

INSIDE:

Meet Your Neighbor.....	4
Living Healthy.....	5
Summer Reading Program.....	6
WHS Graduates.....	11
Sports Shorts.....	12
News Nuggets.....	13



SPOTLIGHT

Back to School
Pages 1, 2, 8, 9 & 10

Volume 12, Number 7

"Good News You Can Use"

July, 2024

WAC enrollment to hold steady

Special to Wesson News

Wesson Attendance Center (WAC) anticipates enrollment to hold steady in the coming 2024-25 school term.

The new school year begins in Wesson on Tuesday, August 5.

Reflecting a stable educational staffing employment throughout the state, WAC is adding just one new teacher for the coming year: Olivie Springfield in seventh-grade English. Teresa Swell is also joining WAC as a teacher assistant.

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

"We expect about 882 students to enroll," says WAC principal Tommy Clopton. The enrollment will 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, 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 the school last year must be provided:



Assistant Principal Vanda Brister, High School Principal Dr. Barbara Roberson and WAC Principal Tommy Clopton are planning the 2024-25 school year at Wesson Attendance Center.

- 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), or 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 stu-

cont. on page 9

2024-25 Wesson Attendance Center Calendar

August

- 1,2 Teacher work days
- 1 Meet the Teacher (6 p.m.-7 p.m.), Open House/PTO meeting
- Seventh Grade orientation
- 5 First school day for students
- 15 Meet the Cobras (7 p.m.)
- TBD (8 a.m.) Faculty & staff get id badges
- TBD - Begin K Universal Screener
- TBD - Beta Club Initiation Ceremonies
- TBD - Meet the Cobras (7 p.m.)

September

- 2 Labor Day holiday (school closed)
- 5 Progress reports (first nine weeks)
- 17, 18 School day pictures
- 24 Make up pictures day
- TBD Ring presentation to juniors
- TBD Juniors order rings

October

- 9, 10, 11 Nine Week tests
- 10 Who's Who pictures
- 14-18 Fall break
- 24 Report cards go out
- TBD Pageant practice
- TBD High School Pageant
- TBD College Fair
- TBA Presentation of invitations - Seniors

November

- 14 Progress reports (second nine weeks)
- 25-29 Thanksgiving holidays
- TBD Book Fair
- TBD Seniors order invitations
- TBD Veterans Day program
- TBD Elementary Beauty Pageant

December

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

January

- 6 School resumes for second semester
- 17 Teacher/parent conference day/student holiday
- 20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

February

- 6 Progress reports (third nine weeks)
- TBD African American History program
- TBD ACT statewide (eleventh grade only)

March

- 5, 6, 7 Nine-Week tests

- 10-14 Spring break
- 17 School resumes
- TBD Spring pictures

April

- 3 Report cards go out
- 18 Holiday/weather day
- 21 Teacher work day/student holiday
- 24 Progress reports (fourth nine weeks)

May

- 23 Graduation
- 23, 27, 28 Nine Week tests
- 26 Memorial Day
- TBD Elementary awards program
- TBD Senior awards & Recognition Night
- TBD Junior High School & High School awards
- TBD Kindergarten awards program

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Events prepare teachers, students & parents

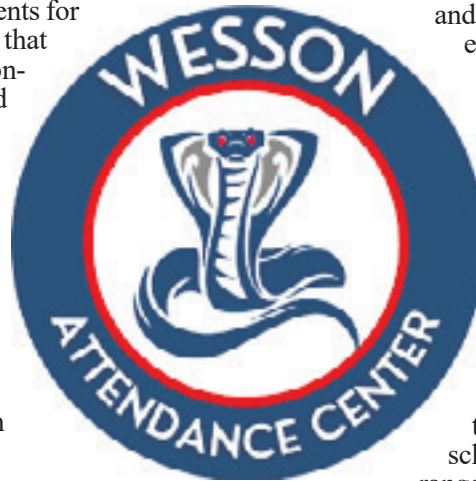
Wesson News

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 2024-25 school year.

- Teachers return to WAC before students for a staff development program August 2 that will orient them to their working environment, review their job landscape and expectations and give them direction to perform well.

- From 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursday, August 1, parents and students can learn more about WAC: At an open house and 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 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," says WAC Principal Tommy Clopton.

- Meet the Cobras on Thursday, August 15, 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 website (<http://wac.ccsd.schoolfusion.us>).

RULES OF THE ROAD

Wesson News

For drivers bringing students to Wesson Attendance Center in private vehicles:

- Drop off students before 7:40 a.m. for classes, which start at 7:45 a.m. Drop-off points are in front of the old gym and high school area for grades seven to twelve and the elementary school parking lot (where two attendants are on duty) for kindergarten through sixth grades.

- Pick up students in kindergarten through sixth grade in the elementary school parking lot. Line up on the north side of the road east of the building, enter the parking lot on the east, load students from the inside lane, and exit parking lot on the west. Use the outside lane when leaving the pickup line. Children should not walk to vehicles parked along the side of the road.



- Pick up students in grades seven through twelve and their younger siblings in the parking lot by the old gym and high school area. Enter on the east, park in the inside (north) lane while waiting for students to pick up, and exit on the west via the outside (south) lane.

- Do not pick up students at the rear of the school where buses load.

Older and younger siblings will meet in the old gym and walk together to their pickup vehicle in the high school parking lot. Children who walk or bike to school will wait in the old gym until 3:15 p.m. when buses and most cars have left the campus.

Proof of vaccinations required by MSDH

Wesson News

All students enrolling for the first time at WAC must comply with Mississippi immunization requirements against communicable diseases, and entering seventh graders must show proof of an adolescent whooping cough (pertussis) booster vaccination.

Current state entry immunization requirements encompass vaccinations that provide protection against:

- Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTaP)
- Polio (IPV)
- Hepatitis B
- Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)
- Varicella (chickenpox)

COVID-19 vaccinations are not required.

Mississippi instituted the whooping cough booster (Tdap) vaccination requirement in 2012-13 due to increasing concern about pertussis -- a highly contagious and life-threatening disease that adolescents can contract and easily transmit to younger children. Immunity to pertussis from early childhood vaccinations weakens over time.

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) also suggests consideration of vaccinations against meningococcal disease and human papillomavirus (HPV), and a varicella (chickenpox) booster as well for teenagers. Doctors, other health care providers, and county health departments provide vaccinations and complete the Form #121 Certificate of Immunization Compliance to present to schools.

MSDH will consider exemptions from one or more required vaccinations for medical or religious reasons explained on completed and signed applications -- Form 139-M Medical Exemption Request and Form 139 R Religious Exemption Request. A child's pediatrician, family physician or internist licensed in Mississippi or a tertiary care physician outside the state must complete and sign Form 139-M. A parent or guardian must complete and sign Form 139-R and must schedule an appointment with MSDH officials to discuss the application.

Children with either a Certificate of Medical or Religious Exemption who are not adequately immunized will be excluded from school if a vaccine-preventable infectious disease is present in their communities or there is a threat of one occurring, and will continue to be excluded from school until the disease is no longer present or they no longer are a safety threat to other children in the school.

For more information about vaccine exemptions, visit www.msdh.ms.gov.



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On the COVID-19 rebound

By Bob Arnold

The COVID-19 pandemic, by and large, ended two to three years ago, but its repercussions continue to affect the way we live. Our attitudes as workers have changed. We stay at home more, have curbed our travel, go out less -- to eat or for entertainment -- or have changed our recreational habits. The lingering economic effects have changed the way we consume goods and services. Even our politics has been affected. Countless things just aren't the same.

Around town, if massage therapy was part of your healthcare regimen, you may have noticed at least one therapist known for many years as the area's go-to practitioner for deep tissue massage has been missing. COVID-19 knocked Marti Stephens out of the box.

Before it drove her from the healthcare scene, Stephens did seven to nine deep tissue massages per day throughout the area in a practice that took her to salons as far north as Jackson and Madison, but included locals, as well. "I was terrified of getting COVID-19, shut down my business and gave up my license, but despite my efforts, got it anyway," she relates.

Today, Stephens is on the rebound. She has a lot of things on her platter, but she is thinking about how she can again start helping folks concerned about their health. After the journey that got her there, she isn't giving it up lightly.

Stephens landed in Brookhaven with her parents in 1971 when she was four years old, lived in the area until she was 16 and returned permanently in 2002 as a single mother with three daughters to be with her mom and build a career as a massage therapist, after living 17 years in Ohio and Florida. Along the way, she also was a vocalist for Country and Top 40 bands and even thought, but not for long, about practicing cosmetology.

Her mom and dad were country music singers who worked for Buck Owens in Bakersfield, California, where she was born and named after her parents' good friend Country music star Marty Robbins. She never fully understood why her parents, who once performed at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville and appeared regularly on Bakersfield television stations, pulled up stakes for Mississippi, where their career turned to gospel music and her father operated a recording studio. Growing up with three brothers and one sister as the eldest child, Stephens sang gospel with her parents at churches, festivals and special events, recalls spending many hours at her dad's recording studio, and aspired to be a research scientist with an avid interest in space and nature, discovering new worlds under a microscope and taking care of animals who needed her special love and care.

Stephens attended the Brookhaven and Loyd Star schools and a Pentecostal Christian Academy into the twelfth grade, but received a high school Graduate Equivalency Diploma from Co-Lin after completing correspondence courses before resettling in Ohio. Over seven years in Ohio, she married, had two daughters -- Amanda and Eden -- and studied cosmetology.

In 1992, following a divorce and deciding she did not want to pursue a career as a hairdresser, Stephens changed venues to Orlando, Florida, at the urging of her sister, remarried, had her third daughter -- Holly, and started her career in massage therapy after studying advanced massage therapy and alternative medicine at the Florida College of Natural Health. Her Orlando stop also included gigs as a singer with Country and Top 40 bands at night spots. Before returning to Brookhaven after a divorce, she owned and operated the Serenity Oasis Spa at Daytona Beach after working for other spas.

In her first few years after coming back to Brookhaven, family occupied most of her attention, with three teenage daughters, and a grandson whom she reared from birth. Around 2010, however, her massage career took off with work at the Aqua at the Renaissance in Jackson and further studies in alternative com-

plementary medicine. Through online work and credit transfers from other schools, she earned a Masters Degree from Everglades University at Boca Raton, Florida.

Before COVID-19, Stephens had become well known throughout the area for her work in deep tissue massage in which she incorporated reiki -- a healing touch technique in which energy is transferred to a person in physical or emotional pain through the palms of the practitioner's hands.

Today, in the midst of a life that now includes grandparenting the children of her daughters, she is overcoming physical ailments and is working to restore the health and fitness she needs for strength and stamina required for massage and other healing arts. She is also studying sound healing. "Although I can reacquire my license relatively easily, getting myself into physical condition to practice massage again is another matter," she says. "Massage is physically taxing, particularly when you aren't at the right weight and have lost muscle mass."

Stephens is working on building her post-COVID-19 life and career in the country home on the eight acres abutting the Homo Chitto Forest in the Loyd Star area near McCall Creek where she has lived with her friend Craig Kimble for the past 15 years. Her daughters are grown, and their four kids who ramble on the property are a big part of her life today. Eden, 33, married to Don Bivens, is a freelance artist, handcrafts jewelry and manages her household and family at Meadville; and Holly, 29, married to Ben Felder, is a stay-at-home mom at McComb, and does photography. Braden Beiser, 19, the grandson Stephens raised, works in the kitchen at Magnolia Blues.



Special to Wesson News

Marti Stephens

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

What are your hobbies?

I enjoy swimming in a pool on our property, gardening and cooking. For some reason, roses like me. Roses of all kinds are thriving on our property. I also grow vegetables, which I cook as a part of healthy meals with seafood, but no pork or beef. I also have a passion for animals. People dump unwanted animals on our property, and we keep them. I have four dogs, including a hound and lab-boxer mix; two cats, and an array of creatures that are really my granddaughter's pets -- a parakeet, hamster, gold and beta fish, bull frogs, three ducks, five chickens and a bearded dragon lizard.

Are you a reader?

I read about matrix energetics and energy work in healing, quantum physics and history.

How about movies or theater?

I follow historical documentaries and enjoy gangster and action movies. My favorite actor is Al Pacino. I like movies like *Dr. Strange* and *Ironman*, and enjoy science fiction. On television, I follow the old *Law and Order SVU* and *Bonanza* western series.

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

I'd start by hiring a financial advisor and then consider ways to help animals, and to be able to travel to learn about new cultures and strange and unusual places. I want to visit pyramids and caverns. Southern France and Sweden are on the top of my travel list.

How would you change the world?

Prayer. I'm not religious, but I am spiritual. The 52-miles of shelving at the Vatican is a good place to begin getting needed inspiration.



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Understanding & battling arthritis joint pain

By Guest Columnist Stephanie Duguid

This article draws on a comprehensive overview of arthritis offered by Dr. Hanan Ibrahim, Assistant Professor of Rheumatology, as a Mississippi Health Ambassador Initiative member.



Arthritis is a condition many people in the United States know all too well.

Affecting nearly 60 million adults and hundreds of thousands of children, arthritis is a leading cause of disability. This chronic condition involves inflammation of the joints, which can lead to significant pain, redness, and swelling. However, it's important to understand that not all joint pain is due to arthritis. Various other factors, such as infections, mechanical issues, crystal deposits, or autoimmune diseases, can also cause joint pain.

There are different types of arthritis:

1. Osteoarthritis (OA): Often known as mechanical arthritis, OA is the most common. It typically affects individuals over the age of 50, but younger people can also develop OA due to sports injuries or trauma. Osteoarthritis results from the breakdown of cartilage -- the cushioning material in our joints -- leading to pain and stiffness. Several factors contribute to developing OA -- age, joint injury, overuse, obesity, genetics, and gender, with women being more susceptible than men. Imagine your joints as well-oiled hinges. Over time, and with excessive use, the lubrication wears out, leading to those creaky, painful movements we associate with osteoarthritis.

2. Crystal-Induced Arthritis:

This type includes conditions like gout and pseudogout in which crystals form inside the joint. Gout is caused by uric acid crystals, which can be exacerbated by diets high in red meat and sugary beverages. Pseudogout, in contrast, involves calcium-based crystals.

Think of gout as a condition in which your joints feel like they're being poked by sharp needles -- an unpleasant and painful experience that can severely impact daily activities.

3. Autoimmune Arthritis:

The most common form of autoimmune arthritis is Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA). In this condition, the immune system mistakenly attacks the body's own tissues, causing chronic inflammation. Symptoms include prolonged joint pain, stiffness, and systemic issues such as a fever and rash. Managing autoimmune arthritis often requires a comprehensive approach involving long-term medication and regular medical consultations. It's like your body is fighting an invisible enemy within, causing continuous discomfort and requiring constant vigilance.

The symptoms of arthritis can vary widely, but they generally include joint pain that worsens with activity and improves with rest. There is swelling, redness, and stiffness, particularly in the morning. Diagnosing arthritis requires looking at patient history, a clinical examination, and imaging techniques, such as x rays or MRI scans.

Imagine waking up each morning feeling like your joints are locked in place, slowly easing as the day goes on. This is a common experience for those with arthritis.

While there is no sure way to prevent arthritis, adopting a healthy lifestyle can significantly reduce your risk and help manage symptoms if you already have the condition. Here are some prevention tips:

- **Stay Active:** Regular physical activity helps keep your joints flexible and muscles strong.

Swimming, walking and yoga are excellent ways to maintain joint health.

- **Maintain a Healthy Weight:** Obesity puts extra

stress on your joints, particularly the knees, hips and lower back. Maintaining a healthy weight can help reduce this strain.

- **Avoid Smoking:** Smoking can contribute to the development of arthritis and other chronic diseases.

- **Stay Hydrated:** Drinking plenty of water helps maintain joint lubrication.

- **Adopt an Anti-Inflammatory Diet:** Eating a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and healthy fats can help reduce inflammation. Berries, fatty fish, nuts, and leafy greens are particularly beneficial.

Treatment varies with the type of arthritis:

- **With Osteoarthritis,** the focus is on managing symptoms. This can include physical therapy to strengthen the muscles around the joints, weight management to reduce stress on the joints, and medications such as acetaminophen or nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). In severe cases, surgical options like joint replacement might be considered.

- **For Crystal-Induced Arthritis,** managing gout involves dietary changes to reduce purine intake, staying well hydrated, and medications like colchicine for acute attacks or allopurinol for long term management. Pseudogout treatment focuses on reducing inflammation and managing pain.

- **Autoimmune Arthritis** treatment often includes medications to suppress the immune system, such as methotrexate or biological therapies. Regular consultations with a rheumatologist are crucial to monitor and adjust treatment as needed.

Arthritis is a complex condition with various forms and causes, each requiring a tailored treatment approach. Early intervention and a proactive lifestyle are essential in managing symptoms and improving quality of life. For more information or support, consider reaching out to your primary care provider, a community rheumatologist, or a physical therapist.

Living with arthritis can be challenging, but it doesn't have to dominate your life. By understanding the different types of arthritis and their causes, you can take proactive steps to manage the condition.

Whether it's through lifestyle changes, medical treatments, or a combination of both, there are many ways to alleviate the impact of arthritis on your daily activities. You don't have to navigate this journey alone. There are numerous resources and healthcare professionals ready to support you every step of the way.

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



WESSON AREA DINING GUIDE

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Library presented as adventure source

By Bob Arnold

Close to 50 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, are participating in the Wesson Public Library's (WPL) Summer Reading Program to encourage young people to keep up and expand their reading skills and utilize the library's resources.

Wesson Friends of the Library (FOL) is producing the program in collaboration with WPL staff on Thursdays through this month except July 4. Framed thematically as "Adventure Begins at Your Library," the program started on Thursday, June 27, with Louisiana optometrist Dr. C.J. Pollet headlining the initial event.

Last month, Pollet talked to the kids about a personal travel adventure -- riding his horse, which he keeps in western Copiah County at his old family home in Allen where he spends weekends and other free time, from there to Mandeville, Louisiana, where he resides. Pollet and his wife Dora are grandparents of six children ages two years old to eight years old, who love to hear the stories about his adventures.

As in June, similar morning sessions meeting from 10 a.m.- 12 noon on July 11, July 18 and July 25 are planned with a fun and educational agenda to take the children down varied adventure roads with featured speakers, book readings by former WAC teacher Linda Mehri geared to the young audience and a time for the kids to explore books available in the library and check out those of interest. Play

and crafts activities with snacks offer a setting for new friends to mix and mingle.

In the subsequent sessions following Pollet's talk about his personal travel adventure, the young readers thought about making their own travel adventures in learning about map and passport making, will consider the adventures offered in unique hobbies and work as exemplified by bees and bee-keeping and will gain better understanding of the adventures of emergency response, with a tour of firefighting equipment and patrol cruisers conducted by the Wesson Volunteer Fire Department.

Through the course of the program, the participants have been engaging in competition for awards recognizing those who read the most pages from books checked out at the library. Book prizes will be presented on July 25, 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.

While the annual Wesson Public Library Summer Reading Program is child-oriented, FOL and library staff hope parents learn their own lessons as well about the valuable resources found at the library as it becomes a source of adventure for their kids.

Wesson Friends of the Library is a non-profit group that assists in buying books and equipment to improve patrons' enjoyment of all that Wesson Public Library has to offer, including large print books, CDs and DVDs, magazines and a comfortable learning and reading environment. The library also has computers, copy and fax services available



Children enjoy refreshments at Wesson Public Library Summer Reading Program.

Wesson News



KING'S DAUGHTERS MEDICAL CENTER NEWS

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SPOTLIGHT

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- 2015 Land Rover LR4, One owner, Sunroof, Leather, Nice!
- 2011 Jeep Wrangler Sahara, **SOLD** low milage, automatic, hard top!
- 2011 Lexus is350, **SOLD** mileage, sunroof, leather, super nice!
- 2014 Ford Fusion SE, **SOLD** Pmirrors, great gas mileage, clean
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- 2012 Dodge Ram SLT Crew Cab RWD, only 80k miles, like new
- 2015 GMC Sierra SLE Crew Cab, 2wd, 5.3 v8, Pwr seat, Sprayed bed liner, super nice!
- 2001 GMC Yukon XL Trade in, Sunroof, 3rd row seat, cold a/c - \$3000 cash
- 2011 Ford Ranger, low miles, Automatic, 4 cyl, one owner, gas saver
- 2015 Honda Accord EXL w/NAV, 6 cyl, Sunroof, Leather, Sharp!
- 2019 Ford Flex SE 4 door, Pwr seat, mirrors, door locks, 3rd row seat
- 2014 Ford F-150 Lariat Crew Cab 4x4, Leather Buckets, Sunroof, Chrome steps, Rear camera
- 2011 Toyota 4Runner SR5, low mileage, Sunroof, New Michelins, 3rd row seat
- 2010 Chevy Camaro 2SS, Low mileage, Sunroof, Leather, Adult owned, Sharp!



2015 Honda CRV EXL package
one owner, Sunroof, Leather, Pwr Seat, Nice



2013 Kia Sorento EX
Low mileage, Sunroof, leather, rare third row seating



2014 Toyota Tundra Crewmax
Low Mileage, v8, TSS Off Road, Rear Camera, Super Sharp!



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K-6 Wesson Attendance Center School Supply Lists 2024-2025

*Additional supplies may be requested 2nd semester

Kindergarten

- 2 – Box of Kleenex
- 1 – Pair of Fiskar Scissors (Blunt Tip)
- 2 – Rolls of Paper Towels
- 4 – Boxes of 24 count CRAYOLA crayons (No Jumbo)
- 1 – Box of CRAYOLA Classic Washable Markers
- 1 – Crayola Waterpaint set
- 1 – Pocket PLASTIC Folder (with brads)
- 2 – Pocket PLASTIC Folders (no brads)
- 1 – Bottles of Elmer's School Glue
- 2 – Bottles Germ-X Hand Sanitizer
- 1 – Bottle Foaming Hand Soap
- 24 – WOOD Pencils, no decorative (Ticonderoga are best)
- 1 – Pack of Construction Paper (NO TABLETS)
- 1 – Pack of Manilla Drawing Paper
- 4 – (4) Packs of School Glue Sticks
- 1 – (4) pack of Play-Doh
- 1 – Heavy Duty Zipper Pencil Bag (leather or canvas, no boxes)
- 1 – Box of Gallon Size Freezer Bags
- 1 – Box Quart Size Ziplock Freezer Bags
- 1 – Container Lysol Wipes
- 1 – Leakproof Water bottle

Change of clothes in a Gallon Ziploc Bag, with name on it containing: (shirt, pants, underwear & socks). Student will keep this in their back pack.

First grade

- 2- 24pk Ticonderoga pencils
- 1 pencil bag (sturdy)
- 4- Crayola crayons (24ct)
- 1- Fiskars 5" blunt tip scissors (ages 4+)
- 10-gluesticks
- 1 wide ruled spiral notebook
- 2- mead 5-star plastic folders (with brads)
- 4- pink pearl beveled erasers
- 1- pack of pencil cap erasers
- 1- package 12X18" manilla drawing paper
- 1-1" 3 ring binder
- 1- Dial pump bottle soap
- 2- pump waterless hand sanitizer
- 3- boxes of Kleenex
- 1- Clorox disinfecting wipes
- 1- quart size Ziploc bags (girls)
- 1- gallon size Ziploc bags (boys)
- 2- rolls of paper towels
- 1- pair of sturdy over the ear headphones

Second Grade

- 24- no2 Dixon Ticonderoga presharpended pencil
- 6-elmer's small washable white glue stick
- 4- Kleenex
- 2- pencil cap erasers (large pack)
- 1-11x7.25 pencil bag w/grommets
- 1-9x12 construction paper
- 1-wide rule composition book
- 4-paper towels
- 2- plastic pocket only folder
- 1- highlighters 4 pack
- 1-waterless hand sanitizer 8oz with pump
- 4-crayola crayons 24ct
- 1-blunt tip 5" scissors
- 2-disinfecting wipes 35ct - 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 headphones (no earbuds)

Third Grade: Please label all items!

- 1 large backpack
- 1 pair of headphones (no earbuds)
- 1 pencil bag with grommet (no boxes)
- 24 Ticonderoga pencils (sharpened)
- 2 packs of pencil cap erasers
- 2 boxes of Crayola crayons (24 count)
- 1 pair of 5" blunt scissors
- 4 glue sticks (Elmer's)
- 4 dry erase markers (BLACK ONLY!)
- 4 highlighters (YELLOW ONLY!)
- 2 one inch, 3 ring binders (a WHITE one for Reading class and a BLUE one for Language class)
- 2 packs of 8 count tab dividers for Reading AND Language class (will label at school)
- 1 wide ruled composition book (no spiral bound) for Math class
- 1 plastic, 3-pronged folder with pockets for Math class (GREEN)
- 3 boxes of Kleenex
- 2 rolls of paper towels
- 3 bottles of Clorox Wipes
- 2 large bottles of Germ-X
- Girls- 1 box of gallon bags & 1 pack of Index cards
- Boys- 1 box of quart bags & 1 Pack of 3x3 post it notes



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)
- 1- pack of wide ruled loose-leaf notebook paper
- 1- box of Ziploc bags (boys – gallon; girls – quart)
- 2- composition notebooks (no spiral)
- 3- boxes of Kleenex (100 ct. or more)
- 2- packs of Crayola markers
- 2- rolls of paper towels
- 2- packs of 4 ct. highlighters
- 1- sketch pad (boys:9x12; girls 12x18)
- 4- glue sticks

Fifth Grade

- 1- pencil bag or box
- 1- sturdy ear buds for laptop
- 1-48 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
- 1- 1" binders with clear pouch on front
- 5 plastic folders with pockets and prongs
- 1 pack 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
- 50 count heavy weight sheet protectors, clear
- 1- Composition journal
- 1-quart bag Ziploc (girls)
- 1-gallon bag Ziploc (boys)

Sixth Grade

- 36-7mm mechanical pencil
- 2-7mm pencil lead refill 1 tube
- 2-1" hardback vinyl binder
- 1-pencil bag w/grommets
- 1- poly pocket with brad folders
- 4-wide rule 8x10.5 filler paper 100ct
- 1-assorted insertable dividers 8tab
- 2-assorted highlighters 4 pack
- 1-12ct Crayola 7" colored presharpended pencils
- 4-paper towels
- 2-germx 8oz with pump
- 2-Clorox wipes- not for skin
- 2-basic calculator
- 2-3x3 assorted sticky notes 50ct
- 2-sturdy pair of earbuds for computer
- 4-facial tissue
- 1- handheld pencil sharpener for color pencils
- 4-packs of pencil cap erasers
- 2-composition notebooks
- 1- quart size Ziploc backs



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cont. from front page

WAC enrollment to hold steady

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.
- High School Secretary Gwen Shannon.
- Elementary Secretary Aretha Butler.
- Nurse Michelle Berch.
- Bookkeeper/Secretary Amanda Granger 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

dents 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 new student registration in which parents or guardians can enroll them. Returning students should be registered on-line through the Copiah County School District website at www.copiah.ms, where an ActiveParent sign-in will be required. Log-in information, if not known by the registrant, 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 the 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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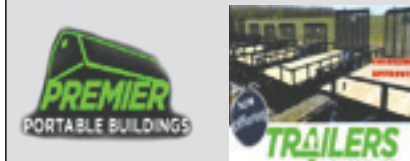
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Bus routes & rules

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

Bus Driver	Bus #	Route
Daphne Smith	19-16	Beasley (N. of King Rd.), Pearl Valley, Ducksworth, Sugar Farm, Hwy. 27, Dogtown, Hwy. 472, Jones Ln., Swamp Ln., Rockport (N. of King Rd.), Russell Cr.
Michelle P. Berch	18-15	Martin, Elkins, Monticello (b/w. Deason & Rockport), Roberts Ln., King, Carpenter, Beasley (S. of King Rd.), Williamson, Swilley, Warren Ln., Rockport (S. of King Rd.), Beaugard (b/w. Monticello & Wooten)
Kim Runyan	25-18	Monticello (b/w. Sardis & Deason), Deason, Ryan, Springhill, Back Forty, Broome, Stegall, Tarver, Wooten, Beaugard (b/w Wooten & Bahalia) 4th St.
Jennifer Crapps	49-17	Anderson, Gloster, Paradise Ln., Shannon Ln. Timberlane, E. Railroad, 5th, 6th, W 7th, Hwy. 51 (b/w. 7th & Main), Wesson Baptist, Main, Stonewall, 8th, Wool, 9th, Cotton, Moss Village
Brenda Howington	29-19	North, Starkey Ln., Lowery, Weeks, Hwy. 51 (b/w. Starkey Ln. & 7th), South, Bahalia, East, Dickerson Ln., 3rd, W. 4th, W. Railroad, Loom, W. 6th, Woodland Hills
R.L. Ward	45-15	Sylvarena (b/w. Jackson Liberty & Hwy. 28), Cain, Pleasant Valley, Mercy Seat, Salem, John I Hay, Ferguson, Ridgewood, Hwy. 547, Lookout, Hwy. 28
Shelly Lambricht	23-15	Lott Smith, Forester, Watson, Old Red Star, Hughes Ln., Jackson Liberty, Sylvarena (b/w. Jackson Liberty & Case), Montgomery, Cline Ln., S. Shady Grove
Michelle C. Berch	6-19	Barner, Hwy. 51 (b/w. Barner & Starkey Ln.), Dixie Garden, Cline, Brownswell, Pleasant Ln., Miller Ln., Britt's Trailer Park, Sylvarena (b/w. Precious Moments & Hwy. 51)
	15-13	Hotel, Collier, Wolf Hollow, Pine, Old Wesson, Robinson, Hwy. 51, West, Wells, Pear, Factory, Rocky Hill, Clopton, Case, Sylvarena (b/w. Case Rd. & Precious Moments), Precious Moments

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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61 WHS graduates

Because of confusion about lists Wesson Attendance Center provided to *Wesson News*, the June issue published only a partial list of the 61 members of Wesson High School Class of 2024. Here is the full list.

Bryan Burnell
Alonso Castro
Rachel Charleigh Anderson
Brittney Elizabeth Bailey
Brooklyne Machael Bailey
Landon Neal Beasley
Ethan Stanley Bonsall
Melissa Marie Bradford
Alyssia Rosalee Bramel
Logan David Branch
Aidan Ameer Brice
Paris Juanita Byrd
Ja Niyah La'Shae Byther
Hannah Chesley Cameron
Alicia Renee Carson
Sheila Samantha Casanova
Kaleb Jermaine Chase, Jr
BreeLynn Layne Cloy
Evangelina Sinclair Cook
Louis Robert Daugherty
Linda Grace Dunn
Brandon Davis Ebarb
Cloe Nicole Elkins
Isabella Dawn Fuller
Connor Ian Hamilton
Jahnasia Lashaye Harris
Cryah Diana Haynes
Alexjus Haiden Holder
Joseph Triton Howington
Abbygail Kathryn Huggins
Quentin Hood Jackson
Taylor Dawn June

Madison Leeann Kirton
Alan Tin Luong
Melleyjah Charlique Lyons
Gracyn Jewell Martin
Jayla Lashay Martin
Mackenzie Grace Martin
Cameron Elizabeth Miller
Tanayvia Debray Miller
Matthew Gaven Mitchell
Abby Nicole Mooney
Mara Grace Norwood
Kaylee Layne Prine
Maedyn Rylee Ross
Mallory Elise Sanders
Corley Marie Sandifer
Preston Morris Selman
Sawyer Guage Shoop
Breanna Jena'e Smith
Brenda Nicole Smith
Da'Marcus Kyshun Smith
Kimora Tiara Smith
Paul Weslie Smith
Zevante Jequan Stapleton
Bailey Ray Walker
Hailey Nicole Walker
Melody Lynn Waltman
Christopher Michael Watson
Stevie Rayne Westrope
Juliana Rose Wilson
Karen Itzel Zarate Lopez

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18 athletes on academic teams

Special to Wesson News

College Sports Communicators (CSC) 2023-24 Academic All-District College Division At-Large Teams include 18 Co-Lin athletes.

These teams, chosen by the members of CSC, recognize the top sophomore student-athletes across the nation for the performance both on the field and in the classroom.

Ten men and eight women from Co-Lin are on the teams:

- Madison Crain, Keely Marshall, and Lois Mattock represent women's soccer, with Ally Everett and Makaela Rummels posting spots for women's tennis, while Zykeria Cole, Madison Moak, and Abby Grace Richardson nabbed spots for softball.
- Brandon Gilliam, Elijah Short, IV, and Tyler Fortenberry represent football, with Landon Baner, Arne Sohmer, and Valentino Millimaci netting spots for men's tennis, while Connor Pittman, Jordan McKenzie, and Jon David Weed represent baseball and Reese McLaurin represents golf.

These athletes will also be considered for selection for the CSC Academic All-American Teams, with the teams announced later this month. The College Division for CSC represents all two-year and Canadian institutions, along with other institutions who are not affiliated with the NCAA or NAIA.



Named to academic teams from Co-Lin.

Special to Wesson News

German golfer



Special to Wesson News

Co-Lin Golf head coach Allen Kent has signed Max Seidemann from Bruchhausen-Vilsen, Germany. "We are excited to have Max joining us," said Kent. "He is an accomplished player with a very solid all-around game. He should really help solidify our roster for this upcoming season." Seidemann joins Franklin County's Kolby Cox and Canton Academy's Jackson Adams in the 2024-25 class.

Wesson Attendance Center 2024 Volleyball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
08/06	Lawrence County	Home	JH--4:00 JV- 5:00 V - 6:00
08/08	Hazlehurst	Away	JV - 5:00 V- 6:00
08/12	Jefferson County	Home	JV- 5:00 V- 6:00
08/13	Salem	Away	JH--4:00 JV--5:00 V--6:00
08/17	Salem Tourney	Away	TBA
08/20	Franklin County	Home	JH - 4:30 JV - 5:30 V- 6:30
08/22	Brookhaven	Away	JH - 4:00 JV - 5:00 V- 6:00
08/26	Brookhaven	Home	JV- 5:00 V - 6:00
08/27	South Pike	Home	JV- 5:00 V - 6:00
08/29	Crystal Springs	Away	JH--4:30 JV- 5:30 V - 6:30
09/03	North Pike	Away	JH- 4:30 JV - 5:30 V--6:30
09/05	Port Gibson	Home	JV- 5:00 V - 6:00
09/10	Hazlehurst	Home	JV - 5:00 V - 6:00
09/12	Jefferson County	Away	JV - 5:00 V- 6:00
09/16	Lawrence County	Away	JH -- 4:30 JV - 5:30 V- 6:30
09/17	South Pike	Away	JV - 5:00 V- 6:00
09/19	Franklin County	Away	JH - 4:00 JV - 5:00 V- 6:00

Wesson High School 2024 Football Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
August 30	@Bogue Chitto	7:00
September 6	Loyd Star	7:00
September 13	Perry Central	7:00
September 20	@Lumberton	7:00
September 27	Mize (Home Coming)	7:00
October 11	@Port Gibson	7:00
October 18	Franklin County	7:00
October 25	@South Pike	7:00
October 31	Jefferson County	7:00
November 8	1st Round of Playoffs	7:00
November 15	2nd Round of Playoffs	7:00
November 22	3rd Round of Playoffs	7:00
November 29	South State Championship	7:00
December 6	State Championship	7:00



Laws, solar, trains, broadband & Medicaid

Special to Wesson News

New laws. New laws are starting to take effect in Mississippi this month: Under the “presumptive eligibility” law, Medicaid will begin paying for a pregnant woman’s outpatient medical care up to 60 days while her application for the government-funded insurance program is being considered, with the goal of reducing infant mortality rates. The new Mississippi Student Funding Formula assures school districts extra money for students who live in poverty and those with special needs, in gifted programs, with dyslexia or learning English as a second language. A child born from a pregnancy that begins after a parent’s death will have inheritance rights, even if the embryo is not yet implanted when the parent dies if there is a clear indication that a parent intended the genetic material for “assisted reproductive technology,” in vitro fertilization occurs no more than three years after the parent’s death, and the child lives at least five days after birth. Any town or city, regardless of its size, can hold an election on whether to allow the sale of alcohol, even if that municipality is in a dry county. Ranked-choice voting in which candidates are ranked in order of preference are mostly banned in statewide, county, city and school district elections, except for military members and U.S. citizens overseas who use absentee ballots to vote in Mississippi elections. Aiding, abetting or encouraging people to steal at least \$1,000 worth of goods is now a felony with punishments for grand larceny.

Solar farm. The Board of Supervisors in Hinds County has approved a conditional use permit that could pave the way for Mississippi’s largest solar energy project near the Jackson suburbs of Raymond and Bolton. Apex Clean Energy in Charlottesville, Virginia, says that Soul City Solar would generate enough electricity to power about 95,000 homes. County officials said they expect the solar farm to be in operation by the end of 2027, but some residents of Raymond and Bolton fear the solar panels will affect wildlife, nature and property values.

Train delay. Mobile, Alabama, a key funder for restoring passenger train service to the Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana Gulf Coast for the first time since Hurricane Katrina in 2005, isn’t so sure it wants to pay up. Amtrak’s long-term plan calls for trains to run from a station near the Mobile convention center to New Orleans, with

four stops in Mississippi. The plan depends on subsidies from governments in all three states, with much of the Alabama money coming from Mobile, where five of the seven city council members must approve it and at least three of them are now opposed.

NEWS NUGGETS

Broadband investments. The Capital Projects Fund (CPF) managed by the office of Broadband Expansion and Accessibility of Mississippi (BEAM) has awarded initial projects in 19 counties \$70.9 million in grants to build internet service to some 27,000 households. Franklin Telephone and Conexon in Lincoln, Comcast in Copiah County and Conexon in Lawrence County are among organizations receiving grants for projects. BEAM will invest a total of \$162 million in CFP funding, and is currently administering \$32 million invested in 12 Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP) projects in 10 counties and a 10.7 million State Digital Skills and Accessibility grant, and is completing requirements to access \$1.2 billion in funding provided by the federal Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) grant. For information, contact BEAM at 601-359-5029 or info@beam.ms.gov.

Unwinding Medicaid. More than 150,000 Mississippians have lost health care coverage in the year after the Medicaid “unwinding” process started. To date, about 74.5% of completed reviews for adults have resulted in a renewal. In June of 2023, the number of covered children peaked at 456,314 and fell 344,517 over one month. Enrollment has grown in Mississippi, on the other hand, in the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), a program that provides free or low-cost health insurance to children that are not eligible for Medicaid, to over 50,000 in May. The state started reviewing each Medicaid recipient’s eligibility in April 2023 as pandemic provisions requiring states not to terminate people’s health care coverage ended after three years.

Study groups. Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann has created two Senate study committees – a new Labor Force Participation Study Group to look at the issue of Mississippi continuing to have a lower percentage of people 16 and older in the workforce than any state in the nation and the revival of study Group on Women, Children, and Families to explore issues arising since the U.S. Supreme Court decision to overturn abortion rights.

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'Mr. Lake Lincoln' dies fishing

Special to Wesson News

A passionate fisherman who had frequented the waters of Lake Lincoln for four decades to relax and relish rewards of his favorite sport died last month doing what he enjoyed doing most where he enjoyed doing it, the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office reported.

The body of Luther Vaughn, known to his fishing buddies as Flaky, was found during the morning hours on the waters of the lake where he came just about every day after he retired from logging. Lincoln County Sheriff's Department officers responding to the call quickly concluded there had been no foul play, and his death was attributable to a medical condition, probably a heart attack or stroke.

Vaughn, who lived near the Co-Lin campus not far from Lake Lincoln, was on its waters, usually fishing off its bridge or piers, from 5 a.m. to 11 a.m. every day.

The 65-year-old was up early and got to the lake when its surface waters were cool, and he could catch bass, but he said "I take the bream, catfish and crappie that populate the lake as well."

Flaky, who his fishing buddies nicknamed "Mr. Lake Lincoln," fished at nearby waterways in Pike and Franklin Counties, but Lake Lincoln, which he watched being built, was his favorite place, and was there when it opened in 1984.

For Flaky and his wife, catching and eating fish was a family affair. Often his wife would accompany him to the lake to fish, but Flaky did all the preparation and cooking.



Flaky

Wesson News

Dexter Allen sings 2020 blues

Special to Wesson News

Crystal Springs-born Dexter Allen's soulful vocals and passionate, driving guitar have earned him international renown.

At 12 years old, he started playing bass guitar in The Christian Travelers, his parents' gospel band, which played regionally and nationally. After graduating from Crystal Springs High School and settling in Jackson, he started playing with local secular bands and artists and travelled with Bobby Rush from 2000-2006 as a guitarist.

From Seattle to Eric Clapton's Crossroads Guitar Festival, he wowed audiences, touring on his album, *Dexter Allen: Live from Ground Zero Blues Club*. He sold out Legendary Rhythm & Blues Cruise, where he jammed with guitarist Ana Popovic; played at the Chicago Blues Festival, recorded at Muscle Shoals Studio at the invitation of British musician and radio personality Robin Phillips and toured European festivals.

His credits also include playing as a member of James Brown's band in the Oscar-winning *Get On Up*, scoring films, a leading role in an indie western, Mississippi Music Awards Entertainer of the Year for singing, song writing, playing multiple instruments and producing in multiple genres; winning the JUS Blues Award presented by Bobby Rush, who calls Allen "a legend of tomorrow;" and serving on the Blues Foundation Board.

"Music is music," Allen says. "I love music. Most musicians don't just play one genre, but one thing may be closer to their heart. My thing happens to be blues, soul and gospel. When young people tell me they don't like the blues, it's because they visualize the mainstream shows blues as an old guy sitting on a bucket. But when they come to my show, they say: 'Man, you rock!' So, I structure my music, in a way, production wise, to catch today's ear and keep the root of where it comes from. I sing the blues of today, not yesterday. My blues is 2020 blues."

As Allen garners credits far and wide, he also gives back with workshops in schools and for autistic youth.



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A chili cheese backyard meal

By Guest Cooking Columnist Charles Fortson, Jr.

Ingredients:

Irish red potatoes to make enough French fries for the number of people you are serving.

Nacho cheese in a can

Chili sauce. I recommend preparing with McCormick's mild chili mix. You will need two packages. Follow directions minus beans as an ingredient.

Salt & pepper

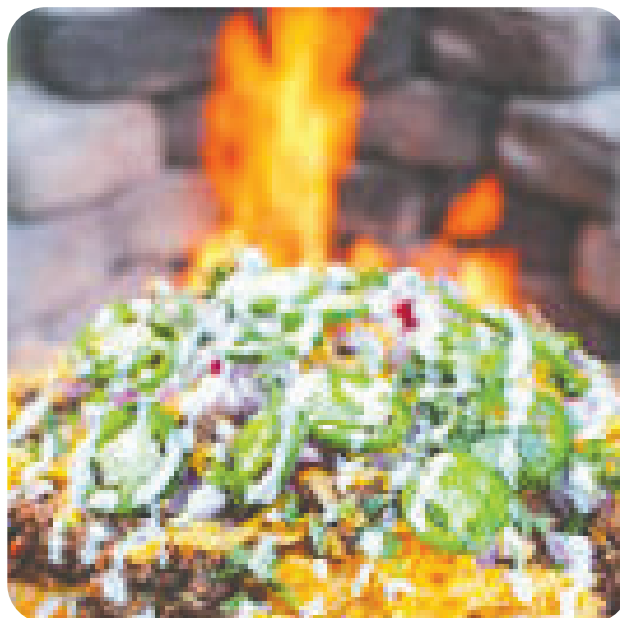
½ finely chopped head of lettuce

1 large finely chopped tomato

Ranch dressing



French fries are a classic summer picnic and cookout staple. There are many ways to make them come alive, but this recipe turns them into a hardy meal that will be central to your backyard get-together and save you money as well because you won't have to prepare as many other dishes.



Directions:

1. Follow instructions for making chili sauce from McCormick's mix. Set aside after cooking.
2. Prepare French fry slices from whole Irish red potatoes. Soak in water for at least one hour for soft fries. Fry them until light golden brown.
3. After fries are cooked, lightly salt and pepper while tossing them.
4. Place cooked fries in bowl.
5. Pour thin layer of chili sauce over fries.
6. Drizzle nacho cheddar cheese over chili sauce.
7. Lightly place lettuce on top of cheese and tomatoes on lettuce.
8. Drizzle Ranch dressing over top.

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.



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