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Volume 6, Number 8

"Good News You Can Use"

August 14, 2018

Work Ready program seeks employer support

By Bob Arnold

The Copiah County Economic Development District and Co-Lin are recruiting employers to utilize data collected during the process that has established Copiah County as a Work Ready Community (WRC) and to thus sustain an ongoing program geared to assisting employers in filling their jobs with qualified workers.

At meetings last month hosted at the Crystal Springs, Hazlehurst and Wesson municipal buildings, Angela Berch, Director of Workforce Education at Co-Lin, explained to government officials, community leaders and representatives of area employers how information



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At Wesson meeting, Co-Lin's Angela Berch (third from left) discussed advantages of the Work Ready Community program to local businesses. Left of Berch are Co-Lin's Jeanna Hartzog and Libby Kirton, Town Hall staff. Right of Berch are Co-Lin's Shelika Hooker, Marilyn Britt from Trustmark Bank, Nora Berch, Copiah County director of tourism; and Arthur Evans, director of the Copiah County Economic Development District.

available through the Work Ready Community programs can reduce turnover and costs, time of hiring and training workers, and improve employee productivity.

In May, Copiah County joined Adams, Lawrence and Lincoln Counties in Co-Lin's district as the fourth WRC certified by ACT, the Iowa-based testing service that works broadly in lifelong learning to help people achieve their potentials for success in schools and workplaces. The Work Ready designation required 138 persons in the county's emerging workforce (i.e., high school and college students), 115 current workers in the county and 167

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Municipal officials hone leadership skills

By Bob Arnold

Wesson Mayor Alton Shaw, town Aldermen and City Hall staff attended the intensive three-day training and leadership development program at the Mississippi Municipal League's (MML) 87th Annual Conference at the Mississippi Coliseum & Convention Center in Biloxi, Mississippi.

At the event attended by some 3,000 municipal elected officials, employees, state agency representatives, legislators, exhibitors and others, Wesson Alderman Billy Ellison graduated from the advanced Certified Municipal Officials Education Program (CMOEP). Assistant Town Clerk Libby Kirton was among some 300 participants in the Court Clerks Conference at the IP Casino.

In the Wesson conference contingent besides Shaw, Ellison and Kirton were Aldermen Stephen Ashley, Jarrad Ashley, Larry Hall and Michael King; and Town Clerk Angela Maria Hester. All of them participated in classes offered through CMOEP in its Basic, Advanced and Professional Development divisions. The Wesson contingent also included Teri Ellison, Christy Shaw, Brittany Ashley, Melonie Hall and Nora Berch.

Hester reported that Wesson received honorable mention recognition for entering eleven persons in the Mississippi Municipal Service 5K Run/Walk. She also expressed appreciation to Porches Restaurant for contributing a cookbook, a video about its unique menu and service and a t-shirt for a "Porch Time Basket" she created for the Mississippi Municipal Clerks and



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Town Clerk Angela Hester created basket of items donated by Porches Restaurant to auction off at MML meeting.

Collectors Association silent auction to raise funds for Mississippi Municipal Foundation scholarships geared to helping small towns train their workers

and elected officials.

This year, MML celebrated 87 years of service to Mississippi's cities and towns and welcomed many newly elected officials attending the conference for the first time. Glenn Barlow, a Hazlehurst native and current Mayor of French Camp, became president of the group.

The MML Annual Conference allows municipal officials from across the state to participate in education sessions taught by subject matter experts on topics critical to operation of municipal government and moving their communities forward, while also providing opportunities to network and share ideas with each other, outgoing MML President Les Childress said. "The conference theme -- 'Hometown Heroes' -- celebrated municipal officials for their commitment to lead where

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Police Blotter

Special to Wesson News

During July, Wesson Police Department activity encompassed:

Responses to:

- Two vehicle accidents
- One false pretense
- One auto burglary
- One malicious mischief
- Two trespassing
- One general information report

Arrests & citations:

- Seventeen speeding violations
- One driving with an expired tag
- One improper equipment
- One improper passing
- One driving without a seatbelt
- Three no insurance violations
- Two driving without a driver's license
- One driving without a tag
- Four contempt of court warrants
- One possession of a controlled substance
- One driving under the influence

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

Wesson July Honor Yards



Wesson News

Wesson Garden Club has recognized the landscaping efforts of Porches Restaurant Highway 51 (bottom), Brenda & Steve Smith at 9171 Sylvarena Road (center) in a rural residential setting and Dana & Rickey Gunter at 1025 West Street in the Wesson corporate limits (top) for its July Yard of the Month honors. The awards, based on maintenance and landscape design, seek to encourage ongoing beautification and cleanliness of the Wesson area and cultivate a citizenry that values and protects natural resources and assumes responsibility for enhancing the environment. The Garden Club's Yard of the Month awards honor properties in organizational, town residential and rural residential (limited to Wesson School District) categories during the spring, summer and fall. In May, the honor yards were those maintained by the Town Hall at 1011 Spring Street (organizational), Nick and Jennifer Smith at 1125 Old Red Star Road (rural) and Jarrad and Brittney Ashley at 1006 Gum Street (Wesson corporate). June honor yards were those maintained by Trustmark Bank at 1027 Spring Street (organizational), Denise and Craig Johnson at 1090 Case Road (rural), and Dr. and Mrs. Roy Daughdrill at 1018 West Street (Wesson corporate).

A local troubadour keeps writing songs

By Guest Columnist Shaw Furlow

The dictionary defines troubadour as a traveling musician, usually a singer and a poet romantic in nature. In European history, the troubadours spread news and sang of current events, building the awareness those who came to the shows.



Special to Wesson News

In America during the 1950s and 1960s, folk musicians became our modern day troubadours. The songs of Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie told of the plight of the working man, those brave men and women who built the railways and dug coal from deep in the mines. Bob Dylan came along a bit later and told us about the social changes that were coming. The Chad Mitchell Trio poked fun at presidents and other politicians. The work of the troubadours was passed along to the folk singer.

The dictionary definition of troubadour fits my friend Charlie Hewitt perfectly. Growing up in Mc Comb during the turbulent 1960s, the harmonies of Peter Paul and Mary caught his ear, and he was hooked. Along with two bud-

dies, Hewitt formed the folk group, The Cellar Dwellers, and honed his craft in the basement of an old building in Summitt, playing weekends for his peers. His group made it to New Orleans, where it had a long run playing folk clubs in the French Quarter.

Musicians feel the allure of "the road," like sailors called to the sea. The road calls us all at one time or another and Hewitt answered it. "I got lucky in that department," he says. "I didn't have to pay dues like so many others." Hewitt was hired by Holiday Inn and played in their lounges, sometimes for up to three months at a time. "Free room, two meals a day...we had it good," he says.

Over the course of several decades, Hewitt has met and/or played with many of the greats. Glen Campbell and Bobby Goldsboro signed his old Martin guitar, which has been every place he has been, good and bad. Every step of his journey has been chronicled in song. "Most of my songs have an element of truth in them," he notes. "Somebody's version anyway."

Among his many friends was the Reverend Will Campbell, the Baptist minister who preached both to the Klan and NAACP. The civil-rights activist grew

up in Amite county and his memorial funeral service was at East Fork Baptist Church, with Hewitt playing and singing. "He was a good man," Hewitt says. "No one else like him."



Wesson News

Charlie Hewitt

Hewitt also numbers among his friends Omar Dykes, leader of the legendary Texas blues band, Omar and the Howlers. "Yeah, he's not doing real good now," he notes. "May not ever play in public again."

Hewitt's compositions number in the hundreds, just what you would expect from a troubadour whose life has been spent chronicling his time on the planet. But now he has challenged himself to write fifty-two songs in fifty-two weeks. "Wes Lee from Hattiesburg came up with this challenge,"

he says. "I'm ahead of schedule. I think I have forty-five right now." He is writing about The Dreamers and border crossings, a girl he met in San Antonio and immortalizing the news and social events of the day.

I describe Hewitt as a folk singer, but he takes exception: "I call it Americana Music. I guess with roots in folk music." Whatever you call it, folk or Americana, it doesn't matter to Hewitt. "I got all these songs that just need to be written," he says. "I don't know how much longer I'll be around, ya know. So when they come, I write em down."

Today, Hewitt lives in Brookhaven with his wife Libby, who sings harmony on many of his songs. "He's obsessed with getting his songs written," she says. "All day long...sometimes it gets annoying."

You can catch Charlie playing solo or with The Hewitt Family Band nearly every weekend somewhere in the area. Check it out, it's worth it.

That's it this month. A lot is going on. Get out there and support the arts.

EDITOR'S NOTE: R. Shaw Furlow is a local composer, musician and arts promoter. He produces an internet-based video show -- From the Shadyside -- that spotlights area musical talent and is a consultant to school bands in the region for Brookhaven Music and Sound.



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Joseph Durr candidate for fifteenth District Chancery Court Judge

By Joseph Durr

This past fall I learned that Chancery Court Judge Ed Patten would not be seeking re-election. After prayerful consideration and with the support of my family, we together decided to take the journey of my seeking the position of District 15 Chancery Court Judge for Copiah and Lincoln counties.



Special to Wesson News

I am married to the former Cheli Kellems of Brookhaven and have two children ages 10 and 6; a graduate of Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Mississippi College, and Mississippi College School of Law; serve as an attorney with Kellems Law Firm, Lincoln County Youth Court Prosecutor, City of Brookhaven Municipal Prosecutor, Lincoln County Assistant Prosecutor and Board Attorney for the Brookhaven Academy Educational Foundation; and previously served as Special Master for the 15th District Chancery Court of Mississippi.

I am humbled by and appreciative of the support of my family, friends, colleagues and community members, as well as their confidence in my trusted leadership, proven experience, shared values and dedication to serving all families with fairness and integrity. My focus includes adopting local rules for consistency in both counties, implementing consistent procedures for Copiah and Lincoln County Youth Courts, requiring a summary of financial information to streamline future child support

actions and submission of electronic judgments and orders through the Mississippi Electronic Court System.

Our chancery court system bears the most significant impact on the day-to-day lives of our citizens and deals primarily with family law and all matters involving children and land disputes. My primary areas of practice have been dedicated to serving in Chancery Court matters with a concentration in family, contract, property and corporate law, adoption, conservatorship, guardianship, wills, estates, trusts and real estate transactions. I also serve as general counsel for various business and corporate clients and have handled litigation in both state and federal courts, as well as appeals before the Mississippi Supreme Court. I serve my church through various leadership roles and serve my community through volunteerism.

The reason I am running for Chancery Court Judge is simple and sincere, to serve. Service is a big responsibility. In Romans, Paul tells us that every man is given a gift according to the grace of God...if that gift be of service, may he serve well. With your prayers and support, I am asking for the opportunity to allow my proven experience and Christian foundation to serve you well as the next District 15 Chancery Court Judge for Copiah and Lincoln counties through your vote on November 6th.

Please contact our campaign at 601-695-0606, JosephDurrForJudge@gmail.com or JosephDurrForJudge.com, or find us on Facebook @ JosephDurrForJudge to learn more about my qualifications, to volunteer with the campaign, or request a yard sign. Your support and vote are genuinely appreciated.

Cont. from page 1

Municipal officials hone their leadership skills

they live," he explained. "Local elected officials and municipal employees are not only seen at city hall, but they are also attending the same church services, shopping at the same grocery stores, and cheering on the same hometown sports teams as the citizens they serve, allowing for greater insight into the needs of the community. By providing vital municipal services on a daily basis, municipal officials and their families are receiving the same quality of life improvements as the citizens

Chain from the Mississippi Office of the State Auditor, officials of the Mississippi Development Authority State and a wide variety of representatives from local government and private organizations, who spoke about community and economic development, land use, water and wastewater compliance, municipal law and organization, finance and taxes, health policies, planning, family services and other topics.

Among other conference highlights were the presentation of 2018 Municipal



Wesson News

MML Wesson attendees (left to right) were recognized for participation 5K Run/Walk: Teri Ellison, Angela Hester, Christy Shaw, Brittany Ashley, Jarrad Ashley, Nora Berch, Libby Kirton, Melonie Hall, Larry Hall, Alton Shaw and Stephen Ashley.

that elected them into office, proving that the government closest to the people is the one with the most direct daily impact upon its residents. Our municipal officials aren't just leaders of our communities, they are heroes in our hometowns."

John Dowdy, Director of the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, was the keynote speaker at the event. The event also featured Mississippi Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann, Justice James W. Kitchens from the Mississippi Supreme Court, Mike Chaney, Commissioner of Insurance; Leigh Janous from the Mississippi Office of the Attorney General, Tom

Excellence and Healthy Hometown Awards, an induction ceremony for the 2018 Municipal Hall of Fame and an expo show, which showcased 200 businesses, state agencies and other organizations.

Established in 1931, MML represents 295 city, town and village governments in Mississippi. Its mission is helping cities and towns excel through training, lobbying at the state and federal level and providing resources and networking opportunities with state, federal and private entities.

For more information about MML, visit www.mmlonline.com.

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Work Ready program seeks employer support

of its transitional workers to earn a National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) by successfully completing a test that measured their competency in essential workplace skills -- critical thinking, mathematical reasoning and problem solving; and reading and comprehending graphical materials and written information to solve problems and make decisions.

Employers committed to using the data generated by the WRC certification process in the region, including Copiah County, can build better job descriptions for recruiting employees, identify qualified job applicants and pinpoint skills gaps for training of their existing workers.

"This is possible because scores on the ACT WorkKeys Assessment -- minus 3 to 7, which are correlated with colors -- predict job success," Berch said. Test-takers must have a score of at least 3 to receive an NCRC. Certificate recipients are designated Bronze for a score of 3, Silver for 4, Gold for 5 and Platinum for 6. ACT research based on WorkKeys Assessment results of more than four million persons nationally shows Platinum designees successfully work in 99 percent of jobs, Gold designees in 90 percent, Silver designees in 65 percent and Bronze designees in 35 percent.

"Using WorkKeys Assessment scores of job-seekers and existing employees to make hiring and promotion decisions reduces turnover 25 percent to 75 percent, hiring time 50 percent to 70 percent and the cost of hiring 70 percent", Berch said. Employers can narrow down the number of their interview targets for positions."

Berch noted that Kings Daughter's Medical Center in Lincoln County compared scores of their employees on the ACT WorkKeys Assessment with the predictive color scores for their positions and found them to match.

Berch is asking organizations to sign on to "recognize" the Work Ready program in Copiah County through an Employer Listing Registration Form (<https://www.workreadycommunities.org/business/form>) to signify support for it and commit to partnering with it by incorporating use of ACT testing and NCRC into its human resources policies, practices and procedures and reporting on the results; using information it provides on job candidates, calling and scaling job applicants through the program and funding first time assessments of job applicants and existing employees. Employers can also request ACT through the WRC program to provide consultation for a fee on developing job profiles.

"This involvement of employers will sustain the Work Ready Community program in Copiah County by building the numbers of the emerging, transitional and current workers that complete the WorkKeys Assessment to create a growing and more useful workforce database," Berch says.

In the central and southwest Mississippi region, where Copiah County workers find employment, Co-Lin and Hinds Community College are partnering with ACT to promote WRC initiatives.

For more information, visit <https://www.workreadycommunities.org/resources/ACT-WorkKeys-NCRC-Employer-Handbook.pdf> for a copy of ACT WorkKeys NCRC: Employer Handbook; <https://www.workreadycommunities.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/WK-Brief-NCRS-Validity-Research.pdf> for a copy of ACT WorkKeys NCRC: Employer Outcomes; and <https://youtube/ckhpRy6hTLK> to view the video, "What is an ACT Work Ready Community?"

Metal fabricator begins expansion

Special to Wesson News

A customized metal fabricator is expanding operations in Copiah County Industrial Park (CCIP) at Gallman and plans to add as many as twenty workers to its employment rolls.

Fab-Tek Corporation, Inc., has already broken ground and is clearing land for construction of new buildings on 13.5 acres it purchased from Copiah County adjacent to its property in CCIP, Arthur Lee (Pokey) Evans, director of the Copiah County Economic Development District (CCEDD), reports.

The recent land purchase by the company follows its acquisition of four acres in CCIP last year for buildings that house its shop and offices that once operated out of trailers at its Gallman site.

"The expansion reflects increasing demand of customers, who are closing new contracts that require additional production facilities," Evans says.

Fab-Tek customizes sheet metal



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buildings for industrial and agricultural uses to meet specific customer needs. Formally Moore Fabricating, it incorporated as Fab-Tek in 2010 and is owned by Shannon Moore.

In recent weeks, Gulf Coast Renewable Energy also raised hopes about new jobs in Copiah County in the wake of the recent decision by Advance Auto Parts to close its operation at CCIP, affecting 284 employees. The wood pellets manufacturer, which had to postpone plans to open a plant in the old Universal building at CCIP due to market conditions, put new funds into an escrow account towards purchasing the facility.

Students to get increased academic assistance

Special to Wesson News

Incoming freshmen and returning students at Co-Lin will enjoy greater academic scholarship assistance beginning in the 2018 fall semester.

Students with ACT scores of 21 to 24 will receive \$700 per semester covering half of their tuition -- a \$100 increase. Students with 25 to 26 ACT scores will receive \$1,400 full tuition scholarships per semester -- an additional \$200.

For students with ACT scores of 27 or 28, the scholarship package will include full tuition and a \$250 per semester book/eResources voucher. Students with ACT scores of 29 or higher and National Merit/Achievement finalists will receive a full tuition scholarship, room and meals and the \$250 semester book/eResources voucher.

A ten percent state funding cut -- \$1.2

million from the \$12 million it received for the 2016-17 school year -- forced Co-Lin to raise tuition from \$1,195 to its current level.

Co-Lin President Jane Hulon said the college made "significant adjustments" to academic scholarships, despite budget challenges, adding that "given the financial strain on college students of today, Co-Lin is committed to eliminating barriers and helping students to meet needs and enable them to achieve their goals."

For more information about Co-Lin academic scholarships, contact the Office of Enrollment Services on its Wesson campus at 601-643-840, the admissions office on the Natchez campus at 601-646-1222 or the admission office at the college's Simpson County Center at 601-849-0122.

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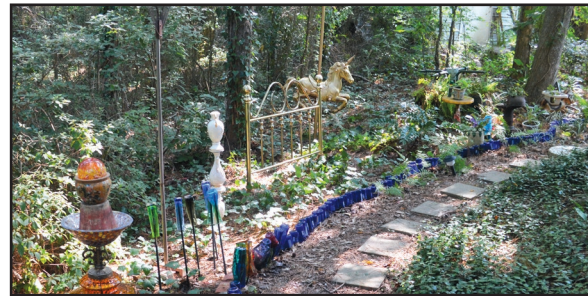
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Master Gardeners visit Wesson yard

Special to Wesson News

A group from the Copiah County Master Gardeners (CCMG) dropped by the Wesson home of Sheila and Stan Stewart last month to pick up some tips on cultivating unusual plants and yard art.



Wesson News

A shade garden is one of the unique features at the home of Sheila and Stan Stewart in Wesson.

Their visit was part of CCMG's Saturday "Wannabees" program that allows people associated with the organization to share their passions related to gardening, says Kelly Parks, president of the county Master Gardeners.

Sheila Stewart focused the attention of her visitors on her vast array of plants, including her unusual and fascinating carnivorous species that enjoy feasting on insects; and gardens and pathways adorned with yard art -- bottle trees, statuettes of whimsical characters and animals, ceramics and sculptures. A special treat on her property is a walkway through a shade garden where tall trees provide cover for plants that don't like the sun and a golden horse stands watch. A patio and picnic area highlighted Stewart's flare for landscaping.

At the event, the Stewarts hosted Rosa Harris and her daughter Kathleen, Parks and Lin Marie Stigman.

"We try to find places where people can go on one Saturday each month for hands-on learning, such as proper pruning techniques, or just to admire a beautiful yard," Parks explains. "We are looking for passionate gardeners, who want to share what they know and show off what they do with plants."

Wannabee Saturday returns to Wesson on September 8 to visit Rosa Harris' garden and help her fix a water problem. This month on August 18, it's a pot-making workshop to which participants will bring unusual molds to create planters. At the workshop, hosted at Nugget Wilson's home in Hazlehurst from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon, participants will wrap cement-drenched towels around their molds to harden and produce their pots. A visit to Shelly's Pumpkin Patch at Crystal Springs is on

the agenda from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on October 27, and the Master Gardeners Christmas party is set December 8 from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

CCMG is part of a national Master Gardener program, created and managed by university cooperative extension programs throughout the United States and Canada. Avid gardeners achieve their status as Master Gardeners (MGs) through an educational program that requires 40 hours of intensive horticultural training for certification in consumer horticulture and related areas. In return for their training, these gardeners are required to provide 40 hours of free volunteer service as home gardening educators and to assist county Extension



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Sheila Stewart (third from left) hosted Copiah County Master Gardeners at her home, including Rosa Harris and Kelly Parks (left) and Lin Marie Stigman.

offices in projects that benefit local communities.

Copiah County Master Gardeners meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Copiah County Extension office (2040 W Gallman Road, Hazlehurst, Mississippi 39083) at the Gallman fairgrounds. The group includes MGs, Interns -- those who have completed MG training and are contributing their required volunteer hours -- and Friends of Master Gardeners -- everyone else. There is a pot-Luck dinner and business meeting at 4:45 p.m., followed by an educational program with a speaker at 6 p.m. The monthly learning series programs through the remainder of the year are:

July 17 - Tricia Nelson - Theme Gardens

August 22 - Valis Hartley - Chickens in the Garden

Sept 18 - Valis Hartley - Harvest and Preserving your Garden!

October 12-13 - Trail Gardens

November 20 -- Bring the Garden Inside for the Season!

For more information, visit <http://extension.msstate.edu/community/leadership/master-gardener> or contact Kelly Parks at 601-431-1422.

WESSON AREA DINING GUIDE

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Bob Arnold, Editor

It's time to get a vaccine

By Guest Columnist
Dr. Stephanie Duguid

August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM), which focuses on increasing awareness about vaccines recommended from infancy into the elder years. It



Special to Wesson News

is a good time to promote vaccines and remind family, friends, and coworkers to stay up to date on their shots.

You can get sick to build the immunity of your body or you can get a vaccine. Immunity is the body's way of preventing disease. Children are born with an immune system including cells, glands, organs, and fluids. It recognizes germs that enter the body as "foreign invaders" (called antigens) and produces proteins called antibodies to fight them. The first time a child is infected with a specific antigen (say measles virus), the immune system produces antibodies to fight it. Usually the immune system can't work fast enough to prevent the antigen from causing disease, so the child still gets sick. However, the immune system "remembers" that antigen. Even after many years, the immune system can produce antibodies fast enough to keep it from causing disease a second time. This is immunity. Getting vaccinated is an easy way to stay healthy.

Vaccines are a safer substitute for a child's first exposure to a disease. They contain the same antigens (or parts of antigens) that cause diseases. For example, the measles vaccine contains the measles virus. But the antigens in vaccines are either dead, or weakened, and don't cause disease. They are, however, strong enough to make the immune system produce antibodies that lead to immunity. Children acquire protection against the disease without getting sick. They develop immunity without suffering from the actual diseases that vaccines prevent.

For adults, as well as kids, immunization helps prevent dangerous and sometimes deadly diseases:

- Parents can protect infants and children from 14 serious childhood diseases by age 2.

- Vaccinating adolescents will also protect their friends and their family members.

- Even if they received vaccines as a child or as younger adults, seniors may need one or more vaccines. After age 60, shingles and pneumococcal vaccines are suggested. Updated vaccinations are recommended for those who never received the complete chicken pox series or MMR series.

- For everyone, a vaccine for influenza is recommended annually, and a tetanus booster, every 10 years. In August, as summer winds down, it's a good time for you and your family to make plans to get the flu vaccine. The vaccine usually becomes available in mid-to late-August. Getting the vaccine early can help prevent you and your family members from getting the flu throughout all of flu season.

- You may need boosters for vaccinations if you are an international traveler, healthcare provider, or around a new group of people, such as college students.

Diseases that used to be common in this country and around the world, including polio, measles, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), rubella (German measles), mumps, tetanus, rotavirus and Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) are now prevented by vaccination. Thanks to a vaccine, one of the most terrible diseases in history – smallpox – no longer exists outside the laboratory. Over the years, vaccines have prevented countless cases of disease and saved millions of lives.

Vaccine-preventable diseases can be very serious, may require hospitalization, or even be deadly – especially in infants and young children. Most parents today have never seen first-hand the devastating

consequences of them on a family or community. While not now common in the U.S., they persist around the world and it is important to continue to prevent outbreaks of these diseases that can and, in fact, occasionally

occur in this country.

Use National Immunization Awareness Month as your chance to make sure that all your vaccinations are current. Talk with your healthcare provider about what vaccines you and your family need, and keep putting your healthiest foot forward! Visit www.vaccines.gov and click "Who and When" to see the vaccinations you need.

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

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Wesson area Community Calendar

August & early September weather forecast: The Old Farmer's Almanac calls for an average of temperature of 81degrees F (two degree below average) with precipitation of 5.5 inches (one inch above average) in August and 80 degrees F (4 degrees above average) with precipitation of 3.5 inches (one inch below average) in September. August 14-18: Sunny, warm. August 19-28: Scattered t-storms, hot. August 29-31: Tropical storm threat. September 1-4: T storms, hot. September 5-7: Tropical storm threat. September 8-11: Sunny, cool.

AUGUST 14
Diabetes support group. Meets weekly on Tuesdays. Education Annex at King's Daughters Medical Center, Brookhaven. 1:30 p.m. For information, call Natalie Ybarra at 601-835-9489.

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and VFW Auxiliary Post 2618 meet. \$5 for meal. VFW Hall on Industrial Park Road, Brookhaven. 5:30 p.m.

AUGUST 16
Reception for painter Derek Covington Smith and talk by the artist at Vernon Room of Lincoln County Regional Library in Brookhaven. Free and open to the public. Refreshments served. 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. A perspective of his work will hang in the Library through August during regular library hours.

Copiah County Master Gardeners Wannabee Saturday Concrete Pot Workshop. Attendees should bring molds to make flower planters. Nugget Wilson's home at Hazlehurst. 9:30 a.m.-12 noon.

AUGUST 19
The Southwest Chapter of ABATE monthly meeting will focus on planning September Flower Runs and the State Field event. Open to the public. Jeff Price's Shop. 2 p.m. For information, call Carmen Hill at 601-833-8560.

AUGUST 20
Beginner clogging classes for persons of all ages beyond five-years-old are held every Monday night. A small fee is charged each month. Brookhaven Recreation Department on Highway 51. Call 601-833-3791.

AUGUST 21
Institute for Learning in Retirement Social and presentation on fall semester activities. Thames Center at Co-Lin. Contact Tricia Russell for information at 601-643-8702. 1:30 p.m.-3 p.m.

Copiah County Master Gardeners meeting. Mississippi State University Extension Office at Gallman. Member meeting at 5 p.m. & educational program open to the public at 6 p.m.

American Legion Post #79 meets. American Legion Lodge on Main Street, Wesson. 6:30 p.m. For information, call 601-563-5438.

AUGUST 22
WorkKeys Assessment for CRC (Career Readiness Certificate). Thames Center on Wesson campus. Participants must register in advance by calling 601-643-8707. A valid id is required. Late arrivals will not be admitted for testing. 8:45 a.m.-12 noon. Also on September 5.

AUGUST 23
Wesson Lions Club annual Family Night. Thames Center at Co-Lin. 6 p.m.

AUGUST 27
Blood drive every second and fourth Monday. King's Daughters Medical Center Hospital Annex. 1 p.m.- 6 p.m. Call 800-817-7449 for information.

SEPTEMBER 3
Labor Day

SEPTEMBER 4
Wesson Board of Aldermen meet. City Hall. 6 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 8
Copiah County Master Gardeners Wannabees Saturday. Rosa Harris will host a garden tour at her Wesson home and lead a discussion to help her solve plant watering issues. 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m.

CONTINUING
Alcoholics Anonymous meets at convenient times seven days of every week. First United Methodist Church, 215 West Cherokee Street, Brookhaven. Open meetings are Mondays at noon and Tuesdays (Big Book Study), Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. Closed meetings are Wednesdays and Fridays (Big Book Study) at noon and Thursdays and Sundays at 7:30 p.m.

Overeaters Anonymous meets every Tuesday. Church of the Redeemer Episcopal, downtown Brookhaven. 6 p.m. Call 601-754-0213 for information.

Brookhaven Regional Arts Guild members work on projects every Thursday of the month from 9 a.m.-12 noon at the Brookhaven-Lincoln County Public Library in the Vernon Room when it is available.

Brookhaven 55 South Flea Market is open on Saturdays and Sundays next to the Lincoln County Civic Center. Ten per cent of the profits each weekend are donated to a local charity. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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Legislature, virus, art show & voter security

Special to Wesson News

Special legislative session.

Although Mississippi Governor Bryant is considering calling for a special session of state lawmakers this month to focus on funding the state's roads and bridges, disagreement among state legislative leaders about the parameters of the debate is delaying his action. The Governor envisions a \$225 million annual package possibly funded by a lottery, use tax and sports betting to add to existing monies for the Mississippi Department of Transportation. During the 2018 legislative session, infrastructure bills were introduced, but negotiations continued to break down between the two chambers.

Virus returns to Mississippi.

Seven cases of West Nile Virus have been reported so far in Mississippi. According to the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) four cases have been identified in Hinds County and one each in Copiah, Itawamba, and Pearl River counties. In 2017, Mississippi had 63 WNV cases and two deaths. Symptoms of WNV infection include fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, a rash, muscle weakness or swollen lymph nodes and although they are usually mild, encephalitis or meningitis can

lead to paralysis, coma and possibly death in a small number of cases, especially in persons over 50 years old. The virus, which is carried by mosquitoes, is most prevalent in July through September. For protection, MSDH advises using a mosquito repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient such as DEET while outdoors, removing all sources of standing water around homes and yards, where mosquitoes breed; wearing loose, light-colored, long clothing to cover the arms and legs when outdoors and avoiding areas where there are mosquitoes. Visit HealthyMS.com/westnile for more information.

Artshow. A perspective of the work of Derek Covington Smith will hang in Lincoln County Regional Library through August during regular library hours. Smith, who grew up in Brookhaven and graduated from Brookhaven Academy and Co-Lin, where he studied under Tom Ross and Janet Smith, has returned home to continue his painting career after sixteen years working with galleries in New York City and other venues. He is planning to live at a slower pace, while creating art and teaching and helping to promote

the arts in southwest Mississippi. A reception will be held in the Vernon Room of the library to meet and greet Smith on August 16 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. He will make a short presentation at 5:30 p.m.. The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

NEWS NUGGETS

Assuring voting security.

Mississippi Attorney General Jim Hood, along with a bipartisan coalition of 21 attorneys general, are urging congressional leaders to improve American cyber security and protect the integrity of the upcoming 2018 midterm elections. In a letter that comes after investigations have found Russian hackers targeted the American electoral system, stole the private information of hundreds of thousands of people, and infiltrated a company that supplies voting software across the nation, the coalition of AGs called for (1) prioritizing and acting on election-security legislation, including the Secure Elections Act (S.2261) currently before the Senate (2) increasing funding for the Election Assistance Commission to support election security improvements at the state level and to protect the personal data of

voters (3) supporting development of cybersecurity standards for voting systems to prevent potential future foreign attacks. Meanwhile, Lincoln County Circuit Clerk Dustin Bairfield is assuring voters that the 140 electronic voting machines for which he is responsible are not vulnerable to hacking, since they do not have internet connections and are not controlled by an internet-connected terminal. He said vote-counting in Lincoln County occurs in a closed system, with information transferred to an outside computer by USB flash drive for uploading to the Secretary of State's office.

Parent resources. Resources for parents to actively engage in the education of their children towards assuring their success in school are available from the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE). These resources include the Read-At-Home plan and Family Guides for Student Success that help parents partner with their children's teachers in assuring that students do well in school. MDE also has guides to facilitate conversations among presidents of parent-teacher organizations and school principals to help them work together to make sure students have what they need to achieve.

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Upcoming Sporting Events

August 14

Wesson junior varsity & varsity slowpitch softball Cobras play at Clinton. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

August 16

Wesson junior varsity & varsity slowpitch softball Cobras play Clinton. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

August 17

Wesson High School football Cobras play at Crystal Springs. 6:30 p.m.

August 21

Wesson varsity slowpitch softball Cobras play at Hazlehurst. 4:30 p.m.

August 23

Wesson varsity slowpitch softball Cobras play at Clinton. 6 p.m.

August 24

Wesson High School football Cobras play Sumrall. 6:30 p.m.

August 27

Wesson Junior High football Cobras play at Lawrence County.

August 28

Wesson junior varsity & varsity slowpitch softball Cobras play Brookhaven. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

August 30

Co-Lin football Wolves play at Holmes College. 6:30 p.m.

August 31

Wesson High School football Cobras play at Bogue Chitto. 6:30 p.m.

September 4

Wesson Junior High football Cobras play at Tylertown. 5 p.m.

Wesson junior varsity & varsity slowpitch softball Cobras play Hazlehurst. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

September 6

Wesson junior varsity & varsity slowpitch softball Cobras play at Lawrence County. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Co-Lin football Wolves play at Northeast. 6:30 p.m.

September 7

Wesson High School football Cobras play Loyd Star. 6:30 p.m.

September 10

Wesson junior varsity & varsity slowpitch softball Cobras play at Forence. 5 p.m. & 6 p.m.

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Stroud's passion is making world better

By Bob Arnold

Back in 1993, when her husband came to Brookhaven to work at the Walmart Distribution Center, Cathy Stroud stayed in Natchez, unconvinced she wanted to relocate. After Marty Stroud commuted for several months, she moved with him and their three now-grown children -- Lindsey, Cory and Erin -- and settled in Wesson, although not entirely happy about it.

"I always thought I would go home," says the native of Vidalia, Louisiana, across the Mississippi River from Natchez. "Small town Wesson was a big change from the larger Vidalia-Natchez urban environment." But Stroud more than adapted to the new setting, making friends and coming to enjoy the slower pace. "Wesson is now home," she says firmly.

Over 25 years, Wesson has not only become Stroud's home, but she is known for her dedication to the town as an important part of her passion for making the world a better place. Stroud was one of the first advocates of a municipal park in Wesson as she reared her children here -- now finally a reality, where you can frequently find her with her three grandchildren. She is a Copiah County Master Gardener and participates in Keep Copiah County Beautiful. Veterans, whom she says are "underappreciated," are a

big part of her passion, and she is a Patriot Guard non-cyclist who often follows behind riders in a car. She initiated local participation in Wreaths Across America and founded Socks for Heroes (SFH), which she serves as president.



the Fish Fry at Vidalia and later, at the Wesson Shop 'n Wash. The focus of her working life, however, was her children until she started volunteering to assist veterans, particularly through SFH, a 501(c)3 charitable organization based in Wesson. Socks for Heroes was born in 2012 after Stroud and her best friend, Tanya Jenkins from Vidalia, decided they didn't want presents for Christmas, but would rather give to others. They looked into different charities, but gravitated towards assisting veterans after a discussion with staff at the Collins, Mississippi, veterans home, who told them their residents needed little things, particularly socks, along with items like notebooks, pens, playing cards, hats and gloves.

In 2012, Socks for Heroes collected 150 pairs of socks and a few other odds and ends to give to residents at the Collins home. The following year, it took 600 pairs of socks to Collins and three other veterans homes in Mississippi, and has continued to grow. Last year, it collected more than 11,800 pairs of socks, 800 blankets and other items to the four veterans homes in Mississippi, five in Louisiana and two in Arkansas. SFH is looking to bring its

Christmas cheer to veterans in Alabama and "meeting veterans needs with new stuff" -- books, bibles, t-shirts and an array of personal items.

"At Christmas, we now deliver packages with signed cards to individual veterans at the homes and provide games to the homes, which the residents can play collectively," Stroud says. "We have some 30 individual volunteers, support of Strong Hope Baptist Church members and assistance from participants in groups who need community service hours, such as Mississippi Scholars and the Wesson Attendance Center Beta Club. They help collect donations, attend Christmas ceremonies at veterans homes and bag the socks, blankets, hats, gloves, ink pens and notebooks that are part of our Christmas packages. Most of them are drawn to Socks for

Heroes because they have relatives who served in the military."

SFH's gifts and minimal operating funds come from a variety of activities. "We have a fishing tournament for youth at Lake Hazle, a 5K run/walk at Hazlehurst, and an annual veterans appreciation fair, which will be at Exchange Park in Brookhaven from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on September 15, where we will accept donations amid games and fun events -- a cake walk and bingo -- food, vendors and free hot dogs and drinks for veterans," Stroud reports. Socks for Heroes also collects donations at the Brookhaven Exchange Club fair and the Lincoln County Wildlife Expo.

If her Christmas isn't already busy enough with Socks for Heroes, Stroud spearheads local involvement in Wreaths Across America, during which Christmas wreaths are laid on graves of veterans at cemeteries throughout the nation. In December, Stroud orchestrated Wreaths Across America ceremonies at Georgetown, Lilie Mae, Strong Hope, Sylvarena and Wesson cemeteries.

You are obviously busy working in volunteer activities, which is also a hobby. But do you do anything else?

My grandchildren are my major outside focus. We particularly enjoy our family camp at Ridge Point at Eddiceton, Mississippi, where we mud ride with the kids. My eyes are a problem and keep me from reading, and time is a problem for things like movies and theater. However, I am a gardener and do woodcarving -- making tumblers, and have recently started studying herbs, particularly their medicinal uses.

You mention medicinal herbs. Here's a controversial question: What is your position on marijuana?

I am against legalizing marijuana for recreational purposes because I believe it is a gateway drug. I do believe, however, that it can be used medicinally and persons with cancer and other painful diseases should be able to buy it.

If you won a million dollars in the lottery, how would you spend it?

Not on myself! I would help the library, veterans and cancer patients.

If you could change the world, what would you do?

The world needs more Jesus. People helping others. At Christmas, we always tried to adopt a family in need and provide what the kids needed. We would give-back. That's what the world needs.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

A graduate of Vidalia, Louisiana, High School, she attended Louisiana Technical College at Ferriday, Louisiana, and worked briefly for

Wesson News



Christmas cheer to veterans in Alabama and "meeting veterans needs with new stuff" -- books, bibles, t-shirts and an array of personal items.

"At Christmas, we now deliver packages with signed cards to individual veterans at the homes and provide games to the homes, which the residents can play collectively," Stroud says. "We have some 30 individual volunteers, support of Strong Hope Baptist Church members and assistance from participants in groups who need community service hours, such as Mississippi Scholars and the Wesson Attendance Center Beta Club. They help collect donations, attend Christmas ceremonies at veterans homes and bag the socks, blankets, hats, gloves, ink pens and notebooks that are part of our Christmas packages. Most of them are drawn to Socks for

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Although Co-Lin gridders walked off the field at Stone Stadium last season with a 4-5 record, the players and coaches alike felt the team could have fared better, given its grit, talent and overall play, and 2018 results would reflect this.

"We were a couple of plays away from being 7-2, and we are challenging our guys this year to play smart and execute like we know they are capable or lose to teams that you should beat," says head coach Glenn Davis, who is entering his fifteenth year at the helm of the Wolves.

Two powerhouse running backs -- sophomores Deion Dampier (Pinola) and Rico Owens (Greenwood) -- are returning to preserve the offensive punch. Sophomore Hayden Davis (Madison) will be taking the snaps at quarterback after a freshman season in which he completed 14 of 32 passes for 148 yards, backed up by Conner Mire (Natchez), a Cathedral

High School graduate who played at Chaffey Community College in Rancho Cucamonga, California, where he racked up 1,397 passing yards and eight touchdowns. A host of talented receivers, including sophomores DeMartre Collins, who hauled in 19 passes last year, Jalen Browder, who had 18 receptions for 217 yards, tight end T.K. McClendo; and freshmen Malik Heath and Kundarrrious Taylor will be their targets. An experienced offensive front will protect the quarterback and create running lanes for the Wolves' backfield.

On defense, the Wolves expect to maintain their powerhouse status in the MACJC, highlighted last year by giving up a meager 273.8 yards per game, a staggeringly low 103 pass yards per game and 20.7 points per game. Key returning players are Swayze Bozeman (Flora), who had

42 tackles last year, and Jakaiszer Glass (Greenwood), who wrapped up 29 tackles. Longsnapper Conner Goodin (Maben) and kicker/punter Ashton Garner (Ocean Springs) join the Wolves on special teams.

Wesson all-stars capture championships.

Wesson Athletic Foundation's 9U All-Star baseball team captured two state championships in two tournaments and lost the championship game in a third. In the 9U United States Specialty Sports Association

(USSSA) tournament at Shiloh Park in Brandon, they won the state championship trophy, defeating Florence in the finals. In the Cross Bones Classic in Pearl, they competed in the 10U division, scoring ten runs after two outs in a come-from-behind victory to win the championship against a team with older players. At a tournament in Northwest Rankin, they fell short against a team from Franklinton, Louisiana, in the championship game. The Wesson team prepared for its championship play at a Brookhaven tournament. The team included batboy Logan Lockhart, Layton Cloy, Clay Earls, Layton Earls, Levi Lockhart, Tripp Martin, Huntley Ott, Bryant Parker Robbins, Dawson Selman, Baylor Smith, Damarion Smith, Alden Wallace, Jack Wilson and coaches Albert Wilson and Brett Selman.

Former Lady Wolf to coach softball. Former Lady Wolf Meleah Howard, a 2008 Co-Lin graduate, is taking over as softball coach at the college. Howard left Co-Lin to earn a Bachelor of Science in elementary education with a minor in mathematics and science at Mississippi State University, coach the Wesson-based Southern Ice travel team, serve as assistant coach and then head coach of East Webster High School fast and slow pitch softball programs, while



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Deion Dampier, a sophomore running back from Mendenhall, Miss., looks to be a leader out of the Co-Lin backfield in 2018.

teaching middle school science and algebra; and then coach softball at Lawrence County High School since 2012. Overall, Howard has a 315-99 career coaching record and taken her softball teams to play-offs in which they were runner-ups in state championships, East Webster in 2011 and Lawrence County last year.

Diamond skills showcase. High school baseball players, who will graduate from 2019-2022, can demonstrate skills for Co-Lin's diamond coaches at a pro-style showcase August 28 at Sullivan Field, which allows them to show tier speed and offense, defense and pitching talents. The fee is \$75 for pre-registration before August 23 and \$100 on the day of the event. For information, contact Assistant Coach Jack Edmonson at 602-803-0053 or jack.edmonson@colin.edu.

Cheer squad racks up awards



Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin's cheer squad racked up the awards in a UCA Cheer Camp at Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The squad received plaques for top three performances in the Time-Outs and Fight Song categories and earned superior evaluations in appearance, formations, enthusiasm, loudness, stunts, motions, and overall ability to involve the crowd. Co-Lin's mascot duo -- Mr. and Mrs. Wolf -- also earned a superior plaque for outstanding performances after copping the Most Collegiate Award a year ago. "We are starting over with 13 newcomers this season," Micah Allen, Co-Lin's cheer coach and former cheerleader at the college, noted. "I couldn't have been more pleased with their endurance and performance in this physically exhausting camp. They stood out under the pressure." The group will host the annual Meet the Wolves pep rally on August 29 at 7 p.m.

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Boy Scouts build confidence & leadership skills

Special to Wesson News

"Our numbers are low, but our activity is high," Wesson Boy Scout Troop 125 Master Ken Carraway told the Wesson Lions Club last month.

This year's program has featured a trip to Mobile, Alabama, to visit the USS Alabama and summer camping at the Hood Scout Reservation at Hazlehurst, he reported.

Camp Hood is central to the high-level of activity. "It is rated number eight among the top ten Boy Scout camps in the U.S. and a great resource and program focal point for us," Carraway said. He noted the camp's facilities include a challenge course with climbing walls, pole swings and dual zip lines that is also equipped for outdoor personal experience games and events. Also at the camp are ranges, targets, guns and ammo for shooting sports; areas and equipment for ATV trail riding, mountain boarding and mountain biking; and lakes and waterways for swimming, boating and other aquatic programs.

"At camp, our boys are able to work on merit badges that recognize their knowledge and skills related to fist aid, canoeing, swimming and wilderness survival," Carraway noted.

Carraway brought along Ben McKenzie, an eleven-year-old new Boy Scout and the son of Cub Scout Master Wayne McKenzie, and Sam Carraway, his eighteen-year-old son and an Eagle Scout, to share their different perspectives on the Wesson Boy Scout program with the Lions Club.

Ben cited playing swamp games, canoeing, swimming, zip lining, learning CPR and first aid and, particularly, a confidence-building wilderness survival experience as highlights of his first year of Boy Scout camping.

In the wilderness survival experience, Carraway explained, Scouts are turned loose with three or four buddies with no food and limited resources to fend for themselves during the day and overnight. They are introduced to seven survival basics:

1. STOP -- Stop and take care of your immediate safety. Think about what you should do. Observe your surroundings. Plan your next move.
2. Providing first aid.
3. Seeking shelter.
4. Building a fire without matches.
5. Signaling for help.
6. Drinking water.

7. Not worrying about food.

For Ben, building a sturdy, comfortable shelter for overnight was most challenging and his most satisfying accomplishment. "The first step is to find a fallen limb large and strong enough to serve as the shelter's 'backbone,'" Ben said. "It must be big enough to support the weight of dozens of smaller branches that act like the shelter's 'ribs.'" Once the basic frame is up, the Scouts throw leaves and smaller twigs on top to provide insulation from the elements, he detailed. When built correctly, a small hut made of branches, leaves and twigs can keep you safe, warm and dry.

Sam Carraway, on the other hand, discussed the leadership-building benefits of his Scouting experience. Sam is the most recent Troop 125 member to become an Eagle -- the highest rank in Scouting. He continues to build his outdoors skills in a Venture Scouting program based in Brookhaven, while maintaining his membership in Troop 125.

"I am the director of the area Order of Arrow, a Boy Scouts honor organization," Sam reported. "In recent years, I have worked at Camp Hood in various leadership capacities -- planning outings, setting up the

camp and teaching classes. I will be attending a camp school to further prepare for management roles at Camp Hood.

Last week, Sam attended a special National Youth Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. It was not directly related to Boy Scouts and he is not quite sure how he came to be invited to participate, but his father has no doubts: "He is an Eagle Scout. He had to write an essay to be selected to attend the conference and I told him to talk about being an Eagle Scout at the beginning of the essay."

In the final analysis, Troop 125 is about leadership-building, Sam's father affirms: "Since 1936, when the Troop formed, it has produced 57 Eagle Scouts, seven since 2010 and one more is working on a community project to achieve the Eagle rank. Nationally, only three percent of Boy Scouts achieve the Eagle rank. We're doing pretty good for a troop in a small town."

Although Troop 125 membership has dipped in recent years, it's about to get a fresh injection of eight current Webelos Cub Scouts, who will move into the Wesson Boy Scouts program. Ken Carraway is ready to set them on a journey to becoming Eagle Scouts.



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Assuring you'll have fresh vegetables into the winter

By Guest Columnist Rebecca Bates

It's time to plan to have fresh vegetables right into winter with a fall garden. Many fall gardens are carried over from summer gardens. Tomato plants, okra, peppers and eggplant, if cared for during the summer, continue to produce until a killing frost.

To keep producing vegetables beyond summer, control insects and diseases, keep them watered and fertilized and don't let the garden grow up in weeds. A good fall garden is not just keeping the summer garden alive, but it also means planting new vegetables to produce in fall and early winter.

Many cool-weather vegetables normally planted in the spring grow and produce better in the fall. Vegetables typically planted in the fall are bush snap beans, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, chard, Chinese cabbage, lettuce, mustard, onions, radishes, rutabagas, spinach and turnips.

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

problems on fall cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli and collards. Control these leaf-eating worms with one of the biological sprays. Squash bugs are troublesome for fall squash and pumpkins.

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

Keep in mind the median date of the first freeze: November 8-12. As the danger of frost approaches, pay close attention to the weather predictions.

Tender plants often can be protected from an early frost and continue to produce for weeks. When a killing frost is inevitable, harvest

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

EDITOR'S NOTE: Rebecca Bates is the Mississippi State University Agricultural Extension Agent based at the Lincoln County Court House in Brookhaven.

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Co-Lin cited as 'best' employer

Special to Wesson News

Based on a survey of 253 colleges and universities, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* has again selected Co-Lin as a great college employer -- one of four Mississippi community colleges in Mississippi and 24 two-year schools throughout the nation.

The Chronicle's 11th annual report on The Academic Workplace listed results for small, medium, and large institutions, among 84 that applied to be considered for "Great College to Work For" recognition. Co-Lin was included among the medium colleges and universities with 3,000 to 9,999 students.

Co-Lin won honors in 10 of 11 employment categories: Collaborative Governance, Compensation & Benefits, Confidence in Senior Leadership, Facilities, Workspace & Security; Job Satisfaction, Professional/Career Development Programs, Respect and Appreciation, Supervisor/Department Chair Relationship, Teaching Environment (faculty only) and Work/Life Balance.

"We are extremely proud of our employees and the role they play in student success," said Co-Lin President Dr. Jane G. Hulon. "It is gratifying to know they feel supported and appreciated as they perform their jobs. We believe Co-Lin is a special place. It is great to know our employees share this same feeling."

Industry experts say that Great Colleges to Work For is the largest and most respected workplace-recognition program in the country.

"The Great Colleges to Work For distinction is well-known by academic job seekers as a sign that institution's employees are valued and given opportunities for growth even when they face financial constraints," said Liz McMillen, editor of *The Chronicle*. "Any college or university that's on the list is showing that it emphasizes one of their most valuable assets: their faculty and staff."

The survey results are based on a two-part assessment process: an institutional audit that captured demographics and workplace policies, and a survey administered to faculty, administrations, and professional support staff. The primary factor in deciding whether an institutional received recognition was the employee feedback.

ModernThink LLC, a strategic human capital consulting firm that has conducted numerous "Best Places to Work" programs, surveying hundreds of thousands of employees nationwide, worked with *The Chronicle* worked with in administering and analyzing its college survey.

For more information and to view all the results of the survey, visit *The Chronicle's* Web site <https://www.chronicle.com/interactives/greatcolleges18>.

Safety threats an ongoing focus

Special to Wesson News

Long before the scary headlines and stories about school shootings, Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) has proactively addressed safety issues on an ongoing basis.

A thick manual that is updated every year based on new challenges facing schools, in general, specifics at WAC flagged by annual student surveys, observations by teachers and staff; and situations that arise at the school guides response to potential natural hazards, emergencies resulting from accidents and human negligence, criminal incidents and other safety concerns.

The manual, which the Copiah County School District board approves annually, details protocols for all potential hazards, emergencies, and incidents related to weather, hazardous materials carried by trains and trucks, nearby or on-premises fires and explosions, building intruders and crime, among other safety threats. It describes practices and procedures, including collective response actions and specific tasks assigned to particular WAC employees and staff. The

manual also establishes reunification areas throughout the community if evacuations are required from WAC facilities.

More than just words, the manual prescribes drills for staff, teachers and students that cover lockdowns, building intrusions and evacuations, among other emergency practices and procedures, which WAC must document to the Copiah County School District board that it carries out during the school year. WAC also trains teachers and staff in the safety issues and protocols covered by the manual.

Among recent safety measures implemented at WAC, classrooms are locked during teaching hours and all entrances are locked after classes start, except the one to the high school, where an unarmed school resource officer is located. Although the school resource officer is unarmed due to training requirements, he has access to a firearm on campus.

WAC is developing a parents-oriented publication that will discuss the varied safety issues covered in its comprehensive safety manual.