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Wesson welcomes new BBQ restaurant

Wesson News

The new, family-owned Fire House BBQ is now open in town in the former Dump’s BBQ location.

New owners Lenzie and Michelle Chambers of Wesson had a soft opening in mid-August but say they are in full-blown “restaurant mode” now.

Ken and Kris Sullivan closed Dump’s to start a new chapter in their lives. The Sullivans now serve in ministry, pastoring at Union Hill Baptist Church in Brookhaven.

The Chambers heard that Dump’s was closing, so, one day, Lenzie went by to talk with Ken. They say it was “the right place, at the right time.”

Lenzie is originally from Texas, but moved to the area thirteen years ago.



He had been working in the oil field industry and felt that season had “played out” for him.

Friends convinced the Chambers to open a restaurant - so they did it – and made it a family affair.

“We have our kids working here, along with other employees,” they said.

Their daughter, Bella (age 13), runs the cash register, and son, Sawyer (age 8) “pretty much does whatever we need him to do, whether it’s bussing tables or sweeping the floors; he’s willing to get in there to do whatever we need,” said Lenzie.

Customers are already raving over the food.

“Kyle and I tried the new BBQ place, Fire House,” said Christy Michael of Wesson, in a Facebook post. “It was



Special to Wesson News

good. Brisket was my fav. The BBQ sauce in the small bottle on the table is super good. Go check it out!”

“We had it last weekend,” posted Jamie Hillman Wallace, “and it was delicious. Go like and follow their page to get the word out.”

The restaurant serves appetizers, burgers, sandwiches, sides, and meat offerings that include brisket, pork ribs and link sausage. Brisket is only available after 5 p.m. to ensure that it’s cooked to perfection.

“It’s great food...everything is good. We’ve had no complaints so far. It’s definitely not fast food,” said Lenzie.

He adds that the restaurant has already been completely packed several nights – and patrons report that “no seats available” means their wait will result in a mouth-watering meal.

“There’s been a few times we didn’t

cont. on page 5

Garden Club wins national awards



Special to Wesson News

Pictured with the Garden Club’s awards are Carrie Northam and Debbie Hoaglin.

Wesson News

The Wesson Garden Club recently received two top awards from National Garden Clubs, Inc. during their recent annual convention held in Denver, Colorado.

The club received a Certificate of Merit CE-4A Roadside Paintings for the work and plantings the club has done along the corridor of MS Highway 51. The club’s continued maintenance and plantings have contributed to the landscape and beautification along a major travel route in Mississippi.

The club also received another top award for its newsletter, bringing home a Certificate in Appreciation MAE-4B Publications. The newsletter was touted for its spectacular design and horticulture content.

Photography exhibit on display at library



All photos special to Wesson News

Special to Wesson News

Through the end of September, the Wesson Library will host a photography exhibit of works by well-known local and seasoned photographer Bill Perkins of Brookhaven. The exhibit, “A Lifetime of Photography,” is free.

“This exhibit has been going from library to library in southwest Mississippi and nearby Louisiana,” said Perkins.

Perkins’ interest in photography began as a child. After graduating from college, he began his career in Esberg, Denmark. Since then, he has lived in Ireland, Great Britain, Egypt, the Sudan, Pakistan, Brazil, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Singapore, Hong Kong and Kazakhstan and traveled to more than one hundred countries for business or leisure.

As part of his travels, Perkins has taken decades of photos across Europe, Asia and the United States. The photos in the current exhibit were taken in more than one hundred countries.

The exhibit consists of media pictures and displays.

“You can also enjoy browsing our library while visiting this exhibit,” said librarian Marilyn Britt. “You’ll love our library’s newly furnished meeting room.”

“We are very proud to offer this exhibit,” said Britt.

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Co-Lin Foundation celebrates million-dollar milestone



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The Co-Lin Foundation recently celebrated \$1 million in revenue for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. Those present for the celebration included (l to r) Co-Lin Foundation Executive Director Angela Furr, Co-Lin President Dr. Dewayne Middleton, Foundation President Lauren Adkins, incoming Foundation President Brad Jones and Foundation treasurer Charles Hart.

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The Copleah-Lincoln (Co-Lin) Community College Foundation received more than \$1 million in donations during the 2023-2024 fiscal year for the first time since the late 1990s, and the Foundation's Board of Directors and college administrators celebrated following a recent board meeting.

The annual total did not stem from lump sum gifts, which was the case of the transformational Taylor and Pitts family gifts to the college in the 1990s, but instead came from a variety of sources, including individual gifts, corporate sponsorships, fundraising events and athletic camps. Donations to the Foundation have increased steadily over the past ten years, nearly doubling its total from five years ago.

"I am thrilled to reach such a big milestone this year. This is the result of a great effort of our whole team at Co-Lin," said Angela Furr, who has served as executive director of the Foundation since 2018. "Of course, none of this would be possible without the generosity of our donors, alumni and corporate partners who continue

to support the college and our students."

This past year's giving has allowed for the unprecedented awards of nearly half a million in scholarships to students and faculty, more than \$250,000 to athletics and \$150,000 in other direct support of the college. The gifts help make it possible for the college to continue creating new programs, providing scholarships to students, and making improvements to its campuses, as state funding and tuition revenue does not cover all the costs associated with running the college.

"The Co-Lin Foundation staff and our generous donors are vital to our success here at the college," said Co-Lin President Dr. Dewayne Middleton. "Each dollar given to the Foundation allows us to meet the growing needs of the college, whether it be through student scholarships, purchasing much needed equipment for our academic and career-tech programs, or updating our technology and facilities."

To make a tax-deductible gift to Co-Lin, contact the Foundation office at 601-643-8313 or visit colin.edu to give online.

Chamber plans free Meet and Greet luncheon

Wesson News

The Wesson Chamber of Commerce will host a special "Meet and Greet" luncheon event for current and potential members.

Set for September 17 from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at the Wesson Library, the luncheon will be catered by the newly-opened Fire House BBQ restaurant in Wesson.

The luncheon is designed to give current and prospective members the opportunity to meet fellow members and the Chamber's new president and board of directors, as well as for potential members to receive more information about the

Wesson Chamber.

"[The luncheon] gives local business owners the chance to network and build relationships to better our city," said Ricky Breazeale, new Wesson business owner of Grace Foam Solutions.

RSVPs are required, in order to ensure enough food is prepared. As the Chamber is in the process of getting a new phone number, those who wish to attend the free luncheon are asked to RSVP to Chamber President Teri Bath at Teri.SalmonPoint@gmail.com or by calling 775-813-6505.

The Wesson Library is located at 1012 Spring Street.

Broadband expansion project includes Copleah County

Special to Wesson News

TEC, a leading provider of rural broadband services, has broken ground on an expansive project to enhance digital connectivity in parts of Simpson, Newton, Copleah and Lawrence counties. Their Reconnect initiative will include three phases of major construction, increasing Gigabit-speed internet access by an estimated 568 miles.

Phase one will begin in Simpson County, followed by phase two in Newton County, and ending with phase three in Copleah and Lawrence Counties. Once completed, the project will provide access to nearly 5,000 residential and business customers in these counties that have previously been underserved. The project is made possible through combined investments nearing \$29.6 million by the Rural Utilities Service Reconnect program and TEC.

Dr. Anika Floyd, Vice President of Simpson County Center, commented on the project's transformative potential: "TEC's expansion in Simpson, Newton, Copleah and Lawrence counties will revolutionize internet services and improve the quality of life of individuals, businesses and educational institutions. Expanded access to broadband services will create new opportunities and foster economic growth. TEC's services will not only be a beacon of light in remote and underserved areas, but personal, professional and social interactions will also be transformed on a large scale."

TEC's strategic objective is to help bridge the broadband accessibility gap by providing a reliable, high-quality, af-

fordable internet solution. The amplified connectivity not only fuels local economic development, but also improves the quality of life by enabling telemedicine services, facilitating educational opportunities and supporting work-from-home capabilities. Moreover, the

enhanced broadband service enriches personal experiences, including seamless video streaming and immersive gaming.

"Our newest outreach across these counties underscores our dedication to high-speed, reliable internet for every resident," said Joey F. Garner, CEO of TEC. "We're thrilled to see our vision take shape each day."

For more information about the service, visit at www.TEC.com/SignUp or call 833-832-3423.



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WAC PTO planning big things for 2024-25 school year

Photos Special to Wesson News



The WAC PTO "Rent the Rock" fundraiser allows parents and community members to sponsor the "rock" being painted in support of special events, team support, birthdays, and the like.



Pictured is first-grader Tyler Carr, celebrating his birthday. He is the son of Devin Carr and Destiny Lucas.

Every student in grades kindergarten through sixth will also get to participate in a "fun day," with different activities being added - such as popsicles, games, music and bounce houses - depending on how many boxes of cookie dough are sold all together. As a bonus, the high sellers from each grade will have the chance to be on the first-ever Pee Wee Homecoming Court, with the overall sellers being crowned King and Queen.

Back by popular demand will be the Spring Carnival. Last year, parent representatives from each grade were tasked with coming up with games to play and manning their respective "booths." Students reported having a blast hopping from game to game, jumping out their energy in the bounce houses and partaking in carnival-inspired concessions.

PTO fundraisers provide money for incentives, activities and treats throughout the school year, including such events as Meet the Teacher night, pumpkin painting contests, a hot chocolate cart around the holidays, incentive parties, student of the month prizes, the Accelerated Reader Store, teacher snack carts, student awards at the end of the school year, teacher appreciation gifts, and much more.

The PTO also keeps a coat closet stocked with different-sized coats for any student who forgets a coat at home - or for those who don't have one. Their goal is to grow the closet to include other items, such as hats, gloves, socks, etc. The coat closet offers a way for the community to get involved in the school, as it is strictly donation-based.

"It can't quite be put into words the amount of time and effort our PTO puts into our school and community," said first-time president Leanne McLeod Duet.

PTO membership is open to anyone with a student at Wesson Attendance Center, with grandparents, aunts, uncles, and other extended family welcome.

"There's a place for everyone who truly wants to make a difference and assist in making each school year a success," said Duet.

Those interested in volunteering time or skills to ensure WAC students have an excellent school year are encouraged to contact PTO President Leanne Duet at 601-757-6305.

"Through community and parent partnerships, the PTO will continue to grow and assist in providing the best learning environment for our student," said Duet.

Wesson News

Those walking down the halls of Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) would be hard-pressed to find something the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) hasn't had a hand in. The PTO's mission is to make the lives of students, faculty and staff better through encouragement and assisting in creating an environment conducive and welcoming of fun and learning for all students.

With a new board and many new parent volunteers, PTO leaders say this year is poised to be another great one for WAC students. Their work kicked off before the start of the school year, with a joint effort alongside local hairstylists to create an event offering free back-to-school haircuts for kids in the community, which was held in the gym of Wesson Baptist Church. Destiny's Delights provided free sweet treats, and Wesson Baptist Church members were on site administering free school supply signups.

Organizers said the event was such a success that many from the community requested it be turned into an annual event, with multiple inquiries on how to support the event in the future.

The PTO has a few fundraisers planned throughout the year. One is a "Rent the Rock" fundraiser. Parents, grandparents, extended family and even businesses can give a child (or children) a special shout-out for their birthday, sporting event or any special occasion. PTO representatives say the new fundraiser is already a big hit.

Visiting the PTO's Facebook page (Wesson Cobra PTO) allows interested "renters" to sign, reserve a date and brainstorm their perfect design at the Signup Genius link.

Students are currently selling cookie dough through September 9. The fundraiser kicked off on August 26, with cookies and lemonade for all elementary students to enjoy. As an incentive, for every five boxes of cookie dough a student sells, their name will be entered into a drawing for prizes.



Fifth-grader Natalee Westmoreland, daughter of Nikki Bowman and Cassidy Westmoreland, poses for her special, rented rock at WAC to celebrate her tenth birthday



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cont. from front page

Wesson welcomes new BBQ restaurant



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have a seat available. We are in the growing stage. There could be a little wait," said Lenzie.

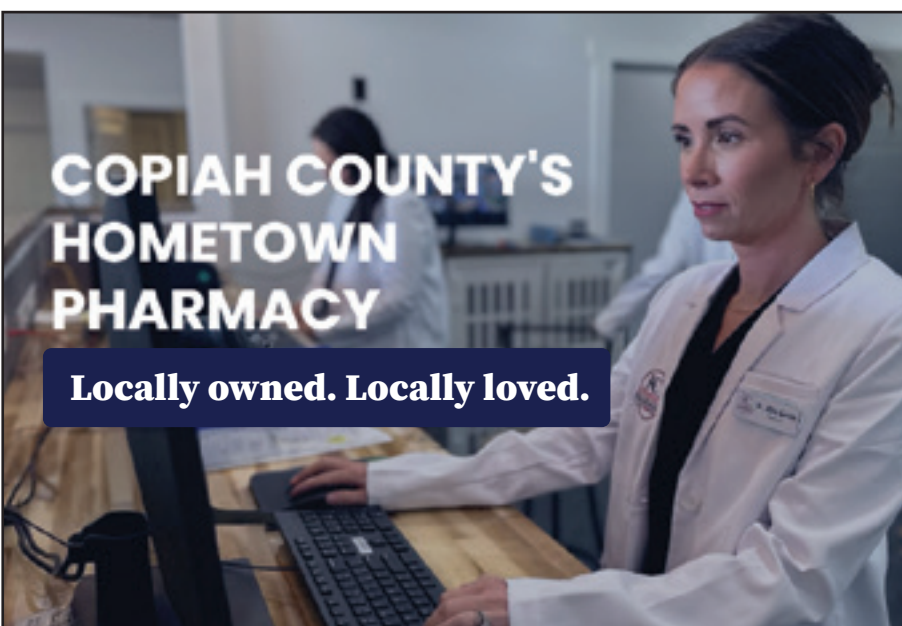
Michelle says she is thrilled about the new family business.

"I'm excited about what God is doing in our lives and in our community," she said. "It's more than a restaurant; it's a place of ministry. We need it. The community needs it."

Fire House BBQ is located at 1033 Church Street in Wesson and is open from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m., Thursday through Saturday. They can be reached at 601-643-6000.



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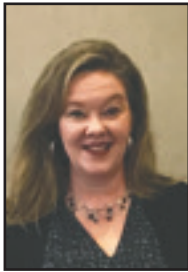
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Dept. of Health working to expand health equity in Mississippi

By Guest Columnist Stephanie Duguid

Health equity is more than just a buzzword; it's a critical pathway to ensuring that all Mississippi residents have the opportunity to attain their full health potential.



Dr. Nikki Johnson, from the Office of Preventive Health and Health Equity, recently shared insights into several initiatives aimed at reducing health disparities across the state. These initiatives are vital in addressing the social determinants of health and advancing overall health equity.

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) has a clear and focused goal: to expand its capacity to address health disparities through targeted projects and initiatives. These efforts are designed to create a healthier Mississippi, where everyone has access to the resources they need to live a healthy life, regardless of their background or circumstances.

One of the standout efforts of the Office of Preventive Health and Health Equity is its **annual grant program**. This year, the grants were awarded to faith-based organiza-

tions, with a focus on enhancing and expanding health ministries within churches. These ministries play a crucial role in increasing knowledge about preventive health and addressing the needs of both congregants and the broader community. By empowering churches with the tools and resources they need, MSDH is helping to ensure that health information and services reach even the most underserved communities.

In addition to faith-based initiatives, the Office of Preventive Health and Health Equity has launched several other programs aimed at building capacity and fostering inclusivity. One such program is the **language access initiative**, which provides training in translation services and cultural task forces. This initiative ensures that language barriers do not prevent individuals from receiving the care they need.

Another significant resource offered by the Office is the **Health Equity Training Series**, a comprehensive five-module program that develops the capacity to communicate a social, economic and environmental approach to health experiences and outcomes. This training



series is invaluable for professionals across the state who are working to address health disparities and promote equity in their communities.

The Office also emphasizes the importance of cultural competency in health care. Through additional **cultural competency training**, health

professionals are reminded of the importance of delivering services that are responsive to the diverse needs of Mississippi's families. This training highlights the significance of recognizing and respecting the unique cultures, heritages, languages, beliefs and circumstances of all patients. It's a reminder that cultural responsiveness is not a one-

time effort, but an ongoing part of continuous quality improvement in health care.

In its role as the agency's Incident Command and Senior Advisory Committee, the Office of Health Equity has also taken on a critical function in **public health emergencies**. The Office serves as a liaison between health and social services programs and the communities they serve, ensuring that information is disseminated quickly and efficiently during times of crisis.

For those interested in learning more about these initiatives or seeking support from the Office of Health Equity, additional information can be obtained by visiting the website [MSDH.ms.gov/page/44,0,236.html](https://msdh.ms.gov/page/44,0,236.html), or contacting the Office directly at health.equity-office@msdh.ms.gov.

Mississippi's commitment to health equity is clear, and, with these initiatives, we are taking significant steps toward a healthier and more equitable state for all residents.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Stephanie Duguid is the owner of Do Good ProHealth (CPR classes) and Do Good Leadership (motivational speaking, and leadership and success coaching).



KING'S DAUGHTERS MEDICAL CENTER NEWS

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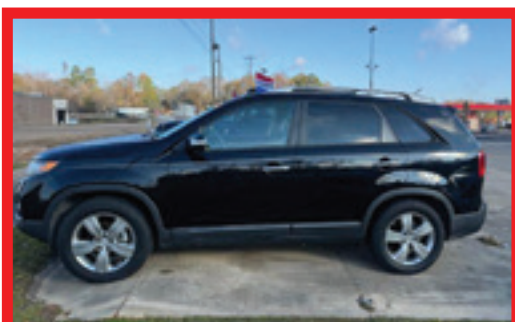


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Local chef and team bring requested "Steak Night" to area



Special to Wesson News

Wesson News

Local executive chef Ken Dixon and his team at Mitchell's Special Events and Catering have answered the call to bring a steak night to the area. In addition to steaks, filet of beef, grilled porkchops, teriyaki chicken and specialty dishes such as Redfish Hannah and Seafood Julie, Dixon, who has been working at Broma's/Mitchell's since 2006, recently introduced a Tuesday night "Steak

Night," when, from 4 until 7 p.m., hungry patrons can order, for dine-in or takeout, their choice of a filet or a 12-ounce ribeye, which is served with vegetables, loaded mashed potatoes, a roll and dessert.

Dixon says that, being a lifetime resident of Brookhaven, he has made many friends and has a keen sense of the kind of dishes the people of Brookhaven are looking for; and that's what brought steak night into existence. He said he had so many requests for somewhere people could go to get a well-cooked steak.

Dixon, who has been in the food industry for about thirty-two years, says he started out as a bartender and oversaw the restaurant - until the chef quit, and Dixon assumed his role. The rest is history. He gives credit to many people along the way who he says have taught him so much.



Special to Wesson News

"The key to success is always giving your best effort and knowing you are never too accomplished to learn from others," says Dixon.

Dixon never hesitates to give credit to his team of cooks and workers. He said there is no way steak night would be the success it is without their hard work and dedication to excellence.

His plan is to keep steak night around for a long time and eventually add some other dishes, like appetizers.

In his down time, which is not very often, Dixon says he spends time with his grandchildren; and, even though he spends so much time in food preparation, he still finds time to cook a good home-cooked meal for himself.

Local attorney Shelley Barron said "My mom and I went, and both of us enjoyed our meal. She had the ribeye; I had the pasta. The vegetable medley that comes with each meal is my favorite. It's a one-day-a-week rare treat that is worth making time for in your weekly itinerary."

Mitchell's Special Events and Catering is located at 1203 Hampton Drive in Brookhaven.

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WHS students uniting Christian athletes with revived FCA



Special to Wesson News

Pictured (l to r) are the Wesson High School FCA leadership team: Eden Hall, ninth grade; Laney Kate Earls, twelfth grade; Ben McKenzie, twelfth grade; Tate Brister, eleventh grade; Blayten Windhom, tenth grade; Braylen Brown, tenth grade; Ella Logan, twelfth grade; and Macy Loy, eleventh grade.

Wesson News

Wesson High School (WHS) has begun its second year of Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). The student-led organization aims at uniting Christian athletes so they have somewhere to congregate.

“I feel like, from a teenager’s point of view and the things they go through in life, I think it’s important that FCA is student-led,” said Blayten Windhom, a sophomore on the FCA leadership team. Windhom’s father is a Wesson coach and an FCA sponsor.

Meetings are every Thursday during the school year, except for holidays, held in the school’s old gym and open to all WHS faculty, staff and students. Meetings consist of donuts and fellowship, worship music and a message from a speaker.

While attendees do not have to be athletes, the messages shared are tailored to athletes.

Attendees do not even have to be Christian, for that matter. The organization hopes to “glorify God on and off the field,” said Ella Logan, FCA leadership team member and high school se-

nior. “It’s definitely not easy to glorify God at all times, but He calls us to do it.”

The organization is in its second year from a re-launch.

“My dad kept pushing me to start FCA. I kind of just put it to the side. It was kind of awkward. I was the only one. We hadn’t had it before. Finally, I just decided...I’m gonna start it. And then I got my group together, and we’ve just been growing since then,” said Macy Loy.

Loy’s dad is Coach Loy, head football coach at Wesson.

“He really wanted this in the school. We’ve had it in the past in this school, but it kind of fell off the last couple of years, and he wanted to get it started back up again,” she said.

Meetings start at 7:20 a.m., with worship getting kicked off around 7:25 a.m. On average, fifty to sixty students are in attendance on any given Thursday. The highest number counted was last year at just over one hundred. A message is shared starting around 7:30 a.m. Dismissal is just in time for the bell to ring to start a new school day.

cont. on page 15



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Mr. and Miss Wesson 2024-25 selected



Special to Wesson News

Wesson Attendance Center students recently selected Trevor McCree as Mr. Wesson 2024-25, and Lilly Kate Channell was elected as Miss Wesson 2024-25.

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McClendon honored for lifetime teaching achievements

Special to Wesson News

Professional educator Dot McClendon, who, for over fifty-six years, taught math and science at multiple Mississippi high schools, as well as Copiah-Lincoln Community College, was recently honored for her efforts helping to raise test scores in Mississippi. McClendon, who also serves as pastor of Homeseekers Bible Church in Wesson, combined her content expertise and proven preparation methods into Jumpstart Test Prep's online guided review program, which is designed to help students prepare for the American College Test (ACT). Jumpstart Review programs are now leveraged annually by over 2,000 educators in classrooms across seven states at over one hundred fifty partner schools, as well as by parents and students nationwide. McClendon has been inducted into the Mississippi Economic Council's STAR Teacher Hall-of-Fame and recognized as one of the top five educators in the Mississippi Teacher of the Year program.

McLendon served the students of Mississippi for over fifty-six years before retiring as "Teacher of the Year" at The Mississippi School of the Arts. She says her passion for teaching was ignited by "seeing the light come on in a student's eyes," the exuberant moment when a student finally understands the ma-

terial. Her passion led to helping students prepare for the ACT® and other high-stakes exams through decades of private tutoring and live classroom review events. Her mastery of explaining difficult content in a way that every student can follow and understand has led to dramatic score improvements by her students - providing acceptance into and often academic scholarship

benefits from major universities, opening the door to higher learning for many who would have never been accepted or able to afford college without family assistance or costly student loans.

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view programs and assessments, bellringers, as well as prep for high school equivalency exams and the Praxis core exam.

McClendon earned her bachelor of science degree in chemistry, with a minor in biological sciences, from Mississippi College. She earned her Master of Science degree in both chemistry and biological sciences from the University of Mississippi. She has been certified to teach chemistry, physics, biological sciences and mathematics. She was married twenty-six years before becoming a widow. She has two daughters and a godson, as well as four grandchildren.



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WAC selects homecoming court maids, queen

Photos Special to Wesson News



WAC Senior Homecoming Queen
Laney Kate Earls

Wesson News

Wesson Attendance Center recently elected the members of their 2024 homecoming court.

Elected as 2024 Homecoming Queen was Laney Kate Earls. Her attendants will be Logan Royal and Sharon Lee.

Senior homecoming maids include Maggie Runnels and Aubree Smith, and senior football maid is Sa'niya Brice.

Junior maids are Lexi Prestridge and Kylie Rorie, and sophomore maids are Micqueal Berry and Enijah Hubbard. Freshman maids are Laina Hart and Mallory Wilkinson.

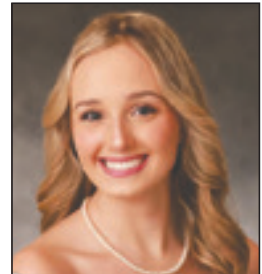
Jr. high football maid is Ady Prestridge, with Madison Rowley and Aubrey Carraway chosen and eighth-grade maids, and Mae Logan and Lyla Formby chosen as seventh-grade maids.

Mr. and Miss Wesson will also participate in the court, with attendants Beau Garrett and Annslea Hogan.

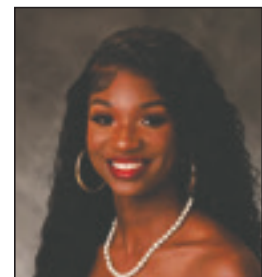
Homecoming will be celebrated on September 27, when the WAC Cobras will play Mize at 7 p.m.



WAC Senior Homecoming Maid
Maggie Runnels



WAC Senior Homecoming Maid
Aubree Smith



WAC Senior Football Maid
Sa'niya Brice

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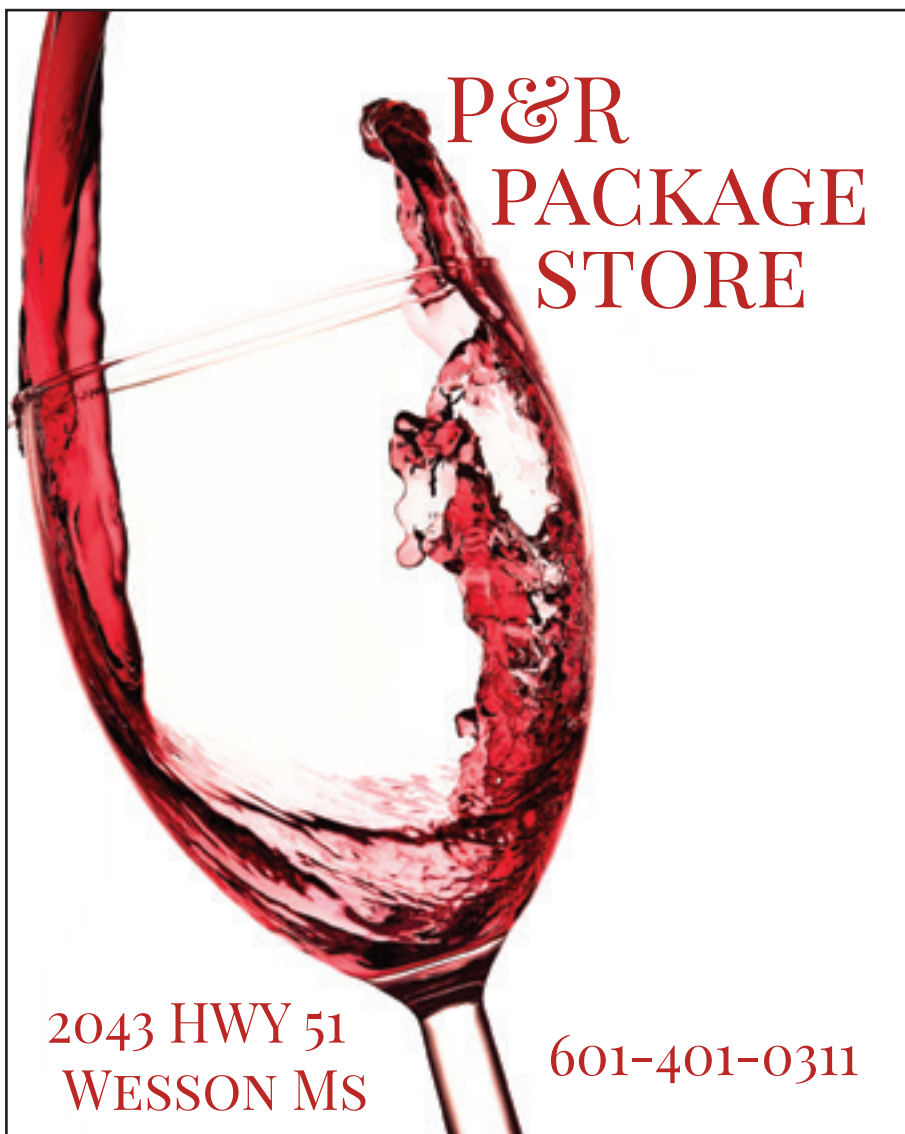
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Brokenness has a purpose in God's plans

By Guest Columnist Misty Strieff Prine

"I'm glad Jesus never says, 'This is the last time I'll put you back together.'" – Unknown.



I shudder at the thought of all of the times I've been broken to my core and where I'd be if God hadn't put me back together - again and again and again. Literally, more times than I can even count. Speaking from experience, I can tell you three things I personally learned through my brokenness:

1. Experiencing multiple bouts of brokenness was NECESSARY for my development and growth in Christ.
2. Each occurrence changed a part of me that I would never want to go back to. It opened my eyes and my heart to God's AMAZING plan for my life.
3. The woman writing this to you today is who she is, no thanks to herself, but to Almighty God; because I would've given up and quit ministry work all together a long time ago. But in singing, writing and loving on people like Jesus

does and making sure they are reminded of that love in their darkest days...I FOUND MY PURPOSE.

I still experience brokenness DAILY, but in it I find grace, love, mercy, peace and renewed purpose - and so should YOU! Through brokenness, God reminds us of how truly amazing His grace is, and He does some of His most amazing work in our lives in those darkest times.

Always remember to look for the lessons when you are walking through the valleys of life. They are there. Sometimes they are hard to find, so you have to make a valiant effort on your end to search for them; but I promise you, they are there.

When you do find them, study them. God needs you to learn that lesson, because it is important for your testimony. You are going to need it as part of the purpose He has planned for you. Trust me. I know!

I'm living proof of that. God's got you!

Never forget that, okay?

EDITOR'S NOTE: Misty Prine is a local inspirational writer.



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13U Combat team brings home first place



Special to Wesson News

The local 13U travel baseball team "Combat" recently took first place at Grand Slam's "South MS Going, Going, Gone!" tournament in Magee in a one-day event. Pictured (l to r) are, front row: Walker Breazeale of Wesson and Kenzavioun Williams of Brookhaven; middle row: Parker Elliot of Wesson, Haydn Rushing of Wesson, Kentavioun Williams of Brookhaven and Brayden Murray of Loyd Star; and back row: Kyler Gill of Bogue Chitto, Jayden Chamberlain of McComb, Kason Lofton of West Lincoln, Coach Ricky Breazeale of Wesson, Easton Chandler of Stringer, Sam Reid of Loyd Star, Coach Russell Elliot of Wesson and Coach Josh Chandler of Stringer.

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cont. from page 9

WHS students uniting Christian athletes with revived FCA

“It’s early...some people just don’t get up in time,” said high school senior Ben McKenzie, also on the leadership team.

The community seems to support the students’ efforts. Donuts for meetings are provided by monetary donations, and an FCA member picks up the donuts the morning of the meeting.

Through donations, enough donuts are secured until January 16. To give, see unofficial FCA “treasurer” and leadership team member and recently elected WHS Homecoming Queen, Laney Kate Earls.

FCA sponsors include Coach Vance Windhom, head baseball and cross-country coach; Coach Jeremy Loy, head football coach; Coach White, teacher and assistant softball and volleyball coach.

FCA has no formal membership, and there are no fees to join.

The leadership team has brainstormed fundraising ideas, because they hope and pray for new sound equipment. McKenzie helps to lead worship and has been bringing his personal equipment to the school each Thursday in his car. A t-shirt fundraiser may just help alleviate the extra pressure on McKenzie and meet a much-needed solution to their problem - a dedicated sound system that is ready and available.

“FCA is important, and it’s a cool thing to come to. It’s about other Christians being able to see each other and getting to know each other better. We are all doing this for the glory of God. It kind of helps for people to socialize but also get God’s word in,” said Tate Brister of Crystal Springs, who attends New Zion Baptist Church.

McKenzie wants to find a healthy balance between recruiting new people to participate and getting the ones who do come to be more active.

“Keeping the same amount of people is good,” says McKenzie. “But, then, those same people can only hear the same word so many times...and then they need to start being disciples. So, I feel that, when everybody that’s there steps in, and then they start recruiting out, then you have other minds and bodies in there...so then that’s just more people there doing the work for the Lord.”



Photos Special to Wesson News

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WAC runners make cross country history



Special to Wesson News

Pictured at the team meet at the Ole Brook Invitational are (l to r), front row: Anne Houston Peets, Ally Selman, Eden Hall, Kennedy Johnson, Lillian Jackson, Dalton Jackson, Ady Prestridge, Grant Hynum, Hadyn Rushing, Grady Smith and Nick Raiford; and back row: Natalie Allen, Mae Logan, Jayden Allen, Ella Logan, Sarah Logan, Emory Britt, Hallie Short, Collin Watts, Leyton Ainsworth, Isaac Stovall, Brody Ponder, Canderous White and Chastin Wilson.

Wesson News

Wesson Attendance Center girls and boys cross country teams have made history by qualifying for the state tournament at their very first meet, with thirteen personal records shattered.

Each returning runner ran faster at their first meet this year than they ran at their first meet last year.

“These athletes have given up hours over their summer break, working through the grueling heat, to prepare themselves to be better than they were yesterday,” said Mandi Ponder, mother of cross country eighth-grader, Brody.

“The improvements shown in this meet’s results are a direct reflection of their commitment to the team! We couldn’t be more proud of them!” said Ponder.

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<p>TUESDAY</p> <p>GLOW RUN 5K CO-LIN CORRIDOR FREE SIGN UP ONLINE AT COLIN.EDU</p> <p>05:30 PM</p> <p>09.24.24</p>	<p>FRIDAY</p> <p>GOLF TOURNAMENT WOLF HOLLOW SPONSORED BY CO-LIN BASEBALL</p> <p>9:00 AM</p> <p>09.27.24</p>	<p>FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE ALUMNI OFFICE AT 601-643-8498</p> <p> @colinalumni </p>