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# Wesson News

## SPOTLIGHT

**The Area Economy**  
Pages 4, 6, 11

Volume 13, Number 3

*“Good News You Can Use”*

March, 2025

# Downtown commercial development begins

*Special to Wesson News*

A former Reno, Nevada, commercial and residential developer who retired to Wesson is building a 6,700 square foot mini shopping and office complex on the southwest corner of Church Street and Highway 51.

Ron Bath's Salmon Point Development plans to start construction soon for the first of three commercial spaces in the complex – a 1,000 square foot structure that will house a coffee shop and bakery, which has already made a commitment to the location.

Depending on the weather, Bath expects to complete the initial construction within three months.

“By the end of the year, our goal is to finish the project, which will also feature 2,100 square foot and 3,600 square foot units with a

shared outdoor patio,” Bath said.

The additional units will be built as commitments are made for occupancy. Bath estimates total cost of the complex will be approximately \$700,000.

Although he doesn't know what businesses will occupy the other spaces, Bath envisions a restaurant in the 2,100 square foot unit and a mix of retail and offices in the 3,600 square foot area.

Over 52 years, Bath developed two million square foot of shopping center space in and around Reno, Nevada, before resettling in retirement with his wife Teri in the Wesson area, where she had family roots and now serves as Wesson Chamber of Commerce president.

When he landed in Wesson four years ago, he invested in the building and property on Highway 51 where the Sunflower grocery



*Wesson News*

store once served the community and then a haunted house Halloween tourist attraction. He sold it to the owners of Grace Solutions to develop their local business.

“I found Wesson to be a diamond in the rough, an underdeveloped community for its size and population with economic

opportunities,” Bath says. “The town that doesn't grow dies, and I hope I can make contributions to its growth through development ventures. The new commercial development is my first one. I am looking to do residential development, too – perhaps housing for seniors.”

# Town Aldermen approve police hire

*Special to Wesson News*

Cody Leggett, a trained and certified police officer who is serving in Pike County, has joined Wesson Police Department.

At their March meeting, the Town's Aldermen approved Leggett's hiring for weekend service. He follows in the footsteps of Frank Leggett, his grandfather, a Wesson police officer.

The Aldermen also agreed to Wesson Chamber of Commerce plans to change location of the May 2 and 3 Founders' Day celebration from Highway 51 to the municipal park area in authorizing closure of portions of Church and Beach Streets and use of the park for vendors, entertainment and other Founders' Day needs. They also approved a fireworks display ending the event and agreed the town will facilitate it.



*Special to Wesson News*

*Municipal park will be site of 2025 Founders' Day activities.*

In other actions, the Board:

- Authorized the police department to purchase two tasers at \$599 each.

- Established 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. as closing hours of the municipal park to be enforced at the discretion of the police department.

- Rescinded approval for the fire department to purchase a truck and reauthorized purchase of another mini-pump vehicle at \$45,000 and \$2,100 for delivery.

- Agreed to locate two dumpsters provided by Keep Copiah Beautiful for Wesson participation in National Cleanup Day on April 5.

- Approved purchase of four tables-for-six at \$210 each at the Wesson Chamber of Commerce awards banquet on March 27.

- Authorized training for Brad Turner to recertify his professional water credentials.

- Agreed to entertain bids for street paving on April 8.

- Approved Lions Club March 28 fundraising roadblock on Highway 51.

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# Texan begins local restaurant business

Special to Wesson News

When Lenzie Chambers was a young man growing up in Texas, he encountered a problem trying to earn money as a deck hand on a tow boat. His boss discovered he couldn't cook – a critical skill deck hands needed as part of a tow boat gang.

"You're a good worker, and you can help us," his boss told him. "If you're willing, I'll teach you to cook."

Chambers accepted the offer. Many other jobs after his work on tow boats followed, but he learned his lessons well, and "I fell in love with cooking, particularly making Cajun food," he relates. Cooking wasn't a requirement in the other jobs, but cooking remained a hobby, and "I even dreamed of operating a restaurant," he relates.

Encouraged by friends, Chambers is now turning his dream, seeded as a tow boat deck hand back in the 1980s, in Wesson at the new Firehouse barbeque restaurant and steak house he opened in August.

Born in Houston in 1969, Chambers and his family moved to the Beaumont area in East Texas when he was six years old. His father was an electrician and his mother a nurse, and he was one of seven children.

Girls and football were his interests growing up, Chambers says.

He played outside linebacker on defense and receiver on offense for the football team at Bridgecity High School, where he graduated in 1988.

Just out of high school, he went to work in construction, pipefitting and boiler making for Texaco Refining Company in Port Arthur, Texas, and travelled throughout the U.S in similar jobs until 2000, when he became a crane operator – a job that took him to projects in countries throughout the world, including South Africa, China, Japan, Taiwan, France and Russia. In 2013, he started work in offshore oil production.

"I met my wife – the former Michelle Calcote from the Loyd Star area – in 2011 when I was with a refinery in Pascagoula, Mississippi, and we have four children – Jessica, 28, a stay-at-mom with six kids in Columbus, Mississippi; Kenon, 26, an electronic technician in Lake Charles, Louisiana, Bella, 13, and Sawyer, 9, students at Enterprise Attendance Center and workers in our restaurant," says Chambers.

At 54 years old, when he was with Cox Operation, the oil fields no longer needed him, and he and his wife decided to relocate to the Wesson area to start a different kind of life.

"I laughed when close friends suggested turning my cooking hobby into a job, but things fell into place after I talked to Dump's owner Ken Sullivan, who wanted to pursue the ministry," Chambers recounts.

The Firehouse opened in August and serves meals from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays. The initial menu includes briscuit, ribs, pulled pork, sausage, burgers and steak specials on Friday and Saturday evenings. Chambers says he plans to add fish and shrimp to the menu and expand the restaurant's hours. His long-range vision is to open other restaurants throughout the area.

Chambers and his wife reside near Lake Lincoln State Park.

## What are your hobbies?

I am a metal fabricator and make decorative accessories at my home shop, which I sell at the restaurant. I also hunt and fish and enjoy spending time with my family. My wife and I attend Clear Branch Church.



Special to Wesson News

## Are you a reader?

I was a voracious reader when I was younger, but now the restaurant absorbs most of my time. I still enjoy reading history about other countries and politics.

## How about music?

I think I can sing, but I mostly enjoy listening to 1960s and 1970s music on my ipod.

## Do you go to the theater or movies?

I recently enjoyed the Nutcracker Suite at the Jackson Ballet, but the restaurant business again consumes theater time. I also keep up on current events with television news.

## If you won a lot of money in the lottery, how would you spend it?

Beyond getting out of debt, I would try to help others in financial need. Wages don't keep up with costs in this expensive world.

## How would you change the world?

I was a John Lennon fan. He was right about peace and love. People who visit America are shocked at the hate they encounter here. We need to work on that.

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR



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# Copiah County gears up marketing

Special to Wesson News

Economic development is an ups and downs business, and Arthur Lee (Pokey) Evans, Copiah County Economic Development District (CCEED) executive director, is cautiously optimistic about 2025 after an election year when the returns on the work invested in trying to recruit new employers are traditionally low.

As CCEED embarks on a new marketing effort this year, Evans looks back on a sluggish 2024 that still had its high points – among them, an old lumber yard coming back to life.

“Construction is under way near the LC Industries old lumber yard, where Bell Lumber and Poles plans to craft telephone poles,” he reported.

With the new activity beginning at the old site, CCEED has largely achieved a goal of returning idle former industrial properties to Copiah County tax rolls, Evans points out. Buildings in the northern sector of the county that housed a former car dealership and auto supply business remain attractive sites for potential new employers, however, he adds.

On the downside, a wood pellet manufacturer that has maintained office space at Copiah County Industrial Park at Gallman told Evans it isn’t going to be able to finance a production facility there as it had hoped for several years.

“The good news is that once businesses settle in Copiah County and become established, nobody leaves,” says Evans. “We have healthy poultry, forestry, warehousing and transportation industries, and are not



CCEED’s Arthur Lee (Pokey) Evans and Brenda Harper.

suffering significant losses.”

Outside its industrial recruiting work last year, CCEED also developed a project with the encouragement of the Mississippi Development Authority’s (MDA) Aspire program in which it engaged Copiah County high school seniors to introduce them to job readiness training op-

portunities through Co-Lin.

Aspire helps communities throughout the state advance economic development activities through training, strategic planning and facilitating networks of individuals and organizations.

“We brought together community leaders to plan and produce a boot camp for the students in which they actually went into classrooms and learned about the array of Co-Lin Workforce Education training in healthcare, diesel mechanics, welding, HVAC, nursing and other areas in which jobs are available locally,” Evans explains. “We made a presentation about the project at the state’s Agricultural Center in Jackson, earning points towards grants to help fund our work.”

The project also helped CCEED develop a stronger relationship with Co-Lin in meeting Copiah County job-training needs, Evans says.

“Copiah-Lincoln Community College is a leader in work-

force development with ongoing and specialized as-needed training for local companies and their employees,” he points out.

In 2025, CCEED is gearing up its efforts to bring new business to Copiah County with the help of Wesson-based marketing specialist Jessica Breazeale. Breazeale is revamping its web and Facebook sites and

creating a stronger Google search tool to identify opportunities. Outdoor advertising and digital and radio promotions that highlight the advantages of Copiah County for prospective employers, along with personal one-on-one meetings carry messages that emphasize:

- A workforce that is willing and ready to serve employers thanks to local schools and a community college that focuses on preparing workers; and career coaches, and retired persons with workforce experience, who counsel students, introduce them to the business world through field trips and other activities and guide them in making career decisions and identifying training opportunities.
- A location near key markets with rail, interstate, air and nearby water access.
- Government officials who understand business needs, provide incentives, and facilitate locating offices and buildings.
- Available land and buildings that are well-priced.

Evans says CCEED economic development work is a team effort and praises his office colleague Brenda Harper, the organization’s board and the Copiah County Supervisors for their support and assistance in telling the county’s story.

Contact Evans for information at 601-421-1249.



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# Wesson PR practitioner cops awards

Special to Wesson News

A Wesson-based public relations practitioner was among those honored for achievements in their profession by the Pine Belt Chapter of the Public Relations Association of Mississippi (PRAM) at Hattiesburg.

Jessica Breazeale, owner of Jessica Breazeale Consulting (JBC) in Wesson, received two top PRAM awards. The awards, bestowed annually at Pine Belt PRAM's Chapter Awards Banquet, recognize outstanding work in the field of public relations and celebrate select individuals for their contributions to the profession.

Public relations practitioners work tirelessly behind the scenes to help clients they represent gain deserved recognition of their work and thrive. The PRAM awards recognize their efforts and skills, and also reward technical proficiency in planning and implementing productive campaigns.

Breazeale received a SPARK Award for individual achievements among others who were similarly honored and was singled out for the highest recognition for work -- the 2025 Judges' Choice Award, also known as "Best in Show," for her "New Client with Huge Needs" campaign. Breazeale won the PR Practitioner of the Year from PRAM last year and the Senior Practitioner Award in 2021 from the Southern Public Relations Federation. She is also an APR public relations practitioner (Accreditation in Public Relations).

"I was so honored to take home a SPARK Award," Breazeale said. "This is essentially place award, but we don't compete against other practitioners for it. We're scored using a detailed by extensive grading system, and are basically competing against ourselves.



Wesson News

Jessica Breazeale

It helps me sharpen and refine my skills."

Breazeale has been a member of PRAM for 13 years with the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Jackson and Pine Belt chapters. She has served as its professional development chair for the past five years. "I stay active in the organization because I love having like-minded colleagues with whom to brainstorm, network and collaborate," she said.

Olivia Fleming of Bude, who works for Breazeale as social media manager at JBC, also received the top student award -- the William E 'Bud' Kirkpatrick \$500 Scholarship -- for her hard work, passion, and promise shown in the field of public relations.

"Fleming's future in the industry is bright and we can't wait to see all that she accomplishes," Breazeale said. "I'm proud she won. I can attest that the honor is well-deserved as a valued team member of JBC."

Fleming is pursuing a degree in Strategic Communications (Public Relations) at the University of Southern Mississippi and is expected to graduate in May 2026.

Other awards recipients at the recent PRAM banquet were:

- SPARK Award Winner Ashley Rea of The First Bank.
- Kat Romero, APR, who received a certificate of merit for her work with the City of Laurel.
- Danny Holland from the University of Southern Mississippi received a certificate of merit.
- Kelsey Hester of Jones Companies received the 2024 President's Award, honored as a dedicated board member whose contributions have made a significant impact on the PRAM chapter's success and mission.

## EXPERIENCE MATTERS



RE-ELECT  **ALTON SHAW**  
WESSON'S MAYOR



## ABOUT ALTON!

- ★ He is a former Paramedic and Firefighter, currently working as Certified Nurse Practitioner
- ★ Earned a Master's Degree from University of Southern Mississippi
- ★ Founder of Life View Ministries, a Christian non-profit which raises awareness for and helps combat human trafficking
- ★ Previous recipient of MS Business Journal Top 40 Under 40 Leaders in MS
- ★ Past President and current Executive Committee Member of MS Municipal League
- ★ Completed and continue to expand our first municipal park with splash pad and other amenities
- ★ Restored and preserved the Old Wesson School
- ★ Helped bring new businesses and jobs to Wesson, including Dollar General and Family Dollar
- ★ Renovated and expanded public library and built new police department
- ★ Graduate and former adjunct faculty at Copiah- Lincoln Community College
- ★ Established veterans memorial and have broken ground on upcoming pickleball courts
- ★ Revitalized downtown with new sidewalks, signage, green space and more

“ I have lived in Wesson nearly 40 years and Mayor for 22 of those years. Your trust in me has led to great things for our community. Together, we completed and continue to expand our first municipal park, revitalized our downtown, helped secure over \$8 million in grants to improve our infrastructure, and much more. I am humbly asking for your support on June 3, so we can keep this progress going. ”



# Co-Lin assures ready labor force

By Bob Arnold

Focused on state economic priorities, needs of businesses and job skills required by workers, Co-Lin helps promote regional economic growth through training, preparing and certifying people for jobs and careers, connecting job-seekers and employers and partnering with the business community and economic development organizations.

**The college's economic development activities occur through:**

- **The Workforce Education program**, which Dr. Geanell Adams, the Dean, oversees, offers non-degree training and conducts special events in response to business partners and their workers, and the state's Accelerate MS program, which leads Mississippi workforce development strategy.
- **Its Career and Technical Education Division**, which Dr. Sharolyn Magee, the Dean, oversees. It awards certificates and grants Associate Degrees to students who equip themselves for specialized jobs and career paths.
- **Online open enrollment programs** in partnership with ed2go that provide skills necessary to acquire professional level positions in many in-demand occupations.

Historically, the Career and Technical and Workforce Education divisions of Co-Lin have produced the region's workers by training people for existing and new jobs and assuring they are equipped with the knowledge and skills for changing work requirements throughout its service area encompassing Adams, Copiah, Franklin, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lincoln and Simpson Counties.

In recent weeks, the Workforce Education program graduated five students from Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training, 13 from utility line classes and eight who were certified as Clinical Medical Assistants (CMAs).

The Workforce Education trainings focus on high priority occupations identified by Accelerate MS, which oversees workforce development strategy and delivery throughout Mississippi, and, increasingly, the classes reach students beyond the Co-Lin Wesson campus at Natchez and the Simpson County, Dean Adams said. In May, EMT and welding classes will graduate students, and enrollment has started for Commercial Driver License (CDL) training for aspiring truck drivers.

**From February thru June, trainings are scheduled at:**

- **Simpson County.** Certified Nurse Associate (CNA), commercial plumbing, pipefitting, Advanced EMT, utility line work.
- **Natchez.** CDL, EMT, pipefitting.
- **Wesson.** Commercial plumbing, pipefitting, CDL.

The college's certificate and Associate Degree programs include construction equipment operation, cosmetology, diesel equipment technology, food production and management technology, HVAC technology, practical nursing, precision machine technology, Business and Marketing Management Technology, Business and Office Technology, Computer Networking Technology, Drafting and Design Technology/Architectural Engineering Technology, Early Childhood Education Technology, Electronics Technology, Hotel and Restaurant Management Technology, Medical Laboratory Technology, Medical Radiological Technology, Military Technology and Respiratory Care Technology.

Co-Lin online programs, designed by professionals from varied fields of expertise, span ten subject areas and feature instructors/mentors actively involved in learning experiences of students, responding to their questions and concerns, and encouraging and motivating them: business, information technology, construction and trades, hospitality, computer science and applications, legal, arts and design, health and fitness and languages.

But the college's role in economic development just starts with training.

Co-Lin also plays a matchmaker for job-seekers and employers by managing and staffing the Mississippi Department of Employment Security Work-

force Investment Network (WIN) Job Centers at Brookhaven and Natchez and conducting an annual job fair.

The WIN Job Centers list employment opportunities offered by businesses, maintain data bases for job searches, provide counseling and assistance in pursuing work and acquiring necessary job training.

As a matchmaker of employers and job-seekers, Co-Lin also conducts an annual job fair. Last month, the three hour event connected more than 20 employers, including organizations from the manufacturing, medical, construction and financial sectors, with more than 100 students and job-seekers from the wider community at the Thames Center on the college's Wesson campus.

Last year, the Workforce Education program also partnered with the Copiah County Economic Development District (CCEDD) on a project encouraged by the Mississippi Development Authority's (MDA) Aspire program that engaged Copiah County high school seniors to introduce them to job readiness training opportunities. CCEDD earned points towards grants after presenting it to an Aspire conference in Jackson. Aspire helps communities throughout the state advance economic development activities through training, strategic planning and facilitating networks of individuals and organizations.

“Our role was conducting a day-long boot camp for the students that included a campus tour and visits to classes and labs demonstrating through real time participation instead of handouts how they could acquire job skills,” Adams explained.

Co-Lin also helps local economic development organizations document emerging, existing and transitional workers as “Work Ready” to prospective employers by conducting assessments of them for Career Readiness Certification as part of the American College Testing (ACT) Work Ready Program



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## Four student writers are recognized

Special to Wesson News

Four Mississippi School of the Arts junior students have secured a National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) designation for 2024 Achievement Awards in Writing.

They are Ava Buckley, Eydi Kitchens, Julia Landry and Kendra Quarterman.

The NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing is a school-based writing program established in 1957 to encourage and recognize some of the best high school student writers in the nation. Only students who are juniors may participate. Schools in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, US territories, Canada, and American schools abroad are eligible to nominate students for the writing program.

This year, schools nominated 633 students. From the United States, students were nominated from 44 states, as well as Guam and Washington, D.C. Internationally, teachers nominated students from Canada, Greece, Jordan, South Korea, Taiwan, and Thailand. Two to three independent judges evaluated each submission holistically on content, purpose, audience, tone, word choice, organization, development, and style.

NCTE is the nation's most comprehensive literacy organization, supporting more than 25,000 teachers across the preK-college spectrum. Through the expertise of its members, NCTE has been at the forefront of every major improvement in the teaching and learning of English and the and the language arts since 1911.

For more information about the NCTE and its Achievement Awards in Writing, including past winners, visit [www.ncte.org](http://www.ncte.org) and [www.ncte.org/awards/achievement-awards-in-writing/](http://www.ncte.org/awards/achievement-awards-in-writing/).

## Chamber to present community awards

Special to Wesson News

The Wesson Chamber of Commerce will host its annual awards presentation at a banquet on Thursday, March 27, at the Co-Lin Thames Center.

In recent years, the Chamber has presented the awards in a special ceremony without a meal served, but is reviving its banquet format this year.

Awards will honor a person, business and service organization of the year; a teacher, police officer and fire

fighter and others who contribute to the community.

Feature speakers will be Chamber president Teri Bath, Mayor Alton Shaw, Wesson Police Chief Chad O'Quinn and Wesson Fire Chief Ken Carraway.

The event will start with a meet and greet at 5 p.m. followed by the banquet at 6 p.m. Cost is \$35 per person or \$210 for a table of six.

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LOCAL, HOMEGROWN ROOTS

T RUST E NGAGED R ESILIENCE I NTEGRITY

# Locals in cleanup & beautification

By Bob Arnold

As spring, sunlight, and warm days return, locals are joining like-minded folk across the nation who are rolling up their sleeves in the fight to beautify public spaces.

On Saturday, April 5, Wesson residents, encouraged by Keep Copiah Beautiful (KCB), will walk through town to pick up litter and recyclable materials and take to dumpsters.

The occasion is the month-long observance of Keep America Beautiful Month in which people will participate in a variety of ways. Locally, KCB is focused on Keep America Beautiful's Great American Cleanup, a program which communities join throughout the year. Other Americans in other areas will "plog" – picking up litter as they jog; challenging themselves with the "BeRecycled Pledge," committing to "the Triple R" – "reduce, reuse and recycle" to give a second life to what they want to throw away; planting trees as part of RETREET to both beautify the environment and rebuild ecosystems; starting to live "zero-waste" lifestyles towards creating healthier, more sustainable, less littered communities.

Keep America Beautiful Month, dedicated to improving public spaces through action and education, is a call to action to reduce litter on streets, parks, or roads; prevent future littering through educational events, and beautify communities.

KCB is rallying Wesson participants to respond to the call by giving them gloves to pick up litter safely and bags to carry it to two dump-



## Keep America Beautiful facts:

- **Cleanup Impacts:** Since the start of the Great American Cleanup part of Keep America Beautiful Month, it has engaged millions of volunteers who have collected over 23 million pounds of litter across 5.3 million hours of community involvement. They beautified 66,300 miles of streets, parks, and roads. In 2024, they planted over 71,000 bulbs and plants: shrubs, flowers, and trees.
- **Doing Your Part:** There are about 50 billion pieces of litter across the US, and if every American picked up 152 pieces, we would clean it all up.
- **Cigarette Litter:** The Keep America Beautiful National Litter Study found cigarette butts to be the number one littered item, accounting for 9.7 billion butts on any given day across the US. For 21 years, the Cigarette Litter Prevention Program has established litter stands in more than 1,800 communities.

sters that Town Aldermen have agreed to strategically locate.

The idea is that small actions can have big effects, and littering has far-reaching consequences. Not only are there over 50 million pieces of litter in the US – with more than 2,000 pieces per mile, but over half of them are actually found in waterways and ocean shores. The human issue of littering also affects faraway ecosystems and species of animals and plants. In a recent survey, 90% of Americans said that litter is a problem in their states, so it is the perfect time to educate communities on the environmental repercussions of littering, as well as the insufficient trees and green spaces in the US – and start planting.

Keep American Beautiful Foundation and the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America started Keep America Beautiful Month in 1971 as "Scouting Keep America Beautiful Day" to encourage a massive national cleanup and recycling movement in the same month as Earth Day and Arbor Day and catalyze collective action that benefits the environment.

Keep America Beautiful Month was changed to a weeklong event in 1982 and, in 1984, it was extended to a full month dedicated to the reduction of waste, prevention of litter, and beautification of communities nationwide. Today, the event involves 700 state and local partners, as well as millions of volunteers who seek to take greater responsibility for their public spaces and build an America where everyone lives in a beautiful community.

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# Lincoln County business commitments sought

By Bob Arnold

Following three years of historic industrial investment after COVID-19, prospective employers continued to look at Lincoln County as a location for production facilities last year, but didn't sign on the dotted line.

This year, Brookhaven-Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce (BLCCC) and Brookhaven-Lincoln County Economic Development Alliance Executive (BLCEDA) Director Garrick Combs expects folk who couldn't make up their minds to make commitments following an election year when going-forward economic policies are uncertain.

"In 2024, we did our normal vetting with prospects, but policy uncertainties related to who voters would choose to be President brought decision-making on business location to a virtual standstill," Combs says. "It's wasn't so much what a policy would be, but that certain policies would be in place on which they could rely."

Among industrial development investments Combs helped lure to Lincoln County post-COVID 19 were \$32 million in property, redevelopment, construction and equip-

ment by AITX, formerly American Rail Car, and \$180 million in automation and new technology by Walmart at its Brookhaven distribution facility.

One industrial project that Combs hopes will begin during 2025 is Southwest Electric's (SE) Brookhaven district headquarters. Plans call for a dispatch office, IT services, a full warehouse, mechanic shop, a truck staging area and laydown yard to house emergency storm crews so its staff, material and equipment are distributed across the SE service area to better serve its 25,000 members in Lincoln, Copiah, Franklin, Amite, Adams, Hinds, Jefferson and Wilkinson Counties and increase overall system reliability.

Based at Lorman, Mississippi, in Jefferson County, SE plans to invest \$16 million and create 100 jobs at the district office on 65 acres in Brookhaven's Linbrook Business Park.

"SE has signed a contract and has an option on the land, which had some wetlands issues, but it has recommitted to its purchase, which should happen this year with groundbreaking for the new facility," says Combs.

Although Combs' work doesn't

encompass retail projects, openings of an Aldi's grocery store, Starbucks' coffee shop and a T.J. Maxx store fuel his optimism in renewed industrial development in 2025. A specialized organization paid by the BLCCC tourism committee with funds it receives from a two percent sales tax assessed Brookhaven hotels and motels seeks retail businesses, The Council also uses the tax monies to build retail traffic and stimulate sales at existing stores through social media and special events – in the process, generating convincing data for retail organizations looking for new markets.

"We have a healthy economic development climate," he affirms.

A spec 50,000 industrial building in Linbrook Business Park ready for a business to set up operations continues to be the focal point of marketing geared to attracting industrial companies to the area. Mississippi Economic Development Council (MEDC) has recognized the unique BLCC-BLCEDA economic development model centered around speculative industrial buildings to lure employers that want to deploy workers and machinery to get products to market as quickly as possible without a long wait to construct

manufacturing facilities.

"Ninety percent of companies looking to locate a facility want an existing building rather than raw land on which to build," Combs points out. A web site which promotes the building is the initial BLCC-BLCEDA connection to industrial organizations seeking a business location followed by numerous meetings and telephone calls with prospects.

"Our strategy is to stimulate interest with a spec building, sell it and reload with another building," Combs explains. "We also show prospective employers how we can support them through worker training and job fairs for their recruiting."

Even if the prospective employer doesn't find the spec building suitable, Combs can often suggest alternatives as he did in bringing Emory Dry Ice to Brookhaven 2023, when the Houston-based company which supplies Omaha Steaks and United Airlines opened a 20,000-square foot facility that created 20 jobs after considering, but rejecting the space provided by the spec building as too large.

All and all, Combs says, the area has a bright future with challenges to confront.

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## Weeping yaupon has multiple uses



Special to Wesson News

By Guest Columnist Eddie Smith

I recently saw two grand weeping yaupon hollies growing at a business in Columbia, Mississippi, and was reminded of how useful these trees are in the landscape. Their graceful, cascading branches and finely textured foliage created an elegant presence.

In fall and winter, weeping yaupon hollies are adorned with abundant bright red berries, which stand out beautifully against the deep green foliage. These berries add an important splash of color to the seasonal landscape.

This fruit persists well into winter, attracting bird species such as mockingbirds, cedar waxwings, robins and bluebirds. These birds eagerly feast on the berries during colder months when other food sources are scarce.

Additionally, the dense branching structure provides excellent shelter and nesting sites for small birds, offering protection from predators and harsh weather.

This North American native is well suited for our warm Southern climates. It grows best in full sun to partial shade. Full sun encourages more dense growth and better berry production. The plant adapts well to sandy, loam or clay soils, as long as the soil of choice is well-draining. Another impressive feature of this tree is its drought tolerance once established. It also can

handle occasional wet conditions, making it a versatile choice for landscapes with varying moisture levels.

While it can be pruned to shape, it naturally maintains its elegant, weeping habit without much intervention. It's

also highly resistant to pests and diseases, which makes it even more appealing as a durable landscape choice.

It has varied landscape uses. It works beautifully as a specimen tree, where its unique form can be fully appreciated as a focal point in gardens, courtyards or entryways. It also can be used in foundation plantings to soften the edges of buildings with its flowing branches. It is particularly effective in coastal landscapes, where its heat, humidity and salt tolerance allow it to thrive. It performs well in naturalized settings, blending seamlessly with native plantings, or even in Japanese-inspired gardens, where its cascading branches contribute to a serene atmosphere.

For those looking to include the plant in a smaller space, weeping yaupon holly can be trained into a patio tree or grown in large containers.

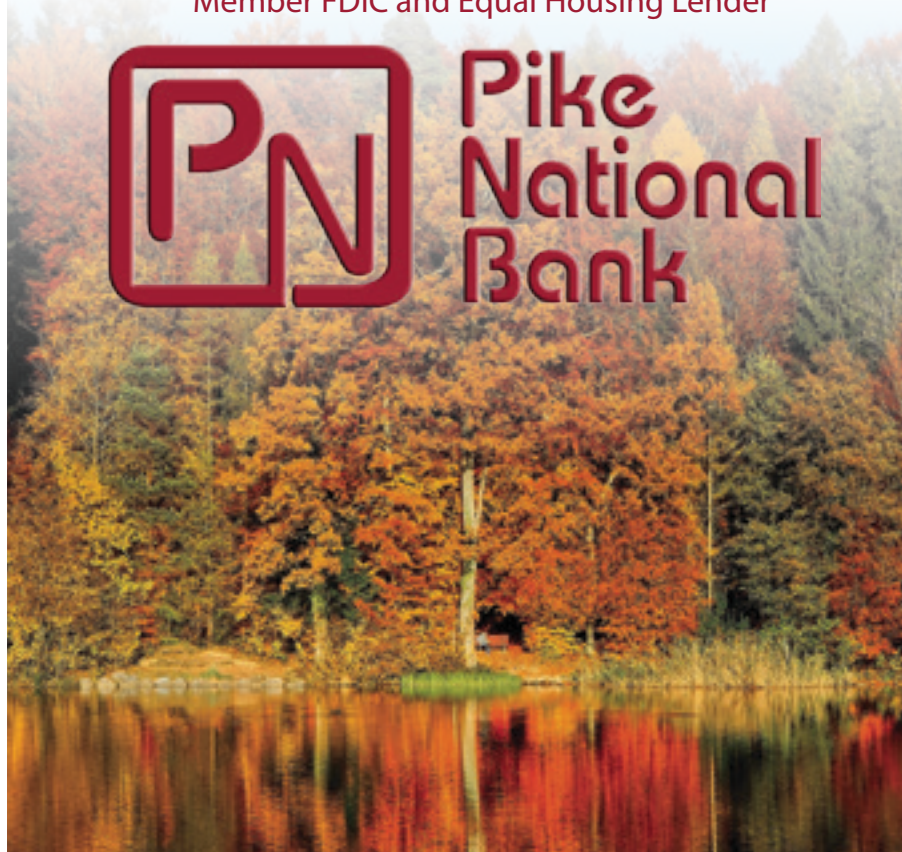
*EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Eddie Smith is a gardening specialist and Pearl River County coordinator with the Mississippi State University Extension Service. He is also host of the popular Southern Gardening television program. Locate Southern Gardening products online at <http://extension.msstate.edu/shows/southern-gardening>.*

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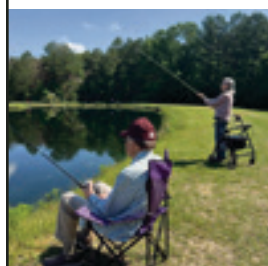
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## Challenges of neurodegenerative disease

By Guest Columnist Stephanie Duguid



Our most recent speaker through the Mississippi Health Ambassador Initiative was Dr. Juebin Huang from The University of Mississippi Medical Center, who discussed neurodegenerative diseases.

Neurodegenerative diseases (NDDs) are among the most complex and devastating health conditions affecting millions of people worldwide, including many here in Mississippi. These diseases progressively destroy brain cells, impairing memory, movement, and overall function. Some of the most common include Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), and Huntington's disease (HD).

In the United States alone, approximately 6.2 million people live with Alzheimer's, and nearly 1 million are affected by Parkinson's disease. Understanding these conditions is the first step toward improving care and seeking treatment options for those in need.

Neurodegenerative diseases primarily affect two significant areas of function:

- **Cognitive Disorders:** Alzheimer's disease, frontotemporal dementia, and dementia impair memory, reasoning, and communication. Alzheimer's accounts for 50-70% of dementia cases.
- **Motor Disorders:** Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, and ALS primarily affect movement, coordination, and muscle control.

While these diseases share similarities, their underlying causes and symptoms vary significantly. Scientists are working hard to find new treatments, and advancements in genetic research and therapy bring hope for better care and management.

Alzheimer's disease, first described by Dr. Alois Alzheimer in 1906, is characterized by the buildup of plaques and tangles in the brain, which disrupt neural communication. The disease progresses in stages:

- **Mild:** Memory loss, language difficulties, and mood changes.
- **Moderate:** Confusion, personality changes, and difficulty completing daily activities.
- **Severe:** Loss of motor function, inability to communicate, and need for full-time care.

While there is no cure, FDA-approved treatments such as Donepezil (Aricept) and Memantine (Namenda) help manage symptoms. Recently, disease-modifying therapies like Lecanemab (Leqembi) and Donanemab (Kisunla) have shown promise in slowing progression.

Parkinson's disease, first described in 1817, affects dopamine-producing cells in the brain. Its symptoms include tremors, stiffness, slow movement, and balance issues. Treatment focuses on restoring dopamine levels through medication, deep brain stimulation, and physical therapy.

Huntington's disease, a genetic disorder affecting 30,000 Americans, is caused by a mutation in the Huntingtin gene. Symptoms typically appear between the ages of 30 and 50 and include involuntary movements, mood changes, and cognitive decline. Because it is inherited in an autosomal dominant pattern, each child of an affected parent has a 50% chance of developing the disease.

Living with a neurodegenerative disease presents many challenges, but caregivers and families can take important steps to improve quality of life:

- **Stay Active:** Regular physical exercise can help slow progression and maintain mobility.
- **Healthy Diet:** A balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and omega-3 fatty acids supports brain health.
- **Cognitive Stimulation:** Reading, puzzles, and social interaction can help preserve cognitive function.
- **Medication Management:** Work closely with a healthcare provider to adjust treatment as needed.
- **Seek Support:** Mississippi offers resources such as The MIND Center, caregiver support groups, and The Mississippi Access to Care (MAC) Center.

While neurodegenerative diseases remain incurable, advancements in gene therapy and drug research offer hope. Clinical trials at the HDSA Center of Excellence at UMMC are exploring new treatments, and organizations like the Michael J. Fox Foundation and the ALS Association continue to fund groundbreaking studies.

Mississippi families facing these diseases do not have to navigate them alone. By increasing awareness, supporting research, and expanding access to care, we can improve the lives of those affected and work toward a future where these conditions are more manageable—even preventable.

For more information, visit the HDSA Center of Excellence at UMMC or contact local support organizations. Together, we can make a difference in the fight against neurodegenerative diseases.

*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).*



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# Co-Lin names new grid coach

By Guest Columnist Eddie Smith

Micah Davis has been named head football coach for the Co-Lin Wolf Pack.

After coaching at the Division I level, Davis joined the Wolves coaching staff on which he has served the past eight years, most recently as offensive coordinator.

"We are excited about Coach Micah Davis leading our program," said Athletic Director Bryan Nobile. "As a former standout here at Co-Lin and a seasoned coach, he knows what it takes to be successful. We are confident that his leadership and vision will build on our legacy and lead us to new heights both on and off the field."

Davis was a standout quarterback for the Wolves in 2007 and 2008. After Co-Lin, he played for the Delta State University Statesmen where he received numerous awards. He was in the top three Harlon Hill Trophy finalists (NCAA DII Player of the Year), the National Football Foundation National Scholar-Athlete/Finalist for the William V. Campbell Trophy, and the Division



## Tennis standout



Special to Wesson News

Senior Wesson High School Cobra Tennis Standout Ben McKenzie will play at the next level for the Co-Lin Wolves. At his signing were (left to right in front row) Wayne McKnzie (his father), Ben and Heather McKenzie (his mother); (left to right in back row) Taylor Burke (Cobra tennis coach) and Kate McKenzie (his sister). McKenzie was chosen as Region 3-3A District Champion in Boys Singles and the Most Valuable Male Tennis Player in 2024. In 2023, he was chosen as the Region 7-3A District Champion in Boys Doubles and the Most Hustle Award.

II Conference Commissioners Association Top Male Division II Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Additionally, Delta State was the 2010 NCAA Division II Runners-Up with Davis at quarterback. He was inducted into the Delta State Athletics Hall of Fame in 2022.

Davis' coaching experience at the Division I level encompasses stints at Western Kentucky University, the University of Louisiana at Monroe, and the University of Kansas where he coached quarterbacks and running backs.

Co-Lin President Dr. DeWayne Middleton expressed his confidence in the new hire.

"We are excited to welcome Coach Micah Davis," he said. "Coach Davis has demonstrated a commitment to excellence, leadership, and development of student-athletes. I believe that his experience and competitive nature for the game will elevate our football program. The Wolves have a long history of being a tough competitor in the MACCC and we look forward to seeing Coach Micah Davis build on that success."

After graduating from Delta State, Davis continued his education at Arkansas State University where he received a master's degree in sports administration.

Davis is married to the former Ashley McFarland. They are the parents of a daughter, Brooke, and two sons, Cannan and Hayes.

## Soccer boy winners



Special to Wesson News

The Ole Brook FC U12 boys soccer team started its tournament season strong in competition at the IFC Spring Invitational in Flowood. The team finished runners-up in its division after a tough loss in the championship game. Ole Brook fought hard during pool play, winning both of its matches, 2-1 and 2-0, sending the team straight to the championship against the Delta Red Bulls of Greenwood in which they fell short 3-1. The Ole Brook FC U12 team includes players from Copiah, Lincoln, and Pike counties. Players are from left to right are Ellis Smithhart (Lincoln), Aiden Whittington (Copiah), Braxton Shoemake (Copiah), Jameson Medlin (Lincoln), Konner Minton (Copiah), Eli Medlin (Lincoln), Keller Porter (Pike), Gage Windham (Lincoln), Preston Kennedy (Lincoln), Preston Kennedy (Lincoln), Brantley Smith (Copiah), Mason Bales (Lincoln), Griffin Newell (Copiah), and Kingsley Leopold (Pike). Not pictured: Jhosen Lopez. Coaches: Cameron Newell and Anthony Pacosangre and Coach Erik Medlin.



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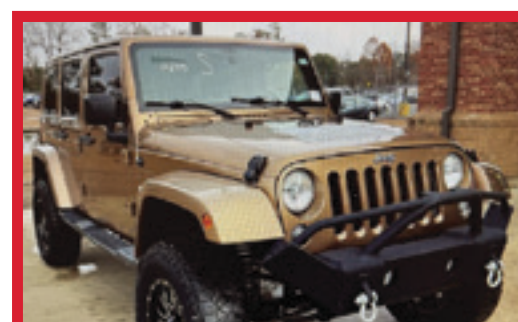


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# 50 plus club meets at Co-Lin



Special to Wesson News

50 Plus Club met on February 20 at Copiah-Lincoln Community College's Culinary Arts Department in the Anderson Building. The food was prepared by the culinary art students, under the direction of Abby Riels of Brookhaven. Copiah Associational Choir performed at the meeting. Hal Thompson of Crystal Springs leads as choir director of the group of approximately 30 members. The next club meeting will be held March 20. For more information call (601)892-8144.

## God can make a way when there is no way, so if you have faith, you better get ready!

By Misty Strieff Prine

“A river cuts through a rock - not because of its power but its persistence.” – Unknown

I've always loved this saying. If you have ever stood on the banks of the mighty Mississippi River in Natchez, you realize the vastness and strength of that body of water. Just picture, for a moment, if there were huge rocks somewhere along the path of that river. Do you think it would stop it or do you think the power behind that river would make a way for that river to push through those rocks in order for it to make it through and go on about its way? Such is life. Life can be going so smooth and then, well, life happens. Troubles come. “Rocks” (as we will refer to them) fall as you may say, and things just happen one after another. It feels as though you just can't catch a break. Now you can either let those “rocks” stop you from pushing through or you can rely on the true strength you have in you, the power and strength of Almighty God to help you be persistent and push through those rocks so you can keep going and glorify Him THROUGH your trials and come out the other side telling everyone “on down the river of life” how God brought you through it.

I told you I like this quote above! It reminds us all that we have to push through the hard times in our lives with the promise of knowing that better days are coming. Perseverance pays off. Giving up doesn't. Giving up is the easy way out. Perseverance is not going to be easy but it's SO worth it in the end because you will have a mighty testimony and God will be glorified. So how do you do it? With the Lord's help and having the willingness to let Him fight your battles for you, you simply just surrender your problems over to Him and stay prayed up and have faith. Prayer is the key! You will soon find that a daily, consistent walk with Him changes everything. Life is too hard to handle on our own my friends. We have someone who wants to fight our battles until they are won. We just have to allow Him to. You see, not everyone can make a river cut through stone and rock...but God can. Guess what? He can and will get you through the difficulties you are facing right now. And when He does, you will look back and see how it was nothing that you did but EVERYTHING that HE did and you need to shout it from the rooftops saying, "Let me tell you what my God has done for me!" There is no situation that is impossible for God. NONE. So, hang in there my friend. God has got your back. He has amazing things in store for you. Just wait and see.

\*\*For daily devotionals, you can follow me on Facebook at The Upward Way or on Instagram at the\_upward\_way.

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# Post #79 Remembers the Four Chaplains

Jessica Breazeale

American Legion Post #79 remembered the four chaplains for its February meeting.

The story of the "Four Chaplains" tells of four US Army chaplains- a Methodist minister (George Fox), a Jewish Rabbi (Alexander Goode), a Catholic priest (John Washington), and a Dutch Reformed minister (Clark Poling).

These four chaplains historically gave their own life jackets to soldiers on the sinking ship USAT Dorchester after being torpedoed by a German submarine during World War 2. These men chose to stay on deck and pray together as the ship

went down, ultimately sacrificing their own lives to save others.

Their selfless act of unity and faith amidst a chaotic situation was recognized and remembered at the legion's monthly meeting as a powerful example of courage and compassion. The post held a chili dinner following the presentation.

The legion family includes legionnaires, auxiliaries, juniors, and sons of the legion. Wesson's local post has 36 auxiliaries, five juniors, and 21 sons of legion. The local legion family has approximately 85 members but encourages all former and current military and their family members to join.



Presentation of the four chaplains



Cathy Stroud and Alton Ricks



Ron Bath



Vivian and her husband Scott Hoeslich



Janet Puckett and Sharon Langley



**“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean NOT on your OWN understanding” Proverbs 3:5  
God’s will, WILL be done.**

By Misty Strieff Prine

“Lord, if it’s not Your will, let it slip through my grasp and give me the peace not to worry about it.”

Sometimes in life, we face opportunities that we've waited for our entire lives. Maybe it's that promotion that seemed always just out of our grasp, that perfect spouse to spend the rest of our lives with, or maybe even an answer to a seemingly unanswered question that you've had for a very long time. How awesome are these moments?? But then, sometimes, we are also faced with the answers that we may NOT have wanted. That job opportunity falls through at the last moment, that person you thought was meant for you was most definitely not THE one, or that answer doesn't come in the nick of time like you'd hoped it would. What's the deciding factor? GOD'S WILL. The problem that so many of us face, is the fact that we don't pray for God's will to be done in our lives in the first place. If we do, we don't trust or have ample amount of faith to remain patient for His timing or the ability to not question the outcome that we didn't expect. We just sit idly by with fingers crossed in hopes that the answer will come that we want and when it's convenient for us, instead of asking God to begin with for His will to be done in our lives in HIS time. God knows what is ultimately best for us. The problem lies in what WE think WE know what's

best for us, when in all actuality we have not a clue.

Sometimes the outcome is what we hoped for...sometimes the outcome is far from it. You see, if God doesn't will for it to happen in our lives, folks, it will not happen! We must have the kind of relationship with God where we can come to an understanding that it's okay if we do not get our way because He ultimately knows what's best for us. If our relationship with God is not what it should be, often it is really hard to remain positive when we do not receive the answer we would have hoped to receive. We get angry and question why things are going so terribly wrong in our lives. With every single decision in our lives, we should ask for God's will to be done and the wisdom to know the difference when the answer is not what we would have hoped for. Being able to think clearly in such a situation will often be revealed when our relationship with God is where it should be. Think for a moment where you are in your life right now. Is there something that your heart has desired for so long and you wonder often why it has not come to fruition? Maybe it's because God's will is far different from your own. That answer may not have come yet because God is still working on laying out the pieces to the puzzle that are unseen to your eyes but all knowing to His.

\*\*For daily devotionals, you can follow me on Facebook at The Upward Way or on Instagram at the\_upward\_way.



# MS HEALTH AMBASSADORS IN COPIAH COUNTY

All photos Special to Wesson News



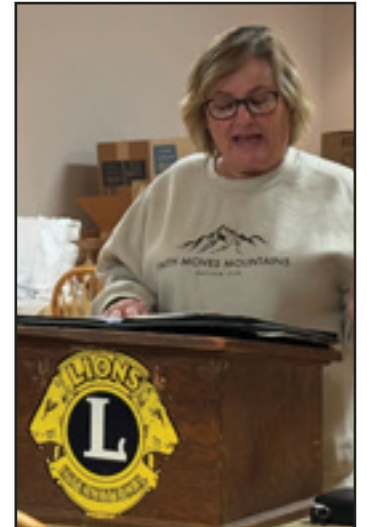
Breazeale speaks at Wesson Lion's Club



ILR program on 2/13



Whittington speaks at Wesson Lion's Club



Stroud speaks at Wesson Lion's Club



Stroud discusses heart health



Whittington explains Naloxone Kit



Whittington assists attendees at free resource table where they had a wheel to spin for prizes and additional health resources and materials.



Wilmoth, Marsha Raiford (Co-Lin Nursing School Admin Assistant, and Breazeale



Stroud, Whittington and Wilmoth at ILR



Wilmoth speaking on Huntington's Disease at ILR

By Jessica Breazeale

Local Mississippi Health Ambassadors recently spoke at the Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) at Copiah-Lincoln Community College.

The Mississippi Health Ambassador Initiative (MHAI) is a community health advocacy program designed to provide Mississippians with information, guidance and resources around emerging health issues in our state.

MHAI is educating and empowering a diverse group of Mississippians to serve as the trusted voices in their communities.

With an opportunity to effectively impact the infection rates in the state, ambassadors are focusing efforts on dispelling myths and misinformation in all regions of the state while addressing concerns raised by those in communities represented by health ambassadors.

150 Mississippians meet virtually every month and learn from different health experts with the intent of disseminating the information in their communities - each in their unique ways from school and church announcements and work and civic presentations to communications such as email, social media, website, blogging, and text chains.

Ambassadors who live locally were asked to guest present.

"Through my working with veterans, I meet many with health issues, so when this opportunity presented itself, I thought this would be a good way to learn more about conditions and illnesses they are dealing with," said Cathy Stroud, first-year ambassador.

Stroud educated ILR attendees about February's National Heart Health Month. She has been a Wesson resident for 31 years and is also currently running for Wesson Alderman-At-Large.

Heart disease is the number one killer in America.

"Everyone knows someone who is suffering from it or has passed from it," said Stroud.

Heather Wilmoth of Sontag has remained an ambassador since its inaugural year. She spoke on neurodegenerative movement disorders and emphasized Huntington's Disease (HD).

"HD doctors won't test children unless they show physical symptoms," said Wilmoth. "Huntington's Disease is a terminal neurodegenerative inherited disease that is described as having ALS, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's all at the same time. There is

no treatment and there is no cure."

Wilmoth works at Supertalk in Brookhaven and is passionate about HD awareness because she is a caregiver to her husband who has HD.

Ambassadors learn various health topics that include flu rates, heart disease, cancers, Covid-19 trends, rising syphilis numbers, diabetes, among many others. Ambassadors are educators, mayors, retired professionals, school nurses, doctors, community workers, business owners, and so many more. The group is diverse to best represent our state.

Jessica Breazeale of Wesson, MHAI Program Manager, jokingly calls herself the cruise ship director.

"I absolutely love steering the group," said Breazeale. "I've always been passionate about public health and education, so putting the two together just go hand in hand for me."

MHAI is in its fourth year and started as a passion project from former state health officer, Dr. Thomas Dobbs. Dobbs is now at UMMC heading up the School of Population Health and Epidemiology but remains very active in the program as a volunteer as one of our regular health educators.

MS Health Ambassadors also recently spoke at the Lion's Club in Wesson. Kim Whittington of Wesson whose been an ambassador all four years educated members on mental health and suicide prevention and how to combat it.

988 is the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline that offers 24/7 judgment-free support for mental health, substance use, and more. Text, call or chat 988. She also discussed the importance of the need for every home, business and church to get a free Naloxone kit which helps assist during an active overdose.

"You just never know if and when you'll need this," said Whittington who demonstrated how the kit works. "Please watch out for warning signs of a child in crisis. My granddaughter had three friends commit suicide within the past few years. This is real and it's happening."

Properly prescribed medications can be effective—but like illegal drugs, they can also be abused. Whether produced legally or illegally, stimulants and opioids are dangerous substances, and just a small dose can be deadly under the right circumstances. Free kits are at [odfree.org](http://odfree.org).

MHAI is funded by the Mississippi State Department of Health and housed at the Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi. To watch the recorded calls or obtain the slides from health experts, visit [healthy-miss.org/misshealthambassadors](http://healthy-miss.org/misshealthambassadors).



## Once grace finds us, we are no longer lost but found and changed completely.

By Misty Strieff Prine

“I do not at all understand the mystery of grace – only that it meets us where we are but does not leave us where it found us.” Anne Lamott

Grace is such a small word with such a HUGE meaning that we often tend to overthink and misunderstand. So, what is grace? The definition of grace is the free and unmerited favor of God, as manifested in the salvation of sinners and the bestowal of blessings. Grace is sometimes hard to grasp, and it can so easily be shrouded in mystery if we "think" too much into it. What we do know is that grace meets us in the depths of despair and changes us completely. Grace never leaves us where it finds us. It lifts us up and pulls us out of that place where we once thought we couldn't and wouldn't make it out of. God's grace is such a beautiful thing. Where were you when grace and mercy found you? How deep was the valley you were walking through? Do you remember that moment when you felt the hand of God reach down and pull you out of the darkness and loneliness of that valley? That my friend is your moment of grace among many others to come.

God's grace has no boundaries or limitations. Grace changes people. As the familiar lyrics say, "Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see." Grace opens our eyes in ways that nothing else can. God's grace is immeasurable and unfailing. God's grace and mercy finds us when we are buried deep in the world and lost as could be.

There is a song by the group Unspoken called “Call it Grace.” The lyrics are so powerful and so applicable here. Here are a few snippets from this the song that I want to leave you with.

“It's the light that pierces through you to the darkest hidden place. It knows your deepest secrets, but it never looks away. It's the gentle hand that pulls you from the judgement of the crowd when you stand before them guilty, and you got no way out. Some may call it foolish and impossible. But for every heart it rescues, it's a miracle. It's nothing less than scandalous, this love that took our place. Just call it what it is, call it grace.”

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## Friends of the Library meet



*Special to Wesson News*

The members of the Wesson Friends of the Library met today to make plans for all the Programs that will be offered for 2025 at the Wesson Public Library. Plans for National Library Week in April, & Summer Reading in July and other programs & events. Wesson Friends of the Library members are standing L-R Sonya Cowen, Middle Twiner, Jean Ricks, Dr Steve Liverman, Joy Phillips, Sharon Langley. Sitting L-R Barbara Locke, Marilyn Britt Anita Schmidt.

## WESSON GARDEN CLUB MAGNOLIA AWARD



*Special to Wesson News*

Dr Roy W Daughdrill received the 2024 Magnolia Award at the February Wesson Garden Club Meeting. The award was presented by Marilyn Britt chairman of the Yard of the month committee for the WGC.



### Why you need dental insurance in retirement.

#### Medicare doesn't pay for dental care.!

As good as Medicare is, it was never meant to cover everything. If you want protection, you need to purchase individual insurance.

#### Early detection can prevent small problems from becoming expensive ones.

The best way to avoid large dental bills is preventive care. Experts recommend checkups twice a year.

#### Previous dental work can wear out.

Your odds of having a dental problem only go up as you age.<sup>2</sup>

#### Treatment is expensive — especially the services people over 50 often need.

Unexpected bills, like \$190 for a filling, or \$1,213 for a crown<sup>3</sup> can be a real burden, especially if you're on a fixed income.

1 "Medicare & You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2025. 2 "Aging changes in teeth and gums", medlineplus.gov, 4/17/2022. 3 American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, 2020 Survey of Dental Fees, Copyright 2020, American Dental Association.

#### When you're comparing plans ...

- ▶ Look for coverage that helps pay for major services.
- ▶ Look for coverage with no deductibles.
- ▶ Shop for coverage with no annual maximum on cash benefits.

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