



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

# THE GROWL

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## Holmes mourns the loss of Lady Bulldogs Assistant Basketball Coach Brooke Walker

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Holmes Community College mourns the loss of Lady Bulldogs Assistant Basketball Coach Madison “Brooke” Walker of Terry. At just 26 years old, she passed away in an automobile accident on Jan. 12 in Canton.

“Our Holmes family mourns the loss of Brooke Walker,” said Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey. “Brooke served as our assistant women’s basketball coach, and was a kind, beautiful soul. The college prepares to support Brooke’s family and her team in every way we can. Please take time to reflect on her commitment to her players across the state, and to pray for her family.”

Born Jan. 27, 1998, to Allen Walker and Kristy Shelton Ketteringham in Flowood, she shared a birthday with a twin brother, Brett, whom she was very close to. Friends and family say that she was the best sister to him, a wonderful daughter to her parents and a genuine friend. She was always smiling, never met a stranger and had friends of all ages.

Walker’s passion was coaching. She embodied servanthood, and took many girls under her wing, teaching them and encouraging them to be the best that they could be. She treated her girls as if they were her children. They trusted in her, confided in her and de-

pended on her.

Walker was in her fourth season as a member of the Holmes women’s basketball coaching staff.

“Brooke Walker possessed a magnetic personality, epitomized a competitive spirit and demonstrated a commitment to excellence,” said Head Women’s Basketball Coach Bridget Goodnight. “Brooke used her passion, gifts, talents and skills to truly make a difference. Her lasting impact will remain in the hearts and lives of many.”

In addition to coaching at Holmes, she also coached AAU basketball,

*Walker, continued on Page 5*

## Lillie Kate Jones crowned Holmes Most Beautiful 2025

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured are the Top Five in the 2025 Holmes Community College Parade of Beauties pageant. They are (left to right) **Gracie Summers** of Coffeeville, **Macey Bowman** of Pelahatchie, **2025 Most Beautiful Lillie Kate Jones** of Winona, **Caitlin Mullins** of Kilmichael and **Ella Hendry** of Madison.

Lillie Kate Jones of Winona was crowned Holmes Community College’s Most Beautiful during the 2025 Parade of Beauties pageant held Feb. 25 in McDaniel Auditorium on the Goodman Campus. She was crowned by 2024 Most Beautiful Mason Harrell of Flora.

Jones is the daughter of Cindy and Shane Jones. She is a pre-med major on the Goodman Campus where she is a member of the cheerleading squad. A graduate of Winona Christian School, she enjoys shopping, working, cheering for her Bulldogs and spending time with friends and family. After graduating from Holmes, she plans to become a nurse practitioner specializing in sports medicine.

In addition to Jones, the Top Five Beauties included Macey Bowman of Pelahatchie, Ella Hendry of Madison, Caitlin Mullins of Kilmichael

and Gracie Summers of Coffeeville. The Top 10 included Jones, Bowman, Hendry, Mullins, Summers, Kaylyn Barrett of Kosciusko, Morgan Chism of Flowood, Haylee Jones of Scobey, Abigail Redwine of Grenada and Chloe Tharp of French Camp. Lelani Montgomery of Yazoo City was named Most Photogenic.

The pageant included interviews with judges earlier in the day and the evening gown competition. Tina Boyette directed the pageant with Haley DeNoon and Jordan Heflin serving as assistant directors. Nikki Boutwell served as Mistress of Ceremonies, with Hudson Haffey and Nathan Wilson escorting the contestants. Additionally, members of the Holmes Connection! show choir, under the direction of Mike Yates, provided entertainment at intermission.

## Plans underway for new Allied Health Facility in Ridgeland

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Holmes Community College will soon have a brand-new building on the Ridgeland Campus – plans are underway for the Allied Health Facility. This new building will house the Ridgeland Campus’ Associate Degree Nursing, Practical Nursing, Occupational Therapy Assistant and Surgical Technology programs.

“Madison County has grown 14.6 percent in the past 10 years; therefore, the addition of this new space has poised Holmes for future growth in our allied health programs,” said Holmes Ridgeland Campus Vice

President Dr. Bronwyn Martin. “The facility’s location alongside I-55 will increase our visibility; therefore, emphasizing our footprint in Madison County. Watching projects of this magnitude come to fruition fills me with pride for Holmes and excitement for our future students and constituents.”

Thrash Commercial Contractors, JH&H Architects Planners Interiors, Benchmark Engineering & Surveying, LLC, and Smithers Engineers + Consultants will make up the team

*Building, continued on Page 5*

### What’s Inside...

- Student Editorials
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To keep up with everything going on at Holmes, follow us on DogTracks on our website at [holmescc.edu](http://holmescc.edu)!



## The role of journalism in safeguarding democracy

By Jeremiah Henry  
Staff Reporter



Journalism has always played an important role in the modern world of bias and misinformation, but people wrongly consider it the foundation of democracy. Is journalism still capable of maintaining its mission of informing the public objectively, or has it become something else for political and corporate agendas?

Journalism is the shield of democracy, producing unbiased and accurate reports to society. The news organization acts as the watchdog function under the freedom of the press to monitor government leadership and give the public the facts for public choices. Without professional journalism that defends democratic principles, society will progressively see more of it: misinformation corrupted with propaganda and manipulation.

Critics agree mainstream media takes up biases when serving political or corporate entities. While there exists media biasing in the media, the media organization that adheres to professional standards observe their commitment to ethical methodology with fact-checking and journalistic integrity. The Panama Papers resulted from investigative reporters revealing massive financial fraud worldwide to the public. Even reporting conflicts, government abuses, and human rights violations has meant that journalists regularly face mortal danger to show that their commitment to truth and accountability is high.

Some opponents to the news distribution system maintained by citizen journalists and social platforms uphold democratic news accessibility. The verification methods used by professional journalism are absent from the user-generated content distribution system. Online misinformation spreads quickly among users before public



## Review of ExtraL by JENNIE, featuring Doechii

By Walker Scott  
Staff Reporter



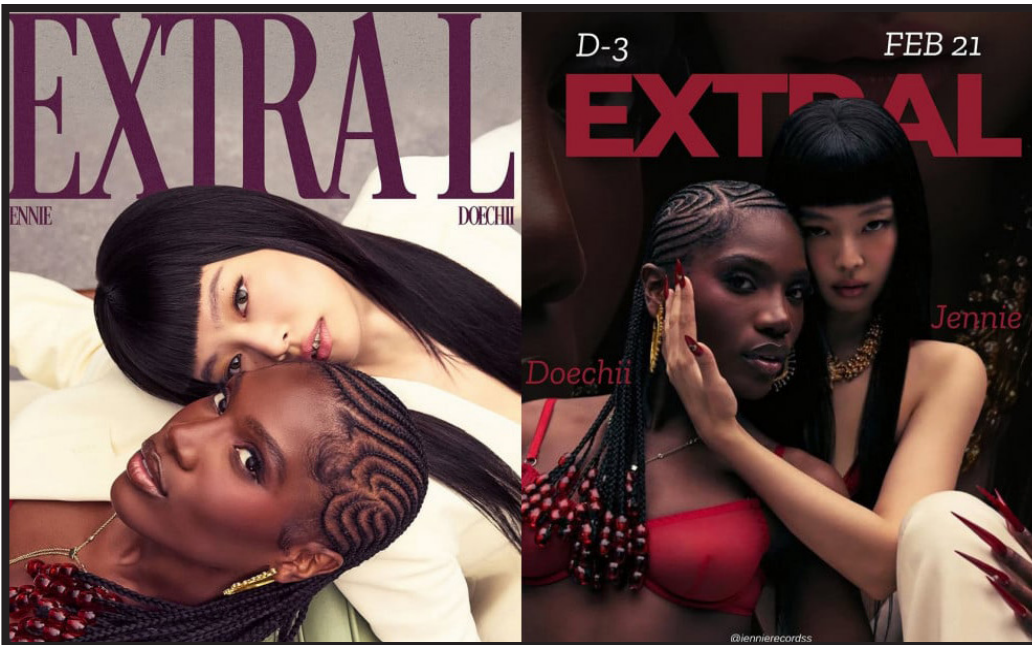
2024 was a monumental year for women in music-dominating men in charts, reviews and awards alike, and JENNIE and Doechii intend to ride that wave into 2025 as well.

On this new single we can clearly hear the punchy dance beats prevalent in the discography of many K-pop groups such as JENNIE's own group, BLACKPINK. There's somewhat of a spectrum with this sound from more melodic to punchier, with the most effective and memorable songs being punchier. And this single packs quite the punch.

With the current dominance of women in music, it's expected that female empowerment anthems make a comeback from their previous peak

in the mid-2010's. The song kicks off with the echoing chant, "Do my, do my ladies run this, ladies run this?" Followed by biting lyrics such as "You sit too far down on 'em charts to even ask me who's in charge," and after a strong chorus that properly pumps you up, JENNIE clears the way for her guest on this track, Doechii. We hear the music cut out as Doechii's repetition of "Wait... Wait..." grinds against the "Do my, do my ladies run this, ladies run this?" like a serrated edge, bringing a raw texture to the usually polished K-pop sound, followed by a flurry of intoxicating rapping. When JENNIE and Doechii unite after this second verse is when this track becomes something worthy of mention among the growing genre K-pop and hip-hop fusion.

This track feels like a particularly well-timed release for both artists; JENNIE has found immense success



outside of BLACKPINK and has truly been able to prove herself as an independent artist worthy of praise and Doechii has recently come off her win at the Grammys, making her the third woman in history to win best rap

album. As these two women tear their way through the music industry, this is the perfect song to play over their rise to power.



# 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).



## Romanticizing college life

By Macey Bowman  
Staff Reporter



Romanticizing college life is more than just changing how you think of normal, everyday things. There are things or steps you can take to romanticize the small, sometimes tedious, things you do daily. You can think of how to make everyday moments special, create a cozy environment in your room or dorm and start saying yes to new experiences. It is truly important to make things enjoyable throughout college.

When you make everyday moments special, it is not seen as something boring that you must do but something that you look forward to doing. Something as simple as studying in a cute café, writing aesthetic notes or

dressing up a little more for class can make the daily things more enjoyable. Romanticizing daily things such as these can seem small but will make a huge difference in your view of everyday things.

With a dorm or room, you don't want to come back from class to a room that is dull or doesn't feel like home to you. This is why making a cozy environment, or one that meets your aesthetic, is so fun and will make you excited to study, do schoolwork or even just hangout in your room. Romanticizing being able to be in your room could make a huge difference in study habits.

Saying yes to new experiences like joining a new club, hanging out with new friends and just stepping out of your comfort zone can make college feel like a movie. There are new things out there that may be something you wouldn't normally do but once you do



it you may find your lifelong friends or discover something new about yourself. Looking at situations such as stepping out of your comfort some with a positive outlook will help romanticize the idea and memory of your college experience.

Romanticizing your college experience is in the small things. Not just changing how you think of things but

changing how you do things or changing your surroundings with a positive outlook. Making daily moments special, making your environment like the dorm or room cozy and saying yes to new things are all great ways to romanticize the small things in college life. For more ways to romanticize the college experience, visit: The Daily Aztec.

## Geopolitical tensions rise as Ukraine War enters fourth year: Diplomatic efforts and security concerns intensify

By Jeremiah Henry  
Staff Reporter



As of February 2025, the global community is witnessing significant geopolitical shifts, particularly concerning the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. By February 2025, the world had gone through critical geopolitical changes related to the conflict in Ukraine in particular. Russia's full-scale invasion has been going on for three years this month, and it has had a profound effect on international relations and the security order.

### Diplomatic Efforts Intensify

A virtual G7 meeting was held to resolve the long-standing conflict and find common ground for peace. Yet, it doesn't prove easy to get consensus in the group. Other member nations have been mixed in their reactions to U.S. President Donald Trump proposing to reinstate Russia into the G7 and, most

controversially, suggesting a "minerals for aid" deal with Ukraine. During his trip to Washington, French President Emmanuel Macron stressed that it is necessary to address the Russian crisis collectively; otherwise, unilateral discussions against Russia could be detrimental to the global political stability.

### U.S.-Russia Summit in Saudi Arabia

In addition, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov met at a summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The meeting marked a notable change in U.S. foreign policy and focused on what could be done to end the war in Ukraine. The summit also created the possibility for a Trump-Putin meeting, demonstrating a renewed push to mend diplomatic relations and deal with the ongoing conflict.

### European Security Concerns

The situation was also further proof

of the complexities through the Munich Security Conference that closed from Feb. 14-16. The comments from U.S. Vice President JD Vance, in which he urged European nations to spend more on defense and to bear primary responsibility for providing military support for Ukraine, proved controversial among European leaders. However, Germany's officials have vehemently rejected Vance's comments, with Chancellor Olaf Scholz among scores rebuffing the Merkel ally, insisting Europe is behind its security policies. It will not change in the face of a threat from outside.

### Ukraine's Position

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has maintained that while he supports international talks, Ukraine should be part of the peace discussion. He experiences participation in some diplomatic talks as an exclusion, and imposed solutions without Ukraine's participation are unacceptable. This position highlights how difficult it will



be to resolve this situation peacefully while respecting Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

As the four years of conflict pass, the international community remains stuck for a viable path to peace. With so many national interests, regional security concerns, and diplomatic initiatives at play, the resolution of the Ukraine crisis is one of the most significant issues in the world today.

## The influence of social media on society

By Kyanti Fleming  
Staff Reporter



Social media has drastically changed the way we communicate and interact, offering both positive and negative consequences. On one hand, it connects people across the world allowing for instant communication, self-expression and the mobilization of social causes. Movements like Black Lives Matter and #MeToo

has gained worldwide traction through platforms like Twitter and Instagram, giving voice to marginalized communities and sparking important conversations.

However, the drawbacks are significant. Research shows that excessive social media use can contribute to mental health issues, including anxiety and depression, particularly among younger users. The pressure to maintain a perfect online image often leads to feelings of inadequacy. Additionally, social media platforms have become

breeding grounds for misinformation, with false narratives spreading rapidly and sometimes causing real-world harm, such as undermining public trust in science and politics.

While social media is here to stay, it is so important that both users and platforms take responsibility. Social media has the power to connect and inform, but it also carries risks that cannot be ignored. Striking a balance between its positive potential and its harmful effects is crucial for the future of society.





## Local artist turns trash into treasure

By Jeremiah Henry  
Staff Reporter



Artist Clara Bennett uses her 32 years of age to create innovative, sustainable art in her Maple Street studio. Bennett transforms discarded plastic bottles, old newspapers and broken electronics into remarkable sculptures that question how society views waste while defining beauty.

Bennett explained to me during our

interview that she believes beauty exists in places where no one would expect it by pointing to her unfinished artwork made from wire wires and bottle caps.

My goal with each artwork is to make viewers reconsider their discarded items,” Bennett said. “Each discarded item has historical significance and can transform into something new.”

Her latest masterpiece is a huge cardboard tree that will debut at the upcoming Green Art Expo. Bennett dedicated her time and creative skills to transforming discarded packaging materials into her artwork’s detailed

bark and leaves.

Bennett became interested in eco-friendly art five years ago following a transformative visit to a nearby landfill. She remembered the experience as overwhelming because of her emotional state saying, “The massive amount of waste I witnessed made me understand how humans neglect their planet. I understand that I needed to take action because art helps me to create positive change.”

On the other hand, the community finds inspiration in her artwork, and art enthusiasts become captivated by her creations, which drives people toward

adopting sustainable practices. Marcus Lee, who operates a local gallery that displays Bennett’s artwork, describes her as “a true visionary.” He says,

“The visual appeal of her artwork serves as a vehicle to deliver an important message about sustainability and environmental responsibility,” Lee said.

Bennett believes her mission is simple: “If my work can encourage one person to reconsider their waste habits, the accumulation of minor changes leads to a better future because we unite our efforts.”

## The impact of social media on mental health

By Naomi Ubeda  
Staff Reporter



Social media connects billions of people and is a powerful force in daily life. But there are rising worries about how it affects mental health, particularly in young people. A 2019 National Institutes of Health study found that “social media use is linked to greater risks for mental health problems, particularly among adolescents.”

Although social media provides support and connections, it also exacerbates poor self-esteem, anxiety and

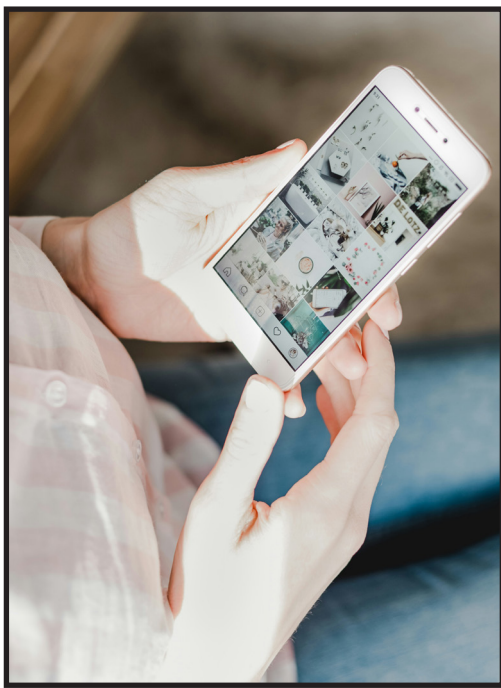
despair. According to iGen’s author, Dr. Jean Twenge, “The more time teens spend on screens, the more likely they are to feel isolated, anxious, and depressed.”

On the positive side, social media helps users find communities and access mental health resources. The American Psychological Association notes, “Online communities can offer a unique type of emotional support.” Campaigns like #BellLetsTalk have also reduced stigma. However, social media can also promote harmful beauty standards and unrealistic portrayals of life, which can negatively impact self-esteem.

Excessive social media use is linked

to increased anxiety and depression. A University of Pennsylvania study found that limiting social media use to 30 minutes a day can improve well-being. Furthermore, the Cyberbullying Research Center reports that over 34% of students experience cyberbullying, contributing to mental health struggles.

While social media offers benefits, its negative effects on mental health are significant. Setting boundaries and using social media mindfully can protect mental well-being. As Dr. Twenge warns, “Social media use is a risk factor for mental health problems, particularly when used excessively.”



## The life of a business owner

By Kyanti Fleming  
Staff Reporter



Randell Strong is a business owner who owns Canton Discount Drugs, a small retail store with an outstanding community pharmacy in Canton. Strong went to school at Ole Miss and majored in business before attending pharmacy school.

“I never really wanted to go to college but I figured if I wanted to be

a pharmacist I have to do something,” Strong said.

Strong runs a very affordable pharmacy but struggles sometimes because of his battle with Parkinson’s.

“Some days, I can’t move around as much while others I am constantly on the go,” Strong said. “Luckily I have my wife and kids.”

One of Strong’s kids, Jason Strong, formally runs his pharmacy when he isn’t there. Jason also went Ole Miss and studied business and pharmacy school.



“Jason has been a major help and I am glad he understands the business.”  
Randell Strong strides to stay open

as long as he can and hopes bis business only grows from here.

## High school should teach more life skills

By Michelle Castro  
Staff Reporter



Many high school graduates enter adulthood feeling completely unprepared for real-world responsibilities. I have had countless conversations with my friends about how lost we are when it comes to important things like credit, savings, taxes and big purchases, such as buying a car. Since we spend most of our teenage years in school - right up until we legally become adults at 18 - schools should do a better job of preparing us for adult life.

While some schools offer a single

class covering topics like bank accounts and credit, that is not enough. By the time students graduate, much of that information is forgotten because it is not reinforced throughout high school. Learning life skills should not be treated as an afterthought - it should be a core part of the curriculum. Schools must go beyond a one-time class and provide students with consistent education in essential topics like budgeting, taxes and basic law. This way, when we step into the real world, we will be ready to face challenges head-on rather than feeling lost and unprepared.

Many students graduate without knowing how to manage their finances, pay taxes or understand their basic legal rights. The current education sys-

tem prioritizes the traditional academic curriculum, often overlooking the real priority: preparing kids for life outside of high school. For example, learning how to budget is crucial for managing money, avoiding debt and making informed financial decisions. Skills like creating a budget, understanding credit scores, and saving for emergencies can set students up for long-term financial stability.

Another critical area is taxes - something every adult must deal with, yet many students never learn how to file them. Tax education can help young adults understand deductions, avoid penalties, and plan their finances more effectively. Lastly, understanding basic legal rights, such as contracts, renter’s rights and employment laws, can help

students confidently navigate adulthood, avoid legal pitfalls and understand their rights outside the Bill of Rights.

Some argue that schools are already overloaded with subjects, leaving little room for additional courses. However, the subjects can not be more important than long-term life skills. Instead of adding more to an already packed curriculum, schools could replace less practical electives with life skills courses. Topics like budgeting, taxes, and fundamental law are just as valuable—if not more—than some traditional electives that students won’t even remember by the time they graduate. Schools can ensure that graduates can confidently adulthood by prioritizing real-world preparation.



Walker (continued from Front Page)

serving as the head coach for the Team Mississippi 15U team, and as the assistant coach of Team Mississippi 18U and the Mississippi Jazz, serving grades sixth through 12th. Her teams won the Nike National Championship twice and obtained 15 local and regional championships as well.

Walker came to Holmes from Humphreys Academy in Belzoni, where she served as head coach for the junior high and high school girl’s teams in 2020 and 2021. Her junior high squad won the district title while her high school team won the district, North State and A state championships, and she was named the MAIS A Coach of the Year.

Walker was a graduate of Copiah

Academy, where she excelled on the basketball court. She was named the team MVP, MAIS All-Star and First Team All-Conference. After Copiah, she played two seasons at Northwest Mississippi Community College, playing under longtime head coach Don Edwards from 2016-18. She graduated from Northwest with an associate of arts degree and obtained a bachelor’s degree in general studies from the University of Mississippi, with minors in sociology, English and education.

Her alma mater, Northwest, recognized Walker prior to their basketball game Jan. 13 with a moment of silence. The Lady Bulldogs did the same prior to their home game against Gulf Coast on Jan. 16, along with displaying

her “BW23” on their pregame uniforms. Fans were also asked to wear purple to the game in her memory as well.

Two visitations were held for Walker; one at Chancellor Funeral Home in Florence and one at Lakeshore Church in Byram. The funeral service was also held at Lakeshore Church, followed by burial at Cleary Baptist Church Cemetery.

Walker is preceded in death by her grandfather, James Shelton. She is survived by her mother, Kristy Ketteringham of Terry; father, Allen Walker (Tasha) of Crystal Springs; twin brother, Brett Walker of Terry; sisters, Ashton McCollough (Brian) of Crystal Springs, and Savanah Middle-

ton (Dylan) of Crystal Springs; aunt Tonya Griffin (John) of Brandon; niece Hartlee Drew McCollough; nephews, Dawsyn Middleton, and Steele Middleton; cousin, Brady Griffin; maternal grandparent, June Shelton of Florence; paternal grandparents, Allen Ray Walker (Lisa) of Crystal Springs, and Hazel Walker of Florence; and numerous cousins and friends whose lives she touched.

If anyone would like to make donations in lieu of flowers, they can be made to: Holmes Community College Ladies Basketball Program. Please contact Dr. Lindy McCain at the Holmes Foundation office at 662-472-9067.

Building (continued from Front Page)

designing and building the new facility. In addition to the classrooms and offices for the various health science programs, the new facility will also provide a large multipurpose space to be used as a shared resource. With banquet seating for 350 and lecture-style seating for 530, Holmes will be able to accommodate more group events for the local community.

“The Health Science Building will allow the Health Science Programs on the Ridgeland Campus to continue to grow as well as expand our Health Science offerings,” said Director of Health Sciences Allison DeWeese. “The building has been a vision for several years. I am excited to see the vision become a reality.”

Construction is expected to begin

soon; contractors anticipate they’ll begin mobilizing on the site in late January or early February.

“The Career Technical Education department at Holmes is so excited to see this vision for our growing Health Sciences division become a reality,” said Vice President of Career Technical Education Dr. Amy Whittington. “Years of planning and hard work

have been put into this project, and the growth of Health Sciences at Holmes has proven to be a successful investment for the college and communities it serves.”

To see a full list of Career Technical programs at Holmes and get more information, visit <https://holmescc.edu/programs/career-technical-programs/>.

Madison Cummins named Director of Admissions

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College has named Madison Cummins as the new Director of Admissions. A longtime member of the Holmes family, Cummins brings a wealth of experience in higher education and student services to her new role.

A native of Ethel, Cummins has been a part of the Holmes team since 2019, serving in multiple roles, including STEM Project director, Development Foundation secretary, financial aid advisor and admissions representative. Her background in student support services, coupled with her leadership

in academic initiatives, makes her a valuable asset to the college’s admissions department.

Cummins holds an Associate of Arts in general biology from Hinds Community College and a Bachelor of Science in biology with a minor in psychology from Delta State University. She earned a Master of Science in Workforce Education Leadership from Mississippi State University and is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Higher Education Administration at the University of Southern Mississippi, with an expected completion date of

December 2025.

Holmes has always been an important part of Cummins’ life, as both of her parents worked at the college. Now, as director of admissions, she is eager to continue serving students and helping them navigate their educational journeys.

Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her husband, Logan, and their dogs, Dusty and Sandy. Her hobbies include hunting, fishing and spending time with family and friends.

From 911 calls to the classroom: How a Holmes instructor found her calling in criminal justice education

By Michelle Castro  
Staff Reporter



Katrena Harris has always wanted to teach law, but before she got to where she is, she studied for her master’s degree while being a full-time 911 operator for the Jackson police department

and caring for her three children. She initially wanted to go into law school, so she took her LSAT and said, “it felt like a train had run over my brain.” She decided that law school wasn’t such a good idea. That’s when someone came to her and told her about the opportunity to teach criminal justice classes.

“I remember being at 911, and I was just so frustrated with being there, which is usually a good indication when you know it’s time for you to advance to the next level of where you have to go, so I knew it was my time to go,” Harris said.

That’s when a job became available on the Holmes Community College Goodman Campus. Harris applied for it despite having no clue where Goodman, Mississippi, is. She drove up to Goodman, thinking she would just do a

presentation on gun control.

“And I thought, okay, I’ll do the presentation,” Harris said. “Maybe later they’ll call me for the interview.”

As soon as she finished her presentation, a panel of six people interviewed her, and she got the job. That was 10 years ago, and she has loved teaching ever since.

When asked what she thinks are today’s most significant challenges facing the criminal justice system, she had plenty to say.

“Oh my,” Harris said, “the threat that we have from public discord or the police, their inability to get along with the public, especially now that tensions are so high in this political climate, so there’s this controversial relationship between minority groups and police. So, one of the biggest challenges is just them getting along.”

When question about people’s most common misconception about law enforcement and/or the justice system, Harris easily replied, “Oh, I got a good one. That woman can’t be good police, and also not all police are bad police.”

Harris went on to explain the caring about people is one of the most important qualities for students to master if they wish to pursue a career in criminal justice.

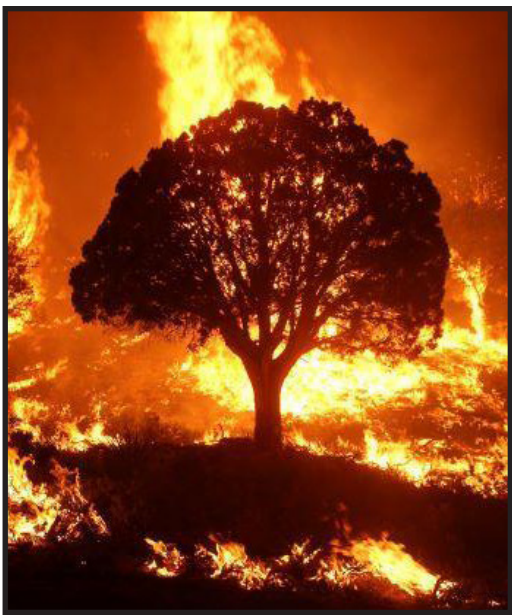
“Empathy, sympathy and just having a good heart and love for people are the driving forces behind any career, but definitely for this career,” Harris said.

Harris concluded her advice saying “if a person is racist, has a short man’s complex or is full of biases, then your best bet is to apply to a funeral home. This is not the place. This is not the field for you.”



## Miami: Flames spread across the region

By Kyanti Fleming  
*Staff Reporter*



A series of devastating wildfires have torn through parts of Miami and surrounding areas, forcing thousands of residents to evacuate, damaging homes, and creating hazardous air quality conditions. As of late January 2025, the fires have been fueled by a combination of dry weather, high winds and rising temperatures, sparking urgent responses from local authorities and firefighting teams. The blazes, which began in the

Everglades National Park, spread quickly over the weekend, fueled by gusty winds and an ongoing drought. Authorities have declared a state of emergency, with Governor Maria Delgado activating the National Guard to assist in firefighting efforts and evacuation operations. Several areas have been placed under mandatory evacuation orders, with the hardest-hit zones including parts of Little Havana, Coral Gables and the Miami Beach area. “Lives and property are at risk, and we’re doing everything we can to support our community,” said Miami Mayor Carmen Vasquez in a press briefing Monday morning. “Our first priority is the safety of our residents. We urge everyone to stay clear of affected areas and follow evacuation instructions.” More than 1,500 firefighters have been deployed across Miami-Dade County, supported by aircraft equipped with water-dropping capabilities. Firefighters are working in challenging conditions, with thick smoke and high winds complicating efforts to contain the fires.

The Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue reported that the fires had destroyed at least 100 homes and forced the closure of several major highways. In addition to structural damage, smoke from the fires has caused widespread air quality issues, with pollution levels rising to unhealthy levels across the region. Health officials are advising residents, particularly those with respiratory conditions, to stay indoors and avoid strenuous activity. The fires come amid growing concerns about the impact of climate change on Florida’s ability to manage wildfires. Experts warn that higher temperatures, more frequent droughts, and shifting weather patterns are contributing to the intensity and frequency of wildfires in the region. “I’ve never seen anything like this before,” said Carlos Rivera, a long-time Miami resident. “The smoke is so thick, it feels like the city is covered in a fog. It’s really scary.” While the cause of the fires is still under investigation, authorities have emphasized the importance of fire prevention, particularly during the dry

season. Residents are urged to clear brush and debris around their homes, avoid outdoor burning, and report any suspicious activity to local law enforcement. The Miami Fire Department is also providing resources for those who have been displaced, including temporary shelters and food assistance. Local relief organizations are rallying support for affected families, collecting donations of food, clothing, and emergency supplies. As the fires continue to burn, the full extent of the damage remains unclear. Firefighters are hopeful that cooler weather expected later in the week will help slow the spread of the flames. However, authorities are cautioning that the threat of additional outbreaks remains high until the fires are fully contained. For now, residents and officials are focused on recovery, hoping that the worst of the fires will soon be over. “We’re in this together,” Mayor Vasquez said. “We will rebuild, but we need to remain vigilant and supportive of one another.”

## What does Meta’s move away from fact-checking mean for the internet going forward?

By Walker Scott  
*Staff Reporter*



Social media giant Meta announced on Jan. 7 that they are ditching their previous fact-checking system in favor of community notes, akin to Elon Musk’s platform, X. This change will take place over the course of the

coming months according to Meta’s transparency center. The current fact-checking system utilizes real people non-partisan third party fact checker organizations. The content on Instagram, Threads and Facebook

that is flagged as misinformation is not taken down, but rather left up with a warning for viewers. The new community notes system will be rolled out starting in the U.S. and rely entirely on users fact-checking the content they see. Meta believes this will lead to less censorship and believes that the information in these community notes will be less biased than their current fact checkers. In fact, in a video posted to Meta’s website, Mark Zuckerberg accuses the fact checkers working for Meta of political bias. Community notes will be rated by users as well, requiring high confidence in their falsehood before Meta will take them down. According to Politico, fact checkers are facing backlash after Zuckerberg’s announcement. Many of the employees at the companies which handle Meta’s fact-checking are reporting harassment and death threats online. Politico also reports, “Anuška Delić, the editor-in-chief of Slovenia-based

media Oštro, said ‘connecting censorship with fact-checking’ has been damaging.” Critics of Meta’s decision fear that there is now a link between misinformation and political thought; critics worry that under this new community note system, falsehoods will simply be passed off as someone’s truth, allowing lies (politically-motivated or otherwise) to influence people’s thinking while going unchecked. This harassment and view of lies as opinions is probably directly linked to Zuckerberg’s own accusations toward fact checkers of bias. Many of Zuckerberg’s supporters believe this change is what’s best for free speech and is motivated by a positive shift away from the previous precedent of censorship set by foreign countries such as China. However, Zuckerberg’s critics are calling out this decision as him bending the knee to President Trump as a way to get on Trump’s good side for the next four years.

## The proposed Mississippi bill will pay bounty hunters to target immigrants

By Michelle Castro  
*Staff Reporter*



A proposed Mississippi bill will pay bounty hunters to target immigrants. In other words, House Bill 1484, proposed by District Attorney Matthew Barton and authored by State Representative Justin Kean, has proposed creating a “Mississippi illegal aliens certified bounty hunter program,” which would give certification to bail bond agents and surety recovery agents to find and detain anyone in the country illegally. As well as possibly creating a hotline where people could report and leave anonymous tips. Each certified hunter who successfully deports someone could receive a

reward of \$1,000 - this is in an effort to support the new president, Trump, and local lawmakers. In an interview with LiveNOW from FOX News, Kean said the bill is “a neighborhood watch sort of gap for people for people that deal with criminals on a day-to-day basis.” “I think the initial knee-jerk reaction for a lot of people is they see this, and it says, ‘Illegal Alien Bounty Hunter Program,’ and they just assume that people are going to run rampant and just start scooping up individuals and start hauling them off,” Kean said.

“We want licensed, legal people. They go through a vetting process and then specifically target those that should not be here that are a detriment to our national safety, our neighborhoods and our schools and so forth.” He went on to say that this is “an opportunity for Mississippi to kind of take that step to support (President Trump) and (for local lawmakers) to illustrate to the voters what we were trying to do, and we hear what you’re saying.”

*Mississippi Bill, continued on Page 7*



Mississippi Bill (Continued from Page 6)

Advocacy groups and immigration attorneys tell the Mississippi Free Press that this will likely not go through and that it is probably a publicity stunt to strike fear.

Mississippi Immigrants Rights

Alliance (MIRA) Patricia Ice, an immigration attorney, calls these bills disappointing.

“If they all got arrested here in Mississippi and had to leave, I think the economy would suffer,” Ice said.

Independent legal experts question their motives for introducing this bill. Some observers even say that this is a legislative assault on undocumented immigrants. Migrants say this bill will probably run into many legal pitfalls,

and the chances of it being approved are slim whether it is a publicity stunt; staying current and knowledgeable of what’s happening in our state is essential.

California Wildfires: What’s Happening?

By Macey Bowman  
Staff Reporter



At the beginning of the year, devastation struck California. Wildfires started erupting on Jan. 7 and continued for weeks. There were still around seven fires on Jan. 24 including the Palisades fire, Eaton fire and Hughes fire.

The Palisades fire erupted on Jan. 7. One of the first few fires to start the long chain of heartache in California. The fire ripped through the neighborhood east of Malibu at 23,448 acres and was mostly contained according to

the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. They also reported that the fire damaged and destroyed more than 6,000 structures.

The Eaton fire broke out shortly after the Palisades caught fire. The fire started near a canyon in the sprawling national forest, north of downtown Los Angeles. The Eaton fire had spread throughout 14,021 acres and was close to being fully contained. Cal Fire reported that the fire damaged or

destroyed 9,418 structures.

The Hughes fire started by the Castaic Lake in north Los Angeles County. This fire covered over 10,200 acres and was almost fully contained, like the Eaton fire, a few days after it broke.

To read more about these fires and others in more detail visit Cal Fire or any news platform.

Peaceful protest transpires in Biloxi

By Naomi Ubeda  
Staff Reporter



On Monday, Feb. 3, about 100 Biloxi residents showed up to protest against immigration enforcement. “No hate, no fear, immigrants are welcome here” was chanted by the protesters. Among them was Alma Leon, who organized the protest by spreading the message on social media. She was joined by her teenage children who were proud of their mother for speaking up.

Though many were scared to support, turnout was greater than they expected and those in attendance were emotional to see the community together in protest. People driving by honked their horns in a show of support. The protest went on for hours,

until after sundown.

Many people around the nation have come together to protest immigration enforcement, as it gets more popular today. They come together to be the voice of those who are in fear and challenge policies that are unjust and discriminatory. By protesting, these people are bringing awareness to the harm being done to vulnerable communities, pressuring policymakers to adopt fairer immigration policies and stand in solidarity for those affected, advocating for a system that values diversity, dignity and equal opportunities for everyone.

Behind the Curtain of New Stage Theatre’s Lighting and Sound

By Walker Scott  
Staff Reporter



Alberto Meza

Jackson, Mississippi, among other things, is known for a thriving arts scene. One of the main contributors to this is New Stage Theatre. Many aspects go into making a show work, but perhaps the most under-appreciated is lighting and sound design. That’s why I interviewed New Stage Theatre’s Resident Sound and Production Designer Alberto Meza.

Q: Have you always loved theatre?

A: Yes! I’ve loved theatre since I was in elementary school. I’ve always been a fan of performing and making shows come to life.

Q: Did you consider any other careers?

A: I did. I have considered multiple other careers like I.T. or teaching acting at schools. I have even considered working in construction just like my father. But I thought to myself, why would I follow my father’s footsteps when I could make it out there on my own and make a name for myself in a different career. I wanted to be on my own and wanted to do things my way instead of having it laid out for me on what I should do.

Q: Why did you pick this career?

A: I have a passion for bringing shows to life either through performing or through design. I’m currently the sound designer/engineer and projections designer and engineer at New Stage Theatre and I couldn’t be happy-



er about the responsibility given to me. It’s a rush to have a full packed house loving everything you worked really hard on.

Q: Why did you choose to work at New Stage?

A: I chose New Stage because it is the only regional professional theatre in Mississippi! It is right next to Belhaven University where I graduated from in 2019. I volunteered at New Stage once or twice and watched plenty of their shows! All of them were incredi-

ble to watch and I just knew this would be the place for me to get my foot into this big, beautiful world of theatre. I knew once I started, I was leaving with nothing but growth as a human and as a designer.

Q: What’s your favorite thing about New Stage?

A: The work! I love all that I do and what comes with it. I truly am blessed to have a job that I can be truly creative with.



Military Barbie: Michelle’s story of bravery

By Naomi Ubeda  
Staff Reporter



Michelle Castro

When Michelle Castro first stepped into military training, she already knew the odds were stacked against her. She was the youngest. One of the shortest. And according to some of the people around her, not “strong enough.”

“People there let it be known that they did not think I was strong enough,” Castro said. “I mean, I get it. I was one of the shortest and I was the youngest one there. It made me mad and upset hearing the comments and the hate, but it only motivated me more to prove them wrong.”

She didn’t just prove them wrong—she crushed expectations. When it came time to take the army combat fitness test, she put in the work and scored 505 out of 600.

“I might’ve rubbed it in their face,

haha,” she admitted. But the moment wasn’t just about payback, it was about respect. After that, they left me alone. I got two apologies from them. It was all good. Everyone just wanted to graduate and get out of there.”

But getting to that point wasn’t easy. Military training is designed to push people to their limits, and Castro knew giving up was the easy way out.

“The biggest challenge is not giving up,” she says. “Because it’s so easy to give up. To tap out and just quit.”

Except quitting was never an option. She had a bigger reason to keep going, her family.

“The main reason I joined was to help with my parents’ immigration status,” Castro said. “They gave up so

much for me in life, I wanted to give them something in return.”

Every early morning, every grueling challenge, every moment of doubt—she pushed through, fueled by the thought of giving back to the people who had sacrificed so much for her.

And along the way, she found her people.

“I was lucky enough to make many amazing supportive friends,” Castro said. “It definitely helps time go by faster and everything seem just a little bit easier with the right friends.”

From the underdog to the one standing strong at the finish line, Michelle Castro proved that strength isn’t just about size—it’s about heart, resilience and the refusal to back down.

Ridgeland Campus announces Hall of Fame 2025

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Ridgeland Campus Hall of Fame 2025. They are (front row, left to right) Jessica Gibbons, Morgan Kendrick, Mary Lane Ray, Swayze Brewer, Anniston Lyles, Amani Willis, (back row, left to right) Johnathan Thompson, Micheal Jarju, Jeremy Heflin, Logan McAdory, Cooper Canard, Christina Guzman and Macey Bowman.

Holmes Community College faculty and staff selected the prestigious Hall of Fame winners for the 2024-25 academic year on Feb. 13. The Hall of Fame recognizes students who have demonstrated outstanding academic performance, leadership and community involvement. This year’s Ridgeland Campus recipients include Macey Bowman of Pelahatchie, Swayze Brewer of Brandon, William “Cooper” Canard of Madison, Jessica Gibbons of Flora, Christina Guzman of Florence, Jeremy Heflin of Florence, Michael Jarju of Gluckstadt, Morgan Kendrick of Richland, Anniston Lyles of Brandon, Logan McAdory of Brandon, Mary Lane Ray of Madison, Johnathan Thompson of Camden, and Amani Willis of Brandon.

Macey Bowman

Macey Bowman, the daughter of Melanie and Don Beam, and Brent Bowman, has made a significant impact on campus during her time at Holmes. A health science major, she has been active on campus as a member of The Growl newspaper staff while also serving as vice president of the Student Government Association for both her freshman and sophomore years. After graduating, Bowman plans to attend William Carey University to pursue a double major in biology and forensic science. Her ultimate goal is to complete the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine program at William Carey and specialize in dermatology.

Swayze Brewer

Swayze Brewer, daughter of Angie and Larry Brewer, has demonstrated academic excellence and campus involvement throughout her time at Holmes. A pre-radiology major, she has been named to the President’s List and Dean’s List, is a two-time recipient of the prestigious STEMMY Award and has been actively involved in Phi Theta Kappa, Student Government Association, Rotaract and the Holmes Ambassadors. Brewer plans to continue her education at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, where she will complete a two-year radiology bachelor’s program and become a licensed X-ray technician.

William “Cooper” Canard

Cooper Canard, son of Laura Canard and Richard Peyton Canard, has pursued mechanical engineering at Holmes while achieving top academic honors, including placement on the President’s List. His leadership is evident in his role as president of Phi Theta Kappa. Canard plans to transfer to Mississippi State University to complete his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering and later pursue a master’s degree. His long-term goal is to work for an innovative technology company like NASA or Boston Dynamics.

Jessica Gibbons

Pre-occupational therapy major

Jessica Gibbons, the daughter of Dawn and Michael Gibbons, has excelled both academically and in extracurricular activities. She is a recipient of the Holmes English Composition Award and a two-time STEMMY Award winner. Gibbons has been an active member of Phi Theta Kappa, serving as vice president of the college project, and is a skilled guitarist who plays for Westhaven Baptist Church. She plans to attend the University of Southern Mississippi for a degree in kinesiotherapy before pursuing a doctorate in occupational therapy at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Christina Guzman

Christina Guzman, a biology major, has been an outstanding student at Holmes. The daughter of Maria and Miguel Guzman, she has been named to the President’s List and is a dedicated member of Phi Theta Kappa. She plans to continue playing soccer at the university level while studying biology and later enrolling in a dental hygiene program.

Jeremy Heflin

Mechanical Engineering major Jeremy Heflin, son of Johna and Joseph Heflin, has excelled academically, being named a President’s List Scholar. He has also played for the Holmes Men’s Soccer Team and served as a Student Government Association representative. Heflin plans to continue his education at Mississippi State University and eventually establish a private engineering firm in the Jackson area.

Micheal Jarju

Business Administration major Micheal Jarju, son of Sally Veronica Demba, has embraced his time at Holmes since arriving in the United States two years ago. He has served as vice president of the school project for Phi Theta Kappa and as a Holmes Ambassador. Jarju plans to pursue a finance degree at Texas A&M, with a long-term goal of gaining professional experience before earning his master’s degree.

Morgan Kendrick

Morgan Kendrick, daughter of Tamara Kendrick and Robert White-side, is a child development major. She

has dedicated her time at Holmes to academic excellence and professional experience in early childhood education. Kendrick has served as a Writing Center tutor, worked as a teacher at Assisi Early Learning Center and is a proud member of Phi Theta Kappa. She plans to attend Mississippi University for Women to further her education in early childhood development, ultimately becoming an elementary school teacher.

Anniston Lyles

Anniston Lyles, daughter of Michelle and David Donovan, is a pre-radiologic science major. She plans to attend the University of Mississippi to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Allied Health and later specialize in radiology, aiming to become an ultrasound technician. Lyles has been actively involved in Phi Theta Kappa, serving as vice president of Honors in Action, and has also contributed as a Holmes Ambassador. Additionally, she has served as a work-study student for Career-Technical Education and for the library. Off campus, Lyles has volunteered with a local ministry called Shower Power.

Logan McAdory

Logan McAdory, son of Lisa and Jeffrey McAdory, is an electrical engineering major. He plans to transfer to Mississippi State University in the fall of 2025 and has lined up an internship with Entergy over the summer. McAdory is projected to graduate from MSU in the fall of 2027, after which he will seek a career in the electrical engineering field. He has been actively involved in Phi Theta Kappa during both his freshman and sophomore years.

Mary Lane Ray

Mary Lane Ray, daughter of Jennifer and Andy Ray, is a business administration major. She plans to attend Mississippi State University to study graphic design. After graduation, she hopes to take a gap year to explore personal interests before entering the workforce. Ray has served as a Phi Theta Kappa officer and worked at multiple businesses, including U.S. Lawns.



## Ridgeland HOF (Continued from Page 8)

### Johnathan Thompson

Johnathan Thompson, son of Alice and Matthew Thompson, is a civil engineering major. After Holmes, he will transfer to Jackson State University to earn a bachelor's degree, with a long-term goal of real estate development and urban planning. Thompson has

been recognized on the President's and Dean's Lists and is a Phi Theta Kappa officer.

### Amani Willis

Amani Willis, daughter of Pamela and Bryan Willis, is a health science major. She plans to continue her stud-

ies in exercise science at the University of Mississippi on a pre-med track, with the goal of becoming a dermatologist. Willis has served as a Phi Theta Kappa officer and Holmes Ambassador, as well as a volunteer for St. Dominic's Hospital and Word of Life Church's media team.

Holmes faculty, staff and adminis-

tration congratulates these exceptional students on their achievements and looks forward to seeing their continued success.

For more information about the Ridgeland Campus Hall of Fame honor, contact Pamela Fells at pfells@holmescc.edu.

## Goodman Campus announces Hall of Fame 2025

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 2025 Goodman Campus Hall of Fame inductees. They are (front row, left to right) **Houston Blair**, **Janey Beth McRae**, **Jordan Leech**, (middle row, left to right) **Mason Harrell**, **Bella Roberts** and (back row) **Evan Yates**.

Holmes Community College faculty and staff recently selected the prestigious Hall of Fame winners for the 2024-25 academic year. The Hall of Fame recognizes students who have demonstrated outstanding academic performance, leadership and community involvement. The recipients exemplify the college's values of excellence and service. This year's recipients include Houston Blair of Kosciusko, Mason Harrell of Flora, Jordan Leech of Winona, Janey Beth McRae of Winona, Bella Parker Roberts of Winona and Evan Yates of Kosciusko.

### Houston Blair

Houston Blair, son of Christi and David Blair, is a chemical engineering major with a perfect 4.0 GPA. Blair is a President's List Scholar involved in several clubs, including Phi Theta Kappa, Holmes Plus and Holmes Ambassadors. He's also a tutor in Holmes' STEM lab. Blair has also volunteered for the Natchez Trace Festival and is a member of First Baptist Church

college group, as well. He works at the Attala County Bank, and after graduation, plans to attend Mississippi State University to earn his bachelor's in chemical engineering and pursue a master's degree.

### Mason Harrell

Mason Harrell is the daughter of Hope and Kevin Ables, and Chris and Allison Harrell. She boasts a perfect GPA of 4.0 and is studying elementary education. Harrell has received numerous honors, including being listed on the President's List and receiving the Elementary Education Award. She was also named Most Beautiful during Holmes' 2024 Beauty Review. Harrell is active on campus as an Ambassador, secretary of Student Government Association and as a member of Phi Theta Kappa. She is also a work-study in the Student Services office on campus and an active member of First Baptist Church of Flora. Harrell has volunteered for multiple mission trips and has served as a group leader for

Williamsville's D-Now. She plans to pursue a master's degree in elementary education at Mississippi State University.

### Jordan Leech

Jordan Leech, son of Julie and Eddie Pipkin, and Katy and Keith Leech, is a nursing major with a perfect 4.0 GPA. Leech is active on campus as president of the Baptist Student Union and as a member of the Holmes Tennis Team. He has been recognized for his academic and athletic achievements; he was named an Academic All-American and named on the President's List. Leech's community service includes volunteering at a local hospital, volunteering with Mission Hope and spreading the love of Christ through BSU. Upon graduation from Holmes, he plans to transfer to The W – Mississippi University for Women to earn his Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. He would like to work in the ICU then go back to school to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA).

### Janey Beth McRae

Janey Beth McRae, daughter of Amanda and Chris McRae, has a GPA of 3.95 as an elementary education major. McRae was named Student Body Maid for the Goodman Campus and has received the Dr. L.C. Henson scholarship. She is also involved in student leadership, serving as president of Phi Theta Kappa, vice president of the Student Government Association and as an Ambassador. Upon graduation, McRae plans to continue her studies in elementary education at Mississippi State University.

### Bella Parker Roberts

Bella Parker Roberts, the daughter of Debbie and Mickey Roberts, is a

pre-physical therapy major who is extremely active on campus. Roberts is a member of the Lady Bulldogs Basketball Team, Phi Theta Kappa and the Baptist Student Union. She is also a Scholar Athlete and President's List Scholar who was named to the All-MACCC Team for basketball. Additionally, Roberts plays USTA tennis, and is involved in the community through multiple avenues. She's volunteered at Premier Medical Clinic on campus, Vacation Bible School, Read Across America, Mission Hope and the Mississippi Jazz AAU summer program. After Holmes, Roberts plans to pursue a degree in kinesiology and a doctorate in physical therapy.

### Evan Yates

Evan Yates, son of Mandi and Mike Yates, is a biochemistry major who is a student-leader on campus. Yates is a member of The Holmes Connection! and Coachmen, while also serving as vice president of campus project for Phi Theta Kappa. In 2024, he was recognized on the Dean's List, as well. Upon graduation, Yates plans to transfer to Mississippi State University to complete his bachelor's in biochemistry before applying to Physician Assistant programs. He also works as a drummer and sound technician at Style Entertainment.

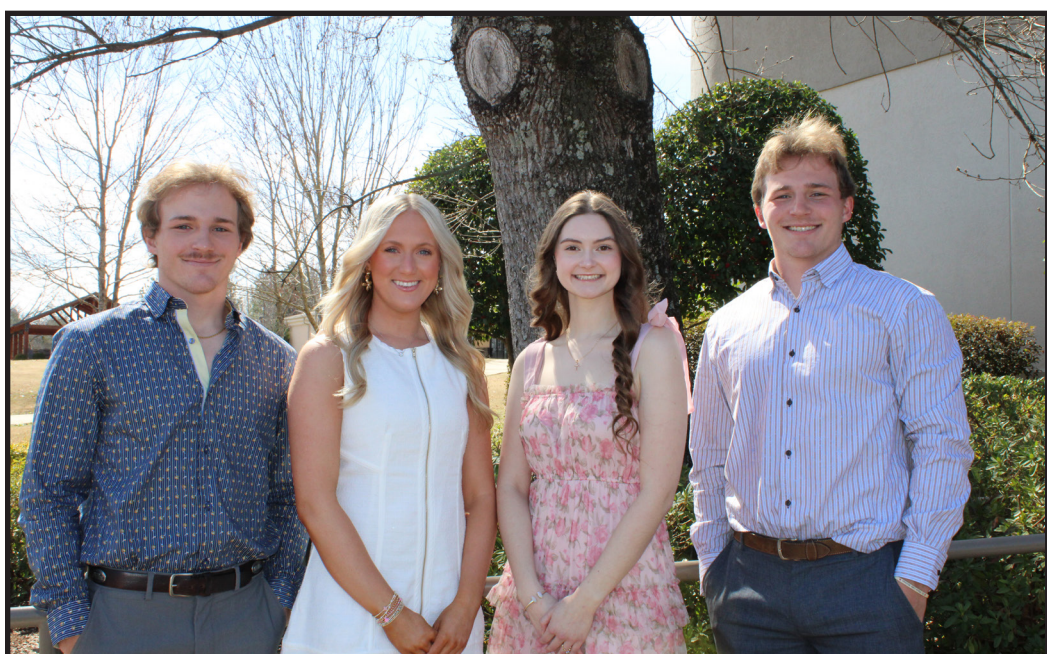
These exceptional students represent the core values of Holmes and demonstrate a commitment to excellence in academics, leadership and community involvement.

Holmes faculty, staff and administration congratulates these exceptional students on their achievements and looks forward to seeing their continued success.

For more information about the Goodman Campus Hall of Fame honor, contact Tina Boyette at tboyette@holmescc.edu.

## Grenada Campus announces Hall of Fame 2025

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 2025 Grenada Campus Hall of Fame inductees. They are (left to right) **Noah Beck**, **Abby Redwine**, **Emma Brasher** and **Mathis Beck**.

Holmes Community College Grenada is proud to recognize their Hall of Fame recipients. Holmes Community College faculty and staff recently selected the prestigious Hall of Fame winners for the 2024-25 academic year. The Hall of Fame recognizes students who have demonstrated outstanding academic performance, leadership and community involvement. The recipients exemplify the college's values of excellence and service. This year's recipients include Mathis Beck of Carrolton, Noah Beck of Carrolton, Emma Brasher of Grenada and Abby Redwine of Grenada.

### Mathis Beck

Mathis Beck, a business major, has

been actively involved in student life at Holmes. He has served as an SGA Representative and a member of Phi Theta Kappa, in addition to being named a Homecoming court escort and a college Ambassador. Beck has also earned a spot on the Dean's List for his academic performance. Upon graduation, he plans to continue his education through the two-plus-two program at the University of Mississippi's Grenada campus, where he will pursue a bachelor's degree in Business.

### Noah Beck

Noah Beck, an education major, has demonstrated his dedication to student

Grenada HOF, continued on Page 10



Grenada HOF (Continued from Page 9)

involvement and leadership. An Ambassador and recipient of the Student Activities Award, Beck has been an active member of the Holmes student activities. His future plans include transferring to Mississippi State University to complete his degree in Education. With aspirations to become a high school teacher and coach, he hopes to inspire and guide students in finding their purpose in life.

Emma Brasher

Emma Brasher, a pre-nursing major,

has excelled in both academics and leadership. She has been named to the President’s List and has received multiple accolades, including the STEM Award, Mathematics Award and Campus Class Favorite recognition. Brasher serves as the president of Phi Theta Kappa and is an active member of the Baptist Student Union and Student Government Association. She has recently been named president of the Student Government Association. She is also involved in her community as a member of Christ Community Church. After completing her studies

at Holmes, she plans to attend Delta State University’s nursing program to earn her bachelor’s degree. With a passion for becoming a general nurse practitioner, she aspires to specialize in dermatology.

Abby Redwine

Abby Redwine, also a pre-nursing major, is actively engaged in campus activities. She serves as the Vice President of Leadership for Phi Theta Kappa, and has been recognized as an Ambassador, a Campus Favorite and

Freshman Homecoming Maid. Her academic excellence has earned her a place on the President’s List. Redwine plans to continue her education through the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program at Holmes. After completing nursing school, she hopes to pursue a career in aesthetics or dermatology. These students exemplify academic excellence and leadership at Holmes Community College. Their dedication and future ambitions reflect the institution’s commitment to student success and achievement.

Holmes Grenada Campus announces 2025 Who’s Who

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are Miss Holmes Grenada **Meri Brynn Reeves** of Carrollton and Mr. Holmes Grenada **Shane Rosenthal** of Grenada.

The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus announced the 2025 Who’s Who recipients, which includes Mr. and Miss Holmes and Class Favorites. Mr. and Miss Holmes for the Grenada Campus are Shane Rosenthal of Grenada and Meri Brynn Reeves of Carrollton. Class Favorites include Abby Redwine of Grenada, Marla Ray McKnight of Vaiden, Edi Ann Mitchell of Greenwood, Mariyah Owens of Grenada, Emma Brasher of Grenada,

John Evins of Duck Hill, Caitlynn Bingham of Kilmichael and Gracie Summers of Grenada. Shane Rosenthal, a sophomore psychology major, is the son of Robert and Sandra Rosenthal. He has demonstrated exceptional leadership and academic success, serving as the secretary of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), an honorary ambassador, participates in intramural sports and is an active member of student government association

where he serves as vice president. His hard work has earned him a place on both the President’s and Dean’s Lists. Meri Brynn Reeves, a sophomore nursing major is the daughter of Tony and Tiffiney Reeves. She has made a significant impact at HCC, serving as a Homecoming Maid and as an Ambassador for the Grenada Campus. Her involvement in campus activities showcases her dedication to both academics and student life.

These students exemplify the spirit of Holmes Community College, demonstrating leadership, service, and academic excellence. Their contributions continue to enrich the campus community, and their recognition as Who’s Who is well deserved.



**Caitlynn Bingham** **Emma Brasher** **John Evins** **Marla Ray McKnight**  
**Edi Ann Mitchell** **Mariyah Owens** **Abby Redwine** **Gracie Summers**

Brasher named Coca-Cola Academic Team Silver Scholar

From Staff Reports/Photos



Elizabeth “Emma” Brasher, a pre-nursing student on the Holmes Community College Grenada Campus, has been named a 2025 Coca-Cola Academic Team Silver Scholar and will receive a \$1,250 scholarship. Brasher has distinguished herself as a top scholar and leader at Holmes, earning multiple accolades for her academic achievements and campus involvement. She has been named to the President’s List and received the

STEM Award, the Mathematics Award and the prestigious honor of induction into the Holmes Hall of Fame. She was also selected as Campus Class Favorite and named to the 2025 Phi Theta Kappa honor society All-Mississippi Academic Team. Beyond her academic success, Brasher is an active and dedicated member of the Holmes community. She serves as president of both Phi Theta Kappa and the Student Government Association. Additionally, she is an engaged member of the Baptist Student Union and Christ Community Church. Upon graduation, Brasher plans to continue her education at Delta State University, where she will pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Her ultimate goal is to become a general nurse practitioner with a specialization in dermatology. The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation sponsors the Coca-Cola Academic Team program by recognizing 50 Gold, 50 Silver and 50 Bronze Scholars with nearly \$200,000 in schol-

arships annually. Each scholar also receives a commemorative medallion. “The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation has a long history of providing financial assistance to outstanding students at community colleges,” said Jane Hale Hopkins, President of the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. “We are proud to partner with Phi Theta Kappa to make it possible for more deserving students to achieve their educational goals and support tomorrow’s global community leaders.” Students are nominated for the academic team by their college administrators. Selection is based on academic achievement, leadership, and engagement in college and community service. Coca-Cola Academic Team members will be recognized in both local and statewide ceremonies. They will also be recognized internationally during Phi Theta Kappa’s annual convention, PTK Catalyst, in Kansas City, Missouri, April 3-5. “We thank the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation for recognizing these stu-

dent leaders and for investing in their futures,” said Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner, President and CEO of Phi Theta Kappa. “Scholarships like these are integral to the success of these students in reaching their educational and career goals.” The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation celebrates and empowers visionary leaders who are refreshing the world. Supporting more than 1,400 exceptional college students each year, it awards \$3.55 million in scholarships annually through three nationally recognized programs. Learn more at coca-cola-scholarsfoundation.org. Phi Theta Kappa is the first honor society recognizing the academic achievement of students at associate degree-granting colleges and helping them to grow as scholars and leaders. The Society is made up of more than 4.4 million members and nearly 1,250 chapters in 11 countries, with approximately 220,000 active members in the nation’s colleges. Learn more at ptk.org.



Holmes Ridgeland Campus announces 2025 Who’s Who

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are **Logan McAdory** and **Swayze Brewer**, both of Brandon, Mr. and Miss Holmes for the Ridgeland Campus.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus announced the 2025 Who’s Who recipients, which includes Mr. and Miss Holmes and Class Favorites. Mr. and Miss Holmes for the Ridgeland Campus are Logan McAdory and Swayze Brewer, both of Brandon. Class Favorites include Macey Bowman of Pelahatchie, Lacy Burns of Florence, Samantha Doyle of New Albany, Paris Garrett of Canton, Houston Griggs of Pearl, Jeremy Heflin of

Florence and Anniston Lyles of Brandon. Logan McAdory, son of Lisa and Jeffrey McAdory, is an electrical engineering major who was inducted into the 2025 Holmes Hall of Fame. Upon graduation from Holmes, he will transfer to Mississippi State University in the fall of 2025 and has lined up an internship with Entergy over the summer. McAdory is projected to graduate from MSU in the fall of 2027, after which he will seek a career in the

electrical engineering field. He has been actively involved in Phi Theta Kappa during both his freshman and sophomore years. Swayze Brewer, daughter of Angie and Larry Brewer, has demonstrated academic excellence and campus involvement throughout her time at Holmes. A pre-radiology major, she was inducted into the 2025 Hall of Fame and has been named to the President’s List and Dean’s List. She is

also a two-time recipient of the STEMMY Award and has been actively involved in Phi Theta Kappa, Student Government Association, Rotaract and the Holmes Ambassadors. Brewer plans to continue her education at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, where she will complete a two-year radiology bachelor’s program and become a licensed X-ray technician.



Macey Bowman



Lacy Burns



Samantha Doyle



Paris Garrett



Houston Griggs



Jeremy Heflin



Anniston Lyles

Holmes Goodman Campus announces 2025 Who’s Who

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are Miss and Mr. Holmes Community College for the Goodman Campus, **Jordan Leech** and **Bella Roberts**, both of Winona.

The Holmes Community College Goodman Campus announced the 2025 Who’s Who recipients, which includes Mr. and Miss Holmes and Class Favorites. Mr. and Miss Holmes for the Goodman Campus are Jordan Leech and Bella Roberts, both of Winona. Class Favorites include Ja’Kiyah Campbell of Winona, Presley Fulgham of Kosciusko, Savannah Fulgham of Kosciusko, Mason Harrell of Flora, Cailey McBride of Durant, Leilani Montgomery of Yazoo City, Alexandra West of Kosciusko and Evan Yates of Kosciusko.

Jordan Leech, son of Julie and Eddie Pipkin, and Katy and Keith Leech, is a dedicated nursing major maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA. He is actively involved on campus, serving as president of the Baptist Student Union and competing as a member of the Holmes Tennis Team. Recognized for both his academic and athletic excellence, Leech has earned the title of Academic All-American and a place on the President’s List. Beyond academics, he is committed to serving others, volunteering at a local hospital, supporting Mission Hope

and sharing the love of Christ through BSU. After graduating from Holmes, he plans to transfer to Mississippi University for Women (The W) to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. His long-term goal is to work in an ICU before furthering his education to become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA). Bella Parker Roberts, the daughter of Debbie and Mickey Roberts, is a pre-physical therapy major who is extremely active on campus. Roberts is a member of the Lady Bulldogs Basketball Team, Phi Theta Kappa

and the Baptist Student Union. She is also a Scholar Athlete and President’s List Scholar who was named to the All-MACCC Team for basketball. Additionally, Roberts plays USTA tennis, and is involved in the community through multiple avenues. She’s volunteered at Premier Medical Clinic on campus, Vacation Bible School, Read Across America, Mission Hope and the Mississippi Jazz AAU summer program. After Holmes, Roberts plans to pursue a degree in kinesiology and a doctorate in physical therapy.



Ja’Kiyah Campbell



Presley Fulgham



Savannah Fulgham



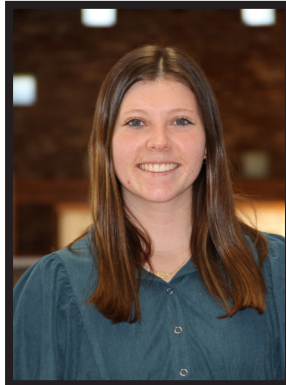
Mason Harrell



Cailey McBride



Leilani Montgomery



Alexandra West



Evan Yates



## Holmes Goodman announces Creative Writing Contest winners

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured are the 2025 Goodman Campus Creative Writing Club winners. They are *(front row, left to right)* **Tarriyannah Cobbins, Janey Beth McRae, Cayton Edwards, Janiah Roby** and **Mikayla Tew**. *Not pictured:* Emma Downs, Adriana Johnson, Daniela Lewis and William Winstead.

Holmes Community College has announced the winners of the 2025 Goodman Campus Writing Contest, recognizing outstanding student writing across multiple genres. In the poetry category, William

Winstead placed first with “In Front of the Mirror,” followed by Cayton Edwards in second with “Goodbyes” and Janiah Roby in third with “Finding My Place.” In the short story category, Cayton Edwards secured both first and

second place with “An Old Game” and “A Man in Beast’s Clothing,” respectively, while Tarriyannah Cobbins took third with “The Girl in the Mirror.”

For personal essays, Daniela Lewis earned first place with “My Moth-

er’s Journey of Culture, Community, and Change,” Mikayla Tew placed second with “Tiny but Mighty,” and Emma Downs took third with “Lesson Learned.” In the literary essay category, Adriana Johnson won first place for “Attitudes of the Spanish Toward the Native Americans,” Janey McRae placed second with “Christopher Columbus Compared to Hernan Cortez,” and William Winstead finished third with “The Value of Natives.”

Holmes English instructor William Chad Moorer expressed gratitude to all students who participated.

“It takes courage to put your writing out to be judged, and I hope all of you will continue writing,” Moorer said when congratulating the students. “Entries were evaluated based on how they would be viewed by professionals in each genre, and we are proud of all our student writers.”

In addition, all contest participants are invited to attend the Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association Conference, which will be held in Natchez on April 11.

For more information, contact Moorer at [wmoorer@holmescc.edu](mailto:wmoorer@holmescc.edu).

## Holmes Ridgeland announces Creative Writing Contest winners

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Keaton Rogers



Amyya Garland

Each year, the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus holds a Creative Writing Contest. All winners receive cash prizes furnished by the Holmes Foundation. First and second place winners are forwarded to the Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association Conference, which will be held in Natchez on April 11. Their articles are also published in Holmes’ literary magazine, “Reflections.”

This year, the winners included Keaton Rogers and Amyya Garland, both of Canton. Rogers won first place in the Short Story Category for “The Boy and his Bird,” and Garland won second place in Short Story for “Painting the World in the Moonlight.”

For more information, contact English instructor Dr. Andrew Kelly at [akelly@holmescc.edu](mailto:akelly@holmescc.edu).

## Holmes welcomes alumna Monica McDonald as the new OTA fieldwork coordinator/instructor

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Holmes Community College is proud to announce the addition of alumna Monica McDonald as the fieldwork coordinator/instructor for the Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Program on the Ridgeland Campus.

McDonald brings valuable experience to the role, having worked at St. Dominic’s Outpatient Rehab (SCV) in Madison from 2021-2025. She completed the Occupational Therapy Assistant Technology Program at Holmes in 2017 after earning her bachelor’s degree in clinical exercise physiology from Mississippi State University in 2012.

A dedicated member of the community, McDonald is actively involved in

the Mississippi Occupational Therapy Association and Pinelake Church. She has also volunteered her time with Madison Ridgeland Youth Softball Club (recreational league softball), demonstrating her commitment to making a positive impact beyond the classroom.

In her spare time, McDonald enjoys reading, designing artwork and spending time outdoors with her dog. She is married to James McDonald and is the daughter of Johnny and Libby Jones and Darryl and Pam Wilkins.

Holmes is thrilled to have McDonald join the team and looks forward to the expertise and enthusiasm she brings to the OTA Program.



## 5 students named to Phi Theta Kappa All-MS Academic Team

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Emma Brasher



Cooper Canard



Tierney Evans



John Evins



Johnathan Thompson

Holmes Community College students Emma Brasher of Grenada, William Cooper Canard of Madison, Tierney Evans of Pearl, John Evins of Duck Hill and Johnathan Thompson of Camden were all named to the 2025 Phi Theta Kappa honor society All-Mississippi Academic Team. Nominations are based on outstanding academic performance and service to the college and community.

### Emma Brasher

Emma Brasher is a pre-nursing major on the Grenada Campus with a perfect 4.0 GPA. Her outstanding achievements have earned her numerous accolades, including placement on the President’s List, the STEM Award, the Mathematics Award, induction into the Holmes Hall of Fame and the title of Campus Class Favorite. Beyond academics, Brasher is deeply involved in student life. She serves as the president of Phi Theta Kappa, as well as the president of the Student Government Association. Additionally, she is an

active member of the Baptist Student Union and is an engaged member of Christ Community Church. Upon graduation, Brasher plans to continue her education at Delta State University, where she will pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Her ultimate goal is to become a general nurse practitioner with a specialization in dermatology.

### William Cooper Canard

Cooper Canard has pursued mechanical engineering at Holmes while achieving top academic honors, including placement on the President’s List and induction into the Holmes Hall of Fame. His leadership is evident in his role as president of Phi Theta Kappa. Canard plans to transfer to Mississippi State University to complete his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering and later pursue a master’s degree. His long-term goal is to work for an innovative technology company like NASA or Boston Dynamics.

### Tierney Evans

A native of Pearl, Tierney Evans graduated from the Holmes Goodman Campus in December 2024 and is currently majoring in nursing at The W – Mississippi University for Women. While at Holmes, she was actively involved in campus life, serving as the softball manager for 2024, and participating in the Baptist Student Union. During the summers, she works as a lifeguard and counselor for Camp Pioneer, part of Pioneer Ministries. In her free time, Evans enjoys reading, baking, learning new things, photography and shopping.

### John Evins

John Evins is a dedicated student pursuing a degree in kinesiology with a 3.80 GPA. Throughout his time at Holmes, he has earned recognition as an Ambassador, a consistent member of the Dean’s List and a recipient of the English Composition Award. He is actively involved in campus life, serving

as the vice president of service for Phi Theta Kappa, representing students in the Student Government Association and participating in intramural sports. He was also named a Class Favorite and chosen as a Homecoming Court escort. After graduating from Holmes, Evins plans to further his education at the University of Mississippi, where he will complete his bachelor’s degree before applying to UMMC in Jackson to pursue a PhD in Physical Therapy.

### Johnathan Thompson

Johnathan Thompson is a civil engineering major who was inducted into the Holmes Hall of Fame. After Holmes, he will transfer to Jackson State University to earn a bachelor’s degree, with a long-term goal of real estate development and urban planning. Thompson has been recognized on the President’s and Dean’s Lists and is a Phi Theta Kappa officer.

To learn more about Phi Theta Kappa, visit [www.ptk.org](http://www.ptk.org).

## Alicia Turner recognized by Today’s Nurse

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Alicia L. Turner, MSN, RN

Holmes Community College Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) instructor Alicia L. Turner, MSN, RN, was recently recognized by the organization Today’s Nurse. The healthcare organizations honors individuals who are making an impact, and Turner was recognized as one of the Best in Healthcare for her integrity, experience and dedication.

Turner joined the Holmes Ridgeland Campus nursing faculty as an adjunct in 2017 then full-time in 2020. She came to the college from Mississippi Baptist Hospital in Jackson where she worked full-time as head nurse on the 5D oncology unit. Turner continued working at Baptist part-time until last year. She still works part-time at University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC), where she has been training

new nurses on the kidney/liver transplant unit since 2020.

A Holmes alumna, she holds a mortuary science degree, a practical nursing degree and an ADN degree from the college. Prior to completing her degrees at Holmes, she earned a bachelor’s degree in biology from Jackson State University, and since then, has earned a BSN from the University of Women as well as an MSN from University of Alabama in Birmingham. Turner will graduate from UMMC on May 23 with her Doctoral of Nursing Practice.

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

She is also the Co-Chair of Education for Eliza Pillars Registered Nurses of Mississippi.

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

Turner and her husband Frederick have three children: Kaylyn, Maddison and Brandon.

Today’s Nurse is an organization dedicated to empowering nurses by providing platforms to share experiences, insights and health knowledge with peers, physicians, patients and the public. To learn more, go to [todaysnurse.org](http://todaysnurse.org).

**Check out Holmes Community College’s Facebook page and Instagrams to see more photos from HCC events!**



## Lady Bulldogs split two games at Calhoun CC

From Staff Reports/Photos

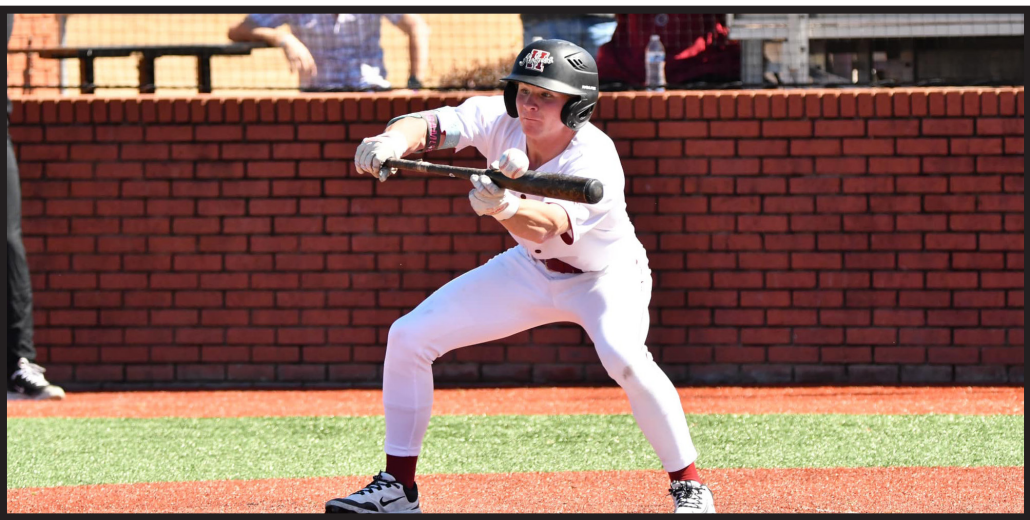


The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs split two games on Friday, Feb. 28 at Calhoun Community College winning 4-2 and falling 6-4. Anne Elise Sartin picked up the win. She went seven innings and gave up two runs on six hits with four strikeouts and two walks. Emma Fabre led with three hits including a double. Cinlaire Simpson had two hits in-

cluding a double while Gracie Williams added a double. In game two, Mollie Swilley got the start and suffered the loss. Allie Vick-nair also pitched in the game. Swilley had a double in game two.

## Holmes picks up two wins over Florida Post Grad

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs picked up two wins at home on Feb. 28 over Florida Post Grad, 14-0 and 15-3. In game one, Josh Fleming got the start and picked up the win. He went five innings and gave up four hits with eight strikeouts and two walks. Cade Clinton led with three hits including two doubles. Nicolas Schwing, Xavier Myles and Thomas Kuhn each had two hits with Myles adding a dou-

ble. Amari Conley, Sam Roy and Tre Rainey each doubled. In game two, Seth Terrell got the start and picked up the win. He went five innings and gave up three runs on three hits with four strikeouts and three walks. Myles had a grand slam and Maddox Moreland had a double.

## Lady Bulldogs fall to Lady Indians; prepare for Region Tournament

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs fell at home on March 3 night, 84-77, to the Itawamba Lady Indians to end the regular season. Holmes finished the regular season 13-16 overall and 6-8 in the MAC-CC. Holmes led 42-37, but the Lady Indians outscored the Lady Bulldogs 47-35 in the second half to pull out the win. Bella Roberts led the Lady Bulldogs with 18 points while Julissa Claxton had 14 and Kamren Edwards had 12. Kiara Shelly had 11 rebounds in the game.

## Bulldogs defeat Indians, 84-82 in OT

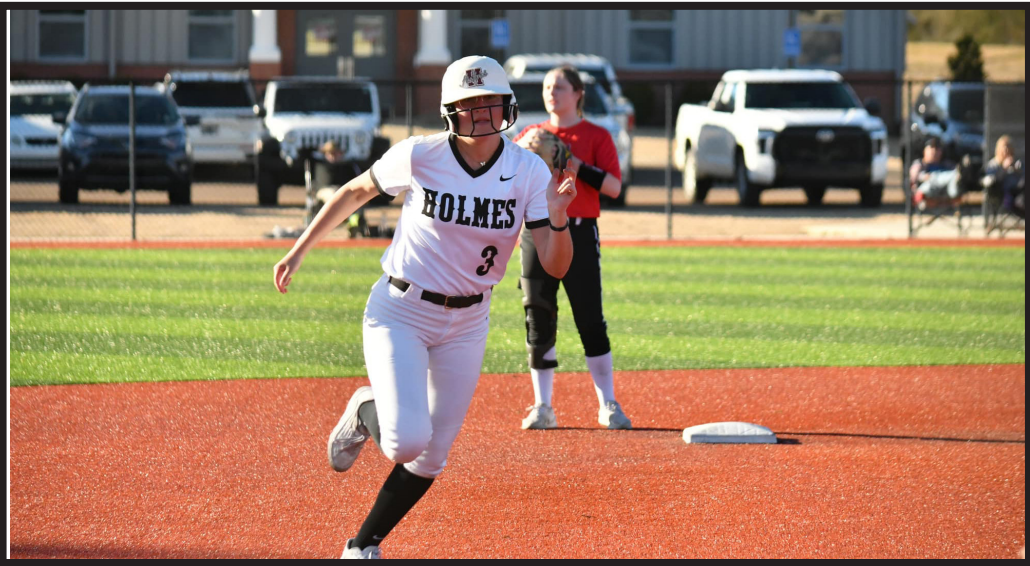
From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes sophomore guard K.J. Sykes hit a three-pointer with less than a second remaining to give the Holmes Community College Bulldogs an 84-82 win at home on March 3 over the Itawamba Community College Indians. Holmes finished the regular season 20-7 and 8-6 in the MACCC. Holmes trailed Itawamba 41-28 at halftime. Trey Smith hit two free throws late in regulation to force overtime tied at 71. Cameron Wallace, who finished with 32 points, scored nine points in overtime to help lift the Bulldogs to the win. Sykes finished with 17 points while Christian Parks had 16. Parks finished with nine rebounds. The Bulldogs shot 49.2 percent from the floor (30-of-61) in the game.

## Lady Bulldogs take two from Arkansas State

From Staff Reports/Photos



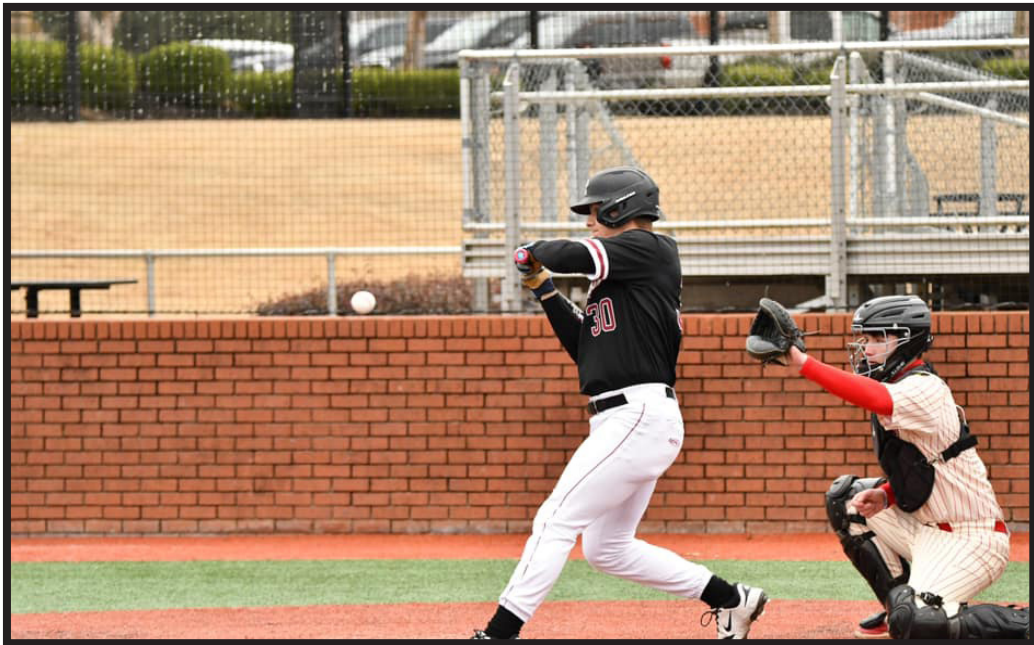
The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs improved to 8-4 on the season at home on Tuesday, Feb. 25 with two wins over Arkansas State University, 8-1 and 12-2. In game one, Mollie Swilley got the start and picked up the win. She went seven innings and gave up one run on four hits with 10 strikeouts and no walks. Emma Fabre led with three hits while Jadyn Miles and Grace Williams each had two. Williams tripled with

Cinlaire Simpson doubled. In game two, Anne Elise Sartin got the start and picked up the win. She went five innings and gave up two runs on four hits with six strikeouts and one walk. Fabre and Williams each had two hits with Williams adding two triples. Simpson added a triple and a double while Abbie McGee doubled.



Bulldogs score 27 runs in two games in wins over Delta and Coahoma

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs improved to 12-3 on the season at home on Wednesday, Feb. 26, with two wins over Mississippi Delta and Coahoma. Holmes won 10-1 over Delta and 17-0 over Coahoma. Delta defeated Coahoma, 4-3, in the other game of the day.

In game one, Holton Hartzog got the start and the win. He went six innings and gave up one run on five hits with eight strikeouts and two walks. Maddox Moreland pitched one inning of relief.

Amari Conley, Xavier Myles and Thomas Kuhn each had two hits in the game. Hunter Azemar and Nicolas

Schwing each had homeruns while Conley added a triple and Brenden Skirtech and Cade Clinton each had a double.

In game two, Skirtech got the start and picked up the win. He pitched five innings and gave up two hits with eight strikeouts and one walk.

Azemar led with three hits while Conley, Sam Roy, Kuhn and Landon Wallace each had two. Conley, Azemar and Myles each homered in the game while Kuhn added two doubles while Conley, Clinton, Azemar, Moreland and Roy each doubled.

Holmes knocks off Hinds, 71-70

From Staff Reports  
Photo by Brad Smith, Hinds CC



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs picked up a 71-70 win over the Hinds Community College Lady Bulldogs in Utica Thursday night, Feb. 27.

The Lady Bulldogs led 31-25 at halftime but were outscored in the second half but hung on for the win.

Bella Roberts led with 27 points including five three-pointers. Kiara Howard and Kamren Edwards each had 10. Roberts and Kiara Shelly each had five rebounds.

Holmes falls at Hinds, 85-71

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs dropped a MACCC contest, 85-71, to the Hinds Community College Bulldogs in Utica Thursday night, Feb. 27..

This put Holmes at 19-7 overall and 7-6 in the MACCC.

Hinds led 36-34 at halftime.

Cameron Wallace led the Bulldogs with 25 points while K.J. Sykes had 20. Wallace had six rebounds.

Lady Bulldogs take two from the Lady Trojans

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Lady Bulldogs improved to 6-4 with two wins over Mississippi Delta, 8-1 and 14-2.

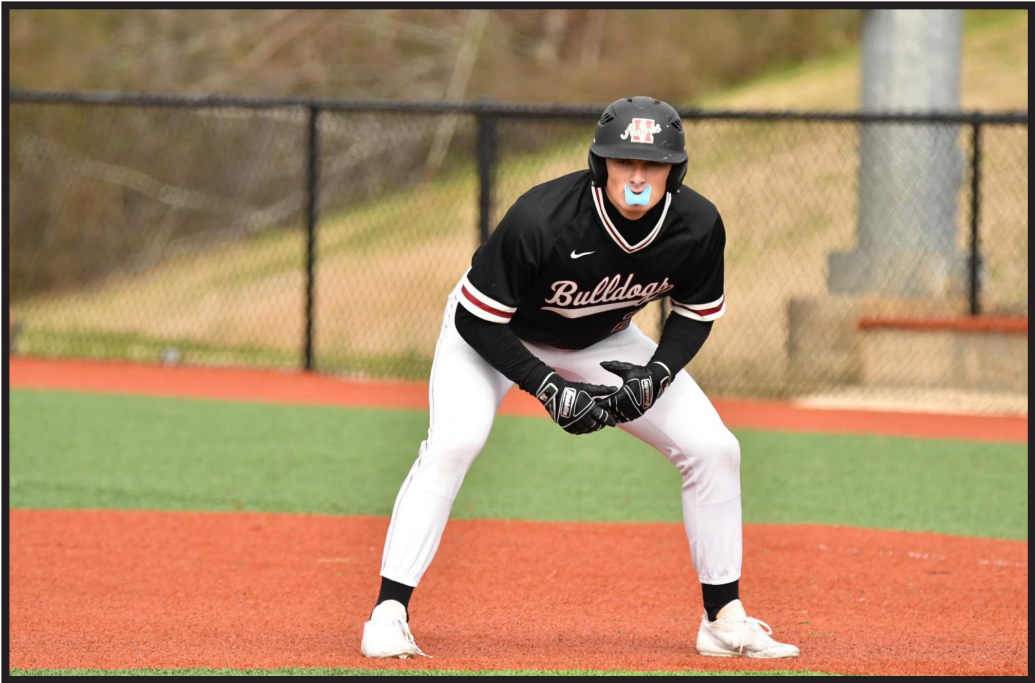
Allie Vicknair got the start and picked up the win in game one. Jadyn Miles, Abbie McGee, Mollie Swilley, Gracie Williams and Emma Fabre each had two hits. Williams and Swilley

each homered in the game while Miles added a triple.

In game two, Josie Azlin got the start and picked up the win. Miles, Fabre and McGee each had three hits with McGee adding a double. Cinlaire Simpson added a double.

Bulldogs take three games from Rend Lake Saturday and Sunday

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs went to 10-3 overall with three wins at home on Saturday, Feb. 22, and Sunday, Feb. 23 over Rend Lake winning 7-6 and 7-3 on Saturday and 7-3 on Sunday.

On Sunday, Ethan Trimble picked up the win. Seth Terrell, Eli Lowe and Carson Moon also pitched in the game. Nicolas Schwing led with three hits while Cade Clinton added two.

In game one Saturday, Vince Glosioso picked up the win in relief as the Bulldogs walked it off in the seventh. Aidan Bellman got the start and Braxton Demopulos also pitched in the game. Hunter Azemar led the Bulldogs with four hits including a double. Sam Roy and Clinton each had two hits.

In game two Saturday, John Paul Buckner got the start and picked up the win. Josh Fleming also pitched in the game. Amari Conley and Brenden Skirtech each had two hits while Clinton added a triple.

The Bulldogs fell on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at Pearl River. Holmes fell to Pearl River 5-3 and East Mississippi 6-3.

Against Pearl River, Holton Hartzog got the start. Seth Terrell and Carson Moon pitched in the game with Terrell taking the loss. Conley had two hits including a double.

Against East Mississippi, Skirtech got the start and took the loss. Jude Stringer and Lowe also pitched in the game. Thomas Kuhn had Holmes' only hit against East Mississippi.



## Miles, Clinton named Holmes CC’s Players of the Week

From Staff Reports/Photos

HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PLAYERS  
OF THE WEEK





JADYN MILES



CADE CLINTON

Holmes Community College sophomore Jadyn Miles on the softball team and freshman Cade Clinton on the baseball team were named Holmes Community College Players of the Week following their play the week of Feb. 16-22.

Miles, a Morton product from Morton, hit .714 for the Lady Bulldogs that week. She went 5-for-7. Holmes defeated Mississippi Delta 8-1 and 14-2 on Friday, Feb. 21.

Clinton, a Sumrall product from Sumrall, hit .429 for the Bulldogs that week. He went 6-for-14 with one triple and two RBI.

## Holmes knocks off East Central behind 35-point fourth period

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs poured in 35 points in the fourth period to get an 80-55 win over East Central Community College at home on Monday, Feb. 24.

East Central led 28-26 at halftime while the Lady Bulldogs owned the second half, 54-27.

Bella Roberts led the Lady Bulldogs with 27 points including four three-pointers. Amanda Walker added 12 points. Kiara Shelly had nine rebounds.

## Bulldogs pick up 73-62 win over Warriors; Wallace hits 1,000 point mark in his career

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs picked up a 73-62 win here Monday night over the East Central Community College Warriors.

Cameron Wallace led the Bulldogs with 28 points while K.J. Sykes had 14. Wallace had nine rebounds.

The Bulldogs shot 46.7 percent from the floor (28-of-60) and 41.7 percent from three (5-of-12).

In the contest, Wallace reached 1,000 points in his two seasons in Goodman. He is up to 1,027 points with two regular seasons games and playoff remaining.

## Walker, Wallace named Holmes CC’s Players of the Week

From Staff Reports/Photos

HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PLAYERS  
OF THE WEEK





AMANDA WALKER



CAMERON WALLACE

Holmes Community College sophomore Amanda Walker on the women’s basketball team and sophomore Cameron Wallace on the men’s basketball team were named Holmes Community College Players of the Week following their play the week of Feb. 9-15.

Walker, a Provine product from Pearl, averaged 16 points per game and three rebounds. Holmes fell to Mississippi Delta and Northeast.

Wallace, a Parkview product from Little Rock, Ark., averaged 19.5 points per game and 8.5 rebounds. Holmes fell to Mississippi Delta and Northeast.



Lady Bulldogs fall to Lady Tigers, 93-73

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs fell 93-73 in Booneville Thursday, Feb. 13 in MACCC action to the Northeast Mississippi Community College Lady Tigers. Northeast led 51-35 at halftime. Northeast outscored the Lady Bulldogs, 42-38, in the second half. Amanda Walker led Holmes with 18 points while Bella Roberts had 11 and Kiara Howard and Satiya Johnson each had 10. Kiara Shelly led with six rebounds. Against Delta on Monday, the Lady Bulldogs fell 64-56. Walker led with 14 points while Nevaeh Craft had 12 and Bella Roberts had 11.

Bulldogs fall to Tigers, 83-61

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs fell 83-61 in Booneville Thursday night, Feb. 13 to the Northeast Mississippi Community College Tigers. Northeast led 44-33 at halftime. Trey Alexander led with 18 points while Cameron Wallace had 17, and Christian Parks had a double-double with 11 points and 10 rebounds. Against Delta on Monday, the Bulldogs fell 82-80. Wallace led with 22 points while K.J. Sykes had 17, Trey Smith had 12 and Alexander had 10.

Holmes falls to Jones, 75-66

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs fell in Ellisville on Thursday night, Feb. 6, to Jones College, 75-66, in MACCC action. Holmes went to 11-11 and 4-3 in the North. Jones led 40-33 at halftime and outscored Holmes, 35-33, in the second half to secure the win. Bella Roberts led the Lady Bulldogs with 24 points while Hannah Finley had 13, Kiara Shelly 12 and Satiya Johnson had 11. Shelly had 10 rebounds. Against East Mississippi on Jan. 30, the Lady Bulldogs won 54-51. Shelly led with 15 points while Kamren Edwards had 11.

Bulldogs fall to Bobcats, 85-62

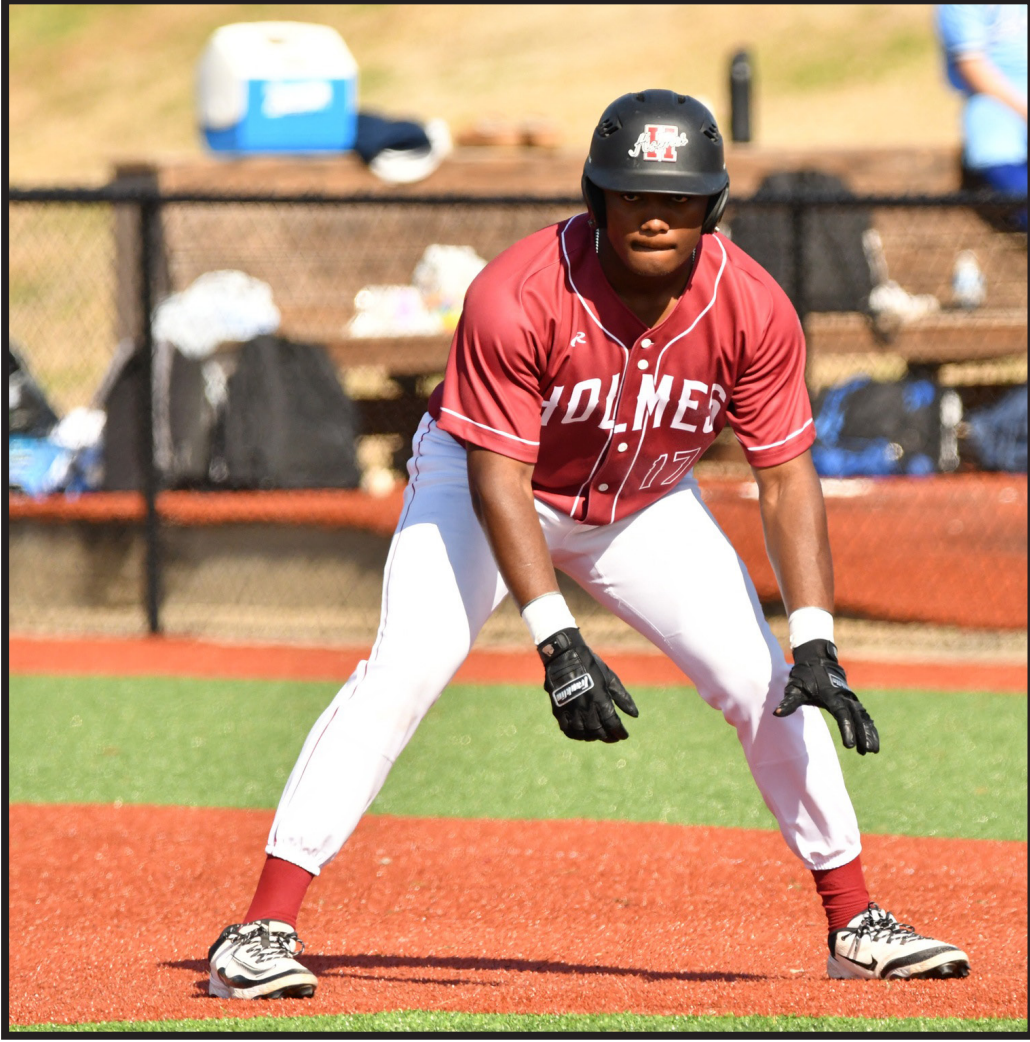
From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs fell Thursday night, Feb. 6, 85-62, to the Jones College Bobcats in Ellisville. Holmes went to 17-3 and 5-2 in the MACCC. Jones led 39-32 at halftime and then outscored the Bulldogs, 46-30, to take the win. Cameron Wallace led the Bulldogs with 17 points while K.J. Sykes had 10. Wallace finished with 10 rebounds. Against East Mississippi on Jan. 30, the Bulldogs dropped their first MACCC game, 63-53. Holmes led by one at halftime but were outscored 36-25 in the second half. Wallace led with 13 points while Kylan Clark had 11.

Bulldogs take three of four from Kaskaskia Blue Devils

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Bulldogs took three of four games with Kaskaskia at home Friday, Feb. 7 and Saturday, Feb. 8 in Goodman. In game one Saturday, Aidan Bellman got the start and suffered the loss. Jude Stringer also pitched in the game. Azemar had a homerun while Nicolas Schwing added a double. In game two Saturday, John Paul Buckner got the start and picked up the win. Josh Fleming and Braxton Demopulos also pitched in the game. Myles led with two hits. In game one Friday, Holton Hartzog picked up the win. Seth Terrell went three innings. Myles led with three hits including a homerun. Nicolas Schwing added a double. In game two Friday, Ethan Trimble got the start. Maddox Moreland and Vince Glorioso also pitched and Glorioso picked up the win. Conley and Myles each had three hits with each adding a double. Azemer had a homerun. Against Millsaps JV on Monday, Feb. 3, the Bulldogs won 7-2 and 16-3. Josh Fleming picked up the win on

the mound in game one. Eli Lowe also pitched in the game. Thomas Kuhn led with three hits while Amari Conley and Cade Clinton each had two with Conley adding a homerun and Clinton adding a double. Hunter Azemar had a homerun in the game. In game two, Brenden Skirtech picked up the win. J.P. Lyon, Carson Moon and Vince Glorioso also pitched in the game. Myles led with four hits including a homerun and two doubles. Nicolas Schwing had two hits. Azemar added a double. The Bulldogs opened the 2025 season with two come-from-behind wins winning 4-3 and 6-5 over Nunez. Bellman got the start in game one. Terrell also pitched in the game and picked up the win. Myles and Sam Roy led with two hits with Roy adding a double. Azemar had a homerun while Kuhn added a double. In game two, Buckner got the start. Hartzo and Demopulos also pitched in the game with Demopulos picking up the win. Conley, Schwing, Kuhn and Roy each had two hits. Schwing had a triple while Conley added a double.



## Lady Bulldogs split with Jackson State CC

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs split two games with Jackson State CC at home on Saturday, Feb. 8, falling 7-6 in game one and winning 1-0 in game two behind Mollie Swilley’s no-hitter.

In game one, Anne Elise Sartin got the start. Allie Vicknair and Josie Azlin also pitched and Azlin suffered the loss. McGee led with a double.

In game two, Swilley went seven innings and had three strikeouts and two walks. Swilley led with two hits while Kaitlyn Cortez and Miley Billie each

had a double.

Against Baton Rouge on Feb. 4, the Lady Bulldogs split falling 7-1 in game one and winning 4-0 in game two. Annie Elise Sartin took the loss in game one. Emma Fabre led with two hits while Kaitlyn Cortez and Swilley each had one hit. In game two, Swilley picked up the win on the mound. Cin-claire Simpson, Gracie Williams and Fabre each had two hits with Williams adding a double.

## Jones joins Bulldog football as offensive line coach

From Staff Reports/Photos



Jermaine Jones has been named the new offensive line coach at Holmes Community College.

Jones, a Leflore County native and Leflore County High School graduate, comes to Holmes from Yazoo County, where he coached football for two seasons.

Prior to Yazoo County, he spent two seasons at Southwest Mississippi Community College as the offensive line coach.

At Southwest, he coached Izavion Miller, who signed with Auburn. Miller was the No. 1 offensive tackle in the nation in 2022 and No. 12 overall player in the country.

His players to sign with four-year

schools included: Miller, Auburn; Kendarius Small, East Carolina; Hastings Carruth, USM; Cortney Lyles, Jackson State; Shamar Allen, Jackson State; Mo Miles, Prairie View; Dk Harris, Grambling; Ryan Turner, Alcorn; Markwan Perkins, Miss. Valley; Logan Sampson, West Alabama; Austin McKinley, Miss. College; Jalen Ephrain, Miss. College; and Chase Wood, Nazarene University.

He played football at Northwest Mississippi Community College where he was named First Team MACJC, All-State North Division and was a part of the 2016 State and National Championship Team.

Following his time in Senatobia,

Jones played at Southeastern Louisiana University earning Southland Conference team honors. He earned his bachelor’s degree in physical education in 2018.

Later that year, Jones began his coaching career at his alma mater, Leflore County High School, coaching both the offensive and defensive lines. He then moved on to Mississippi College, where he was a graduate assistant defensive line coach while working toward his master’s degree in athletic administration, which he obtained in 2021.




Jones has three daughters --- Aria and Journee Jones and Brooklyn Gary. He is engaged to Jariah Gary.

## Swilley, Myles named Holmes CC’s Players of the Week

From Staff Reports/Photos

HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



MOLLIE SWILLEY

XAVIER MYLES

Holmes Community College sophomore pitcher Mollie Swilley on the softball team and freshman infielder Xavier Myles on the baseball team were named Holmes Community College Players of the Week following their play the first week of February.

Swilley, a Northwest Rankin product from Brandon, went 2-0 on the mound for the Lady Bulldogs including a no-hitter on Feb. 8 vs. Jackson State CC. She pitched 14 innings and gave up six hits with four strikeouts and four walks. Holmes split with Baton Rouge and Jackson State CC.

Myles, a Brandon product from Brandon, went 13-of-21 including two homeruns and three doubles with 13 RBI. Holmes picked up two wins over Millsaps JV and three wins over Kaskaskia on Friday, Feb. 7 and Saturday, Feb. 8.



Lady Bulldogs win third straight MACCC contest with win over Co-Lin

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs picked up their third straight MACCC contest here Monday defeating Copiah-Lincoln, 63-62. Julissa Claxton hit one of two free throws with 10 seconds to play. Holmes improved to 3-2 in the MACCC and 10-10 overall. Co-Lin led 20-10 after one period and 31-30 at halftime. Holmes outscored Co-Lin in the second half, 33-31, to pull out the win. Nevaeh Craft led the Lady Bulldogs with 15 points while Claxton had 14, and Kiara Shelly had 12. Satiya Johnson had nine rebounds while Bella Roberts added eight.

Bulldogs get 68-64 overtime win over Wolves

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs won their 17th straight game to improve to 17-1 overall and 5-0 in the MACCC in Wesson on Monday, Jan. 27, with a 68-64 overtime win over Co-Lin. Co-Lin led 32-26 at halftime and outscored Co-Lin, 34-28, to tie the game at regulation. Holmes then outscored Co-Lin, 8-4, in overtime. Cameron Wallace hit two free throws with five seconds to play to tie the game and force overtime. In overtime, Jakobi Thompson hit two free throws with 17 seconds left to give Holmes a four-point cushion.

Shelly, Wallace named Holmes’ Players of the Week

From Staff Reports/Photos

HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



KIARA SHELLEYCAMERON WALLACE

Holmes Community College freshman guard/forward Kiara Shelly on the women’s basketball team and sophomore forward Cameron Wallace on the men’s basketball team have been named Holmes Community College Players of the Week following their play the last week of January. Shelly, a North Pontotoc product from Saltillo, had 27 points in two games and pulled in 10 rebounds. Holmes picked up MACCC wins over Co-Lin and East Mississippi. Wallace, a Parkview product from Little Rock, Ark., had 28 points in two games and 12 rebounds. Holmes picked up a MACCC win over Co-Lin but fell to East Mississippi. Shelly and Wallace were also named Players of the Week on Jan. 24 and on Dec. 15. Wallace was on Nov. 11, as well.

Lady Bulldogs knock off Lady Bears in overtime, 77-73

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College picked up their second straight MACCC win at home on Jan. 23 with a 77-73 overtime win over Southwest. Holmes trailed 15-12 after one but the game was tied at 25 at halftime. The game was tied at 65 at the end of regulation, and the Lady Bulldogs outscored the Lady Bears, 12-8, in overtime for the win. Kiara Shelly led the Lady Bulldogs with 18 points while Hannah Finley had 17, Nevaeh Craft had 12 and Bella Roberts added 10. Craft led with eighth rebounds. Holmes shot 46 percent from the floor in the game.

Bulldogs go to 4-0 in the MACCC with 74-72 win over Southwest

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs improved to 16-1 overall and 4-0 in the MACCC with a 74-72 win at home Thursday, Jan. 23 over Southwest Mississippi Community College. Southwest led 36-34 at halftime and then outscored the Bears, 40-36, in the second half. Cameron Wallace led the Bulldogs with 24 points while Trey Smith added 17 and K.J. Sykes had 10. Wallace and Smith each had seven rebounds. The Bulldogs shot 54.3 percent from the field, 38.5 percent from three and 95 percent from the free throw line.



## Hudson begins season as Lady Bulldogs Softball Head Coach

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Board named Possumneck native and Holmes alumnus Matt Hudson as the new head softball coach.

After graduating from East Holmes Academy, Hudson attended Holmes Community College, where he was a member of the Holmes Connection! After Holmes, he received a bachelor’s degree from Belhaven University and is finishing his master’s degree in educational leadership from Mississippi College.

He comes to Holmes from Winona Christian School, where he served as co-head softball coach and athletic di-

rector. The Lady Stars finished the 2023 fastpitch season as the MAIS North 4A Runner Up and was a state tournament semifinalist.

“This job is not one that my family takes lightly,” Hudson said. “It is a dream job for me and my family to come back home close to where I was raised in the small community of Possumneck. I spent many summers on the campus of HCC as a kid, and it always meant a lot to me.”

“From my experiences and education, I have learned how to lead, coach, and manage not only people my age but also student-athletes by communicating briefly and making sure everyone understands the task at hand and how we need to work together to complete it effectively and safely no matter what type of situation may occur,” he said. “I have also learned from my educational background how to be patient and listen to all sides in practical ways to complete a task.”

Hudson is thankful that he’s had the opportunity to learn from some of the best coaches in the business including Bennie Kimble, Todd Kimble, Durwin Carpenter, the late Riley Myers, Ricky Casey, Trae Embry, Vann Stuedeman, David Drake, Tripp McCarty and his uncle, Wayne Hudson.

“I have gotten some instruction from

them to help me in my career and who I still talk to most of them today for advice,” Hudson said. “In my lines of effective communication amongst these former coaches, I genuinely believe we can build a program with connections I’ve made through high school circuits and through the travel circuits over the years to help them choose why we love Holmes Community College so much and why I decided to come back home to run a program that I am so passionate about.”

“I’m glad to have the opportunity to recruit these young ladies from our local schools and across the country, to help teach them how to compete for championships daily but most importantly how to become better mothers, wives and family members in their future endeavors,” he said. “We are excited to teach and coach these young ladies on my coaching philosophies branded as ‘baseball on Red Bull’ which is to play at full speed and with a ‘No Mercy attitude’. As Always, God Bless and Go Dogs!”

Hudson is thankful to Holmes for the opportunity. “Special thanks to Dr. Jim Haffey, Coach Andy Wood and the Holmes Community College Board of Trustees for allowing me this great opportunity to lead a program at a school that we are all so passionate about.”

Prior to Winona, Hudson was at Pillow Academy from 2013-2020 and made his coaching mark in many sports for the Mustangs including softball, baseball, football and basketball. From 2013-16, he had a combined record of 85-16. His teams were 4A State runners up from 2013-16. He sent many players on the next level in softball either Division I, Division II or at the Juco level. He was named 2014 4A MAIS Coach of the Year and the MAIS North All-Star Head Coach.

Before going to Pillow, Hudson served as head coach on U8-U18 travel teams for US, USSSA, USFA, Dizzy Dean, ASA and NSA. He competed and won world series titles with numerous Mississippi state titles during the five-year span.

Hudson and his wife, Angela, live in Carrollton and have two children, Anna Taylor, a senior at Mississippi State and Lolo, a second grader. Angela is a cardiology nurse practitioner at Greenwood Leflore Hospital.

“Special thanks to my family -- my parents, JD and Mary Hudson; my wife, Angela; and my two girls, Anna Taylor and Lolo for always supporting me on long nights and always being my biggest fans,” said Hudson.

## Lady Bulldogs to open season on Feb. 4 at Baton Rouge

From Staff Reports/Photos



The 2024-25 Holmes Community College softball team returns nine from last year’s team and adds 12 newcomers to the squad. The Lady Bulldogs begin play on Feb. 4 at Baton Rouge.

Returning players include: Jadyn Miles, utility, Morton; Gracie Williams, infielder, Kosciusko; Mhina Balthrop, outfielder, Oxford; Meg Glasgow, infielder, Germantown; Gracie Boland, outfielder, Magnolia Heights; Abbie McGee, catcher/infielder, Lake; Lora Ryals, infielder, Grenada; Mollie Swilley, pitcher/infielder, Northwest Rankin; and Anne Elise Sartin, pitcher/infielder, Franklin Academy, La.

Newcomers include; Lennie Kate Wood, outfielder/infielder, Winona Christian; Kaitlyn Cortez, infielder,

Fountainbleau, La.; Josie Azlin, pitcher/outfielder, Deer Creek; Kaitlyn Jones, outfielder, St. Joe; Mallory Thibodaux, outfielder, Vanderbilt Catholic, La.; Emma Fabre, outfielder, Brusly, La.; Cinlaire Simpson, inflielder, St. Joseph’s, La.; Allie Vicknair, pitcher/infielder, Denham Springs, La.; Dakota Williamson, catcher/infielder, Neshoba Central; Miley Billie, outfielder/infielder, Choctaw Central; Rivers Wilkins, outfielder, Germantown; and Megan Brewer, catcher, Marshall.

Matt Hudson is in his first season as head coach of the Lady Bulldogs. Assistant Coach Katie Mitchell returns for her third season with the Lady Bulldogs.

## Aguilar begins season as the Bulldogs Baseball Assistant Coach

From Staff Reports/Photos



Dallas native Josh Aguilar was named assistant coach for the Holmes Community College Bulldogs Baseball Team. He came to Holmes in July, and is now getting to kick off the season with the team.

“Talking to Scott for the first time I really liked his vision on Holmes,” Aguilar said on why he made the move to Holmes. “The thought of winning a conference championship and going to the World Series are things that really motivated me.”

He said he plans to bring “a championship mindset, a relentless work ethic and positive energy every day” to the Bulldogs.

Aguilar comes to Holmes from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, where he coached for three seasons. The Trojans won their first conference championship during the 2024 season, which happened to be Aguilar’s first as a full-time assistant coach. He had served the previous two seasons as a volunteer assistant coach and graduate manager.

Aguilar coached Jake Wright who was on the Buster Posey watch list during the 2022 and 2023 seasons.

He joined the Trojans after spending three seasons as a member of the Henderson State baseball team from 2017-19, making 69 starts in 88 career

games as a catcher for the Reddies. Aguilar posted a .280 career batting average with five home runs and 45 RBI, helping lead Henderson State to its first Great American Conference Championship in 2021 as well as an NCAA Regional.

Aguilar spent his freshman season at Louisiana after being named a three-time first team all-district selection at Bishop Lynch High School.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting from Henderson State in 2021 and received a master’s degree in sports management from Little Rock in 2023.



Bulldogs win 15th straight with win over Rangers

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs won their 15th straight contest in Senatobia Tuesday night, Jan. 21, with a 77-63 win over the Northwest Mississippi Community College Rangers in MACCC action.

The Bulldogs led 35-30 at halftime and then outscored the Rangers, 42-33, in the second half.

Cameron Wallace led the Bulldogs with 23 points while K.J. Sykes had 18, Trey Smith 11 and Jakobi Thompson 10. Smith led with eight rebounds.

The Bulldogs shot 78.6 percent from the floor in the game.

Bulldogs to open the season on Feb. 1 vs. Nunez

From Staff Reports/Photos



The 2024-25 Holmes Community College baseball team returns 15 from year’s team and adds 18 newcomers to the squad. The Bulldogs open the season on Feb. 1 vs. Nunez in Goodman.

Returning players include: Brenden Skirtech, infielder/pitcher, Germantown; Amari Conley, outfielder, Grenada; Andrew Dinkelacker, infielder, Germantown; Aidan Bellman, pitcher, D’Iberville, Jackson Parker, outfielder, West Lauderdale; Josh Fleming, pitcher, Hammond; Landon Wallace, infielder, Kosciusko; Nicolas Schwing, infielder, Mandeville, La.; John Paul Buckner, pitcher, Starkville Academy; Braxton Demopulos, pitcher, Live Oak, La.; Hunter Azemar, catcher, Southside, La.; Holton Hartzog, pitcher, Columbia Academy; Carson Moon, pitcher, Sumrall; Jacob Lott, outfielder/pitcher, Desoto Central; and Seth Terrell, pitcher/utility, Family Christian, La.

Newcomers include: Levi Odom, pitcher, Sumrall; Maddox Moreland, infielder, Ocean Springs; Sam Roy, outfielder, Oxford; Will McClure, outfielder/catcher, Magnolia Heights; Brandt Dickerson, outfielder, East Central; Xavier Myles, infielder, Brandon; Vince Glorioso, infielder, St. Joe; Eli Lowe, pitcher, Purvis; Kemarieon Akins, pitcher, West Marion; Wes Bishop, pitcher/utility, Ethel; Parker Simpson, catcher/infielder, Starkville; Ethan Trimble, infielder/pitcher, Brandon; Jude Stringer, pitcher, West Marion; Thomas Kuhn, infielder, Grenada; Tre Rainey, outfielder, Heritage Academy; J.P. Lyon, pitcher, Oak Grove; Kaiden Rosetti, infielder/pitcher, Gulfport.

Scott DeLoach returns for his fifth season as head coach. Josh Aguilar is in his first season as assistant coach for the Bulldogs.

Lady Bulldogs defeat Lady Rangers, 62-57, in MACCC action

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs picked up their first MACCC win at Northwest Mississippi Community College on Tuesday, Jan. 21, with a 62-57 over the Lady Rangers.

Northwest led 27-22 at halftime before outscoring the Lady Rangers, 40-30, in the second half to pull out the win.

Kiara Shelly led the Lady Bulldogs with 14 points while Nevaeh Craft had 13 and Bella Roberts had 12. Amanda Walker, Satiya Johnson and Roberts each had five rebounds in the game.

Bulldogs open MACCC play with a 75-70 win over Eagles

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs opened MACCC play in Meridian with a 75-70 win over Meridian Community College Jan. 13.

With the win, the Bulldogs improved to 13-1 overall.

Holmes led 34-27 at halftime and held on for the win.

Cameron Wallace led the Bulldogs with 23 points while K.J. Sykes had 21 and Trey Alexander added 11. Wallace led with nine rebounds.

Against the La. Knights, the Bulldogs won 89-83 in overtime.

Wallace led with 30 points while Alexander had 23, Sykes had 15 and Christian Parks added 10. Parks led with 13 rebounds while Wallace had 12.

To keep up with all Holmes Athletics - gameday schedules, live streaming, rosters and more - visit [HOLMESATHLETICS.COM](https://holmesathletics.com).





# The Growl Staff



**Macey Bowman**

Macey Bowman of Pelahatchie is a freshman health sciences major, though she will be graduating from the Holmes Ridgeland Campus in the spring with an associate degree. In her free time, Bowman enjoys shopping, spending time with friends and watching movies. Other than being involved in The Growl, Bowman is vice president of SGA at Holmes-The Ridge. After graduating in May, Bowman plans to finish her bachelor's degree in biology at William Carey University. Then, she plans to attend William Carey University's Doctor of Osteopathic medicine program before specializing in dermatology.



**Michelle Castro-Prudencio**

Michelle Castro-Prudencio is a criminal justice major from Madison. She is very involved with organizations that protect immigrants' rights and loves art. She is currently a nail technician and works for the Military Police National Guard. Her goals for the future are to become a missing person detective or work for the FBI.



**Kyanti Fleming**

Kyanti Fleming of Canton is freshman mass communication major on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus. She is active on campus as a member of both the yearbook and newspaper committees. In her free time, Fleming enjoys writing, listening to music and helping run the family business. She is undecided about her next steps after graduation, but she is confident that Holmes will help her figure it out.



**Jeremiah Henry**

Jeremiah Henry is a sophomore general studies major at Holmes Community College's Ridgeland Campus. Henry is a member of both the newspaper and yearbook staff at Holmes. In his free time, he enjoys watching television, playing video games and playing pickleball. Upon graduating from Holmes, Henry plans to transfer to either Mississippi State University or Georgia State University.



**Walker Scott**

Walker Scott is a freshman on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus and is on The Growl Staff for the first time this semester. Scott is originally from Madison and graduated from Madison Central High School where he pursued choral singing, musical theatre and competitive speech and debate. At Holmes, Scott is a journalism major, and he hopes to pursue a career in broadcast journalism. He is excited to hone his journalistic writing skills with The Growl this semester!



**Naomi Ubeda**

Naomi Ubeda is a pre-radiologic sciences major on the Holmes Ridgeland Campus. She is not involved in any activities yet, but her friends have been trying to talk her into joining a club. She was born and raised in Miami, Florida, and has lived in Mississippi for about six years. Her goal is to graduate and get a job as an MRI Tech over in Miami. She likes to garden, watch Netflix and sleep in her free time.

**Interested in Joining the Growl? Contact  
Mary Margaret Busby at [mbusby@holmescc.edu](mailto:mbusby@holmescc.edu)**