



Holmes Community College  
Goodman – Ridgeland – Grenada  
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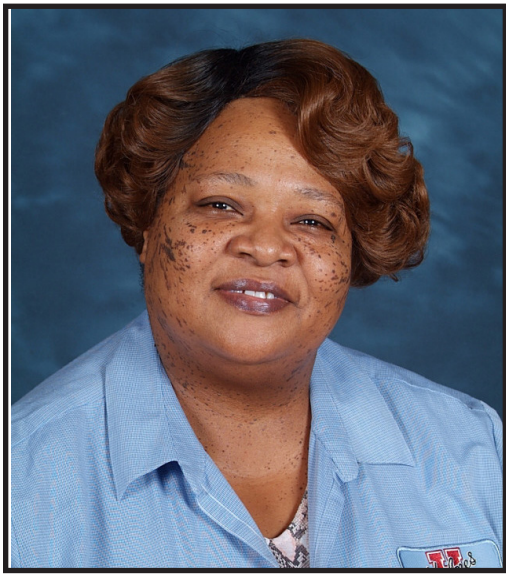
# THE GROWL

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Oct. 26, 2020

## Holmes mourns beloved employee Gail Gross

From Staff Reports/Photos



Gayle Gross

Holmes Community College faculty and staff members were heartbroken at the passing of Redgner “Gail” Gross, one of the housekeeping employees on the Ridgeland Campus, on Aug. 9. Gross, 60 years old at the time of her passing, was a native of Canton and a member of the Holmes family for nearly 10 years.

The visitation for her was held on Aug. 17 at the Family Memorial Funeral Home in Canton with the graveside service following the next day at the Murphy Chapel in Camden.

Three of the Holmes housekeeping employees on the Ridgeland Campus

- Barbara Moody, Sheryl Smith and Alice Watson - shared their thoughts about their dear friend.

“We write this with great sadness over the unimaginable loss of a co-worker and friend. Gail was well-known for her love of cooking and singing. At times, she would nourish and take care of some of the teachers’ personal plants. Her faith and love for God led her to share with others she came into contact with. One of her favorite sayings was ‘Help us Lord.’ We miss her!”

Holmes Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Don Burnham also com-

mented on what a joy Gail was.

“Gail was extremely loyal to Holmes Community College,” Dr. Burnham said. “She loved her job and she loved the people she worked with in Ridgeland. However, Gail did not mind telling you what she thought and she and I had numerous conversations about work and life. My fondest memory of Gail is her love for the Bible and the Lord Jesus Christ. If you mentioned the Bible or Jesus, her face would light up and she would become excited to talk about either. The Ridgeland Campus has lost a true friend in Gail and her presence will be missed.”

## Ridgeland Campus offers Massage Therapy program

From Staff Reports/Photos



per yourself, then think again,” said Holmes Massage Therapy Program Director Dr. Webster. “In contrast, massage therapy can be used as a powerful treatment tool to assist with taking charge of your health and well-being whether you have a certain health condition or are looking for stress relief.”

Massage Therapy is a form of treatment that involves a trained and certified medical professional to provide soft tissue manipulation to the body using different degrees of pressure and movement. It is considered a special treatment of complementary and integrative medicine.

“We are so very excited about the new Massage Therapy program at Holmes,” said Vice President for Career Technical Education Dr. Amy Whittington. “Dr. Webster brings years

of experience in the field and in the classroom and this program meets the need of a growing industry in our Holmes district.”

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that between 2018 and 2028, the field is expected to grow by 22 percent. In 2019, the median salary for a massage therapist was \$42,820 and therapists could earn upwards of \$20/hour.

“At Holmes Community College, our Massage Therapy program is designed to prepare students for careers as professional massage therapists,” Dr. Webster said. “During the one-year program, students will learn about various modalities such as Swedish Massage, Deep Tissue and Neuromuscular Massage, Prenatal Massage, Sports Massage, Reflexology, Shiatsu

and Hydrotherapy. Upon completion of the program, students will be able to work in a variety of settings such as: spas, cruise ships, resorts, chiropractic and medical offices, sports and fitness facilities, private offices, airports, nursing homes and orthopedic rehabilitation facilities.”

Coursework for the program began on Monday, Sept. 21. There is no fee to submit an application, and interested candidates can get started by visiting: [https://hccapp.holmescc.edu/ruready\\_orientation/index.cfm](https://hccapp.holmescc.edu/ruready_orientation/index.cfm).

This one-year, 720-hour Massage Therapy Program at Holmes is approved and licensed by the Mississippi State Board of Massage Therapy (MSBMT), P.O. Box, Morton, MS 39117, (601) 73-6038, under Temporary License #1912.

## Attala nursing program achieves 100 percent pass rate on NCLEX

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is PN Department Chair **Dr. Christi Blair** with one of the 2020 graduates, **Tiffany Sisney**, during their Pinning Ceremony. The Attala Center PN Class of 2020 achieved an 100 percent pass rate on the NCLEX-PN this year.

The Holmes Community College Practical Nursing (PN) program at the Attala Center in Kosciusko had a 100 percent pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX-PN) exam. This was the first year that the program offered both face-to-face and hybrid program options.

“I am so incredibly proud of this PN class,” said Practical Nursing Department Chair Dr. Christi Blair. “For this class to have achieved 100 percent NCLEX pass rate through this extremely tough year is amazing. They worked hard and went above and

beyond what we asked of them. I know each and every one will be a fantastic nurse. I’m honored they chose Holmes for their nursing education. ‘There’s No Place like Holmes!’”

There were 19 graduates total in the 2020 Attala Center PN Class. Graduates from the face-to-face program included Kristi Bagwell of McCool; Brianna Branch of Sallis; Lexie Brown of Kosciusko; Lanie Davis of Lexington; Christina Dossett of Winona; Jordan Eldridge of Winona; Meagan Henry of Carthage; LaKenya Latiker of Carthage; Carrie Lee of Kosciusko; Carley McClain of French Camp;

Brittany McDaniel of McCool; Tiffany Sisney of Kosciusko; and Lanikka Thompson of Durant. The hybrid program graduates were Erin Hopkins of Richland, Sherita Latiker of Carthage, Lisa Nipper of Chatham, Jennifer Potts of Water Valley, Brandy Raines of Pontotoc and Cherry Singh of Ridgeland.

“We really need to see success stories like this,” said Vice President for Career Technical Education Dr. Amy Whittington. “While times

(Attala pass rate, continued on Page 6)

### WHAT'S INSIDE...

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- HOLMES ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS
- NEW EMPLOYEE ANNOUNCEMENTS & MORE!



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PIC OF 2020  
HOMECOMING  
COURT!



## A loss no one saw coming

By Kaitlyn Anderson  
Staff Reporter



On August 28, the world was taken by surprise when the sudden and tragic news broke of the sad passing of Hollywood actor Chadwick Boseman.

Known for his role as King T'Challa in Marvel's "Black Panther," Boseman died at the age of 43 from a four-year battle with cancer. He was diagnosed back in 2016, with stage three colon cancer. The cancer sadly progressed to stage four. A post was made on his social media confirming his passing.

"A true fighter, Chadwick persevered through it all, and brought you many of the movies that you have come to love so much. From 'Marshall' to 'Da 5 Bloods,' August Wilson's 'Ma Rainey's Black Bottom' and several more, all were filmed during and between countless surgeries and chemotherapy," the post said.

Chadwick Aaron Boseman was born Nov. 29, 1976, in South Carolina. His junior year of high school, Boseman

wrote his first play, "Crossroads," staging it at the school after a student was shot and killed. Boseman would then go on to graduate from Howard University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in directing. One of his teachers was actress Phylicia Rashad who is known for her role as mother and wife Claire Huxtable of "The Cosby Show" starring Bill Cosby. She and fellow actor Denzel Washington raised funds so that Boseman and other classmates could have the opportunity to go to the Oxford-Mid Summer program of the British American Drama Academy.

He graduated from New York City's Digital Film Academy. Boseman's first job in acting was in 2003 on an episode of "Third Watch." Boseman had his first starring role in the 2013 film "42." Afterwards, he would go on and portray baseball star Jackie Robinson. In 2014, he portrayed James Brown in the movie "Get on Up." He incorporated his own moves and vocals in the movie.

2016 was the beginning of his Marvel career. His first appearance as T'Challa/Black Panther was in "Captain America: Civil War." It was his

first film in the five-picture deal with Marvel. Afterwards had a leading role in the movie Black Panther which, told the story of his character and heritage being passed down from his father who was the original Black Panther for their country Wakanda. He would go on to reprise his role in Avengers Infinity War and Avengers: Endgame. He would star in more movies such as 21 Bridges and Spike Lee's Da 5 Bloods.

On the hearing of his passing, starts gave their respect and tributes across social media. Angela Basset who played T'Challa's mom in the Black Panther gave her tribute saying, "This young man's dedication was awe-inspiring, his smile contagious, his talent unreal. So, I pay tribute to a beautiful spirit, a consummate artist, a soulful brother... All you possessed, Chadwick, you freely gave," "Rest now, sweet prince." Fellow Avengers Costar Chris Evans said, "I'm absolutely devastated. This is beyond heartbreaking. Chadwick was special. A true original," "He was a deeply committed and constantly curious artist. He had so much amazing work still left to create. I am endlessly grateful for our friend-

ship. Rest in power, King." So many has paid their respects and condolences to the family



of the late great Chadwick Boseman.

Finally, in Conclusion, I would like to end this article with a quote from Chadwick that he made during a speech for the graduating class of Howard University. "Sometimes you need to get knocked down before you can really figure out what your fight is and how you need to fight it."

Be at peace Chadwick, you fought well.

## Laura's Portion to 2020

By Alek Dickerson  
Staff Reporter



Laura started off as a tropical storm, along with Marco. Marco remained a tropical storm when hitting west along Louisiana and Texas. Laura was a completely different story. She started

south of Cuba and moved into the Gulf of Mexico giving her time to become a hurricane.

Residents of Texas and Louisiana were told to immediately evacuate if they live near the coast and a little bit above. Laura was expected to produce high-rising water

and dangerous winds. If they chose not to evacuate, they would possibly experience falling trees, bad flooding and power outages.

Makayla Henderson, a Vidor, Texas resident, and Kameryn Brown, a resident of Dayton, Texas, have given their input when asked how they felt when they heard the hurricane was coming their way and what did they do about it.

Henderson stated, "I was worried about power and having no house, but I have experienced floods before."

Kameryn then added her statement.

"I was worried to the point that I was not going to see tomorrow."

Henderson's family evacuation plan was

to drive five hours to Oklahoma in fear of this natural disaster. Brown's family did not evacuate and only experienced a power outage, but received heavy winds and bad storms.

Laurel Patin, a resident of Dequincy, Louisiana, did not speak much about the damages Laura has cause on her family, but she has said that a tree has fallen on her house and her city was torn up.

Patin's family evacuation plan was to drive to Vicksburg and stay a couple days until everything was settled.

Many homes have been destroyed, businesses have to restart and 16 lives have been lost.



The recovery process might be long and hard, but the outcome is sure to be beautiful.

## Overcoming the Odds

By Lakesia Smith  
Staff Reporter



In March of 2017, I experienced the most horrific ordeal of my life. Have you thought about your death date? So many people my age play those Facebook games about when or how they will die

but truly no one really knows the answer. It was my senior year in high school; I was so excited. I was a singer and I was granted the opportunity to sing a solo at our class graduation. Besides school life, I used to sing background for a gospel recording artist named Brady C. Smart. He's the funniest, humble and most stubborn person I've ever met. We sung all over the U.S from Illinois to Louisiana. This partic-

ular venue was in Lexington and prior to this event, I had never driven this far from Jackson before.

I remember listening to my jams on the way there but in the end, I never made it. I can recall all the stories and reactions as I came back to. As I got off on the Lexington exit a car took a fast turn and knocked my 2007 Trailblazer off the road and I was knocked unconscious. I died at the scene

and was airlifted by helicopter to UMMC where they resuscitated me and got me in a stable condition. When I came to, I learned my vehicle was totaled, I couldn't walk and my two front teeth were no longer in my mouth. I was just thankful to God for life.

I got so discouraged in the months to

(Overcoming, continued on Page 3)



# The Growl

Holmes Community College  
<https://www.facebook.com/hccgrowl>

Contents in the Opinion Section do not represent the official opinions of Holmes Community College or The Growl unless specifically indicated. Letters are welcome, but may be edited for clarity and space.

Send to: [mbusby@holmescc.edu](mailto:mbusby@holmescc.edu).



## Overcoming the Odds *(continued from Page 2)*

come. I felt ugly and so helpless. It was less than two months away from graduation and my work was piled as far as the ceiling. I remember walking into the younger classmen class to get my work and they laughed because my teeth were missing. I didn't want to sing or be seen in public anymore, college seemed like a no-go for me.

Well, at the beginning of May, I caught up with all my work and I could walk more. I was in and out of the dentist and doctors' appointments checking on my health. Graduation came around and all my peers still wanted me to sing them into commencement. I'll never forget the morning of graduation. I got a call to come into the dentist office because someone

had a surprise for me. When I made it to the office my legs felt weak and heart full. They informed me my high school paid for me a partial so that I could smile confidently on my day. With tears in my eyes, I marched on stage when it was my turn to sing and gave my comrades what they wanted! As I looked in there faces you could see tears of joy for me. I still wasn't

sure about college but my boyfriend at the time signed me up and I have to say I'm enjoying my time as a Bulldog! Oh and if you're wondering what happened to the guy I was singing background for or my then boyfriend, he's now my husband.

## Talking with Alexandria Galtney

By Kobe Ellis  
Staff Reporter



*Kobe Ellis conducted an interview with a professional in a field he is currently interested in. The interview is below.*

**What is your name?**

My name is Alexandria Galtney. I am 25 years old and a Jackson State graduate.

**What do you do for a living?**

I am currently a news producer at 16 WAPT News in Jackson.

**What does your job entail?**

As a producer, I write and direct newscasts. I create graphics and all on-air content. I write urgent, exciting and breaking news stories for the 5 and 6 p.m. newscasts. I also manage live shots.

**How did you get your job?**

I was able to get my job while I was still in college. The dean of the mass communications department insisted that I apply to WAPT after she talked me up to the general manager. I applied and had an interview a week later and was told I got the job two months later. I was blessed to have a dean that saw enough potential in me to recommend me for a job.

**Do you think this is a career you see yourself maintaining for a long length**

**of time?**

I have gotten to a point now where I believe news is not my passion. Ten years ago, I wanted nothing but to be an anchor, but now I want to work on the corporate side of communications, serving as director of communication of a major brand like Nike, Gatorade, Red Bull, Heineken, etc.

**Where do you see yourself in five years?**

I see myself serving as a marketing executive at a big brand company. I also see myself getting into housing development and real estate.



Alexandria Galtney

## COVID-19 vs Learning

By Tymer Reynolds  
Staff Reporter



In early March, we learned that there is a virus killing citizens of Asia and Europe. Across the globe thousands were dying from this virus now known as COVID-19. The whole world globally

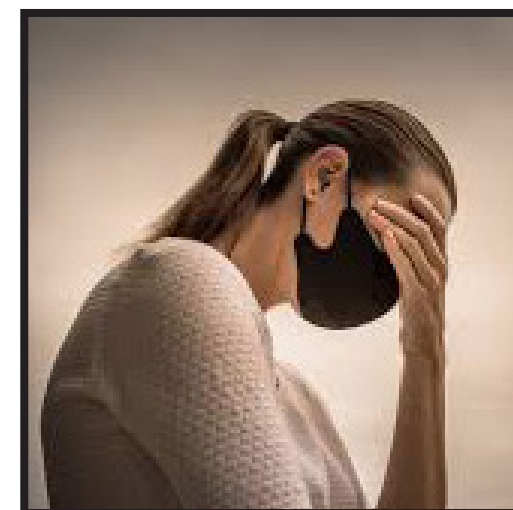
went into lock-down to prevent the virus from spreading. We've all sat around and thought about numerous things like: mon-

ey, food, and most importantly, what will happen with our kids' future. Education is very important to all us, but the thought of catching this thing and then spreading it to loved ones is scary. Some colleges pushed online for the fall semester only to make sure their student was safe. On the other hand, colleges like Mississippi State University were push their student to the main campus.

"I am really happy to be back on campus, but the virus makes me very uncomfortable," said an anonymous source. "MSU has given their students rules and

guidelines but has not enforced or explained to their students that this is a very serious matter. Yes, we have some students that wear their masks and we have some that don't and do not social distance. Our teachers have enforced the rules mainly because they're scared of getting it."

Over 582 students are in quarantine at MSU and the numbers keep rising. Putting their students into this type of environment is not safe for not only them but their loved ones as well. Hopefully, the administration will see that this is a problem and push for just online courses soon.



## Feminism at its finest

By Alek Dickerson  
Staff Reporter



After the recent death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the topic of feminism has erupted among women, men and politics. The sub-topics of feminism revolves around a woman

owning her sexuality.

Looking among other people's views, I have found where I stand.

When talking about this topic, I do believe there is a difference between putting yourself out there and owning your sexuality, without being bashed for it. I also believe being confident is not the same as having a big ego, but can come across very similar.

Disrespect among each other

Us, as women, all want the same thing. We want to be respected, not judged and free to do whatever we want, but we cannot respect other women in what they want to do.

As I see it, that completely goes against what we want, as women, if we can't respect each other as individuals.

Now, there are men that do criticize women, but as soon as she gets on a pole or works at Hooters, women then start to criticize others because of the way a man sees that woman.

One way or the other

I was always told you can have it one way or the other, but you can't have both. As soon as a man approaches a female the wrong way or cat calls her, we all want to stand in unity and have each other's back. I mean don't get me wrong that's great,

but when a 25-year-old girl is wearing a crop top, some shorts and starts twerking, ladies start to slut-shame her.

Personally, it doesn't, and it shouldn't, work like that. I understand that us females are a sisterhood, but we should not do that to each other. Why tear each other down when the world has enough of that already?

Final thoughts

There are a lot of problems when it comes to boys/men seeing women as objects when ladies/women are just trying to express themselves in a way they feel comfortable.

I have also come across that there is a bigger issue, though, when females slut-shame, bring each other down or slam one another for trying to do the same thing.

I will end this with a quote by Lena Dunham. She defined feminism as this: "A



huge part of being a feminist is giving other women the freedom to makes choices you might not necessarily make yourself."



## Staying stylish while at home

By Tymer Reynolds  
Staff Reporter



To all my fashionista's out there, you have been waiting for two particular seasons to show off your style which is summer and fall/winter. Not only has COVID-19 killed the summer trends, but we cannot let it shoot down the fall/winter trends we have coming up. Most of you guys that are reading this

probably are at home, but that does not mean you still can't be stylish. The teddy coats phase has not gone anywhere, but if you want to spice up your look fur coats are making a big come back. Companies like H&M and Michael Kors have great quality quality coats that are nice and at a cheap price. Next, knitwear's are going to be a big hit this fall/winter 2020. Yes, we know that Mississippi weather can be crazy sometimes and that's why knitwear is a really good trend.



## Music of 2020

By Lakesia Smith  
Staff Reporter



Many things have occurred this year. A revolution, a virus and trying to get back to normal. The alleged murder of George Floyd sparked riots, protests and marches. Thou most of this was done by the community and surrounding areas, celebrities and artist got in on it too. We are experiencing a new golden age of protest music.

That kind of musical statement has a history to it that stretches across the centuries and could surely make a mixtape for the ages. This is a new age of injustice, one with a heightened awareness of state violence and a national reckoning with the state-sanctioned disposability of black lives, and so this moment clearly demands a new set of jams.

Out of this situation has come #BlackLivesMatter, the most high-profile black movement in more than two decades to emerge on the national scene. Music has always been integral to the Black Lives

Matter movement in the United States, with songs such as Kendrick Lamar's "Alright," J. Cole's "Be Free," D'Angelo and the Vanguard's "The Charade," The Game's "Don't Shoot," Janelle Monae's "Hell You Talm bout," Usher's "Chains," and many others serving as unofficial anthems and soundtracks for members and allies of the movement.

As the movement progresses, so does the celebrity, government and legislative involvement.



## Why is being sympathetic to a woman hard?

By Tymer Reynolds  
Staff Reporter



In 2009, popstar Rihanna encountered something that she will never forget. She was brutally beaten by her boyfriend, and instead of bashing the abuser, people were bashing the victim. Domestic violence situations are no joke, and statistics show that one and every fourth women go through domestic abuse. Rihanna was lucky enough to make it out alive without anything fatal happening to her. That's

neither here nor there.

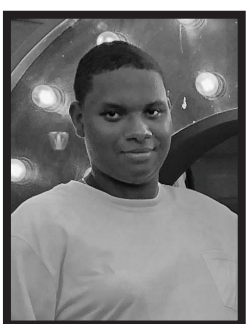
On Aug. 19, Megan Pete, or better known as Megan thee Stallion, was shot in both of her feet. Her alleged shooter is Tory Lanez, and he has denied all the allegations against him. Instead of him having sympathy for her, and actually clearing his name, he goes and make an album making a mockery of the situation. As I stated before, instead of bashing the abuser people took it upon themselves to bash the victim. For the life of me I do not understand this; to sit back and make a victim feel inferior about the things that have happened to them is not right. As women we go through a great deal

of things, including being judged on our beauty, skin color and body type. To make a woman feel less than what she is, is never the appropriate thing to do. To make a mockery of domestic violence, rape victims, stalked victims and bullied victims is not suitable to the person that is going through the abuse. How about we all put ourselves in their shoes for a minute to see how the victim feels? You wouldn't like the position you are in, would you. To the victims of domestic violence, raped victims, stalked victims and bullied victims, I hear your cries for help and this article is for you.



## Black Lives Matter

By Kobe Ellis  
Staff Reporter



The Black Lives Matter movement is something we see so often on television, social media and in our daily lives. The saying itself, "Black Lives Matter" speaks volumes about the social, economic and political injustice people with black skin face every day. Both black men and women fear what could possibly happen to them when they come face to face with the men or women who wield a badge with the phrase to serve and protect.

Recently, the murders of dozens of unarmed black men and women have been

brought to light. Many of them are killed while selling CD's, carrying Skittles and sweet tea from the corner store, lying underneath the knee of an officer yelling, "I can't breathe," or in the latest case, sleeping in their own home with their partner while officers issue a no-knock warrant. It is a sad scenario that happens daily.

We live in a society that I believe fears black men and women. They shouldn't fear us. We are not their enemy. I am gay black man, my fear should not be encountering an officer who fears me. My only hope is that we come to a time in our life where we don't have to continuously fight for equality and equity. I look forward to a future that will actually protect me from harm instead of assuming I am the one causing it.





## Dealing with anxiety

By Kaitlyn Anderson  
Staff Reporter



Being a college student can be fun and exciting. Some are experiencing life away from home for the first time and the first step into adulthood. People

are making new memories, meeting new people, and building their goals. But something that a lot of college students have in common is anxiety. Anxiety is when you are feeling anxious, worried or uneasy about something or someone.

Anxiety in college students can be caused by different things. Some of the things that can cause anxiety are loneliness, lack of sleep, a new environment, being uncertain about the future concerning one's major, identity, work, class, etc. A lot of students find it hard

to maintain a school life and a personal life at once.

There are students who are trying to take on assignments while participating in extracurricular activities and keeping a part-time job. And although it can pay off in the end, it is easy for a student to get overwhelmed which can cause anxiety. Being a full-time student myself and having dealt with panic attacks and anxiety, I had to learn how to balance everything in order to live an anxiety-free life.

Although at the moment I do still have anxiety, it has gotten better because I have been learning how to organize my life. When you sit down and take the time to organize your schedule and life, you will find it easier handling things. Instead of your thoughts being all over the place, you now have a schedule and are able to physically see when you have free time or when you

can make room for free time, and now you're not panicked or confused with what your week or month looks like. Something that I was told was to learn to control the things I can and stop trying to control the things I cannot. That means that I had to learn to stop trying to take hold of things that were out of my hands and focus on the things that I could fix now at this moment in my life. Here are a few tips with how you can manage anxiety.

- First practice taking deep breaths when you get anxious, it helps you slow things down and relax. It gives you a moment to clear your head and calm down.
- Talk to someone, there is no shame in talking to a counselor or an adviser, or even family when it comes to anxiety. They can help you by giving you

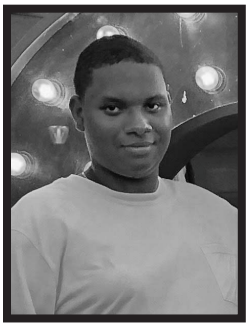
tips on how to control your anxiety.

- Take time to plan. Choose a day and take time out of your day to plan your week. Start off by writing down any important dates such as, work, school, test dates, appointments, etc... then make sure you give yourself a break. Find a certain time in your day where you study and do work but make sure you also write in a time for some breaks. Write in a day where you relax or hangout with friends. When taking these things down you are organizing your thoughts and now you can follow a schedule and not overthink and try to figure out what's next.

- Finally, don't be too hard on yourself. Study hard and strive for your goals, but take your time and relax. It's going to be okay. You've got this.

## COVID-19: The unmasking begins

By Kobe Ellis  
Staff Reporter



On a scale from one to five, many people give it a three that this pandemic quarantine is going to be the world's new normal: there's no need to be trying to get things back

the same. People just want to be able to be free and have fun. Everyone in general is ready as a whole to be back to normal without the coronavirus, but the thing is, in my opinion, it's not going to be the same as it was. The world has changed overall since the start of the pandemic and I would say everyone

would just have to deal with the effects that the coronavirus impacted on the world.

With this being one of the worst pandemics of the century, scientists are determined to find a way that COVID-19 can be an easier way for people to live with it while it's here. The way COVID is rapidly changing the world, people think that we need to get used to the world being new and different. It's been a rough time during this worldwide pandemic. Some people are not feeling the regulations that the USA has set up for us while others are being stuck at home looking at a computer screen all day.

For a group of Florida protestors, it is "time for no more masks" as they demand Target customers to remove their masks to

be free from the virus.

For most people this action is outrageous, but for others this can be an action of hope. Although the world has changed during the pandemic, some people think it's time to be free from this virus. I agree on trying to have freedom during this pandemic, but we will have to have fun in a safer and smarter way from now on.

There are many ways for everyone to deal with this new virus. In order for the world as a community or whole to get better with this huge outbreak is to pray. Some can even keep washing their hands for at least a minute and stay six feet apart in distance. This will only work if we as people as a country try to do it. We will just have to do this and keep praying for a better chance of staying safe. If we do this



we can get through this quarantine together in full hope and inspiration for the future to help keep us safe.

## The world loses a legend

By Piper Patterson  
Staff Reporter



Ruth Bader Ginsburg was the Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States since 1993. On Sep. 18, she died from pancreatic cancer. Ginsburg was first diagnosed in 2009. She grew up

in Brooklyn, New York. Ginsburg had an older sister who died when she was little, and her mother died soon before she graduated from high school. After graduating high school, she attended Cornell University where she received her bachelor's degree. After graduating from Cornell, she married Martin Ginsburg and became a mother before attending Harvard Law School. She then transferred to Columbia

Law School and graduated jointly first in class. Ginsburg then became a professor at Rutgers Law School and Columbia Law School, being one of few females there teaching civil procedure.

Most of her legal career was spent advocating for gender equality and women's rights. Ginsburg won many arguments before serving on the Supreme Court. Ginsburg advocated as a volunteer attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, while also being one of its members and its general counselor in the 1970's. President Jimmy Carter appointed Ginsburg to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in 1980, and she served until she was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1993 by President Bill Clinton where she was seen as a moderate consensus-builder. She was the first Jewish woman, also the second woman, to serve

on the Supreme Court.

Tomkio Brown-Nagin wrote in a statement to The Harvard Gazette, "Personal setbacks animated her quest for social justice. She memorably summed up the connection between her personal losses and her public life at a Federal Judicial Center conference that I attended years ago. Profound challenges — the loss of her mother the day before she graduated from high school, her husband's struggle with cancer while they were both in law school — fueled her fierce determination to accomplish her dreams and achieve justice for others. 'I wasn't going to just sit in the corner and cry,' I recall Ginsburg defiantly noting during her talk. Those words have stuck with me all these years. Ginsburg's refusal to crumble into a heap of defeat is a defining and inspiring part of her legacy."



Nagin spoke of her strength and dedication to not letting anything set her back in life. Ginsburg will forever be remembered in history for her fights for gender equality and women's rights. She was a notable character in the history of the Supreme Court.

*Are you interested in having your work published? Do you love to take photos? Have a passion for writing? We need you! We would love to have you join our staff by signing up for Coll Publications-Growl&Grid for the Spring of 2021. For more information, contact Mary Margaret Busby at: [mbusby@holmescc.edu](mailto:mbusby@holmescc.edu).*



## Attala Pass Rate (continued from Front Page)

changed drastically for education in the spring, this Practical Nursing program demonstrated the commitment to excellence that is upheld no matter what at Holmes. Dr. Christi Blair does an excellent job leading our Practical Nursing program as Chair. We are very proud of what this class has accomplished and their dedication during these times.”

The PN program prepares students to assist in providing general nursing care under the direction of a registered nurse, licensed physician or dentist. Intensive preparation for the NCLEX-PN Exam and transitioning from student to employee is provided in the program.

Potential students must have a high school diploma or a High School Equivalency (HSE) certificate and

provide official transcripts from all schools/colleges previously attended. Although college credit is not required for application to the program, applicants with any college credit must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 to be considered for selection.

Admission is selective based on such criteria as: ACT score; college credit GPA; current healthcare licensure -

EMT, Paramedic, Certified Nursing Assistant, Surgical Technology and in-district status. College prerequisites are not required.

For more information about the program, contact Dr. Blair at [cblair@holmescc.edu](mailto:cblair@holmescc.edu) or (662) 472-9173.

## Surgical technology program achieves 100 percent certification

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Surgical Technology programs on both the Grenada and Ridgeland campuses had a 100 percent pass rate on the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) exam. Holmes Surgical Technology Program Director Jessica Elliott, CST, RN, FAST, teaches the students in Grenada and Shea Coleman, CST, B.S., teaches in Ridgeland.

“When the COVID-19 pandemic became reality, we watched as excitement for the future was replaced by

worry for family, friends and careers,” Elliott said. “Although this is not the way any of us had envisioned this year, the graduates met the challenges and kept in mind that the true goal was to become certified surgical technologists and help by assisting in saving and improving lives. We couldn’t be more proud of our students and welcome them to the profession.”

The 2020 surgical tech graduates on the Grenada Campus included: Kayla Williamson of Grenada (valedictorian), Erin Bell of Ethel (salutatorian), Yvonna Herron of Gore Springs, Madison Tester of Maben and Mary Williams of Winona.

For the Ridgeland Campus, surgical tech graduates included Rebecca Lauren McDonald of Canton (valedictorian), Molly Wrenn of Grenada (salutatorian), Christin Boyette of Goodman, Cheyenne Elias of Brandon, Kayla Neal of Terry, Kaleigh Turner of Canton and Belinda Warnsley of Crystal Springs.

“I am immensely proud of our students,” Coleman said. “They triumphantly handled what was thrown their way by quickly adapting. I couldn’t ask for a better group of students this year. I am extremely proud of their success in completing their goals in becoming a CST.”

Through classroom and clinical experiences, the surgical technology program prepares students to serve as a member of the surgical team. They will work with surgeons, anesthesiologists and certified registered nurse anesthetists, registered nurses and other surgical personnel in delivering patient care and assuming appropriate responsibilities before, during, and after surgery.

“We are so proud of our Surgical Technology students for this huge accomplishment,” said Vice President of Career-Technical Education Dr. Amy Whittington. “We are thankful to have Program Director Jessica Elliott and Instructor Shea Coleman, who are always willing to go the extra mile to help students succeed. While this year has brought us some educational challenges, these instructors and students have proven that no obstacle is too big to overcome if excellence is always your goal.”

The goal of the Holmes Surgical Technology program is to provide students with the opportunity to develop skills and knowledge necessary to gain employment as a surgical technologist and become a contributing member of the healthcare team. Now that these recent graduates passed the exam, they are officially Certified Surgical Tech-

nologists.

“I am very proud of Holmes Community College’s Surgical Technology program,” said Director of Health Science Programs Ginger Meriwether. “The students took every opportunity to truly work hard this academic year, and it shows. This is a major accomplishment given the circumstances of spring and summer 2020. With that being said, I would be remiss to not speak of the instructors in this program. These ladies work like a well-oiled machine. They go the extra mile to ensure their students get exactly what they need.

“Thomas Groome once said, ‘One mark of a great educator is the ability to lead students out to new places where even the educator has never been.’ Spring 2020 has definitely been unprecedented. Both Jessica and Shea led their students in many areas where they had never been – this foresight by the instructors helped to lead, guide, direct and encourage their students to meet such a huge milestone. Congratulations to all!”

For more information about the Surgical Tech program, contact Elliott at [jelliott@holmescc.edu](mailto:jelliott@holmescc.edu) or (662) 227-2310.

## Holmes awarded TRIO Grant

From Staff Reports/Photos



The U.S. Department of Education recently announced that Holmes Community College will receive a federal Student Support Services (SSS) grant of \$337,287 per year to help more students succeed in and graduate from college.

Student Support Services has been an essential program at Holmes Community College for over 40 years. During the last grant cycle our average retention, graduation and transfer rates far surpassed the national average for

community and senior colleges.

SSS assists college students who are first generation (those whose parents do not have a four-year college degree), meet taxable income guidelines or students with disabilities. The array of services the grant will provide are comprehensive and will include: academic coaching (tutoring), transfer assistance, academic, personal and financial aid counseling, financial/economic literacy, cultural activities, career exploration/job shadowing,

peer mentoring and advocacy. Some of these services are designed to enhance academic success, graduation and transfer, while others are geared toward minimizing student debt.

Many of the Holmes SSS alumni have gone on to be lawyers, engineers, an ESPN reporter, a CEO, nurses, managers, counselors, coaches, teachers, principals, etc. In fact, one of SSS’s™ local alums is Dr. Jakarla Jordan, a licensed professional counselor in Durant.

SSS began in 1968 and is one of the eight federal TRIO programs authorized by the Higher Education Act to help college students succeed in higher education. It recognizes that students whose parents do not have a college degree have more difficulties navigating the complexity of decisions that college requires for success: it bolsters students from first-generation and/or low-income families who have not had the academic opportunities that their college peers have had, and helps students with disabilities remove obstacles preventing them from thriving academically.

Linda Alexander-Jones, Director of

Student Support Services stated, “As a department we feel truly blessed to have the opportunity for another five years of working with some wonderful students. We are all huggers in SSS so this fall will be a difficult adjustment for us!”

“The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the systemic inequality and financial hardship which keep promising students from succeeding in college. Student Support Services is needed now more than ever,” said Maureen Hoyler, the president of the Council for Opportunity in Education in Washington D.C.

The Student Support Services program has made important contributions to individuals and society as a whole by providing a broad range of services to help students succeed. For more than 50 years, SSS has helped students matriculate through the academic pipeline and obtain a college degree.

For more information about Student Support Services at Holmes, please contact Linda Alexander-Jones at [lalexander@holmescc.edu](mailto:lalexander@holmescc.edu) or call (662) 472-9002.



## Holmes announces 2020 Goodman Homecoming Court

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured are the Holmes Community College Goodman Campus Homecoming Court members. They are (left to right) Freshman Maid **Madison Odom** of Kosciusko, Freshman Maid **Amarie Haylee Anderson** of Baldwyn, Student Body Maid **Jordyn Nichelle Manning** of Canton, **Homecoming Queen Mikayla Aliyah Williams** of Yazoo City, Sophomore Maid **Shawanda Ne'Asha Gray** of Enterprise and Sophomore Maid **Kaleigh Cosgrove** of Little Rock.

Holmes Community College recently announced members of the 2020 Goodman Homecoming Court.

Goodman Campus court members include Homecoming Queen Mikayla Aliyah Williams of Yazoo City, Student Body Maid Jordyn Nichelle Manning of Canton, Sophomore Maid Kaleigh Cosgrove of Little Rock, Sophomore Maid Shawanda Ne'Asha Gray of Enterprise, Freshman Maid Amarie Haylee Anderson of Baldwyn and Freshman Maid Madison Odom of Kosciusko.

Mikayla Williams, daughter of Bernitta Jones and Darion Williams, is a biology major and Holmes cheerlead-

er. She is also active on campus as a member of the Baptist Student Union, Phi Theta Kappa and MOSAIC. In her free time, Williams enjoys sewing, fishing, cooking, shopping and cheering on the Bulldogs. Upon graduation from Holmes, she plans to attend the University of Southern Mississippi to earn a bachelor's degree. Williams will then continue to pursue a career in medicine and specialize in pediatric care.

Jordyn Manning is the daughter of Adrienne Manning and Kevin Carter, and of Dwayne Fleming. She is an art major who enjoys graphic design, playing basketball, providing makeup and

beauty services, listening to music and shopping. Manning is also a member of the Lady Bulldogs basketball team and Phi Theta Kappa. Off campus, she serves with Our Daily Bread Ministries and Habitat for Humanity. After Holmes, Manning plans to transfer to a four-year university with a reputable graphic design program and a great women's basketball team to continue her student-athlete career. Upon graduation with her bachelor's, she plans to work on the corporate level as a graphic designer while obtaining the additional knowledge and experience needed to start her own graphic design business.

Kaleigh Cosgrove, daughter of Lori and Brad Cosgrove, is a pre-nursing major and member of the Lady Bulldogs softball team. She is also a member of Phi Theta Kappa. In her free time, Cosgrove enjoys shopping, watching Netflix, fishing, traveling and spending time with friends and family. Her future plans include becoming a registered nurse and later pursuing a career in nurse anesthesia.

Shawanda Gray, daughter of Lynn and Winston Gray, is a pre-physical therapy major and member of the Lady Bulldogs softball team. She enjoys playing softball, basketball, singing and spending time with her family and friends. She also enjoys volunteering at Loves Kitchen Homeless Shelter. After graduation from Holmes, Gray plans to follow the best offer to play softball at a four-year school while she earns her bachelor's degree. She would like to

work in physical therapy with children and teenagers, and then one day go back to school and work toward her dream job of becoming an orthopedic surgeon. After her profession is established, Gray would love to settle down and work toward her family goals.

Amarie Anderson, daughter of Natasha and Lamar Anderson, is a pre-nursing major and member of the Holmes Lady Bulldogs basketball team. Her hobbies include playing basketball, shopping and hanging out with friends and family. After Holmes, Anderson's future plans include earning her nursing degree and becoming a traveling nurse practitioner.

Madison Odom, daughter of Melanie and Charles Odom, is a pre-nursing major who is a member of Phi Theta Kappa. In her free time, she enjoys reading, hanging out with friends and family, riding four-wheelers, cuddling with her dog and shopping. After Holmes, Odom plans to attend University of Mississippi Medical Center and become a registered nurse. She would like to specialize in pediatric oncology or work in the NICU.

The queen and her court will be presented during halftime of the Bulldogs' Homecoming Game against Northwest Mississippi Community College on Thursday, Nov. 12, in Goodman. Kick-off is scheduled for 3 p.m.

For more information about Holmes Homecoming 2020, contact Alumni Coordinator Katherine Ellard at (662) 472.9134 or [kellard@holmescc.edu](mailto:kellard@holmescc.edu).

## Holmes announces 2020 Ridgeland Homecoming Court

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured are the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus Homecoming Court members. They are (left to right) Freshman Maid **Breanna Alexis McBrain** of Madison, Freshman Maid **Brooklyn Gaddis** of Flowood, Student Body Maid **Deja Armoni Sloan** of Madison, Sophomore Maid **Taylor Ervin** of McComb and Sophomore Maid **Holley Kendall Yates** of Pisgah.

Holmes Community College recently announced members of the 2020 Homecoming Court for the Ridgeland Campus.

Ridgeland court members include: Student Body Maid Deja Armoni

Sloan of Madison, Sophomore Maid Taylor Madison Ervin of McComb, Sophomore Maid Holley Kendall Yates of Pisgah, Freshman Maid Brooklyn Gaddis of Flowood and Freshman Maid Breanna Alexis McBrain of Mad-

ison.

Sloan, daughter of Tekima Beamon, is a general studies/broadcasting major. She is active on campus as an Ambassador and Phi Theta Kappa honor society officer. In her free time, she enjoys cooking and filming YouTube videos for her YouTube Channel, Armoni Sloan. Upon graduation from Holmes, Sloan is planning to move to Orlando, Florida, to attend University of Central Florida. There she will pursue a degree in broadcasting while enjoying all the fun activities available in Florida.

Ervin, daughter of Doug and Brandi Ervin, is a marketing major and member of Phi Theta Kappa. In her free time, she enjoys hanging out with friends, reading and traveling. Ervin's future plans include transferring to Mississippi State University next fall.

Yates, daughter of Peggy and Thomas Yates, is an accounting major and member of Phi Theta Kappa. She enjoys duck hunting, fishing and cruising in her family's antique cars. Yates' future plans include transferring to Mississippi State University in the spring of 2021. At MSU, she will pursue both her bachelor's and master's

degree in accountancy and complete requirements for CPA certification.

Gaddis, daughter of Marcus Gaddis and Kea Gaddis, is a dental hygiene major. On campus she is active as an Ambassador and Horizons yearbook staff member, and in her free time, enjoys painting, shopping, singing and photography. After obtaining her associate degree from Holmes, Gaddis plans to attend University of Mississippi Medical Center to complete her dental hygienist degree.

McBrain, daughter of Betty and John McBrain is a nursing major and Ambassador for Holmes. In her free time, she enjoys working out, watching sunsets, listening to her 70's rock n' roll and laughing with friends and family. McBrain's future goals are to finish nursing school and become a nurse anesthetist.

The queen and her court will be presented during halftime of the Bulldogs' Homecoming Game against Northwest Mississippi Community College on Thursday, Nov. 12, in Goodman. Kick-off is scheduled for 3 p.m.



## Holmes announces 2020 Grenada Homecoming Court

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the Holmes Community College Grenada Campus Homecoming Court members. They are (left to right) Freshman Maid **Terra Elizabeth West** of Grenada, Freshman Maid **Mary Grace Brooks** of Winona, Student Body Maid **Isabelle Sanders** of Carrollton, Sophomore Maid **Dalphe Hemphill** of Winona and Sophomore Maid **Prashauda Roneicia Marie West** of Grenada.

Holmes Community College recently announced members of the 2020 Grenada Campus Homecoming Court.

Grenada Campus court members include Student Body Maid Isabelle Sanders of Carrollton, Sophomore Maid Dalphe Hemphill of Winona, Sophomore Maid Prashauda Roneicia Marie West of Grenada, Freshman

Maid Mary Grace Brooks of Winona and Freshman Maid Terra Elizabeth West of Grenada.

Isabelle Sanders, daughter of Lisa and Ken Sanders, is a nursing major who stays active on the Grenada Campus. She is an Ambassador, Phi Theta Kappa vice president of communications and a Student Government

Association representative. In her free time, Sanders enjoys hanging out with friends, going out to eat, watching movies and playing with her dogs. After Holmes, she plans to attend the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson for the traditional nursing program.

Dalphe Hemphill, Pastor Isaac Jamerson and the late Martha Jamerson, is in the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program at Holmes. She is an active member of Samuel Chapel MB Church, where her husband Jarvis Hemphill is the pastor. She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority INC. and enjoys reading, watching movies and spending time with family and friends. Hemphill and her husband have four children: Javaris, Taylor Jade and Jewel. Her future plans include obtaining her doctoral degree in nursing.

Prashauda West, daughter of Betty Hoskins, is a physical therapy major who enjoys dancing and spending time with her family and friends. She is both an active member of Phi Theta Kappa and a tutor. West loves helping people, so she is pursuing a career in physical therapy. She also enjoys dancing so much that she would love to

become a professional choreographer one day.

Mary Grace Brooks, daughter of Karla and Michael Brooks, is a social work major and Holmes Ambassador. Off campus, she is employed with the Bank of Kilmichael and enjoys baking, shopping, traveling and participating in community service projects. After finishing her degree at Holmes, Brooks plans to attend the University of Mississippi and pursue a career as a speech pathologist.

Terra West, daughter of Wendy and Terry West, is a pre-med major who works at Sav-Mor Drugs and Gifts in Grenada as a pharmacy technician. After Holmes, she plans to further her education at Mississippi State University and fulfill her dreams of becoming a family physician.

Homecoming Court members were announced on the Ridgeland and Goodman campuses, as well.

The queen and her court will be presented during halftime of the Bulldogs' Homecoming Game against Northwest Mississippi Community College on Thursday, Nov. 12, in Goodman. Kick-off is scheduled for 3 p.m.

## Holmes Alumna finds joy in teaching

By Piper Patterson  
Staff Reporter



Holmes Community College Alumna Mary Katelyn Chism is a preschool teacher and works in the four-year-old room at St. Matthews Weekday. She has a bachelor's degree in consumer and human service, and a master's degree in early childhood development. After Holmes, Community College Chism studied at

Pictured is (right) **Mary Katelyn Chism** with her daughter.

Delta State University and Arkansas State. She did an internship in Cleveland, MS at Bell Academy working in their 4K room.

During her time at Holmes, Chism was an Ambassador, Class Favorite, inducted into the Hall of Fame, a Phi Theta Kappa member and officer, and also was asked to be in a class taught by the vice president of Holmes.

Originally, Chism was studying to be a nurse. However, after her mother persuaded her to see the early development

center at Delta State University, Chism fell in love with the idea of teaching. She has now been teaching at St. Matthews for five years and is looking to begin working at Madison-Ridgeland Academy.

Her favorite part of teaching is being able to see the kids grow in their knowledge, develop their wonderful personalities and being able to hear all the funny things the kids have to say.

## Pandemic suicide rates among college students

By Piper Patterson  
Staff Reporter



Starting school can often times be terrifying for a student. They are experiencing many different changes they never had during their school years, like being away from familiar faces such as friends and family. College students are typically under extreme stress from school, causing disruption of sleep and eating. Disturbed patterns of sleep and appetite cause the brain to not produce a chemical called serotonin. Serotonin impacts the entire body: low levels will affect one's mood, feelings of well-being and happiness. It makes the brain cells and nervous system communicate together. Low serotonin levels often times lead to depression. If the levels of serotonin are kept low, one can fall into a deep pit of depression that could lead to

suicide.

According to American College Health Association, suicide is the second leading cause of death amongst college students. During the last week of June, the CDC surveyed 5,400 people. 11 percent reported they had seriously contemplated suicide, people aged 18 to 24 years old were more likely to report this. 25.5 percent of that age group reported they had seriously contemplated it. In these hard times, people are facing more financial problems causing their stress levels to shoot through the roof causing them to fall into a deep depression.

Warning signs of someone who might be considering suicide are as

follows: talking about wanting to die, looking for ways to do so, talking about feeling hopeless or not having a purpose, feeling trapped, feeling as if they are a burden to others, increase alcohol or drug use, acting anxious, agitated or reckless, sleeping too much or too little, withdrawing or feeling isolated, showing rage or talking about seeking revenge and showing extreme mood swings. If you feel you or someone you know is experiencing these feelings the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 800-273-8255, should be contacted and professional help should be sought.



## Holmes alumnus has one of two final Miss. flag designs

Contributed by Yue Stella Yu of the Columbus Dispatch



**Rocky Vaughan**

Rocky Vaughan waited at his wife's hospital bed for days as the couple expected the birth of their second son, Brody, in March 2013.

To kill some time, Vaughan brought his sketchbook. As he doodled purposelessly, he thought of the debate he had seen on TV surrounding the then-Mississippi state flag, which boasted the Confederate battle emblem in its canton.

"It's just an ugly topic. ... I don't want to seem like an advocate for each side," he said. "But I am a designer. So I can let everybody see, you can have a pretty flag, you don't have to be so upset about (it)."

Intrigued, he began sketching a magnolia as he waited. That process, he said, would sometimes annoy his wife.

"Me sitting in the corner would get on her nerves, so she sent me home a few times," he said with a chuckle. "Apparently, my sketching is a little too noisy."

Since his first try at redesigning the state flag seven years ago, Vaughan -- a 43-year-old Ackerman native and graphic designer at DogPound Printing in Starkville -- said he has produced more than 100 different designs. And now, he is closer than ever to making history.

Vaughan is a co-designer of "The New Magnolia Flag" -- one of the two finalists that could become the state's new flag -- after the Mississippi Legislature retired the old one on June 30. One of his own designs -- featuring a navy background, red horizontal banners and a magnolia surrounded by 20 stars (representing Mississippi becoming the 20th state) -- was one of the nine finalist flags selected by the newly formed Mississippi State Flag Commission. It also includes the words "In God We Trust," which the Legislature has required for flag design submissions.

The commission -- consisting of nine members appointed by Gov. Tate Reeves, Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann and House Speaker Philip Gunn -- began accepting flag designs from the public in July with an Aug. 1 deadline. Over the past month, the commission narrowed down a field of more than 3,000 submissions to two finalists -- "The Great River Flag" and "The New Magnolia Flag."

Commissioners will meet Sept. 2 to make a final selection, which will appear on the November ballot. The design will become the new state flag if approved by the majority of voters. Otherwise, the commission must reconvene and redesign the flag for voter approval in a special election in 2021.

After submissions opened this summer, Vaughan submitted four designs. All of them feature a white magnolia in the middle with emerald green leaves, the color of which symbolizes the state gemstone, he said.

He called them "Miss Maggie" -- "Miss" for Mississippi and "Maggie" as a nickname for magnolia.

Vaughan wanted to submit four more designs before the deadline. In one of those designs, Vaughan colored the entire flag emerald green. A ring of 82 gold stars surrounds the flower pedals, representing 82 counties in the state, with an outside layer of 20 stars.

But Vaughan never could submit them. His 66-year-old mother, Beverly Vaughan, passed away on July 31 due to illness. Grieving, Vaughan missed the deadline.

"She was really sweet," he said of his mother.

But Vaughan knows his mother would be proud of his work. As his illustrations advanced among a pool of 3,000 submissions, Vaughan said he was never surprised by how far his designs would go. Some of his competitors, he said, are "overthinking it."

"It makes sense," he said of his own work being a top candidate. "I'm not even trying to be cocky or overconfident. ... What is the best representation of the Magnolia State? Duh. You don't need research. All you've got to do is to make it pretty."

But Vaughan put a great deal of work into his design. He said he took almost every advice from vexillologists (those who study flags and symbolism) on social media and tried to follow every rule from the State Flag Commission

to perfect his designs. He constantly wondered: Should the stripes be horizontal or vertical? How many colors should there be? How about a seal in the middle?

Still, he is hardly satisfied. "The New Magnolia Flag" -- which is a combination of elements from three different designers, including Vaughan -- is not his favorite, he said. The flag features two vertical gold stripes, one on each side. The gold lines symbolize the state's rich cultural history, according to the website of Mississippi Department of Archives and History, but Vaughan is not a fan.

"It didn't need (the stripes)," he said. "Tone it down. It's going to look like McDonald's up there."

Vaughan agreed he can be a bit of a perfectionist. And Stephanie Welch, his coworker and friend of more than a decade, shared a similar view.

"He's constantly amazing with his art design," she said. "(Customers) will have an idea but not know what they want or don't have a picture. ... He goes above and beyond everything we could dream of."

Welch said she is happy to see Vaughan's work recognized.

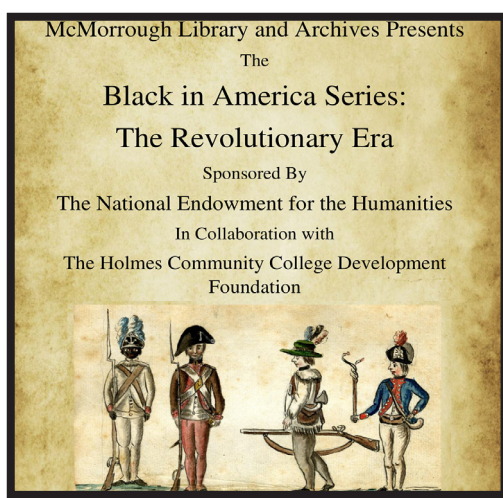
"I honestly think they couldn't have chosen a more deserving person's design," she said. "It's been a long time coming for him that somebody recognizes his talent other than just us and our T-shirt customers."

When commissioners make a final selection on Sept. 2, Vaughan said he hopes "The New Magnolia" prevails.

"At least I'm still part of it," he said of the flag design. "I don't trust anybody else to make it look pretty."

## Black in America Series: The Revolutionary Era exhibit at McMorrough Library

From Staff Reports/Photos



Starting school can often times be terrifying for a student. They are excited. McMorrough Library and Archives is proud to announce the debut of a new exhibit, "Black in America Series: The Revolutionary Era."

The exhibit is the first in a series of humanities events and programs to take place in the newly renovated library facility.

Funding for the exhibit and renovations at the Goodman facility was obtained through the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grant, in conjunction with the Holmes Community College Development Foundation.

The grant will not only provide funding for the renovation of the

building but will facilitate the continuation of McMorrough Library and Archives' long-standing goal of providing informative, quality programming in a modernized and inclusive environment for the benefit of both students and the surrounding community.

## Miller joins Holmes as academic counselor

From Staff Reports/Photos



Simonee Patton Miller has joined the Holmes Community College family as an academic counselor on the Goodman Campus. Miller comes to Holmes from Hinds Community College where she served as a counselor for eight years. She holds a bachelor's degree from University of Mississippi and a master's degree in education from The

Pictured is **Tracy Morgan**, CPA, who joined Holmes as an accounting/business administration instructor.

University of Southern Mississippi. Miller is currently pursuing a doctoral degree from Valdosta State University in Education Administration.

She has over 15 years of experience in college student affairs and academic advising. Miller has worked in residence life, multicultural affairs, service learning and student success coaching. She enjoys assisting students in leadership development, and while at Hinds, she was recognized by Phi Theta Kappa as an honored faculty mentor.

Miller is a member of the Mississippi Counseling Association and the National Academic Advisors Association. She is married to Terry Miller, associate band director at Holmes, and in her spare time she likes to travel and cook. Miller is also an active member of the Beta Delta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sorority Inc.



## Morgan joins Holmes faculty as accounting/business instructor

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Tracy Morgan, CPA, has joined the Holmes Community College family as an accounting/business administration instructor on the Goodman Campus.

Prior to coming to Holmes, Morgan served as a faculty advisor, national trainer and education consultant for Pearson. This position entailed training

Pictured is **Tracy Morgan**, CPA, who joined Holmes as an accounting/business administration instructor.

and advising professors all over the country as they set up their courses inside their learning management systems using publisher software.

Before Pearson, Morgan taught at Mississippi College, as well as for Hinds Community College, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College and Holmes. She served as foundation coordinator at Hinds for six years, as well.

Morgan holds both a bachelor's in

accounting and an MBA from Mississippi College. She also completed additional graduate work in accounting from both MC and Jackson State University. She is a member of the American Institute of CPAs, the Mississippi Society of CPAs and the Committee on Education.

## Hood joins Grenada Campus as speech instructor

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Jake Hood has joined the Holmes Community College family as a speech instructor on the Grenada Campus.

Hood earned his Bachelor of Science in Speech Communication and Psychology as well as his Master of Arts in Speech Communication and Business Administration at Oregon State University. He served as a graduate teaching assistant at Oregon State

Pictured is *(left)* **Jake Hood**, who is a new speech instructor on the Grenada Campus.

University, as well, before becoming a full-time speech communication instructor for the institution. Following OSU, he taught speech communication at Linn-Benton Community College in Oregon.

Hood has a heart for giving back and has volunteered at special school centers, working with people with disabilities. For fun, he enjoys keeping up with the stock market, golfing with family and friends, participating in fantasy football, attempting to be

Gordon Ramsay in the kitchen (and making cereal when it doesn't work out), filling his shelves with books and DVDs, seeing and learning about history and visiting baseball parks across America. He also loves going to Lake Tahoe in California and Nevada in the summer and winter, and visiting his brother Ben and the rest of his family in California.

## Bertucci joins Holmes Ridgeland Campus as ADN instructor

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Dr. Jennifer Bertucci has joined the Holmes Community College family as an Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) instructor on the Ridgeland Campus. Dr. Bertucci was formerly a nurse navigator and floor nurse at Gulfport Memorial Hospital. Prior to that, she

Pictured is *(left)* **Jennifer Bertucci**, who joined the Holmes family as an ADN instructor.

served as a field nurse at Camellia Home Health.

Dr. Bertucci earned her doctoral degree from the University of Southern Mississippi, her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from University of Mississippi Medical Center and her Bachelor of Arts from Saint Thomas University. She held a 3.9 GPA and graduated Magna Cum Laude from both Southern Miss and Saint Thomas.

In her spare time, Dr. Bertucci enjoys

cooking, fishing, bicycling, gardening, hiking and traveling. She is also an active member of Saint Richards Catholic Church and has a four-year-old son, Joseph Michael.

## Turner joins Holmes Ridgeland Campus as ADN instructor

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Alicia Turner has joined the Holmes Community College family as an Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) instructor on the Ridgeland Campus. Turner comes to Holmes from Mississippi Baptist Hospital in Jackson where she worked full-time as head nurse on the 5D oncology unit for nine and a half years. She will continue working for Baptist part-time to help train new nurses on the unit.

A Holmes alumna, Turner holds a mortuary science degree, a practical nursing degree and an ADN degree from the college. Prior to completing her degrees at Holmes, she earned a bachelor's degree in biology from

Pictured is **Alicia Turner**, a new ADN instructor on the Ridgeland Campus.

Jackson State University, and since then, has earned a BSN from the University of Women as well as an MSN from University of Alabama in Birmingham.

Turner was named Nurse Educator 2020 from Baptist and is a member of American Nurses Association, American Psychiatric Nurse Association, Oncology Nursing Society and Phi Theta Kappa Sigma Mu honor society.

In her free time, she enjoys reading, watching movies with her family and working in the yard. Turner also enjoys volunteering at church with the food ministry, singing in the church choir and mentoring new nurses.

Turner and her husband Frederick have been married for 20 years and have three children: Kaylyn, a sophomore nursing major at Dillard University in New Orleans, La.; Maddison, a junior at Hartfield Academy and Brandon, an eighth grade student at Hartfield.



## Harrison joins Holmes family to lead new Culinary Arts program

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Holmes Community College is now offering a Culinary Arts program on the Ridgeland Campus and Chef Alexei Mastin Harrison has joined the staff to lead the program. Harrison is a Starkville native and 2003 graduate of the Mississippi University for Women (MUW) Culinary Arts Institute. She also received a master's degree in hos-

Pictured is **Chef Alexei Harrison**, who joined the Holmes family as a Culinary Arts instructor on the Ridgeland Campus.

pitality management from the University of Alabama.

Chef Harrison launched the culinary arts program at East Central Community College as program coordinator and instructor. While at ECCC, she also provided food and beverage training for the casinos at Pearl River Resort, Tulane University and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

Chef Harrison returned to teach at her alma mater in 2012, serving as assistant professor and director for the MUW Culinary Arts Institute in

Columbus until 2019. She serves the local community, as well, serving as an active judge and facilitator for various high school and community college culinary competitions such as SkillsUSA, DECA and ProStart.

Chef Harrison currently resides in Ridgeland with her husband Chuck. They enjoy boating, cooking and spending time with their grandchildren, Hayes and Emmery.

## Kirk joins Holmes family as Goodman psychology instructor

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Prior to coming to Holmes, Kirk taught in the public school system for five years. She holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Mississippi Medical Center, a Master of Science from Capella University and

Pictured is **Leslie Kirk** who joined the Holmes family as a psychology instructor.

is continuing graduate work at Capella University as she pursues her PhD. She is a member of the American School Counselor Association and Mississippi Professional Educators.

She and her husband, Neil, have a blended family that includes four children: Neil, 14; Macee, 13; Farrah, 7, and Ty, 6. In her free time, Kirk enjoys

reading, fishing and spending time with her family. She is also an active member of Concord Baptist Church in Bentonia.

## Hardeman joins Ridgeland Campus as ADN instructor

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured is **Kim Hardeman**, who joined the Holmes family as an ADN instructor.

Kim Hardeman of Madison has joined the Holmes Community College family as an Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) instructor on the Ridgeland Campus. Prior to Holmes, she was employed with Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital as a nurse circulator. She also has experience as a surgical nurse, both for Eye Care Surgery Center and Blackledge Face Center.

Before becoming a nurse, Hardeman was employed first as an elementary school teacher, working in both Atlanta, Georgia, and New Orleans, Louisiana. She also spent time working as a behavior analysis therapist at the University of Mississippi Medical

Center (UMMC) in Jackson.

Hardeman holds a master's in nursing education from UMMC; a bachelor's in nursing from George Washington University in Washington, D. C.; an ADN degree from Hinds Community College in Raymond and a bachelor's in elementary education from the University of Mississippi in Oxford. She holds her RN license, an educator license for grades K-12, Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) certification and Basic Life Support (BLS) certification.

Hardeman is a member of the Mississippi Nurses Association, American Association of Colleges of Nursing

and Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Theta Beta Chapter. An active member of the community, she served as events coordinator and awards chair for the Blair E. Batson Make A Difference 5K Run; entertainment and silent auction chair for the Annual Diabetes Association of Mississippi Bacchus Ball Fundraiser and as a member of the Junior League of Jackson.

In her free time, Hardeman enjoys painting, yoga and spending time with family. She and her husband, Robby Manning, have three children: Max, 24; Griffin, 20 and Abigail 18.

## Webster joins Holmes family as Massage Therapy Program Director

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Dr. Marquita Webster LMT, MMP, DPT, has joined the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus staff as massage therapy program director.

Dr. Webster is a graduate of Mississippi State University where she earned a bachelor's degree in physical education with a concentration in clinical exercise physiology. After earning her degree from MSU, she pursued and earned her doctoral degree in physical

Pictured is **Dr. Marquita Webster**, who joined the Holmes Ridgeland Campus staff as massage therapy program director.

therapy from Tennessee State University.

In 2013, Dr. Webster decided on a different route, switched careers and became a massage therapist. She graduated and earned her massage therapy certificate from Antonelli College in Jackson in preparation. Upon graduation, she worked for The Sanctuary Body Spa of St. Dominic's Hospital in addition to owning her own mobile massage service.

"I truly enjoy working in the massage therapy profession as well as educating future massage therapists," Dr. Webster said. "I have had the pleasure

of teaching massage to students for six years.

In addition to teaching massage, Dr. Webster has served as massage therapy program director for Antonelli College and the Institute of Health & Technology. She is also a member of the Associated Bodywork & Massage Professionals and the American Massage Therapy Association. Her hobbies include reading, art, writing, learning about self-care and helping and mentoring others in her community and in the massage profession.



## Lane named 2020 Phi Theta Kappa Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



**Olivia Lane**

Holmes Community College student Hannah “Olivia” Lane of Duck Hill is one of the 207 Phi Theta Kappa members who was named a 2020 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar and will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. The daughter of Shirley and Eddie Lane, she is a nutrition major on the Holmes Grenada Campus.

“I have had the privilege of seeing Olivia grow as a leader in Phi Theta Kappa over the past year,” said Grenada Campus Academic Counselor and Phi Theta Kappa Advisor Cynthia Abel. “She steps in where she is needed and succeeds in her given responsibilities as a chapter officer. As vice president of leadership, she brings great project ideas to the table, and I am excited to see her continue to grow

in her leadership ability during her sophomore year at Holmes!”

At Holmes, she has served as vice president of leadership for Phi Theta Kappa, reporter for Student Government Association, an Ambassador and as a member of Baptist Student Union. Lane has also maintained Dean’s List status, worked as a Financial Aid Office work-study student and was voted a Class Favorite.

“Olivia is such an asset to have on the Ambassador and Student Government Association teams,” said Grenada Campus Student Activities Director and Recruiter Haley DeNoon. “She goes above and beyond to make sure tasks get completed and events go smoothly. I always know I can count on her!”

Lane’s future plans include attending Mississippi State University to pursue her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in nutrition and becoming a certified registered dietitian. Eventually she would like to work in a medical facility in a large city and start her family there.

In her free time, Lane enjoys playing soccer and tennis, and works for the Mississippi Fruit & Vegetable Company as a summer employee. She is also a Duck Hill Public Library summer volunteer, a member of Interact Club Garden of Life and an active member of First Baptist Church Grenada.

“Since I started at Holmes CC, everyone has always been so friendly and welcoming to me,” Lane said. “Mrs. Cynthia Abel and Mrs. Bethany Mill-

er have helped me, as have the other PTK officers, to think independently in addition to finding ways to better our college campus and community. Haley DeNoon, the student recruiter and activities coordinator, provides a fun and friendly atmosphere to get our work done. I can safely say that Holmes has been one of the greatest experiences; I have made many friends and several amazing memories that I will carry for the rest of my life. I’m so glad I chose Holmes!”

The Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship Program helps new Phi Theta Kappa members defray educational expenses while enrolled in associate degree programs. Scholars are encouraged to assume leadership roles by participating in Society programs and are selected based on scholastic achievement, community service, and leadership potential. Nearly 700 applications were received.

A total of \$207,000 is awarded through the Leaders of Promise Scholarship Program. The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation provides \$200,000 in funding for the scholarships, with \$25,000 set aside for members who are veterans or active members of the United States military. The remaining amount is supported by donations to the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation and provides seven Global Leaders of Promise Scholarships, earmarked for international students.

“The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation has a long history of providing finan-

cial assistance to outstanding students at community colleges,” said Jane Hale Hopkins, President of the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. “We are proud to partner with Phi Theta Kappa to make it possible for more deserving students to achieve their educational goals and support tomorrow’s leaders of the global community.”

The funds provided by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation not only aid college completion, but also give students the opportunity to engage in Society programs and develop leadership skills to become future leaders in their communities.

“Research shows that Phi Theta Kappa members are four times more likely to complete a college degree than their peers,” said Dr. Monica Marlowe, Executive Director of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation. “The Leaders of Promise Scholarships recognize students for what they have achieved already and assure that financial need isn’t an obstacle to achieving their academic goals.”

Phi Theta Kappa is the premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of students at associate degree-granting colleges and helping them to grow as scholars and leaders. The Society is made up of more than 3.5 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters in 11 nations, with approximately 240,000 active members in the nation’s colleges. Learn more at [ptk.org](http://ptk.org).

## Grenada PTA students redo Duck Hill playground

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured are the items that were donated for the project raffle.

A service project for Duck Hill playground is being spearheaded by the Holmes Community College Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA) students on the Grenada Campus. The incoming freshmen select a service project during their first summer as an annual tradition. The Holmes PTA students are responsible for finding the area of need within the surrounding communities then voting as a class to confirm the project. The class is also responsible for the complete fund raising of the project and to see the project through to completion.

This year, the Holmes PTA class has chosen to revamp the Duck Hill playground just off of Highway 51 behind the Regions Bank. The students se-

lected this project as one of their class members, Ashlyn Bloom, is from Duck Hill. Bloom has a young child whom she would like to take somewhere that is safe and clean to play, and this playground needs some care to meet the local community’s needs. Bloom mentioned the location to her class when they were in the beginning stages of selecting their community service project.

The Holmes PTA class voted on this service project mid-June because they wanted the kids in Duck Hill to have a safe place to play. At the end of June the class met with the mayor of Duck Hill, Joey Cooley, whom passed the process along to the Board of Alderman from Duck Hill. The Holmes

PTA class received approval for the project on July 10 from the Board of Alderman. The Holmes PTA class of 2021 hit the ground running on the fundraising efforts. A raffle was set up and tickets were sold for \$5 or \$20 for five tickets. On July 15, the Holmes PTA class drew the winner through a live Facebook drawing and the winner was Leslie Black of Grenada. Through the raffle, she won a package including two pieces of McCarty Pottery, a candle from Whimsical Soaps and Candles and some cute Holmes merchandise. The initial fundraiser raised \$2755 for the Duck Hill playground project. All the funds will go toward supplies and equipment for them to improve the park/playground.

On July 31, Holmes PTA class held their first work day on the playground. They cleaned and prepped the tennis court for painting, fixed broken playground equipment and stripped equipment for maintenance. Their next work day is planned for Aug. 15. On these future work days they are planning to paint the tennis court and finish the work on the playground equipment. They are also looking to add tables, benches and possibly a walking trail to the area for the community to enjoy. This walking trail would be essential for keeping the community safe and enabling walkers to enjoy their time outdoors.

Local businesses including Home-

front and Lindley Brothers Construction are teaming up with the Holmes PTA class to help them successfully complete the project. Additionally, Sherwin Williams of Grenada has graciously donated supplies to the project and the Friends of the Library in Duck Hill has offered to donate funds toward the walking trail.

The students involved in this project are Jerad Hunt (Cleveland), Karsten Denton (Calhoun City), Tabby Byars (Carrollton), Rebecca Christian (Greenwood), Lindsey McLellan (Winona), Allie Dunn (Carrollton), Katie Pugh (Carrollton), Ashlyn Bloom (Duck Hill), Derek Williford (Flowood), Savanna Gore (Mathiston) and Shelby Ballard (Mantee).

In the past the Holmes PTA class has rehabbed playgrounds in Grenada, bought iPads for the Boys and Girls Club, held food and coat drives for the Grenada food pantry, provided volunteer assistance for the Grenada city fields (including painting/cleaning/building) and held activity drives for the Boys and Girls Club.

The contact for this project is Jerad Hunt ([thunt5@student.holmescc.edu](mailto:thunt5@student.holmescc.edu)) and the class is still taking donations through Venmo: [@Holmes\\_PTA](https://www.venmo.com/Holmes_PTA).

Continue to follow the Holmes PTA class’ service project progress via Facebook [@holmesccmississippi](https://www.facebook.com/holmesccmississippi).



## Holmes graduates inaugural hybrid practical nursing class

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is (center) **Dr. Christi Blair** with some of the graduates.

Holmes Community College kicked off the inaugural class for the hybrid Practical Nursing program in the spring of 2019 and celebrated that class' graduation on June 25. The hybrid program graduates, who shared a pinning ceremony with the face-to-face track class, included: Erin Hopkins of Richland, Sherita Latiker of Carthage, Lisa Nipper of Chatham, Jennifer Potts of Water Valley, Brandy Raines of Pontotoc and Cherry Singh of Ridgeland.

"The inaugural graduates of the Holmes Hybrid Practical Nursing class exceeded my expectations," said PN Chair and instructor Dr. Christi Blair. "I am so proud of all their hard work. They were the first in the state to complete the Practical Nursing program in a hybrid format and we look forward to admitting our second class in August."

Jennifer Potts was named Valedictorian for the inaugural hybrid class while Cherry Singh and Brandy Raines were named salutatorians.

"I have always wanted to be a nurse since I was young, but it just never seemed like the right time to go to nursing school," Potts said. "This hybrid program just opened at the right time to fit my schedule. I work full-time and my husband J.J. and I have

two children, Leah and Cole. We are members of Anchor Baptist Church and have a small family farm that keeps me busy on top of everything else. I appreciated that it was possible to work, still have time for my family and complete the program. Holmes' nursing programs also have a good reputation for being some of the best around.

"I was sad that (due to the pandemic) I missed several clinical sites that I was looking forward to," Potts said. "However, this program still allowed me to get my degree while working full-time. I am actually staying at the current medical clinic where I work and I plan to also do some PRN work in other areas to gain knowledge in different fields. I can say I am honored to be picked as one of the first students for the pilot hybrid program. All the staff members were very helpful with anything I needed during the program. I could not have been more pleased with my experience at Holmes."

The hybrid program is a part-time program that runs over five consecutive semesters. All classroom work is online with lab and clinical work completed face-to-face. This format allows students to continue working while taking part in the nursing program.

"We are very excited to graduate our

first class from the Hybrid Practical Nursing program," said Vice President of Career Technical Education Dr. Amy Whittington. "Thanks to the instructors for pushing ahead with this new program option and making it a success. We are so very proud of these graduates."

The Practical Nursing program prepares students to assist in providing general nursing care under the direction of a registered nurse, licensed physician or dentist. The program also provides intensive preparation for the NCLEX-PN Exam and help with transitioning from student to employee.

"I liked that the lectures were online," said graduate Sherita Latiker. "This allowed me to go back and listen to the lectures as many times as I needed to. I also like that I only had to come to campus to take tests and do labs, although there were times I had to take time off work in order to make it to lab. Overall, I really enjoyed the program. I think it is a good alternative from the face-to-face class format because you can work and do the program. I would definitely recommend this program to future potential candidates; I truly enjoyed it."

Potential students must have a high school diploma or a High School Equivalency (HSE) certificate and provide official transcripts from all schools/colleges previously attended. Applicants must also have a minimum of a 20 on their ACT to apply, which is higher than required for the traditional Practical Nursing program at Holmes. Although college credit is not required for application to the program, applicants with any college credit must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 to be considered for selection.

Admission is selective based on such criteria as: ACT score; college credit GPA; current healthcare licensure (EMT, Paramedic, Certified Nursing Assistant, Surgical Technology) and in-district status. College prerequisites

are not required.

"To say one is first can be both frightening and exhilarating," said Director of Health Science Programs Ginger Meriwether. "Holmes offered the first of its kind in Mississippi for Practical Nursing, the hybrid program. These students have to be motivated and self-disciplined enough to work through assignments and meet deadlines while keeping pace with the demands of nursing education. We are excited to be graduating the first of this cohort."

"Dr. Christi Blair had an epiphany one day and from her ideas, the hybrid program began," Meriwether said. "Dr. Blair has been instrumental in getting the students to this point, and I admire her work ethic and dedication. I am proud of all of the students who have hung in there and arose to meet the challenges of this program. I cannot thank each campus enough for helping to ensure these students were well-cared for and accommodated. From practical nursing instructors, associate degree nursing instructors, counselors, EMS instructors, administrative assistants and beyond, everyone worked to help these students achieve their goals. I am proud to say, truly, there is 'No Place like Holmes!'"

For more information on the Holmes PN program, visit the Practical Nursing Webpage or contact Dr. Christi Blair at [cblair@holmescc.edu](mailto:cblair@holmescc.edu) or (662) 472-9173.

## Pearce retires from Holmes

From Staff Reports/Photos



**Eddie Pearce**

If you visited the Goodman Campus at night over the past eight years either as a student or guest to campus, you've probably run into Eddie Pearce at the security building on Montague Street.

Pearce, 67, a Bessemer, Ala. native, who lives in Carthage, recently announced his retirement and won't be the first person you see when arriving anymore. Pearce came to Holmes 10

years ago as a security officer with Allied Barton, who provided private security for the College until eight years ago when he became a security officer for Holmes.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed it," Pearce said. "They are good kids here. It's been worth it to see some kids change their ways. I've had some kids to come by and say 'Mr. Eddie' can I talk to you? I say sure come on back. They sit and down we talk. They say thank you. They also ask do I believe what I tell them, and I tell them I do."

"Some ask me why I smile all of the time," he said. "I tell them why frown. If you have the Lord why frown because there's it's not need to frown. Think about the good times, don't think about the bad times. I've enjoyed it and had a good time. I'd come in early sometimes just to be here and for no particular reason."

Several of his fondest memories occurred over the last few years. This past Halloween, several softball players dressed as security officers as "Mr.

Eddie." Also, Holmes Connection! Director Mike Yates asked him to make a cameo in one of the production videos.

"I didn't know what to think when that happened," Pearce said of the softball players. "I had to stop and think a minute but yeah. It was fun. I can't forget the time the time Mr. Yates got me to put the wig on. I finally conceded to do it. It was fun."

COVID-19 made the last few months a lot different for Pearce with no students on campus. "There are alot of things go on," Pearce said "A lot of things happen. This has been one of most unusual years that I can remember. I told a lot of kids that I'd see them after Spring Break, and they didn't come back because of this coronavirus and stuff. I really missed them not coming back. It's one of those things that happened. You never know what's going to happen."

One of the things most people do not realize is that Pearce is also a pastor serving the last 50 years. He currently serves as pastor of Open Door Baptist

Church in Kosciusko, where he's been for the last 10 years.

He has also pastored at Bessemer Baptist Bible Church in Bessemer, Ala., Town Creek Baptist Church in Alexander City, Ala., Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Dayville, Ala. and at Temple Baptist Church in Kosciusko. He also was the associate pastor at Temple Baptist Church and also worked with Dr. William Surratt, where he sold Christian education supplies in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.

Pearce is a graduate of Jess Lainer High School (now Bessemer High School). He holds a bachelor's and master's degree in theology from Hyles Anderson Bible College in Hammond, Ind.

He has four children, Cindy Keith of Canton, Jan Watts of Alexandria City, Ala., Mark Pearce of Sallis and Jonathan Pearce of Virginia Beach, Virginia. They have 13 grandchildren.



## Mother, daughter graduate from nursing school together

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Sherita Latiker and LaKenya Latiker.

Sherita Latiker got to experience a rare life event; she graduated side-by-side with her daughter, LaKenya, from Holmes Community College's Practical Nursing program. Both women, who reside in Carthage, were honored during a pinning ceremony held at the Holmes Attala Center in Kosciusko on June 25.

"Going through the nursing program with LaKenya was the best experience," Sherita said. "We would study together, and I really learned a lot from her."

LaKenya echoed her mother's sentiments about going through nursing school together, also noting the perks of having an 'all-the-time study buddy.' "I have never done anything like this," LaKenya said, "and I'm glad we decided to do it together. It was nice having someone to encourage me."

The Holmes PN program offers two

different options, a full-time track and a hybrid option. LaKenya took on the full-time, face-to-face track, while her mother was part of the hybrid program.

"I went into the field of nursing to encourage my daughter," Sherita said. "I wanted her to see that if I could do it, she for sure could do it. For me, I chose Holmes' hybrid nursing program because of the flexibility. It worked out well that I was able to work while I completed the program."

LaKenya said that she'd had dreams of becoming a nurse ever since she was a child.

"As a little girl, it was always my dream to be a nurse," LaKenya said. "I remember when I was diagnosed with a very rare disease, and I had to be hospitalized for a while. The nurses I had were amazing and I knew that I wanted to be just like them. The event that really inspired me to become a

nurse, though, was when my father had a car wreck and I had to help him with daily living activities.

"I chose Holmes' nursing program because I had heard about the wonderful experiences people had there," LaKenya said. "I did my own research and came to the conclusion that this was a program that I wanted to be part of."

During the 2020 spring semester, things took an unexpected turn for the Latiker ladies and the rest of the world when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Despite the hardships of continuing nursing school during the pandemic, however, both mother and daughter prevailed with flying colors.

"One of my challenges was transitioning from face-to-face to online classes," LaKenya said. "I had the most difficult time trying to adjust to that. I was also not able to attend clinical rotations so that made my learning experience a lot more difficult, but I just focused on what was important and pushed through."

"Now that I've graduated, my plans are to get a job, work and go back to school for my BSN," LaKenya said. "I'd like to work in labor and delivery."

Since Sherita was already doing online classes through the hybrid program option, she said her only challenge was not being able to do the face-to-face clinical rotations.

"Now that I've graduated, my goal is to pass the NCLEX and find a job in the clinical setting," Sherita said.

Other than LaKenya, Sherita has another child, Aidan. The Latikers attend Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, and Sherita has volunteered at the Boys and Girls Club in Carthage tutoring students in math.

"The PN program was wonderful," Sherita said. "I had the best instructors, Dr. Christi Blair and Mrs. Tammy Caldwell, who were always available to help me in any way they could, and for that I am forever grateful."

LaKenya agreed with her mother that the instructors really made the program for her.

"The instructors were amazing," LaKenya said. "They were always open to questions and if you needed extra help, they were willing to give it. I absolutely suggest this program to anyone who wishes to pursue a nursing degree."

In addition to the Attala Center in Kosciusko, Holmes offers the Practical Nursing program on the Grenada and Ridgeland campuses, as well. The full-time day track accepts students each August and lasts three semesters. The hybrid options also begins in August and lasts five consecutive semesters. The applications for the PN program are available online at [www.holmescc.edu](http://www.holmescc.edu) Jan. 15-April 30.

For more information on the Holmes PN program, visit the Practical Nursing Webpage. For information on the Attala Center program specifically, contact Dr. Blair at [cblair@holmescc.edu](mailto:cblair@holmescc.edu) or (662) 472-9173.

## Foundation receives \$2500 donation from BankPlus

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Development Foundation, Inc. is proud to announce a \$2,500 donation from BankPlus to be used in matching the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grant received on behalf of the McMorrough Library and Archives.

BankPlus is a full service financial institution with total assets of more than \$4.2 billion serving communities with 80

locations throughout Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana.

The NEH grant will provide the Development Foundation with \$231,849, and the Development Foundation will be responsible for matching these funds through donations. The McMorrough Library and Archives Renovation Project is dedicated to the preservation of humanities and seeks to provide an inclusive environment, offering informative programs

to cultivate critical-thinking citizens.

As part of the proposed efforts to enrich and diversify the scope of humanities, the Development Foundation, which is a 501(c)(3) organization, has a five-year plan to renovate the 1975 structure's interior spaces and their contents. The new multidimensional spaces projected by the McMorrough Library and Archives Renovation Project will secure the practicality of activities set forth by the humanities departments as well as advance the library to become an innovative leader among Mississippi's fifteen community college libraries.

Improvements to the library such as new paint, ceiling tiles, floors and cabinetry began in the spring and continue at this time. Other improvements to the facility will continue over the next four years.

Tax exempt donations can be made to

the Holmes Community College Development Foundation, P.O. Box 527, Goodman, MS 39079. Please contact the Foundation office at (662) 472-9017 to discuss giving opportunities for the matching grant.

### ABOUT THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at [www.neh.gov](http://www.neh.gov).

## Winter Session classes set for Nov. 30-Dec. 23

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College will be offering 18 courses during a Winter Session online format starting Nov. 30. Classes will run through Dec. 23 and can be added to your schedule through the Enroll Now tab at [holmescc.edu](http://holmescc.edu).

Classes being offered include: Art Appreciation, Anatomy and Physiolo-

gy I and II, Computer Applications I, American Literature I and II, American History I and II, Personal and Community Health, College Algebra, Statistics, Spanish I, Music Appreciation, American National Government, General Psychology, Human Growth and Development, Introduction to Sociology and Public Speaking I.

To search for the courses,

For more information, go to <http://holmescc.edu/elearning/index.aspx> or call Cassidy Beall at (662) 472-9120 or email [kwinstead@holmescc.edu](mailto:kwinstead@holmescc.edu).



## Gov. Reeves extends safe return order and relaxes restrictions on businesses, social gatherings as COVID-19 numbers improve

By Lakesia Smith  
Staff Reporter



Gov. Tate Reeves

Reading the Clarion Ledger, I learned that Gov. Tate Reeves is extending a statewide mask mandate through the end of September to help slow the spread of COVID-19. Not only is the mandate going to extend but business capacity limits are also increasing. Being a college student, I started to wonder what this meant for public activities during the school year.

Restaurants may serve more dine-in customers, with the governor now

allowing 75 percent capacity, up from the previous 50 percent. Restaurants may also seat up to 10 people at one table, up from the previous limit of six. Tables must remain at least 6 feet apart. Retail stores and gyms may operate at 75 percent capacity, up from the previous limit of 50 percent. Gyms may remain open 24 hours a day. Under the amended Safe Return order, group gathering limitations are now at no more than 10 indoors or 50 outdoors when social distancing is not possible. If people are able to social distance, group gatherings are set at no more than 20 indoors or 100 outdoors.

With the numbers increasing on how many people can be together at one time, college students are hopeful that by the second semester they will be able to gather for a social event. It is with that thought I stumbled into the office of Goodman Student Activities Coordinator Tina Boyette to ask questions of what's to come. Here's our conversation below.

### Interview with Tina Boyette

**LS:** "Mrs. Boyette, what is your role and duty as student activities coordinator?"

**TB:** "My role is to plan and execute activities on campus three nights a week and be a liaison between teachers and students."

**LS:** "How has COVID-19 affected activities on campus this year?"

**TB:** "In the past, we have had the ability to do activities indoor and outdoor. Some activities including Fall Fest, costume dances, cook-outs, taking students to the movies, etc. However, due to the coronavirus, we had to change how we do student activities. Before the governor had even mandated what we could or could not do, the administration decided we were not going to have any organized public gatherings, neither indoor nor outdoor, for student

activities. The last thing we want to do is put our students at risk so it has limited us to almost no activities what so ever. Seeing that we are having unorganized outdoor intramural activities, I have teamed up with Carlos Andrews (Intramural Coordinator) and we provide drinks, popsicles and different things for their enjoyment."

**LS:** "As numbers are increasing for the number of people allowed at events, do we see any activities happening on campus soon?"

**TB:** "Hopefully with a possible vaccine that could be available in November, we are hoping to resume activities in the spring at full forces starting January."

Well there you have it my fellow Bulldogs, with great hope next semester we will have more activities to enjoy our college year some way, somehow.

## Machine Gun Kelly shoots through this tough year

By Alek Dickerson  
Staff Reporter



The man with a plan is also the same man that wore pink to the 2020 MTV VMAs, Machine Gun Kelly (also

known as MGK). With the coronavirus corona and the recent death of "Black Panther" star Chadwick Boseman, MGK is pushing through causing old and new fans to notice.

Machine Gun Kelly is known for his most famous song "Wild Boy" with Waka Flocka Flame and "Bad Things" with Camille Cabello. Also, as an honorable mention, he made "Rap Devil" as a diss track towards Eminem.

In 2019, Machine Gun Kelly released his album "Hotel Diablo," which included his hit "I think I'm Okay" featuring Travis Baker and Yungblud. His also made a song that blew up called "Candy" featuring Tripie Redd.

Fast forwarding to 2020, Machine

Gun Kelly dropped his first single to his upcoming album "Tickets to My Downfall" on May 1. The song "Bloody Valentine" was such an electric and brand-new style. He then hinted that he was making a music video to go with the song featuring his now girlfriend Megan Fox.

After having his fans wait 19 days for the music video, Machine Gun Kelly released the thrilling music video that reeled in 37 million views.

Having a whole summer to work on his upcoming album, Machine Gun Kelly put out his second single called "Concert for Aliens" on Aug. 4 only reaching 523 thousand views for the audio, 2.3 million views for the lyric video and 3.5 million views for the

music video.

Two days after "Concert for Aliens", he published his third single featuring Blackbear called "My Ex's Best Friend" gaining him 6.5 million views on the lyric video, 2.4 million views on the audio and 7.3 million views for the music video.

Machine Gun Kelly continued to grow as he performed "Bloody Valentine" and "My Ex's Best Friend" at the 2020 VMAs. He musical growth caused him to win the first award of the night for Best Alternative Video.

Machine Gun Kelly's latest project involves a film with Meagan Fox, but it is delayed due to COVID-19.

## Holmes wins 12 awards from 2020 CPRAM Awards Program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Members of the Holmes Community College Marketing/Recruiting and Communications departments received 12 awards during the 2020 College Public Relations Association of Mississippi (CPRAM) Awards Program on Aug. 10. Normally these awards would

be presented during the CPRAM annual conference, but this year's gathering was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Holmes staff members Morgan Bondurant, Mary Margaret Busby, Steve Diffey, Katherine Ellard, Dr. Lindy

McCain and Stephanie Wood each received awards.

Holmes won five awards in the Print Media Division. For the Viewbook category, Stephanie Wood won first place for "Holmes-At-A-Glance," in the Newsletters category, Katherine Ellard, Mary Margaret Busby and Stephanie Wood won second place for "Paw Prints" and for the Annual Report category, Ellard, Busby, Wood, Steve Diffey and Dr. Lindy McCain came in second place for "Foundation Annual Report." Additionally, Wood took home third place in Advertisements for "Congrats Grads!" and third place in Digital Art/Photo Illustration for "Major Experience 'Major Sixx.'"

In the Electronic Media Division, Holmes received six awards total. In the Television Spots category, Wood and Morgan Bondurant won first place for the "Fox40 No Place like Holmes"

segment, and in the Multi-Media Presentation category, they won first for "Holmes CC Convocation 2019." Wood and Bondurant also won third in Web Page for "holmescc.edu" and Diffey won second in Web Page (Sports Only) for "holmesathletics.com." In addition, Wood snagged a first place in Web Advertisements for "Bulldogs Always Have Fun" and Bondurant won second in New Media/Social Media for "Soccer Camp Boys 7v7."

Holmes was also named a Grand Award winner in the Electronic Media Division for Bondurant and Wood's Multi-Media Presentation winner, "Holmes CC Convocation 2019." Additionally, Diffey served on the 2019-20 CPRAM Board as scholarship chair and assisted in the creation and implementation of the virtual awards ceremony.



## Cheatham refreshes Lexington mural

From Staff Reports/Photos



Over the last few weeks, Holmes County residents and other visitors to Lexington and Holmes County have noticed the “There’s No Place Like Holmes” mural on the southeast corner leading up to the courthouse square has been restored and refreshed thanks to Holmes Community College Fine Arts Chair and Art Instructor Jay Cheatham.

The work was made possible from an AIM for CHangE (Advancing, Inspiring, Motivating for Community Health Through Extension) grant received by the City of Lexington from the Mississippi State University Extension Service. MSU received \$5.5 million from the Centers for Disease Control Prevention.

The AIM for CHangE grant initiative goals include reducing obesity rates through a comprehensive approach

that not only addresses issues within food systems, such as access to healthy foods, but also takes environmental and policy-level approaches to help communities address issues such as outdoor recreation, community walkability and educational programming.

A dozen of the state’s 82 counties have adult obesity rates higher than 40 percent. Phase One of the grant targeted Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena and Sharkey counties.

Lexington Mayor Robin McCrory and Holmes Community College President Dr. Jim Haffey approached Cheatham about updating the mural that was done originally created by the 1996 Holmes County Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class. Plans were to utilize Holmes students to complete the project but when

COVID-19 forced students to do their classwork from their homes, Cheatham decided to tackle the project himself.

“I remember when it was originally painted back in 1996 and liked the idea of using murals for community rejuvenation and civic pride,” said Cheatham.

He said it took about a week to complete. “I would start at dawn and paint until the heat came up and then come back around 5:30 p.m. and paint until dark” he said.

Cheatham has had a hand in either updating existing murals or done new ones in Yazoo City or Ackerman to go with the one in Lexington. He has done 15 total since this time last year including Southaven and Memphis.

“In 1996 I was contacted by the mayor of Yazoo City and painted my first true mural for their downtown, to help bring new life to the city,” Cheatham said. “It’s still there...a large train with happy children smiling. I don’t know how many murals I have painted since then...several dozen. This year there has been a resurgence in interest for murals and I have painted all around the state.”

Lexington received funds from the Mississippi Department of Transportation to work on Yazoo Street, where the mural is located, and other streets in town. Lighting has been installed along with brick walkways and the addition of benches and waste receptacles.

“The state extension service believes that enhancing or refurbishing visual appearances of a destination or location can increase the attractiveness and traffic to an area,” McCrory said of the AIM for CHangE grant. She said anything that is visually appealing can be connected to economic development in

the area.

“I knew that I needed somebody who was an artist to work on that,” she said. “You can’t get lay people and volunteers. We were excited with Dr. Haffey’s vision and seeing the need and allowing us to use Jay’s services. We are looking forward to having that mural there for many years to come and increase the walkability of our downtown causing more people to come see us.”

Lexington has a blue’s marker on Yazoo Street, and she said it’s important to beautify that area. “We just have so much connectivity to music, both gospel and blues that originated right here in Lexington. They performed many a night on Saturday night when I was growing up.”

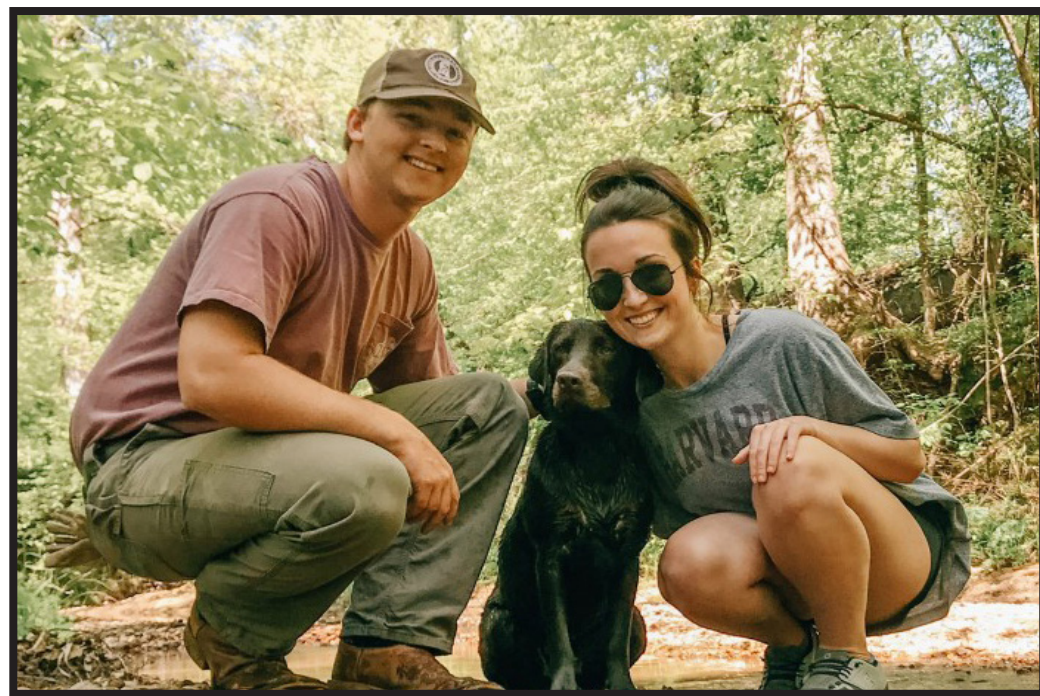
Raised gardens for the community will also be added as part of the grant. Components to build the beds, soil, seeds and fertilizer are included as well as well as fencing to protect it from wildlife, she said.

Lexington has secured other grants to add in the beautification effort and the push for a healthier Holmes County. One of the areas receiving lots of attention is the Milton Lee Olive Park off Mulberry Circle, where a one-mile walking trail and playground equipment have already been installed. Plans are for a splash pad, an adult workout area and an outdoor classroom to be added at the park. Monies for this will come from Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the AIM for CHangE grant and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

“All of these changes increase the attractiveness of Lexington which can lead to more opportunities for economic development,” said McCrory.

## Holmes alumna well on her way to successful career path

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is (right) Holmes alumna **Bailey Hudson** with her boyfriend, Holmes alumnus **Baylee Jones**.

Bailey Hudson of Flora, daughter of Melissa McCoy and Shane Hudson, is well on her way to a successful career

path thanks to her education degree from Holmes Community College.

Upon graduation from Holmes, Hud-

son transferred to Delta State University where she is taking online courses. She is finishing up her junior year this semester, will be a senior in the spring and plans to graduate in December of 2021. During the 2020-21 school year, she will also serve as an assistant teacher at Bentonia Gibbs Elementary School.

“I plan to work as an assistant teacher so I can gain experience while I finish my bachelor’s degree,” Hudson said. “My end goal is to become an elementary teacher, but I don’t have a specific grade I want to teach. I just feel as though God has called me to this profession and I can’t wait to see what He has in store for me when I officially become a teacher!”

Though academics and were her main focus while at Holmes, Hudson was also active in campus activities. She was named both a Freshman Class Favorite and a Freshman Homecoming

Maid.

“I loved being on Homecoming Court!” Hudson said. “It was so much fun getting dressed up and I met so many new friends at the other Holmes campuses.”

Outside of school, Hudson loves outdoor activities such as hunting and fishing. She is also currently working at a nutrition club and a hair salon.

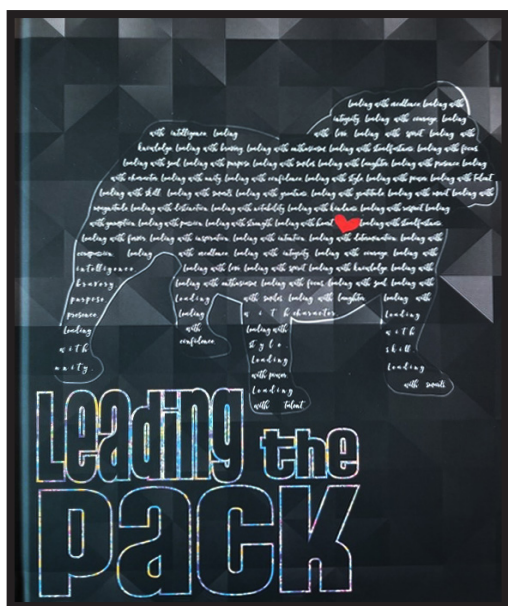
Although she is still working toward her end goal of earning her bachelor’s in education, Hudson said she already knows that Holmes was the best choice for her to start her education off with a strong foundation.

“I absolutely loved Holmes,” Hudson said. “I highly recommend doing your first two years of college there because it’s a great adjustment from high school and the teachers are awesome!”



## Holmes wins awards in state yearbook competition

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College's Horizons yearbook received a few different honors during the 2019-20 Mississippi Community and Junior College Press Association yearbook competition. Yearbooks were judged in six categories: cover, theme, coverage, design, copy and photography.

This year, Holmes' yearbook theme was "Leading the Pack," and Horizons came in fifth place overall. Horizons

(left) Pictured is the cover of the 2020 Holmes Horizons Yearbook, "Leading the Pack."

also placed third in the coverage category, third in the copy category and tied for third in the design category. Holmes also placed fourth in photography, fifth in the cover category and tied for sixth place in the theme category.

The 2019-20 Horizons staff members included: Kaitlyn Anderson of Jackson, Ashlee Hankins of Duckhill, Tiara LeFlore of Byram, Talor Pounds of Grenada, Aurora Sant' Angelo of Jackson, Deja Sloan of Madison and Ayliahna Wilson of Brandon. Anderson and Sloan served as 2019-20 editors.

The 2020 yearbook cover was created by Jostens' graphic designers (under

the direction of the yearbook editors) and the yearbook is advised by public relations specialist/publications coordinator Mary Margaret Busby.

For more information about student publications at Holmes, contact Busby at [mbusby@holmescc.edu](mailto:mbusby@holmescc.edu) or (601) 605-3376.

## Last Round of Makeup Yearbook Photos scheduled for January

From Staff Reports/Photos



Matt Sweeney with N-Focus Photography will return to Holmes Community College in January for the last round of make-up yearbook photos. He will be on the Ridgeland Campus on Tuesday, Jan. 19, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Student Union. Next, he will be on the Goodman Campus on Wednesday, Jan. 20, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Lorraine Student Center. Finally, he will be in Grenada on Thursday, Jan. 21 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the campus deli.

In addition to serving as yearbook

portraits, these photos will be available to faculty and staff for personal use.

Only photos taken during the 2020-2021 school year will be used in the 2021 Horizons Yearbook.

For any questions about yearbook photos, contact Mary Margaret Busby at [mbusby@holmescc.edu](mailto:mbusby@holmescc.edu).

## Holmes nursing program ranked #3 in state

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College has been ranked the #3 best nursing pro-

gram in Mississippi by RegisteredNursing.org, a nursing advocacy organization. The mission of RegisteredNursing.org is to help those interested in pursuing a career in registered nursing.

Nursing programs were assessed on several factors which represent how well a program supports students towards licensure and beyond. The organization analyzed past and present first time NCLEX-RN pass-rates, weighted by year. To learn more about the methodology used visit <https://www.registerednursing.org/rn-ranking-methodology/>.

"We have just released our list of 2020 Best RN Programs," said Sally

Worthington from RegisteredNursing.org. "On behalf of our team, it is my pleasure to congratulate Holmes Community College's program on being ranked as one of the best in Mississippi. Congratulations to the entire team on this outstanding accomplishment!"

The Holmes Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program is a 66-hour program and graduates earn the Associate of Applied Science degree. Holmes offers the ADN program at both the Grenada and Ridgeland campuses. The two-year program is designed to provide educational opportunities to qualified students for a career in nursing. Accredited by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning

of Mississippi ([www.ihl.state.ms.us](http://www.ihl.state.ms.us)) and the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc. (ACEN), the program responds to the expanding health care needs of the community, and the curriculum includes a balance of general education, nursing theory and laboratory/clinical experience.

For more information on the Holmes ADN programs, contact Dr. Austin at [austin@holmescc.edu](mailto:austin@holmescc.edu) or (601) 605-3419.

## Attala Center sponsors "Cruisin' for a Wish" event

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Attala Center sponsored a "Cruisin' for a Wish" event, benefiting the Make-A-Wish Foundation, on Monday, Oct. 5 at 10 a.m. There was a large card for those who made a donation to sign during the event.

During the entire month of October, Boswell Media and the Make A Wish Foundation will be "Cruisin' for a Wish," with the official "Cruisin' for a Wish" truck traveling to local businesses in Attala, Leake, Neshoba, and Winston counties to raise money to help grant wishes for kids in each county.



## MACJC/Region XXIII champions receive their rings

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured are members of the **2019 Holmes Community College Women's Soccer Team** with their MACJC/Region XXIII championship rings.

The 2019 Holmes Community College Women's Soccer Team celebrated one final time on Sept. 19 on the Ridgeland Campus as they received their MACJC/Region XXIII championship rings.

The Lady Bulldogs finished the 2019 campaign with an 18-3 record which included their fourth straight North Division championship, a MACJC State championship and a Region XXIII title. The Lady Bulldogs made their first appearance in a NJCAA District Championship coming up short against Tyler Junior College.

The Lady Bulldogs defeated Jones College in the semi-finals of the MACJC State Tournament at Hinds

Community College before knocking off Itawamba Community College in the championship game. The Lady Bulldogs then defeated LSU-Eunice in the Region XXIII Championship game, 1-0, before falling to Tyler, 7-1, in Ridgeland in the Gulf South District Championship game.

The Lady Bulldogs were ranked all through the 2019 campaign and held a No. 14 ranking going into the NJCAA Gulf South District Championship in Ridgeland.

To view more pictures from the ring ceremony, go to <https://www.facebook.com/media/set?vanity=HolmesAthletics&set=a.3284558088247387>.

## Bulldogs release signing class for 2020-21

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



**Head Coach Jason Flanigan**

The 2020-2021 Holmes Community College recruiting class has been completed, and excitement is in the air for the upcoming basketball season.

Head Coach Jason Flanigan and Assistant Coach Eric Colbert worked hard in their pursuit to bring the Holmes Community College Bulldogs another championship team. Nine freshman have joined the Dogs, and championship pedigree surrounds this recruiting class.

Jordan Brister is a 5'9 point guard

from Jackson by way of Callaway High School, where he was a key contributor for the State Champion Chargers. Jordan is a tough, athletic guard who should provide a spark in the backcourt for the Bulldogs with his athleticism and experience.

Jailen Jones is a 6'2 shooting guard from Starkville and the State Champion Starkville High School Yellowjackets. Jailen was a big shot taker and maker for the Yellowjackets in their championship run. Jailen is an athletic guard with a huge upside who should provide instant excitement for the Bulldogs.

Noel Scott is a 6'3 combo guard from Los Angeles, Cali. This past season, Noel prepped at National Prep School Powerhouse Woodstock Academy in Connecticut. Noel is a tough hard-nosed guard who stays on the attack and should be able to provide the Bulldogs with toughness and grit at both guard spots this upcoming season.

DeMarcus Gray is a 6'7 Forward from Carthage, where he played at Leake Central High School. Demarcus is an athletic forward who runs the floor hard and plays above the rim. DeMarcus helped the Leake Central

Gators to a 16-9 record and second round playoff run this season. DeMarcus will provide length and athleticism for the Bulldogs.

Charlie Jones is a 6'4 Forward from Camden, where he played for the Velma Jackson Falcons. Charlie was a major piece in the Falcons run to the State Championship game. Charlie is an athletic forward who can knock down the jumper as well as attack off the dribble. Charlie will be a Bulldog to be reckoned with.

Isaiah Sheffield is a 6'3 wing from Olive Branch, where he attended Lewisburg High School. Isaiah scored over 1000 points in high school proving he can score the basketball. Isaiah will bring his scoring prowess to Goodman this year, providing an offensive spark for the Bulldogs.

Olanrewaju Olayinka is a 6'8 forward from Rowlett, Texas and Rowlett High School. "LJ" is another long athletic forward who is big in the paint. LJ will be called upon to help solidify the frontline of the defense for the Bulldogs this season.

Zanteous Thornton is a 6'3 wing from Gulfport, where he prepped at Christian Collegiate Academy. Zan-

teous was a major contributor for the CCA Bulldogs where he helped them to a 20-win season. Zanteous is a crafty wing who is an athletic slasher that will provide highlights for the Bulldogs this season.

Micah Oguin is a 6'4 forward from Moss Point, where he prepped at East Central High School. Micah was a do-it-all player for the Hornets as he played inside out. Micah can stretch the defense with his ability to shoot the ball, and is a strong body forward who can go down low and bang. He will bring strength and versatility to the Bulldogs this season.

"This talented class is filled with winners and hard workers who will bring not only skill sets but their winning ways to Goodman," Assistant Coach Eric Colbert said. "Adding these freshmen to a strong sophomore core and we are looking forward to an exciting 2020-2021 season for the Bulldogs."

## Hailey Ellingburg named volunteer softball coach

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



**Hailey Ellingburg**

Philadelphia native Hailey Lunderman Ellingburg has joined the Holmes softball coaching staff as a volunteer coach.

Ellingburg, a member of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, graduated from Neshoba Central High School and played for Holmes Head

Coach Trae Embry during her high school career. Her teams won six state championships, three in slow pitch and three in fast pitch.

She was awarded Female Athlete of the Year and Gatorade Player of the Year in 2015. After graduating from Neshoba Central, she played softball at the University of Mississippi for one season, where she was named to the SEC All-Freshmen team, Top Ten Finalist for Freshman of the Year, SEC All-Academic Team, and was one of the Faces in the Crowd in a Sports Illustrated magazine.

"I made my decision to volunteer at Holmes because I have played softball my entire life, and it gives me the opportunity to surround myself with the sport again," Ellingburg said. "Also, my husband, Tristan, will be coaching softball there as well. It is a great opportunity to build something together and make a name for ourselves."

"I have experience at a D-1 level

softball program which allows me to incorporate things that I have learned to the players at Holmes," she said. "I especially can work with slappers and middle infielders because I was a left-handed hitter and shortstop at Ole Miss."

"I played for three years under Coach Embry at Neshoba Central. He is a great coach who built a dynasty at Neshoba. He takes care of his players and treats them like family. When you walk on that field, he expects his players to play to the best of their abilities. He is a great leader, and I hope to learn a lot from him. I enjoyed my time at Neshoba playing under him. Because of his leadership, my team was able to win many state championships, and most people do not get the opportunities that he helped create for his players."

"Hailey will add a wealth of knowledge to our softball program," Embry said. "She was a left handed hitter that

was able to hit for power or lay down a bunt. She will help work with our slappers and our pitchers. Hailey was a standout shortstop for me at Neshoba where she won Gatorade Player of the Year and then went on to play at Ole Miss. She was a very vital part of each team at Neshoba that she played on and was the leader of the team on the field.

"It was very important to get Hailey on board with us to help us in the whole game of softball," he said. "With her knowledge and connections we feel like that it will help us in recruiting of new athletes and help players move on to the next level. Hailey has experienced the D1 level and understands what it takes to play at that level and the amount of work that must be put in."

Ellingburg is finishing up her degree in psychology at Ole Miss in an online format.



## Faith joins the Bulldog coaching staff as wide receivers coach

From Staff Reports/Photos



Tony Faith

Holmes Community College Head Football Coach Raymond Gross has named Tony Faith as the new volunteer wide receiver's coach.

Faith began his coaching career under the legendary, Holmes Community College and Mississippi Hall of Fame coach, Ricky Joe Black of Jackson Preparatory School.

While at Jackson Prep in 2017, the Patriots went undefeated during his first year and also won, at that time, their sixth straight state championship, which is a new Mississippi High School state record surpassing the powerhouse South Panola Tigers that

had won five in a row. The Patriot wide receivers led the MAIS 4A division in receptions, receiving yards, and receiving touchdowns during that season. Since that time, the Patriots have won another state championship in 2018, which makes eight consecutive state titles, and was runner-up in 2019.

Faith has coached wide receiver Nevin Wells and All-American running back Jerrion Ealy, both of Ole Miss. Defensive back Cooper Carroll of Harding University is another athlete that was coached under Faith's leadership.

After building a great relationship

with new Holmes Head Coach Raymond Gross, he was able to have an opportunity to lead the Holmes Bulldogs wide receivers, and he's mentioned countless times about how appreciative, blessed, and thankful he is for the opportunity.

Faith was a four-sport athlete at Yazoo County High School. He brings discipline, effort and consistency to the Holmes Bulldogs' wide receivers corp.

He's currently finishing his bachelor's degree in psychology at DePaul University. Faith has a two-year-old son, Tylan.

## Bulldogs suspend football program for two weeks due to COVID-19

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College has decided to suspend all football operations until Friday, Oct. 16 due to positive COVID-19 tests and a large number of team members falling under the contact tracing protocol.

The football players will be required to leave Cook Dorm on the Goodman Campus and hold their classes in a virtual format. Both the academic and

career-technical divisions will reach out to the athletes during this time so they can complete their classwork.

"The health and safety of our players are our number one priority," Holmes Athletic Director Andy Wood said.

"The decision to suspend operations for two weeks follows protocols set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We are looking forward to

a safe return for our players and coaches in the coming weeks."

"The world we are living in is going through unprecedented times, and we are just as upset as you are right now," Head Coach Raymond Gross told his players. "We, along with the school's leadership team, have made this decision in order to try to get you all back on the field as soon as possible."

Holmes will reach out to the Mississippi Association of Community Colleges Conference to decide on whether the Oct. 8 home game versus Itawamba and the road game on Oct. 17 at Mississippi Delta will be made up.

Please follow Holmes Athletics on Facebook and Twitter as updates become available along with the athletic website at holmesathletics.com.

## Bulldogs fall in season opener, 35-10

From Staff Reports/Photos



Photo by Michael H. Miller, NEMCC

The Raymond Gross era didn't start off the way he and the Bulldogs wanted as Northeast Community College took advantage of some Bulldog miscues early to pull out a 35-10 win in the 2020 season opener at home Thursday night, Oct. 1.

The Bulldogs return to action on Thursday versus Itawamba in Good-

man at 6:30 p.m. You can watch the game live at holmesccmedia.com/white-channel or listen on the Bulldog Radio Network on 101.1 FM, 103.9 FM, 100.1 FM or on breezynews.com.

The Tigers got on the scoreboard first in the first quarter after the Bulldogs mishandled a punt attempt in the end zone, and the Tigers recovered for a

touchdown. The extra point was good, and Northeast led 7-0 with 4:55 left in the first.

The Bulldogs got on the scoreboard in the second quarter when sophomore kicker Blake Backel blasted a 40-yard field goal through the uprights with 11:09 to play before halftime.

Northeast added another score on a 29-yard touchdown pass just before halftime to go up 14-3 after the extra point was good.

The lead grew to 21-3 with 12:56 to play in the third after the Tigers picked up a Bulldog fumble at the Holmes 20 and raced it in for the score. The extra point was good.

The Tigers added another passing touchdown with 6:58 to play in the third from 64 yards out. The extra point made the score 28-3 after the extra point was good.

Holmes got its final points of the

game when sophomore running back Walter Ivory raced in from 14 yards. Backel's extra point made it 28-10 with 13:10 left in the game.

Northeast's final score came with 11:35 to play on a passing touchdown from 15 yards out. The extra point ended all scoring at 35-10.

Devontaye Bankston led the Bulldogs in rushing with 94 yards on 19 carries while Walter Ivory added 49 yards on eight carries and a touchdown.

Freshmen linebackers Daykian Edwards and Jordan Milton led the Bulldogs in tackles with six each. Milton added two tackles for loss while Edwards had one. Colin Hunt and Edwin Herard each had five tackles. Jordan Rupert, Devin Chambers and Cedric Tooson each had four tackles with Chambers adding a tackle for loss.

## Lady Bulldogs add five players to 2020-21 team

From Staff Reports/Photos



Head Coach Jamilah Andrews

Holmes Community College Head Women's Basketball Jamilah Andrews is pleased to announce the newcomers to the 2020-21 Lady Bulldog basketball team.

Newcomers include: Synphanie Berry, post, Jefferson Davis County High School, Prentiss; Jamiah Davis, post, Terry High School, Bryam; Amarie Adnerson, guard, Baldwin High School, Baldwin; Sha'Toria Vigne, guard/forward, North Pike High School, McComb; and Tyianna Robinson, guard, McClellan High School, Ark; Little Rock, Ark.

"We are super excited about our 2020 upcoming season," Head Coach Jamilah Andrews said. "We have eight returning players who have set high standards and created a solid foundation for our incoming class. The girls competed both on and off the court advancing to the State Tournament as well as in the classroom. The leadership they displayed this year is beyond comparison! They were a mature group who desired to be great."

"Fortunately, we have signed some fierce freshmen to the mix who are not opposed to hard work," she added.

"While Anderson and Robinson are quick guards that can handle the ball, penetrate, and score, we have also added Berry, Davis, and Vigne to our post. Berry will help us greatly in the post with her size and aggressiveness, Davis is a long post who runs the floor well, while Vigne is an undersized guard/post who can score also.

"We anticipate that this group of ladies will give us a depth we were missing. They are all familiar with our style of play and will fit our system perfectly."



## Ullom joins Holmes family as Assistant Athletic Trainer

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Justin Ullom

Justin Ullom MAT, LAT, ATC, of Wildwood, Missouri, has joined the Holmes family as a certified assistant athletic trainer.

Ullom comes to Holmes from Lindenwood University-Belleville in Belleville, Illinois, where he worked as an assistant athletic trainer, assistant drug testing coordinator and adjunct instructor since April 2019. At Lindenwood, he worked directly with the basketball and wrestling teams. During this time, he conducted orthopedic evaluations, diagnoses and rehabilitations, conducted administrative work, coordinated the drug testing program and also taught exercise physiology courses.

As a graduate student, he worked with Lindenwood from Aug. 2018-Aug. 2019. During this time he worked with the women's and men's hockey teams and the football team. He also worked at the ESPN Wide World of Sports in Orlando, Florida from June 2018-Aug. 2018 and at Bishop DuBourg High School in St. Louis, Mo., where he worked with men's and women's volleyball, men's and women's basketball, baseball, women's soccer and track and field.

He served as a personal trainer with Athletic Republic in St. Louis and spent some time with Epic 6 Laser Tag and Sports Arena in Fenton, Mo. and with Sports Fusion in Chesterfield, Mo.

He holds a bachelor's degree in exercise science from Saint Louis University in St. Louis and a master's degree in athletic training from Saint Louis University.

He is a member of the National Athletic Trainers' Association. He is a certified CPR/AED Professional Rescuer for the American Red Cross and is a certified athletic trainer in both Illinois and Missouri.

Ullom resides in the Ridgeland area with his girlfriend, Alaina, and their rescue pup, Harvey.

## Taylor joins the Bulldog football coaching staff

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Dwayne Taylor

New Orleans native Dwayne Taylor joined the Bulldog football coaching staff this season as running backs and slot backs coach.

Taylor comes to Holmes Community College from Texas Wesleyan University where he served for two seasons as wide receiver coach and recruiting coordinator. Prior to going to Texas Wesleyan he worked at Trinity International University as defensive backs coach, recruiting coordinator and special teams coordinator.

He has experience on the high school

level as well serving as head coach at Delta Charter School in Ferriday, La. He also served as defensive coordinator at Wilkinson County High School in Mississippi and associate head coach and offensive coordinator at St. Helena High School in Louisiana.

Taylor is a graduate of Alcorn State University earning a bachelor's degree in recreation. He played safety for the Braves and was a four-year letterman being named special team captain his senior year. He attended McDonogh 35 HS during his prep years and was a

two-time All-District selection and All-State selection in his senior year. He also lettered in baseball and track and was a member of the National Honor Society maintaining a 3.4 GPA.

He and Arnela Viso have four children, Braelynn, 8; Benjamin, 7; and newborn twins, Dwayne (Tre) III and Alisa.

## Swarers joins Holmes family as linebackers and special teams coordinator

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Dylan Swarers

Fort Payne, Ala. native Dylan Swarers is in his first season as linebackers and special teams coordinator.

Swarers comes to Holmes from Oklahoma Panhandle State University in Goodwell, Okla., where he served as recruiting coordinator/special teams coordinator and linebackers coach. At OPSU, he handled the overall vision for the recruitment of student athletes; handled all aspects of special teams; handled travel; and coached the linebackers.

Prior to OPSU, he was a graduate assistant coach and was in charge of

defensive quality control at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, from July 2018-January 2019. From July 2017-July 2018, he served as defensive backs, recruiting coordinator and co-special teams coordinator at East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, Texas. From June 2016-July 2017, he taught social studies and coached football and track at West Brook High School in Beaumont, Texas.

From 2014-January 2015, he served as a defensive graduate assistant at Minot State University in Minot, North

Dakota. His first coaching job was at Webber International University in Babson Park, Fla. serving as a defensive student assistant coach.

Swarers holds an associate's degree in general education from the State College of Florida and a bachelor's degree in sport business management from Webber International University. He has a master's degree in elementary education from Stephen F. Austin State University.

He and his wife, Ashley, have two children, Dawson and Addylan.

## Gibson joins Holmes coaching staff

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Holmes Community College Head Football Coach Raymond Gross announced that Starkville native Le'Marcus Gibson has been named the new defensive coordinator for the Bulldogs.

Gibson joined the Bulldog football coaching staff in 2019 as associate head coach/defensive backs coach. Pri-

Pictured (left) is Defensive/Recruiting Coordinator **Le'Marcus Gibson**.

or to Holmes, he served as defensive coordinator at Oklahoma Panhandle State University for one season and defensive back/strength and conditioning coach for two seasons there as well. He coached at Nicholls State University and was a graduate assistant at Grambling State University.

He played safety and outside linebacker at the University of Hawaii in 2007 before transferring to Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College for his

2008 season. He played 2010, 2011 and 2012 for University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

Gibson graduated from Harrison Central High School in 2007. He holds a bachelor of science degree in kinesiology from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette and a master's degree in sports administration from Grambling State University.



## Summers returns to Holmes coaching staff

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Holmes Community College alumnus and Southaven native Jacob "Cob" Summers has returned to Holmes Community College as offensive coordinator. Summers coached last season at Mississippi College after serving as offensive line coach at Holmes during the 2018 season.

Pictured (left) is Offensive Coordinator **Cob Summers**.

Summers played along the offensive line for two seasons (2016-17) at Harding University in Searcy, Ark. While at Holmes, Summers played along the offensive line from 2014 and 2015. He received the Col. Brad MacNealey Leadership Award and the team's offensive lineman award and

was a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

A 2014 graduate of DeSoto Central High School in Southaven, Summers holds an associate's degree from Holmes and a bachelor's degree from Harding.

## Edwards joins Holmes as associate head coach/defensive line coach

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Jackson native Montra Edwards is in his first season as associate head coach/defensive line coach at Holmes Community College.

Edwards comes to Holmes from Holmes County Central where he served as a football assistant coach. He also coached at Murrah High School, S.V. Marshall Junior High and Canton High School. He is the owner/founder of the Jackson Giants Sports Club in

Pictured (left) is **Montra Edwards**

Jackson and has been since 2001. He has professional coaching experience with Omaha Beef in Omaha, Neb., Quad City Steamwheelers in Moline, Ill. and San Diego Shockwave in San Diego, Cali.

Edwards holds an associate's degree in general studies from Hinds Community College and a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies from Jackson State University. He also took classes at Middle Tennessee State University. He played football at these institutions as well. At Hinds, his teams won

back-to-back MACJC Championships and went to two bowl games (Mineral Water Bowl in 1994 and Texas Shrine Bowl in 1995) and had a record of 21-3.

He has two sons, Montra Edwards, Jr. and Noah James Edwards.

He has professional playing experience with the Biloxi Firedogs, Rochester Brigade in Rochester, N.Y., Tulsa Talons in Tulsa, Okla., Billings Mavericks and the Billings Outlaws in Billings, Montana.

## Coach DeLoach releases names of Bulldog newcomers for 2020-21

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



**Head Coach Scott DeLoach**

Holmes Community College Head Baseball Coach Scott DeLoach is pleased to announce the newcomers to the 2020-21 Bulldog baseball team.

Newcomers include: Hunter Barron, infielder, Yazoo County; Hayden Beall, infielder/pitcher, Ethel; Hayden Bosarge, pitcher, Tri-County; River Burrell, infielder, Kosciusko; Will Cook, infielder/pitcher, Kosciusko; Darian Duhon, outfielder, North Vermillion, La.; Jacob Duncan, infielder, Hernando; Peyton Gates, pitcher, Harrison Central; Jase Grantham, infielder, East Webster; Abbott Hankins, infielder, Grenada; Kaidyn Harrell, infielder/

pitcher, Captain Shreve, La.; Matt Jones, outfielder, Raymond; Charlie Lott, pitcher/infielder, New Albany; Heath McBride, outfielder/pitcher, Kosciusko; Jake McKay, catcher/pitcher, Ocean Springs; Ethan Parmegiani, catcher, St. Aloysius; Evan Scott, catcher, Kosciusko; Dillon Spears, pitcher, Clinton (Hinds CC transfer); Tyler Starnes, outfielder, Madison-Ridgeland; Landon Wells, pitcher/infielder, Choctaw County; and Brody Wilkins, pitcher, Madison Central.

"I am excited about the group of guys we have joining our program this Fall," DeLoach said. "Not only

will these 20 guys each bring baseball talent to campus, but I think we have assembled an incoming class of good character that will make an impact in our community.

"Each of these guys are hungry to grow and develop in this game, and it takes that individual desire to be successful and to have a chance to win in this league," he said. "There are a lot of different skillsets coming in, and I am excited to see how all of the pieces fit together with nucleus of guys that we have returning."

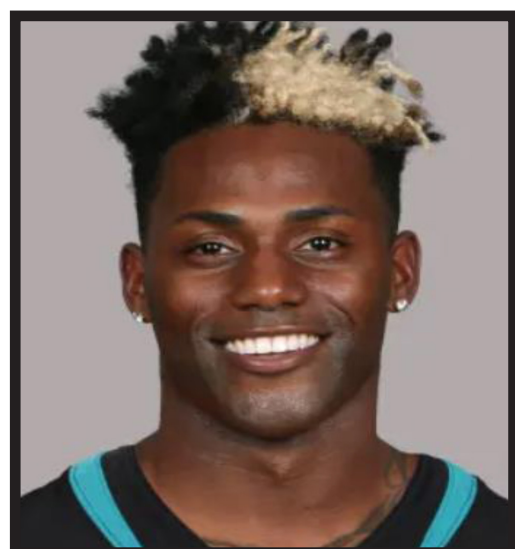
## Holmes soccer alumnus makes mark in the NFL

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured is **Jon Brown** kicking his first field goal ever as a Jaguar.

Former Holmes Community College men's soccer Jonathan (Jon) Brown, originally of Clinton, kicked his first



Pictured is **Jon Brown** as a Jacksonville Jaguar.

field goal ever in a football game in the Jacksonville Jaguars' 34-16 loss to the Detroit Lions in Jacksonville

Sunday.

Brown hit a 31-yard field for the Jaguars and also added an extra point and also missed a 32-yard field goal. He was the fifth kicker used by the Jaguars this season.

He was part of the 2012 MACJC runner-up Holmes men's soccer team. The Bulldogs finished the season 12-4-2 after their season came to an end in the Region XXIII Tournament play-in game versus Meridian. He had three goals and three assists for Holmes during his one season.

Prior to Holmes, Brown played both soccer and football at Clinton. He was named freshman of the year, best offensive player as a junior and MVP as a senior and was a two-time All-State selection at Clinton. He finished his career with 38 goals as a defender.

In football, he played wide receiver for the Arrows.

Before Holmes, he played one season of soccer at the University of Kentucky before he went to Louisville and eventually walked onto the football team where he served as a kickoff specialist but never attempted a field goal.

His first professional contract was with the Cincinnati Bengals. He was waived by Cincinnati in September 2018 and as signed by the San Francisco 49ers in 2019 and was later waived. He was signed by the Jaguars in 2019 and then waived before re-signing on Oct. 14.

Brown was also a member of the USA men's U17 national team.





# The Growl Staff



## **Kaitlyn Anderson**

Hometown: Madison  
Campus: Ridgeland  
Major: Mass Communications & Journalism

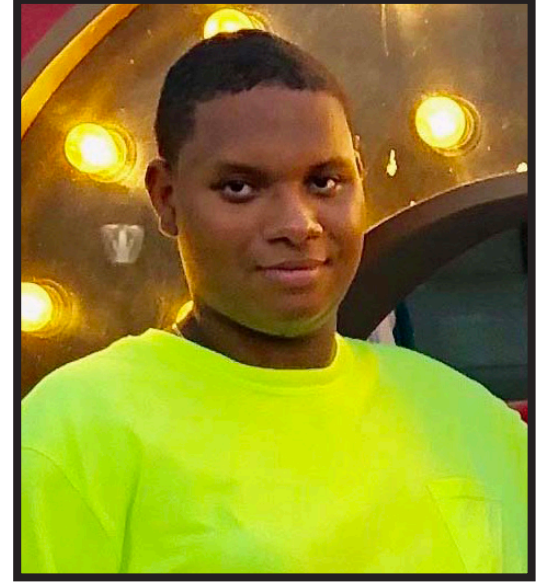
Kaitlyn “Kay-Kay” Anderson is a sophomore at Holmes majoring in mass communications. She is part of the newspaper staff and was a member of the year book staff last semester. Anderson works part-time for Pinelake church, where she is part of the worship team and also a coach for next gen. She is also a social media manager and writer for Woman to Woman the Magazine with Joanne. In her free time, she loves to write, sing, dance and spend time with family and friends. Anderson also loves writing to soldiers overseas; she has been doing that since she was 6 years old.



## **Alek Dickerson**

Hometown: Biloxi  
Campus: Ridgeland  
Major: Mass Communications & Journalism

Alek Dickerson is 17 years old and a freshman at Holmes. She is from Biloxi, but moved to Ridgeland in 2017. She is very into her culture because she is the daughter of a Puerto Rican mother and a Jamaican father. When deciding on a major, she originally wanted to do criminology because her Abuelo (grandfather) was a lawyer/attorney, but then realized that she would not enjoy it and it didn’t fit her personality. She then started job shadowing professionals in careers that would probably fit her personality like being a teacher, an interior designer, a fashion designer, etc. When realizing she would not enjoy those things either, someone introduced her to Public Relations. She plans to transfer to Ole Miss and obtain a career in journalism or event planning. Outside of school, she loves to interact with friends and family, create anything with her hands and participate in events around her.



## **Kobe Ellis**

Hometown: Jackson  
Campus: Ridgeland  
Major: Mass Communications & Journalism

Kobe Ryan Ellis is in his first year at Holmes. He transferred from Hinds Community College where he was majoring in Business Administration. Ellis said he left Hinds to come to Holmes for a better experience and because Holmes was a place for growth. He plans to graduate in the spring of 2021. Ellis works with his disabled uncle and also does some work for Door Dash. His dream is to become a millionaire by owning businesses, doing real estate, music and being a radio host. Ellis says he just wants to live his life as a successful African American male in or outside of the United States. He also wants to make an example for many gay African American males to bring motivation and empowerment for all.



## **Piper Patterson**

Hometown: Madison  
Campus: Ridgeland  
Major: Secondary Education, English

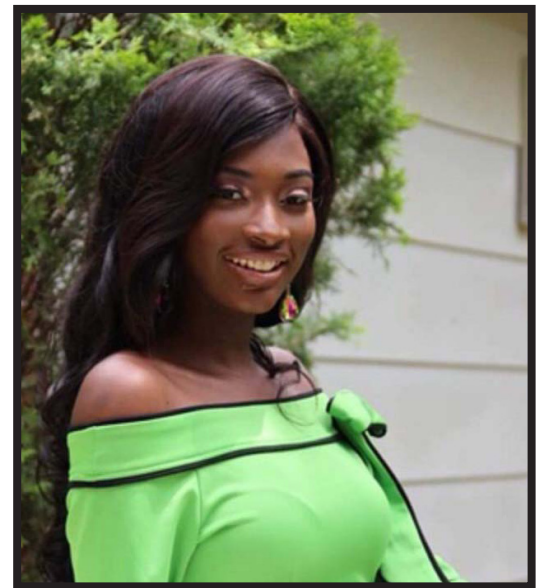
Piper Patterson is a graduate of Madison Central (Class of 2019) and is in her last year at Holmes. Her plans are to attend Mississippi State University in the fall of 2021. Patterson’s free time is typically spent at the daycare where she works or spending time with her family and friends. She enjoys writing poetry or driving around town with her friends.



## **Tymer Reynolds**

Hometown: Jackson  
Campus: Ridgeland  
Major: Pre-law

Tymer Reynolds is a graduate of Jim Hill High School. She is a first-year student at Holmes, and her passion for writing generated from the creative stories she narrates on Wattpad. She is currently majoring in pre-law; with high hopes she can further her education at Harvard. Tymer thrives on her goals, which is to help the less fortunate with the oppression of the judicial system.



## **Lakesia Smith-Smart**

Hometown: Goodman  
Campus: Goodman  
Major: Voice

Lakesia Smith-Smart has always had a passion for music. She is a sophomore on the Holmes Goodman Campus who began singing in her church choir at an early age. This sincere passion has followed her throughout her lifetime, for she has traveled extensively performing and entering several musical contests abroad. After finishing high school, she continued indulging in her passion by attending Holmes with a concentration in vocal performance. In 2019, Lakesia opened her own dance school in Lexington, MS named House of Mannassah: Kessey’s Kiss. She continues to grow as an independent artist, sharing her musical talents and gifts with the world.