



Holmes Community College  
Goodman – Ridgeland – Grenada  
www.holmescc.edu

# THE GROWL

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## Henderson crowned Homecoming Queen

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured are (left to right) Holmes Alumni Association President **Jacob Black**, Holmes President **Dr. Jim Haffey**, 2023 Homecoming Queen **Mary Patton Henderson**, escort **Ethan Wood** and 2022 Homecoming Queen **Abigail Edge**.

On Thursday, Oct. 26, Holmes Community College hosted its annual Homecoming celebration on the Goodman Campus. Mary Patton Hendereson of Kosciusko, daughter of Connie and Ricky Henderson, was crowned 2023 Homecoming Queen at halftime. Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey crowned the queen, Alumni Association President Jacob Black presented her robe and 2022 Homecoming Queen Abigail Edge presented her flowers. Henderson was escorted by Ethan Wood of Kosciusko.

Prior to the Homecoming Court presentation, the Holmes Marching Band, directed by Terry Miller and Justin Craft, performed on the field. The rest of the Goodman Campus court included: Cassidy Watkins of Madison and her escort R.J. Merriman of Grenada;

Sophomore Maid Summer Watkins of Madison and her escort Will Carter of Kosciusko; Sophomore Maid Audrey Eldridge of Vaiden and her escort Matthew Reed of Madison; Freshman Maid Brittlyn Gillum of Kosciusko and her escort Jabari Farr of Pontotoc and Freshman Maid Jakya Ellis of Kosciusko and her escort Braylen Allbritton of Kosciusko.

Ridgeland Campus court members were as follows: Student Body Maid Kennedy Manning of Brandon and her escort Colin Crosby of Ridgeland; Sophomore Maid Kamilah Millsap of Madison and her escort Jaderius White of Madison; Sophomore Maid Presleigh Powers of Carthage and her escort Graham Lambert of Canton;

*Homecoming, continued on Page 7*

## Holmes unveils new soccer facility on the Ridgeland Campus

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Coaches, administrators and the Lady Bulldogs gather for the ribbon cutting for the new soccer fieldhouse on Nov. 7.

Holmes Community College held a ribbon cutting on Tuesday, Nov. 7, to unveil the new soccer field house on the Ridgeland Campus.

The field house is 5,923 square feet and features locker and team rooms for both men's and women's soccer, coach's offices, laundry rooms and storage as well as restrooms and concessions for use on gamedays on the Ridgeland Campus.

The locker rooms are 464 square foot each and have 33 lockers with accompanying showers and restrooms while the team rooms are 582 square foot each and have seating for 33 people. Each team room will have audio/visual equipment for the players to watch

film.

JH&H Architects of Flowood are the architects for the project while England Enterprises, Inc. of Vaughan constructed the facility.

"It has been a five-year process, and I am glad to see it before Matt, Don and I retire," Holmes Athletic Director Andy Wood said. "I appreciate Dr. Haffey and Sonny allocating the money for the soccer teams."

"We are extremely thankful to Dr. Haffey, Dr. Burnham, Andy Wood and all of our administration that made this happen," Head Women's Coach Wesley Noble said. "This is a huge blessing to this program and it is great to

*Ribbon cutting, continued on Page 9*

## Laura Canard named Holmes' Humanities Teacher of the Year

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



**Laura Canard**

Laura Canard of Madison, division chair for the Holmes Community College History and Political Science Department, was selected as the 2023-24 Holmes Humanities Teacher of the Year. She will deliver her scholarly presentation, "The Value of Knowing the Past," on Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024, at 1:45 p.m. in the McGowan Workforce Training Building on the Ridgeland Campus. A reception will follow the presentation. The lecture is free and the public is encouraged to attend.

"In my presentation, 'The Value of Knowing the Past,' I will discuss the importance of knowing history by highlighting different historical events

and their importance in the world today as well as our personal lives," Canard said.

Canard, who teaches in Ridgeland, has taught history and political science courses for Holmes for 13 years on both the Goodman and Ridgeland campuses. Additionally, she has served as a Phi Theta Kappa advisor for both the Kappa Alpha Chapter and the Alpha Lambda Sigma Chapter. She was the Healthy at Holmes Coordinator on the Goodman Campus, as well.

Canard attended Holmes from 1996-97 before transferring to Mississippi College. She earned both a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Master of

Social Science in History and Political Science from MC. In addition, she was a student-athlete who played basketball at both Holmes and at MC.

Canard has three children; Coleman (21), Cooper (18) and Mary Crawford (18).

"We are honored to present this award to Laura," said Holmes Vice President for Academic Programs Dr. Jenny B. Jones.

In addition to presenting at Holmes, Canard will be recognized for this honor at the Mississippi Humanities Council's annual spring gala that will be held in Jackson.

### WHAT'S INSIDE...

- STUDENT EDITORIALS
- RECENT HAPPENINGS ON CAMPUS
- SPORTS PHOTOS/RECAPS AND MORE!



**SEE PAGE 8 FOR  
PICTURES OF THE  
2023 HOME-  
COMING MAIDS**



## November is men’s mental health awareness month

By Malley Chase Faulkner  
Staff Reporter



November is recognized as Movember, a month dedicated to raising awareness about male mental health. It serves as an important opportunity to shed light on the mental health challenges that men face and to encourage open conversations around this topic.

Mental health can affect anyone, regardless of gender, but there are unique challenges that men may encounter. Societal expectations and stereotypes often discourage men from

expressing their emotions or seeking help when they are struggling. This can lead to feelings of isolation, as well as a reluctance to seek support, resulting in untreated mental health issues.

Movember aims to break down these barriers by encouraging men to talk about their mental health, seek help and support each other. It emphasizes the importance of self-care, self-reflection and reaching out to trusted friends, family members or professionals when needed. By promoting these conversations, Movember helps to reduce the stigma surrounding male mental health and encourages men to prioritize their well-being.

Throughout November, various

organizations and initiatives provide resources, events and campaigns to promote male mental health. These efforts focus on education, early intervention and destigmatization of mental health challenges. They aim to empower men to take control of their mental well-being and provide them with the tools and support they need to lead healthier, happier lives.

It is crucial to recognize that mental health is a complex issue that cannot be solely addressed in one month. However, dedicating November to male mental health serves as a reminder to prioritize mental well-being and encourages ongoing discussions throughout the year. By fostering a



supportive environment, we can work together to break down the barriers that prevent men from seeking help and promote mental health for all.

## Twice a year is never enough: visiting your older loved ones

By Aleesa Booker  
Staff Reporter



Watching my favorite holiday movie, “Home Alone,” brings about three things for me. The importance of not forgetting, laughter and the price of leaving behind

the ones you loved. “Old Man Marley” is a character in the movie who is first seen as scary. However, once we hear his story our minds run rampant with many questions. How could his family do this? Does he enjoy being by himself? However, the most important question is, “How often do we spend time with our elderly loved ones?”

Each year people go out of the way to spend the two biggest holidays, Christmas and Thanksgiving, with all of their relatives. Sometimes these holidays feel like a burden; from your eyes hurting from camera flashes to yelling at your younger cousin for not giving your phone back. But what if the roles were reversed? What if this was your only time to see the people you watched grow up? What if this was the only time you were engulfed by nothing but love and happiness? What if this was the only time of year your family felt “obligated” to see you? Our elderly loved ones are those who always keep the best image of us in mind. They make sure we are loved when we see them. Partly because they don’t know when they will see us next. Let’s see why “leaving the elderly behind” is a continuing phenomenon that no one talks about.

### Why?

Many of our elders face social isolation. Social isolation is when you have little to no contact with others. Not spending enough time with the elderly isn’t anything new and a lot more common than a lot of people assume. Here are a few reasons why.

### Mental health

Throughout the years our openness to expressing mental health issues has become increased. In some cases, these problems can stem from damaging childhood events. Each year more and more people walk away from their family members because of a lack of acceptance or respect. This causes people to sometimes lose touch with those who have nothing to do with it. Most of the time these are our elders.

### Technology

Less than 20 years ago if you wanted to see your family members you had to hop in a car. Now, they are just a phone call away. Technology has made our lives in most cases much easier and accessible. However, most of our elderly don’t understand technology. Being a Zoom link away is an easy tool to stay in touch with younger generations but can sometimes leave older people out simply because they don’t know how to use it properly.

### Families grow

Extended family is a weird phrase. Once you have children of your own

your parents are now considered your extended family even though at one point they were your immediate family. Ever since I could recall, Thanksgiving has always been held at my Grandmother’s house. My grandmother loves company and catering to others. Each year I either see someone new or someone I haven’t seen in a long time. Whether it’s just stopping by to grab a plate and to say “Thank you” or to stay for a few hours to watch the Egg Bowl. Each year it’s filled with laughter and staying up until at least 2 a.m.

However, this Thanksgiving didn’t feel like Thanksgiving. Everyone who was there were people I had seen before, people that came every year and no one stayed to watch “The Biggest Mississippi Rivalry.” I asked my mother why she thought this happened. She said, “Everyone has their own family now.” Growing up and starting your own family sometimes equates to forgetting the family that allowed you to grow up. More and more we see families and their traditions get cut and become smaller. The people that they typically cut are the elderly.

### How this makes them feel

We as humans are social creatures who thrive off interactions with other people. When not given this attention and affection an array of problems can arise. For example, social isolation can cause depression, anxiety, high blood pressure and sometimes even death. Just like the holidays, there is something you can always do to make it better. Here are a few things you can

do to make sure you don’t leave anyone out any time of the year.

### Weekly checkups

However, technology is in some part the reason why we leave the elderly behind. It can also help us bring them forward. Scheduling weekly Zoom calls with your older loved one reassures them that you’re thinking of them.

### Keeping them in the loop

As someone who does have some parts of their family far away, getting pictures every day helps me feel like I’m right there. Showing your elderly mother or father a picture of your child’s soccer game, awards and more keeps them involved.

### Scheduling one more visit

Most importantly, don’t just go visit them for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Add in another fall, summer or even spring vacation. Your loved ones should never feel like it’s the winter Olympics each time you come. Making sure to visit them on more than just holidays is a great way not to forget them.

Visiting anyone in your family may sometimes feel like a hassle. However, feeling like it’s a hassle to get your grandkids to visit is the worst. Making an effort to see your elderly loved ones is important because seeing them twice a year is never enough.



# 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).



## An album review of “This Is Why” by Paramore

By Evan Yates  
Staff Reporter



Paramore is an alternative American rock band that was formed in 2004. As of now, the band is composed of lead singer Hayley Williams, guitarist Taylor York and

drummer Zac Farro. The band recently put out an album titled “This Is Why”; this is the band’s sixth album and one to cause much debate, as it is different from their usual pop-punk sound. Nevertheless, there is a different vision of sound the band brings to the table with “This Is Why” and I believe it’s going to set up the prime of Paramore.

The album starts off with the track, centered around the album name, “This Is Why” and it is surrounded with an anxious energy following the likes of COVID-19, active protesting, etc. The instruments of the track featuring guitar, drums and bass start the song with an uneasy guitar line. Then, it tightens up to bring the song to ease. Williams sings very softly in the first verse, “If you have an opinion/ maybe you should shove it/or maybe you should scream it/might be best to keep it/to yourself,” before jumping into the chorus with the explosive background of guitar and drums.

Williams talks about the track in an interview saying, “It summarizes the plethora of ridiculous emotions, the rollercoaster of being alive in 2022, having survived even just the last three or four years. You’d think after a global pandemic...and the impending

doom of a dying planet, that humans would have found it deep within themselves to be kinder or more empathetic or something.”

I think this track is a great start to the album. When I first heard it, I wasn’t so sure if I liked it or not. It wasn’t the usual Paramore sound I was used to. After listening to it over and over again, I realized that it is truly a great song. It focuses on the problems of the past world when times were hard and we quite literally did not want to leave the house. It speaks truth on what revolved around the world during the pandemic. This song lays the foundation for the rest of the album.

The seventh track on the album titled “You First,” gives off the emotions of anger and desperation. While York starts the song with a guitar riff that creates the mood of what’s to experience in this song, Farro keeps the drums moving as he rolls off the emotions of Williams. This song’s focal point is the idea of being both the hero and the villain. A verse that specifically points this out is, “Turns out I’m living in a horror film/Where I’m both the killer and the final girl.” Williams speaks about this topic during an interview, “...I think that’s just the paradoxical nature of being human. I got mad at kids for fighting at a Paramore show and then I got mad at myself backstage because I was like, ‘As if I don’t get angry...’ Who knows what they’re struggling with, or if the world is a horrific place to live in for them?” “You First” is energetic and anger driven, and I believe it is one of Paramore’s best songs to date.



The ninth track on the album is titled “Crave.” This is personally my favorite Paramore song of all time. It has great instrumentation from Farro and York which is accompanied by the fantastic vocal strength of Williams. The track focuses on longing to relive the best memories of life over and over again. In particular, Williams sings about the nostalgic past of Paramore and how she craves to live in those moments again. Williams says, “We don’t like to give too much credit to nostalgia, we like to move forward. But with music, you couldn’t escape that feeling. I was just thinking about why I always miss the moment that I’m in because I’m too worried about when it’s going to be

over.” “Crave” is a beautifully written song that signifies how nostalgia can affect a person’s ability to live in the moment.

Paramore gives a whole new take on their music with “This Is Why.” While I only covered three songs, the whole album shows how much Paramore has grown musically. I would give this album a 9/10. I’ve listened to every single one of their albums, but this album is so much different. Since Paramore released this album, I’ve started to believe that this era of their music is going to be their prime, and I can’t wait to support them through it as they continue making music.

## A spooky billion-dollar industry

By Aleesa Booker  
Staff Reporter



“This is Halloween, this is Halloween” is a phrase that we hear more than a thousand times during October. Who knew that this small one-day holiday captivated

by monsters, blood and scary things could bring a billion-dollar industry to America each year? Spooky, isn’t it? From movies down to dressing a one-year-old up as a pumpkin, let’s see why and how Halloween is so important, not only to us, but to the American economy.

### “I want to eat your brains”

Hopefully, you’re not on an empty stomach or this might not be the best article for you. Not only is Halloween the season of the witch but also the season of creativity. For those of us who like turning sandwiches into sand witches, Halloween is the season for you. Making fake eyeballs with white gumballs, red icing and black gumies seems like something straight from a nightmare, but that’s what this season is about. Each year out of the 12.2 billion dollars Americans spend on Halloween 65 percent of that comes from people buying candies and food. Although Halloween doesn’t have any staple foods it does have staple themes. Green icing, red punch and anything with fangs screams Halloween. Although Halloween brings

children happiness and the inner child out in adults, what does it do for the economy? Halloween has a positive effect on the GDP and leads to more job growth. Now you can enjoy your googly eyeball soup and candy corn knowing you might have just helped jump-start a whole economy.

### “Angel or Barbie?”

Costumes: If I could be anyone or anything what would you be? This is the question that rings in everyone’s mind during the Halloween season. From dressing up as your favorite rockstar to your favorite pop star, Halloween is the night to bring out your best interpretation. It’s the only time of the year you can see an adult and dog dressed up as the same thing. Halloween costumes have a spooky past; the first costumes date back to ancient Rome and people would wear animal skins, skulls and skirts. Just like everything else, humans evolved.

The whole purpose of pre-modern Halloween costumes was to disguise the person wearing the costume, which is completely different from what it is today. Today, the most popular costumes sold don’t cover the face at all. Within the 12.2 billion dollars spent on Halloween this year, almost 30 percent is spent on costumes. You dressing as Barbie and not forgetting your Ken might leave your pockets with cobwebs but in the grand scream of things, you’re supporting the second biggest retail event America experiences each year.



### “Jeepers Creepers”

Get your popcorn ready, not to eat but to throw it in the air- while watching Huluween and seeing spiders crawl up your TV on Disney Plus. Streaming services have joined in on the gory fun. During Halloween streaming services like Hulu have noted a rise in subscription users’ usage and a boost in how many people subscribe to their platform. Lots of retail companies and food businesses take advantage of this time of year. For example, Chipotle offers a Boorito and Disney Plus offers a code off of Disney Halloween apparel and home decor. Not only does Halloween put a benevolent spell on the U.S. Economy but also its industries.

### “Spooktastic media”

Social media: Lastly, let’s talk about social media. For this whole week on TikTok, I saw nothing but posts for Halloween weekend and “boo baskets.”(period inside quotations) Then on Insta-

gram today, my page was flooded with what celebrities wore this weekend. Each year, social media increases the availability and awareness around holidays. Don’t know what you want for Christmas? I bet TikTok can figure it out.

Although social media sometimes makes us zombies, sometimes it can make us mad scientists. Social media, contrary to popular belief, is not the resident evil always. It can help us decide on multiple things: costumes, foods, candies and overall inspiration for decorating the house. Therefore social media doesn’t just contribute to a small part of Halloween but possibly the grand scream of things. Without social media, the U.S. economy wouldn’t be as spooktastic.

Halloween is a season filled with many scares, jumps and screams. It is also filled with an unexpected economic boost, positive money trends and more jobs. Now that’ll make you jump, jump for joy.



She had a dream

By Ashley Steen  
Staff Reporter



Leisha Pickering is a Mississippi native and founder of Musse Bath, a company that she built out of her kitchen on a farm in Madison County about eight years ago. She said that she came up with the idea to create a job for one person and now she expanded to having employees by the thousands. Pickering expressed her passion for

taking baths, so she came up with the idea to make bath bombs by hand. This business has been remarkably successful and has reached the attention of so many people here in Mississippi and across the world. Just recently, Pickering was named on Oprah Winfrey’s list of her favorite things in 2023. Just imagine a well-known public figure talking about your product. That must be exciting and overwhelming at the same time. This dream she had just to be a help to someone else now has turned into a well-known business.

Lastly, Pickering was able to create something that provides means, job training and helps provide a lot of people with a better quality of life just because she had a dream. She believes in prison reform; she provides jobs for women getting out prison and she also provides work to people with special needs. She had a dream to impact and change lives. To learn more, visit [www.museebath.com](http://www.museebath.com).



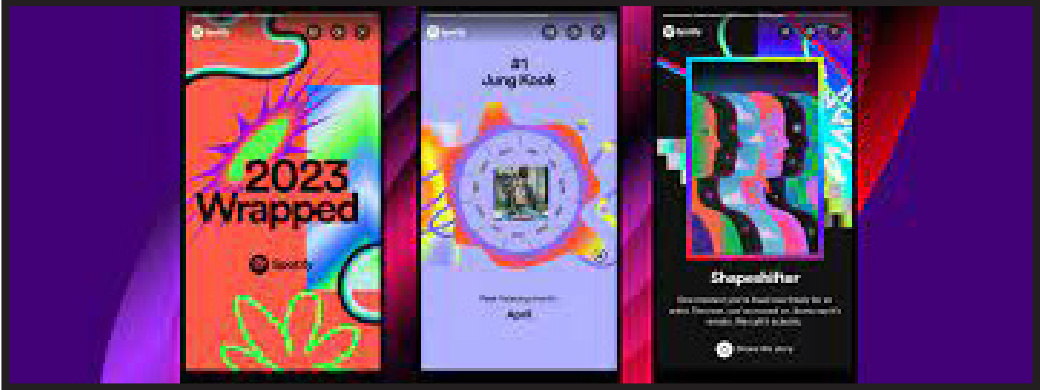
Spotify Wrapped ruined the way we listen to music?

By Alyssa Jackson  
Staff Reporter



In 2016, the music streaming service Spotify launched “wrapped,” a feature that displays a compilation of users’ listening habits throughout the year. The campaign quickly formed a grasp on Spotify patrons, and soon became a social spectacle. Those who used the app began to post their Wrapped data, showcasing their most listened to artists and songs. Competitor streaming services caught wind of this phenomenon and began to develop their version of Wrapped, this includes Spotify’s biggest rival, Apple Music. Within the past few years, the day Spotify and fel-

low streaming services release users’ listening data has been anticipated as if it were an international holiday. It has become a spectacle on social media to show what you have listened to within the year, especially your most listened to song of the year. Since the rise of this event, many have begun to judge others by who or what genres they listen to. Spotify users and those alike have even felt the need to announce that they will not be sharing their listening habits due to embarrassment or fear of how others will react. Others take their shame to a new level by falsifying their top artists and songs data. Many people have shared, jokingly and not, screenshots of them streaming a small indie artist on mute in attempts to make it look like they



have a cool and obscure music taste. While I’m sure these small artists appreciate these streams, genuine or not, it is disheartening to see that a feature that began as a way to showcase people’s taste has become so disingenuous. Being perceived as cool and different is something that people will always seek out. Some even go as far to

repress and hide their true interests and identity to have this image. The spectacle that Spotify has turned into is a blaring example of this behavior. If we are willing to fabricate something as trivial as our music taste to the public, one can’t help but wonder how much of their identity one can comprise before losing ourselves completely.

Just a simple smile will do

By Ashley Steen  
Staff Reporter



In these times, we as people face so many challenges. We carry so many things, and as humans we tend to focus on the things that make us feel uncomfortable such as mental health issues, failure, divorce, poverty and self-doubt. Studies have shown that smiling faces are a natural painkiller. Together brain chemicals make us feel good from head to toe. Not only do smiling faces elevate your mood and help physical pain, they also can help in everyday life. Just imagine what one simple smile can do and how it impacts others around you. Just think about some social settings we often visited like

work, home, school, church and even a trip to your local grocery store. Think about how many lives you can impact a day with just one smile. Most times we cannot tell what a person is or has experienced in life but what we do know is that everyone has a story to tell about life experience that they cannot change. Connie Stevens said, “Nothing you wear is more important than your smile.” In this world some people just want to be acknowledged. The one kind gesture could change that person’s life. This helps boost the confidence they need to carry on and do well. Another impact is that a person can use what he or she has learned through others just what smiling can do and how it can be an inspiration in someone else’s life. Now that they understand how important smiling really is.



In closing, it cost us absolutely nothing to smile. One day it might be you that needs that smile. That one smile you will know how to receive it because you yourself have displayed that same positive energy. Why is smiling so important? Smiling creates posi-

tive energy; it is just that simple. The next time you find yourself in a social setting I encourage you, any time you make eye contact, just know a simple smile will do.

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE GROWL? CONTACT MARY MARGARET BUSBY AT MBUSBY@HOLMESCC.EDU



## A review of “Five Nights at Freddy’s”

By Evan Yates  
Staff Reporter



One of the most anticipated video game movies, “Five Nights at Freddy’s”, grossed \$132.6 million globally at the box office for its debut this past weekend. “Five Nights at Freddy’s”, developed as a video game by creator Scott Cawthon, is about “a troubled security guard... spending his first night on the job, he realizes the late shift at Freddy’s won’t be so easy to make it through.” In this review, I will be going over the pros and cons of “Five Nights at Freddy’s”.

I believe this movie does an incredible job of showcasing the A-list actors that captivate the hearts of the audience almost immediately. Josh Hutcherson, Peeta Mallark in “The Hunger Games” movies, does phenomenal in his role as Mike Schmidt. Still troubled by the disappearance of his younger brother, he yearns to figure out who abducted his brother by sleeping to noises of nature that take

him back to the time and place of when it happened-while also taking on the responsibility of caring for his younger sister Abby, played by Piper Rubio.

When you see Schmidt on screen, you can feel the emotion of loss and grief due to him losing his younger brother. Although Rubio is a younger actor and might not have much acting experience, I feel as if her acting can be improved if she’s brought back for a possible sequel. Even still, these lead actors do a great job of bringing life to a movie filled with silent, animatronic killers.

The animatronics, Freddy Fazbear, Chica and Bonnie, are perfectly crafted by the artists at the Jim Henson’s Creature Shop. Although they might look beautiful on screen, the animatronics in the movie don’t deliver as much fright as they do bite. The suspense of the animatronics sneaking up on their victims is often underwhelming and not as scary as one might think. In fact, this movie really never made me fear the animatronics at all. Sure, they had a couple of jump scares here and there, but they don’t compare anything to the



game’s jump scares. I believe that if they do start working on a sequel, they will have to add more of a fear factor into the mix and create something scary enough for the fans to actually enjoy.

“Five Nights at Freddy’s” has outstanding lead actors who only need a little more work, and while their animatronics might look amazing, they don’t deliver the terror that many play-

ers of the games might know. I give this movie a 7/10 because in all honesty, I really wanted to walk out of the movie afraid of the animatronics and in the end, I found them quite heartwarming and cute. In the end, I think if they do make a sequel that they can follow up on their losses and actually make the animatronics as frightening as they are in the video games.

## The end of trick or treating

By Alyssa Jackson  
Staff Reporter



For years Halloween has been an event that children look forward to all year. Nothing sounds more appealing to kids than being able to accumulate enough free candy to fill buckets. Despite the day being regarded as one of the “big three” end of the year holidays, the main way of celebration seems to be losing popularity. Halloween and trick-or-treating are seen as inseparable concepts, but in recent years it seems that there has been a substantial decline in the festivity’s participants.

After this passing Halloween, many people turned to social media to share how their candy bowls for trick-or-

treaters were nearly full at the end of the night. Young adults were particularly vocal about the lack of costumed visitors; many of them looking forward to being on the other side of the celebration they remembered so fondly.

The decrease in trick-or-treaters can be attributed to a few factors. In a post-Covid society, many people have changed their approach to certain activities to be more health conscious. Families have shared that they have chosen to do an at home Halloween celebration for their kids rather than participate in the door-to-door activity. Parents are also aware that the world is in a different state compared to when they were children. In recent years there has been a rise in predators who wish to cause harm onto kids on Halloween night. The harm can range from hiding harmful object inside of



candy to abducting kids that are trick-or-treaters.

While Halloween celebrations have shifted from traditional ways, that doesn’t mean that the holiday’s spirit has been lost. “Trunk-or-treating” has become a popular alternative to trick-

or-treating. This event is usually organized by churches and schools and entails kids coming and collecting candy from car trunks within the parking lot. This method of trick-or-treating allows kids to still participate in the event, but within a smaller set area, rather than

## The Importance of Giving

By Serenity Washington  
Staff Reporter



Giving is what makes our world happy. When a person gives out of the kindness of their heart to another person, it encourages the other person to do the same. Giving to others and helping one another helps us to be able to become closer and care for one another within our community and families. Giving can also be a way of showing love and kindness in the world. It only takes one person to start it all. Giving can be an example of the chain. Once one person gives, the next will give, and so on.

There are many programs and donation funds to help give within our community today. Each year Holmes Community College comes out with different types of giving events to help better those around us and help better our communities. For example, Holmes’ McMorrough Library and Archives on the Ridgeland Campus will be able to undergo a renovation after a five-year plan. Many people have already donated. The goal of the library is almost reached. Holmes also has other donation opportunities to help give. There are many different and unique ways you can give.

Many people would want to give but need to know how. Holmes has come up with a wonderful giving program that is based on giving on a Tues-



day. It is on their homepage, [www.holmescc.edu](http://www.holmescc.edu). This helps notify others when they can donate to and help their communities. The program also helps with donating to those in need. Many times, you can even just buy a shirt or

hat and that can be a form of donating. We should all donate; not only to help our communities but also to help those around us, as well.



## Christmas in Mississippi

By Aleesa Booker  
Staff Reporter



As the most wonderful time of the year approaches, people all over look for things to do. However, no one wants to travel out of their state. One thing that every state

has, no matter where they are is the Christmas spirit. Christmas in Mississippi is a great time to celebrate and see what Mississippi has to offer. Here are a few activities to do to make your Mississippi Christmas a little brighter.

### The Canton Lights

Christmas is known for a lot of things. However, the brightest part of Christmas is always the lights. Every year in Canton there is a light show ceremony. The light show is every day through Dec. 23. It begins at 5 p.m. and ends at 9 p.m. At the Canton Lights, you can find food vendors,

Santa and special character shows. Taking your family out to view Christmas lights, food and pictures is a deal you cannot miss.

### Northpark Mall Santa

In the heart of the capital itself there is always something to do. Every day until Dec. 24, in Northpark Mall there will be stories and songs with Santa. You can take your loved ones there to ride the trains and take pictures with Santa. Although it's not the heart of Christmas, getting there early is essential for not standing in a long line for Santa. Getting gifts and taking pictures with Santa is a win-win combo for you and your kids.

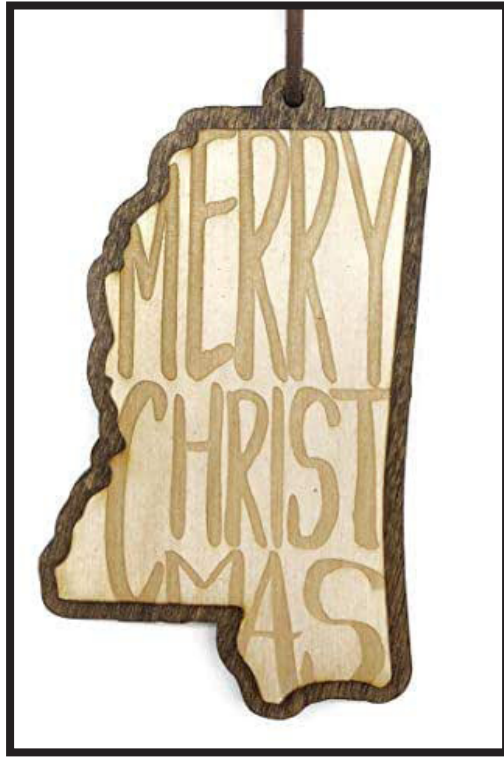
### Mississippi Children's Museum: "Cajun Christmas"

Christmas is the time of year that kids get most excited about. Taking your kids to the Mississippi Children's Museum's "Cajun Christmas" exhibit

is a great way to keep their Christmas spirits alive. This event is held on Dec. 8 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and you can take your child to visit Santa Claus, a Christmas Gator, see Christmas lights and so much more. Christmas is the greatest time of the year, but there is nothing like a Cajun Christmas.

### Lazy Acres Farm Fun

Lastly, whether you prefer fake or real, going to a Christmas tree farm should be on your bucket list. More specifically, going to Lazy Acres Farm Fun Christmas tree farm. Although, nearly an hour and half trip, you won't regret it. At the Lazy Acres Farm Fun, they have games for kids to play, Christmas trees to look at and even buy, visits with Santa and lights. Admission into this Christmas wonderland is \$15 if buy tickets in advance, but \$20.95 at the gate. Whether you buy a tree or not, going to a Christmas tree farm and smelling the pines is an experience like no other.



Mississippi is known for a lot of things, but not so much their activities. However, we beef it up during the Christmas season. There are plenty of places to go around Mississippi for Christmas, but these are a few must hits.

## Is Hollywood too nostalgic, or just unoriginal?

By Alyssa Jackson  
Staff Reporter



With the recent film addition to the Hunger Games franchise, "The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes," there has been a resurgence of popularity for the book and film series.

Those who and were old enough to see the original trilogy when it was playing in theatres have playfully said that it feels like they have regressed back into their middle school selves. This same sentiment has been said for those who went to see the "Five Nights at Freddy's" film that released this past October. The film is based on the video game of the same name that had its peak in popularity during the early 2010s where it developed a very large, passionate fandom. With these examples and many more in mind, many movie-goers have commented on the lack of original storytelling in recent films that do not rely on an

existing piece of media.

There has been an abundance of film remakes and additions to existing franchises within theaters in recent years. While this has always been a phenomenon in the film world, many have spoken on how they feel there is currently an alarming oversaturation of these movies. This brings forth the question of if these adaptations and sequels are intended to be easy cash-grabs because of their already existing fan base. If this is the case, many worry that these projects with unpassionate intentions take away opportunities for new narratives to be made. These concerns are not to say that the actors and directors involved in making these films are only in it for monetary reasons; more than likely they are fans of the franchises themselves. The qualms of audiences are more so directed at big Hollywood executives who reject original stories from smaller creatives, due to the risk of the film not being a big box office hit.



Shown is a juxaposition of photos from the original "Hunger Games" movie and the new prequel coming out, "The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes."

## The Red Dye Ban in California: Implications and Considerations

By Malley Chase Faulkner  
Staff Reporter



This report aims to provide an overview and analysis of the red dye ban in California, discussing the reasons behind the ban, its potential impacts

on various industries and the broader implications for consumer safety and regulation.

In recent years, concerns have been raised regarding the use of certain artificial food colorings, including red dyes, and their potential health effects. As a response to these concerns, California implemented a ban on specific red dyes in certain food and beverage products.

Studies have suggested a possible

link between artificial food colorings, including certain red dyes, and various health issues, such as hyperactivity in children and allergic reactions.

The ban aims to protect consumers, particularly children, from potential health risks associated with consuming products containing these red dyes. The red dye ban can have significant implications for various industries, including the following:

Manufacturers will need to reformulate their products to comply with the ban, either by using alternative natural colorings or removing the red dye altogether. This may require substantial investment and research to maintain product quality and consumer satisfaction.

Retailers and distributors will need to ensure that the products they sell

comply with the ban, potentially leading to changes in product offerings and inventory.

The red dye ban in California can also impact consumer behavior and choices:

The ban can raise consumer awareness about the potential risks associated with artificial food colorings, leading to a greater demand for natural or dye-free products.

Consumers may experience a shift in product availability, with some products being reformulated or removed from the market due to it being linked to a host of physical and mental health issues, including ADD/ADHD, allergies, immune disorders, mind storms and possibly cancer.

The ban reflects a growing trend towards stricter regulations on arti-

ficial food colorings and additives, with other states or countries potentially adopting similar measures.

The ban can encourage research and development in the food industry, leading to the discovery of safer and more sustainable alternatives to artificial food colorings.

The red dye ban in California is a response to concerns over potential health risks associated with certain artificial food colorings. While it may present challenges for industries, it also offers opportunities for innovation and consumer awareness. As the ban takes effect, it is essential for manufacturers, retailers, and consumers to adapt to these changes while prioritizing consumer safety and well-being.



Homecoming (continued from Front Page)

Freshman Maid Addison Chelsey Sawyer of Madison and her escort Aaron Sawyer of Madison, and Freshman Maid Maddison Turner of Byram and her escort Jaden Gonzalez of Brandon.

Finally, Grenada Campus court members included: Student Body Maid Alana Claire Garrett of Carrollton and her escort Ryan Hobson of Batesville; Sophomore Maid Camila Clevenger of Grenada and her escort Hunter Carter of Grenada; Sophomore Maid Melanie Ashlyn Lee of Grenada and her escort Richard Flautt of Grenada; Freshman Maid Meredith Meriwether of Holcomb and her escort Maddox Carpenter of Carrollton, and Freshman Maid Marla Ray McKnight of Vaiden and her escort Bryce Kirk of Grenada.

This year’s football game against Northwest Mississippi Community College kicked off at 3 p.m. and the final score was 36-28., with NWCC taking the win. Prior to kick-off, the Chorale sang the national anthem and the 2023 Homecoming Honorees were recognized on the field. Honorees included: Alumna of the Year, Maggie Garrett of Goodman; Distinguished Service Award recipient, Jackie McKinney of Vaiden; Young Alumnus of the Year, Greg Holloway of Madison and Veteran of the Year, Dr. Samuel Massey. Azzie Winston of Lexington was also recognized for her hard work and dedication to Holmes for over 30 years working in Carroll Cafateria.

Homecoming festivities kicked off

with a Visual Arts Display in the McMorrough Library at 8:30 a.m. and a baseball and softball highlight at 9 a.m. Academic Programs and Career-Technical Education hosted a Career and Transfer Fair in the Grove and at the same time, Workforce Development hosted “Major’s Truck Expo” with all of the big industry vehicles on display.

The honorees were recognized in McDaniel Auditorium at 10 a.m. followed by the debut performance from the Holmes Connection! and Coachmen.

Other mid-day activities included food trucks, fun and games in the Grove accompanied with live music by the Holmes Jazz Band. At noon, the Holmes Chorale performed a variety of

their music in the Chapel on the Hill. Faculty, staff, students, alumni and guests also enjoyed tailgating, a pep rally and live music prior to kick-off.

Leading up to Homecoming Day, all the campuses had an opportunity to show their school spirit with designated dress-up days. Monday was School Spirit Day, Tuesday was Decades Day, Wednesday was Rock & Roll Day and Thursday was Homecoming T-Shirt-Day.

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



The **Holmes Chorale** performs in The Chapel on the Hill. For one song, Holmes Chorale alumni joined in to sing.



The **Holmes Cheerleaders** pose for a photo with their Homecoming Queen and maids on the squad after half-time.



Homecoming Honorees **Azzie Winston, Greg Holloway, Jackie McKinney** and **Maggie McCrory Garrett** stop for a photo before attending a lunch in their honor.



The **Holmes Connection!** performs in McDaniel Auditorium following Alumni Honoree Recognition.



**Holmes Associate Degree Nursing** students enjoy tailgating and fellowship before kickoff.



Members of the **Holmes Marching Band** perform at halftime.

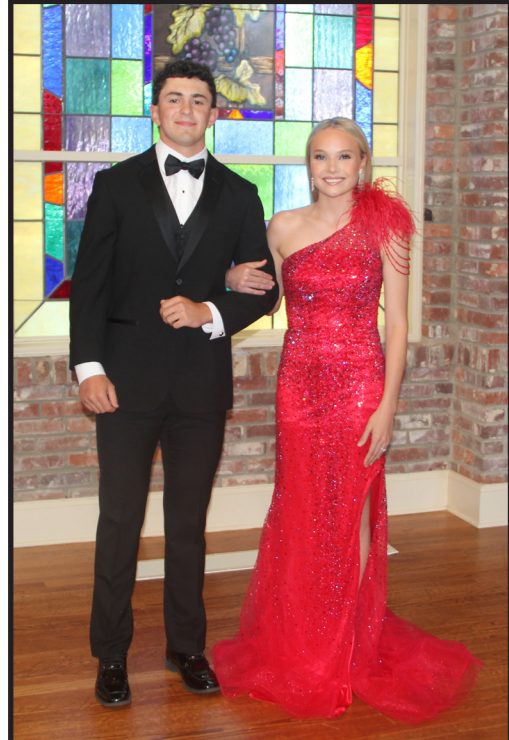
TO SEE MORE PHOTOS FROM HOMECOMING 2023, VISIT HOLMES’ FACEBOOK PAGE!



## Homecoming Court 2023



Pictured is escort **Ethan Wood** with Homecoming Queen **Mary Patton Henderson**



Pictured is escort **R.J. Merriman** with Goodman Student Body Maid **ACassidy Watkins**.



Pictured is escort **Colin Crosby** with Ridgeland Student Body Maid **Kennedy Manning**.



Pictured is escort **Ryan Hobson** with Grenada Student Body Maid **Alana Garrett**.



Pictured is escort **Matthew Reed** with Goodman Sophomore Maid **Audrey Eldridge**.



Pictured is escort **Will Carter** with Goodman Sophomore Maid **Summer Watkins**.



Pictured is escort **Braylen Allbritton** with Goodman Freshman Maid **Jakya Ellis**.



Pictured is escort **Jabari Farr** with Goodman Freshman Maid **Brittlyn Gillum**.



Pictured is escort **Jaderius White** with Ridgeland Sophomore Maid **Kamilah Millsap**.



Pictured is escort **Graham Lambert** with Ridgeland Sophomore Maid **Presleigh Powers**.



Pictured is escort **Aaron Sawyer** with Ridgeland Freshman Maid **Addison Sawyer**.



Pictured is escort **Jaden Gonzalez** with Ridgeland Freshman Maid **Maddison Turner**.



Pictured is escort **Richard Flautt** with Grenada Sophomore Maid **Ashlyn Lee**.



Pictured is escort **Hunter Carter** with Grenada Sophomore Maid **Camila Clevenger**.



Pictured is escort **Bryce Kirk** with Grenada Freshman Maid **Marla McKnight**.



Pictured is escort **Maddox Carpenter** with Grenada Freshman Maid **Meredith Meriwether**.



## Ribbon Cutting *(continued from Front Page)*

work for an administration that backs the program in such ways. Their generosity never goes unnoticed.”

Holmes’ Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Don Burnham echoed their sentiments. “I am extremely excited to see this project come to fruition,” Dr. Burnham said. “We have certainly needed the facility for some time. Also, I am extremely grateful that the Holmes Community College Board of Trustees and Dr. Haffey saw the need for the facility. When Dr. Haffey told us a few years ago to begin work on the project we were beyond elated. To now see the culmination of that effort is beyond words.”

Not only will the facility serve current student athletes but will be big for future soccer players at the College.

“I think it will help us recruit better players because it shows how important soccer is to us here at Holmes Community College,” said Wood.

“It will be a major component for our program, giving the girls a place that is truly theirs,” Noble said. “We are in a very competitive league and having a first-class facility gives us another tool to continue to strive to be at the top of the MACCC.”

“Previously, we had no facility for our players to use or to show recruits and certainly competing coaches could and would use that to their advantage,” Dr. Burnham said. “We now have a facility that is second to none, and our players can see and be part of it. This lets them know that they are supported by the college in a manner that is equal

to or greater than competing schools support their soccer programs.”

Enhancing the gameday experience with restrooms and concessions nearby was important.

“I think these facilities will help make our game day experience more exciting and convenient for our fans,” Wood said. “Having bathrooms on this side of the parking lot is really important. Also, having a concession stand area allows the fans to be able get refreshments at the game instead of bringing their own snacks and drinks with them.

“It pulls everything together, from a fan standpoint of convenience as well as for the players,” Noble said. “Everything we need for a game day is all in one place now. We couldn’t be more

excited!”

“This facility completely changes the gameday experience for our players who now have locker room facilities on site,” Dr. Burnham said. “This provides them a place to prepare for their matches as a team in the appropriate environment for the competition. Second, fans and players now have facilities to use that do not require them to walk to other campus buildings or leave campus, which will be a very welcome addition for all of us. It is a gameday changer for us.”

For more information about the soccer programs, reach out to Coach Convertino at [msoccer@holmescc.edu](mailto:msoccer@holmescc.edu) or Coach Noble at [wsoccer@holmescc.edu](mailto:wsoccer@holmescc.edu).

## Holmes to offer new child advocacy psychology course in the spring

*From Staff Reports/Photos*

Tina Garrett, coordinator of academic programs for the Holmes Community College Grenada Campus, recently secured a grant from the Child Advocacy Centers of Mississippi to obtain funds to be used in the training, preparation and implementation of PSY 2223: Perspectives of Child Maltreatment and Child Advocacy. This course is one course in the Child Advocacy Studies (CAST) curriculum. Holmes is joining a network of colleges and universities in Mississippi who offer CAST courses to students. Currently, 10 Mississippi universities offer CAST as either a certificate program or as a minor. Students who take PSY 2223 at Holmes can transfer this course to a university CAST program.

CAST is a nationally recognized curriculum to train students how to effectively address child abuse and neglect in real world applications through Multidisciplinary Team coordination. Students completing the courses in the program will

be better equipped to accomplish the work of related agencies (social work, criminal justice, nursing, education, etc.) as they advocate on behalf of child victims and survivors of child maltreatment.

As part of the training and preparation to become a CAST educator, Garrett has participated in Project FORECAST which is designed to train facilitators in using Problem-Based Learning approaches. Garrett also attended the 10th Annual One Loud Voice Conference in Biloxi in early November where she networked with other CAST educators.

“I am so excited to be able to offer PSY 2223 to our students at Holmes,” Garrett said. “This class will prepare our future nurses, doctors, lawyers, teachers, psychologists, therapists, law enforcement officers, social workers and more with trauma informed knowledge to help them advocate for children.”

This class also serves as a social and be-



Pictured (back row, second from left) is **Tina Garrett**, coordinator of academic programs for the Holmes Community College Grenada Campus, with other Mississippi CAST educators. Represented in this photo are Holmes Community College, Copiah Lincoln Community College, Mississippi State University and the University of Mississippi.

havioral science elective even for students not majoring in psychology. For more information about taking this new class,

contact Garrett at [tigarrett@holmescc.edu](mailto:tigarrett@holmescc.edu). Students enrolled at Holmes may also contact their advisor to sign up.

## Janna Garrett joins Holmes CC Goodman ADN faculty

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



**Janna Garrett**

Holmes Community College alumna Janna Garrett, BSN, RN, has joined the Holmes family as part of the Associate Degree Nursing faculty in Goodman. She began working at Holmes this past fall as a Healthcare Assistant

instructor.

A native of Kosciusko, Garrett graduated from Holmes in 2018 before transferring to the University of Mississippi Medical Center. She graduated in 2020 with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and is still enrolled at UMMC, pursuing her Master of Science in Nursing (Nurse Educator track). She plans to graduate in December 2024. Garrett worked at UMMC for one year after nursing school before going to Holmes County Long Term Care, where she still works part time.

She and her husband, Corey, live on his family farm in Goodman and have one son, Waylon (2). They attend Sallis Baptist Church. In her free time, Garrett enjoys traveling (especially to the beach or Montana), spending time with her family and helping out on her husband’s family farm.

## Sara Burwell joins Holmes ADN faculty in Goodman

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



**Sara Burwell**

Sara Burwell, MSN, FNP, has joined the Holmes Community College Associate Degree Nursing faculty on the Goodman Campus. Burwell was employed as a medical surgery nurse in Jackson for eight years, and has been a

nurse practitioner for 10 years with five of those in ENT and five working in urgent care.

Burwell holds a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) for Family Nurse Practitioners from the Mississippi University for Women. She and her husband, Will, have four children: Emma Claire (13), Grayson (10), Anabelle (7) and Everly (3).

The Burwell family just moved to Holmes County where they volunteer at their children’s school, Central Holmes Christian School. They have also been attending Parkview Church of God for the past six weeks.

In her free time, Burwell enjoys farm life, including showing horses, showing pigs, hunting deer, etc. She also likes to cook and bake.



## Holmes mourns the loss of beloved Board of Trustee Doris Belk

From Staff Reports/Photos



Doris Belk

On Wednesday, Nov. 1, Holmes Community College Board of Trustee Secretary Doris Ann Hood Belk, 86, passed away at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson. Belk the president and owner of Mitchell Metal Products.

She was a member of the Holmes Board of Trustees for 15 years and was also a member of the Holmes Community College Foundation Board.

Belk was born in Greenville on Feb. 26, 1937. She was a member of Kosciusko First Baptist Church where she served on various committees. Belk was also a member of Mississippi Manufacturer's Association, Air Distribution Institute and National Association of Manufacturers.

In addition, she was a lifetime mem-

ber of Kosciusko Junior Auxiliary, a long-time member of Fun and Flowers Garden Club, a member of Daughters of the American Revolution and a member of Attala County Historical Society. In her free time, Belk enjoyed flower gardening, traveling and painting. Her artwork is showcased in many homes and businesses throughout Mississippi.

Belk is survived by her daughters Julie Taylor (Gerry) and Jennifer Cheek of Kosciusko; grandchildren Anna Middleton (Adam), Austin Taylor (Mary Claire), Jessica Cheek, Victoria Valerio (Eduardo) and Madison Cheek; great-grandchildren Thomas Middleton, Tate Taylor, Luke Middleton, Wells Taylor, Hank Taylor, Vittoriana Valerio, Josephine Camp, Dylan

Valerio, Mary Austin Middleton, Zack Valerio and Isabella Valerio.

She was preceded in death by her parents Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Hood, and her husband of 52 years, Dewitte Belk.

Belk's pallbearers were Austin Taylor, Madison Cheek, Adam Middleton, Frank Stone, Jeff Belk and Tommy Dew. Serving as honorary pallbearers were Supper Club friends, Cliff Stone and Mitchell Metal Products Employees.

Memorials may be made to Kosciusko First Baptist Church 210 North Huntington Street, Kosciusko, Mississippi 39090 and Holmes Community College Development Foundation P.O. Box 367, Goodman, Mississippi 39079.

## Officer Gary Cooper joins the Holmes Ridgeland Campus PD

From Staff Reports/Photos



Officer Gary Cooper recently joined the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus Police Department. He is a 1990 graduate Dora High School (in Dora, Alabama), a 1999 graduate of Wallace State Community College (in Hanceville, Alabama), a 1995 graduate of Alabama Police Academy and a 2021 graduate of Federal Law Academy.

Prior to working at Holmes, Cooper was a federal police officer with the U.S. Department of Defense. He is a retired police officer and a retired Alabama Army National Guard member. Officer Cooper served in the U.S. Army, as well, as a combat soldier for Operation Iraq Freedom II.

## Holmes Alumna Alexis Ellis publishes book of Christian poetry

From Staff Reports/Photos



Alexis Ellis

Alexis Kenyatta Ellis, a Holmes Community College alumna and native of Goodman, recently published her second book, "Poems for Jesus."

"My book is solely a dedication and

testimony of my love for my Savior Jesus Christ," Ellis said. "It is about my experiences with my Christian walk in life. I wanted to write to inspire people to invite Jesus into their hearts and lives honestly. It is about repentance and furthering God's kingdom; this is why I wrote the book.

"My work as a poet is based on my experiences in the world and my perspective about life spiritually, emotionally, physically and in nature," Ellis said. "I enjoy writing about love because, like the Holy Bible tells us, God is love. I enjoy helping people and my writing centers around my belief in Jesus that He is the Healer and Savior of Mankind."

Ellis, who was a liberal arts major, graduated from Holmes in 2002 with an Associate of Arts degree. While at Holmes, she was a staff writer/columnist for The Growl student newspaper under Jim Williams where she wrote a column called, "From My Perspective." Ellis was also a member

of the Creative Arts Club and participated in their Coffee House event.

From 2008-2010, Ellis attended Mississippi State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in interdisciplinary studies. Upon graduation from MSU, she earned post-graduate degrees, including a Graduate Certificate in College Teaching and Learning from Walden University and a Master of Arts degree in education from Ashford University (now University of Arizona Global Campus) in 2015. Additionally, from 2012-2016, she was a volunteer transcriptionist for the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Although her education certainly helped her achieve her goals, Ellis says her writing began at an early age.

"I have been a poet since the age of 10," Ellis said. "It was on February 15, 2008, though, when I started publishing my poetry online on Associated Content and

Yahoo Contributor Network. Those sites are now obsolete, but in 2012, my poem 'Naturally' garnered 600,000 page views. My first self-published book, 'Naturally: A Collection of Best Loved Poems,' is cataloged in the Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System."

In her free time, Ellis enjoys going to the community center in her neighborhood, reading the Holy Bible and watching movies. Her favorites are comedies, Hallmark Television, classic romance movies like "Wuthering Heights" and westerns.

Ellis currently resides in Lexington where she volunteers as a writer on "Zealousness," a blog and eMagazine on the website [www.ineducationonline.org](http://www.ineducationonline.org). In January, she will also begin serving as an online volunteer tutor for another online nonprofit organization.

Ellis' newest book, "Poems for Jesus," is available for purchase at <http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/poetess>.

## Amazon selects Holmes as Career Choice Program education partner

From Staff Reports/Photos



Alexis Ellis

Holmes Community College is proud to announce that the college has been selected for an education partnership with Amazon's Career Choice program. Qualified Amazon employees enrolled at Holmes could receive tuition assistance and degree support, enabling them to complete coursework and/or earn a degree.

The program provides a variety of education and upskilling opportunities including prepaid college tuition, industry certifications designed to lead to in-demand jobs and foundational skills such as English language, high school diplomas and GEDs.

To get started, Amazon employees must apply for admission to Holmes by visiting

[holmescc.edu](http://holmescc.edu) and clicking Enroll Now.

Next, they will request payment from Amazon Career Choice by visiting the Amazon Career Choice web site and submitting a request. The request will be sent to Holmes for approval, and if approved, Amazon will pay the school directly. Last step: registering for classes at Holmes!

As one of the largest community colleges in the state, Holmes serves nine district areas, with Madison County being the biggest. Amazon's Madison County site, which opened in the summer of 2022, employs nearly 1,000 workers, with projections of up to 1,500 people being employed at the facility at some point in time.

"We are so proud to be selected as an Amazon Career Choice education partner," said Vice President for Academic Programs Dr. Jenny B. Jones. "This partnership was a fantastic way for Holmes to welcome Amazon to our district, and we are excited to see all the ways this program will positively affect everyone involved. Amazon has invested in the state of Mississippi, providing more jobs, and now Holmes is providing more educational opportunities for those at Amazon."

To learn more, visit <https://holmescc.edu/amazons-career-choice/>.



## Ridgeland STEM Division presents STEMMYS to star students

*From Staff Reports/Photos*

The faculty in the Division of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus honored a small group of students

who have shown high achievement in STEM courses this semester. The STEMMY was presented to students who were enrolled or have completed at least two face-to-face STEM class-

es since enrolled at Holmes. Students who received this prestigious award earned a 3.0 or higher STEM GPA by the end of the semester.

Each recipient was nominated by at

least one of their STEM instructors. Instead of a formal ceremony, the STEMMY was awarded in a grab-and-go ceremony that was intended to cater to the commuter students.



**Manuel Bermudez**



**Swayze Brewer**



**Madison Broome**



**Victoria Burrow**



**Damaury Byrd**



**Carli Cooper**



**Kylar Densford**



**Zachary Devenish**



**Tori Dew**



**Christopher Dodson**



**Willie George**



**Jaden Gonzalez**



**Christina Guzman**



**Anna Houston**



**Emily Huff**



**Jennifer Ivey**



**Caleb Jones**



**Matthew Kersh**



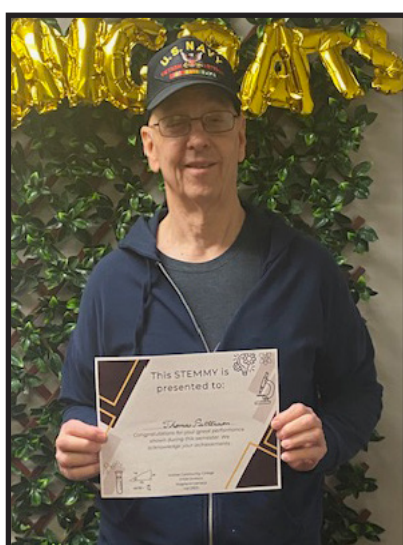
**Elliott Lyles**



**KaliAnn May**



**Chelsea Miles**



**Thomas Patterson**



**Presleigh Powers**



**Georgina Roblero**



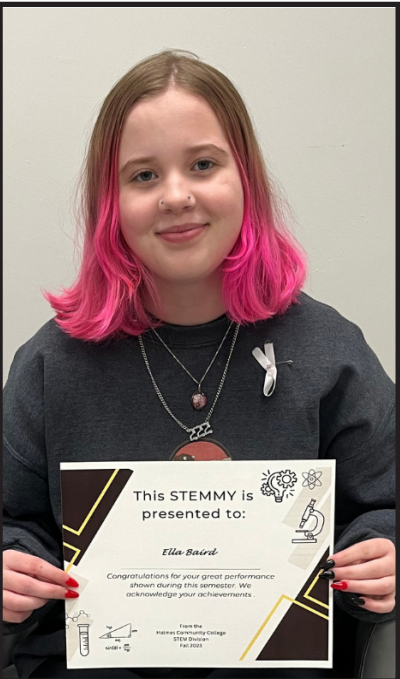
**Michael Wright**



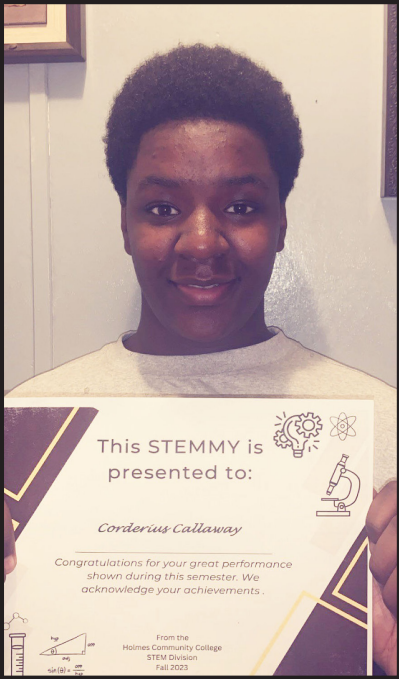
## Grenada STEM Division presents STEMMYs to star students

From Staff Reports/Photos

The faculty in the Division of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus honored a small group of students who have shown high achievement in STEM courses this semester. The STEMMY was presented to students who were enrolled or have completed at least two face-to-face STEM classes since enrolled at Holmes. Students who received this prestigious award earned a 3.0 or higher STEM GPA by the end of the semester. Each recipient was nominated by at least one of their STEM instructors. Instead of a formal ceremony, the STEMMY was awarded in a grab-and-go ceremony that was intended to cater to the commuter students.



Ella Baird



Corderius Callaway



Allie Gant



Gage Griffin



Tyla Hyde



Allison Nester



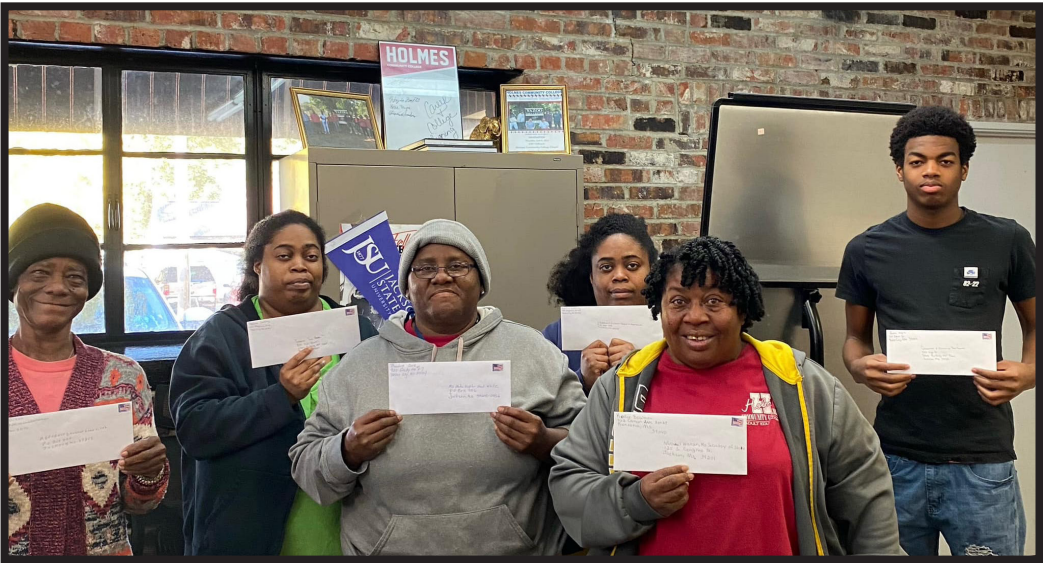
Trace Schmitz



Briella Simmons and Elizabeth Brasher

## Holmes Yazoo City adult ed students write to state officials

From Staff Reports/Photos



Following the recent Mississippi statewide election, all the students at the Holmes Community College Adult Education Program at the Yazoo Teen Center in Yazoo City participated in a letter writing exercise sending well-wishes, suggestions and/or concerns to their chosen state official. After thoroughly researching each position for a better understanding of their duties, individual student letters were sent to the state’s governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, state auditor, state treasurer, commissioner of agriculture and commissioner of insurance. The class participants are looking forward to responses from their elected officials.

## Holmes Grenada celebrates EMT Basic Class grads

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (front row, left to right) **Andrea Bledsoe, Mackenzie Brown, Madison Brassfield, Courtney Jenkins, Merri-Ashley Ray** (back row, left to right) **Sarah Hughes, Clarissa Hallmon, Instructor Ray Liberto and Joyce Fluker.**

The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus announced the graduation of its Fall 2023 Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Basic Class for the 2nd 8 weeks. Class members included Andrea Bledsoe, Madison Brassfield, Mackenzie Brown, Joyce Fluker, Clarissa Hallmon, Sarah Hughes, Courtney Jenkins and Merri-Ashley Ray. Special recognition was given to Jenkins for having the highest grade average in the class. The program is instructed by Raymond Liberto. “Congratulations to all and good luck on National Registry (NR)!” Liberto said. EMT is a one-semester instructional course that prepares individuals to provide basic emergency medical care and transportation for critical and emergent patients who access the emergency medical system. EMTs function as part of a comprehensive EMS response, under medical oversight, trained in airway management, communications, documentation, general pharmacology, hemorrhage control, ambulance operations and splinting of adult, pediatric and infant patients; and special care of patients exposed to heat, cold, radiation, or contagious disease.



## Holmes Ridgeland celebrates 19 graduates from ADN program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Ridgeland Campus ADN Class of 2023, evening and weekend track students. They are *(first row, left to right)* **Helen Ellzey-Robinson, Jayla Hanible, Evelyn Henderson, Carrie Ann White, Sullivan Windham**, *(second row, left to right)* **Erin Hopkins, Jakyraunah Dean, Markesa Williams**, *(third row, left to right)* **Erica Clark, Briana Gibbs, Lamiya Ousley, Cecily Griffin**, *(fourth row, left to right)* **Kara Usry, Patrick McCoy, Lasynthia Chapman**, *(back row, left to right)* **Shaneika Parker, Stephanie Walker, Tiffany Leverett and Donna Ammons**.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus held a Pinning Ceremony for the graduating Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Class of 2023 on Dec. 6 in the McGowan Workforce Training Center. These 20 students were in the evening/weekend program.

The Class of 2023 included Donna Ammons of Brandon, Lasynthia Lashay Chapman of Byram, Erica Clark of Jackson, Jakyraunah Dean of Madison, Helen Roshan Ellzey-Robinson of Jackson, Briana Gibbs of Clinton, Cecily Griffin of Madison, Jayla Hanible of Madison, Evelyn Henderson of Jackson, Erin Marie Hopkins of Richland, Tiffany Leverett of Bentonina, Patrick McCoy of Madison, Lamiya Ousley of Camden, Shaneika Parker of Brandon, Kara Usry of Florence, Stephanie Walker of Flora, Carrie Ann White of Yazoo City, Markesa Williams of Brandon and Sullivan Windham of Brandon.

The program began with a proces-

sional of the Class of 2023 followed by a welcome from Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Don Burnham and ADN Program Chair/Assistant Director Dr. Alice Austin. Class President Lasynthia Chapman followed Dr. Austin with the opening prayer. Next, ADN instructor Alicia Turner explained the symbolism behind the nurse pin and candle before the graduates came forward.

ADN instructor Kim Manning called each graduate's name as instructors Virginia Applewhite and Kailey Phillips pinned them/gave them their lamp candle. Dr. Austin presented their certificates, as well. Finally, instructor Cindy Bridges led the students in the Nightingale Pledge before Class Vice President Shaneika Parker gave the closing prayer.

For more information about the ADN program on the Ridgeland Campus, contact Dr. Austin at (601) 605-3419 or [aaustin@holmescc.edu](mailto:aaustin@holmescc.edu).

## Six students graduate from Holmes Grenada PTA program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Grenada Campus PTA Class of 2023. They are *(left to right)* **Kailey Dorris Anthony, Lauren Ferguson, Katelyn Hanneke, Austin Alexandria Mitchell, Clay Ralston and Sydney Stephan**.

The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus held a Pinning Ceremony for the graduating Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA) program Class of 2023 on Dec. 7 in the Corey Forum.

The Class of 2023 included Kailey Dorris Anthony of Gore Springs, Lauren Ferguson of Carrollton, Katelyn Hanneke of Ridgeland, Austin Alexandria Mitchell of Carrollton, Clay Ralston of Grenada and Sydney Stephan of Bruce. The program is led by instructor Meg King.

The PTA program's purpose is to prepare graduates to assist physical therapists in healthcare settings to deliver physical therapy services

in a safe, effective manner and to stimulate a lifelong commitment to continued professional development. The mission of the PTA Department is to improve the quality of life in the community by implementing a quality education program to educate knowledgeable and marketable physical therapist assistants.

For more information about the PTA, contact Meg King at [myking@holmescc.edu](mailto:myking@holmescc.edu) or (662) 227-2379.

## Holmes Ridgeland holds combined practical nursing/massage therapy pinning ceremony

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Ridgeland Campus Massage Therapy Class of 2023. They are *(left to right)* **Felicia Davis, Fiesha Travis, Merideth Gregg, William Wilson**, Instructor **Liz McLain**, **Ashley Dumas, Davaunte Richardson, Markeeta Nelson, Kourtknie AmilliDreem and Damara Mason**.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus held a Pinning Ceremony for the graduating Massage Therapy program and the Practical Nursing Evening/Weekend program on Dec. 7 in the McGowan Workforce Training Center.

The Massage Therapy Class of 2023 included Kourtknie AmilliDreem of Hinds County, Ashley Dumas of Lowndes County, Felicia Davis of Rankin County, Merideth Gregg of Webster County, Damara Mason of Rankin County, Markeeta Nelson of Yazoo County, Fiesha Travis of Yazoo County, Davaunte Richardson of Warren County and William Wilson of Madison County. The program is led by instructor Liz McLain.

The Practical Nursing Class of 2023 included Laquinchia Bethany of Hinds

County, D'Anjunita Blackmon of Madison County, Anna Beth Bowman of Rankin County, Linda Combs of Lincoln County, Erica Cooper of Leflore County, Baylee Etheridge of Warren County, Madison Franklin of Grenada County, BreAnna Griffin of Madison County, Marquisha Hodges of Madison County, Alaina Hubbard of Warren County, Alaina Huskey of Warren County, Carvontae Minor of Adams County, TyYona Mister of Madison County, Ruthie Moorehead of Yazoo County, La'Terria Pendleton of Copiah County, Diandria Scott of Holmes County, Kierra Shears of Warren County, Darnika Smith of Washington County, Shaylia Williams Powell of Holmes County and Bonita Williamson of Madison County. The program is led by instructors Leslie



Pictured is the Ridgeland Campus Practical Nursing Class of 2023, evening and weekend track. They are *(front row, left to right)* Instructor **Caley Stogner, Ruthie Moorehead, Diandria Scott, Marquisha Hodges**, Instructor **Leslie Griffin**, *(second row, left to right)* **Erica Cooper, Alaina Huskey, Baylee Etheridge**, *(third row, left to right)* **Linda Combs, Shaylia Williams Powell, Alaina Hubbard**, *(fourth row, left to right)* **TyYona Mister, D'Anjunita Blackmon, Darnika Smith**, *(fifth row, left to right)* **BreAnna Griffin, Madison Franklin, Bonita Williamson**, *(back row, left to right)* **Kierra Shears, Carvontae Minor, Anna Beth Bowman and Laquinchia Bethany**.

Griffin and Caley Stogner.

The ceremony began with a welcome from Vice President of Career Technical Education Dr. Amy Whittington. Following her welcome, massage therapy students Richardson and Wilson gave remarks on behalf of their class before McLain pinned each massage therapy. McLain also presented Gregg with a plaque for being named Massage Therapy Student of the Year.

PN instructors Griffin and Stogner pinned the PN graduates and presented several awards. The Top Five in the

class received gifts and were recognized on stage. Those included Hubbard, Blackmon, Smith, Bowman and Hodges. Bowman was named salutatorian for having the second-highest GPA in the class, and Hodges was named valedictorian for having the highest. Additionally, Combs was named PN Student of the Year.

For more information about these programs, contact CTE Counselor Jovonna Parker at [jparker@holmescc.edu](mailto:jparker@holmescc.edu).



## Holmes Grenada celebrates 33 graduates from ADN program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Holmes Grenada Campus ADN Class of 2023. They are (front row, left to right) Shontae Anderson, Hope Barker, Chasity McDaniel, Zaqua Ervin, Lola Green, Taylor Boudreaux, Hayley Carroll, Tabitha Brown, Misti Blankenship, (middle row, left to right) Joseph Hancock, Amanda Ivy, Shaunda Nash, Miracle Lynn, Linda Moudy, Kaylee Hynum, Cody Goss, Haley Thacker, Mary Elizabeth Wiggins, Nancy Baker, Tammy Marquis, Shelley Jo Andrews, Dalton Hicks, (back row, left to right) Nagia McAllister, Tiara Wilson, Courtney Jackson, Chelsey Crocker, Sheneka Hunt, Zarabeth Adams, Rebecca McCown, Evangelis Johnson, Ryan Alton Rea and Zachary Fisk.

The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus held a Pinning Ceremony for the graduating Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Class of 2023 on Wednesday, Dec. 6 in the Corey Forum.

The Class of 2023 included Zarabeth Brina Adams, Delaina L. Almore, Shontae Ja’Nae Anderson, Shelley Jo Andrews, Nancy Baker, Hope E. Barker, Misti Renee Blankenship, Taylor Dawn Boudreaux, Tabitha Brown, Hayley Elaine Carroll, Chelsey Danielle Crocker, Zaqua Danielle Ervin, Zachary Tyler Fisk, Cody W. Goss, Lola E. Green, Joseph Hancock, Dalton Hicks, Sheneka S. Hunt, Kaylee Douglas Hynum, Amanda Rose Ivy, Courtney Krishada Jackson, Evangelis Juliet Johnson, Miracle R. Lynn, Tammy Marquis, Nagia McAllister, Rebecca Ferguson McCown, Chasity Elizabeth McDaniel, Linda Christina Marie Moudy, Shaunda Marie Nash, Ryan Alton Rea, Haley Anne Thacker,

Mary Elizabeth Wiggins and Tiara Rakeem Wilson.

Hunt was presented with a scholarship from the Mississippi School of Nursing during the ceremony.

The Associate Degree Nursing Program offers a curriculum for those seeking an ADN degree and to qualify to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX) as well as licensing from the Mississippi State Board of Nursing. The most recent accreditation decision made by the ACEN Board of Commissioners for the Associate Degree nursing program is Continuing Accreditation. The program is also accredited by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning of Mississippi.

For more information about the Grenada ADN program, contact Patty Jones at [pjones@holmescc.edu](mailto:pjones@holmescc.edu).

## Intelligent.com honors Holmes with 3 top awards

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College recently received three top-ranked awards for 2024 by Intelligent.com, a resource for program rankings and higher education planning. Specifically, Holmes was ranked #6 in Best Community Colleges in Mississippi, #8 in Cheapest Online Associate Degree Programs and #11 Best Online Paralegal Associate Degree

Programs.

According to the website, Intelligent.com’s institutional rankings, which are set apart from other conventional ratings, are deemed the benchmark of academic evaluations for online and hybrid programs. An exclusive methodology is used to rank each institution on a scale from 0 to 100 across six categories.

Evaluations are based on quantitative measures such as academic quality, graduation rate, cost and ROI, and student resources. With top picks that are highly-regarded, affordable, and offer the tools and resources students need to successfully graduate and excel in their fields.

To view the full lists for each category, see below.

Best Community Colleges in Mississippi | Holmes Ranked #6  
<https://www.intelligent.com/best-community-colleges/mississippi/>

Cheapest Online Associate Degree Programs | Holmes Ranked #8  
<https://www.intelligent.com/best-online-associate-degrees/cheapest-online-associates-degree/>

Best Online Paralegal Associate Degree Programs of 2024 | Holmes Ranked #11  
<https://www.intelligent.com/best-online-paralegal-associate-degree/>

Holmes, a comprehensive public institution located in Central Mississippi, provides innovative educational and cultural opportunities to its constituents through campus-based and distance education programs. The college seeks

to prepare its students for university transfer, productive employment and lifelong learning by offering an Associate of Arts degree, Associate of Applied Science degree, technical certificates and career certificates as well as workforce training.

Holmes, whose primary commitment is to excellence in all areas, offers affordable, equal access to higher education in an attractive, secure, multi-campus environment. The college serves nine counties, including Attala, Carroll, Choctaw, Grenada, Holmes, Madison, Montgomery, Webster and Yazoo counties.

Intelligent.com provides unbiased research to help students make informed decisions about higher education programs. The website offers curated guides that include the best degree programs and information about financial aid, internships, and even study strategies. Intelligent.com is a trusted source among students and prospective students with comprehensive, user-friendly guides and hundreds of program rankings. To learn more, visit <https://www.intelligent.com/>.

## Holmes celebrates Willie Roby’s retirement

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College held a retirement party for police officer Willie Roby on Dec. 8. Officer Roby retired from the college after 16 years on police force. A native of Sallis, he is a graduate of McAdams High School. He and his wife, Nina Roby, reside in Sallis today where he serves as a constable.

Pictured (photo on left, left to right) is Willie Roby accepting his retirement plaque from Goodman Campus Vice President Andy Wood.

Pictured (photo on right) is Officer Willie Roby (fourth from left) with his family at the retirement party.





## Holmes rolls out updated version of Parent Portal

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College is committed to providing a quality, affordable education, as well as an atmosphere that fosters a sense of family. Faculty, staff and administration strive to make sure students feel supported and encouraged every step of the way as they navigate their college experience. An essential component of student support includes parent and/or

guardian support and accountability. For this reason, the Holmes Academic Programs Division has revamped the college’s Parent Portal. The Parent Portal provides parents and guardians with resources that will allow them to help their students while also keeping them accountable. Some of the resources provided include instructions for accessing students’ in-

formation and tips for student success in college. Parents are able to retrieve grades/transcripts, view attendance, check on accounts receivable information and access other student-related information, as well. This is a great place for parents to stay up-to-date on information about financial aid, textbooks, important dates at Holmes and more. Additionally, the Parent Portal includes a link to Mississippi Articulation & Transfer Tool (MATT). MATT provides transfer course equivalency information, searchable databases by institution/major and a transfer guide so that parents can provide any extra help needed to their students who plan to attend a public Mississippi four-year university or college after Holmes. The portal provides important information about FERPA, as well; a key aspect to note is that students must

authorize a parent or legal guardian (proxy) online access to certain student information. The student controls who they designate as a proxy and can modify proxy permissions and access at any time through MyHolmes. “We are so excited to roll out this improved version of our Parent Portal,” said Vice President for Academic Programs Dr. Jenny B. Jones. “As a parent of a college student, I know first-hand what a difference it makes to be able to guide your student and help hold them accountable as they progress through their college career. A strong support system is vital to success in higher education, and this Parent Portal helps parents/guardians take on that role.” To access the Parent Portal, go to <https://holmescc.edu/admissions/parent-portal/>.

## Musical ensembles perform for the annual Carols of Christmas

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College’s musical ensembles - Holmes Connection!, the Concert Chorale and the Coachmen singers - presented their annual Carols of Christmas event on Thursday, Nov. 30 in McDaniel Auditorium on the Goodman Campus. Coachmen singers are directed by Mike Yates and Drew Trautman; the Holmes Connection! is directed by Yates and the Concert Chorale is directed by Trautman with Donna Banks as the accompanist.



Coachmen singers perform worship songs during Carols of Christmas.



Chorale Director **Drew Trauman** performs with his students.



Connection! performs with a special guest, **Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer**.



The **Concert Chorale** performs during Carols of Christmas.

## Ridgeland Rotoract brings cheer to the Home Place Madison

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus’ Rotoract Club adopted angels from the Home Place Madison (assisted living facility) and delivered gifts on Dec. 6. for their first service project of the semester.

## Grenada PTK hosts mental health and wellness fair

From Staff Reports/Photos



Grenada Campus’s Phi Theta Kappa chapter hosted a mental health and wellness fair on campus on Nov. 1. Vendors were available to share about local activities, stress relief techniques and more. The PTK set up fun stress relieving activities as well.



Bulldogs send 10 players to 4-year schools on National Signing Day

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs had 10 players sign national letters of intent with four-year schools on Wednesday on National Signing Day.

Included on the list were: Deion Smith, WR, Jackson/Jackson Academy, Ole Miss; Laquan Robinson, DB, Greenville, Ala./Greenville, Ala., Auburn; Comondre Cole, DL, Collinsville/West Lauderdale, Memphis; Markel Bell, OL, Cleveland/Cleveland Central, Miami, Fla.; Calvin McMillian, OL, Houston/Houston, Memphis;

Lonnie Ratliff IV, QB, Duluth, Ga./Duluth, Ga., Mercer; K.D. Rancifer, WR, Greenville/Greenville Christian, Arkansas-Monticello; Maxton Woodward, DL, Philadelphia/Neshoba Central, Samford; Jarvis Rush, WR, Louisville/Louisville, Akron; and Zac Williams, OL, Jackson/Callaway, Kennesaw State.

Holmes has several more players looking to sign in the coming days, and the list will be updated accordingly.

Bulldogs fall to Stars, 89-71

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs fell 89-71 Dec. 15, to the South Arkansas Community College Stars (at South Arkansas).

Holmes finished the first semester, 10-3. They return to action on Jan. 5 at SAU Tech at 7 p.m. They play at home on Jan. 8 vs. Baton Rouge Post Grad at 6 p.m. and Jan. 11 vs. Mississippi Delta at 7:30 p.m.

South Arkansas held a 50-21 lead at halftime. The Bulldogs outscored the Stars, 50-39 in the second half but it wasn't enough. Hobert Grayson led the Bulldogs with 22 points while Cameron Wallace had 21. Wallace had 16 rebounds, and Grayson had 11.

The Bulldogs shot 46.7 percent from the floor in the game.

Lady Bulldogs take 72-58 win over South Arkansas Stars

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs picked up a 72-58 win over the South Arkansas Community College Stars during an away game on Friday afternoon, Dec. 15.

Holmes finished the fall semester, 9-3, and will begin second semester play on Jan. 8 at Williams Baptist JV at 5 p.m. They'll play a home game on Jan. 11 at 5:30 p.m. vs. Mississippi Delta.

The Lady Bulldogs led 17-13 after one period and 29-25 at halftime. Holmes outscored the Stars, 43-33, in the second half for the win.

Bella Roberts led the Lady Bulldogs with 24 points while Savannah Hailey had 23. Darranya Wright fin-

Smith named NJCAA All-American

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College's Deion Smith of Jackson was recently named a NJCAA DI Football All-American as a wide receiver.

Smith was one of 11 players placed on the first offensive team.

The Jackson Academy graduate was the NJCAA's leading receiver during the 2023 season. He caught 48 passes for 1,063 yards with 12 touchdowns.

He led the country in yardage per game (132.9), receptions (6 per game) and tied for the lead in touchdowns (12).

Smith was named to the NJCAA-II-Region 23 team alongside teammate Markel Bell prior to the designation of NJCAA All-American First Team.

Lopez, Harvey sign with four-year schools

From Staff Reports/Photos



(front, left to right) Lillian Harvey and Brianna Lopez are surrounded by their Lady Bulldog teammates as they sign with their four-year schools.

Two Holmes Community College Lady Bulldog soccer players signed with four-year universities on Tuesday, Dec. 5, on the Holmes Ridgeland Campus. Brianna "Bree" Lopez signed with the University of Central Arkansas Bears, and Lillian Harvey signed with the Belhaven University Blazers.

Lopez, the daughter of Yecenia and Juan Lopez, is a sophomore forward from Fort Smith, Arkansas. She scored 13 goals this year, with two being game-winning goals. Of the 22 games she played in, she started in 19. Additionally, Lopez was placed on the 2023

All-MACCC Team (first team) following the season.

Harvey, daughter of Sharon and Jason Harvey, is a sophomore midfielder from Greenwood. She played in 15 games overall, with 10 being at the conference level.

Both players were a vital part of the 2023 team who ended the season 19-3 and won a share of the MACCC title. They traveled to Arizona for the NJCAA Division II National Tournament and won their first two pool games before falling in the semifinals.



## Bulldogs place 16 on All-MACCC team

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Community College Bulldogs placed 16 players on the All-MACCC North Team following the 2023 season.

Included in the list are five First Team, six Second Team and five Honorable Mentions.

Offensively, the Bulldogs placed seven players on the list including: John Ford, freshman quarterback from Sumrall, Honorable Mention; Joe Moss, sophomore running back from Grenada, Second Team; Deion Smith, sophomore wide receiver from Jackson; Jahiem Shack, sophomore wide receiver from Grenada, Honorable Mention; Jarvis Rush, sophomore wide receiver from Louisville, Honorable Mention; Markel Bell, sophomore offensive lineman from Cleveland, First Team; Connor Foy, freshman offensive lineman from Pearl, Second Team;

and Calvin McMillian, freshman from Houston, Honorable Mention

Defensively, the Bulldogs placed six players on the list including: Laquan Robinson, sophomore defensive back from Greenville, Ala., First Team; Christavious Savior, freshman defensive back from Louisville, Second Team; Jalon Townes, freshman linebacker from Grenada, Second Team; Zyonn Mayes, sophomore defensive

back from Corinth, Honorable Mention; Commondre Cole, sophomore defensive lineman from Collinsville; Maxton Woodward, sophomore defensive lineman from Philadelphia.

Holmes also had two specialists on the list including: Jalen Ballard, freshman kicker from Brandon on the First Team, and Ryan Wood, a sophomore punter from Grenada, on the Second Team.



## Bulldogs knock off the Bears, 45-21

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Community College Bulldogs finished the 2023 campaign on a winning note knocking off the Southwest Mississippi Community College Bears, 45-21, at home on Thursday night, Nov. 2.

Holmes finished the season 6-3 overall.

The Bulldogs got on the scoreboard early in the first when John Ford found Jahiem Shack on a 19-yard touchdown pass. Jalen Ballard's extra point gave Holmes a 7-0 lead with 11:30 left in the quarter.

Southwest tied the game with 9:42 left at seven. The Bears then went up

14-7 with 3:24 left in the first.

Holmes was able to tie the game at 14 with 52 seconds left in the first when J.J. Grant scored from a yard out. Ballard's kick was good.

The Bears scored their final points of the game with 14:10 left in the second quarter and led 21-14.

Ford then connected with Deion Smith with 5:08 left in the second from 10 yards out. Ballard's kick tied the game at 21.

Holmes then took the lead for good with 2:25 left in the second when Joe Moss powered his way in from the two. Ballard's kick put Holmes up

28-21.

Ford connected with Smith again on a 65-yard touchdown pass with 40 seconds left in the second. Ballard's kick was good, and Holmes led 35-21 at halftime.

The two connected again early in the third on a 15-yard touchdown pass. The Bulldogs led 42-21 with 10:10 left in the third after Ballard's kick was good.

Ballard rounded out the scoring with 7:38 left in the third on a 47-yard field goal.

Ford was 23-of-33 for 277 yards and four touchdowns. Smith caught

eight passes for 154 yards and three touchdowns. Grant led the Bulldogs in rushing with 72 yards on 12 carries.

The Bulldog defense had seven sacks and 13 tackles for loss in the game. Zy Perry finished with seven tackles including a sack and 3.5 TFL. Jordan Gowdy had five tackles while Commondre Cole, Chris Walley and Maxton Woodward each had four tackles. Cole had two sacks and two TFL as did Walley. Daniel Smith and Zyonn Mayes added an interception each.

## Smith and Bell named to All-Region 23 Team

From Staff Reports/Photos



Deion Smith

Markel Bell

The Holmes Community College Bulldogs placed two players on the NJCAA All-Region 23 team following the season -- Deion Smith and Markel Bell.

Smith, a sophomore wide receiver from Jackson, and Bell, a sophomore offensive lineman from Cleveland, were also named First Team All-MACCC.

Smith finished the season as the leading receiver in the state and in

the NJCAA. He had 48 receptions for 1,063 yards and 12 touchdowns. He averaged 22.1 yards per catch. Smith has verbally committed to Ole Miss. Bell was a mainstay for the Bulldogs on the offensive front for two seasons. He has verbally committed to the University of Miami.

The two will now be considered for the NJCAA All-American Team.



## South women defeat the North women, 3-1, in MACCC All-Star game

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) **Jaycelyn Russ**, **Brianna Lopez**, **Carmen Mason**, **Tailynn Rummel** and **Jordan Bertschler**. These five Holmes Community College women’s soccer players represented the college in the MACCC All-Star Game.

Holmes Community College played host to the 2023 MACCC All-Star Soccer Games this season. The South women defeated the North women, 3-1, while the South men defeated the North men, 6-2.

Holmes was well represented in the game with Jaycelyn Russ, Brianna Lopez, Carmen Mason, Tailynn Rummel and Jordan Bertschler representing the North women and Caleb Jones, Mateo DeLeon, Tyler Leach and Gavin Parker representing the North men.

In the women’s game, Pearl River’s Ann Maris Ragan gave the South a 1-0 lead in the 23rd minute. Gulf Coast’s Morgan Pickering then gave the South a 2-0 lead in the 52nd minute while Pearl River’s Mackenzie Winters scored to make it 3-0 in the 79th minute.

Holmes’ Jaycelyn Russ scored in the 72nd minute.

Northwest’s Mia Kate Cade was named North MVP while Pearl River’s Mackenzie Winters was named South MVP.

In the men’s game, Itawamba’s Gage Lashlee scored to make it 1-0 North in the 9th minute. Lashlee scored again in the 12th minute to put the North up 2-0. Gulf Coast’s Mason Shortt scored for the South in the 36th minute, and the North led 2-1. Meridian’s Trey Parnell tied the match at two in the 54th minute. Co-Lin’s Alfie Lally scored in the 64th minute to give the South a 3-2 lead. Shortt scored again to make it 4-2 South in the 80th minute.

Jones’ Samuel Hadley scored to give the South a 5-2 lead in the 87th minute, and Jones’ Taylor Richardson scored in the final minute to end scoring at 6-2.

Itawamba’s Gage Lashlee was named North MVP while Co-Lin’s Alfie Lally was named South MVP.

## Holmes places seven on All-MACCC Team

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs placed seven players on the 2023 All-MACCC Team following the season.

Christina Guzman (freshman, midfielder, Florence), Brianna Lopez (sophomore, forward, Fort Smith, Ark.), K.K. Morris (freshman, midfielder, Brandon) and Kristen Phillips (freshman, froward, Collinsville) were named to the first team.

Aiyanah Jones (reshman, defender, Oxford) and Tailynn Rummel (sophomore, midfielder, Clinton) were named

to the second team.

Olivia Trobolet (freshman, forward, Madison) was named honorable mention.

The Lady Bulldogs finished the season, 19-3, and won a share of the MACCC title. They traveled to Arizona last week for the NJCAA Division II National Tournament and won their first two pool games before falling to Jones in the semifinals.



## Bulldogs fall to Wolves, 95-75

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs fell 95-75 in Wesson on Monday night, Dec. 4, against the Copiah-Lincoln Community College Wolves.

Holmes will play SAU Tech on Saturday, Dec. 9 in Goodman at 4 p.m.

Co-Lin led 47-28 at halftime and then outscored the Bulldogs 48-47 in the second half for the win.

Cameron Wallace led the Bulldogs with 16 points while Hobert Grayson had 14, and K.J. Sykes had 11. Grayson led with seven rebounds.

## Bulldogs defeat the Bears, 57-51

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs improved to 10-2 overall with a 57-51 win over the Baton Rouge Bears at home on Dec. 11.

The Bulldogs led 25-20 at halftime and then outscored the Bears, 32-31, in the second half.

Cameron Wallace led with 17 points while Jalen Tatum added 16. Tatum led in rebounds with 12.

## Holmes falls to Jones in national semifinals

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs incredible season came to an end in Tuscon, Arizona, in the 2023 NJCAA Division II Women’s Soccer Tournament semifinals as they fell to the Jones College Bobcats, 4-0.

Holmes, who finished the year at 19-3, were named Co-Champions of the MACCC. The Lady Bulldogs won their two pool games in the national tournament, 11-1 over Cape Fear on Sunday and 4-0 over St. Charles on

Tuesday.

Holmes was able to defeat the Bobcats in conference play, 3-2, but were unable to defeat them in the national tournament.

Jones scored two goals in the first half (28th and 42nd) and two goals in the second half (82nd and 83rd).

The Lady Bulldogs were credited with seven shots and three on goal but were unable to score in the match.



## South men defeat North men, 6-2, in MACCC All-Star Game

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Caleb Jones, Mateo DeLeon, Tyler Leach and Gavin Parker. These four Holmes Community College men’s soccer players represented the college in the MACCC All-Star Game.

Holmes Community College hosted the 2023 MACCC All-Star Soccer Games. The South women defeated the North women, 3-1, while the South men defeated the North men, 6-2.

Holmes was well represented in the game with Jaycelyn Russ, Brianna Lopez, Carmen Mason, Tailynn Rempel and Jordan Bertschler representing the North women and Caleb Jones, Mateo DeLeon, Tyler Leach and Gavin Parker representing the North men.

In the women’s game, Pearl River’s Ann Maris Ragan gave the South a 1-0 lead in the 23rd minute. Gulf Coast’s Morgan Pickering then gave the South a 2-0 lead in the 52nd minute while Pearl River’s Mackenzie Winters scored to make it 3-0 in the 79th minute.

Holmes’ Jaycelyn Russ scored in the 72nd minute.

Northwest’s Mia Kate Cade was

named North MVP while Pearl River’s Mackenzie Winters was named South MVP.

In the men’s game, Itawamba’s Gage Lashlee scored to make it 1-0 North in the 9th minute. Lashlee scored again in the 12th minute to put the North up 2-0.

Gulf Coast’s Mason Shortt scored for the South in the 36th minute, and the North led 2-1. Meridian’s Trey Parnell tied the match at two in the 54th minute. Co-Lin’s Alfie Lally scored in the 64th minute to give the South a 3-2 lead. Shortt scored again to make it 4-2 South in the 80th minute.

Jones’ Samuel Hadley scored to give the South a 5-2 lead in the 87th minute, and Jones’ Taylor Richardson scored in the final minute to end scoring at 6-2.

Itawamba’s Gage Lashlee was named North MVP while Co-Lin’s Alfie Lally was named South MVP.

## Holmes defeats Co-Lin in over-time, 69-66

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs beat the Copiah-Lincoln Community College Lady Wolves in Wesson on Dec. 4, 69-66.

Holmes returns to action on Monday, Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. vs. Baton Rouge.

Co-Lin led 16-15 after one, but the Lady Bulldogs led 29-25 at halftime. Each team scored 10 points in the third, and Co-Lin took the fourth, 18-14, to force overtime tied at 53. Holmes outscored Co-Lin, 16-13, in overtime to pull out the win.

Bella Roberts led the Lady Bulldogs with 17 points while Darranya Wright had 15 and Savannah Hailey had 12. Zi’A Shields had 12 rebounds in the game.

## Lady Bulldogs defeat Lady Bears, 69-60

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs improved to 8-3 on the season at home on Monday, Dec. 11, with a 69-60 win over the Baton Rouge Lady Bears.

Holmes led 29-26 at halftime and then outscored the Lady Bears, 40-34, in the second half for the win.

Savannah Hailey led the Lady Bulldogs with 29 points including five three-pointers while Katelyn Leavy added 11. Bella Roberts led with eight rebounds.

## A little bit about my favorite team: the Dallas Cowboys

By Serenity Washington  
Staff Reporter



The Dallas Cowboys were first founded in 1960, and they are housed in the Fort Worth Metroplex in Texas. The Cowboys’ first winning season was in 1966, when the Cowboys had a great winning streak!

They became known as the “American team.” Their name was originated in 1978, when Bob Ryan noticed a lot of fans in the stadium. He said “They are the most popular team in the country!”

Since then, the Cowboys have won a total of five Super Bowls ranging from 1972-1996. They have been on a roll ever since then. This season, the Cowboys are now 6-0, still continuing their winning streak. We are looking forward to another

Super Bowl win this year!

The Dallas Cowboys’ top players of 2023 are Trevon Diggs, Tony Pollard and, one of the greatest players as of right now, CeeDee Lamb. The Cowboys have a really great team this season and had a great start to the season. With a streak like this, they might soon be headed to the Super Bowl.



## Implications of the ‘23 SEC Championship

By Malley Chase Faulkner  
Staff Reporter



The victory for Alabama against Georgia was of significant importance for several reasons. Firstly, Georgia had been undefeated throughout the season with a winning streak of 29 and was considered one of the top teams in college football. Their defense was particularly renowned for being dominant, allowing the fewest points per game in the nation.

By defeating Georgia, Alabama not only

ended their undefeated streak but also showcased their own strength and resilience. It demonstrated that Alabama was still a force to be reckoned with, capable of competing and defeating top-ranked opponents. This win also solidified Alabama’s position as a strong contender for the College Football Playoff and potentially securing a spot in the National Championship game.

Moreover, this victory had implications beyond just the current season. It further solidified Alabama’s reputation as one of the most successful and dominant programs in college football history. It further shows Nick Saban’s ability to take a

team and continue to improve throughout the season. They were able to adapt and execute a winning game plan against a formidable opponent.

The win against Georgia also provided a boost of confidence and momentum for Alabama. It served as a reminder to the players and fans alike that they have what it takes to compete at the highest level. This victory can serve as a catalyst for future success and motivate the team to continue striving for excellence.

Overall, the win against Georgia was a significant accomplishment for Alabama, both in terms of the immediate season and the program’s legacy. It showcased



their ability to overcome challenges, adapt to strong opponents and reaffirmed their position as one of the top teams in college football.



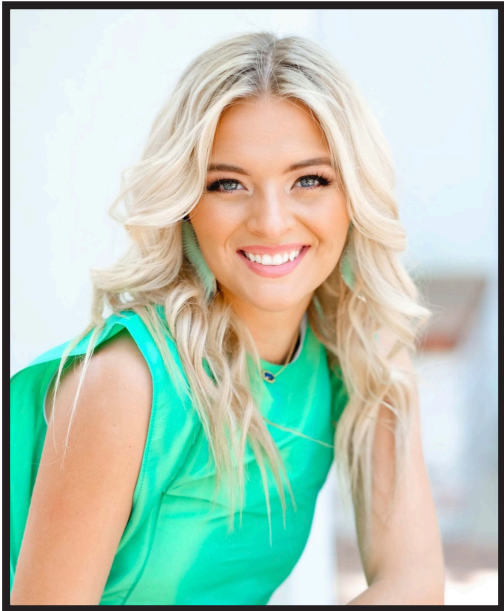


# The Growl Staff



**Aleesa “Leesa” Booker**

Leesa Booker of of Madison is a freshman journalism/mass communication major at Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus. She is very excited about her first year at college, meeting new friends and getting to leave class at her own will! In her free time, she loves to sing, dance, act, play the piano, and shop ‘til she drops (for anything). Upon finishing her time at Holmes, she plans to transfer to the University of Mississippi and major in film and video production. Booker’s career goal is to become a screenwriter/actress or possibly a public relations manager for big budget films.



**Malley Chase Faulkner**

Malley Chase Faulkner of Daphne, Alabama is a freshman on the Goodman Campus. She is majoring in mass communications and journalism and is on the Lady Bulldogs softball team. On the field, she is often called MC. Faulkner was the 2022 Universal Junior Miss where she was a strong advocate for suicide awareness and prevention. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling and modeling for Amarra Official at the America’s World Mart in Atlanta. For the past year and a half, she has worked alongside her mom at their boutique, The Pink Velvet Boutique. When she visits home, she enjoys spending time at the beach with her friends and family. Her career goal is to be a sports broadcaster, hopefully for softball or even baseball.



**Alyssa Jackson**

Alyssa Jackson of Madison is a freshman journalism/communications major on the Holmes Ridgeland Campus. She is a member of both the Horizons yearbook and Growl newspaper staff. Off campus, Jackson enjoys listening to the latest music releases and spending time with her friends and family. After graduating from Holmes, she plans to attend the University of Mississippi and major in communications. Jackson’s career goal is to become a journalist or a public relations specialist for a music corporation.



**Ashley Steen**

Ashley Steen, a native of Jackson, is the prime example of the point that it is not where you start, it is how you respond and finish. She finished high school and decided she wanted to be a nurse since it was natural for her to take care of people. She later became a Certified Nursing Assistant. She worked in this profession for eight years before she realized nursing was just not her calling. However, caring for people remains Steen’s passion. After moving to Ridgeland, she enrolled in Holmes. She has touched many people and hearts while being at Holmes. She is now a sophomore majoring in pre-physical therapy. She has dreams and aspirations to work in the sports industry in physical therapy and later get a job in their athletic department for the Dallas Cowboys or New Orleans Saints.



**Alanna “River” Wall**

Alanna “River” Wall of Madison is a freshman on the Ridgeland Campus. She is a secondary education major with an emphasis in English.



**Serenity Washington**

Serenity Washington is a sophomore at Holmes Community College. She is majoring in pre-nursing on the Ridgeland Campus. She enjoys watching movies, shopping and hanging out with friends and family. Washington also enjoys being able to meet new people and visiting new environments. Once she graduates, she plans on attending nursing school to become a pediatric traveling nurse for two-three years and then going back to school to become a pediatrician.



**Evan Yates**

Evan Yates of Kosciusko is a freshman communications major on the Holmes Goodman Campus. He is a member of The Holmes Connection along as well as the contemporary group Coachman Singers. Yates has had a job for over three years as a drummer for the wedding band Stylish. He enjoys watching movies, going to concerts and collecting comic books. Yates plans to continue his communications studies at an undecided university after graduating from Holmes. His long-term goal is to work as a creative director in film and television.