

INSIDE:

Overhead around town	2
Reducing back-to-school jitters	4
Library advocate remembered	5
News nuggets	6
New Naval commander	7
Sports shorts	11



SPOTLIGHT:

**The Proud History
of Marching Bands**

Page 3

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Volume 2, Number 8

"Good News You Can Use"

August 12, 2014

Early Childhood Education program getting new home

Special to Wesson News

A new \$2 million 8,046-square-foot building will soon house Co-Lin's Early Childhood Education Technology (ECET) program, which currently utilizes space in the R.E. Anderson Building and a temporary trailer.

The one-story facility with state-of-the-art instruction space will occupy land on the perimeter of the Wesson campus where vacant faculty housing was recently demolished. The Co-Lin Board of Trustees is currently receiving bids for the construction project.

The building will feature classrooms, a computer lab, two faculty offices, a student workroom, a faculty workroom, a small kitchen, designated dining/activity space, and a childcare lab room with windows to observe infants, one-year-olds, two-year-olds, and other pre-school children of Co-Lin employees and students. There



Photo by Wesson News

Site of new building, which will house Co-Lin's Early Childhood Education Technology program.

will also be two playgrounds outside the building.

Co-Lin officials say the new facility will increase efficiency, safety, and convenience for Co-Lin students, program employees, and lab school children and their parents. Relocation of the program also will free up needed space to accommodate future growth of other programs.

Co-Lin has operated the ECET program since 1978 and currently enrolls 56 students, on average, each year. The students receive an Associate in Applied Science degree and can continue their education at Jackson State University to complete a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Development or pursue careers in child care fields after graduation. In recent years, demand for its graduates has increased, and program enrollments are growing with changes in requirements for Head Start employees and teacher assistants.

Mayor Shaw leads state group

Special to Wesson News

The Mississippi Municipal League (MML), a non-profit private organization for cities and towns throughout the state, has formally installed Wesson Mayor Alton Shaw as its 2014-15 president following his service as first vice president last year.

The group, which encompasses 3,000 local elected officials, provides training, education, network-

ing opportunities, and technical support for them; and advocates for Mississippi cities and towns with private and public entities, including lobbying state and federal legislatures.

In leading MML, Mayor Shaw said he would not only direct and help shape the course of the league, but be able to promote development of Wesson in a



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role in which he is in "direct contact with individuals who have ultimate decision making responsibilities" and has "a stronger voice on both a state and national level."

Mayor Shaw also said he was honored and humbled by the sup-

port and trust of other elected officials who chose him to lead MML. "Personally, I don't believe there is any higher honor than being recognized and chosen by your peers to represent them."

MML chose Mayor Shaw as its first vice president last year in a runoff election against Mayor Mary Hawkins Butler from Madison.



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Overheard around town: Speakers focus on issues

Wesson News

Speakers focusing on physically and developmentally disabled assistance programs, genetically-modified foods, and state politics have provoked discussions among members of local organizations in recent weeks.

At 50-Plus Club luncheons, Independent Living Specialist Cynthia Benson discussed the work of Living Independence for Everyone (LIFE) of Mississippi; Kathy McCone, a local teacher and bio-medical researcher, explored the positives and negatives of genetically-engineered foods; and Del Harrington, director of community relations at Mustard Seed, described her organization's ministry with adults who have Down's Syndrome, autism, and other developmental disabilities. At the Wesson Lions Club, District 92 State Representative Becky Currie looked at the current political environment in Mississippi following the Republican U.S. Senate primary and discussed legislative highlights since the GOP assumed control of both houses of the state legislature.

Physically-disabled live independently

Benson, based in McComb, affirmed that "having a disability of any kind in Mississippi does not mean dependence."

Her organization—Living Independence for Everyone (LIFE)—reaches out to an estimated half million Mississippians within varied disability groups and seeks to empower them to live outside an institutional framework as



Photo by Wesson News
Cynthia Benson, Independent Living Specialist

productive members of communities. Benson said LIFE has fulfilled this mission since 1993 through information and referrals for more than 170,000 persons and direct services at no cost to 37,000 disabled persons in Mississippi which encompass:

- Peer support that connects disabled

persons who want to live independently with other disabled persons who are living independently and can offer tangible advice and counsel coupled with encouragement that boosts morale;

- Advocacy on behalf of individuals toward obtaining specific services for them and improving overall service delivery;
- Skills training covering self-advocacy, grooming, nutrition, social interaction, money management, and housekeeping.

"Our purpose is empowering people with significant disabilities to be as independent and as fully involved in their communities as they can and want to be," Benson reported. "Our board members and staff live with disabilities. We know what disabilities mean to people."

Crop production needs drive GMO technology

McCone attributed expanding use of genetic engineering in agriculture to "the decreasing amount of farmland

coupled with increasing population." "It's about crop production," she said. Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) receive genes inserted into their DNA from other species so they will produce specific proteins that theoretically make them stronger.

Corn, soy, papaya, potatoes, rice, squash, sugarbeets, and tomatoes, for example, are U.S. approved GM crops that have been genetically-engineered to resist certain pests, tolerate herbicides, and withstand drought, among other things.

The two most common genes used in GMO are the Bt gene from *Bacillus thuringiensis*, which produces a toxin that protects against caterpillars, and the glyphosate resistance gene used in the broad-spectrum herbicide Roundup.

"While crop production is important,



Photo by Wesson News
Kathy McCone, teacher and bio-medical researcher

GMO has raised concerns," McCone said. "Glyphosate has been linked to diseases and biological physiological disorders in crops; contamination of soil, streams, and groundwater; loss of beneficial insects; birth defects and tumors in animals; and cancer, Parkinson's Disease, and DNA damage in humans. GMO opponents also worry about creation of super pests and super weeds, which develop resistance to pesticides and herbicides, and loss of biodiversity."

Concern about GMO and GE technology in agriculture has prompted efforts in 20 states to require labeling of GMO foods, McCone reported. Pesticide and agribusiness companies such as Monsanto, DuPont, Syngenta, PepsiCo, Nestle, Coca-Cola, and Conagra are fighting these efforts.

Developmentally-disabled adults gain sense of self-worth

Harrington described the work of Flowood-based Mustard Seed, a Christian community for adults with developmental disabilities founded in 1981 "to meet their spiritual, emotional, and intellectual needs in a loving and protected environment with meaningful activities which allow them to fulfill their God-given potential."

"We work with 43 clients — or 'seedsters,' including ten women and eight men who live in group homes in a family-like setting," Harrington reported. "Parents whose children had development disabilities, including Down's Syndrome and autism, created the ministry to assure their care as adults."

Seedsters participate in a ceramics art therapy program, Harrington detailed. "Through their ceramics, they are able to demonstrate their creativity, ability, and talent, and gain a sense of self-worth and accomplishment by making artistic utilitarian products that are sold through the Mustard Seed Gift



Photo by Wesson News
Del Harrington, community relations director, Mustard Seed

Shop and generate 15 per cent of the ministry's operating budget," she said. Seedsters also perform in a Bells of Faith Handbell Choir that offers them an opportunity to share their faith by "leading worship and demonstrating their abilities rather than disabilities to listeners," Harrington said.

Donations from foundations, corporations, churches, families, and individuals as well as the ceramics sales support the Mustard Seed ministry.

GOP split, but has achieved much

Currie said a major split in the state Republican Party following the intense U.S. Senate primary battle between incumbent Thad Cochran and challenger Chris McDaniel could open the door for the Democratic Party to win a state U.S. Senate seat in the November general election. Looking beyond the split, the Republican District 92 state representative cited GOP legislative accomplishments in Mississippi since the Republican Party assumed control of the two houses of the state legislature in 2010:

- Child protection against sexual assault
- Sunshine Act, opening the business of state government to the public
- Requiring the state's only abortion clinic to have a certified Obstetrician-Gynecologist on staff
- Voter ID law
- Exempting churches from utility taxes
- A-B-C-D-F school accountability system
- Replenishing a "rainy day" fund for state emergencies
- Charter schools
- Third grade "reading gate" before students advance
- Clarification of open-carry gun law
- Religious freedom act
- Pay raises for teachers and public employees



Photo by Wesson News
Becky Currie, District 92 State Representative

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Marching bands have long, rich history

By Guest Column R. Shaw Furlow

It's marching band season!

The Wesson High School Cobra Band is back in business, preparing for a new season under the leadership of new director, Mrs. Suzy Phillips. The Co-Lin Blue Wave Show Band reports this month to begin preparing for its 2014 half-time show. Both bands are part of a long, rich history.

Marching bands emerged during the Renaissance, when groups of musicians, accompanied by jugglers, story tellers, and the occasional pick-pocket, traveled from town to town to entertain at festivals — much like today's flea markets — where the locals learned about what was going on in the rest of world and bought exotic items. Early city states formed bands to keep their soldiers in step when on a march, discourage them from straggling behind, and boost their morale.

American Revolutionary War field



Special to Wesson News

commanders relied on the Fife and Drum Corps, made up of children under age 15 and older men who could no longer fight, to relay musical messages to troops. The fife's shrill pitch and the drum's low pitch could be heard from a great distance. A commander would order the Cease Fire song, which could be heard over gunshots, when he wanted shooting to stop.

During America's War Between the States, military bands entertained weary and homesick troops. Charles Morgan, a music teacher from Vicksburg called by Jefferson Davis to assemble a band for the Confederate Army, purchased uniforms and European style instruments and taught band members— many of them black men who were paid \$7.00 per month— to play and march. They travelled from post to post, entertaining troops and providing pomp and circumstance for military ceremonies.

As their battlefield usefulness diminished, military bands, such as today's 41st Army Band of the Mississippi National Guard and the Kessler Air Force Base band, started serving largely ceremonial purposes.

From 1880 to 1892, John Philip Sousa, known as the American March King, led "The President's Own"— the United

States Marine Corp Band based in Washington, D.C. Sousa spent the bulk of his life and career writing military-style marches and patriotic melodies, and later started a professional band that played at more than 15,000 concerts throughout the world. When America declared war on Germany in World War I, Sousa — re-commissioned as a Navy Lieutenant Commander — led the Great Lakes Naval Station Band near Chicago.

Nearly every school in America today has a band, and it is a big business. Some 10,000 to 20,000 students signed up for band this year in Mississippi public schools. All of them need equipment, a rehearsal hall, a teacher or two, uniforms, and transportation, among other things.

Band is also fun — and hard work. It isn't easy moving for three minutes at 180 beats a minute while blowing a horn, beating a drum, dancing, or spinning. And then doing it again and again. Doing it the same way everyone else is doing it in the sun, rain, or freezing cold takes hours of rehearsal. But the satisfaction of getting it right under stadium lights far outweighs the effort.

Notre Dame has the oldest marching band in the country. It was present at ND's first football game in 1887. The Purdue band, however, started the tradition

of competing bands at football halftime shows when it broke ranks and formed a large P on the field. There may not have been a visiting band director at Purdue that afternoon, but I have been on the receiving end of being shown up by another band director during football halftimes. It's not a good feeling. Since that afternoon at Purdue, we band directors have sought to one-up opposing bands in halftime shows. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, two Copiah County band directors reportedly spied on each other regularly before their bands performed together on the same field when their schools played football with each other.

It is said you can tell the personality of a band director by the style of marching band he or she puts on a field. Some bands have a pseudo-military bearing, using vocal commands like "attention," "mark time," and "dress down." Some shows are clean — no mistakes, no chances taken. Others are so artistic you need to see them twice to absorb the deep, philosophical meaning. I prefer three ring shows in which you never see it all because so much is going on.

Some bands prefer to play just for their home audience, while others travel great distances to compete on

cont. on page 8

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Coping with back-to-school jitters

By Dr. Cindy Melton

Helping your child cope with back-to-school jitters is a bumpy road. Many students experience some "August apprehensions" because they do not know what to expect, they dread the early morning routine, or they simply hate to say good-bye to summer. Like many things in life, taking the Mary Poppins "spoonful of sugar" approach to this new adventure can help soothe those back-to-school anxieties.



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To help ease students back into a routine and schedule to help avoid the "jolt" of the early morning alarm clock, begin a week or two before the first day of school with earlier bed-times and morning wake-up routines. Have some activities for them after they are up, so they can get used to getting their bodies "in gear" again. When school begins, help avoid the morning rush by setting the alarm a few minutes early, and then have timers to go off at intervals before it is time to go (15 minutes until "go-time"), giving them a "countdown to departure." Having outfits and shoes selected the night before can greatly reduce morning meltdowns. Offer to have their favorite breakfast that morning to get them off to a good start. Music is food for the soul, so having some fun, upbeat music going in the background can help brighten everyone's mood.

Remember, they will feed off your attitude and reactions that morning, so leave in plenty of time to deal with the traffic. Instead of getting jittery yourself while waiting in line, listen to the radio and even embarrass them a little by singing and dancing along. Hey, at least they will get a good laugh on the way to school!

Help students know what to expect. For younger children, it may be something as basic as wondering about snack or lunch, and how they will get back home. For older students, they may wonder about their schedules, their clothing choice, new friends, or the location of their locker. Ironically, young or old, all students are generally concerned with bathroom accessibility and opportunities for socializing with classmates. Listen to and then talk with your children about their concerns. While some of the reasons for their jitters may seem silly to adults, their concerns and anxieties are real. These experiences are new to them, and they will simply need some

reassurance and some simple answers to their questions, no matter how trite their questions may seem. Talking to them about general rules for the classroom, basic routines for the day, and for younger ones, even "playing school" can help calm their anxieties.

While it can seem to be a chore buying back-to-school supplies, many children enjoy it. If the thought of selecting all the supplies at once is too overwhelming, it can be fun for them to take a trip to the store just for their back to school snacks. They can select their favorite items and save it just for school. Even with a specific list of supply items, children can still have fun selecting their own items and expressing their personalities as they select their backpacks, pick out their favorite color art box, or personalize their notebooks. Many of the middle and older students will have fun preparing to "accessorize" their lockers, getting a new haircut or having some new clothes to wear as the school year begins. If your child is not interested in the back-to-school shopping trip(s), invite one of their friends to come along.

Remind students of the fun aspects of their new school/grade, whether it is the class change, playground, new subjects, cafeteria experience, after-school activities or simply getting to see some of their friends. For younger children, check out some books that address the first day of school anxieties, like *The Night Before First Grade* by Natasha Wing, *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes, *This School Year Will Be the Best* by Kay Winters, and *First Day Jitters* by Julie Danneberg.

It is also important for our children to know that being a little anxious is a very normal response to the new school year, and they are not alone. Whether it's the new morning routine or the hustle and bustle of traffic, parents also experience some beginning of school jitters. Teachers are nervous before the first day of school, too. In fact, most teachers do not sleep well before the first day of class, and they also wonder about bathroom accessibility and clothing choices. Remind your children that they are in great hands with their school and teachers, who are among the best in the country. Finally, send your children to school with a purpose. Have them look for ways throughout the day to help bring a smile to their teacher, friend or classmate. Keeping their attitude positive and focusing on helping others will melt away the jitters and help your child enjoy a new school year.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Melton has two children in school, is a former teacher, and chairs the Department of Teacher Education and Leadership at Mississippi College.

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Plaque honors father as library advocate

By Bob Arnold

Back in 2006 and 2007, John McClelland regularly brought his daughter Jordan to Wesson Public Library to open her to a world in which there was so much to learn and to instill in her a lifelong love of reading.

A plaque to be placed on the library's premises by Wesson Friends of the Library will commemorate that special father-daughter relationship and how John McClelland, in his parental role, introduced Jordan to a gateway to a vast array of knowledge and ideas that her father hoped she would continue to enter throughout her life's journey.

After John died in a tragic traffic accident in 2008, his mother, Antoinette McClelland, decided there was no better way to honor his life than to support the Wesson Public Library. She made a generous donation through Wesson Friends of the Library that helped fund the pavilion and garden outside the library—a pleasant place to enjoy a book, a site now used by the library's Summer Reading Program for children, and a possible area for expansion of the library in the future.

In recognition of the donation from John McClelland's mother, the



Photo by Wesson News

Antoinette McClelland (center) accepts plaque commemorating the parental role of her late son John McClelland in introducing his daughter Jordan to the Wesson Public Library to encourage learning and a lifelong love of reading. The plaque was created by Wesson Friends of the Library in recognition of a generous donation by Antoinette McClelland that funded the pavilion and garden outside the library. Friends of Library members Jacquie Coons (left), Marilyn Britt (second from left) and library staff person Ann Clark (right) presented plaque in the library garden.

Friends of Library created the plaque. It reads:

"This plaque is dedicated in honor of Jordan McClelland in memory of her

beloved father, John McClelland, who brought her to the Wesson Public Library for her to learn and instill in her a lifelong love for reading."





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Police Blotter

Special to Wesson News

During July, the Wesson Police Department activity encompassed:

Nine responses to:

- Four general complaints
- One prowler
- One vandalism
- One malicious mischief
- One trespassing & telephone harassment
- One motor vehicle accident

Thirty-two citations:

- Sixteen general traffic offenses
- Thirteen speeding violations
- Three open container violations

Seven arrests:

- Four narcotics misdemeanors
- One public drunkenness
- One embezzlement
- One felony evasion (a man wanted for aggravated assault in Texas, who precipitated a police chase after running a stop sign and injuring a Copiah County deputy sheriff with his vehicle during the pursuit)

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News Nuggets



Emily Hust, Nena Smith Dance School Babs Wood Shine Award Scholarship recipient.



Rebekah Shirley, Nena Smith Dance School Jason Counts Memorial Scholarship recipient.



Cierra Santos, Nena Smith Dance School Brandy Sanders Memorial Scholarship recipient.

Special to Wesson News

Academic honors. Sophomores Daisey Martinez, Laura Speights, and Jacob Tarver, all of Wesson; Caroline Coleman of Meadville; Jonathan Nations of Brookhaven; and Erin Whittington of Hazlehurst have been inducted into the Co-Lin Hall of fame (the college's highest student honor).

Organizations. The Co-Lin Eta Omega Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK)—the international honor fraternity of community colleges—was a Most Distinguished Chapter Finalist, and an Honors in Action Theme winner, named a Five-Star Chapter, and recognized for the Most Distinguished Newsletter and Most Distinguished Runner-Up Yearbook at the annual PTK Mississippi/Louisiana Regional Conference. Chapter

members Laura Speights and Cullen Greer Wesson, Brett Howard of Brookhaven, and co-advisors Mary Warren and Erin Smith also received awards.

Competition. Eight Co-Lin Career and Technical Division students received awards in the annual Skills USA Competition: Jonathan Nations of Brookhaven (CNC Turning gold medal), Lea-Ann Randol of Roxie (Technical Drafting bronze medal), James Spence of Wesson, (HVAC silver medal), Wesley Varner of Magee (CNC Milling gold medal), Blake Whittington of Wesson (Electronics Technology gold medal).

Howell C. Garner High Co-Lin Performance Awards. Jimmie Cain, Brookhaven, public relations assistant; Janet Smith, Brookhaven, Chairperson of the Fine Arts Division



Copley County Co-Lin students receiving scholarship assistance from the Co-Lin Foundation were seated from left, Justice Orgeron of Wesson, Hannah Page of Crystal Springs, Jasmine Hall of Hazlehurst, Bailey Middleton, Samantha Walker, Lindsey McCardle, Maura Smith, and Brandi McInnis, all of Wesson; back row from left, Alex Smith, Dustin Jackson, and Tanner Allen, all of Wesson; Lana Thornhill of Jayess, Raylin Parrish of Hazlehurst, Macie McQuage, Thomas Westrope, Joseph Campbell, and Jessa Martin, all of Wesson; Nathan Ganvcheau and Mason Boone, both of Hazlehurst; and Josh Britt of Wesson.



Seven boys in Wesson Cub Scout Pack 125 moved from Tiger Cubs into a Wolf Den. They are (from left to right) John Rowan Dearing, Hunter Meredith, Ben McKenzie, Luke Shelton, Channell Shelton, Ayden Carraway, and Mason Ashley. Harlan Brewer and Noah Brister also moved into a WEBELOS Den. Designed for boys from seven to twelve years old, Cub Scouting combines outdoor activities, sports, and academics in a fun and exciting program that helps families teach ideals such as honesty, good citizenship, faith, and respect. Last month, the Pack 125 Scouts attended a week-long day camp in Lincoln county with activities that included BB gun shooting, archery, swimming, crafts, and games. For information about joining the Cub Scout program or volunteering locally, visit BeAScout.org.

and art instructor; Carey Williamson, Brookhaven, program coordinator of electronics technology; LaShondra Lofton, Brookhaven, member of the cafeteria staff; Joey Chassion, Wesson, program coordinator of construction equipment operations; Amber Jackson, Wesson, maintenance divi-

sion on Wesson campus.

Personnel & Officers. Roland Ross of Brookhaven has replaced Andrew Spiller of Brookhaven on Co-Lin's board of trustees. Sheryl Montgomery, Wesson, retired after forty-two years of service to the college, most

cont. on page 9

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Former Wesson man assumes Naval command

Special to Wesson News

A former Wesson resident assumed command of Training Squadron 7 during the first ever fly-by ceremony at Naval Air Station Meridian. Cmdr. William Thames, who grew up in Wesson and graduated from Wesson High School and Co-Lin, relieved Cmdr Michael Hritz, who is the new air boss on the *USS Nimitz* (CVN-68).

“It feels great to be in my home state training young men and women to fight for our country,” said Thames, whose father, Billy B. Thames, is a retired president of Co-Lin. Thames said he and Hritz “wanted something different for this change of command,” adding that neither he nor his predecessor are “big on ceremony, but we are big on tradition.”

Thames took over a squadron that, under Hritz, safely flew 18,589 sorties in the T-45C Goshawk, logged 20,119 flight hours, conducted 1,153 carrier-arrested landings, designated 83 Naval Aviators, and trained 20 new instructor pilots. The squadron exceeded all objective safety metrics, receiving a grade of Outstanding on the 2014



Special to Wesson News

William Thames, former Wesson man, is commanding Naval training squadron.

Chief of Naval Air Training Standardization and Safety Evaluation, and also garnered its ninth consecutive CNO Aviation Safety Award

under Hritz.

A graduate of Mississippi State University, Thames received his commission in 1995 through the

Navy’s Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida, and earned his wings of gold in May, 1998, from Training Squadron 7. His naval career has included two deployments onboard *USS Constellation*, flying in support of Operation Southern Watch in Iraq, and two deployments onboard *USS Ronald Reagan*, flying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Thames received F/A-18 and F/A-18 E/F Super Hornet training at Lemoore, California, graduated from the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School in Maryland, and earned a master’s degree in military arts and sciences at the Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama. He has served as a Division Officer, Assistant Operations Officer, Air Vehicle Test Officer, Staff Officer, and Executive Officer. He has been awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal (two strike/flight awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (two awards), and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards). He has 2,500 flight hours and 500 carrier landings.

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Co-Lin placing greater emphasis on writing

Special to Wesson News

As part of a process that will reaffirm its accreditation through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), Co-Lin is developing a plan to improve writing skills among its students.

SACS requires schools in its accreditation process to develop a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), which delineates how it will improve an area of learning. Based on more than a year of research, including a review of institutional data and input from students, faculty, staff, and community stakeholders, Co-Lin chose writing as the focus of its QEP, which will be submitted to the SACS Commission of Colleges (COC) in September.

In its QEP, Co-Lin will propose what it is calling a "Write Path," which is still in development, but may include training courses for faculty, intensive writing classes, and an on-campus writing studio where students could go for information and support on

such things as essay development, punctuation, and other conventions of standard written English.

A QEP leadership committee led by Rhonda Tilly will present the completed Write Path plan to the SACS-COC board and answer its questions. Meanwhile, Co-Lin faculty members are gearing up for the new academic emphasis, according to Jeff Posey, director of Institutional Planning and Research on the Co-Lin campus. They are educating themselves on ways to incorporate more writing into their classes and visiting writing centers at other colleges such as Mississippi College, the University of Mississippi, and Alcorn State.

Co-Lin will implement the Write Path plan in stages over five years, beginning in the spring semester if the SACS-COC board gives it the green light.

SACS accreditation, which affirms compliance with national standards, recognizes the quality of Co-Lin degree programs and means it can provide federal aid and other kinds of



cont. from page 3

Marching bands history

a national level. The Mississippi Lions Club All-State Band, made up of high school students, competes in the Parade of Nations at the annual Lions International convention. In July, it won its 30th competition in Toronto, Canada. The goal of nearly every Mississippi band student is to play in this prestigious band. I did not play in it as a student, but served on its staff in 1999 when the Lions International convention was in San Diego. I will never forget the experience.

As I write this, I am reminded that any school-related activity is a good

activity. I tell prospective Co-Lin students all the time that if they go to class, but skip all the other activities, they are only getting a part of the college experience. To be a part, you have to take part. And marching bands offer that opportunity.

So support live music. . . including marching bands!

Editor's Note: R. Shaw Furlow is Director of the Bands Program at Co-Lin and oversees the college's Community Arts Series. He is a regular contributor to Wesson News on the area arts scene.

A testimonial from a former student!

DEAR MISS NENA,

You completely changed my life. You noticed a spark in me at church when I was in the 6th grade and you walked up to me and asked had I ever danced. I told you that I had and it was a bad experience and I didn't want to do it again. You said, "Taylor, you were born to entertain. It is written all over every expression of you face. Come take for 3 months, and let's see how you feel after that! If you don't like it I will never mention dance to you again!"

AND LOOK AT ME NOW! Best Showmanship 2013, Miss Spirit of Dance 2014, Dance Class Captain multiple times and winner of the 2013 Jason Counts Memorial Scholarship. I fell in love with your studio and with you.

Earlier this year I had a young Mom come up to me and ask where they should send their daughter to dance. I answered that question like this.... "So do you just want a good dancer or do you want a good dancer that is a great young woman? It really is that simple."

I told her, "Our dance motto is "Character First-Dance Second" and that really does resonate in everything we do at MY studio. Sure, we all learned about dance, but we more importantly learned how to treat others and HOW TO TREAT OURSELVES.

Thank you my precious Miss Nena for everything you have given me, and I don't mean the multitude of material things, though I cherish them all. I thank you for the confidence and character and courage you have built in me. I am forever more changed, because I danced with you at Nena Smith's School of Dance in Wesson. I love you to the moon and back,

TAYLOR FINK – Copiah Academy Graduate - 2014

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Community Calendar

August weather forecast: *The Old Farmers Almanac* calls for an average temperature of 80.5 degrees F (.5 degrees above average) and total precipitation 5.5 inches (1 inch above average)

- AUGUST 10**
Meet the football Cobras rally. Wesson Attendance Center. Old Gym. 6:30 p.m.
Open House & Parent Teacher Organization meeting. Wesson Attendance Center. Following Meet the Cobras rally.
- AUGUST 14**
Institute for Learning in Retirement Open House & Membership Social. Co-Lin Thames Conference Center. 10:30 a.m.
- AUGUST 18**
Fall semester classes start at Co-Lin.
- AUGUST 19**
American Legion Post 79 meeting. American Legion Lodge on Main Street, Wesson. 6:30 p.m.
- AUGUST 21**
Copiah County Republican Executive Committee. Kanna's Restaurant, 1001 Vincent Street, Hazlehurst. 7 p.m. The public is invited to hear Philip Gunn, Speaker of the Mississippi House of Representatives. Gunn is a Baylor graduate and earned a law degree at The University of Mississippi. He is an attorney at Wells, Marble, Hurst PLLC in Ridgeland and was named "One of Mississippi's Top 50 Leading Attorneys" by the *Mississippi Business Journal* in 2010.
Brookhaven Regional Arts Guild (BRAG) monthly meeting. Artists, who work in any medium, are invited to bring and discuss a creative entry reflecting a vacation theme. Lemanedi Gallery off Cherokee Street behind The Locker

Room. 5:30 p.m. Email brookhavenregionalartguild@gmail.com for information and to request a membership form.

- AUGUST 26**
Wesson High School Slowpitch Softball Cobras vs. Florence. Wesson Attendance Center softball field. 5 p.m. Junior Varsity. 7 p.m. Varsity.
- AUGUST 28**
Co-Lin football Wolves vs. Itawamba. Co-Lin stadium. 7 p.m.
Wesson High School football Cobras vs. Sumrall. Wesson Attendance Center stadium 7 p.m.
- SEPTEMBER 1**
Labor Day.
- SEPTEMBER 2**
Wesson Board of Aldermen meeting. City Hall. 6 p.m.
Wesson High School Slowpitch Softball Cobras vs. West Lincoln. Wesson Attendance Center softball field. 5 p.m. Junior Varsity. 7 p.m. Varsity.
- SEPTEMBER 4**
Wesson High School Slowpitch Softball Cobras vs. Bogue Chito. Wesson Attendance Center softball field. 5 p.m. Junior Varsity. 7 p.m. Varsity.
- SEPTEMBER 9**
Wesson High School Slowpitch Softball Cobras vs. Puckett. 5 p.m. Junior Varsity. 7 p.m. Varsity.

Email Community Calendar items to bobarnold@wessonnews.com

cont. from page 6

News Nuggets

recently as assistant information systems director.

Scholarships. To Co-Lin: Zach Smith, Brookhaven (Ball-Howington Scholarship for Copiah and Lincoln County high school graduates); Lyndy Berryhill, Smithdale (Centurion Scholarship for a Co-Lin history student); Jana Carlock of Meadville, Katelyn Roberts of Brookhaven, Naomia Saul of Crystal Springs, Alisia Williams of Brookhaven, and Ryan Williams of New Hebron (Taylor Presidential Scholarship); Sarah Claire Armstrong of Gallman (Co-Lin Trailblazers-Eta Omega PTK Chapter Russell Ray Leadership Endowment Scholarship awarded to a freshman Trailblazer and PTK member for sophomore year); Gregory May of Wesson (Robert K. Howard Memorial Scholarship awarded to a practical nursing student who has worked in

the healthcare industry and has financial needs); Audriana Bozeman and Taylor Nelson of Bogue Chitto, Michael Herring of Brookhaven, Brandon Nettles of Wesson, and Tristen Shivers of New Hebron, (L. Frank Pitts Scholarship).

For dance studies at Nena Smith School of Dance: Rebekah Shirley of Wesson (Jason Counts Memorial Scholarship for senior year based on a cheerful countenance, consistency as a friend, and faith in God); Cierra Santos of Brookhaven (Brandy Sanders Memorial Scholarship for sophomore, junior, and senior years based on character, compassion, courage, and Christian faith); Emily Hust of Crystal Springs (Babs Wood Shine Award Scholarship for sophomore year for a young girl who "shines in her love of the Lord to all of those around her.")

Wesson Baptist Church

Weekly schedule (nursery provided for all services)

Sunday morning	Wednesday evening
9:45 a.m. Sunday School	5:30 p.m. Supper
10:45 a.m. Morning worship	6:00 p.m. TeamKids
Sunday evening	6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting
5:00 p.m. Discipleship training	Youth Bible Study
Youth Bible Study	Children's Activities
Children's Activities	
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship	

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Talking water and waste management issues



Photo by Wesson News

During a visit to Wesson, Kirby Mayfield (left), CEO of the Mississippi Rural Water Association, discussed water and waste management issues with Mark Brown, director of the Wesson public works department. MRWA, located in Raymond, is the state's largest water and wastewater utility membership organization. It assists water system operations with a variety of technical services and provides training for their staffs. In addition to his work for Wesson, Brown and his wife, Marjorie, both certified water and pollution control operators, provide consulting services to other Mississippi municipalities and organizations on water and waste management.

PTO launching year at rally

Special to Wesson News

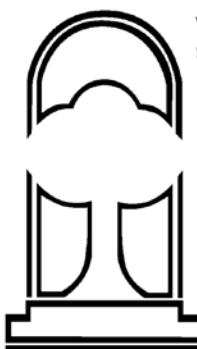
The Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) Parent Teachers Organization (PTO) will hold its first meeting on Tuesday, August 19, in conjunction with a Meet the Cobras rally at 6:30 p.m. in WAC's old gymnasium, to build enthusiasm for the 2014-15 football season.

"The rally offers a great way for parents or guardians of children and youth at the Attendance Center to become

involved with school," says PTO leader Chris Granger. "They will meet the Cobra football team, school staff, and other parents at the event."

Granger describes the PTO as "a bridge to the school" through volunteer opportunities and participation in fundraising events and special projects.

PTO membership dues are \$5. Dues-paying members will receive a \$5 coupon for the annual WAC Red Ribbon Festival in September.



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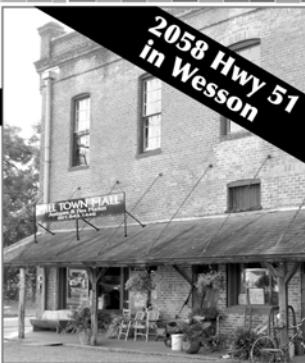
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Special to Wesson News

Basketball. Jake Reed, a former Co-Lin student athlete who recently received his bachelor's degree in Health, P.E., and Recreation from William Carey University, has returned to Co-Lin as an assistant basketball coach. As a member of the Wolves, Reed was a MACJC All-Star game participant after averaging 9.4 points, 3.1 rebounds, and 1.7 assists per game as a sophomore.

Football. Six Co-Lin gridiron players will play on football squads at four-year universities this year: defensive lineman Philanteus Jarrett, Hollendale (Southeastern Louisiana University), offensive lineman David Adams, Rolling Fork (University of Louisiana-Lafayette), wide receiver De'Vante Nichols, Pearl, (University of Central Arkansas), defensive lineman Jocquell Johnson, Jackson (Mississippi State University), defensive back Kalen Jackson, Magee (University of Alabama-Birmingham), center Xavier Dampeer, Mendenhall (Auburn)

Honored. National College Athletic Association has recognized Co-Lin

athletes for their academic excellence: Erika Dear of Florence (tennis), Meghan Johnson of Utica (softball), Philip Lott of Purvis (baseball), and Josh Smith of Wesson (tennis) for maintaining a 4.0 grade point average (GPA); Beth Fortenbery of Natchez (softball), Missy Romero of Canyon Lakes, Texas (softball), Wesley Varner of Magee (soccer) and Courtney Watts of Brookhaven (tennis) for maintaining a 3.80-3.99 GPA; Kayla Craft of Denham Springs, Louisiana (softball), Corey Funk (baseball) and Melody Smith (tennis) both of Brookhaven, and Caitlin Lofton of Natchez (soccer). for maintaining a 3.60-3.79 GPA. The National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) named the men's tennis squad as academic team of the year in its sport, and the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) named it academic team of the year. Head coach is Brenda Smith, and members of the team are Coleman Carraway of Bandon; Steve Del Cid, Brandon Nettles, Brock Smith, and Josh Smith, all of Wesson; Dwain Perkins of Natchez; and Graham Watson of Brookhaven.

Wesson High School Football

August 15	Bogue Chitto Jamboree exhibition game	7 p.m.	Home
August 22	Lawrence County	7 p.m.	Away
August 29	Sumrall	7 p.m.	Home
September 5	West Lauderdale	7 p.m.	Away
September 12	Seminary	7 p.m.	Away
September 19	North Pike — Homecoming	7 p.m.	Home
September 26	Salem	7 p.m.	Away
October 3	Hazlehurst	7 p.m.	Home
October 10	Crystal Springs	7 p.m.	Away
October 17	Jefferson County	7 p.m.	Home
October 24	Franklin County	7 p.m.	Away
October 31	Wilkinson County	7 p.m.	Home

Co-Lin Football

August 28	Itawamba	7 p.m.	Home
September 4	East Mississippi	7 p.m.	Away
September 11	Mississippi Delta	7 p.m.	Home
September 18	Southwest	7 p.m.	Away
September 25	East Central	7 p.m.	Home
October 2	Pearl River	7 p.m.	Away
October 11	Hinds — Homecoming	3 p.m.	Home
October 18	Gulf Coast	2 p.m.	Away
October 23	Jones County	7 p.m.	Home

Wesson High School Slowpitch Softball

August 16	Classic at Puckett*			
August 21	West Lincoln	JV 5 p.m.	Varsity 6 p.m.	Away
August 26	Florence	JV 5 p.m.	Varsity 6 p.m.	Home
August 28	Lawrence County	JV 5 p.m.	Varsity 6 p.m.	Away
September 2	West Lincoln	JV 5 p.m.	Varsity 6 p.m.	Home
September 4	Bogue Chitto	JV 5 p.m.	Varsity 6 p.m.	Home
September 6	Florence*			
September 9	Puckett	JV 5 p.m.	Varsity 6 p.m.	Home
September 11	Richland	JV 5 p.m.	Varsity 6 p.m.	Away
September 16	Crystal Springs		Varsity 4 p.m.	Away
September 18	Hazlehurst	JV 5 p.m.	Varsity 6 p.m.	Home
September 23	Franklin County	JV 5:30 p.m.	Varsity 7 p.m.	Away
September 27	Brookhaven*			
September 28	South Pike	JV 5 p.m.	Varsity 6 p.m.	Home
September 30	Crystal Springs	JV 5 p.m.	Varsity 6 p.m.	Home
October 2	Hazlehurst	JV 4:30 p.m.	Varsity 5:30 p.m.	Away
October 4	Bogue Chitto*			
October 9	South Pike	JV 5 p.m.	Varsity 6 p.m.	Away

*Tournaments

Sun can be too much of a good thing

By Guest Columnist
Dr. Stephanie Duguid

The sun is a big part of summer fun—swimming, going to the beach, barbecuing, or sunbathing, but you can get too much of a good thing. Overexposure to the sun now not only can produce painful sunburns, but later in life it can result in premature aging of the skin, wrinkles, and skin cancer.



Special to Wesson News

The most hazardous time for ultraviolet (UV) exposure in the United States is between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Even on a cloudy day, UV exposure can cause a sunburn. And it's not just the sun! Concrete, sand, water, and snow reflect 85% to 90% of the sun's UV rays.

Precautions:

- Use sunscreen anytime you are outside—not just when you're going to the pool. Make sure it has a sun protective factor (SPF) of 15 or higher for both UVA and UVB rays. Pay

attention to the expiration date on your sunscreen, as its protection decreases over time. Apply sunscreen liberally and evenly all over exposed areas before going outside. Do not forget the neck, ears, lips and scalp for those with thinning hair. Reapply sunscreen often, especially if you have been in water, sweat, or are outside more than two hours. With surveys showing that 34% of men wear sunscreens as compared to 78% of women, it's no coincidence that twice as many men are diagnosed with melanoma skin cancer.

- Wear clothing that protects exposed skin. These days, there are many options for sun protective clothing. Thin clothing (such as t-shirts) offer protection that is less than SPF 15. In fact, a t-shirt that is wet offers less protection than one that is dry. Better choices are clothes with darker, closely woven materials and long sleeves, or "sun" clothing with higher SPF protection.
- Wear a hat with a wide brim and sunglasses that block both UVA and UVB rays protect the face, ears, and neck—areas especially sensitive to exposure and excessive sunburns.
- Seek shade, especially during the

midday hours.

Children are particularly vulnerable to the sun, with three times more exposure to it than adults, on average. One blistering sunburn can double a child's lifetime risk of developing skin cancer. Be very aware of the daily exposure of your children to the sun and the methods they use for protection. SPF 30 or higher sunscreens are recommended for children. Infants under six months should be kept out of direct sunlight as much as possible, as their skin is not yet protected by melanin. Cover them up and keep them shaded and out of the midday sun when they are outside.

Teenagers coveting bronzed skin often lay out in the sun, seek tanning beds, or buy self-tanning products.



PROTECT YOURSELF IN FIVE WAYS FROM SKIN CANCER

All are bad ideas responsible for the increase in melanoma skin cancer among women born after 1965. Tanning beds expose the skin to as much as 15 times more UV radiation than the sun.



Send sunscreen with your child to daycare facilities and schools. Check school policies on sunscreen and sun safety. Make sure your children are protected by using hats, sunglasses, and seeking shade during the prime times for sun exposure.

Enjoy your summer by staying safe in the sun! Tan does not mean healthy.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Stephanie Duguid, Assistant Dean of Academic Instruction and Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Division Chair at Co-Lin, makes regular contributions to Wesson News on healthy living topics. 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 20 years. She is an avid reader and learner on health issues and encourages people to follow her example.

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