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Wesson News

SPOTLIGHT

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Volume 10, Number 7

"Good News You Can Use"

July, 2022

WAC expects no enrollment change

Special to Wesson News

Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) anticipates enrollment to hold steady in the coming 2022-23 school term.

The new school year begins in Wesson on Monday, August 8.

Eight new teachers will join WAC this year:

- **Forrest Buck**, high school social studies and football assistant coach
- **Josh Garrett**, high school physical education and assistant coach for baseball and football
- **Tori Titus**, fifth grade reading
- **Anna Traxler**, Algebra and math
- **Kelly Delaughter**, kindergarten
- **Kristin Beach**, first grade
- **Amber Brinson**, third grade language arts
- **Morgan Tullis**, sixth grade reading

WAC athletic teams will continue to play in 3A regional competition.

"We expect about 895 students to enroll," says WAC Principal Tommy



Wesson News

Clopton. The enrollment would include some 420 students in the elementary school, between 155 to 160 students in the junior high grades, and more than 290 in high school.

"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, at a place of abode within the limits of the school district. Students must reside full time at the address used for registration. Further, students must live with a natural parent or have legal documentation on file with WAC that they are under the guardianship of someone."

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

cont. on page 3

Streets on Co-Lin property closed

Special to Wesson News

Wesson's Board of Alderman helped clear the way for Co-Lin to develop a planned sports and performing arts complex by closing down several undeveloped streets that exist only in town documents.

Following a presentation by Co-Lin Trustee Steve Amos on what is known as the Horton property between Highway 51 and the railroad tracks, the Aldermen approved the closures of twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth streets and a part of Beech Street from twelfth to eighteenth streets -- all undeveloped on the Co-Lin property -- in accordance with Mississippi Code 21-27-7 on abandoning streets. Aldermen also:

- Tabled consideration of installing a gate at the municipal cemetery entrance on eighth street;
- Appointed Mayor Alton Shaw and Alderman Billy Ellison voting delegates for the annual Mississippi Municipal League conference at Biloxi;
- Approved the annual audit of the town's finances;
- Donated to Georgetown a trailer that the town's public works department has used for hauling;
- Established the regular eight-hour pay for town employees who work on holidays;
- Authorized new and replacement speed limit and



Wesson News

On right going north on Highway 51 toward downtown Wesson is undeveloped property on which Co-Lin plans to develop a sports and performing arts complex.

town boundary signs;

- Approved repairs to the HVAC system at the Old School Community Center;

• Authorized installation of new batteries to restore operation of two weather sirens on Highway 51;

• Approved a new Data Systems Town Court computer program at a cost of \$150 per month.



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Wesson Garden Club Honor Yards

In June, Wesson Garden Club recognized landscaping efforts of Roy and Gerry Daughdrill at 1012 West Street, Claude and Marguerite Lowery at 1107 Lowery Street, and Wesson Elementary and Wesson High School in its Yard of the Month residential, rural residential and organizational categories. The Club also recognized Co-Lin for its entrance off Highway 51 beside the overhead bridge with its Summer Special Award. The Yard of the Month awards that recognize maintenance principles and elements of landscape design seek to encourage ongoing beautification and cleanliness of the Wesson area and cultivate a citizenry that values and protects natural resources and assumes responsibility for enhancing the environment. The Garden Club's Yard of the Month awards honor landscapes during the spring, summer and fall.

All photos Special to Wesson News



Co-Lin entrance.



Daughdrill property.



Lowery property.



Wesson Elementary School.



Wesson High School.



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cont. from page 1

WAC expects no enrollment change



Wesson News

Tommy Clopton, WAC principal, Vanda Brister, assistant principal, and High School Principal Dr. Barbara Roberson are planning the 2022-23 school year at Wesson Attendance Center.

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.** Drivers 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 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 ActiveParent. 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.

WAC staff and personnel are accessible by telephone, fax and email:
Principal Tommy Clopton (tommy.clopton@copoiah.ms); High School Principal Barbera Roberson (barbara.roberson@copiah.ms); Assistant Principal for Elementary School Vanda Brister (vanda.brister@copiah.ms); Elementary Counselor Ginger Heard; High School secretary Gwen Shannon; Elementary secretary Aretha Butler; Nurse Michelle Berch; and Bookkeeper/Secretary Kristin Johnson 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

See tools and supplies that kindergarteners through sixth graders will need during the school year at www.WessonNews.com.

Baseball facility upgrades start

Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin has begun phase one of facility upgrades at its Sullivan Baseball Field.

The initial upgrades have several important components, including new dugouts, infield turf, field and major drainage work, new bull pens, a new backstop, new fencing, and new Musco Lighting.

“We are very excited to start phase one of upgrades to Sullivan Field,” Co-Lin Athletic Director Bryan Nobile says. “This is something that many, many people have worked hard on behind the scenes for quite some time. These upgrades are much needed, and we are looking forward to having our guys compete on a brand-new field.”

The contract was awarded to local contractor Paul Jackson & Sons. Demolition is currently underway, with facility upgrades to be completed in early spring of 2023.

“I believe the facility upgrades

we’re making will allow us to attract high level baseball players,” says new head baseball coach Adam Chamblee. “Of course, none of this would be possible without the support of our Board of Trustees and college administration. We’re extremely thankful that they’re making such exciting things happen for Co-Lin baseball.”

“The Co-Lin Board of Trustees is to be congratulated for its support in facility upgrades to propel the Wolf Pack baseball program into the next era,” says Co-Lin President Dr. Jane Hulon Sims.

Individuals, families, businesses, or groups are invited to purchase commemorative brick columns at Sullivan Baseball Field for \$6,000 each. Other opportunities for naming are also available upon request and are subject to approval of the Copiah-Lincoln Community College Board of Trustees.

For more information on purchasing a column or exploring



Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin has started initial upgrades to its baseball facility, which will eventually resemble that pictured above.

other naming opportunities, contact Angela Furr, Executive Director of the Co-Lin Foundation, at 601-643-8332. Donations for the baseball facilities upgrades or other athletic facilities upgrades may

be sent to the Co-Lin Foundation at P.O. Box 649, Wesson, MS 39191 or online at www.colin.edu/alumni-foundation. Gifts to the Foundation are tax-deductible to the extent of IRS regulations.



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Chamblee to lead Co-Lin baseball

Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin has hired Adam Chamblee of Brandon, Mississippi, as its new head baseball coach.

"I'm extremely excited and thankful to be at Co-Lin to lead the baseball program," Chamblee said. "Being a head coach in one of the toughest college baseball conferences in the country is a dream come true and I can't wait to get to work with our guys."

A native of Winona, Mississippi, Chamblee comes to Co-Lin after three years as the Assistant Coach and Recruiting Coordinator at East Central Community College. He also brings coaching experience from Nicholls State University, where he was Director of Player Development, and Meridian

Community College, where he served as Assistant Baseball Coach. At East Central, Chamblee helped coach the Warriors to an NJCAA Region 23 Runner-Up finish in 2021 and saw the team ranked No.5 in the nation during the 2022 season.

"We are very excited to have Adam on board as our new head baseball coach," said Co-Lin Athletic Director Bryan Nobile. "He comes to Co-Lin highly recommended, and we look forward to him leading our program in the right direction."

Chamblee earned a bachelor's degree in physical education with an emphasis in sports management from the University of West Alabama on a baseball scholarship and an academic trustee scholarship. He was a member of the



Adam Chamblee

2015 Gulf South Conference Championship team, served as team captain, and was Gulf

South Conference Player of the Week.

"Recruiting is obviously a huge part of college athletics, and I believe that my experience getting to recruit the state of Mississippi from top to bottom will be an asset as we look to build our program," Chamblee said.

Chamblee also boasts experience in fundraising, academic counseling, and facility upgrades.

"The welcoming of Coach Chamblee marks the beginning of a new era for the baseball program at Co-Lin," Co-Lin President Dr. Jane Hulon Sims said. "This is an exciting time to be affiliated with Wolf Pack Baseball."

Chamblee and his wife Emily Hester have one daughter, Mills Katherine.

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Wesson's premier chef & restaurateur

By Bob Arnold

Chris McSweyn came to Wesson in 1993 to play golf for Co-Lin, but his destiny was to become the town's premier chef and restaurateur.

For more than 25 years, McSweyn was the primary chef at Porches Restaurant in Wesson. He moved the Porches' menu for a year to Le Soul in Hazlehurst after closing the restaurant in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and returned to Wesson as Executive Chef at Aladdin Campus Dining at Co-Lin.

Growing up in Pearl, Mississippi, McSweyn had two passions -- cooking and sports.

"I grew up in a cooking family, and I loved preparing dishes for meals at home," McSweyn recalls. "When I left the kitchen, I went to the golf course or to the soccer field. Between school, playing golf and soccer at Pearl High School and cooking at home, I also squeezed in a job at the Pearl Donut Factory, where I made the donuts and other pastries."

After graduating from high school and heading for Wesson to play golf, it was only natural for McSweyn to enroll in Co-Lin's culinary classes taught by Kay Woodruff at the time -- his first step towards his destiny.

When his parents -- Al and Cele McSweyn -- visited their son in Wesson, they took the next step on his behalf -- buying a house in town with a large kitchen and enough space to feed a lot of people if that was your inclination. "Mom and Dad were looking to get out of the Jackson area," McSweyn recalls. "Dad had retired after a career at Bell South and working in accounting and as a computer software specialist. Mom had worked for years at Carter's Jewelry in Jackson." After lunching with Chris, they drove around town, and it was love at first sight when they spotted the Victorian home on Highway 51 that happened to be for sale.

The next step was turning the lovely old house his parents purchased into a restaurant. "I needed to intern at a restaurant as part of the Co-Lin culinary program," McSweyn recounts. "I got a job, but not enough working hours at the Inez Hotel restaurant in Brookhaven. So dad suggested I start my own restaurant in my parents' home to meet the course requirements, and Co-Lin agreed."

McSweyn and his mom and dad brought their love of cooking and Chris's Co-Lin studies to what they anticipated would be a four-month project, but they had no real restaurant experience outside of Chris's work at the Pearl Donut Factory.

Then came the fourth step that sealed McSweyn's career destiny. A food columnist from the Jackson *Clarion-Ledger* heard about the small luncheon restaurant in Wesson called "Porches" where McSweyn and his parents served small plates and daily specials featuring southern cooking with an imaginative flare. He visited the eatery, liked what he tasted there, and wrote a column about the experience. "Business boomed," McSweyn recounts. "We were generating 40 to 50 customers for our daily lunches, and traffic tripled. My parents and I said to each other: 'Let's make it go.'"

Over 25 1/2 years, Porches became known nationally, consistently ranked by travel and tourist guides among Mississippi's top ten restaurants, and drawing customers from throughout the South, including New Orleans and Baton Rouge, and as far away as Florida.

COVID-19 forced Porches to start serving its meals on a takeout only basis, and McSweyn decided to shut it down so his parents could finally enjoy the retirement they had anticipated in the old Wesson house they bought in the 1990s. McSweyn took his Porches' menu to Le Soul in Hazlehurst in 2020 and 2021 and then accepted the job with Co-Lin's food service.

At Co-Lin, McSweyn continues to cook the dishes he perfected at Porches and served at Le Soul. He says his vision is making the college a food service venue for the wider community beyond the student population and a stop for the same regional customers who came to Porches, with Sunday brunches, and



Special to Wesson News

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

movie nights, a detective theater and other special events to complement his food. As he works towards this goal, he is also finding more time to spend with his family -- his wife Tonya, a judge in a cooking competition he met at Co-Lin and now a food service manager for Brookhaven

Public Schools; and two daughters, Carrie, 22, a nursing student at Co-Lin; and Katie, 19, who is studying elementary education at Mississippi State.

What are your hobbies?

I enjoy my new found time with family, still play golf, cook meals that are not associated with my job, do yard work and get some sleep when I can.

Are you a reader?

I like science fiction -- *Harry Potter*, *Percy Jackson*, *Marvel*, *Lord of the Rings*.

Do you enjoy movies or theater?

When I have time, which is rare, I follow the same science fiction I read. And I like cooking movies, such as *Chef*.

What would you do with lottery winnings if you were so lucky?

I would invest it.

How would you change the world?

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Army National Guard thanks Wesson Police Department



Special to Wesson News

Wesson Police Chief Chad O'Quinn (left) accepts thank-you gift from Army National Guard.

Special to Wesson News

The Army National Guard (ANG) thanked the Wesson Police Department (WPD) for its assistance in producing its first ever Career Day with a unique memento of appreciation -- a personalized track pad from an Abrams tank stenciled with the department's name, the Mississippi National Guard logo, and a description of aid provided by WPD and the date of the event.

The Career Day on the Wesson campus of Co-Lin earlier this year was an interactive event highlighting a host of Guard careers with actual equipment and subject matter experts.

The ANG needed to coordinate closely with WPD and required its assistance in addressing a number of logistical issues to convoy in materials and supplies for the event.

Sergeant First Class William Gentry from the ANG presented the track pad Wesson Police Chief Chad O'Quinn.





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Music festivals make summer hotter

By Guest Columnist R. Shaw Furlow

July and August bring the hottest weather, and also the hottest entertainment of the year to our area. Yes, it's time for Brookstock and The Overbrook Songwriters Festival.



Brookstock is July 23. Doors open at 5 p.m. at the Brookhaven Building. The Overbrook Songwriters Festival is August 5 and 6 at five Brookhaven venues.

Brookstock is Brookhaven's famed rock festival that started as a class reunion and developed into a festival enjoyed by all. Brookstock XXI is this year. Don Jacobs, the father of Brookstock, has taken a back seat and turned the festival over to Tyler Bridge. Jacobs wanted to step away at year fifteen, but stayed on to help make a documentary film about the festival. Due to some health issues, he stepped away after year XX.

"Basically, we are keeping the same format that's been followed for twenty years," Bridge told me. "We are still at the Brookhaven Building (formerly FEMA building) and all the old favorites are there. They include solo artist Mike J Case, Ricky Brown and The Laughter of Ruin, which includes three original members Bryan Batson, Danny Dickey and Ed Tree. It really does my heart good to see these guys get together each year and enjoy playing."

Batson shared why he, along with others, return to Brookstock year after year:

"When Don Jacobs organized the first Brookstock, I never realized the impact that it would have on me and all the Brookstock musicians, " he relates. "It brought back the music



Special to Wesson News

of our youth and inspired me to stay in music. Brookstock has made my friendships with people stronger. Every time we all get together, I get the warm fuzzies."

Batson and Tree have remained close friends through Brookstock. Batson, in fact, flew to California so Tree could produce his two albums.

"Bryan came out here to do some pre-production things and figured out he had some work to do," Tree recalls. "When he came back, he was prepared. Bryan is an athlete, and approached it with that attitude. Most of his vocals were done in one take."

New this year is the addition of the very popular band 4 Way Stop, which has become one of the biggest bands in the state after coming together at

Co-Lin. It recently played at Hard Rock Cafe in New Orleans. Also on the bill are the Bridge Band and Ricky Brown, whose sets usually are fire.

Where Brookstock is "maximum rock and roll," the Overbrook Songwriters Festival is the opposite. Twenty-eight songwriters from four states converge on downtown Brookhaven to entertain with their acoustic guitars and original songs.

The artists will be at Tortilla Soup, Betty's Eat Shop, Magnolia Blues, Georgia Blues and Recess 101, all going at one time from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday. Betty's also will host a 9 p.m. show on its deck. All the shows are free.

Tyler Bridge will host a Friday night show at Recess featuring Brookhaven artists. Brookhaven native Sam

Mooney will headline a show on Saturday at 7 p.m. there. Ten bucks gets you in to see a super talented musician who is on his way to making big noise in Nashville.

It's hot and getting hotter. Come out and enjoy these two festivals. I've encouraged you over the years to support the arts, but this month I'm asking you to do yourself a favor. Live music just hits like nothing else.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Shaw Furlow is a local composer, musician and arts promoter. He produces an internet-based video show -- From the Shadyside -- that spotlights area musical talent and is a consultant to school bands in the region. Bob Arnold is Editor of the Wesson News.



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Grant, marijuana biz & honored executive

Special to Wesson News

Fire equipment grant. Centerpoint Entergy has awarded a 2,500 Community Safety Grant to Wesson Volunteer Fire Department to purchase a multi gas meter, Thermal Imaging Cameras (TICs) and pagers for fire department members. The multi gas meter will assist in detecting natural gas and propane leaks and carbon monoxide in homes. TICs can be used for rapidly searching structures for victims, search and rescue outdoors in wooded areas or open fields, detecting hotspots in structures to help prevent rekindles and finding occupants of motor vehicle collisions if their number is not known. The pagers can notify WVFD's first responders when incidents occur, can be used for page-only applications or to listen on the county's radio frequency, record messages for playback and to verify addresses. "This grant will enable us to better serve our town and everyone in our fire district," summarizes WVFD Chief Ken Carraway.

Medical marijuana business. Brookhaven's Board of Aldermen has adopted an ordinance covering fees and other requirements for medical marijuana businesses, including dispensaries, research and testing facilities, disposal entities, transporters, processors and cultivators. The businesses will have to pay the city annual fees for non-refundable licenses that are 25 percent of their annual state fees. Dispensaries -- the major concern of the Aldermen -- will be allowed to operate seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Highways 84 and 51 or Brookway Boulevard 1,000 feet or more from schools, child care facilities or church properties and 1,500 feet or more from other dispensaries.

KDMC CEO honored. Mississippi Healthcare Executives has recognized Alvin Hoover, CEO at Brookhaven-based King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC), as its 2022 Senior Health Care Executive for Mississippi. Hoover, who holds a bachelor's degree from Houghton College in New York and master's degrees in education and healthcare administration from Georgia State University and Central Michigan University, became KDMC CEO in 2007, and has helped make the facility a regional destination for outstanding patient care and healthcare services. KDMC, under his leadership, has earned recognition from national organizations for hospital safety and a quality workplace.

Avoiding the bite. Summer time is mosquito time, but simple steps around the home and yard can protect you from their itchy bites and diseases, such as West Nile and Zika viruses, which they spread. The Mississippi Department of Health advises: Avoid shady or overgrown outdoor areas, and places where the ground stays moist or wet. Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt. Use mosquito netting when sleeping outdoors or indoors where mosquitoes are present. Use an insect repellent that contains DEET or another EPA-registered ingredient such as picaridin, permethrin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. Repair failed septic systems, leaky water pipes and outside faucets. Keep grass cut short and shrubbery trimmed. Dispose of old tires, cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots or other unused containers that can hold water. Change water at least once a week in bird baths, wading pools and other water containers. Cover trash containers to keep out rainwater. Clean clogged roof gutters. Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with predatory fish. Clean and chlorinate swimming pools. Keep drains, ditches, and culverts free of grass clippings, weeds, and trash to drain water properly.

Last place finish. The Mississippi healthcare system's performance during the COVID-19 pandemic was a major factor in earning it a last place ranking among states for overall performance, according to the Commonwealth Fund. Between August 2020 and March 2022, there were 323 days in which at least

80 percent of ICU beds in Mississippi were occupied, with only Georgia, Rhode Island, Alabama and Texas worse. Although every state experienced higher-than-expected mortality from all causes due to COVID-19 and the interruptions to routine health care, Mississippi saw the highest rate of excess deaths in the nation between February 1, 2020, and April 23, 2022 -- 596 per 100,000. Mississippi also saw a 55% increase in drug overdose deaths between 2019-2020, the highest in the nation. In 2020, there were more overdose deaths involving opioids than any other substance at 69%. Deaths involving synthetic opioids such as fentanyl accounted for 53% of all overdose deaths.

New laws. With Mississippi's new budget year beginning this month, several new laws are taking effect: An average pay hike of \$5,100 for Mississippi teachers. A four-year staged income reduction that starts next year with elimination of the 4 percent tax bracket, reduces the 5 percent bracket to 4 percent in three years and sets tax-free income levels at \$18,300 for single persons and \$36,600 for married couples. Equal pay for equal work by women and men. A ban on the acceptance of donations from outside groups by state and local election officials for election operations. Authorization of the Department of Health to issue up to five licenses for free-standing emergency rooms in rural areas. The end of "Go, Mississippi," which uses the tune of "Roll with Ross" -- the 1959 campaign jingle of Governor Ross Barnett, as the state song, the beginning of "One Mississippi" by singer-songwriter Steve Azar as one new official state song and creation of a committee that can recommend additional state songs from various genres.

NEWS NUGGETS

Ukrainian children assisted



Special to Wesson News

Mississippi School of the Arts (MSA) students, staff and family, with support from the wider community, have raised \$1,000 to help the children of the Ukraine through Save The Children (STC), which has been active in the country since 2014. The MSA Beta Club sold lapel pins to show support for the Ukraine. The MSA Diversity Fair also brought in funds. The STC donation was made in honor of MSA Visual Arts student Tatyana Baker from Gloster, Mississippi, who moved to the U.S. from Ukraine in 2019. Pictured is Baker with her self portrait, which received a Scholastic Arts Silver Key and was on display at The Mississippi Museum of Art.



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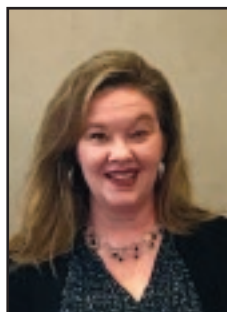
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Energizing for the school year

By Guest Columnist Stephanie Duguid

In July, summer continues to heat up, but school is right around the corner. Several challenges and opportunities can arise during the final weeks of summer in preparation for school.

As the school year gets closer, it can be difficult to shift from summer fun to the organizing required for school, remembering everything from school supplies to back to school events, arranging drop off and pick up and lunches or lunch money. Getting back into routine takes a while. We must get used to the early alarms, packing school bags, finishing homework, and getting to school on time with the right supplies.



A few back to school tips and tricks may help your planning:

- Clean out your child's closet and donate clothes that do not fit.
- Buy school supplies early and take advantage of sales, or order the entire school list online.
- Post a calendar in a central location to keep track of family events.
- Take time to lay out clothes, pack lunches, and organize backpacks each night before a school day.
- Encourage children to use both shoulder straps on a backpack for the sake of back health.
- Plan to attend Meet the Teacher night with your child.
- Start getting up early a week or two before school starts to get acclimated.
- Designate a quiet place for daily studying and guidelines for what time homework needs to start.
- Go through backpacks together as soon as you and your child are home each day.
- Delegate chores ahead of time to keep the house running smoothly (a weekly checklist helps).

Once the first day of excitement is over, kids realize they are back in the groove of school and find it harder to get up and get ready each day. There may be complaints that good friends are now separated in different classes, or that homework is a challenge. Finally, once school is over for the day, there are difficulties with scheduling and managing after-school events and family responsibilities.

All of this together can get extremely exhausting. The limitation is time and energy. So what can we do to recharge ourselves?

According to *Consumer Reports*, there are several things we can do throughout the day to assure the energy your need. Small changes can boost your energy levels:

- In the morning, **let the sunshine in**. The brain makes melatonin, the hormone that causes sleepiness when it is dark. Morning light helps stop the production of melatonin. Exposing yourself to light during the day can keep your sleep-wake cycle synchronized and helps combat daytime sleepiness. This will help everyone wake up each morning.
- **Take a drink break**. Dehydration, even in its mildest forms can zap energy, memory, and attention according to the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. To compensate, make a point to drink water at regular intervals throughout the day, beginning in the morning. Water is essential for most of our body functions. Focus on water rather than sugary drinks, energy drinks, and other quick fixes.
- In the afternoon, **get moving!** Physical activity is a powerful antidote for fatigue. Even 20-minutes of low intensity aerobic



exercise three times a week can reduce fatigue by 65 percent over a period of six weeks. Take the stairs rather than the elevator, park farther away from the buildings, and take a daily walk.

- **Stop sipping coffee and tea** in the afternoon. Most people feel they need a pick-me-up later in the afternoons. However, consuming a stimulant late in the afternoon can disrupt sleep when consumed even six hours before bedtime. Also avoid quick boosts of caffeine from other sources including “energy shots” and energy drinks. These can be very dangerous over time.

• In the evening, **try to power down**. This means dim the lights, turn off the TV, and put away the smartphones, computers, and other electronic devices at least one hour before bedtime to help your brain trigger the production of melatonin. Your brain will not shut down unless you prepare it to do so. You will find the quality of your sleep will improve over time with this practice.

- **Address your stress**. If you feel you have stress that can create physical fatigue, try listening to a meditation or relaxation app before bed. This helps prepare your body for rest. Stress can cause systemic issues with all major systems in your body. Be sure to find the source of your stress and address it. If you are experiencing other symptoms such as unexplained weight gain or loss, fever, shortness of breath, or morning headaches, see your doctor.

Simple steps and a few changes to your daily routine can help combat exhaustion not only for you, but for those around you. Review your daily habits to see what positive changes you can make!

Here is to a happy, safe, and healthy school year!

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

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88 years beautifying Wesson

By Bob Arnold

Organized in 1934, Wesson Garden Club (WGC) has been beautifying the area and educating locals about growing plants, landscaping and how to treat nature for 88 years.

"We're an active civic organization whose members want to give back to their community and seek to be faithful to the motto that inspires the work of garden clubs -- 'making things happen,'" WGC President Dixie Thornton told the Wesson Lions.

Thornton said the local group is recognized for its work within the community of garden clubs as evidenced by eight state awards and one national award during the past year for its projects and activities. Walt Grayson, the broadcast journalist whose beat is people and events throughout Mississippi, put the public spotlight on WGC throughout the state when the Club's members divided into teams that competed in decorating Wesson for the fall during its Scarecrow Challenge, she said. "The publicity brought dozens of tourists to town," she added.

Partnership with other Wesson organizations is a key in the impact the group makes on the town, Thornton explained.

"We worked with local business like Steel Outdoors, which crafted whimsical butterfly sculptures that we placed in Fountain Park," she pointed out. "We work with the town government in maintaining the municipal park and the Chamber of Commerce in keeping up its garden in the downtown area. We work with Co-Lin on projects like a memorial bench on its campus. The public library and Friends of the Library are partners in education projects."

Thornton highlighted WGC's work with special populations.

"We organized children in grades three through six into a junior garden club, which we call Butterbeans," she said. "They learn about plants and growing and help maintain gardens at Wesson Attendance Center and the Old School Community Center. We have a garden therapy class that involves seniors and the Boswell Center's developmentally challenged clients."

Other WGC projects cited by Thornton:

- Plantings around six historical markers in town.
- A breast cancer garden in front of Wesson Public Library memorializing victims of the disease and celebrating the lives of survivors.
- Maintaining brick planters and hanging flower baskets around town.
- Arbor Day tree plantings in the municipal park -- a Japanese Maple honoring deceased members and a Garden Club tree honoring all work of all the Club's members over the years.
- Cooperative activities with other state garden clubs in maintaining the cutting garden at the Governor's mansion, reforestation activities, working with Habitat for Humanity in landscaping building projects, the Horticulture Camp at Mississippi State University, making scholarship grants and planting wild flowers.



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Wesson Garden Club is decorating the town's Fountain Park with butterflies.

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Library winners



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Caleigh Berch, Walt Schimmel, Jerry Sykes and Maleigh Williams were May and June Wesson Public Library books giveaway winners. Schimmel (right photo) accepted Dream Town as his prize from library manager Ann Clark in May and Williams (left photo) proudly displays her prize -- Aquanaut -- as the child May winner. Friends of the Library (FOL) is funding the prize books -- one awarded to an adult and one to a child in drawings every month. June winners (not pictured) were Berch, who received Vegetable & Herb Gardening in the adult category, and Sykes, who received Goodnight Farm in the child category. Book winners must come to the library to register for the drawings. In the process, they will learn about how the library can meet their needs. FOL is a support organization that conducts fundraisers for the library and assists in its programming through advice and counsel, volunteers, and donations.

Fellows graduate



Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin Wesson Campus Vice President Jackie Martin (left) and eLearning Director Dr. Amanda Hood have completed the Community College Policy Fellowship Program (CPFP) -- Mississippi Cohort. The CPFP program is designed to give Fellows first-hand, high-level experience in working with the federal government towards increasing awareness and education about national affairs. The program requires fellows to dedicate considerable time to program responsibilities and assignments, and to travel to Washington D.C., as a cohort. Martin also received the 2021-2022 Outstanding Fellow Award, which recognizes a Mississippi Community College Policy Fellow who has displayed distinctive leadership and meritorious service in their profession through participation in the CPFP program. Recipients are chosen by their peers.

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2022-23 WAC Calendar

August

1,2,3,4,5 Teacher workshop
3 (8 a.m.) Faculty & staff get id badges.
TBD Beta Club invitation ceremonies
4 Meet the Teacher (6 p.m.-7 p.m.), Open House/PTO Meeting
Seventh Grade orientation
8 First school day for students
TBD Begin K Universal Screener
18 Meet the Cobras (7 p.m.)

September

2,3 School Day Pictures
5 Labor Day holiday (school closed)
6 Ring presentation to juniors
9 First Nine-Weeks Progress Reports
13 Juniors order rings
14, 15 School Day pictures
17 Progress Reports (first nine weeks)
23 Homecoming
29 Makeup picture day

October

11,12 Fall Break
12,13,14 Nine Week Tests
TBD Who's Who pictures
TBD College Fair
21 Report cards
25 Presentation of invitations to seniors
TBD High School Pageant

November

TBD Book Fair
1 Seniors order invitation
11 Veterans Day program
13 Elementary Beauty Pageant
17 Progress Reports (second nine weeks)
21-25 Thanksgiving Holidays

December

TBD Wesson Christmas Parade (2:20 p.m. dismissal)
19,20,21 Nine-Week Tests
22 Christmas Holidays begin

January

5 Teacher Work Day/Student Holiday
6 School resumes for second semester
17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

February

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

March

8,9,10 Nine-Week Tests
13-17 Spring Break
20 School resumes
23 Spring pictures
24 Report cards sent

April

7-10 Easter holiday/weather day
13 Progress Reports (fourth nine weeks)

May

TBD Elementary Awards program
TBD Senior Awards & Recognition Night
TBD Junior High School & High School Awards
19 Graduation
24,25,26 Nine Weeks tests
TBD Kindergarten Awards program
29 Memorial Day

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Wesson Bus routes and rules

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Buses on nine different routes provide transportation for WAC elementary and high school students. They include:

- Bus # 32-09. Driver Ben Barner. Co-Lin, Highway 51 b/w Barner & Starkey Lane, Dixie Garden, Cline, Brownswell, Pleasannt Lane, Miller Lane, Britt's Trailer Park, Sylvarena b/w Precious Moments & Highway 51.
- Bus # 15-13. Driver Michelle Berch. Martin, Elkins, Monticello b/w Deason &Rockport, Roberts Lane, King, Carpenter, Beasley south of King Road, Williamson, Swilley, Warren Lane, Rockport South of King Road, Beauregard b/w Monticello & Wooten.
- Bus # 49-71. Driver Jennifer Crapps. Anderson, Gloster, Paradise Lane, Shannon Lane, Timberlane, East Railroad, Fifth, Sixth, West Seventh, Highway 51 b/w Seventh & Main, Wesson Baptist, Main, Stonewall, Eighth, Wool, Ninth, Cotten.
- Bus # 18-15. Driver Michelle Berch. North, Starkey Lane, Lowery, Weeks, Highway 51 b/w Starley Lane & Seventh, South, Bahalia, East, Dickerson Lane, Third, West Fourth, West Railroad, Loom, West Sixth, Woodland Hills.
- Bus # 41-12. Driver Shae Coghlan. Hotel, Collier, Wolf Hollow, Pine, Old Wesson, Robinson, Highway 51, West, Wells, Pear, Factory, Rocky Hill, Clopton, Case, Sylvaena b/w Case Road & Precious Moments, Precious Moments.
- Bus # 19-16. Daphne Smith. Beasley north of King Road, Pearl Valley, Duckworth, Sugar Farm, Highway 27, Dogtown, Highway 472, Jones Lane, Swamp Lane, Rockport north of King Road, Russell Circle.
- Bus # 25-18. Driver Kim Runyan. Monticello b/w Sardis & Deason, Deason, Ryan,



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Springhill, Back Forty, Broome, Stegall, Tarvar, Wooten, Beauregard b/w Wooten & Bahalia, Fourth Street.

- Bus 45-14. Driver R. L. Ward. Sylvarena b/w Jackson Liberty & Highway 28, Cain, Pleasant Valley, Mercy Seat, Salem, John I Hay, Ferguson, Ridgewood, Highway 547, Lookout, Highway 28.

- Bus 23-15. Lott Smith, Forester, Watson, Old Red Star, Hughes Lane, Jackson Liberty, Sylvanena b/w Jackson Liberty & Case, Montgomery, Cline Lane & Shady Grove.

School bus riders must remember the driver is the boss responsible for their safety and conduct. The driver has the authority to assign seating and should command the respect of riders. Riding rules include:

- Board and get off buses on time at assigned stops only. Bus drivers are not required to wait unless they see a student coming to the bus. In the afternoon, buses leave the school promptly at 3:15 p.m.
- Walk to the bus stop facing traffic (if there is no sidewalk) so drivers on the road can see you.
- Do not play on or near the road while waiting for a bus.
- Do not cross a road to get on a bus until it arrives. On discharge from a bus, wait until the driver gives the signal to do so. Students who live on roads with retraces should get on their bus at stops that do not

require crossing the road.

- Load and unload using the handrail only after the bus comes to a complete stop.
- Disruptive behaviors that distract bus drivers are prohibited and acts of misconduct are subject discipline -- fighting, smoking, use of profane language, possession/use of alcohol and/or drugs, public displays of affection, sexual activity, throwing objects on the bus (i.e., shooting spitballs with rubber bands or bobby pins), etc. Conduct of students determines whether or not they will be entitled to bus transportation

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Trumpet-shaped summer flowers

By Guest Columnist Gary R. Bachman

If you like trumpet-shaped flowers, you may be familiar with both Mandevilla and Dipladenia, and you may even have them on your landscape. If you do, you probably realize they are very different, even if their blooms are a lot alike.

Dipladenia and Mandevilla are both great choices for Mississippi landscapes. You can count on both to provide a showy display of summertime flowers, but Mandevilla has better flowering characteristics, in my opinion.

It may be the similarity in bloom shape that leads these two plants to be marketed as the same thing, but Mandevilla and Dipladenia have different growth habits. Mandevilla is vining, and Dipladenia is more shrub-like.

While both are great plants, the problem comes when unsuspecting gardeners buy one of these plants that is labeled as the other. If you are looking for a vine and get a shrub, that's a problem, so be careful at the garden center when choosing one of these plants.

Dipladenia, which rhymes with gardenia, has a shrub-like growing habit and does not climb. One of



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DIPLADENIA -- Dipladenia, such as this Rio Pink, has trumpet-like flowers that resemble those of the Mandevilla. (Photo by MSU Extension/Gary Bachman)

its great uses is as the filler role in a combination basket or container, because you don't have to provide any support for it. I like Dipladenia better than Mandevilla, because you get the beautiful flowers and don't have to worry about having a structure for them to climb. The flowers and foliage of Dipladenia are smaller than Mandevilla, but I feel this enhances their landscape value.

Feed your Dipladenias every couple of weeks with a water-

soluble fertilizer. Keep consistent container moisture, but make sure it is well drained. Sunlight encourages Dipladenia to bloom, and the plants need at least six hours of direct sun each day. In very hot locations, partial shade helps prevent the leaves from getting scorched.

Mandevilla is a climber that wraps its growing stems around any support it can find. You can make your own supports from hardware cloth, plastic mesh or other materials that give the plants a surface

to scramble on. These climbing vines grow and flower best when planted in full sun. They tolerate partial shade in hot locations, such as south-facing walls. Make sure the soil in the planting bed is rich with organic matter to assure good drainage, but don't let the soil dry out too much.

Mandevilla is very tolerant to pruning, and you can train the plant to grow in a shrub-like form. Flowers are produced on new growth, so there is little worry about pruning too much and eliminating blooms. Mandevillas begin to flower in early summer and don't quit until frost in the fall. They are tender plants usually killed by fall frosts. On occasion, they may grow back from the root system the following spring, but most gardeners simply treat Mandevilla as a flowering annual.

If you enjoy trumpet-shaped flowers, one of these plants will likely be a good addition to your landscape.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Gary Bachman is an Extension and research professor of horticulture at the Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center in Biloxi. He is also the host of the popular Southern Gardening television and radio programs.



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Co-Lin's Precision Machining Technology program, which offers training on the Wesson campus in the unique skills that are in high demand by manufacturing employers, is a good fit for students who like working with their hands, creating physical products that can be marketed and sold, and enjoy programming and operating complex manufacturing machines.

In the two-year Career and Technical program, students learn to operate a metal lathe, milling machines, drill presses, precision grinders, and computerized numerical control (CNC) machines. Students also learn software skills in computer-aided manufacturing and computer-aided design (CAM/CAD), as well as appropriate workplace safety skills.

"One of the best parts of the Precision Machining program is the hands-on training received throughout the two years of instruction," says Program Coordinator/Instructor Bo Johnson. "Our program is a close-knit group. We work one-on-one to give students the full attention they need to sharpen their skills and be prepared for the workforce after graduation."

All students have ample employment opportunities in the manufacturing industry upon graduation, with some even working part-time while completing the Precision Machining program. Recent graduates are now employed at Milwaukee Tools, Eaton Aerospace and Precision Spine, in Jackson, MS; Smith's Machine and Welding and Pepper's Machine and Welding in Brookhaven; among other manufacturing firms.

Upon program completion, students are National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) certified on several skills and operations. Students also receive OSHA 30 safety certification. Student scholarships are available.

Registration for the fall semester is open now. For more information about Co-Lin's Precision Machining program and registering for the fall semester, contact Bo Johnson (bo.johnson@colin.edu or 601-643-8333) or Co-Lin's Career-Technical Counselor (601-643-8324).



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Events prepare teachers, students and 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 2022-23 school year.

- Teachers return to WAC before students for a staff development program from August 1-5 that will orient them to their working environment, review the 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 4, 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.

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 studies

over the coming year.

Incoming seventh graders and their parents can also learn about moving to junior high and high school.

"In order to help our seventh-grade students transition from the elementary side of the building to the junior high side of the building, we will host an orientation for parents and students," explains WAC Principal Tommy Clopton. "Students and parents will have the opportunity to meet teachers, see their classrooms, and ask questions that will help make the transition a smoother process. Moving to the seventh grade is a big step for our students, and our administration and staff aim to do everything we can to make the process a smooth one."

- Meet the Cobras on Thursday, August 18, 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>).

Oceans provide library summer reading focus

Wesson News

Fifty-eight children from 4 to 12 years old participated in the Wesson Public Library Summer Reading Program last month.

With informative fun presentations and a special picnic lunch prepared by Friends of the Library, the half-day event focused on "Oceans" to encourage members of the young audience to use library facilities for learning and exploring new subjects. A featured speaker from the Mississippi Aquarium at Gulfport and Wesson High School Principal Barbie Roberson's presentation on scuba diving highlighted the program. Sandra Hoffman made a jellyfish for all participants.

Short of taking participants to the Aquarium itself, a virtual learning experience transported them to Gulfport and introduced them to the premier institution, which is an entertainment venue that supports animal research and conservation, inspires learning and instills a passion for the aquatic world. The Aquarium offers a variety of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics educational programs and self-guided field trips and instructor-led field trips to experience onsite exploration and hands-on learning.

Roberson shared her scuba diving adventures with her husband and children, including pictures of fish and coral, in a slide show and specially-made coloring book. She explained the importance of equipment and learning to respect water and ocean surroundings in safe and fun scuba diving. She said her husband and children dived in many places in the Caribbean, where they hope to live one day and dive more often.



Special to Wesson News

Wesson Lions Club installs new officers

Wesson News

Wesson Lions Club has installed its 2022-23 officers, and Randy Davis will serve his second year as president of the local civic organization. Other officers who will serve during the coming year:

- **Board of Directors:** Jim Lightsey and Skip Sasser for one year and Hubert Greer and Larry Williams for two years.
- **First Vice President:** Bobby Thornton
- **Second Vice President:** Julia Arnold
- **Secretary:** Bob Arnold
- **Treasurer:** Bob McCreary
- **Assistant Treasurer:** Glenda Gemelli
- **Tail Twister:** Suzanne Davis
- **Lion Tamer:** Skip Sasser
- **Lion Greeter:** Alton Ricks
- **Membership Committee:** Alton Ricks (Chair), Bob Owens (Vice Chair) and Hubert Greer

