where You Live" promotion, which started October 1 and runs thru November 1, features special raffle boxes at participating businesses where customers and patrons complete entry forms and place them for a November 2 drawing to win a gift card they can use for purchases.

The Chamber gave each participating business \$100 to cover the gift card purchases of the winners and provided specially-decorated raffle boxes for promotional displays.

"We were thrilled with the success of last year's promotion, and are continuing the tradition again to stimulate business and to encourage shopping local," said Chamber president Marilyn Britt. "The Chamber launched the promotion last year when the COVID-19 pandemic forced it to cancel the annual Founders Day celebration, which is a focal point for local businesses to both enjoy a one-day sales boost and cultivate ongoing customers. The idea of the drawbox promotion is to help local businesses in a similar way, stimulate the economy and lift the spirits of townspeople still worried about COVID-19."

Businesses participating in the promotion are Another Time Another Place, Ashley's 51 Stop and Z&Z's Seafood, Copiah Nutrition, Deb's All Tangled Up, Dollar General, Dumps BBQ, East End Quick Stop, Family Dollar Store, Fil-Am Oriental Market & Produce, Milltown Mall Antiques & Flea Market, Mill Town Salon & Day Spa, Nan Drane Massage Therapy, Nena Smith School of Dance, P&R Package, Park Place Ice Cream, Runyan Automotive, Salon 51, Serendipity Salon, Stop-N-Wash, Skeet Burger Snack Shop, The Carpenter Shop, Wesson Ace Hardware and Wolf Hollow Golf Course.

The Chamber is publicizing the promotion on its Facebook page and sending out materials that spotlight the participating businesses and encourage customers to visit and patronize them.

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Furr doesn't ask for \$\$\$ naturally

By Bob Arnold

Folks around Wesson know Angela Furr as Co-Lin's money lady, but she admits asking for dollars doesn't come naturally.

As Executive Director of the Co-Lin Foundation and Alumni Relations, Furr solicits funds to help the college provide and sustain community and student learning opportunities, cultural enrichment for students and their communities, academic and athletic programs, student and faculty scholarships, and computer technology, among other things.

The Co-Lin Foundation, Inc., is the fundraising arm of the college. It is a nonprofit corporation that serves as a clearinghouse for private sector monies given to Co-Lin. The Foundation is governed by a 25-member board of directors, and its goal is to raise private monies to support the mission of the college.

"Raising money does not come naturally for me, but I have loved Co-Lin since my student years and enjoy the relationships I develop and cultivate with others who love it as well," Furr says. "Most people are willing to give back to the college when they're asked, so that makes it easy to do what I do. I'm happy I can serve Co-Lin in this way."

For Co-Lin's board members, other officers and staff members, the feeling is mutual.

Furr grew up in New Hebron in Lawrence County in a family in which she was the oldest of four children, including two brothers and a sister. As a child, she remembers liking school, being a good student, and particularly enjoying English and the humanities. When she was 15 years old, she started working after school at the Super Value grocery store in Monticello, and she remained employed there throughout high school.

At Lawrence County High School, from which she graduated in 2000, Furr was a student leader, enjoyed service roles in its Beta Club,



Special to Wesson News

performed in plays as a member of the drama club and was editor of the school newspaper.

"I liked writing poetry and short stories, but preferred technical writing like news stories and, strangely enough, term papers," she recalls.

In 2002, Furr received in Associate in Arts degree from Co-Lin,

Graham, 9.

Furr has spent her entire professional career so far at Co-Lin, coming to the college in 2005 as the College Recruiter, becoming Associate Director of Alumni Affairs in 2009 and moving into the executive role at the Co-Lin Foundation and Alumni Relations office in 2018 as interim

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

where she was involved in numerous student organizations and served as editor of *The Wolf Tales*, the student newspaper. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism with an emphasis in public relations and a Master of Science in Mass Communication from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg in 2004 and 2005.

In 2005, she also married her husband Cliff Furr, whom she met in a journalism class at Co-Lin. She and Cliff, who teaches high school English and is sports editor of *The Daily Leader*, live in Brookhaven with their two children -- Amelia, 13, and

director before being named Executive Director in July 2019.

In her current job, she oversees all Co-Lin foundation and alumni relations of the college, with a primary focus on fundraising. She has also served as an adjunct instructor in the humanities division of Co-Lin for more than 10 years. She was the recipient of Co-Lin's Howell C. Garner High Performance Award in 2009.

What are your hobbies?

I support whatever my children are participating in, and that takes up most of my free time. Graham plays

soccer, and Amelia runs cross country. I am fortunate to work in a job I enjoy and be a mom at the same time. I'm involved in community organizations like the Brookhaven/Lincoln County Rotary Club, in which I served as president. I am also a member of the United Way of Lincoln County Board of Directors, the Mississippi Community College Inter-Alumni Association, and Heucks Retreat Baptist Church, where I volunteer in the children's and youth ministries. I am into exercise and enjoy running and spin (indoor cycling).

Are you a reader?

I used to read everything I could get my hands on -- fiction, non-fiction, memoirs. My all-time favorites are classics like *Jane Eyre* and *Pride and Prejudice*. I have less time to read than I would like today.

Are you into music?

I love music. My husband and I enjoy seeing live shows any chance we get. We recently attended a Jason Isbell concert; he's an Americana singer/songwriter. Personally, I am not a musician, although I make a joyful noise in the pews at my church.

Do you enjoy movies or theater?

I am super into pop culture and entertainment. I love prestige TV shows and going to the movies. I'm excited to finally get to see *Hamilton* on stage in a few months with some girlfriends.

What would you do with lottery winnings if you were so lucky?

I would donate to charities like the Co-Lin Foundation, put money into the renovation of my 100-year-old house and take a trip to Hawaii.

How would you change the world?

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Lions bring sweet potatoes to town

Special to Wesson News

The best sweet potatoes grown anywhere in the world will be available throughout the area over the next few weeks thanks to the Wesson Lions Club.

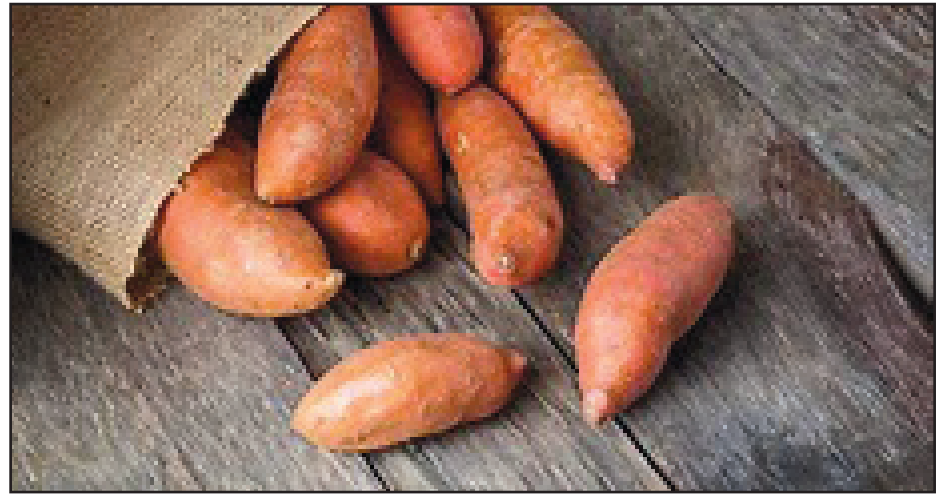
For the ninth consecutive year, the club has brought a truckload of Landreth Farms-produced sweet potatoes from the Vardaman area in north central Mississippi -- the "Sweet Potato Capital of the World" -- to sell at a bargain basement prices and raise funds, in the process, for the international and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

Wesson Lions Club members will sell them and continue to offer them until their supply runs out through October. They will be available at the Wesson Flea Market on October 16.

This year, the Lions Club's inventory includes 350 forty-pound boxes of regular sweet potatoes, which it will sell for \$20 per box, or 50 cents per pound. In addition to individuals, area restaurants look forward to stocking up on the quality sweet potatoes during the Lions Club's annual fundraising effort.

Landreth Farms officials say it's the loamy soil -- along with timely early rains -- in the Vardaman area that make their potato crops sweet and special. Landreth plants sweet potatoes on 750 acres, among Mississippi farmers, who raise sweet potatoes on more than 18,400 acres across the state. The farm sells commercially to national food stores, such as Kroger and Wal-Mart; and canners, like Gerber; and produces a line of pre-wrapped sweet potatoes for microwave cooking.

The annual sweet potato sale is among three major fundraising activ-



Special to Wesson News

ities of the Wesson Lions Club. The Club also has an annual pancake breakfast, sells peanuts at Co-Lin football games and collects money on Highway 51 from motorists to support sight charities. It disburses some \$10,000 every year to assist deaf and blind persons through the International Lions Club and to support local organizations and causes related to community improvement, children and youth, veterans, hospice care and other issues and concerns.

For information and to order sweet potatoes, contact Randy Davis (601-754-4832) or Hubert Greer (601-757-8973).

WESSON AREA DINING GUIDE



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Hurricane Ida aid possible. Lincoln County may be getting federal emergency assistance funds from the \$10 million-plus likely for cleanup required in the wake of Hurricane Ida's damages. The state had to clear a \$4.5 million threshold to receive aid, and each county receiving aid must clear a \$135,000 threshold. The county will be responsible for 12.5 percent of the cleanup cost and must establish a debris collection site where it can be mulched and burned.

Airport grants. Lincoln County Airport in Brookhaven is receiving more than \$2.2 million in funding to rehabilitate runway lighting, taxiway lighting, airport beacons and runways through two Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants. Representative Michael Guest lauded services provided by rural airports, saying "I am grateful to the FAA and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for their help in securing these grants to improve Mississippi airports, which will drive Mississippi's rural economy."

Little Theater is back. Brookhaven Little Theater (BLT) kicked off a three-show season September 30 to October 3 with performances of *Anne of Green Gables*, a timeless literary story that comes to life on stage. *Elf*, the musical, will be staged on weekends from 3-22 December, and BLT will bring *Beauty and the Beast* to the Haven Theater in downtown Brookhaven on weekends from 1-10 April. The BLT teens camp will produce Disney's *Descendants*, the musical, on June 23-26 and its kids camp will perform Disney's *The Aristocats* July 21 and 22. Once again on January 14, 2022, BLT will bring the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra to town to perform Mozart. Visit www.brookhavenlittletheater.com for information and to learn about tickets.

Film family. A Wesson family -- Josh, Derryn and Jayden Hamilton -- is performing in Paramount+ Network's *1883*, which premieres on the Paramount Cable Network December 19. They will be regular extras in the prequel series to *Yellowstone* and stars Faith Hill and Tim McGraw as the heads of the original Dutton family. Josh and Derryn's daughter Jayden first landed an extras role in

NEWS NUGGETS

Lifetime's *Teacher's Watching* filmed in Clinton and has been on a contact list for extras in other films since then. Her film credits include *Home Team* with Morgan Freeman, *Paradise Highway* filmed in Brookhaven and *Platform*. On set, directors have also used Jayden's mom and dad.

No more road tests. The road test for new drivers in Mississippi is gone for good. COVID-19 restrictions halted the test temporarily, but Department of Public Safety Commissioner Sean Tindell noted that its scope had been reduced to driving around a parking lot and vehicle parking. "It was not the effective road test it once was," Tindell said. The law now requires young drivers to have a learner's permit for a year and parents or guardians must provide affidavits affirming they have ridden for at least 50 hours with a prospective licensee.

COVID-19 status. The Mississippi State Department of Health reports total COVID-19 cases in the state stand at 487,293, with 9,588 deaths. MSDH sites throughout the state offer free, safe vaccinations that greatly reduce the risk of hospitalization and death. Visit <https://msdh.ms.gov/c19vaccination>. Third vaccine doses (boosters) are now available through county health departments for those who qualify. Visit <https://msdh.ms.gov/boosters>. To host a local vaccination event at your business or organization, send a request to VaccineEvent@msdh.ms.gov. Monoclonal antibody (mAb) treatment for those with COVID-19 is available through providers statewide. See <https://msdh.ms.gov/getmab>

Legion leads ceremony



Special to Wesson News

Wesson American Legion Post 79 members, including (left to right) David Fore, Sr., Post 79 Commander; Deborah Fielder, American Legion Mississippi Department Adjutant; Bobby Thornton, Post 79 Adjutant, helped lead a ceremony on National Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Day last month at Wesson Cemetery that dedicated a memorial for two World War II Wesson POWs. The memorial honors Brigadier General Luther Rea Stevens and his wife, Lula Tumbow Stevens, who served in the Philippines. General Steven was captured and held prisoner in China and his wife was held in a POW camp for civilians in the Philippines. They were released in 1945.

Learning about bugs



Special to Wesson News

All you want to know about insects and maybe more than you want to know was served up last month at the Mississippi State University Crosby Arboretum in Picayune. School groups and the general public attended the annual Bugfest, where they learned about insects and their habitats. The event, modified to comply with COVID-19 health and safety guidelines, featured some traditional hands-on activities for cultivating skills in insect collection and identification and arts and crafts. MSU Extension Service entomologist John Guyton, Pearl River County Extension agent Eddie Smith and Hancock County Extension agent Christian Stephenson spoke. Some presentations were offered virtually and broadcast via Zoom. They were recorded and are available for viewing after the event through the arboretum's website at <http://crosbyarboretum.msstate.edu/> or Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CrosbyArboretum>.



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Who was Houston Stackhouse?

By Guest Columnist R. Shaw Furlow

Lately, there has been a renewed interest in our area's art history. Markers, recognizing our blues and country artists. Writers and actors dotting the state, speaking to their accomplishments. With that in mind, from time to time, I am going to write about these trailblazers, starting this month with Wesson's Houston Stackhouse.

Honestly, I had never heard of Stackhouse until his Blues Trail Marker was erected at the Old Wesson School Community Center. Some research was required, but I just skimmed the surface. For this article, I went down several rabbit holes to get everything I needed to know.



Wesson News

Stackhouse was born Houston Goff in Wesson in 1910, but was reared by James Wade Stackhouse. As a teenager, his family moved to Crystal Springs, where he started listening to the music of local musician Tommy Johnson and other blues artists. His first instrument was the harmonica, but he soon moved to the guitar.

By the 1930s, he had played all through the Mississippi delta with the likes of The Mississippi Sheiks, Blind Lemon Jefferson and Robert Johnson. But it wasn't until 1946 that he got his first big break when he moved to Helena, Arkansas, to be near Cary "Ditty" Mason, his cousin, known professionally as Robert Nighthawk.

While Stackhouse was not the type of guitarist who could front a band, he was well respected by other musicians. His fundamentals, by all accounts, were spot on, and he tutored Nighthawk and others, including Jimmy Rogers, on guitar. Stackhouse joined Nighthawk's band and started playing gigs and appearing on Nighthawk's weekly radio show sponsored by Mothers Best Flour. A year later, he split from Nighthawk and formed his own band with other renowned Mississippi artists, including pianist Pinetop Perkins from Belzoni, and started his own radio show sponsored by King Biscuit.

During the 1940s, the blues was of great interest in Europe (in fact, it still is today). Most "big named" artists toured Europe to great success, more so than at home, but Stackhouse preferred to stay in Helena and play small clubs in Memphis and the delta area.

In 1970, Stackhouse moved to Memphis and joined The King Biscuits Boys, which included Sonny Boy Williams. He also toured with the Memphis Blues Caravan and made his only trip to Europe, where he performed at the Vienna Blues Festival.

All through this period he made records with Perkins, Williams and others as their side man, but he made a few of his own records in 1972 that have since been included in many compilations. You can find them at Fat Possum Records in Oxford.

In the summer of 1967, blues archivist George Mitchell moved from the University of Minnesota to the Mississippi delta to record blues musicians, and was able to record Stackhouse, Nighthawk and Williams as the Blues Rhythm Boys. He also recorded Fred McDowell and then unknowns R.L. Burnside and Otha Turner. Mitchell turned the recordings, photos and interviews into a thesis and eventually a book. The recordings became historic and are still studied today.

After returning from Vienna, Stackhouse basically retired, playing only



Special to Wesson News

Houston Stackhouse

selected shows, including the first two Greenville (MS) Blues Festivals. He moved from Memphis to Crystal Springs briefly and eventually back Helena, where he died in 1980.

While he may never have achieved the same fame and recognition as others of his era, his story remains in the recordings he made both as a sideman and principal artist and the many blues guitarist he influenced.

That's it for this month. I've thrown a number of names at you in this column. If you are interested, look them up. You may find a rabbit hole of your own.

Support the arts, my friend.

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

school bands in the region.



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Sports Hall of Fame adding four

Special to Wesson News

The Co-Lin Athletic Alumni Association will induct four members into the Sports Hall of Fame during Homecoming festivities on Thursday, October 28.

This year's class includes Jason Kinchen of Greenwell Springs, Louisiana, Josh McNulty of Magee, Rebecca Rousseau of Bowling Green, Kentucky, and Kenneth Walley of Ridgeland. The four will be inducted during the Alumni Association Awards Reception at 3:30 p.m. in the Thames Center on the Wesson Campus.

Kinchen, a 1995 graduate of Co-Lin, was a member of the Wolf Pack baseball team. As a walk-on in his freshman season, he hit four homeruns and went on to earn a scholarship to play for the team. During his sophomore season, Kinchen hit eight homeruns and batted in the mid 370s. His 1995 team earned a school record for most wins. At Co-Lin, he was named All-State and All-Region. After Co-Lin, Kinchen attended Brewton Parker College where he played baseball and was named First Team All-American, hit 15 home runs, and batted over 400. In 1997, he was named First Team All-American and national player and his team earned a national championship title. Kinchen graduated from Brewton Parker in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in kinesiology.

In professional baseball for seven years, he played for: The Lafayette Leopards in the 1997 and 1998 seasons where he was named an All-Star and League MVP. The Richmond Roosters where he was an All-Star selection. New York Yankee farm clubs -- the Staten Island Yankees in 2000, which won a Low A League championship, the Greensboro Bats in 2001 where he was All-Star selection in the South Atlantic League and the Tampa Yankees in the Florida State League where his team won a co-league championship. The Norwich Navigators in the Eastern League in 2004, where his team won a league championship. The Northern League Joliet Jackhammers and Fargo-Moorehead Redhawks, where his team won an Indy Ball league championship.

After his professional career, Kinchen became an assistant coach at Central Private School in Louisiana, where the team won three state championships during four years. When he became head coach, his team went on to win another three state championships in eight years. Kinchen was named head coach and athletic director for St. John High School in Plaquemine, Louisiana, in 2018, where he was named district coach of the year and his team was a runner-up and district championship. As a head coach, Kinchen won 275 over ten years, with ten district championships, one state runner-up, and three state championships.

Kinchen started a travel baseball organization in 2006 called JackHammer Baseball, and had more than 90 tournament wins and 10 world series wins until 2015. He recently brought back the organization in 2021 to coach his son. Kinchen left full-time coaching in 2019, and became park director for West Feliciana Parish (Louisiana) Parks and Recreation. He and his wife Nicole have two children, Kane and Kennedy.

McNulty, a 2000 graduate of Co-Lin, was a member of the Wolf Pack baseball team. At Co-Lin, he set two school records for doubles and RBI's and was second in homeruns. He was also named All-Region and All-State. After Co-Lin, McNulty attended William Carey University, where, as a baseball player, he was named All-Conference and led the team in batting average, doubles, and RBI's. He went on to play independent professional baseball in the Southeastern Baseball League for the Montgomery Wings, where he led the league in batting. In 2002, he signed with the Seattle Mariners and played through the 2003 season. McNulty currently serves as president of

Apex Physical Therapy. He has served on the Simpson County Board of

Economic Development and is a volunteer coach at Simpson Academy. He and his wife Keely have three children, Sly, Elle, and Monroe.

Rousseau, a 2009 graduate of Co-Lin, was a pitcher for the Wolf Pack softball team. At Co-Lin, she was named First Team All-Region and First Team All-State, and her team won back-to-back state championships. Her 2008 team also won the regional championship and finished national runners-up. In 2008, Rousseau logged 45 innings with a 4-2 record, while saving five games with 49 strikeouts and only 15 walks. She also had a .341 batting average with 20 RBI and 20 runs scored. As team captain in 2009, Rousseau led the way with a 19-5 record and a 1.91 ERA, while recording four saves. She struck out 144, only issuing 29 walks in 150 innings pitched. She batted for a .368 average, with 21 runs scored and 22 RBI.

After Co-Lin, Rousseau attended Belhaven University, where she also played softball. In 2010, her team was the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference Regular Season Champion and earned a sixth-place finish in the NAIA National Championship Tournament. In the 2011 season, her team earned a third-place finish in the NAIA National Championship Tournament. Rousseau graduated from Belhaven in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in sports administration and a master's degree in leadership in 2013. Rousseau participated in the American International Sports Tours (AIST) softball tournament in Prague, pitching against the Czech National Team, Czech Republic, USA Team, and Austrian National Team, leading her team to a third place finish.

Rousseau has spent many years coaching and leading softball clinics and has served as an assistant coach at Ball State University and Morehead State University. Most recently, she has coached at Greenwood High School, where she was an assistant coach for two years and then head coach. Since 2016, Rousseau has been a prep/production manager at BlueCotton in Bowling Green, Kentucky. She and her husband Marq Moran have two children, Aiden and Ryleigh.

Walley, a 1968 graduate of Co-Lin, was a member of the Wolf Pack basketball and track and field teams. At Co-Lin, he was a member of the state champion 440-yard relay team and member of the 1967 State Track Championship Team. He received honorable mention All-State in basketball and was co-captain of the basketball team. Walley was also freshman class president, president of the Baptist Student Union and French Club, vice president of the Student Association, a member of Phi Theta Kappa, and sports editor of the *Trillium*. He was a Hall of Fame and Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges selection.

After Co-Lin, Walley attended Mississippi College, where he earned a bachelors degree. He went on to receive a doctor of dental surgery degree from the University of Tennessee and a master's of science in orthodontics from St. Louis University. He opened his orthodontic practice in Jackson in 1980 and expanded to a second office in Madison in 1997. Walley has also served as a clinical professor of orthodontics at the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry for more than 34 years.

Walley was honored as Co-Lin's Alumnus of the Year in 1988 and served on the Foundation's Board of Directors. He is past-president of the Co-Lin Alumni Association and Athletic Alumni Association. Walley has also served as president of the Mississippi Association of Orthodontics and the Orthodontic Education and Research Foundation, and is a member of the American and Southern Association of Orthodontics. Walley is a member of First Baptist Church in Madison where he is a Sunday school teacher. He and his wife Rebecca have two children, Kenneth, Jr. and Richard, and two grandchildren.



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Fortenberry CL Alumna of Year

Special to Wesson News

Patricia Ann (Moak) Fortenberry of Fayetteville, North Carolina, originally of Bogue Chitto, is Co-Lin's 2021 Alumna of the Year. She will be recognized during the college's Homecoming on Thursday, October 28, at the Alumni Association Awards Reception at 3:30 pm in the Thames Center.

Fortenberry, a 1961 graduate of Co-Lin, was a member the Young Women's Christian Association, the Baptist Student Union, the 4-H Club, Future Teachers of America, the Chemistry Club, and was president of the Home Economics Club at the college. She attended the University of Southern Mississippi and was a social and home demonstration agent before becoming a stay-at-home-mom dedicated to raising her two children.

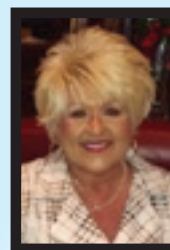
In 1975, Fortenberry started a 30-year career with Mary Kay Cosmetics, becoming a Sales Director in the top two percent of the company with two years. Over the course of her career, her business expanded internationally to Canada, South Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, and Malaysia. Fortenberry became Executive Senior Sales Director in 1979, National Sales Director in 1984 and Senior Executive National Sales Director in 2003 -- a position held by only three people out of more than one million sales representatives.

In 2005, she was recognized as the number one sales representative in Mary Kay Cosmetics out of more than one million people, and had over 30,000 people in her organization bringing in more than \$40 million in retail sales annually. Over the course of her career, Fortenberry earned 17 Mary Kay pink Cadillac's and appeared on "ABC's Good Morning America" with Mary Kay. Fortenberry retired from selling Mary Kay in 2006.

Beginning in 2006 after her retirement from sales, Fortenberry signed a contract to travel internationally for Mary Kay to speak to and train sales managers in new markets around the world and is actively involved in assisting Mary Kay with its global expansion. She also authored and published the book *More than Makeup*, which coaches and inspires sales people throughout the world. She is recognized as an Elite Executive National Sales Director Emeritus within the company and is a member of the National Speakers Association.

She and her husband Charles have two children and five grandchildren.

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cont. from page 1

Co-Lin Homecoming week October 25-29

other pertinent information on the Co-Lin web site (www.colin.edu) or through the alumni office (601-643-6313).

In addition to the football game, Homecoming Day activities will include:

- President's home open house from 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- Alumni Association awards reception recognizing

Sports Hall of Fame inductees, Band and Colette alumni award winners and the 50-year reunion class from 3:30 p.m.-5 p.m.

- Community-wide tailgate party beside Stone Stadium from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The Homecoming Court will be presented at halftime of the

football game, which starts at 6:30 p.m.

"Following a year in which the COVID-19 pandemic forced cancellation of the Homecoming celebration, we are expecting upwards of 2,000 participants from alumni, many of whom are retired, and townspeople," says Angela Furr, Co-Lin Foundation and

Alumni Relations Director.

Furr said the tailgate party with its new location beside the stadium and free food and musical entertainment will be a big event with community as well as alumni participation. There will be no Saturday events this year facing competition from non Co-Lin events in the area, she added.

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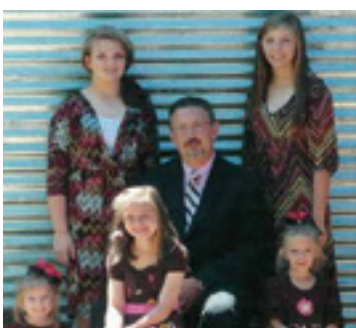
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Band & Colette Alumni honor four

Special to Wesson News

The Band and Colette chapter of Co-Lin Alumni Association will induct Janet Douglas Blackmon of Oxford and Charles Edward (Eddie) Steadman, Jr. of Crestview, Florida, into its Hall of Fame and will honor LaToya Bradley Parker of Brookhaven and Stephen Paul Bush of Summit as the Stanley Stewart Outstanding Young Alumni recipients during the college's Homecoming festivities on Thursday, October 28.

Blackmon, the chapter's 2020 Hall of Fame honoree, graduated from Co-Lin High School in 1974 and the college in 1976. In high school, she was a member of the band for four years, the flag corps for two years and a Colette for two years. A Colette in college as well, she was Head Colette during her sophomore year. She was also an editor of the *Trillium*, freshman class president, a freshman beauty, and a sophomore campus favorite at Co-Lin before attending the University of Alabama, where she was a member of the Alabama Million Dollar Band Crimsonettes and Phi Mu Sorority, and graduated with a degree in home economics in 1978.

Blackmon returned to Co-Lin in 1980, and through 1992 served as Colette Director, Color Guard Coordinator, and Sojourner Choreographer. She moved to Oxford, Mississippi, with her family and spent the rest of her career in education, teaching Early Childhood Education at South Panola High School for 18 years and serving as a Dual Enrollment Instructor with Northwest Community College for five years.

Blackmon has served on the Mis-



issippi Department of Education Early Childhood Education Curriculum Writing Team and as an Education Methods Class Trainer. She is a member of the Mississippi Association of Career Technical Educators, the Mississippi Association of Family Consumer Science Teachers, and the Family Career and Community Leaders of America. Blackmon was selected as Teacher of the Year in 2004 and in 2020 was recognized as the Mississippi Association of Family Consumer Science Educators Teacher of the Year and was Teacher of the Year at South Panola High School. Blackmon is a member of North Oxford Baptist Church. She and her husband Steve have one son, Douglas.

Steadman, the chapter's 2021 Hall of Fame honoree, graduated from Co-Lin in 1976, where he was a member of the marching, concert, and jazz bands; the concert choir and Sojourners. He was selected to Who's Who in American Junior Colleges, and was a two-time member of the Mississippi Junior College All-State Band. Steadman received a music education degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and later earned a masters of music degree from Mississippi College. He started his career teaching bands in various Mississippi schools which consistently earned superior ratings and was president of the East Central Mississippi Band Directors Association, president of the Capitol District Band Directors Association and chairman of the Music Selection Committee for the Mississippi Band Directors Association for two years.

In 1988, Escambia High School in Pensacola, Florida, hired Steadman as director of bands, but he fell in love



with teaching middle school students as the band director at Lewis Middle School, and made a commitment to remain teaching at that level. For the next 22 years, he served as a middle school band director in Okaloosa County, Florida.

Steadman's bands have earned superior ratings at all Florida Bandmasters Association (FBA) events, and regional and national events as well. He received the Citation of Excellence from the National Band Association and the Cox Communications/Bravo Champion for the Arts award. He has been selected as Teacher of the Year twice and received FBA's Oliver Hobbs Award. He was named Outstanding Band Director in Florida by the Omega Chapter of Phi Beta Mu, and was inducted into the Florida Bandmasters Association Hall of Fame in 2019. Steadman is a member of the Okaloosa County Educators Association, National Association for Music Education, the Florida Music Educators Association, Phi Mu Alpha, Phi Beta Mu, and is a life member of the Florida Bandmasters Association. He is a member of Crosspoint United Methodist Church in Niceville, Florida, where he sings in the choir, plays in the church orchestra, and serves on the administrative board. He and his wife Terri have two children, David and Alison.

Parker, the chapter's 2020 Outstanding Young Alum honoree, graduated from Co-Lin in 2006, received a music education degree from Mississippi College and a master's degree in music education (2014), a specialist degree in educational leadership (2017) and a doctoral degree in education from William Carey (2021). She has served as director of bands



for South Leake County High School, Bassfield High School, Collins High School and Natchez High School; currently is the band director at Jefferson County High School and has worked in special education at Brookhaven High School and Denman Junior High. Parker prefers to teach in schools with a predominately African American student body to make a bigger impact on the students she encounters. During the pandemic, she invented a facemask that was able to be used by bands to better perform.

Bush, the chapter's 2021 Outstanding Young Alum honoree, attended Co-Lin from 2001-2004 and again in 2007, and received a music education degree from Delta State University. Bush started his career as a band director and music teacher at Washington School in Greenville and became the assistant band director at North Pike School District in 2011, where he leads the North Pike Middle School band, which has been recognized and awarded for superior performances in both stage and sight reading; and is assistant to the North Pike High School marching band, concert band, symphonic band, and various other ensembles.

Bush is a past president and member of the Southwest Mississippi Band Directors Association, a member of the Mississippi Band Directors Association, and a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity. He is an active member of the Andrew Jackson Council of the Boy Scouts of America and the Grand Lodge of Mississippi Free and Accepted Masons. Bush is a member of First Baptist Church in Summit. He and his wife Keely have one son, James Isaac.



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Homeland Security grant funds research

Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin students Dallas Nickerson and Julian Parker were part of a unique research opportunity this past summer at Jackson State University, which received a research grant from The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for Scientific Leadership Awards for minority serving institutions.

JSU formed a partnership with Co-Lin to achieve the research goals of the grant and involve Co-Lin students.

The focal point of the DHS grant was to increase awareness of natural disasters through the implementation of newly emerging technology in research and education. A portion of the grant was used to purchase drones and other aerial equipment so research could be conducted from the air.

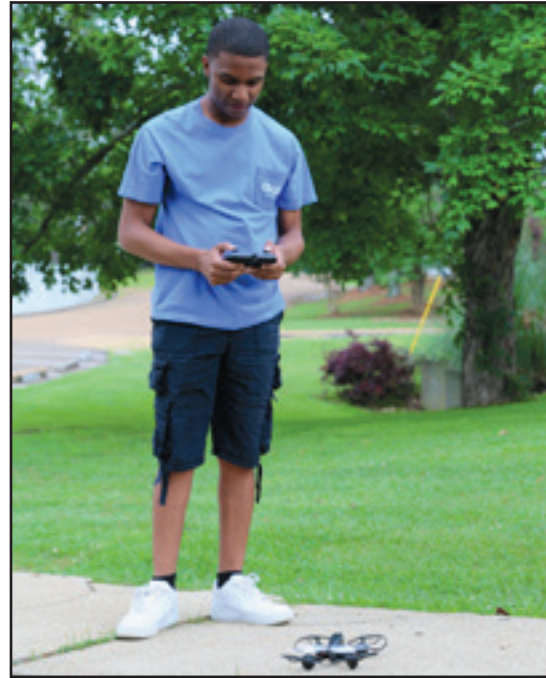
Nickerson, a sophomore from Magee, conducted her research on Spatial Analysis for Mississippi River Flooding in Vicksburg, MS. Parker, a sophomore from Brookhaven, focused his research on Flooding Levels for Hurricane Katrina, 2005.

Both students benefitted greatly from the summer internship program as they learned ArcGIS software, how to analyze data once captured, and were required to give a final presentation of their research findings to a panel of instructors.

Co-Lin instructors Dr. Reed Freeman, Dr. Kevin McKone, Jamie Lambert and Thalamus Marshall were mentors for the program.

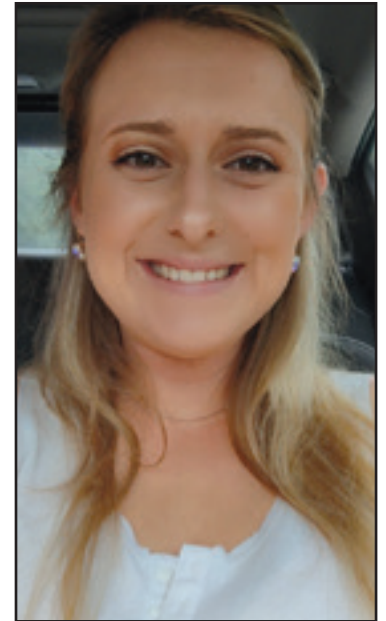
“This research internship with JSU was valuable for the students because they were given the freedom to be creative in defining their specific objectives for the project,” the team of mentors said. “Once their objectives were accepted by JSU, the students were somewhat self-reliant in learning and using the ArcGIS software. Hands-on work experiences for our students like this are a wonderful complement to college education in classroom settings.”

For more information about getting involved in pre-engineering, science, or another STEM field at Co-Lin, contact kevin.mckone@colin.edu or reed.freeman@colin.edu.



Julian Parker

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Garden Club learns about wildflowers

Special to Wesson News

Donna Beliech, Area Horticulturist with the Mississippi State University Extension Service, discussed the importance of wildflowers last month at the Wesson Garden Club meeting.

Beliech's comments were a product of deep experience. Growing up on a dairy and soybean farm in the Mississippi Delta and working in the family's garden, she developed an interest in plants which led her to obtaining degrees in both Forestry and Horticulture. In 1996, she joined the MSU Extension Service and currently serves an eight-county area in Central Mississippi presenting educational programs pertaining to plant problems and possible solutions, gardening trends, and plant availability.

Following the formal meeting, Garden Club members made pink bows to be used in October for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The Club met at the American Legion Building. Attendees were Marilyn Britt, Sherri Carty, Sonya Cowen, Robin Furr, Debbie Hoaglin, Denise Jackson, Pam McLemore, JoAnn Miller, June Owens, Pam Owens, Jennifer Peets, Joy Phillips, Jean Ricks, Meghan Shepherd, Debbie Smith, Lisa Smith, Nancy Sullivan, Dixie Thornton, Cathy Warren and Joy Wesbrooks. Also present were prospective Club members Lori Dougherty and Linda Toten.

The Wesson Garden Club is a member of The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc. and The National Garden Clubs, Inc.



MSU horticulturist talks about wildflowers.

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Artist of the Month



Special to Wesson News

Brookhaven Regional Arts Guild (BRAG) members have chosen Gabby Ladd as their August Artist of the Month for *Gargoyle's Paradise*, a pastel. Each month, BRAG members submit artwork based on which their fellow members choose the Artist of the Month. Member voting is on the 27th of each month from 8 a.m.- 10 p.m., and BRAG announces the chosen artists on the 28th of each month. BRAG is an offshoot of Brookhaven Trust organized in the early 1990s to save and restore Mary Jane Lampton Auditorium at the Mississippi School of the Arts on the former historic Whitworth College Campus. The Trust's Fine Arts Committee, tasked to preserve the arts in Brookhaven and help revitalize its arts community through exhibitions, art talks and competitions, evolved into BRAG after a group of area women started meeting on a regular basis to create works. BRAG first met in January 2014. Contact BRAG at 813 Highway 51 N, Brookhaven, MS 39601-2079 or visit BRAGarts.com.



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Co-Lin introduces AEMT training



Special to Wesson News

Special to Wesson News

New to Co-Lin Workforce Education and the college district is the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician program (AEMT), which prepares currently certified Emergency Medical Technicians to provide limited advanced levels of emergency medical care.

In addition to their principal duty of performing ongoing basic life support, AEMTs are also equipped to deliver medications outside the scope allowed for an EMT, such as medications delivered via intravenous access (IV). The Advanced Emergency Medical Technician practices under medical supervision and is responsible for treating and safely transporting the critically ill or injured patient.

The initial AEMT session is being held in Monticello at the Lawrence County 911 Building through December 18, 2021. Classes started October 5 and meet on

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 to 9 p.m. with occasional meetings on Saturday, which will be announced once the course begins. The total tuition cost for the program is \$500 with a \$25 uniform fee.

The AEMT training program is composed of 75 lecture hours, 50 lab hours, and 120 clinical hours which include 84 hours of ambulance time. Course topics include, but are not limited to, human anatomy and physiology, medical terminology, trauma, hazmat, ethical and legal issues, EMS operations, OB, and pharmacology. Once the course is successfully completed, participants will be prepared to sit for the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT). College credit is not available for this program, and class work or grades will not transfer to a paramedic program.

Participants must have a current EMT-Basic license and be 18 years of age or older.

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