



# THE GROWL

Holmes Community College  
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## Williams crowned Homecoming Queen

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured are (left to right) Ridgeland Campus VP **Dr. Don Burnham**, Goodman Campus VP **Andy Wood**, Homecoming Queen **Mikayla Williams** and Alumni Association President **Dr. James Young**.

On Thursday, Nov. 12, Holmes Community College hosted its annual Homecoming celebration on the Goodman Campus. Because of COVID-19, the college did not hold a day full of activities as the school traditionally does, but the Homecoming Court was still recognized. Mikayla Williams of Yazoo City, daughter of Bernitta Jones

and Darion Williams, was crowned 2020 Homecoming Queen at half-time. Goodman Campus Vice President Andy Wood crowned the queen, Alumni Association President Dr. James Young presented her robe and Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Don Burnham presented her flowers. Prior to the Homecoming Court Pre-

sentation, the Holmes Marching Band, directed by Jeffrey Brown and Terry Miller, performed on the field.

The rest of the Goodman Campus court included: 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 Baldwin and Freshman Maid Madison Odom of Kosciusko.

Ridgeland Campus Homecoming Maids were as follows: 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 Madison.

Finally, Grenada Campus Maids were: Student Body Maid Isabelle Sanders of Carrollton, Sophomore Maid Dalphne 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.

This year's football game against the Northwest Mississippi Community

College Rangers kicked off at 3 p.m. The Bulldogs fell to the Rangers 41-13.

Prior to kickoff, the Holmes Marching Band performed the national anthem, the cheerleaders performed and the Alumni of the Year were recognized on the field. The Alumni of the Year recipients were also presented with plaques prior to the football game. Honorees included: Young Alumnus of the Year Gerry Austin Taylor, Alumnus of the Year David C. Hudson, Veteran Honoree Eric Payton-Gilkey and Distinguished Service Award recipient Clytice Robertson Gardner. Gardner was unable to attend.

Leading up to Homecoming Day, all the campuses had an opportunity to show their school spirit with designated dress-up days. Monday was Crazy Hair Day, Tuesday was Red, White & Blue Day, Wednesday was Favorite Movie Character Day and Thursday was School Spirit Day, where everyone was encouraged to wear the Homecoming t-shirt.

For more information about Holmes Homecoming or other alumni events, contact Katherine Ellard at [kellard@holmescc.edu](mailto:kellard@holmescc.edu).



Pictured are 2020 Alumni Honorees (left to right) Young Alumnus of the Year **Austin Taylor**, Alumnus of the Year **David Hudson** and Veteran of the Year **Cpt. Eric Payton-Gilkey**. Distinguished Service Award Recipient Clytice Gardner was unable to attend.



Members of the **Holmes Marching Band** perform at half-time prior to the presentation of the 2020 Holmes Community College Homecoming Court.



The **Holmes cheerleaders** performed before the game and kept the crowd cheering while the Bulldogs played.



**Bully** helped pump up the crowd for the 2020 Homecoming game.

### WHAT'S INSIDE...

- STUDENT EDITORIALS
- HOLMES ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS
- NEW ALUMNI WEBSITE AT HOLMES AND MORE!



SEE PAGE 8 FOR  
PIC OF 2020  
HOMECOMING  
COURT!



## Study tips to help you succeed

By Piper Patterson  
Staff Reporter



With the first semester quickly ending, many are getting prepared for their final exams. Studying is going to be a key factor in passing these exams.

Many, like myself, are not the best at studying. I have compiled a list of things to do to help with studying to ace these final exams.

### 1. Turn your phone off.

Having your phone on while studying will cause a distraction with each notification received. Attention will be diverted from your studying and onto your phone. Try turning your phone

off while you study or put it in a different room.

### 2. Set limits.

Sitting down and going through a lot of material in one sitting can exhaust someone. Set limits on how long you will sit and study, then take a small 10-minute break.

### 3. Make flashcards.

Making flashcards can help with quizzing your knowledge and writing information over again will help the mind retain the information.

### 4. Highlight and rewrite important information.

If you have the information necessary to know highlighted, it will defi-

nitely save time during your studying. Once again, writing information helps the mind retain it.

### 5. Do not cram the night before the test.

Many students cram the night before causing them to be up late and not get enough sleep for the test. Start studying a week before the test, this will also help with setting limits on studying.

### 6. Get a good night's sleep and eat a good breakfast.

In high school, teachers always said to get plenty of sleep before the ACT and eat breakfast. This still applies for any exams. If you go into the test with lack of sleep and no breakfast, your

mind will be more focused on how much sleep you lost and the hunger you have instead of the information that is on your test.

I hope these tips help improve your studying like they helped improve mine. One last bit of advice I received from a teacher in eighth grade that has helped me: chew a certain flavor of gum while you're studying and then also chew the same flavor during the exam. The teacher said that the flavor will then become associated with the thoughts of the information and will help you recall it during the test. That bit of advice has helped me and has not failed me yet. I wish everyone good luck on their exams to come!

## Birthday in a blaze

By Alek Dickerson  
Staff Reporter



The cry for help was too late. On Oct. 20, a man died in a house fire before the Harrison County firefighters could get to him.

The victim was a man named Keith Peterson. He was celebrating his 64th birthday. Before Peterson's death, he called the police to notify them of what was happening around him. The current room he was in during the fire and the call was the only room not in flames, but the heat around it was intensifying.

Moments before, multiple witnesses surrounded the house and made reports on the smoking house. After several reports were made, they knew this fire was

nothing to fool around with. This fire was going to put people in danger.

Fire Chief Pat Sullivan went to explain, "This was one of the most extreme rescue attempts his department has ever been part of."

As the fire was bursting through most doors and windows, the Harrison County Fire and Rescue arrived 4 minutes after the beginning of the 6:30 pm call.

The first of the many units arrived with a blazing monster in front of them. Many firefighters went into the house only to come across discover that it was going to be a hard task getting to the room with objects falling and with the room engulfed in flames.

With no time to waste, they found the victim, but the ceiling of the room was now in flames.

Courage rushed over the brave soldiers.



Attempting to avoid getting burned, they made their way out of the house.

In a rush, they made it out of the house, but it was too late for the victim. By the

paramedics, the victim was pronounced the victim dead.

## Kanye West on the Electoral Ballot

By Lakesia Smith  
Staff Reporter



Many people across the United States have been preparing to vote for the next presidential election but there is a question of why Kanye West is on there.

Many of us know

Kanye as a successful rapper and husband of Kim Kardashian but where does being the president come in? He has reportedly spent over \$12 million on his own campaign, although he won't be on the ballot in 30 states. He has failed to get enough signatures in all but 11 states which includes Mississippi.

I, for one, would like to know how he thinks he could win. If you're a blog

reader like myself then you've seen the ongoing fight Kanye has had with his mental illness. If he can't control his mental health how can he control a whole nation?

One thing is for certain; there definitely won't be any "Flashing Lights" on his behalf any time soon.



# 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).



## The New Age Politician

By Tymer Reynolds  
Staff Reporter



Politicians across the nation have many things in common; race, money, education and the list goes on and on. I forgot to mention

that they're there are many men in politics and not women. Why is that, is you may ask?. Stereotypically men have been "running" this country for years and have never given a woman a chance to show what she can do. Now within the new presidential race

we have seen many changes. Presidential candidate Joe Biden has chosen a woman as his running mate, and people have been both joyful and displeased. In my opinion I was glad that one person can see that times have changed, and women's opinions are now a much more needed. Wom-

en are now breaking down doors for other generations to come and by me being a woman who wants to go into the political world I am happy.

## Talking with Josh Brewer

By Kaitlyn Anderson  
Staff Reporter



From abandoned to adopted, from forgotten to forgiven, from lost to loved, the man that I chose to interview for my article is someone that I truly admire.

It was an honor to sit down and hear his amazing story. The man that I chose to interview is Josh Brewer, 36, is from Nashville, Tennessee. Brewer is a husband and father of four. He has been a worship pastor at Pinelake Madison for four years and is number four of six children. I met Brewer at Pinelake Madison when I would visit occasionally. After having a talk with him, I auditioned for him and became a part of the worship team. The reason I chose to interview him is because he has an awesome to story share and I felt that he was the perfect person to share some encouraging words to those who may be struggling in life with school, work or on the personal/ spiritual side.

**KA-**Where did you grow up?

**JB-** So I was born in Texas and I grew up one in six kids. We grew up in a very broken home, lots of abuse, lots of poverty. We moved around to about a dozen different states, from Texas to Oklahoma, New Mexico, California, the West Coast and Coast and up to Washington and a couple of states in between. In spite of the brokenness, things were relatively good until I was about 8 years old and my dad went to prison and my mom went out on drugs and basically at that point us six kids went into foster care.

For the next eight years we were in and out of foster care. When and when we weren't not in foster care, we were in homeless shelters, motels, hotels, the street, you name it, and just continued down the path of brokenness. As a teenager, I was arrested for grand larceny and surrounded by drugs, alcohol and poverty.

When I was about 16, I found out I had an uncle who lived in Nashville, Tennessee, and we had never met the guy before but he found out that we were in foster care, so he flew us four younger kids over to Nashville and adopted us. He went to church, so we had to go to church and that started the process of life change.

**KA-** What was your life like in high school?

**JB-** When I moved to Nashville, up to that point, I had moved around to seven different schools. In Nashville, once I was adopted, I realized that the people o I was hanging out with were going down a path that I did not want to go down. I was surrounded by drug addicts and thugs. That is the trajectory that I was on in my life.

I quickly decided that I had to change the people whom I was hanging around with. I will never forget the first message that I heard in youth group, the pastor was preaching on friends, and the story that he shared was from 1 Corinthians 15:33 which says "bad company corrupts good character."

The message that he preached was show me your friends and I'll show you your future. I realized that if I continued to

hang out with these particular people who continued to influence me then that is who I would become. I had to cut out a lot of people, and there was a season of loneliness where I didn't have people to walk alongside and do life with, but after that season I started to let people in that would be a positive influence. Who you hang around with will influence the decisions that you make and ultimately I just had to come to the conclusion that people are like bank accounts and there are people who make deposits and there are people who make withdrawals.

Unfortunately, for far too long I was surrounded by people who made withdrawals and eventually and I was emotionally and relationally bankrupt so I had to surround myself with people who make deposits.

**KA-** In your teenage years and childhood years, what are some things you regret doing or not doing?

**JB-** You know I think for me, the environment that I grew up in and the cards that I kind of got dealt, obviously I regret being a product of my environment, some of the decisions that I made that could have led me down a very bad path. But beyond that, what I probably would say that I regret the most is allowing my external circumstances to define who I am internally and direct who I would become. I think part of that is allowing fear and insecurities or caring about what other people think, or comparing myself to somebody else who may at a different place in life, being caught up in that, more than the decisions I did make, I would say regretting the decisions that I didn't make because of those reasons.

**KA-** With everything that was going in your life in your childhood and teenage years, what did you think your life would be like when you got older?

**JB-** You know for me the aspirations that I had, quickly moved from dreaming to just surviving, so I never really had the opportunity to think what could I be when I grow up. It was never really what could it be like in five years, or 10 years, or 15 years, for me it was always what am I going to do to get through next week, how am I going to get the next meal on the table.

Even going through teenage years, all throughout high school I had to provide for myself. So, in terms of dreams and aspirations, who I would become and what things would be like, it was one of those things that I had to just take day by day. For me I know the things that I had gone through, if I had to do it all over again, it has made me who I am today. In the back of my mind was the fear of repeating the cycle that I had modeled for me, and there was not the ability to imagine, dream or create what I would be like.

I tried to focus on not becoming who my dad was. Not becoming the examples I had seen before me. So, I think with that it stunted a lot of imagination. I think of my kids now, asking them what do you want to be when you grow up?. It was none of those questions growing up. It was just trying to get by and trying to make it.

**KA-** When did you become a Christian?

**JB-** I became a Christian at the age of



Pictured are (left to right) Kaitlyn Anderson and Josh Brewer.

17. So, after moving to Nashville when I was 16 and being adopted by my uncle, he went to church so we had to go to church, and went there for about a year or so. I had a lot of walls up, a lot of bearers. Obviously I had developed a lot of defense mechanisms, and had a lot of trust issues.

So for me even after attending church for a year, I was 16, and really just came to the realization that there was a God who loved me, a heavenly father that cared for me in a way that I had never had a father's love. So that was the thing that really opened my heart and when I got saved was just experiencing that love for the first time.

**KA-** Being a born-again Christian, what were the challenges of that, things that you had to get used to or felt that were difficult at the time?

**JB-** I think for me, the first challenge of even becoming a Christian was seeing the hypocrisy of the people that were leading at FCA and all of these Christian events as they were at the same parties that I was at on a Friday night. And so for me there was a difficulty just right out the gate, just having trust issues, because I was like why would I jump in and be involved with whatever it means to be a Christian, if you are no different than who I am.

I had to get through that and I think God worked even in spite of that and softened my heart to ultimately the Christ of Christianity. Getting saved, the greatest difficulty that I had was understanding my call to move not from bad to good, to do better, but from death to life.

The greatest things that I had to face against were not moving towards okay, I have to earn God's affection, earn his attention, and earn his acceptance and approval. I am going to do these things and live right because I am accepted, because I am approved, and not try to strive for those things. So that was an internal battle that I had to face, and externally just figuring out my purpose, how does this practically manifest in my life, the battle between feeling called spiritually, and feeling really ill -equipped and bridging the gap. You know feeling that I come from this environment, and not feeling good enough. Wrestling with the flesh, whether then surrendering to the spirit.

**KA-** Where did you meet your wife?

**JB-** I met her at Sonic, she was a car hop.

**KA-** So who was your wife then, compared to who she is now?

**JB-** When I first met her, she was perfect on the outside but broken on the inside. I had the opportunity to share the gospel with her and lead her to Jesus and then she started coming to church. Then after that we started dating and the rest was history, but the growth where she has gone from, from just the completely hopeless, broken, helpless, to the nurturer that she is, the mom that she is, the wife that she is, just night and day.

**KA-**With both of you two coming from broken places and coming together, was it difficult getting used how things were changing and trying to get use to each other?

**JB-** I think the difficulty was not so much as coming from broken places, because we were both broken. The difference was how we responded to the brokenness. So I was the type of person based on my brokenness where I would lash out and be confrontational, and want to talk about things and work through it, while she was the type of person that when she had conflict, she ran and hid. So that was the confrontation of learning to be a listener and a supporter and an encourager and not being combative and for her was learning to not run and hide but stay and have the conversation.

**KA-** Now as a father, and you having the childhood that you had, how has that changed your idea of being a parent and being the best father that you can be?

**JB-** So that was the greatest fear that I had, how can I be a father when I never had a good example of what It means to be a father? And so the theme throughout my life has been facing inadequacy or deficiency or insecurity, saying how do I get through to the other side when I don't

(Josh Brewer, continued on Page 4)



## Josh Brewer (continued from Page 3)

feel qualified to do that. Having four kids now, there's a revelation with each kid I have now, number one from a father to a child, the love that I have for them has just grown with each kid, but as my love for them has grown, my understanding for God's love for me has grown as well.

**KA- How did you become a worship pastor for a living?**

**JB-** So when I got saved, I felt the lord speak to me, saying that the vision for your life is ministering to people in words and music. At that time, I was 17 and I had never played music before. Even all throughout school, I had never talked to anybody, I stayed to myself. I was very introverted and insecure. And so, for me to feel that in my heart that the vision of my life was to minister to people through words and music: it did not make sense.

So, I felt that God put it in my heart and just continued to work. I did business management for several years and eventually started playing keyboard and got involved with the youth band and I started to serve but my goal was too never work at a church. I believe in the church and I loved the church, but I did not want to be a part of it. I did not want to get caught in the system of religion; I was very fearful of that.

But as I continued to grow into that, I had an opportunity years ago, where I was serving the church and working in business management, and my senior pastor said, long story short basically a lot of things happen and he said, "Hey we need a worship pastor." I was already leading worship at the time, but I never contemplated working at a church. I remembered the call that I felt in my heart when I got saved and the vision of my life. I thought, hey I could do that at a greater capacity if I was in this role, and so I did that and that was over a decade ago and that's what got me to doing it in this capacity.

**KA- What lessons has your work life taught you?**

**JB-** People are broken, inside and outside of the church. Their brokenness does not care about position or title, we all need the grace of God and that true ministry in pursuing a relationship with Christ, ministry is beyond the walls of Christ. Ultimately the programs and the processes, everything we do in church does not matter if we forget the people that we are called to love. So, the life lesson is that people come before anything else. It is all about people and ultimately, the lesson is you do not get to choose who you pastor, Jesus did not pick and choose.

**KA- What are some other jobs that you had?**

**JB-** My first job was Arbys. I worked at Arbys and became the best fry flipper in the south. And then I said at a young age that I was going to work with excellence and be the best at whatever I did, so I did that, and I worked myself up through five promotions and I was ready to.

And then I moved from Arbys to a retail store and became a manger there, so I was doing that. I then had the opportunity to travel on the road and do music, I did that full-time for a number of years. I had the opportunity to travel to 46 or so different states, Canada and South Korea and Hawaii. I did that for a season until we had our first kid and then came off the road and did church ministry.

**KA- As a singer/musician is this something that you would have wanted to take out on the road, doing this as a professional singer, rather than what you are doing now?**

**JB-** Well, for a season that is what I did. I traveled and played with a couple of different Christian artists, that was the plan. Prior to coming to work at a church and when my wife and I got pregnant with our first kid, I said that I wanted to be home and be the dad that I had never had. So I came off the road, and all of my friends continued to do that but for me it wasn't about singing and playing as much as it

was about ushering and pastoring people. My desire was to minister people. So, I would not change my path, my goal was to love people and use the tool that I had which was music.

**KA- Do you have any regrets in your career?**

**JB-** No, the only regrets that I have are the steps that maybe I didn't pursue because of fear, that there were often times where there were opportunities that presented themselves and that would have advanced my career or my call.

**KA- So what brought you to Pinelake?**

**JB-** So I was on staff at church north of Nashville, and I was there for 10 years and Pinelake randomly reached out on LinkedIn and said that they were a church in Mississippi affiliated with Baptists and were looking for a worship pastor. And here we are.

**KA- What is your typical workday like?**

**JB-** Nothing is "typical" in ministry. There are office hours, but ministry does not stop when you leave the office. From the planning to preparation, from engaging with people to executing the plan. The phone calls at 9 p.m. the unexpected events like funerals and hospital visits, the tension of leading the church, while trying to lead my family, and not forgetting to lead myself.

**KA-What are some of the challenges that you face as a worship pastor, and what are some of the things that you are still from your past trying to keep with you?**

**JB-** I think for me, the challenge is to number 1 not lose sight of the reason why I got into ministry in the first place, the call that I have is not a call because I was qualified or equipped, and not losing the heart of that, falling into the place where I am doing all the right things. But the motive or the driving factor is not right. I believe you can do all the right things and still be wrong, so I think fighting to not get caught up, in a routine or in a sudden driven executing a good Sunday service will not pastor and leading people effectively.

**KA- Do you have any special moments that you have experienced career wise?**

**JB-** I have had the opportunity to travel all around the nation doing ministry in about 45 different states, from Alaska to Hawaii, and several countries, including places like Canada, South Korea and Amsterdam.

**KA- What do you feel are the main ingredients of your success or success in general?**

**JB-** Humility and gratitude are the secret ingredients to be successful in any industry or organization.

**KA- Do you have advice for those who are trying to choose a career path?**

**JB-** I would say, pursue a career that brings you a sense of joy and happiness. Do not pursue something just because of finances. Do what you love to do, money will come. Some of the most miserable people are the people who pursued careers for financial reasons. And they have a lot of money, but they are lacking happiness. And although I do not think a career brings true happiness, just do what you love to do, and the money will come.

**KA- Advice for students who want to be successful in whatever career path they take. What do you think a student should have to be successful? As far as personality wise?**

**JB-** I would say focus more on building your character than your career. Talents, abilities, gifts and personalities may open doors, but character will keep those doors open and establish your career long term.

Develop attributes like humility, gratitude, servitude, kindness, selflessness, etc.

**KA- Why, to you, is education important?**

**JB-**The old saying "Knowledge is power," I think education empowers us, I think education gives us a knowledge and understanding. I think for me we should always be developing, we should always be growing, we should always be learning. Just like I would say this, either physically or even emotionally, spiritually, that you never accidently grow, so the pursuit of education is the pursuit of knowledge and understanding a learning. Choosing to not be stagnant but choosing to grow.

**KA- Did you have any mentors and how did they challenge you to become who you are today?**

**JB-** Yes, I had several mentors, one guy in particular was a guy named Jeff Dio-dis. Ultimately what I realized from not having a stable childhood, when I wanted to figure out how to be a good husband, I had to find a mentor who had been married for decades. When I wanted to figure out how to be a good dad, I had to find someone who was a good dad. When I wanted to figure out how to handle finances, I had to find someone who knew how to handle money.

So, in all those things, I have grown up reaching out to someone who has been five years, 10 years, 15 years, 20 years further down the road and learning from their life experiences. But that one guy in particular, Jeff D., has been a mentor has a father, husband and worship leader. He is someone who has played a huge role in shaping who I am today.

**KA- Do you still stay in contact with him?**

**JB-** Yes, I think that is the whole point of a mentor. There are some people who are mentors in your life for a reason and there are some who are there for a season. I think knowing the difference, hey is this person only here for a season or is there a greater purpose or reason for why they are in my life. And hold on to those who are lifelong mentors.

**KA- When was there a time in your life when you felt like giving up?**

**JB-** I think growing up the way that I grew up, I quickly learned to overcome adversity and I have realized that every time I hit a wall through perseverance and endurance that when you get to the other side, ultimately it will make you stronger, so I say with that there were several cross-roads with just growing up.

All through my childhood there were moments where I just wanted to throw in the towel. But into adulthood, I learned to embrace the adversity and that giving up was never an option for me.

**KA- When was the moment that you could make it through your struggles?**

**JB-** When I got to the other side, \*laughs\* I say that jokingly but sometimes I didn't know If I was going to make it and it wasn't until I got to the other side where I was like "Oh my gosh I made, I survived!"

**KA- What are some life challenges that you face today, whether it is as a worship pastor or your personal life and how do you work through them?**

**JB-** I have four kids so that's a challenge within itself and when you are trying to raise kids within this environment and in this culture and climate. Balancing family life, the demands of having a wife and four kids, while also having thousands of people that we are trying to pastor and shepherd and trying to keep the main thing the main thing can be a challenge. I say the challenge is prioritizing what I say yes to and protecting my yes.

**KA- What is a quote or a scripture**

**or anything that sticks out to you and has helped you become who you are? Something that might be encouraging or inspirational for you.**

**JB-** There are two scriptures that stand out to me, Romans 8:28 that says "God causes all things to work together for those who loves him and are called according to his purpose," and Genesis 15:20, that says "What the enemy meant for evil, God will turn for good." So, I will use those as the foundation knowing that everything I have gone through, that there is a greater purpose, that God does turn those things, that God does work those things out. That there was a greater purpose for the struggles and conflicts, the hurt and pain. So that is what I am going to hold on to. That God has a purpose, there is purpose in the pain.

**KA- For those in college who are struggling in life or even spiritually, what do you have to say to them about not letting failures, mistakes and setbacks define them, and how they can overcome their obstacles?**

**JB-** I think first thing to know is that you are not defined by your failures or your mistakes, or your struggles. That does not define who you are. Nor does the circumstances or the struggles you are facing now determine who you will become, that in spite of the circumstances, in spite of your starting point, that regardless of where you are on your journey, that it doesn't have to determine your finish line. So, I would say, see both sides. There are always two sides to the perspective. Your outlook determines your outcome. So how you see the situations that you find yourself in, the struggles, mistakes you made. Is to move forward.

Just like the analogy of a car. Your windshield is a lot bigger than your rear-view mirror. Because you are supposed to drive looking forward and so many times we try to move forward while looking in the rearview mirror. And that just causes a wreck. So, I would say, know that you do not have to be a product of your decisions that you made, the struggles you had do not determine who you are.

**KA- From knowing where I started to where I am now, how have I developed, noticing the changes that I have made from when you first met me to know?**

**JB-** I think that there is a big difference between the confidence, from when I first met you. There was a lot of insecurity and uncertainty, with a sense of self-worth and self-confidence. So, I believe that since you have chosen humility, you have been open to feedback and being corrected and directed according to. That has opened the opportunity to grow in those particular areas.

So I will say that's the noticeable difference internally, externally you have grown and developed as a vocalist, and because of commitment and investment, you have committed to invest in the ability, talent and ministry opportunities that you have been presented to where you have grown in the technical expertise to each of those. So, in the personal standpoint and professional standpoint I have seen growth.

**KA- What stood out most to you the reason you were able to believe that I was capable in helping to lead?**

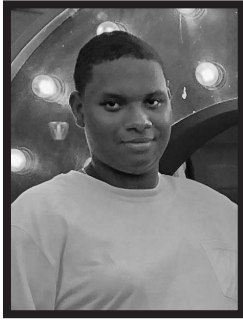
**JB-** I look at the above traits, starting with character, and move to capacity. Someone who strives to develop their character, has shown a desire to grow, and a willingness to learn, positions themselves to be used.

*This ends the interview. I hope this helps those who may be struggling or worried about certain things going on in their life. And I hope this shows you, that no matter what obstacles may come your way, you can, and you will overcome them. Your past does not define who you are. Look to the future and do your best and be proud of you are and the things you have and will accomplish.*



## Coronavirus vs the holidays

By Kobe Ellis  
Staff Reporter



It's been rough this year since we have a pandemic going on. It's not getting better, not by a long shot. The virus is spreading more and more and getting out of hand. People get infected by simply going to the grocery store, going to work or really just coming in contact with anyone can get you sick. Everyone is trying to predict

every week about what's going to happen next in the world. The main questions people are asking are: "What will happen with COVID-19 and the holidays coming up?" "How can people stay safe while traveling for Thanksgiving or Christmas?" "How many new cases will show after the holidays?" and "What will happen to the children after the break ends?"

To answer some of the questions, we would really have to ask ourselves as a whole how we will make it safe for us as one. We need to stop fighting and start coming together. This decision will only

depend on what lives we will die for. If we did come together, we could see if the world could stay clean and stay protected from others. Only we can make a difference because the current president only wants power, war and hatred around the world. I believe if we can stop the hatred across the world we could overrule the president and his reign of terror; we can be unstoppable.

For many people, being infected with COVID-19 is different from any other cold; many say that it can take up to a month for the virus to go away. The proper

authorities like mayors, state senators, the congressman and the head of the CDC are telling people across the world to put masks on, keep their distance and stay sanitized. For some, even doing that is dangerous and people are afraid of catching this virus. They think you can only get it by traveling and going to parties, but people really can get it from doing anything, so my best advice for people is to continue wearing a mask and stay sanitized so we can be safe while we do the things we love to do.

## The voting catastrophe in what you wear

By Alek Dickerson  
Staff Reporter



Every four years, a big political debate breaks out. It never changes. It happens around the same time of the year and it about the same thing. The question to this debate is this, "Who will the next president?" The only thing about the 2020 elections is that it might be more dangerous because of who's running and the social issues going on in America. As Mississippians are waiting in line to vote on the busy day of Nov. 3, there is one thing that is now illegal in the state of Mississippi. The majority of residents don't know this, but it is illegal to wear Trump or Biden gear to vote. A lot of people like to show off who they support by hanging flags, wearing clothing, stickers and hats,

but at the polls will be a place where that is not allowed. In the article It's illegal in Mississippi to wear Trump or Biden gear to vote on Tuesday.

In the article, It's illegal in Mississippi to wear Trump or Biden gear to vote on Tuesday, author Margaret Baker when into the Mississippi laws when defending why that's a rule. Baker (2020) explained it as this, "The Mississippi law says: 'It shall be unlawful for any candidate for an elective office, or any representative of such candidate, or for any proponent or opponent of any constitutional amendment, local issue or other measure printed on the ballot to post or distribute cards, posters or other campaign literature within one hundred fifty (150) feet of any entrance of the building wherein any election is being held. It shall be unlawful for any

candidate or a representative named by him in writing to appear at any polling place while armed or uniformed, nor shall



he display any badge or credentials except as may be issued by the manager of the polling place.' And that includes any campaign flags, pens, posters or face masks as well as any bumper stickers or magnetic signs on any vehicles parked at the polling

place." The elections are getting heated up, so to avoid any problem with anybody, get vote in peace and be respectful not to wear anything with Trump or Biden.

## Going home for the holidays

By Lakesia Smith  
Staff Reporter



Many students on the Homes Community College Goodman Campus are excited for the almost two-month long break coming in a few weeks. As cases of

COVID-19 continue to rise, many teachers are excited about the break, but not as excited as the students.

Many are questioning what they will be able to do on this break. Some have family coming in for the holidays while some are quarantining with their immediate families. Either way, food is to be on the table for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

I will be enjoying family from Chicago and good cooking on both holidays. No matter what the holidays bring, stay safe! Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas fellow Bulldogs, from my family to yours.



## Should the U.S shut down again due to Covid?

By Piper Patterson  
Staff Reporter



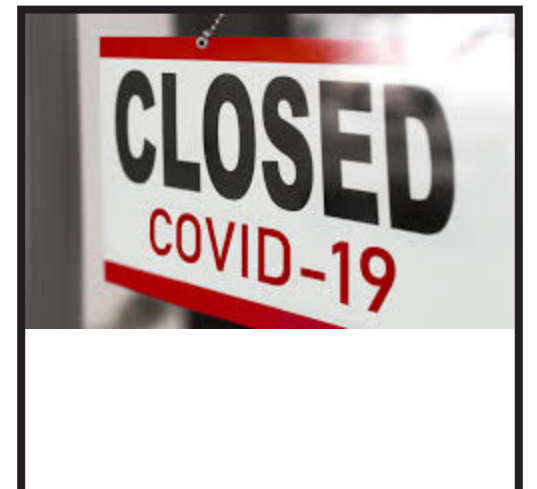
Should another nationwide shut down happen due to COVID-19? This has been a question circulating as the numbers of cases keep rising. In my opinion, we should shut down again to try and lessen the number of cases. Also, I feel if we closed again, we would get closer to the end of this virus that has haunted lives since

March.

Throughout Mississippi, it is reported that Intensive Care Units are at 88 percent full. Seven of the highest-level care centers for COVID-19 have no beds. Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves disagrees with shutting down the state. He is worried about the economy of Mississippi, as is everyone else. However, we are losing more and more people every day due to the virus. It seems shutting down again may be our best chance at slowing down the cases.

The number of cases in the United

States is at 11.3 million with 247 thousand deaths. Mississippi is at 135 thousand cases, with 3,545 deaths. The county with the most cases is Hinds with Desoto now far behind in numbers. The number of cases and deaths keeps rising every single day. It is very important to wear your mask when you go out in public and make sure you maintain a distance of six feet. If you have come in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, stay home and watch your symptoms closely.





## Fun Christmas traditions for you and your family this season

By Kaitlyn Anderson  
Staff Reporter



Christmas is almost here! Are you as excited as I am? I cannot even begin to tell you how excited I am for this Christmas holiday. I am not even kidding, me and my family put our Christmas tree

up before Halloween. Some might find that a bit extreme, but that Christmas feeling is just such a warm and happy feeling to have. Now we all know that 2020 has been a year of fear and uncertainty, but that doesn't have to be the result. Instead, get creative and plan something fun and memorable for you and your family. Perhaps start a new tradition or add spice to an old tradition. For example, since last year our family has started a new tradition of celebrating the 12 days of Christmas. Starting Dec. 12, we open one present a day leading up to Dec. 25. It doesn't have to be an expensive present; it could be

something that we make or buy. It seems to make the season even more memorable and last longer. It also is a great bonding experience. Another thing we do is add presents under the tree for Christmas; it can be a handwritten note stating what we are going to give them this year. Coming up with fun traditions can create wonderful memories for years to come and can be passed down from generation to generation.

I have come up with a small list to give you some ideas of what Christmas traditions that you and your family might enjoy this holiday season.

### 1. Decorate Gingerbread houses.

Decorating Gingerbread houses can be a lot of fun. You can come up with cool styles and get creative with your house. It's a great family bonding experience and to put a little spice on it, you can have a gingerbread competition, to see who can build the best most creative Gingerbread house the fastest.

### 2. Have a Christmas movie night.

Now you can watch Christmas movies whenever you want, but it's something about setting a certain date to have a Christmas movie night. Get creative and choose a room in the house and make it your own personal movie theater. You can make popcorn and have your favorite candy and drinks out ready to serve as if it was a concession stand. Let everyone pick their favorite Christmas movies and have fun watching the most enjoyable Christmas movies ever.

### 3. Host an ugly Christmas sweater party but this time with a twist.

Ugly Christmas sweater parties are when people get together, play games and holiday music and enjoy amazing food while showing off their ugly Christmas sweaters. This sweater can be extremely funny, weird and creative. But the twist is, instead of going out and buying an ugly Christmas sweater, make one in your very own home. Get the family together, hit the music and prepare to make the most

creative ugly Christmas sweater you can. What's so cool about making homemade ugly Christmas sweaters is you can use things around your house. You can use some ornaments or colorful garland. You can draw funny faces or make Christmas pictures out of yarn. Whatever you want to use you can.

### 4. Have a Christmas dance party.

Something that my family and I do is have a dance party. We get together in the den put on our favorite songs and just have fun dancing. Whether we show off our funniest moves or our smoothest moves it is a time to have fun and just enjoy. Now that is just a regular dance party, but why not have a Christmas dance party. You can start off by making a Christmas playlist, but have it where your family can add their favorite Christmas songs as well. Get the cookies baking, and pour the egg nog and watch your family dance the night away.

## History is Made

By Tymer Reynolds  
Staff Reporter



Nov. 3 was one of the most intense election days in history. This particular election was different because there were in-person votes and mailed in votes. As a nation

we were all anxious about the results, but we did not expect it to take a week for the results to get in. On Saturday, Nov. 7, we learned that Joe Biden won the presidential race. Kamala Harris is the first woman elected, as vice president. She is Black and

Asian descent and the first woman of color to be elected, as well.

We as citizens of the United States have only seen men as presidents and vice presidents. In 1972, Shirley Chisholm was the first African American woman to run for president but did not win the election. Women have tried many times to get to the top to open doors for many others but have not succeeded. Fast forward to now, we have Kamala Harris as vice president. This has given a lot of women hope, the women who have been wanting to be in a position of power with their jobs.

This has given hope to every woman who was told that "Women are to stand behind their husbands and to cook and clean for them." This has given hope to women who have been working their butts to the bone, but their salary does not match the man who is in the same position. This has given hope to little girls who want to be president one day. Hope that now we as women are important too. No matter what race, age and income we are in, this has given us hope.



## Mask mandate around the holidays

By Alek Dickerson  
Staff Reporter



The year is ending and we are still having to deal with the pandemic that took us all by shock. There have been rumors that Gov. Tate Reeves has lifted the mask mandate, but now Gov. Reeves has

added seven counties to the mask mandate list. This would add up to a total of 22 counties now.

"Wearing a mask helps," Gov. Reeves said. "It helps you. It helps your family. It helps your friends."

Mississippi is one of the states that is facing a really bad outbreak in COVID-19 cases. Some believe primarily because we are one of the unhealthiest states in America.

Gov. Reeves gathered the states with the highest cases of COVID-19 and added them to the mask mandate. No one wants to wear the mask, so the news that we would have to wear the mask was a relief, but when the state fair opened in October, the number increased from there.

"The new counties under the mandate are Hinds, Madison, Pontotoc, Tate, Winston, Itawamba and Montgomery," Gov. Reeves said. "The 15 already under a

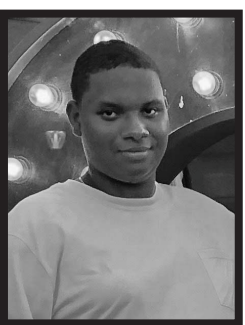
mandate were Benton, Carroll, Covington, DeSoto, Forrest, Harrison, Humphreys, Jackson, Lamar, Lauderdale, Leflore, Lee, Marshall, Rankin and Yalobusha."

More officials fear that as the holidays roll around, the number of COVID-19 cases will increase.

The best thing to do around this holiday season is to stick to small gatherings at home rather than public areas.

## Make America Great, for the first time

By Kobe Ellis  
Staff Reporter



For the past four years, America has been going downhill with bad luck. It all started when Donald J. Trump ran and won the presidential election, beating Hillary Clinton, who would've been

the first female president in the U.S.A. For many people like myself having a female president would not have been the worst thing to come. I can say I would've been glad to see the first female president rather than seeing a racist, sexist, prejudiced man like Donald Trump become president. Most people who voted for Hillary want to see an uplifting person make a

difference in the world. As soon as Trump became the president, most of the people who voted for him soon realized that they made the wrong decision.

There were many things that Trump did wrong through his presidency. Trump was impeached due to pressuring Ukraine to dig up dirt on Joe Biden and his son Hunter. Another awful thing Trump did wrong was called protestors from the Charlottesville riot "very fine people." The same people who killed another protestor by driving their car into a lady. Throughout his presidency, Trump has been doing a horrible job trying to stay safe and trying to protect America during the world's worst pandemic so far.

The Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, has been the worst pandemic that ever happened in the U.S. This virus

started between September or November of 2019 worldwide. Other countries like China, Europe and Russia have been protecting and staying away from virus by locking their countries down from all activity until it's safe. They have been securing their countries from all danger since the virus has been out. Meanwhile, the U.S. only started trying to be safe in March of 2020; months after the virus was here. Even then we haven't been safe from the virus. As of today, the number of deaths so far has increased to 1.32 million worldwide and the U.S. has 250K deaths.

With this being the end of 2020, most of the world is ready for a new chance of difference while others want nothing more than racism and war in the world. I think it's time for peace and love on the planet earth. Now since the U.S. have a new and



better experience presidential team. A team like our new President Joe Biden who wants peace and love all over the world and the world's first ever Black Female Vice President Kamala Harris. Mrs. Harris has set a goal mostly ever lady has wanted to do and that's to be in the White House. She has even made history for her sorority which is Alpha Kappa Alpha known as A.K.A and I'm proud of their achievements.



## Movies to watch over the holidays

By Piper Patterson  
Staff Reporter



With the weather getting colder, more are staying in and watching movies. I have compiled a list of movies to watch during your winter season!

**Holidate (2020):**

“Holidate” is a movie starring Emma Roberts and Luke Bracey. The two are sick of being single around the holidays until they meet each other. They become each other’s dates for every holiday. Tension between the two grows but neither accepts it. Roberts and Bracey ignore their feelings for each other until a year later, when one confesses their love for the other. It is a sweet, romantic comedy that pulls at the heart strings!

**Elf (2003):** Will Ferrell is the star of this movie playing an elf who is trying to find his way around New York. Ferrell’s char-

acter has a sense of not belonging in the North Pole, so he sets out in New York in search of his belonging and his real father. After finding his father, played by James Caan, Ferrell tries to create a relationship with him but only causes chaos. “Elf” is a classic comedy anyone can enjoy!

**How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000):**

This is the classic tale of the Grinch, played by Jim Carrey, ruining Christmas for Whoville. Grinch and his trusty sidekick, Max, set out to destroy Christmas for the Who’s after Cindy Lou Who, Taylor Momsen, invites him to a Christmas celebration. He caused much havoc on the town that night, only to create a fluster on Christmas as well. After hearing the Who’s singing, the Grinch had a change of heart towards Christmas and the Who’s. “The Grinch” is a classic movie any can enjoy, and my personal favorite.

**Home Alone (1990):** “Home Alone” is about a young boy, Macaulay Culkin,

who gets in trouble the night before his families’ vacation. His family accidentally leaves for the airport with him, however Culkin is anything but sad. He enjoys the time alone until he finds out two ex con’s plan to rob their house. He sets up many different traps throughout the house for them. Another classic comedy any can enjoy!

**The Night Before Christmas (1993):** Jack Skellington, voiced by Danny Elfman and Chris Sarandon, grew tired of always giving people a scare. After finding Christmastown, Skellington decides he wants to make Christmas his own by kidnapping Santa Claus. His plan soon goes south after realizing that anything could go wrong, even for the (capitalize)pumpkin King.

**A Christmas Story (1983):** Ralphie Parker, played by Peter Billingsley, was usually found running from his bully, played by Zack Ward, or dreaming of his “Red Ryder air rifle” he wanted so badly



for Christmas. The movie is a constant struggle of Billingsley dealing with his rude dad, but then being comforted by his mother. He was just trying to make it to Christmas with his hopes and his glasses intact. Another classic and heartwarming movie!

I hope this list gives everyone ideas for more movies or creates new favorites! Happy Holidays!

## Why do women need approval?

By Tymer Reynolds  
Staff Reporter



As women, do we actually know our worth?. As a woman, will you do anything for a man to say yes?.

Being around my family, friends and the stories I am

hearing from them made me question this. Living in a male-dominated world is never easy. We already have to fight to be equal within our jobs, salary and much more. After all the fighting for equality to have the same as a man, we still question our value within relationships.

As a woman I understand this completely, I went through phases where I would

change myself,(delete comma) so I get the attention of men.

Knowing your self-worth is key to every relationship you’ll ever have. Who knows you better than yourself? Ladies, being yourself and never changing who you are is the best thing going for you. When I did change myself to fit a man’s criteria, I lost sight of who I was and even then, I was

still not good enough for him. Confidence is something us women need for ourselves. Your insecurities and flaws is what makes you beautiful.

## Music of 2020

By Lakesia Smith  
Staff Reporter



This year has been one for the books. To think that one day COVID-19 will be in books and we will be some of the people who lived among it is just shocking. Many students come to

Holmes to join Connection, Choir and various student groups. I’m happy to say

that COVID hasn’t stopped the music on the campus. Though meetings are different this year – the song must go on.

During practices, students in the musical ensembles now wear a face protector and social distance more than 6 feet apart while they are singing. Although they are split in choir, the sound is still very melodic. Many teachers and students drop by and pay compliments enjoying the encouraging and fun pieces. The fine arts department is doing a wonderful job handling

music students and keeping them safe.

While this semester is almost over, the groups are hoping to at least make videos to show their peers what they have been preparing. Next semester many are hoping to be able to at least perform outside to showcase their talents to the fellow Bulldog community. Though no one’s sure of what is to come, but one thing is certain music must go on!



## Virtual vs. on campus learning

By Kobe Ellis  
Staff Reporter



Before COVID-19 got bad all students were on campuses taking classes. There was hardly anyone taking virtual classes. Students who did take virtual classes were mostly students who had a

family crisis or who work full-time. For me, last semester I was taking classes on campus just because I am more of a face-to-face type of learner. That method is great for me because it helps me understand what the lesson or module is about.

Now since COVID-19 has impacted the world I can see a whole difference with my learning strategies and my grades. Therefore, it plays a big part for all students going to school.

There are many similarities and so little differences about going on campus (public schools) and taking online classes. The similarities are that both still provide an education for all. Doing virtual classes is the best and safest way to take classes and be safe. While going on campus helps me understand, now with COVID-19 that’s not the right thing to do. More and more students who are still attending college on campus are more at risk of catching the virus and are right in the hotspot of it. I

say this just because campuses are big and filled with so much bacteria and places that germs and viruses can easily spread. The main similarity, in my opinion, is students to continue getting further with their professions.

When it comes to the differences there are also many, but the main differences are for one, with virtual classes it’s hard for some students because they can’t learn by sitting at home with a computer. In the 20th Century we have the internet to give us all the answers we choose. Although that’s true, students are not going to pass tests, especially proctored tests, by looking the answers up. This is one of several main differences between virtual and

online classes. Another main difference is that being on campus during the pandemic is where many people are starting to catch the virus more easily. Campus administrations are trying to make their campuses safe for all students who attend. There are some colleges who aren’t letting their students come back to their college. For the students who are still living on and going to the campuses there are ways that things have changed. With that being said I hope that we as a whole can get this pandemic under control so things can go back to natural or at least close to it.



## Homecoming Court 2020



Pictured is **Homecoming Queen Mikayla Williams** of Yazoo City.



Pictured is **Goodman Campus Student Body Maid Jordyn Manning** of Canton.



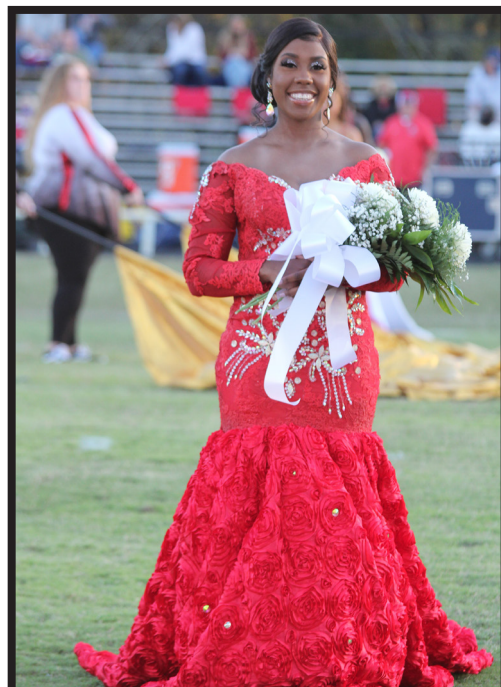
Pictured is **Ridgeland Campus Student Body Maid Deja Armoni Sloan** of Madison.



Pictured is **Grenada Campus Student Body Maid Isabelle Sanders**.



Pictured is **Goodman Campus Sophomore Maid Kaleigh Cosgrove** of Little Rock.



Pictured is **Goodman Campus Sophomore Maid Shawanda Ne'Asha Gray** of Enterprise.



Pictured is **Goodman Campus Freshman Maid Amarie Haylee Anderson** of Baldwin.



Pictured is **Goodman Campus Freshman Maid Madison Odom** of Kosciusko.



Pictured is **Ridgeland Campus Sophomore Maid Taylor Madison Ervin** of McComb.



Pictured is **Ridgeland Campus Sophomore Maid Holley Kendall Yates** of Pisgah.



Pictured is **Ridgeland Campus Freshman Maid Brooklyn Gaddis** of Flowood.



Pictured is **Ridgeland Campus Freshman Maid Breanna Alexis McBrain** of Madison.



Pictured is **Grenada Campus Sophomore Maid Dalphne Hemphill** of Winona.



Pictured is **Grenada Campus Sophomore Maid Prashauda Roneicia Marie West** of Grenada.



Pictured is **Grenada Campus Freshman Maid Mary Grace Brooks** of Winona.



Pictured is **Grenada Campus Freshman Maid Terra Elizabeth West** of Grenada.



## Taylor named Young Alumnus of the Year

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured is (center) Gerry "Austin" Taylor with (left to right) Goodman Campus Vice President Andy Wood and Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Don Burnham.

Kosciusko native Gerry "Austin" Taylor is the Holmes Community College Young Alumnus of the Year.

Taylor is a graduate of Kosciusko High School. He followed in both of his grandfathers' footsteps, by attend-

ing Holmes: his grandfather Alton Taylor (1951-53), and Dewitte Belk (1953-55).

Taylor was a scholar-athlete as well, earning an invitation to be part of Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Taylor was the 2007 MVP for the Holmes Dirtbags. He earned Mississippi Association of Colleges and Junior Colleges All-State honors and represented his team in the Mississippi Junior College Baseball Showcase.

In the 2006 Major League Baseball draft, Taylor was chosen in the 49th round by the St. Louis Cardinals. Graduating from Holmes in 2007, Taylor continued to play ball with the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Blazers in 2008. He played in 51 games and started in 49 of those his first season at UAB.

He earned his bachelor's in business administration from UAB, and has worked for the past 11 years at Mitchell Metal Products in Kosciusko

as the sales manager for the southeast territory. The company sells sheet metal, duct pipe and fittings. Taylor's territory ranges all the way from Texas to Georgia.

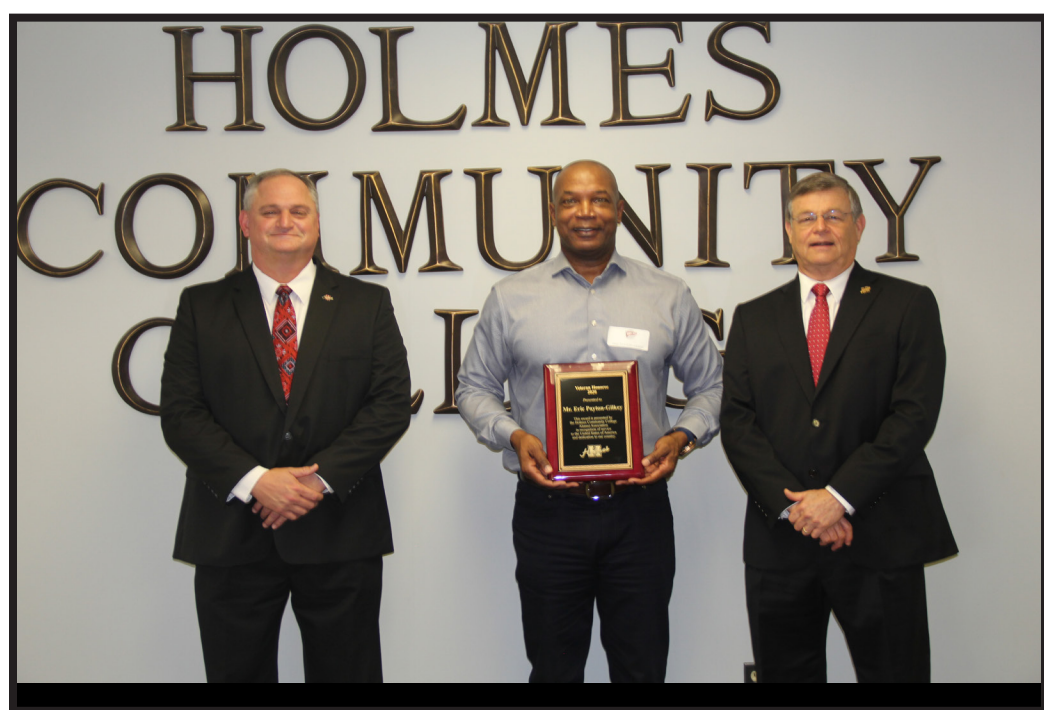
Staying on top of his industry education, Taylor earned a Lean Six Sigma Certification from James Worth Bagley College of Engineering at Mississippi State University.

Due to Taylor's athletic accomplishments, he was inducted into the Holmes Sports Hall of Fame in 2017. He continues to be active with Holmes by serving on the Holmes Development Foundation Board of Directors.

Taylor and his wife Mary Claire have three children, Tate (7), Wells (5), and Hank (3). He is an active member of the Kosciusko Lion's Club and attends First Presbyterian Church of Kosciusko.

## Payton-Gilkey honored as Veteran of the Year

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured is (center) Cpt. Eric Payton-Gilkey with (left to right) Goodman Campus Vice President Andy Wood and Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Don Burnham.

The Holmes Community College 2020 Veteran of the Year is Canton native Cpt. Eric Payton-Gilkey.

Payton-Gilkey played forward on the Holmes basketball team under Bennie Kimble while attending in 1984-85. He then joined the military, returning to Holmes in 1989-90 after three and a half years of service.

After graduating from Holmes, Payton-Gilkey continued on to Southern Arkansas University where he played two years of basketball under Coach Monroe Ingram as forward.

In 1997, Payton-Gilkey earned a B.B.A. degree from Southern Arkansas University. He even served as a student basketball coach while working on his degree.

Payton-Gilkey re-enlisted to serve our country in 1999 with the National Guard and later continued on to the Army Reserve. He severed one tour of

duty in Kuwait and another in Iraq. After 23 years and 9 months of service, Payton-Gilkey retired as captain from the United State Army. In addition to serving our country, he continued to work with employers such as Levi/Strauss and World Com.

He earned several awards during his years of service, including the Meritorious Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expedition Medal and Iraq Campaign Medal.

Payton-Gilkey is currently the vice president of safety and administration for the Canton Municipal Utilities. He also serves as an Alderman of Ward 6 in Canton since 2001.

Payton-Gilkey and his wife Monica have two children, Coby and Eric, Jr., and three grandchildren Zakirisu, Eric and Eiril.

## David Charles Hudson named Alumnus of the Year

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured is (center) David Charles Hudson with (left to right) Goodman Campus Vice President Andy Wood and Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Don Burnham.

Holmes Community College 2020 Alumnus of the Year is David Charles Hudson of Kosciusko.

Hudson, a 1989 graduate, was very involved as a student at Holmes. During

his time as a Bulldog, he was awarded the Physics Award, inducted into Hall of Fame and voted Most Handsome. He was also a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the baseball team, making the all-star team his

sophomore year.

"I have great memories from Holmes," Hudson said.

During his time at Holmes, Hudson was inspired by his chemistry instructor, Ray Rutledge. Rutledge's classes adequately prepared him for the next level of education.

After Holmes Hudson transferred on to the University of Mississippi where he earned a B.S. in pharmacy in 1993. During his last year of pharmacy school he married his wife, Christy.

Hudson's first job as a pharmacist was at Savrite Drugs in Port Gibson. Hudson worked three years in west Mississippi before moving back to Kosciusko.

Twenty-three years ago, Hudson moved back to the area to be a pharmacist at Sullivan's Discount Drugs. Today, Hudson is the owner of several pharmacy businesses. He is owner and operator of Sullivan's Drugs and Gifts in Kosciusko, owner of Howell and Heggie Drug Company in Durant, owner of Quick Care Pharmacy in Grenada and owner of Quick Care Clinic in Grenada. His businesses employ 48

people in the surrounding area.

Hudson was awarded Distinguished Alumnus by the University of Mississippi School Of Pharmacy in 2011 and he served on the State Board of Pharmacy from 2008-2013, during which time he served as president.

In 2016, Hudson established the Ray Rutledge Memorial Science Department Fund in honor of his former instructor. He and his wife Christy wanted the science instructors to have access to funds if they needed something for their students at Holmes, whether it be lab equipment, trips to statewide events or even a department party.

"A lot of times these things do not get budgeted in," Hudson said. "I just wanted them to use it to help the students have what they needed to be the best chemistry students they can be."

Hudson and Christy have four kids; Ben (25), Sam (23), Wes (20) and Kate (16). They are active members of the Legacy Club.



## Clytice Robertson Gardner receives Distinguished Service Award

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is Clytice Robertson Gardner who was unable to attend Homecoming this year.

Clytice Robertson Gardner is the 2020 Distinguished Service Award recipient. She is the wife of the late Burnis Theodore Gardner of Brandon. Together the Gardner's have shown great service and dedication to Holmes Community College. Mrs. Gardner continues to serve on the Development Foundation Board of Governors and is an active member the Holmes Legacy Club.

Mrs. Gardner grew up in Sallis. She and her husband met at Holmes in 1949 and were married in 1950. They shared 67 years of marriage before his death in June 2018.

Everything Mrs. Gardner has committed to in her life she has done with true commitment and dedication. She loved her job with South Central Bell Telephone Company (now AT&T) and retired with them after 37 years of service in 1989.

Before Mrs. Gardner retired she had been taking night classes at Millsaps College for years and she only lacked twenty-one hours to graduate. When she retired in May of 1989 she enrolled as a full-time day student at Millsaps. In August of 1990, Mrs. Gardner earned a BLS degree in history from Millsaps College.

Mrs. Gardner was a very active volunteer and all of her assignments were very meaningful. A few of the groups she volunteered with over the years included her church, Telephone Pioneers of America, USA International Ballet Competitions, Jackson International Airport and Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Mrs. Gardner has been awarded several awards for her service in all aspects of her life. Some of those awards include the Spirit of Service Award by Telephone Pioneers of America, the Lifetime

Achievement Award by Bellsouth Pioneers in 2002, Certificate of Appreciation from USA International Ballet Competition, the President's Volunteer Service Award by the White House under President Obama by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and certificate of appreciation from the Jackson International Airport.

Mrs. Gardner resides in Brandon. She continues to contribute to Holmes through the Burnis T. and Clytice Robertson Gardner Scholarship that she and her late husband established to help students in need of assistance for tuition, books and supplies.

## Holmes staff members participate in Mental Health First Aid Program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Nineteen Holmes staff members recently participated in the nationally-recognized Mental Health First Aid program.

The Mental Health First Aid program teaches skills to recognize and respond to the signs of mental illness and substance use. The training helps participants learn to identify, understand, and respond to signs of addictions and mental illnesses.

Think of mental health first aid as assisting someone experiencing a mental health crisis as similar to CPR assisting someone in cardiac arrest with CPR. The participants who successfully complete the training program are certified in Mental Health First Aid for a three-year period. A Mental Health First Aider can be the one

to make a difference in the life of someone with a mental health challenge, and his/her actions can be a first step in someone's recovery journey.

The 10-hour training course consists of two hours of online pre-course work and eight hours of face-to-face training. During the course, participants learn about common mental health and substance abuse disorders, and how to recognize the signs and symptoms that suggest a potential mental health challenge.

In addition, participants learn skills on how to listen non-judgmentally and give reassurance to a person who may be experiencing a mental health challenge.

Finally, participants learn how to refer someone to the appropriate professional support and/or services.

Holmes staff members who participated included: Alice Austin, Allison DeWeese, Bethany Miller, Bill Grace, Cynthia Abel, Jackie Hale, Laura Bigbee, Laura McMahon, Nacole Adams, Pamela Fells, Rachelle Moore, Ryan Beggs, Sarah Clay, Simonee Miller, Susie Jackson, Theresa Hargett, Tina Garrett, Tracey Herring and Wyndy Peebles.

In the coming months, the Holmes certified personnel will be presenting information to various campus groups.

## Holmes alumna named Pisgah Elementary Teacher of the Year

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is Holmes alumna **Augusta Leigh Foust** ('14) with her husband **Alex Foust**.

Holmes Community College alumna Augusta Foust was named 2020-21 Teacher of the Year for Pisgah Elementary

School in Brandon. She graduated from the Holmes Ridgeland Campus as an elementary education major in May of 2014.

"Augusta is one of the most memorable students I taught at Holmes Community College," said Holmes mathematics instructor Lisa Anglin. "She was a strong, dedicated student with a caring heart. I am so excited she won teacher of the year. No one is more deserving that Augusta."

While at Holmes, Foust was extremely active on campus as an Ambassador and Student Government Association representative. She was also on the President's and Dean's list for academics which led to being inducted into Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Foust was part of the vice president's leadership class in 2013 and inducted into the prestigious Holmes Hall of Fame in 2014, as well.

"My favorite memories from Holmes include the amazing friendships that were made," Foust said. "It was because of the

opportunities placed before me that I grew and learned so much about myself. I continue to encourage others to attend Holmes CC and to get involved!"

Upon graduation from Holmes, Foust went on to Delta State University, completed her bachelor's degree in elementary education and graduated with a K-6 certification with the endorsement to teach math through the 8th grade. She also earned her master's degree in elementary education from Delta State and is currently working toward obtaining her specialist degree in administration and supervision.

She began teaching at Pisgah Elementary School in the spring of 2017 and has taught math and science to fourth and fifth graders. She is currently teaching all sixth-grade math classes at Pisgah.

"There is so much I enjoy about teaching," Foust said. "I encourage creating and planning my math lessons, but my favorite part would be getting to know my

students! They are the reason that my job is the best in the world. I start early in the year getting to know every student so that I am able to accommodate their needs but also encourage them individually to be the best they can be. I love teaching math, but I wouldn't enjoy teaching it if my students weren't there."

Foust and her husband, Alex, are expecting twin girls in the spring of 2021.

"I am so thrilled to hear that Augusta was named teacher of the year at Pisgah Elementary," said Holmes Student Activities Director/Recruiter Amanda Lindsey. "I smile when I think of her time here as a student. She would speak daily of her passion for little ones and how she was so eager to have an impact in the teaching world. There is no doubt that she has followed her heart and is filling the hearts of her Pisgah Dragons with knowledge, faith and kindness. Your Holmes family is so proud of you Mrs. Foust!"

## Holmes dual-credit student wins VFW Speech Competition

From Staff Reports/Photos



Autumn Dean, a Holmes Community College dual credit speech student at East Webster High School, recently won the annual VFW Voice of Democracy Speech Competition. Dean will now compete at

Pictured is (left) **Autumn Dean**, a Holmes dual credit speech student at East Webster High School.

the district level with other students, with progressing winners moving to state and national competition.

She did receive a scholarship for winning the local level, and has the opportunity to win up to \$30,000 in scholarships.

East Webster's Dual Credit Speech instructor Wendy Brewer encouraged her students to enter and says, "It was an amazing writing, researching, planning

and speaking assignment for them!"

For more information about Holmes Community College dual enrollment, contact Dees Britt at (601) 605-3349 or [dbritt@holmescc.edu](mailto:dbritt@holmescc.edu).



## Holmes named best community college in Mississippi by Stacker

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College was recently named Mississippi's Best Community College by Stacker on its list of "Best Community College in Every State." Offering an accessible education that helps students prepare for promising careers, Holmes was ranked for standing out in both quality and affordability.

Stacker looked at data from Niche's 2020 Best Community Colleges in America report to compile this list of the top 100 community colleges in America. Ranking

is based on a rigorous analysis of academic, financial and student life data from the U.S. Department of Education along with millions of reviews from students and alumni.

"On behalf of our institution, we are thrilled to be recognized as the best community college in Mississippi," said Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey. "At Holmes, we are proud to provide a quality, affordable education with some of the best instructors and staff members in the state.

We are continually working to add new programs, update our facilities and find ways to offer students the most advanced technology/updated equipment possible to enhance their learning experience."

A multi-campus institution, Holmes offers the Associate of Arts degree, Associate of Applied Science degree, technical and career certificates and workforce training. The college now offers more than 50 academic majors, approximately 30 professional programs and a variety of student support services. Holmes is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

Holmes is part of the Mississippi Virtual Community College (MSVCC) and offers classes via the Internet platform Canvas. Courses are offered both by Holmes instructors and through other instructors in the MSVCC. Although several options are offered, including regular semester courses, four-week courses, and eight-week courses, the eLearning Department offers to customize schedules for interested students if they do not see a class they need. Currently, Holmes offers 48 online programs, and is offering 18 courses during an online Winter Session Nov. 30

through Dec. 23.

Holmes' low student-to-faculty ratio and affordability make the college accessible to many, as well. Currently, 91 percent of students at Holmes receive financial aid. The Office of Financial Aid administers a variety of programs to assist in meeting student financial needs, including Federal and State financial aid programs, student loans, state scholarships and Federal Work-Study.

Additionally, this is not the institution's first time to be recognized for excellence. Mississippi Business Journal named Holmes as a finalist for the "Best Two-Year College" in Mississippi, ranking the college second in the state in 2019. Holmes also ranked #2 for Best Online Associate in Psychology Program by The-BestSchools.org two years in a row and was ranked #2 for Best Online Community Colleges in Mississippi by Optimal's Guide to Online Schools, just to name a few accolades.

To check out Stacker's complete listing of the best community colleges in every state, visit <https://stacker.com/stories/3063/best-community-college-every-state>.

## Community Colleges join Mississippi Optical Network

From Staff Reports/Photos



C Spire is adding 15 community colleges to the Mississippi Optical Network (MissiON) just 26 months after completing a major technology upgrade of the state's science and technology research and development arm -- increasing capacity and expanding the size of the consortium.

C Spire is doubling the size of the network by adding the 15 community colleges across the state from the Delta to the Gulf Coast and the Mississippi Community College Board, which will boost capacity, increase internet speeds and reduce overall costs for participating institutions in the higher education R&D program.

Addition of the community colleges to the consortium has boosted capacity, reduced costs and provided the schools with diverse, fully redundant connections to commodity internet services, state university research programs and Internet 2 services in the future, according to C Spire CEO Hu Meena.

"As Mississippi's leading broadband communications provider, C Spire is proud to provide innovative, leading-edge technology and the latest fiber optic infrastructure to help expand the size of the MissiON network and enable researchers to pursue comprehensive solutions to 21st century challenges," Meena said.

"We've deployed a high performance, geographically diverse network

and offer the community colleges speeds up to 100 Gigabits per second (Gbps) with plans to expand to 400 Gbps and beyond in the future," Meena added. "This is a world-class network that fully supports MissiON's important research objectives now and well into the future."

Leveraging its 10,000 route miles of high-capacity fiber optic infrastructure, C Spire has designed the network to support more collaboration for the first time among the state's research universities, regional universities and community colleges as well as access to resources in the ITS State Data Center and C Spire data centers in Jackson and Starkville.

Dr. Andrea Mayfield, executive director of the Mississippi Community College Board, said the transition to the MissiON network will help with expanded distance learning needs for more than 200,000 students in the community college system. "We're excited about joining a robust network that meets our changing needs now and well into the future," she said.

Mayfield said the state's community colleges have been considering joining the consortium for some time weighing the costs, level of effort and potential benefits, but decided earlier this year after the public health emergency to move forward with plans to partner with C Spire on the project. "Our students, teachers and staff needed a fast, reliable solution."

"Community colleges are an important cog in the state's economic development and jobs engine -- so we needed to work closely with C Spire to ensure that our addition to MissiON would help us achieve that goal," said Jason Guntharp, Systems Engineer at Itawamba Community College and subcommittee chair for the integration efforts.

The latest expansion of the network comes after C Spire turned up enhanced connections in 2018 for the

research arms at Ole Miss, the University of Mississippi Medical Center, Mississippi State, Jackson State, the University of Southern Mississippi, Stennis Space Center, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers' Engineering Research and Development Center and the national Internet 2 consortium.

Four regional universities -- Delta State, Alcorn State, Mississippi University for Women and Mississippi Valley State -- also were added to the MissiON network for the first time under a new state telecommunications contract awarded to C Spire in 2017 by the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (ITS).

As part of the earlier comprehensive upgrade, C Spire boosted bandwidth speeds up to 10 times faster for consortium partners, lowered overall latency, added a new interconnection with Internet 2, built new route diversity and redundancy to ensure optimal MissiON network uptime and eliminated a single point of failure from the previous network.

### "Future-Proofing" MissiON Network

C Spire is continuing to work on efforts to make the state's R&D network viable for the future. In 2018, C Spire and Nokia tested elements that could be developed into one of the nation's first Terabit-speed research networks. "Future proofing this network is critical so that the state's research institutions can successfully compete for grants and funding from federal agencies and private endowments well into the future," Meena said.

Terabit-speed research networks, which are 1,000 times faster than current 1 Gigabit per second (Gbps) services, would allow for the download in HD of an entire season of HBO's popular Game of Thrones series in 1 second or the download of a

full human genome map in less than 3 minutes.

"We're pleased with C Spire's efforts and their continuing work on such vital infrastructure, which allows our educational institutions, research entities and businesses to successfully compete on a national and global scale," said David Sliman, CIO at the University of Southern Mississippi and a key liaison for the MissiON Network Advisory Council.

### Lower Campus Internet Access Costs

In another major change, C Spire moved commodity internet access for the over 210,000 students, staff and faculty at the state's 15 community colleges directly to the MissiON core and provisioned it through multiple Tier 1 upstream internet service providers. This gives the educational institutions low-cost access -- up to 80 percent lower than current rates.

Mississippi exported nearly \$11.9 billion in goods and services to 180 countries last year, supporting over 200,000 direct and indirect careers in the Magnolia State, according to statistics from the Industry Week and the U.S. Census Bureau, reinforcing the value of a strong state research and development ecosystem for job creation and economic growth.

### About C Spire

C Spire is a privately-owned telecommunications and technology company driven to deliver the best experiences in wireless, fiber internet, and business IT solutions such as internet, VoIP, cloud and managed services. Read more news releases and announcements at [cspire.com/news](http://cspire.com/news). For more information, visit [cspire.com](http://cspire.com) or find us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.



## 2020 season comes to a close for the Bulldogs

From Staff Reports/Photos



The COVID-19 season has been trying for the Holmes Community College Bulldogs. Due to COVID-19 concerns at Mississippi Delta Community College, the season finale Wednesday night will not be played, and the Bulldogs' season will come to an end.

Holmes will end the season at 0-5 after falling to Itawamba last Thursday night in Goodman.

The 2020 season all throughout the

MACCC saw game dates shifted way past the original six-game schedule set by the league.

"We understand cancelling the final game of the season is very necessary, and we hope that the Mississippi Delta family will recover as soon as possible," said Holmes Athletic Director Andy Wood. "We hate it for our guys who have worked hard all season long and have battled each week to have a

chance to showcase their talents on the playing field, but we know what Delta is currently going through."

"Out of an abundance of caution, we've taken this action to continue to protect our student-athletes, coaches, fans and administrators," Mississippi Association of Community College Conference (MACCC) Commissioner Steve Martin said.

## Bulldogs fall in home finale, 52-9

From Staff Reports

Photo by Jared Thomas



The Itawamba Community College Indians jumped out to 21-0 lead and cruised to 52-9 win over the Holmes Community College Bulldogs here

Thursday night.

With the loss, the Bulldogs felt to 0-5 on the season. Holmes will finish out the 2020 season on Wednesday at

Mississippi Delta at 6 p.m. You can listen on the Bulldog Radio Network.

The Indians scored first in the first quarter with 9:37 left on a one yard run. The extra point was good.

Itawamba added another score with 14:17 left in the second quarter on another one yard run. The extra point was good, and Itawamba led 14-0.

The Indians scored again with 11:04 left in the second on a 14-yard touchdown pass. The extra point was good.

The Bulldogs got on the scoreboard with 4:49 left in the second quarter when sophomore kicker Blake Backel nailed a 46-yard field goal.

Itawamba added another touchdown with 1:04 left to play in the second quarter on an 11-yard touchdown pass. The extra point was good, and Itawamba led 28-3.

The Bulldogs scored with 12 sec-

onds left to play in the first half when sophomore quarterback Kyren Batey found freshman running back Jordan Irving in the back of the end zone for a 15-yard touchdown. Backel's extra point was no good.

The Indians scored 14 points in the third quarter on a six-yard run and extra point and a 25-yard pass and extra point.

In the fourth, Itawamba added their final 10 points on an 18-yard field goal and an 11-yard run and extra point.

Freshman defensive back Quadarious Rhodes led the Bulldogs with 12 tackles while freshman linebacker Da'Travion Knight had nine tackles and freshman defensive back Tomicrin Taylor had seven tackles. Freshman linebacker Jordan Milton added four tackles and one TFL.

## Ellis signs with the University of Arizona

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College's Cariel Ellis, a sophomore forward from Madison, signed Wednesday with the University of Arizona Wildcats soccer team.

Ellis, who helped lead the Holmes Lady Bulldogs to their first MACJC and Region XXIII titles in 2019, originally signed with Mississippi State University in Fall 2019 after her freshman season but decided to return to Holmes for her sophomore season.

COVID-19 forced NJCAA member teams to flip their 2020 fall seasons to the spring. Ellis and her 2020-21 team members will now make their debut in late spring on April 2 versus Pearl River.

Ellis was Holmes' first Holmes women's soccer player to be named to the NJCAA Women's All-American Team in 2019 after being named to the Second Team. She was named Region XXIII's Player of the Year after her

freshman season.

Cariel dominated the MACJC during her freshman season. Of the 21 matches played, she scored multiple goals in 16 of those. For the season, Ellis finished third in the NJCAA with 48 goals including five game winners. She was 20th in assists in the NJCAA with 15 and was third in points with 111 and third in shots with 155.

Ellis played at Madison Central before coming to Holmes.

## Bulldogs fall to Rangers, 41-13 on Homecoming 2020

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Northwest Mississippi Community College Rangers jumped out to a 34-13 lead at halftime cruising to a 41-13 win here Thursday night over the Holmes Community College Bulldogs on Homecoming 2020.

With the loss, the Bulldogs fell to 0-4 on the season. Holmes will face Itawamba on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in Goodman. You can watch live at holmesccmedia.com/white-channel or listen on the Bulldog Football Radio

Network at 100.1 FM, 100.1 FM, 103.9 FM or breezynews.com.

Northwest scored early in the first quarter on a 13-yard run and added the extra point to lead 7-0 with 12:53 left in the quarter. With 2:11 left in the quarter, the Rangers connected on a 39-yard touchdown pass. The extra point was good, and the Rangers led 14-0.

The Bulldogs got on the scoreboard with 1:59 left in the first when fresh-

man quarterback Jevon McDonald broke free on a 75-yard touchdown run. Sophomore kicker Blake Backel's extra point was good, and the Bulldogs trailed the Rangers, 14-7.

The Rangers scored three times in the second quarter. One came on a 1-yard run, another on a 77-yard touchdown pass and the final on a 65-yard touchdown pass. Northwest connected on two of three extra points to lead 34-7.

With :35 left in the first half, McDonald connected with sophomore running back Danny Woodard on a 42-yard touchdown pass. Backel's extra point was blocked, and Northwest led 34-13 at halftime.

Northwest's final score of the game came in the third on a six-yard touchdown pass. The extra point was good, and Northwest led 41-13.

McDonald finished with 57 yards on the ground and 49 yards in the air for

the game.

Freshman linebacker Da'Travion Knight led the Bulldogs with 13 tackles. Freshman defensive back Justice Robinson finished with 12 tackles and .5 TFLs while freshman linebacker Jordan Milton finished with 10 tackles and 1.5 TFLs. Freshman linebacker Devin Chambers had eight tackles and four TFLs. Sophomore linebacker Colin Hunt had six tackles and one TFL. Freshman defensive lineman Devean Turner had six tackles and 1.5 TFLs. Freshman defensive lineman TeVontae Bond had five tackles and .5 TFLs. Sophomore defensive lineman Cedric Tooson had four tackles and one TFL. Freshman defensive lineman Dillion Cage had three tackles and one TFL. Freshman defensive lineman Jedrus Watts had two tackles and .5 TFLs while freshman defensive lineman Thomas Costilow had two tackles and .5 TFLs.



## Women's soccer releases new members of 2021-22 team

*From Staff Reports/Photos*

The Holmes Community College Women's Soccer Program recently released information on members of their 2021-22 team.

"Overall, this class gives us a bit of everything," Associate Head Coach Wesley Noble said. "We will get better in all three thirds of the field with this class. We expect them to be a huge impact as soon as they step onto campus. Most importantly, these ladies are all great people. They will represent this program and school in the highest manner both on and off the field. It will be very exciting to add these players with our returners and see what we can accomplish."

"The global pandemic has not stopped us from recruiting, what could turn out to be, our best recruiting class in school history," Head Coach Matt Convertino said. "Covid-19 has presented its challenges, but we have done well to adapt, execute a 'can-do' attitude and be 'show-ready' for Fall 2021."

"As recruiting coordinator, Wesley has worked extremely hard to identify 13 players that will improve our program, and we couldn't be more excited that they have chosen Holmes Community College to continue their academic and athletic careers," added Convertino.

### **Avery Belden: Goalkeeper**

Avery is a goalkeeper from Brandon High School. She plays club soccer for International Futbol Club of MS where they have won three straight Mississippi Soccer Association state championships and advanced to US Youth Southern Regionals. In 2018, Avery helped lead her team to be champions of US Youth Midsouth Conference which qualified them for USYS National League. They became the first girls team from Mississippi to do so. During league play, Avery only allowed two goals playing against the top teams in the region.

"Avery is a quality goalkeeper," said Associate Head Coach Wesley Noble. "She has great technique and is very sure-handed. Her ability to play out will fit into our system very well. She brings a great attitude to a team and is a strong competitor which are two qualities we look for. I expect Avery to step in and be a big part of our team straight away."

### **Darian Blackburn: Forward**

Darian is a forward who comes to the Lady Bulldogs from Birmingham, Alabama. Darian prepped with Vestavia Hills Soccer Club since 2013. Darian's Vestavia team finished as state finalists in 2016 and 2017. They went on to win the Red Bracket at the Disney Showcase in 2018. Darian was a part of Alabama ODP's 1st team from 2015 - 2019.

"Darian is the type of forward you love to coach," said Associate Head Coach Wesley Noble. "She is big, strong, fast and can really strike the ball. She brings a great presence to the field and we believe her ceiling is tremendously high. Darian will come to Holmes and score a lot of goals. We can't wait for her to get here."

### **Rylee Braden: Defender**

Rylee goes to Lewisburg High School, where she has been a staple on their backline for several years. She was the 2018 Defensive Player of the Year. In 2019 she was selected as player of the year. She plays club soccer for Memphis Futbol Club. In 2018, her club team were Tennessee State Champions. Rylee was selected as a Southeast All-American as well.

"Rylee is a very intelligent center back," said Associate Head Coach Wesley Noble. "She understands the

game well and is able to keep her teams organized throughout the game. She brings a lot of pace and grit to the field. Her composure on the ball and ability to connect passes really fits what we try to do here. We are excited to watch Rylee excel at Holmes!"

### **Karlie Brooks: Defender/Forward**

Karlie plays at Starkville High School, along with IFC of MS for club soccer. While at Starkville, Karlie has been given the GRIT Award as well as Defensive MVP in two separate years. She is a three-time recipient of the Student Athlete Academic Excellence Award. Karlie played club soccer Alliance FC and Brandon FC growing up.

"Karlie can fill many roles inside a team just with her athleticism," said Associate Head Coach Wesley Noble. "She can play as both a defender and a forward. We believe once Karlie gets settled in this environment her play is going to really elevate. She has so much natural talent. It will be exciting watching Karlie grow into the player we know she can be."

### **Jaelyn Hanson: Forward**

Jaelyn is a forward from Northwest Rankin High School, where she has been a 6-year starter along with the leading goal scorer for each of those. As a seventh grader, she was given the Newcomer of the Year Award as well as Offensive Player of the Year. She is a two-time Central MS All Star Selection. As a sophomore, she was selected 2nd team all-state and was a first team selection her junior year. She plays her club soccer for Alabama FC ECNL and IFC of MS. She has served as captain of both IFC and her high school team. Her IFC Club team has won multiple state championships and represented MS in Regional Play. Before going to IFC she played for MS Rush where she attended the Rush National Camp and was selected for Rush National, where she played all over Europe.

"Jaelyn is a pure goal scorer," said Associate Head Coach Wesley Noble. She has a great understanding of the game in the attacking third. Her athleticism sets her apart from most others. It is always exciting when a player with her athletic ability has such a high soccer IQ also. We fully expect Jaelyn to come in and be an immediate threat for us up top. She has a very bright future ahead."

### **Lydia Hutcherson: Defender/Midfielder**

Lydia is a 5'11 center back/defensive midfielder from Lamar School. While at Lamar, she has been a five time All District Selection. She has been named Max Preps Player of the Week for MS, as well as the 2018 MVP. She was named to the Premier Preps Girls Soccer Team. She plays club soccer currently for IFC of MS and Hattiesburg FC. Previously she played club soccer for both Alliance FC and Brandon FC. At Brandon FC, she helped lead her team to be Gulf States Premier League Champions where they went onto compete at the National Premier League Finals.

"Lydia is someone whose presence is always felt on the field," said Associate Head Coach Wesley Noble. "She is big, strong, and unbelievably aggressive. She tackles very well as a defender and can change the point of attack for a team at any given time. Her ability to drive the ball is a component that every team loves to have. As she gets settled into our system of play, she will become a great player for us."

### **Katelin Johnson: Forward**

Katelin is a forward that preps at Lafayette High School where her team has won back to back state championships. As a sophomore, Katelin was an All District Honorable Mention. Her junior year, she led the team in assists and was second in goals with 16 assists and 16 goals. She was All District, All North MS Region Team, and All Area Team for her play as a junior. She currently plays club for Memphis Futbol Club. Before going to MFC, she played for MS Flood.

"Katelin is crafty and dynamic," said Associate Head Coach Wesley Noble. "She has a sense of being in the right place at right time. She is a quality finisher but what sets her apart is her ability to create opportunities for others. Katelin's vision, final pass, and ability to beat players off the dribble will bring a lot to our team. Katelin will be a very important piece to the group the minute she gets to campus."

### **Mia Mauro: Midfielder**

Mia is a center midfielder from Gulf Breeze High School in Florida. Gulf Breeze has proved to be a dominant team during Mia's time there. They finished as State Finalists her sophomore year and Quarter Finalists her junior year. Mia plays club soccer for Gulf Coast Texans where they are currently second place in the Sunshine Conference. In 2019, they made it to the Final 4 of Florida and finished top three in the Midsouth Conference League in 2017. Mia is a part of the Alabama State ODP team. She was also selected for the National ID2 Development Program in 2017.

"Mia is the type of player that controls the tempo of the game," said Associate Head Coach Wesley Noble. "She is extremely composed on the ball and is very good in tight areas. She can play anywhere in the center of the field which makes her very valuable to any team. She is a fantastic teammate that makes players around her better. Mia will fit into our midfield really well and be a huge part of our team from the moment she steps on campus."

### **Sydney Nester: Midfielder/Forward**

Sydney is an attacking player from Walker High School in Louisiana. While at Walker High she has racked up several awards such as All Freshman Second Team, 2nd Team All-Metro, and 2nd Team All District. She has served as team captain also. Sydney plays club soccer for FC Tammany where they compete in USYS National League. She also played for Baton Rouge Soccer Club and Livingston Parish Soccer Association growing up. "Sydney is an exciting dynamic player," said Associate Head Coach Wesley Noble. "She can beat players off the dribble and can thread a pass to break lines extremely well. Sydney can play as a forward, winger, or attacking midfielder depending on the system or opponent. Her soccer IQ is high, and she understands the game at a great level. Sydney will be a huge player in our conference straight away."

### **Hollyn Oswalt: Defender**

Hollyn grew up playing club soccer for MS Brilla Juniors. She is a three-year starter currently at Clinton High School where they were 6A State Runners Up in 2020. As a junior she was award Most Valuable Defensive Player. Both her junior and senior year she has served as team captain.

"Hollyn is a natural defender," said Associate Head Coach Wesley Noble. "She reads angles well, covers a lot of ground, and does well timing her tackles. She is a very good leader and someone that people naturally gravitate to. Hollyn will be a great piece in our backline for the next two years."

### **K'lee Pittman: Defender/Midfielder**

K'lee currently plays for Brandon High School and IFC of MS. She is a captain on her high school team at Brandon. In 2020, she was awarded the Comeback Award after battling back from injuries. In 2019, her IFC team won the Midsouth Conference League and qualified for USYS National League. Before going to IFC, K'lee played for MS Rush where she was offered a tryout for the Rush National Team.

"K'lee is an ultimate competitor," said Associate Head Coach Wesley Noble. "With everything she does, she wants to win and be the best. That is what we look for in our players. She can fill every role on a team and do the job well. K'lee will help us all over the field and we are excited to watch her grow as a player and individual. Her ability to lead others will be a huge component to our team over the next two years. We couldn't be happier to have K'lee."

### **Abbey Roberts: Midfielder**

Abbey is a midfielder, who preps at Brandon High School. In 2016, her team was South State Champs and finished as MHSAA State Finalists. In 2018, they won the 6A MHSAA State Title. She was awarded the Bulldog Award as a sophomore and Best Midfielder as a junior. In 2020, she was selected to the Central MS All Star Game. She has served as team captain of both Brandon High and her club team, IFC of MS, for two years. Her Club team have won four consecutive state championships as well as being Midsouth Conference League Champions in 2019.

"Abbey is a perfect example of a quality center mid," said Associate Head Coach Wesley Noble. "She has a very high work rate, clean on the ball, and does a really job of connecting through the thirds. She fits into a possession-based system extremely well and we think she will have a lot of success here at Holmes. She is a lead by example type player because of how much she puts into the game day in and day out."

### **Avery Treloar: Defender**

Avery leads a great backline at Lafayette High School, where they have won the 5A State Championship in back-to-back seasons. During her sophomore year, she was All District as well as a 2nd Team All State Selection. Her junior year, she was the MVP of the District and a 1st Team All-State Selection. Before attending Lafayette her sophomore year, she attended Oxford High School where they won the State Title. Avery has played club soccer Lobos, MS Flood, and currently MS Rush United.

"Avery is everything you want in a center back," said Associate Head Coach Wesley Noble. "Her pace is unmatched and she is absolutely fearless. She great in the air and has a great blend of composure and aggression. On the ball, she can connect passes at a high rate and can also change the point of attack from anywhere on the field. As Avery learns our system of play, we think she will be a top defender in our conference."





# The Growl Staff



## **Kaitlyn Anderson**

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

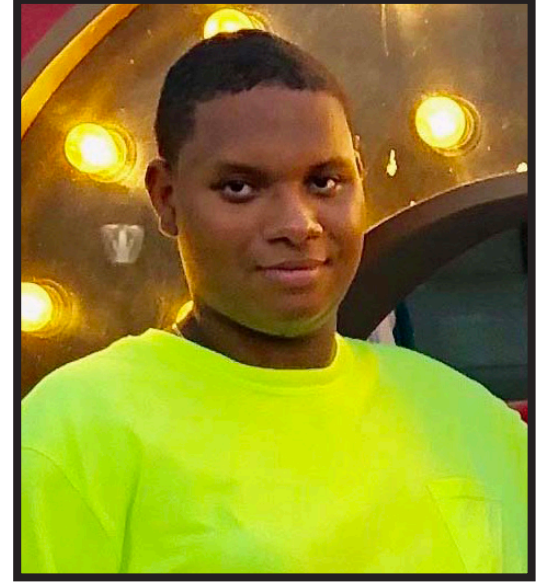
Kaitlyn “Kay-Kay” Anderson is a sophomore at Holmes majoring in mass communications. She is part of the newspaper staff and was a member of the year book staff last semester. Anderson works part-time for Pinelake church, where she is part of the worship team and also a coach for next gen. She is also 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

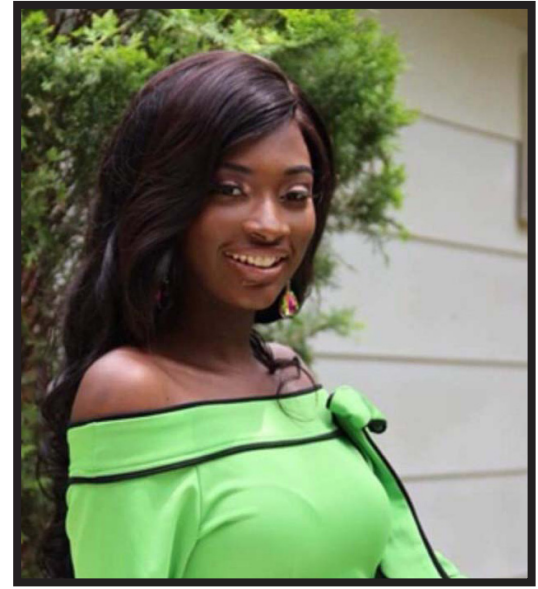
Piper Patterson is a graduate of Madison Central (Class of 2019) and is in her last year at Holmes. Her plans are to attend Mississippi State University in the fall of 2021. Patterson’s free time is typically spent at the daycare where she works or spending time with her family and friends. She enjoys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