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SPOTLIGHT

Back to School

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Volume 11, Number 7

“Good News You Can Use”

July, 2023

WAC expects slight enrollment increase

Wesson News

Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) anticipates enrollment to jump slightly in the coming 2023-24 school term.

The new school year begins in Wesson on Friday, August 4.

At a time when schools throughout the state have more jobs to fill than people to fill them, WAC will add ten new teachers:

- **Trace Abdul-Hadi**, a secondary school teacher and basketball coach;
- **Tomeka Brice**, a secondary school teacher in special education;
- **Tiffany Brooks**, a secondary school teacher in science;
- **Anyana Dumomore**, an elementary school teacher in special education;
- **Jessica Farnham**, a third-grade elementary school teacher;
- **Nic Kleppinger**, a music teacher and assistant band director;
- **Angie Neely**, elementary school teacher in special education;
- **Ryan Neely**, a secondary school teacher in social studies and physical education, and a coach;
- **Joseph Shummaker**, a sixth-grade elementary school teacher;
- **Amer Hall**, a secondary assistant.



Wesson News

Vanda Brister, assistant principal, High School Principal Dr. Barbara Roberson and WAC Principal Tommy Clopton are planning the 2023-24 school year at Wesson Attendance Center.

WAC staff and personnel are accessible by telephone, fax and email:

- **Principal Tommy Clopton.**
tommy.clopton@copiah.ms
- **High School Principal Dr. Barbara Roberson.**
barbara.roberson@copiah.ms
- **Assistant Principal Vanda Brister.**
vanda.brister@copiah.ms
- **Guidance Counselor Taylor Burke**
- **Elementary Counselor Ginger Heard**
- **High School Secretary Gwen Shannon**
- **Elementary Secretary Aretha Butler**
- **Nurse Michelle Berch**
- **Bookkeeper/Secretary Telisha Sanders and Jacque McCormick (also Records Clerk).**

High School telephone: (601) 643-2221/2222

Elementary telephone: (601) 643-2295

Fax: (601) 643-2458 or (601) 643-5838

WAC athletic teams will continue to play in 3A regional competition as the number of classes throughout the state is up to seven..

"We expect about 880 students to enroll," says WAC principal Tommy Clopton.

"All students attending WAC must reside within its district or have been released by their local school board and approved by the Copiah County School Board," Clopton says. "Otherwise, law requires students to attend school in the districts where they live.

"Residency means a student resides full time, days and nights throughout the week and on weekends, within the limits of the school district. Students must reside full time at the address used for registration and live with a natural parent or have legal documentation on file with WAC that shows they are under the guardianship of someone."

To enroll in classes at WAC, four documents for each incoming student who did not attend

cont. on page 4

Wesson honored as “Healthy Hometown”

Special to Wesson News

Wesson is one of two Mississippi towns to be honored as a “Healthy Hometown” by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation (BCBSMF) in recognition of exemplary community health and wellness.

The other 2023 Healthy Hometown Award winner announced at the Mississippi Municipal League Annual Conference in Biloxi was Baldwin, Mississippi. Both Wesson and Baldwin will receive \$100,000 grants from BCBSMF to assist in continued efforts to ensure the communities are healthy places to live, work and play.

BCBSMF established the Healthy

Hometown Awards Program in 2010 to encourage and reward cities that have made the most progress and displayed the highest level of commitment in creating a healthy community culture. The Healthy Hometown Awards Program encourages varied approaches shown to be effective in creating healthy communities: demonstrating municipal leadership and involvement, adopting environmental ordinances and policies, providing access to healthier foods,

promoting physical fitness activities, reducing tobacco use and ensuring healthy school environments.

Regardless of the municipality’s population or the number of towns or cities honored, Healthy Hometown Awards are \$100,000 for each winner in the annual program.

“The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation celebrates the achievements of Baldwin and Wesson city leaders and Healthy Hometown committee members for

creating and sustaining opportunities for residents to make healthy decisions,” said BCBSMF Director Eugenia King. “Adopting health and wellness as a key community initiative improves well-being and sets a positive example for building healthy hometowns across Mississippi.”

BCBSMF promotes its vision for a healthy Mississippi through leadership and targeted grant funding for sustainable initiatives and programs to improve the overall health and well-being of Mississippians. Learn more about the Healthy Hometown Awards Program and the Foundation at www.healthiermississippi.org.



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WHY GO ANYWHERE ELSE?

Judge Varas wanted to do more

By Bob Arnold

On a visit to his parents back in the mid-1970s when he was working on his B.A. in English at Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina, Jeffrey Varas was startled to find that his mom and dad had packed up their belongings at their Greenville, South Carolina, home and were moving to Tupelo, Mississippi, where his father planned to operate an old furniture factory.

It was an unlikely beginning of a journey for Varas that has encompassed 42 years of legal service in Copiah County, including City Attorney and Municipal Court Judge for Wesson.

"The house was empty," Varas recalls. "The furniture was in the moving van outside the house. I wondered what was going on."

If the surprise was a little bit annoying, it nevertheless introduced him to Mississippi and led him to Ole Miss to study law from 1976 to 1979 and earn a J.D. that prepared him for a private law practice in Copiah and Lincoln counties, local judgeships and legal work for area municipalities.

Last month, Wesson government officials and town folk honored him at a special reception for his service to Wesson.

A native of Inglewood, California, Varas spent his early childhood in the Golden State at San Mateo on the San Francisco Peninsula and San Marino, where he fondly remembers bike-riding days when he could travel throughout the interconnected Southern California neighborhoods to special places, like The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens, in Los Angeles County and in the Pasadena area.

Varas first came to the South when his father, who worked in sales and marketing for varied companies that transferred their personnel around the country, moved his family to Greenville, South Carolina, briefly before returning to California at San Marino and then going to the South again to Atlanta, where, he says, "I thought I had died and gone to hell." His family resettled in Greenville, where Varas graduated from high school in 1971 and then headed off to Wofford, graduating in 1975. With his family now in Tupelo, Varas chose to go to Ole Miss Law School.

He launched his career as an attorney with a law firm in Columbia, South Carolina, after passing a bar exam and becoming licensed to practice his profession in South Carolina and Mississippi. Ironically, going to Columbia brought Varas back to Mississippi after meeting and marrying the former Kate Walker (now Kate Hampton) from the Delta there. She suggested they return to her extended family's hometown, where she had just inherited the Victorian house on Highway 51 that would later become the venue of Porches Restaurant for many years. Varas lived there for eight to

10 years before his marriage ended, and swears that it is a haunted house with "good ghosts." By then, Varas had made Copiah County his permanent home, establishing his own law practice -- first at Brookhaven in the early 1980s, and then moving it to Hazlehurst in 1985 -- when he discovered there were no big law firms in the area looking to hire young attorneys. "When I came to Wesson, the old hotel was standing, the Post Office was where the new dental office is and there were no Dollar General or Family Dollar stores," Varas recalls.

Always drawn to community service because "I believe in giving back to the world," Varas took on multiple appointed roles as an attorney and judge for Copiah County and its municipalities while maintaining a multi-faceted law firm. There were no public defenders in those days, so Varas often found himself in criminal defense, appointed by judges when someone could not afford a lawyer.

His first judgeship was not an easy one in Georgetown, where its Chief of Police at the time was "the epitome of the old-time image of a Mississippi lawman" to whom rights of prisoners meant nothing, Varas recalls. In addition to serving Wesson for the past 13 years as Municipal Judge and as City Attorney on and off since the 1980s, Varas has worked in similar capacities at Crystal Springs and Hazlehurst, and has been Copiah County prosecutor, Copiah County Youth Court Judge and Special Master for hearings on committing mentally ill persons to institutions.

In his early years as a judge, Varas says he was "crusader,"

seeking to bring values of equal justice for all and compassion to his decisions, while seeking to "make law and order" in communities -- the fundamental job of municipal courts. "I was reared by parents with an American Dream view of life that all people are created equal," he explains. "They weren't church people, but they were religious in trying to practice love and compassion. That's the personal background I bring to the court. I don't understand the racism that I see in a society in which people have been indoctrinated to hate others."

Over the years, as he has watched the same people coming back to his courts "over and over again" on the same offenses, and "increasing numbers of people coming to the courts because they have no sense of personal responsibility," Varas says his focus has shifted to "public protection." Varas says he believes strongly in the justice system and upholding its rules and laws, but "one of the reasons I've decided to retire now is I think I've lost at least some of the sense of humor and compassion I once had. You expect upwards of ten percent of the people that come before you to return to court because they can't change their behavior, but I have become frustrated by the growing numbers who never learned to accept personal responsibility for their actions, and blame others when they do wrong or make a mistake."

What satisfaction have you realized as a judge?

"The best part of the job is working with top notch people, and the hardest part is dealing with the public," Varas notes. "But the satisfaction, which occurs only rarely, happens when a stranger walks up to you on the street or in a store to thank you -- for 'hearing my case fairly and finding me not guilty,' 'giving me a break, although I was guilty,' or even 'sending me to prison, where I straightened out my life.'"

What are your hobbies?

I've given up a lot of hobbies over the years -- long distance running, scuba diving, hunting, fishing, golf. I was an active Episcopalian in Brookhaven's Redeemer Church, but I am now married to a Catholic woman. I relax in my yard and garden, growing things. I continue to exercise, but not as vigorously, by taking walks around town, picking up litter while I'm at it to keep the town clean. I like to travel, and now enjoy the sites around Mississippi particular.

Are you a reader?

As a lawyer, reading is a requirement that, over the years, turned me away from the variety of reading that I once enjoyed. As a lawyer, I came home not for a good book, but to watch television. As an English major in college, I became a fan of Jack Kerouac, the beat generation writer; and Jerzy Kosinski, who wrote about the dark side of life. From childhood, I still remember *Caddie Woodlawn*, an historical novel by Carol Ryrie Brink, that nurtured my love of reading.

Do you follow movies or theater?

I didn't like him in *The Green Berets*, but I enjoy John Wayne in *Searchers*. I like the songs in *Scrooge with Albert Brooks*, with its classic story of redemption. I attend local theater productions, and you can take me to an art museum any day.

Are you into music?

I'm a listener. I don't sing or play an instrument, but The Who plays my kind of rock 'n roll.

What would you do with the winnings if you won the lottery?

I'd pay off my debts, take a vacation, give to charity, help friends in need and bank anything that is left so I'd never have to worry about paying bills again.

How would you change the world?

Above all, we need to make better citizens by investing in education and mental health. We need to walk the walk and quit talking about it. Parents need to rear their children to assume responsibility and not blame others when they make a mistake or do something wrong.



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cont. from front page

WAC expects slight enrollment increase

the school last year, must be provided:

- Birth certificate
- Social Security Card
- Original copy of Mississippi Immunization Form 121
- The final report card from the previous school

All students planning to attend WAC, even if they were enrolled last year, must show residency proof, including one document from each of three groups with the name of the registrant's parent or legal guardian:

- Real estate documentation. Mortgage papers or property deed, original apartment rental agreement or home lease (receipts will not be accepted) of a filed homestead exemption form;
- Utility bill or deposit receipt (lights, water, gas) dated within the last two months (cell phone bills will not be accepted);
- Other proof. Driver's license, voter registration card or automobile registration.

If documents of legal guardians are used to prove residency, the registrant must provide a copy of the court order appointing the guardian or the filed petition for a pending guardianship decree. Children or youth living with an adult other than parents or legal guardians in the district may be enrolled at WAC in cases of death or serious illnesses of the parents or legal guardians, abandonment, abuse or neglect; unstable or detrimental family relationships or living conditions, or if they are exchange students with host families. In such cases, the district resident housing the students must provide an affidavit stating the relationship to them and documentation fully explaining the circumstances. WAC may also require temporary placement and custody orders from courts.

Call WAC for dates, times, and place for open registration in which parents or guardians can enroll prospective new students or returning students if they do not want to take advantage of online registration. WAC, however, encourages parents or guardians of returning students to register online at www.copiah.ms, where they will need to sign in as an Active-Parent. If they have forgotten login information, it is available at WACEnroll@copiah.ms or at 601-643-2221 Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. and Friday 7:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Once logged in as an ActiveParent, a drop-down menu guides users through student selection and the registration process. Registrants should be prepared to download copies of required documents -- the same ones required for new students.

New students include those who have been home schooled or attended other schools.

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CHAPTER 13

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2023-24 WAC Calendar

August

- 1,2,3 Teacher workshop
- 2 (8 a.m.) Faculty & staff get id badges.
- 3 Meet the Teacher (6 p.m.-7 p.m.), Open House/PTO Meeting
Seventh Grade orientation
- 4 – First schoolday for students
- TBD – Begin K Universal Screen
- TBD – Beta Club Initiation Ceremonies
- TBD – Meet the Cobras (7 p.m.)

September

- 4 Labor Day holiday (school closed)
- 8 Progress Reports (first nine weeks)
- 13, 14 School day pictures
- 21 Make up pictures day
- TBD Juniors order rings
- TBD Ring presentation to juniors

October

- 4, 5, 6 Nine Week Tests
- 9 Fall break
- 10 Student Holiday/Teacher Workday
- 13 Report cards
- 19 Pageant practice

21 High School Pageant

- TBD Who's Who pictures
- TBD College Fair
- TBD Presentation of invitations -- Seniors

November

- 10 Progress Reports (second nine weeks)
Veterans Day Program
- 11 Veterans Day
- 20-24 Thanksgiving holidays
- TBD Book Fair
- TBD Seniors order invitations
- TBD Elementary Beauty Pageant

December

- 15, 18, 19 Nine Week Tests
- 20 Christmas holidays begin
- TBD Wesson Christmas Parade (2:20 p.m. dismissal)

January

- 3 Teacher Work Day/Student Holiday
- 4 School resumes for second semester
- 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.
- 26 Teacher/Parent Conference Day/Student Holiday

February

- 9 Progress Reports (third nine weeks)
- 19 Teacher/Student holiday
- TBD African American History program
- TBD ACT Statewide (Eleventh Grade only)

March

- 6, 7, 8 Nine Week Tests
- 11-15 Spring Break
- 18 School resumes
- 21 Spring pictures
- 22 Report cards sent
- 29 Holiday/weather day

April

- 1 Holiday/weather day
- 13 Progress Reports (fourth nine weeks)

May

- 17 Graduation
- 22, 23, 24 Nine Week Tests
- 27 Memorial Day
- TBD Senior Awards & Recognition Night
- TBD Junior High School & High School Awards
- TBD Kindergarten Awards program

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Library showcases 6 area artists

Wesson News

Wesson Public Library (WPL) showcased six contemporary artists throughout June in a new role as an art gallery and promoting the arts in the community.

Friends of the Library (FOL) member Dr. Steven Liverman pulled together the exhibit for the "Art Corner," which FOL plans to make an ongoing feature of WPL. The month-long show featured works in watercolor, oil and acrylic of artists whose style and education varied.

The six artists were:

- **Richard Dorris III**, a Wesson resident since 1993, who prefers watercolor, but has used oils and acrylic as well in paintings inspired by Leonardo DaVinci, Michelangelo, Leroy Neiman, Rembrandt and Picasso. A physical therapist until 2011, he started painting in 1987 after studying art at the University of New Orleans and Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi, where he was instructed by Sam Gore, and sometimes, Wyatt Waters.

- **Peggy Kraft Harkins**, a Crystal Springs resident who aspired to become a portrait painter and art teacher, but pursued a career in advertising art after studying at Mississippi University for Women under Robert Johnson, Ann Parker, Larry Feeny, Tom Newrocki and Paul Fayard, and receiving a BFA in commercial art with a minor in printmaking. She works in all media to express something as beautiful or more beautiful than what you see, noting her career has allowed her "to develop her design abilities and learn to appreciate all



Special to Wesson News

beautiful design and creativities." Her art, she says, is a way of showing the mood of a person, the time of day, or the atmosphere of a location or a special beauty. She is a member of local art organizations and the International Association of Pastel Societies.

- **Keith T. Jones**, originally from Wesson, is a professional designer, illustrator and educator, currently head of graphic design at the University of Alabama at Huntsville,

where he has taught for 28 years. He exhibits throughout the South, nationally and internationally, is a signature member of the Alabama Watercolor Society and conducts watercolor seminars in Birmingham, Alabama. He is also known for his illustrations in children's books, including Susan Larson's *There's a Fly in My Ear*. The son of Dot Jones and the late James "Buck" Jones, he and his wife Teri live in Athens, Alabama, outside Huntsville.

- **Pam Phillips Kelly**, who now lives in Pickens, Mississippi, with her husband Mike, and is an office manager of the Canton branch of Renasant Bank, graduated from Wesson High School and Co-Lin after moving with her parents, Freddie and Joy Phillips, to Wesson from Starkville, Mississippi, in the early 1970s. She has always loved to paint, learning by painting with her family friends Ava Jane Newell and the late Peggy Smith.

- **Pastor Lillie Deleace Stanton** from Byram, Mississippi, pastor of New Life Cathedral of Worship in Hazlehurst, which is under the leadership of Senior Pastor Bishop Dr. Arnold Stanton, her husband, says "being able to paint what I see in the natural and in my mind, birthing it on a blank canvas, is all God." Inspired by artists Bob Ross and Wilson Bickford, she paints in acrylic. She is a graduate of the former Utica Junior College, now Hinds Community College – Utica, and Bellhaven University in Jackson.

- **Greg West**, who is employed at the MAFES Truck Crops Branch Experiment Station Crystal Springs, started creating art "of a more personal nature" after coming to Copiah County 14 years ago following a 20-year career in graphic design, 15 years of which he spent as art director for Flatlanders Screen Printing in Cleveland, Mississippi. A 1989 Delta State University graduate with a BFA in graphic design, he studied art education in secondary school, and, on his own, spent many hours practicing perspective, human anatomy and cartooning.

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Cajun style egg chicken salad

By Guest Columnist Charles Fortson, Jr.

With summer heat already upon us, light, easy to make meals are the order of the day. That means salads.

This egg chicken salad is purely chicken and egg – none of the other salad stuff – mixed with recommended seasonings and amounts (but season to your taste and tweak as desired).

If your main ingredients – that is, the chicken and eggs – are handy, you can quickly whip up this summer eating treat. This recipe starts from scratch with a whole chicken, but the salad is great with any leftover chicken -- broiled, baked, rotisserie, fried. The spicy eggs make this chicken salad special. So pay attention!



Ingredients:

- 12 eggs
- 1 whole chicken
- 1 tablespoon of Crab Boil
- 1 tablespoon of salt and pepper
- ½ cup of mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon of mustard
- 1 medium sweet onion
- ½ cup sweet relish

EDITOR'S NOTE: Charles Fortson, Jr., is proprietor-chef at Uncle Ray's across from Lake Lincoln State Park. He makes lunches and dinners to take out or for table service, while also operating a convenience store and bait shop at his Sunset Road location. Follow his cooking tips on Uncle Ray's Facebook page or call 601-643-0174 to check on his daily specials.

Directions:

1. Starting from scratch, you'll need to prepare the chicken and eggs the day before your meal.
2. Boil chicken 45 minutes on medium to high heat in water with 2 tablespoons of Crab Boil added.
3. Boil eggs for 30 minutes, cool and peel. Put in gallon ZipLoc bag with water in which chicken was boiled, and sit for six hours in refrigerator to absorb seasoning. Add a few more eggs to keep around the house as nutritious snacks.
4. Debone chicken and chop it finely.
5. Chop eggs and onions.
6. Mix chopped chicken, eggs and onions with mayonnaise, mustard, sweet relish, salt and pepper.



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Retired businessman turned folk artist

Special to Wesson News

Oscar William Kitchens, or Pappy as he called himself, started painting in his 60s after owning a construction company, selling it and retiring. His daughter Bobby Jean had married William Dunlap, a prominent artist who taught art at a college in North Carolina where they lived. Kitchens' talent for painting became evident in Dunlap's studio, where he experimented. During the 1970s, he painted, traveled and promoted his works.

With no formal training, Kitchens was a folk artist whose use of color and visually striking elements in his paintings demonstrated a natural talent.

In recent years, he has become known through the University Press of Mississippi, which published a book featuring a series of 60 paintings that he started when he was 68 years old and completed between 1973 and 1976 – *Pappy Kitchens and the Saga of Red Eye the Rooster*. The 15-inch square paintings in three sets of 20 panels is a beast fable that tells a homespun Pilgrim's Progress story about Red Eye from a foundling to his funeral. Red Eye's quasi-human behavior gets him into trouble as he encounters violence, avarice, lust, greed



Kitchen's folk art

Special to Wesson News


and most of the other seven deadly sins. He maneuvers through the varied conflicts, but finally succumbs to his fatal flaw.

Kitchens produced other works, including a folk art version of the *Last Supper*. Many of them hang in museums and galleries around the U.S. Dunlap introduced Kitchens' paintings to Jane Livingston in the 1970s when she was chief curator of the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

Kitchens died in 1986 following the death of his wife Ruth in 1982, and they are buried at Lakewood Memorial Park near Clinton, Mississippi, with their daughter Bobby Jean.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Throughout the 2023 Copiah County Bicentennial year, Wesson News will feature sketches of past and present visual artists, musicians, authors and photographers who are natives of the county. They will be excerpted from Tricia Nelson's reporting in A Shared History: Copiah County, Mississippi 1823-2023, edited and compiled by Paul C. Cartwright and available through Cartwright for \$25 plus \$5 for shipping at 3 Waverly Circle, Hattiesburg, MS 39402. Nelson is a Crystal Springs writer who contributes to the Copiah County Monitor.






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Re-Elect Daniella M. Shorter
District Attorney of the Twenty-Second Circuit District



To the Citizens of Copiah County, Mississippi; thank you for allowing me to serve you as District Attorney the past three and a half years. I have worked as a prosecutor in Copiah County for nearly a decade. Today, I announce my candidacy for re-election as District Attorney for the Twenty-Second Circuit District, covering Claiborne, Copiah, and Jefferson Counties.

Being a prosecutor is a calling. I bring to you 15 years of experience as an attorney and most of that experience has been as a prosecutor. I prosecute cases that are unpopular to prosecute; and uphold the sovereignty of the trial jury by respecting their decisions, whether they voted guilty or not guilty. I cannot promise you that my administration will reduce crime as this is not the role of the District Attorney. However, I will promise to continue to be fair, just, and to uphold the integrity of this office. Please remember that experience counts and justice matters.

With this announcement, I am asking for your prayers for success and your vote on August 8, 2023, to re-elect me, Daniella M. Shorter, District Attorney of the Twenty-Second Circuit District, covering Claiborne, Copiah, and Jefferson County. Your prayers matter. Your vote counts.

Thank you and God Bless You.

WAC Student tool & supply needs

By Bob Arnold

Children enrolled in the WAC kindergarten and grades one through six must bring a variety of supplies, including tools for their school work such as pencils, crayons, scissors, and notebook; and personal hygiene items such as hand soap, wipes, sanitizers, and paper towels:

Kindergarten

- 2-facial tissue
- 1-blunt tip 5" scissors
- 4-paper towels
- 4-crayola crayons 24 ct
- 1-crayola assorted thick markers 12 ct
- 1-crayola Artista watercolor set 8 ct
- 1-poly pocket with brad folders
- 2-plastic pocket only folder
- 1-elmer's school glue 4 oz
- 2-waterless hand sanitizer 8 oz with pump
- 24-#2 Dixon Ticonderoga pre-sharpened pencil
- 1- 12 x18 construction paper 50 ct
- 1- 12 x18 manila paper 50 ct
- 4-elmer's washable glue stick
- 1-four color pack of playdoh (4 oz cans)
- 1-11 x 7.25 natural canvas pencil bag w/grommets
- 1-dial pump bottle soap
- 1-ziploc/glad gallon freezer zip bags (boys)
- 1-ziploc/glad quart freezer zip bags (girls)

First grade

- 1- pencil bag with grommets
- 4- Crayola crayons 24 ct
- 1-fiskars 5' blunt tip scissors (ages 4+)
- 2-wide ruled spiral notebook
- 2-mead 5-star plastic folders
- 2-pink pearl beveled erasers
- 1-pack of pencil cap erasers
- 1-4 pack expo black fine tip dry erase markers
- 1-package 12" x18" manilla drawing paper
- 1-1" 3 ring binder

- 1-dial pump bottle soap
- 1-80z pump waterless hand sanitizer
- 3-boxes of Kleenex
- 1-chlorox disinfecting wipes (not for skin)
- 1-ziploc or glad quart freezer zip bags
- 1-ziploc or glad gallon freezer zip bags
- 4-rolls of paper towels (85+count)
- 1-pair of sturdy earbuds

Second Grade

- 24- #2 Dixon Ticonderoga pre-sharpened pencil
- 6-elmer's small washable white glue stick
- 3-facial tissue
- 2- pencil cap erasers (large pack)
- 1- 11 x7.25 pencil bag w/grommets
- 1- 9 x12 construction paper
- 1- wide rule composition book
- 4- paper towels
- 2- plastic pocket only folder
- 1- highlighters 4 pack
- 1- wide rule 8x10.5 filler paper 100 ct
- 1- 9 x12 manila paper
- 1- waterless hand sanitizer 8 oz with pump
- 4-crayola crayons 24 ct
- 1-blunt tip 5" scissors
- 2-disinfecting wipes 35 ct - not for skin
- 1-ziploc/glad gallon freezer zip bags (boys)
- 1-ziploc/glad quart freezer zip bags (girls)
- 1- Refillable Water Bottle
- 1- pair of sturdy earbuds

Third Grade

- 1- pencil bag with grommets
- 4- packs of 12 Ticonderoga pencils
- 2- boxes of Crayola crayons (24 count)
- 1- pair of blunt tip 5" scissors
- 4- Elmer glue sticks
- 4- expo dry erase markers (black only!)
- 2- packs of 4 sharpie highlighters (yellow only!)
- 2- 2 inch binders
- 2- packs of 5 multi-colored plastic tab

- dividers
- 2- packs of pencil cap erasers
- 2- boxes of Kleenex
- 2- rolls of paper towels
- 3- bottles of Clorox wipes
- 2- large bottles of germ x
- 1-pair of sturdy earbuds

Fourth Grade

- 2- packs of 24 ct. USA Gold or Ticonderoga pencils
- 2- containers of Clorox wipes
- 1- bottle of germ-x
- 3- boxes of 24 ct. Crayola crayons
- 2- plastic pocket folders with prongs
- 4- packs of cap erasers
- 4- black dry erase markers
- 4- pair of earbuds (1 per 9 weeks)
- 2- packs of wide ruled loose-leaf notebook paper
- 1- box of Ziploc bags (boys – gallon; girls – quart)
- 2- composition notebooks (no spiral)
- 2- boxes of Kleenex (100 ct. or more)
- 2- packs of Crayola markers
- 2- rolls of paper towels
- 2- packs of 4 ct. highlighters
- 1- 9x12 sketch pad
- 1- pair of sturdy earbuds

Fifth Grade

- 1- pencil bag or box
- 1- sturdy ear buds for laptop
- 1-36 count #2 Ticonderoga or USA Gold pencils
- 2- 25ct pencil cap erasers
- 1- pre-sharpened colored pencils
- 1- 24 count crayons
- 1- pack of colored markers, broad tip
- 1- regular pencil sharpener
- 1- blunt tip 5" scissors
- 8 count assorted highlighters
- 4 count chisel tip dry erase markers (BLACK only)
- 4 count Elmer's glue sticks
- 2- 1" binders with clear pouch on front
- 1 pack of insert dividers with tabs
- 1 plastic folder with pockets and prongs
- 2 packs of wide ruled 8X10.5 filler paper, 100 count

- 3 boxes of facial tissues
- 3 rolls of paper towels
- 1 bottle of germ-x
- 2 containers Clorox wipes
- 1 Ziploc quart storage bags
- 25 count heavy duty sheet protectors, clear
- 1- composition journal

Sixth Grade

- 36-7mm mechanical pencil
- 1-7mm pencil lead refill 1 tube
- 2-pink bevel eraser
- 2-1" hardback vinyl binder
- 1-pencil bag w/grommets
- 1-plastic pocket only folder
- 1- poly pocket with brad folders
- 4-wide rule 8x10.5 filler paper 100 ct
- 1-assorted insertable dividers 8 tab
- 1-assorted highlighters 4 pack
- 4- black chisel tip dry erase marker
- 1-12ct Crayola 7" colored pre-sharpened pencils
- 2-paper towels
- 2-germx 8oz with pump
- 2-Clorox wipes- not for skin
- 2-basic calculator
- 2-3x3 assorted sticky notes 50 ct
- 2-sturdy pair of earbuds for computer
- 1-ziploc/glad gallon freezer zip bags
- 2-facial tissue

Parents no longer have to shop stores for the tools and supplies. They can order them online at www.educationalproducts.com/ShopPackets in kits customized to Wesson Attendance Center teacher specs that will be delivered to WAC and placed in classrooms of children before school starts. Costs of kits not including sales taxes are \$74.64 for kindergartners, \$64.18 for first graders, \$66.56 for second grade boys and \$66.31 for second grade girls, \$63.96 for third grade boys and \$63.12 for third grade girls, \$61.09 for fourth graders, \$66.63 for fifth graders and \$60.77 for sixth graders. Use the WES895 code when ordering for direct shipment to WAC.

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Summer reading program introduces library

Wesson News

Forty-three children from three to 12 years old, including kids from day care programs and kindergarten and elementary school at Wesson Attendance Center (WAC), as well as others from around town, participated in the kick-off of the Wesson Public Library's Summer Reading Program to introduce them to library resources.

The Copiah County library system, which encompasses Wesson Public Library, held the June 15 event at the library, and Wesson Friends of Library is producing similar morning programs framed thematically around varied topics with presentations by special guests and book readings, and featuring refreshments and fellowship July 6, 13 and 18, with a play day and awards ceremony on July 27.

Library officials expect the number of participants to continue at a high level.

Last month, with the program focused on nutrition, Keyawanna T. Yarborough from Alcorn Extension's Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program in Walthall County, conducted a hands-on workshop for the participating children to discover their particular nutritional needs; and Linda Mehri, a former WAC teacher, read from books on nutrition. Mehri is continuing through July as the reader.

The July Summer reading program features a contest with awards for participants who read the most pages from books checked out at the library. Book prizes will be presented on Thursday, July 27, which will also be the program's concluding Play Day, when children come with their bathing suits and frolic under the water provided by Wesson Volunteer Fire Department with their powerful hoses. Before the awards and water hoses, program sessions from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, under "All Together Now" as the overall theme, will be:

- **Thursday, July 6.** The topic is "Oceans," with two Wesson scuba divers, including Gary Kellar, discussing their experiences, and readings by Mehri.

- **Thursday, July 13.** Dr. Steven Liverman is developing a program around mapping that will include Mehri's readings and feature exercises, such as scavenger hunts that require map reading skills. This will be the beginning of an ongoing program of classes and workshops oriented to children, youth and adults to cultivate an appreciation of maps and teach their use.

- **Tuesday, July 18.** The focus will be on wild animals and their treatment, with readings by Mehri and presenters from Safari Adventure in Kentwood, Louisiana, who will bring a petting zoo.

The annual Wesson Public Library Summer Reading Program seeks to stimulate interest in varied topics in a fun environment to introduce children to library resources and encourage their use -- and maybe even reaching their parents in the process.



Special to Wesson News

Children enjoy refreshments at Wesson Public Library Summer Reading Program.

Getting organized during the summer

By Guest Columnist Stephanie Duguid

Summertime is a great time to take stock of your life and start organizing things around you.

Whether you're looking to declutter your home, your office, or even your social media accounts, there is something about the sun that tends to bring out the inner organizer in all of us! And you have plenty of time to get started.

If you've caught the organization bug, but are struggling to get started, here are some simple ways to stay organized throughout the season, and make sure that your home is just the way you want it:

1. Keep things simple. When organizing, it is a good idea to start with one room at a time. Don't try to organize everything at once. If you are having trouble finding the motivation to get started, break your house down into the spaces you use. Which room gets the most traffic, or which room is the most cluttered



and unorganized?

Breaking things down helps to make the task a little less overwhelming. It also gives you a sense of achievement as you check each smaller section off your larger list.

2. Create a plan. Once you have decided what area you want to work on first, create a plan. What do you need to accomplish before moving on to the next step? Do you need to sort through papers, files, books, or other items? Is there anything else you need to do before starting? Make sure you know exactly what needs to happen before you can move forward. It can be helpful to get this plan down in writing. This gives you a tangible, concrete goal to work towards. In addition, be sure to have all the resources you need to complete the project. Do you need boxes, trash bags, cleaning supplies, a labeler, folders, or something else?

3. Remove unwanted clutter. Before you begin any kind of organizational project, remove unwanted clutter from the space.

You may not realize how much stuff you actually own until you start clearing it away. It is amazing how many things we accumulate over the

years. If they aren't useful anymore, why keep them? As you declutter, place things in a box or bag to be thrown away or donated, and make sure this task is carried out as soon as possible. Items that hang around waiting to be disposed have a tendency to make their way back into your home in no time.

4. Sort through your items. Now that you've removed the clutter, it is time to go through your belongings and decide what stays and what goes. Take inventory of your possessions, and then separate those items into two piles - keep and throw.

The keep pile should contain items that you love, cherish, or find useful. These are the items that you

feel are unnecessary.

5. Give everything a home. After sorting through your belongings, give every item a permanent home. Take some time to make sure there is a place for everything to live. This will help prevent clutter from building up again. By ensuring that all of your items have somewhere to go, you will make tidying up a breeze.

6. Clean up the space. Finally, clean up the space. Sweep, mop, dust, vacuum, whatever you need to do to make the space look nice. Once you're done cleaning, take a few minutes to admire your hard work!

Final Thoughts: Organizing doesn't have to be difficult, but it does require planning and effort. By breaking down your tasks into manageable steps, and by creating a plan, you'll be able to stay organized throughout the summer months and into the fall.

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

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would like to keep around. The throw pile contains items that you don't really care about, or that you

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Health initiative ends, benefits continue

Special to Wesson News

After three years and a multi-agency collaborative effort, the rural health initiative between Co-Lin and Franklin County Memorial Hospital has ended, leaving behind new local patients and a future health care workforce that will provide benefits for years to come.

The Delta Regional Community Healthcare Consortium was formed to provide healthcare-related programs and services in the Mississippi Delta region to support job training for healthcare professionals, to deliver health education programs for residents, and to help in the expansion of healthcare services in Mississippi's rural communities. It includes Mississippi State University's Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems-Extension (CAVS-E), Co-Lin, Hinds Community College, and North Central Planning and Development District (NCPDD). The initiative was made possible with the support of a grant awarded by U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The strategies and activities of this project helped improve the quality of care and patient safety, increased the strength, effectiveness, and sustainability of healthcare providers and their services and narrowed the gap in healthcare in this region. The objectives of the project in the Delta Regional Authority area were all met or exceeded: aiding rural and economically distressed hospitals, healthcare facilities, communities, patients and their family members, introducing e-connectivity to rural areas to improve the quality of life, supporting the rural workforce, harnessing technological innovation, and promoting economic development in the region. The result of the initiative includes training of 42 healthcare workers, 300 patients, and 150 individuals (family members of patients) which has reduced barriers to healthcare access and improved patient health outcomes in Franklin County.

Co-Lin executed its part of the

project by utilizing funds in several target areas. A partnership with Franklin County Memorial Hospital (FCMH) was established with plans to purchase telehealth equipment and devices and train healthcare professionals and patients in the service area on the use of the telehealth services. Patients diagnosed with two or more chronic conditions, such as hypertension and diabetes, within the FCMH Clinic System were outfitted with a Bluetooth toolkit -- an Apple iPad Tablet with Bluetooth connectivity that featured a forehead non-touch thermometer, pulse oximeter, wrist style blood pressure monitor, gluco-monitoring bundle and a body composition scale.

Franklin County Memorial Hospital Clinic System healthcare professionals, patients, and the patients' family members were trained on the use of telehealth equipment/medical devices. While technology can be intimidating, every effort was made to assist users. Co-Lin filmed short instructional videos on the use of the equipment which were loaded onto the iPads. Additionally, employees at the local ambulance service, Rural Rapid Response, were trained on the telehealth equipment issued to the patients, which prepared ambulance crews to access the equipment for needed medical information, if needed for pre-hospital treatment. The purpose of providing training across multiple agencies was to improve the overall care of patients in multiple environments.

The benefits of the telehealth kits are three-fold: Bluetooth devices provide technological innovation in the critical area of healthcare to people that would not otherwise be able to afford it. Every routine check-up attended via a telehealth clinic visit from home decreases the potential for vulnerable patients to be exposed to illnesses. Finally, these tools allow patients to check routine vitals and safely upload the data into a medical chart through telehealth e-connectivity without leaving home.

Family Medical Group family nurse



Special to Wesson News

Representatives from Co-Lin and Franklin County Memorial Hospital meet to conclude a three-year multi-agency collaborative effort to aid local patients and future health care professionals. Pictured (left to right) are Workforce Coordinator Robin Mitchell, FCMH Clinic Manager Rhonda Terrell, Co-Lin President Dr. Jane Hulon Sims, Co-Lin Executive Vice President Dr. Dewayne Middleton, and FCMH Administrator Mike Boleware.

practitioner Deanna Ballard said "I love knowing that my patients have quality equipment at home to monitor their vital signs. It is great to be able to see what their results are between clinic visits. This helps me accurately diagnose chronic issues and prescribe appropriate medications."

Front-line emergency medical personnel were also among grant targeted groups and were offered educational opportunities. Co-Lin offered stipends to enrollees in basic and advanced emergency medical technicians (EMTs) programs with funds from the grant which diminished the student's program related expenses. These entry-level courses educated and trained students on basic assessment to advanced life-support skills needed for pre-hospital and in-hospital emergency care and prepared them to take the EMT national registry exam. Professional development opportunities were also offered to those needing to update their certification.

Through the grant, Co-Lin has also invested in future first responders by installing a production studio to

develop virtual training and curriculum for hybrid EMT certification and recertification opportunities. Virtual training for emergency medical technicians and paramedics will allow individuals to re-certify or further their education without disrupting their work schedule. These investments in the emergency medical workforce have provided worthwhile results. Twelve students secured jobs with an average starting salary of \$13.50 an hour, and ten students obtained certification through the advanced EMT program which resulted in retaining their jobs and receiving raises of approximately \$2.00 an hour.

"We are thankful to have had the opportunity to work with our grant partners on this project," said Co-Lin Workforce Center Director Luke Laird. "The opportunities and services that it afforded the communities that we serve are invaluable. This grant has helped to cultivate advancements in patient monitoring and emergency services which not only realized immediate benefits but will continue to yield results in the future."

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Events prepare teachers, students & parents



Wesson News

In a variety of settings during August, Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) will offer advice, information and support to help teachers, students and parents alike successfully navigate the events and challenges they will face in the ten months of the 2023-24 school year.

- Teachers return to WAC before students for a staff development program August 1, 2, and 3 that will orient them to their working environment, review their job landscape and expectations and give them direction to perform well. Faculty and staff will get their ID badges starting at 8 a.m. on August 3.
- From 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, August 3, parents and students can learn more about WAC: At an open house, students, parents and teachers will socialize informally and a Parent Teachers Organization (PTO) meeting will show parents how they can sustain their relationship with WAC throughout the school year. At the same time, kindergarten and elementary school children and their parents will have an opportunity to meet teachers, make sure they have acquired the proper school supplies required for the classroom experience and talk about the nature of school work over the coming year. Incoming seventh graders and their parents, too, will be able to learn about moving to junior high and high school. They will have the opportunity to meet teachers, see classrooms, ask questions and, overall, make the transition from elementary school a smoother process. "Moving to the seventh grade is a big step for our students, and our administration and staff want to do everything we can to make the process easier," say WAC Principal Tommy Clopton.
- Meet the Cobras, still to be scheduled, will introduce students to WAC's athletic program. Players and coaches will make presentations in a rally-like atmosphere.

WAC also publishes an annual 82-section handbook for students that informs and guides parents and teachers on elementary school and high school procedures and policies. Topics range from response to emergencies to counseling services and dress code to the grading system and truancy. The entire handbook is accessible on the WAC web site (<http://wac.ccsd.schoolfusion.us>).

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Duguid to focus on business

Special to Wesson News

Dr. Stephanie Duguid, known as a leader at Co-Lin for more than 15 years, has left the college to focus on a private training and consulting business.

Dr. Duguid worked in a variety of administrative positions at Co-Lin, leading ten college divisions, multiple initiatives, faculty, and staff. She most recently served as the Dean of Academic Instruction and Chief Academic Officer.

Over the years, she has worked with individuals on campus and in the community to reach personal and professional goals and develop into leaders. In addition, she has been a speaker at local, regional, national, and international educational conferences and meetings.

“Recognizing that leadership development and public speaking were my passions, I founded Do Good Leadership last year and resigned from Co-Lin effective June 30, 2023,” she says. With her company, she is a motivational speaker, a leadership and success coach, and an educational consultant helping individuals become intentional in developing goals, purposeful in reaching their full potential, and resourceful in creating solutions to challenges.

As a motivational speaker, she offers keynote opportunities, and in-person and virtual workshops across the nation. As a leadership and success coach, her primary focus is helping women in education develop leadership skills and confidence through a 90-day program to prepare them for their ideal leadership roles. She works with individuals to develop personally, prioritize goals, grow in confidence, and create plans with attainable steps that guide them. As an educational consultant, Dr. Duguid works with K-12 and higher educational institutions to implement professional development training and create solutions for their personnel. She also works with companies on professional development related to communication, goal setting and planning, and time/program management.

Dr. Duguid says she personally has a daily focus of maintaining a positive attitude and being kind to everyone, and is “excited to be a part of personal and professional journeys of other persons through motivational moments, empowering

them to engage opportunities, and assisting them in personal transformations.”

Based on her work, noteworthy accomplishments, visibility and prominence in her field, Marquis Who's Who recently selected her among persons it profiles. Since 1899, Marquis Who's Who has chronicled the lives of the most accomplished individuals and innovators from every significant field of endeavor, including politics, business, medicine, law, education, art, religion and entertainment.

Dr. Duguid started her career in education and as an athletic trainer at Northern Arizona University. She then worked at Estrella Foothills High School in Goodyear, Arizona, in 2004. She subsequently became a lead teacher at Willow Canyon High School, Dysart School District, in Surprise, Arizona. Transitioning into higher education, she came to Co-Lin in Natchez, Mississippi, as the assistant dean of career and technical education before being named as the health, physical education, and recreation division chair and instructor on its Wesson campus, and then dean of academic instruction and chief academic officer.

She graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi with a Bachelor of Science in human performance and athletic training with a minor in biology in 1995, received a Master of Science in sports health care from Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine's Southwest Center in 1997 and earned a Master of Education in curriculum and instruction from Ottawa University and a Doctor of Education in educational leadership from Argosy University in 2006. She is a member of the National Athletic Trainers' Association.

Dr. Duguid has published *Recipes from a Texas Angel in Heaven: A Collection of Generational Family Recipes Found After Mom's Passing Over 20 Years Ago*, *Texas Angel Part 1: Five Essential Life Lessons: From Loss and Love to Blessed Assurance*, *Texas Angel Part 2: Four Empowering Lessons About Connection: From Blessed Assurance to Genuine Faith* and *My Grandpa and Baseball: How I Came to Love the Game of Baseball*, which was a collaboration between her and her son.

Active in various civic initiatives, Dr. Duguid is presently serving as the vice president of the Wesson Chamber of Commerce.



Special to Wesson News

Stephanie Duguid

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Rock, voting, Medicaid, Delta & railroads

Special to Wesson News

Rock n Roll. Brookstock, the Brookhaven summer rock festival started as a reunion of former members of high school rock n roll bands, comes back for the 22nd time on Saturday, July 22, at The Brookhaven Building on Belt Line Drive. Performers this year are The Laughter of Ruin with Bryan Batson, Ed Tree and Danny Dickey; 4-Way Stop, Mike J. Case, The Mickey Man Band and The Bride Band. "Brookstock has become a Brookhaven staple for more than 20 years," says organizer Tyler Bridge. "It's more than just music. It's community, it's coming together, it's reminiscing, and through all that it's progressing and growing. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Music starts at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$10, and children ages 12 and under get in free. Concessions will be available, but BYOB.

Getting ready to vote. Mark your calendar for Mississippi Primary Election day, Tuesday, August 8 for Statewide, State District, Legislative, County and County District Offices. General Election day is Tuesday, November 7. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Search your name on the Mississippi Secretary of State's (MSS) website to find out if you are registered. If you're not, the deadline to register to vote in the primary election is July 10 and October 10 for in the general election, and you can initiate registration through the MSS office and apply for an absentee ballot. Your Voter Registration Card will provide the name, location, and number of the precinct in which you will vote, and you can also find your polling place by visiting the MSS Office website and entering your name and address. To vote, you will need to show identification. Visit the MSS's list of acceptable forms of ID and find out if you need a free Mississippi Voter Identification Card.

Life-saving stats. With Medicaid expansion expected to be hotly debated in Mississippi's gubernatorial election this year, proponents may have a statistical advantage if they focus their argument on the lives it can save. In 2019, the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) attributed the premature deaths of 540 Mississippians between the ages of 55 to 64 to the state's refusal to expand Medicaid, and that 19,000 lives had been saved in the states that had expanded Medicaid. Other groups considered less "progressive" politically have supported CBPP conclusions. A 2021 Kaiser Family Foundation report significant declines in mortality related to different types of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and liver disease where Medicaid was expanded. The KFF also noted that expansion was associated with a significant 3.6% decrease in all-cause mortality, the majority of which was accounted for by a significant 1.93% decrease in health care amenable mortality. Another study found that expansion was associated with reductions in health care amenable mortality and in mortality not due to drug overdose."

Delta investigation. A U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division (WHD) study prompted by U.S. Labor Secretary Marty Walsh's vows to fight racist wage and hiring practices alleged by Black farm workers in the Mississippi Delta has found 44 employers violated federal labor laws and were fined nearly \$350,000 in civil penalties and about \$505,000 in back wages has been recovered for 161 Delta workers. The findings emerged in a WHD investigation that became known as "Operation Delta Force," focusing on allegations of wage theft and illegal displacement of local workers in favor of workers from South Africa through foreign farm work permits called H-2A visas. WHD found employers violated requirements of H-2A program when they showed preferential treatment, failed to pay the same rate of pay to local workers and failed to provide local workers bonus opportunities. WHD plans to launch more investigations and increase outreach in the Delta.

NEWS NUGGETS

Voting restrictions okay. The U.S. Supreme Court is not stopping Mississippi from removing voting rights from people convicted of certain felonies -- a practice originated in the Jim Crow era with the intent of preventing Black men from influencing elections. The court declined to reconsider a 2022 decision by the conservative 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that said Mississippi had remedied the discriminatory intent of the original provisions in the state constitution by altering the list of disenfranchising crimes. In a dissent, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson wrote that the authors of the Mississippi Constitution in 1890 made clear that they intended to exclude Black people by removing voting rights for felony convictions in crimes they thought Black people were more likely to commit, including forgery, arson and bigamy. The Supreme Court rejected a challenge to Mississippi's felony disenfranchisement provisions 125 years ago, and "this Court blinks again today," Jackson wrote. In 1950, Mississippi dropped burglary from the list of disenfranchising crimes. Murder and rape were added to the list in 1968. Attorneys representing the state argued that those changes "cured any discriminatory taint on the original provision," and the appeals court agreed.

Railroad deal. CSX and CPKC railroads will beef up a little-used connection between their two networks in the southeastern United States to handle a significant amount of freight. The deal involves a section of track linking the two massive railroads that is currently used only for local traffic. This could one day turn it into a major pipeline for all kinds of cargo. This new connection between CPKC and CSX will provide a new competitive option with the connection CPKC has with Norfolk Southern at Meridian. As part of the deal, CPKC will acquire about 50 miles of track between Meridian, Mississippi, and Myrtlewood, Alabama, if regulators approve. CSX will take over the line it currently leases to the Meridian & Bigbee Railroad that runs east to Montgomery, Alabama.

MSU scholarship awarded



Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin sophomore Larson Lewis of Wesson has been awarded the Mississippi State University Presidential Partnership Scholarship. This prestigious scholarship covers the cost of tuition at MSU for two years. Lewis was nominated by Co-Lin President Dr. Jane Hulon Sims and selected by the MSU Scholarship Committee. Lewis is a graduate of Wesson Attendance Center. While at Co-Lin, he has served as President of Mu Alpha Theta, Vice President of Scholarship for the Eta Omega Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, and President of the Student Government Association. He is a member of the Trailblazers and an active member of the Baptist Student Union. Lewis was selected to Who's Who at Co-Lin and a Campus Favorite his freshman and sophomore years. He is the son of Amy Lewis and Russ Lewis.

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Re-Elect Daniella M. Shorter

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To the Citizens of Copiah County, Mississippi; thank you for allowing me to serve you as District Attorney the past three and a half years. I have worked as a prosecutor in Copiah County for nearly a decade. Today, I announce my candidacy for re-election as District Attorney for the Twenty-Second Circuit District, covering Claiborne, Copiah, and Jefferson Counties.

Being a prosecutor is a calling. I bring to you 15 years of experience as an attorney and most of that experience has been as a prosecutor. I prosecute cases that are unpopular to prosecute; and uphold the sovereignty of the trial jury by respecting their decisions, whether they voted guilty or not guilty. I cannot promise you that my administration will reduce crime as this is not the role of the District Attorney. However, I will promise to continue to be fair, just, and to uphold the integrity of this office. Please remember that experience counts and justice matters.

With this announcement, I am asking for your prayers for success and your vote on August 8, 2023, to re-elect me, Daniella M. Shorter, District Attorney of the Twenty-Second Circuit District, covering Claiborne, Copiah, and Jefferson County. Your prayers matter. Your vote counts.

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WPD-court open house planned



Special to Wesson News

Special to Wesson News

Wesson Police Department (WPD) and the Town’s Municipal Court have moved into their new home on Spring Street, and Police Chief Chad O’Quinn for one couldn’t be happier.

“We like our new quarters, and the move went smoothly,” O’Quinn told the June Wesson Aldermen meeting. “It was an easy transition.”

The Aldermen approved a Grand Opening for the new facility for members of the community to become acquainted with the new facility and celebrate it. The day-long event in late August will include tours, and refreshments will be served.

In other actions, the Aldermen:

- Hired Price Henley to serve as Municipal Court Judge. Henley is a partner in the Hazlehurst law firm, Henley & Henley.
- Approved travel for two police officers to attend funeral of a Madison, Mississippi, policeman killed on duty.
- Appointed Mayor Alton Shaw and Alderman Billy Ellison as voting and alternate voting delegates at Mississippi Municipal League conference.
- Renewed contract for the municipal court computer program with Data Systems.

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