



THE GROWL

Holmes Community College
Goodman – Ridgeland – Grenada
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Holmes mourns the loss of former instructor Jamie Sample

From Staff Reports/Photos



Jamie Sample

Holmes Community College is remembering former biology instructor Jamie Edwards Sample, who died March 4, at the age of 67.

Sample taught biology for five years at Holmes, serving students on the Goodman and Ridgeland campuses. Known for her patience and passion for science, she was dedicated to helping students understand the natural world and encouraging them to pursue their academic goals.

Before joining Holmes, Sample spent 22 years teaching biology in the Kosciusko School District. Her career in education spanned decades and impacted generations of students across the region.

A Kosciusko native, Sample graduated from Clewiston High School in 1976. She later returned to school to continue her education, earning an associate degree from Holmes in 1992. She completed a Bachelor of Science in education from Delta State University in 1995 and later earned a Master of Science in education from Mississippi State University in 2014.

Colleagues and students remembered Sample for her genuine care for others and her ability to make science both meaningful and accessible. She often shared her belief that the beauty and complexity of the natural world reflected the work of the Creator, encouraging students to appreciate both science and faith.

Sample was active in her church, St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church in Lexington, where she served as minister of music and church bookkeeper.

She is survived by her husband, Samuel D. Sample Sr.; sons Samuel D. Sample Jr., Matthew A. Sample and Patrick N. Sample (Holmes Goodman police chief); two granddaughters; and several siblings and extended family members.

A Mass of Christian burial was held March 7 at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church in Lexington, followed by burial at Odd Fellows Cemetery. A celebration of life was held March 14 at Frank B. Branch Coliseum on the Goodman Campus of Holmes.

Holmes names Dr. Amber Mabus Humanities Teacher of the Year

From Staff Reports/Photos



Dr. Amber Mabus

Dr. Amber Mabus, chair of the English and Foreign Language Division, was named the 2026 Holmes Community College Humanities Teacher of the Year. The Humanities Teacher Award is presented by the Mississippi Humanities Council to recognize excellence in teaching and contributions to the humanities in higher education. Dr. Mabus teaches on the Holmes Grenada Campus.

Dr. Mabus has served Holmes for 11 years as an English instructor and has spent the past nine years as division chair. She teaches English composition and literature and provides academic

leadership through curriculum development and instructional support.

She was formally recognized during the Mississippi Humanities Council's Spring Humanities Gala in Jackson. Dr. Mabus gave a presentation, "From Austen to Bridgerton: The Enduring Appeal of Regency Romance in Popular Culture," on March 3 in the Corey Forum on the Grenada Campus. She discussed how Jane Austen's stories continue to resonate with modern audiences through the popularity of Regency-era romance in books, television and film.

"Dr. Mabus exemplifies the very best

of humanities education at Holmes Community College," said Dr. Tina Garrett. "Her commitment to teaching excellence and student success makes a lasting impact on the Grenada Campus."

Dr. Mabus earned a Doctor of Arts in English pedagogy from Murray State University. Her capstone project focused on helping students use artificial intelligence ethically in the research process. She holds a Master of Education and a Bachelor of Science in Education from Delta State University and an associate degree from Holmes. Prior

Humanities, continued on Page 3

Haylee Jones crowned Holmes Most Beautiful 2026

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the Top Five in the 2026 Holmes Community College Parade of Beauties pageant. They are (left to right) Elizabeth Beard of French Campu, Tearshanae Mallett of Kosciusko, 2026 Most Beautiful Haylee Jones of Scobey, Allie Bates of Flora and Alli Sparks of Kosciusko.

Haylee Jones of Scobey was crowned Holmes Community College's Most Beautiful during the 2026 Parade of Beauties pageant held Feb. 24 in McDaniel Auditorium on the Goodman Campus. She was crowned by 2025 Most Beautiful Lillie Kate Jones of Winona who was escorted by Goodman Campus Vice President Andy Wood.

Jones, a student on the Grenada Campus, is the daughter of Lisa and Michael Jones. A Business Management Technology major and graduate of Grenada High School, she is a young entrepreneur who dedicates much of her time to building and managing her boutique while balancing her academic responsibilities. Jones has extensive pageant experience and uses her platform, "Be the Change," to mentor young girls while promoting confidence, kindness and leader-

ship. She enjoys volunteering in her community and spending time with family. She hopes to continue growing her business while inspiring others to make a difference through service.

In addition to being named Most Beautiful, Jones was also named Most Photogenic. Along with Jones, the Top Five included Allie Bates of Flora, Elizabeth Beard of French Camp, Tearshanae Mallett of Kosciusko and Alli Sparks of Kosciusko. The Top 10 included Jones, Bates, Beard, Mallett, Sparks, Jrace Jamison of Madison, Abi McMichael of Clinton, Harley Grace Rayburn of West, Mattelyn Reed of Eupora and Alexia Strong of Grenada.

The pageant included interviews with judges earlier in the day and the evening gown competition. Tina Boyette, assistant to the Goodman

Beauty Review, continued on Page 3

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!

Cleanup efforts full throttle at Winner's Circle Park following storm

By M.J. Kersh
Staff Reporter



In late January, a winter storm passed through the area, causing damage to Winner's Circle Park in Flowood. Cleaning efforts from kind volunteers continued

into early February.

Due to the heavy rain and powerful winds, fallen tree branches, various debris and standing water were scattered all throughout the park. The damage left many walking paths blocked, while leaving other areas entirely closed. Thankfully, after closely assessing the damage, city workers concluded that no injuries were reported, but the park would still be limited to the public.

Cleanup began Monday morning,

Feb. 2, as city crews worked to clear paths and remove fallen branches. A small number of local residents also assisted by helping gather debris and move branches away from common areas. Most of the work focused on reopening walkways and making sure entrances were accessible.

Although much of the debris was removed by the end of the day, some sections of the park remained closed due to wet ground and drainage concerns. Inspections of playground equipment were conducted, and many sections were still closed off as they await further safety checks.

According to city officials, cleanup efforts are expected to continue throughout the week as crews finish removing debris and monitor water levels in low-lying areas. Residents are encouraged to be cautious when visiting the park, especially near muddy



paths and recently cleared areas.

To those who can't wait, channel your passion. Help is always welcomed from concerned citizens who wish to make their community a safer place. Contact your city officials and

see what you can do to tidy up the local area.

Hold tight! The park is expected to fully reopen once remaining safety checks and repairs are completed.

Why kids shouldn't have social media

By Owen Clark
Staff Reporter



If children aren't old enough to stay at home by themselves, do they really need the ability to have social media? To me, the answer is no.

Kids are quick to want to do anything, so putting a screen in front of them that allows access to basically anything is not good. The dangers of social media are something kids and parents fight daily. From scams to bullying and even things like fake AI information, it isn't good for youth. We can consider the recent banning of social media for kids under 16 in Australia for a better understanding.

This ban happened on Dec. 10, 2025,

and it restricts kids under the age of 16 from using social media. A lecturer from the University of Sydney Business School, Dr. Ellese Ferdinands, said, "The upcoming social media ban is a positive step forward for the mental health of teens in Australia." This ban has pushed the idea that kids' mental health will improve.

Some may argue that social media should be available for younger kids and say it's a good way for friends to stay connected, or that adults should teach them how to safely use social media. However, it is also easier for kids to talk to complete strangers online. Kids who don't fully understand the dangers of social media can share too much information and may end up doing something they're not supposed to. Yes, kids should learn how to safely



navigate social media, but younger children aren't emotionally or cognitively mature enough to handle it.

At a certain age, kids deserve to have social media, but not when they are

very young. The dangers, to me, do not outweigh the small amount of fun kids can have online.

Why Mississippi needs to invest in community civic engagement

By MJ Kersh
Staff Reporter



In recent years, Mississippi — particularly in communities like Rankin County and Pearl — has faced not only economic challenges but a growing need for civic involvement among everyday citizens.

Access to the local government shouldn't be limited to elections every

few years. Events like the upcoming People Over Politics training at the Pearl Public Library show that residents want to learn how to influence legislation and policymaking at a deep level.

It's encouraging to see opportunities like this, because talking about change isn't enough anymore — citizens need the tools to push for it. Too often, government decisions are shaped by special interests or well-funded organizations rather than the everyday voices

of those actually affected by them. The voices of families, teachers, small business owners and students.

When regular people gather to learn how bills get passed, how committees work, and how they can speak up for their priorities, that builds stronger communities.

Yet civic training shouldn't be relegated to occasional weekends. Local governments, schools and nonprofits should actively partner to offer regular civic education, starting in high

schools and continuing through adult programs. Mississippi has a rich history of community activism — from civil rights leadership to local volunteer boards — and we should honor that legacy by empowering citizens today.

Real democracy is more than a ballot; it's an engaged, informed citizenry. When Mississippians feel confident to speak up, attend hearings, and question elected officials, we all benefit. Civic engagement isn't just a political exercise — it's a community investment.



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.

Humanities (continued from Front Page)

to joining Holmes full time, she taught English at Grenada High School.

Dr. Mabus is a member of Providence Baptist Church in Gore Springs,

where she serves as worship leader and teaches Sunday School. She is also active in the Kirk Academy PTA and Junior Auxiliary of Grenada.

Her honors include the Ovid Vickers

Award for Excellence in the Teaching of English from the Two-Year College English Association of Mississippi. In 2025, she was elected to a three-year term on the Regional Executive Com-

mittee of the Two-Year College English Association of the Southeast.

Dr. Mabus and her husband, Jack, have one daughter, Isla.



Dr. Amber Mabus presents, “From Austen to Bridgerton: The Enduring Appeal of Regency Romance in Popular Culture,” on March 3 on the Grenada Campus.



Dr. Amber Mabus smiles for a photo with **Rei Lott** of the Mississippi Humanities Council.

Beauty Review (continued from Front Page)

Campus vice president, directed the pageant with student activity directors Haley DeNoon and Jordan Heflin

serving as assistant directors. Recruiter Nikki Boutwell served as Master of Ceremonies, with Houston Griggs

and Gregory Windham escorting the contestants. Additionally, members of the Coachmen singers and Lauren

Lindsey, a singer-songwriter and freshman at Holmes, provided entertainment at intermission.



Haylee Jones is crowned 2026 Most Beautiful by 2025 Most Beautiful, **Lillie Jones**, escorted by **Andy Wood**, vice president of the Goodman Campus.



Pictured is (center) 2026 Most Beautiful **Haylee Jones** with the Top 10 (left to right) **Harley Grace Rayburn**, **Jrace Jamison**, **Abi McMichael**, **Elizabeth Beard**, **Tearshanae Mallett**, **Allie Bates**, **Alli Sparks**, **Mattelyn Reed** and **Alexia Strong**.



Holmes Coachmen singers perform at intermission.



Lauren Lindsey performs during intermission.



Gregory Windham and **Houston Griggs** are ready to escort contestants.

J.R. Hall named Shelter Award recipient

From Staff Reports/Photos



J.R. Hall

John Robert Hall, known professionally as J. R., has devoted more than three decades to education, ministry and public service. His career reflects a unique blend of classroom instruction, church leadership and community engagement across Mississippi.

Hall is the 2025 recipient of the Shelton Award, which honors employees from the Goodman or Ridgeland campus who go above and beyond in their dedication to the college, students and community service.

He began teaching as an adjunct at Holmes Community College in 1990 while serving full time as a United Methodist minister. That unlikely start grew into a long academic career

spanning 22 years as a Holmes instructor and nine years as an adjunct. Hall teaches history and religion courses on the Goodman and Ridgeland campuses, as well as online. During his tenure, he received the Lamplighter Award in 2013 and the Humanities Award in 2020. Influential colleagues included academic dean Luther Bogan and History Department chair Sam Brown.

Throughout his career, Hall has witnessed major changes in higher education, from paper-based advising and scheduling to digital systems and technology-driven classrooms. While instructional tools have evolved from chalkboards to multimedia presenta-

tions, Hall said meaningful instructor-student interaction remains central to his teaching.

Many of his former students have gone on to careers in fields such as nursing and law, while others have continued religious studies through Bible courses or seminary education.

“Don’t think of the ancient and medieval world as boring,” Hall said. “They did more with what little they had than we do with all we have today.”

Hall was reared in Covich County and earned a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Divinity degree from Oral Roberts University. He completed

Hall, continued on Page 4

Hall (continued from Page 3)

additional studies at Mississippi State University, Mississippi College and Spring Hill College.

Ordained as an elder in the United Methodist Church, Hall served multiple charges across the state and retired from ministry in 2024 after 38 years of service. He continues to serve the Mississippi Annual Conference as chair of the Petitions and Resolutions Committee.

At Holmes, Hall coordinated the National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant for the McMorrough Library, represented the college at statewide curriculum meetings and helped organize arts and professional development programs, including educational trips to historic sites across Mississippi and Louisiana.

“Life involves more than a skill or a job,” Hall said. “We are part of com-

munities, and we need to find a place where we can contribute. That is what I have found at Holmes.”

Beyond the classroom, Hall has served as a football spotter for 14 years, assisted with game operations and announcing and supported Holmes softball. He also serves as a public address announcer for Ridgeland High School and Millsaps College and teaches continuing education courses

for the Mississippi Annual Conference.

Hall is married to Dawn Trotti Hall. They have two daughters, Audrey and Madeline (Brett). The Hall family has been longtime residents of Ridgeland and attends Parkway Hills United Methodist Church. In his spare time, Hall enjoys reading, particularly *Dune* by Frank Herbert, and studying historical figures such as Martin Luther and Constantine.

Ridgeland Campus announces Hall of Fame 2026

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Ridgeland Campus Hall of Fame 2026. They are (front row, left to right) **Jrace L. Jamison**, **Mika Maehata**, **Ashlyn Dodd**, **Anthony Angel Agustin-Salvador**, **Kelsey Hall**, **Emma Korhonen**, (back row, left to right) **Brooklin Latina Potee**, **Anna Beth Korhonen**, **Tyler Grace Sims**, **Alyssa Joanne Vancor**, **Alisha Grace Davis** and **Mary Crawford Canard**.

Holmes Community College recently recognized outstanding student leaders from the Ridgeland Campus with induction into the 2026 Holmes Hall of Fame, the college’s highest student honor.

Students selected for this distinction demonstrated academic excellence, leadership, service and commitment to the Holmes community. For the Ridgeland Campus, honorees include Anthony Angel Agustin-Salvador of Canton, Mary Crawford Canard of Madison, Alisha Grace Davis of Flora, Ashlyn Dodd of Flowood, Kelsey Hall of Jackson, Jrace L. Jamison of Madison, Anna Beth Korhonen of Foley, Alabama, Emma Korhonen of Foley, Alabama, Brooklin Latina Potee of Ridgeland, Tyler Grace Sims of Brandon and Alyssa Joanne Vancor of Flowood.

Anthony Angel Agustin-Salvador

Agustin-Salvador, son of Adela Salvador Orozco and Oscar Agustin Jimenez, is a pre-law major at Holmes Community College. During his time at Holmes, he has been recognized for his academic achievement as a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society and as a recipient of the President’s List Scholarship during both his freshman and sophomore years. He also earned President’s List honors during both years. Agustin-Salvador plans to transfer to a four-year university to earn a bachelor’s degree before attending law school in Georgia. He aspires to become an immigration lawyer, with the goal of serving his community through advocacy and legal support.

Mary Crawford Canard

Canard, daughter of Laura Coleman Canard and Richard Peyton Canard, is an English writing major at Holmes. Her academic achievements include membership in Phi Theta Kappa honor society, President’s List honors and an ACT Scholarship. Canard plans to transfer to Mississippi State Univer-

sity to continue her studies in English writing. She is currently working on a novel and aspires to build a career in publishing, with the long-term goal of opening her own publishing house in Mississippi.

Alisha Grace Davis

Davis, daughter of Lisa Renee Bryant and Tim Davis, is a pre-physician assistant major. She plans to transfer to the University of Southern Mississippi to pursue a degree in sports medicine with a minor in chemistry with the goal of becoming a physician assistant. Davis currently works as an emergency room technician at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center and is interested in emergency medicine and orthopedics. While at Holmes, she has been active as an Ambassador, vice president of Student Government Association, a member of Phi Theta Kappa and of the Content Creators Club. She has earned President’s List honors, a STEM-MY Award and recognition as STAR Student of the Semester in Dr. Gates’ Medical Terminology course. Davis was also voted 2025 Ridgeland Campus Student Body Maid. She credits her Holmes experience with strengthening her academic confidence, leadership skills and commitment to empathy and service.

Ashlyn Dodd

Dodd, daughter of Shannon and Matthew Dodd, is a pre-med major at Holmes. She plans to transfer to Mississippi State University to pursue a Bachelor of Science in biochemistry before applying to medical school at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. During her time at Holmes, Dodd has been recognized for her academic achievement as a President’s Scholarship recipient and a member of Phi Theta Kappa, where she serves as president. She has also earned President’s List honors and received a STEM Award. In addition to her academic honors, Dodd serves as pres-

ident of the Student Government Association and is a Holmes Ambassador. She is also a member of the Content Creators Club and was voted Sophomore Maid for Homecoming 2025.

Kelsey Hall

Hall, daughter of Annette and Fred Hall, is a general studies major. After Holmes, Hall plans to pursue a career in digital media marketing and social content creation, combining creativity and strategy to build brands and engage audiences. She credits her time at Holmes with strengthening her resilience, communication and teamwork skills. During her freshman year, Hall was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and earned President’s List honors. She continued her involvement in Phi Theta Kappa as a sophomore and was again named to the President’s List. Hall also serves as an Ambassador and member of the Content Creator’s Club.

Jrace L. Jamison

Jamison, daughter of Lavetta and Jeffery Jamison, is a criminal justice major. Jamison plans to transfer to a Texas university while continuing a federal internship in Austin. Her long-term goal is a career in federal law enforcement, grounded in integrity, faith, service and mentorship. During her freshman year, Jamison was selected for a federal internship with the U.S. Secret Service and completed her freshman year at Mississippi College.

Anna Beth Korhonen

Korhonen is the daughter of Krystal and Chris Korhonen. A kinesiology/exercise science major, she plans to attend McNeese State University to pursue a bachelor’s degree in kinesiology while continuing her soccer career. During her time at Holmes, Korhonen was a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, earned both President’s List and Dean’s List honors and competed as an outside back for the Lady Bulldogs soccer team, making an impact as a sophomore student-athlete.

Emma Korhonen

Korhonen is the daughter of Krystal and Chris Korhonen. A pre-civil engineering major, she plans to transfer to McNeese State University to pursue a degree in civil engineering and continue her soccer career after signing to play for the Cowgirls. During her time at Holmes, Korhonen was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, earned President’s List honors and competed as a forward for the Lady Bulldogs soccer team.

Mika Maehata

Maehata is the daughter of Nami and Kousaku and Maehata. A biological engineering major, she plans to transfer

to Mississippi State University to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering while participating in the Thrive in Five program toward earning a master’s degree in biomedical engineering. During her time at Holmes, Maehata earned President’s List honors and was recognized with the Board of Trustees ACT Scholarship and STEM Award. She is also a member and officer of Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

Brooklin Latina Potee

Potee is the daughter of Akilah and Torry Potee. An occupational therapy assistant major, she plans to begin her career as an Occupational Therapy Assistant before pursuing a doctoral degree in occupational therapy, with the goal of improving quality of life for others. During her time at Holmes, Potee was a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society and earned both President’s List and Dean’s List honors.

Tyler Grace Sims

Sims is the daughter of Kim and Shane Sims. A kinesiology/exercise science major, she plans to transfer to a four-year university to continue her soccer career while pursuing studies toward becoming an occupational therapist, with a desire to work with children. During her time at Holmes, Sims was a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, earned President’s List honors and served as captain of the women’s soccer team. She was also recognized as a MACCC All-Conference First Team selection, NJCAA All-Tournament Team member, United Soccer Coaches All-Region honoree and First Team All-American, while helping lead the Lady Bulldogs to a MACCC Conference Championship.

Alyssa Joanne Vancor

Vancor is the daughter of Jennifer and William Vancor. A pre-medical major, she plans to attend a four-year university and later apply to medical school while continuing her collegiate soccer career. During her time at Holmes, Vancor was a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, earned President’s List honors and was recognized as a MACCC All-Conference selection in women’s soccer. She is also a recipient of the President’s ACT Scholarship, Women’s Soccer Athletic Scholarship and Eagle Express Federal Credit Union Scholarship.

Hall of Fame students represent the highest ideals of Holmes Community College through scholarship, leadership and service. Their achievements reflect the college’s mission of developing students who make meaningful contributions to their communities and future professions.

Goodman Campus announces Hall of Fame 2026

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 2026 Goodman Campus Hall of Fame inductees. They are (front row, left to right) **Diana Garcia**, **Jayden Neal**, **Makayla Kast**, **Lennie Kate Wood**, (back row, left to right) **Maeson Jolley** and **Lawson Nichols**.

Holmes Community College recently recognized outstanding student leaders from the Goodman Campus with induction into the 2026 Holmes Hall of Fame, the college's highest student honor.

Students selected for this distinction demonstrated academic excellence, leadership, service and commitment to the Holmes community. For the Goodman Campus, honorees include Diana Garcia of Kosciusko, Maeson Jolley of Sallis, Makayla Kast of Kosciusko, Jayden Neal of Pearl, Lawson Nichols of Benton and Lennie Kate Wood of Winona.

Diana Garcia

Garcia, daughter of Hermelinda and Jose Garcia, is a pre-radiological sciences major who has served as MOSAIC community service chair-

person. She is active as a Holmes Ambassador, Phi Theta Kappa member, Student Government Association member and MOSAIC tutor, as well. She is also known for volunteering her time to assist non-English speakers by translating medical appointments and important documents. Upon graduation, Garcia plans to attend the University of Mississippi Medical Center's radiology program.

Maeson Jolley

Jolley, son of Donna and Robbie Jolley, is also a pre-radiologic sciences major. He has earned both President's List and Dean's List honors. Jolley serves as Baptist Student Union president, a Holmes Ambassador and as a member of the Phi Theta Kappa leadership team. Active in church service and community outreach, Jolley plans

to continue his education in radiologic technology before specializing in nuclear medicine. He plans to pursue a master's degree in elementary education at Mississippi State University.

Makayla Kast

Kast, daughter of Amber Kast and Terry Swan, is a mechanical engineering major. She has earned President's List recognition and is a W&M Thomas STEM Scholarship recipient. Kast is involved in Holmes Plus, MOSAIC and Phi Theta Kappa and serves as a STEM and math tutor. She plans to transfer to Mississippi State University to complete her bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

Jayden Neal

Neal, daughter of Jamie and Micheal Neal, is a pre-nursing major. She has earned President's List honors and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Neal also serves as captain of the Holmes Dazzlers dance team and is active in Baptist Student Union. Her community involvement includes volunteering at food drives, participating in school spirit events and supporting Holmes athletics. Neal plans to attend the University of Mississippi Medical Center to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and later become a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.

Lawson Nichols

Nichols, son of Reann Nichols, is a secondary education English major. He has earned President's List honors and serves as Phi Theta Kappa vice president of campus projects. A member of the Holmes cheer team, Nichols was named Most Valuable Freshman and

has participated in numerous service activities through cheer and research initiatives focused on student mental wellness. Nichols plans to attend Northwestern State University to complete his degree and continue cheerleading before pursuing a master's degree in educational administration.

Lennie Kate Wood

Wood, daughter of Laura and Ryan Wood, is a pre-med biological sciences major who has earned recognition as a member of the NJCAA Academic Team and the MACCC Academic All-State Team. A member of Phi Theta Kappa and the Holmes softball team, she is actively engaged in community service through youth softball camps and local disaster relief efforts. She plans to attend the University of Mississippi to pursue a degree in biological medical sciences before continuing on to medical school.

Hall of Fame students represent the highest ideals of Holmes Community College through scholarship, leadership and service. Their achievements reflect the college's mission of developing students who make meaningful contributions to their communities and future professions. 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.

Grenada Campus announces Hall of Fame 2026

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 2026 Grenada Campus Hall of Fame inductees. They are (left to right) **Lexi McClain** of Vaiden, **Christopher Michael Beach** of Duck Hill and **Sara Cochran** of Scobey. *Not pictured:* Madeline Branch of Winona.

Holmes Community College recently recognized outstanding student leaders from the Grenada Campus with induction into the 2026 Holmes Hall of Fame, the college's highest student

honor. Students selected for this distinction demonstrated academic excellence, leadership, service and commitment to the Holmes community. For the

Grenada Campus, honorees include Christopher Michael Beach, Madeline Branch, Sara Cochran and Lexi McClain.

Christopher Michael Beach

Beach is a history major on the Grenada Campus who has earned President's List honors and is an active member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society. He is also active in the Baptist Student Union. Beach was elected Mr. Holmes Community College for the Grenada Campus, as well. Upon graduation, he plans to either transfer to the University of Mississippi or join the National Guard.

Madeline Branch

Branch is a dietetics and nutrition major at Holmes. She has earned both Dean's List and President's List honors, and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society. After graduating from Holmes, Branch plans to transfer to Mississippi State University to continue her studies.

Sara Cochran

Cochran is a pre-radiology major at Holmes. She has earned Dean's List honors and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Following graduation from Holmes, Cochran plans to transfer to complete her degree in radiology or radiologic technology.

Lexi McClain

McClain is a pre-medicine major at Holmes. She has earned the Dean's Scholarship and President's List honors. McClain was selected as Miss Holmes Community College for the Grenada Campus, as well as Student Body Maid for Homecoming 2025.

She is active on campus as president of the Student Government Association, president of Phi Theta Kappa, as a member of the Baptist Student Union and of the Content Creators Club. She has served as a Holmes Ambassador, as well. After Holmes, McClain plans to attend Mississippi State University before applying to medical school at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, where she hopes to pursue a career in orthopedic surgery.

Goodman Campus announces Creative Writing Contest winners

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 2026 Goodman Campus Creative Writing Contest winners. They are (left to right) **Abigail Glazier**, **Ceketha Herndon**, **Pares Greenfield** and **Hannah Stanley**. (not pictured) Mikayla Tew

Holmes Community College has announced the winners of this year's

Goodman Writing Contest, recognizing student achievement in short story,

poetry and literary essay categories.

College officials said participation in the contest reflects students' willingness to share their writing for evaluation, an important step in developing their craft. Entries were judged based on how they would be viewed by current professionals in their respective genres. First- and second-place winners will advance to compete with other student writers in the Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association contest.

Students interested in continuing to grow as writers are encouraged to enroll in Holmes' creative writing and literature courses.

Participants will also be invited to attend the Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association Conference, scheduled for April 10 at Northwest Mississippi Community College in Senatobia.

In the short story category, first place was awarded to Mikayla Tew for

"Watercolor Eyes." Second place went to Mikayla A. Tew for "The Massacre of the Squirrels: A Parody of Cooper's 'The Slaughter of the Pigeons,'" and third place was awarded to Pares Greenfield for "The Fallen One."

In poetry, Abigail Glazier earned first place for "A Whisper Over the Heart." Second place went to Mikayla Tew for "Life of Want," and Hannah Stanley received third place for "Letter from a Woman."

In the literary essay category, Abigail Glazier received first place for "Willy's Decline in 'Death of a Salesman.'" Second place was awarded to Ceketha Herndon for "Phillis Wheatley vs. Thomas Jefferson," and third place went to Mikayla Tew for "Paupers and Pennies: Humanizing Poverty in Victorian England."

Grenada Campus announces Creative Writing Contest winners

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 2026 Grenada Campus Creative Writing Contest winners. They are (left to right) **Ann Hall Adams** and **John Patterson**.

Holmes Community College has announced the winners of this year's Grenada Writing Contest, recognizing student achievement across multiple categories.

Entries were evaluated based on the standards of current professionals within each genre. First- and second-place winners will now advance to the Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association contest to compete against student writers from across the state. Students looking to further develop their craft are encouraged to enroll in creative writing and literature courses at Holmes.

Participants will also be invited to attend the Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association Conference, scheduled for April 10 at

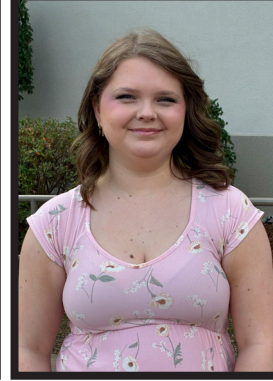
Northwest Mississippi Community College in Senatobia.

John Patterson was recognized in the Short Story Fiction category for "The Woman with the Lizard Skin," and Ann Hall Adams earned top honors in Literary Analysis for "The Impact of a Christian Author on Beowulf."

By providing an opportunity for peer competition and professional critique, the event highlights the college's commitment to academic excellence and the humanities. Through competitions like these, Holmes continues to encourage students to find their voice and share their stories.

Holmes Grenada Campus announces 2026 Who's Who

From Staff Reports/Photos



Caitlynn Bingham

Reid Blaylock

William Hobson

Jenna Perry



Katie Grace Ray

Pierre Townsend

Charli Woods

Pictured are **Christopher Michael Beach** of Duck Hill and **Lexi McClain** of Vaiden, Mr. and Miss Holmes 2026 for the Grenada Campus.

The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus announced the 2026 Who's Who recipients, which includes Mr. and Miss Holmes and Class Favorites. Mr. and Miss Holmes for the Grenada Campus are Christopher Michael Beach of Duck Hill and Lexi McClain of Vaiden. Class Favorites include Caitlynn Bingham of Kilmichael, Reid Blaylock of McCarley, William Hobson of Grenada, Jenna Perry of Greenwood, Katie Grace Ray of Duck Hill,

Le'James Pierre Townsend of Duck Hill and Charli Woods of Carrollton.

Mr. Holmes Christopher Michael Beach

Beach is a history major at Holmes Community College. During his time at Holmes, he has earned President's List honors and has been an active member of Phi Theta Kappa and the Baptist Student Union. Beach was

inducted into the 2026 Hall of Fame, as well. Upon graduation, Beach plans to either transfer to the University of Mississippi or join the National Guard.

Miss Holmes Lexi McClain

McClain is a pre-medicine major at Holmes. She has earned the Dean's Scholarship and been named to the President's List, and she was selected as Student Body Maid during Home-

coming 2025. She was also inducted into the 2026 Hall of Fame.

During her time at Holmes, McClain has served as president of the Student Government Association and president of Phi Theta Kappa. She is also a member of the Baptist Student Union and the Content Creators Club and has served as a Holmes Ambassador.

After Holmes, McClain plans to attend Mississippi State University

Grenada Favorites, continued on Page 7

Grenada Favorites (continued from Page 6)

before applying to medical school at University of Mississippi Medical Center, where she hopes to pursue a career in orthopedic surgery.

Jeanna “Caitlynn” Bingham

Bingham, daughter of Lesa and Ricky Bingham, is a sophomore pre-nursing major. She serves as an Ambassador and is a member of the Student Government Association. Bingham was also selected as a Sophomore Maid for Homecoming 2025.

Reid Allen Blaylock

Blaylock, son of Terri and Jason Blaylock, is a freshman civil engineering major. He serves as a Holmes Ambassador and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the Baptist Student Union.

William Wayne Hobson

Hobson, son of Ann Patridge and Bruce Abel Patridge, is a freshman pre-med major. He serves as vice president of service for Phi Theta Kappa and is active as an Ambassador, a member of the Baptist Student Union and the Student Government Association.

Jenna Claire Perry

Perry, daughter of Kristi and Andrew Perry, is a sophomore majoring in elementary and special education.

Katie Grace Ray

Ray, daughter of Wendy and Louis Ray, is a sophomore accounting major. She has earned President’s List honors and serves as vice president of leadership for Phi Theta Kappa. She is also an Ambassador, a member of the Student Government Association, the

Content Creators Club and the Baptist Student Union. Additionally, she was voted a Homecoming Maid, as well.

Le’James Pierre Townsend

Townsend, son of Palitha Dorris Sigers, is a sophomore history major.

Charli Celeste Woods

Woods, daughter of Jessica Woods and Tim Woods, is a freshman elementary education major. She is active as an Ambassador and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the Baptist Student Union and the Content Creator Club.

Holmes Goodman Campus announces 2026 Who’s Who

From Staff Reports/Photos



Diana Garcia

Laiya Harmon

Lillie Kate Jones

Lawson Nichols



Harley Grace Rayburn

Caden Smith

Alli Sparks

Hannah Stanley

Pictured are **Cameron Armstrong** of Flowood and **Lennie Kate Wood** of Winona, Mr. and Miss Holmes 2026 for the Goodman Campus.

The Holmes Community College Goodman Campus announced the 2026 Who’s Who recipients, including Mr. and Miss Holmes and Class Favorites. Mr. and Miss Holmes for the Goodman Campus are Cameron Armstrong of Flowood and Lennie Kate Wood of Winona. Class Favorites include Diana Garcia of Kosciusko, Laiya Harmon of Kosciusko, Lillie Kate Jones of Winona, Lawson Nichols of Benton, Harley Grace Rayburn of West, Caden Smith of Ackerman, Alli Sparks of Kosciusko and Hannah Stanley of Winona.

Mr. Holmes Cameron Armstrong

Armstrong, the son of Krupa and Cario Armstrong, is a biological science (premed) major on the Goodman Campus. A President’s List scholar, he is involved in Connection! and the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Upon graduation from Holmes, he plans to transfer to the University of Mississippi to become an orthopedic surgeon.

Miss Holmes Lennie Kate Wood

Wood, the daughter of Laura and Ryan Wood, is a biological science (premed) major. She has been recognized as a member of the NJCAA Academic Team and the MACCC All-Academic Team. Wood is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and the Holmes softball team. She is actively involved in community service through youth softball camps and local disaster relief efforts. She was also inducted into the Holmes Hall of Fame.

After Holmes, Wood plans to attend the University of Mississippi to pursue a degree in biological medical sciences before continuing to medical school.

Diana Garcia

Garcia, the daughter of Hermelinda and Jose Garcia, is a pre-radiological sciences major who has served as MOSAIC community service chairperson. She is active as a Holmes Ambassador, Phi Theta Kappa member, Student Government Association member and MOSAIC tutor, as well. She is also known for volunteering her time to assist non-English speakers by translating medical appointments and important documents. Upon graduation, Garcia plans to attend the University of Mississippi Medical Center’s radiology program.

Laiya Harmon

Harmon, daughter of Alicia and Randy Fuller and the late Linear Harmon, is a pre-radiologic sciences major. At Holmes, she serves as an Ambassador and is active in MOSAIC, the Content Creators Club and the Student Government Association. She has earned both President’s List and Dean’s List honors.

Off campus, Harmon participates with the Attala County National Council of Negro Women. She plans to attend the University of Mississippi Medical Center to pursue a bachelor’s degree in radiologic sciences.

Lillie Kate Jones

Jones is the daughter of Cindy and Shane Jones. A pre-medical major, she is a member of the HCC Cheerleading squad. Following her time at Holmes, she plans to pursue a nursing degree. She is active in her community as a member of Kilmichael Baptist Church and an employee at Vaiden Farm Sup-

ply. During her time at Holmes, she was also named 2025 Holmes Most Beautiful.

Lawson Nichols

Nichols, son of Reann Nichols, is a secondary education English major. He has earned President’s List honors and serves as Phi Theta Kappa vice president of campus projects. A member of the Holmes cheer team, Nichols was named Most Valuable Freshman and has participated in numerous service activities through cheer and research initiatives focused on student mental wellness.

He was also inducted into the 2026 Holmes Hall of Fame. Nichols plans to attend Northwestern State University to complete his degree and continue cheerleading before pursuing a master’s degree in educational administration.

Harley Grace Rayburn

Rayburn, daughter of Stephanie and Brian Rayburn, is a pre-med major. She is active on campus as an Ambassador, member of the Student Government Association, Phi Theta Kappa and leader of the Content Creators Club. After Holmes, Rayburn plans to attend the University of Mississippi and pursue a career in pediatric oncology. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with friends and family, painting, hunting, fishing, riding four wheelers, participating in intramural sports and listening to music.

Caden Smith

Smith, the son of Carrie and Rodney Smith, Sr., is a pre-radiologic sciences major. He is active on campus as a

Holmes cheerleader and upon graduation, plans to continue cheering while he furthers his education.

Alli Sparks

Sparks, the daughter of Courtney and Sonny Sparks, is a secondary education – science major. At Holmes, she is active as an HCC Cheerleader and a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. She was also named a Beauty in the 2026 Parade of Beauties. Sparks plans to complete her associate degree at Holmes before transferring to Mississippi State University, where she will pursue both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in secondary education, with the goal of teaching high school science.

Hannah Stanley

Stanley, daughter of Leanne and James Woodall, is a sociology/social work major. Stanley is active on campus as an Ambassador, member of the Student Government Association, vice president of Honors in Action for Phi Theta Kappa and leader of the Content Creators Club. She is also part of the Social Science Honors Class and was voted Student Body Maid for Homecoming 2025.

After Holmes, she plans to transfer to the University of Mississippi to pursue a bachelor’s and master’s in social work. Her ultimate goal is to become a high school guidance counselor. Outside of academics, she enjoys playing tennis, painting and spending time with friends and family. Stanley is also a member of Abundant Life Pentecostal Church of God, where she serves on the worship team and volunteers regularly.

Holmes Ridgeland Campus announces 2026 Who's Who

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are **Jacob Roberts** of Brandon and **Ashlyn Dodd** of Flowood, Mr. and Miss Holmes 2026 for the Ridgeland Campus.



Vivian Collins



Alisha Davis



Houston Griggs



Kelsey Hall



Paxton McGee



Seth Murphy



Sydney Neely



Gregory Windham

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus announced the 2026 Who's Who recipients, which includes Mr. and Miss Holmes and Class Favorites. Mr. and Miss Holmes for the Ridgeland Campus are Jacob Roberts of Brandon and Ashlyn Dodd of Flowood. Class Favorites include Vivian Collins of Madison, Alisha Davis of Flora, Houston Griggs of Pearl, Kelsey Hall of Jackson, Paxton McGee of Brandon, Seth Murphy of Brandon, Sydney Neely of Flowood and Gregory Windham of Madison.

Mr. Holmes Jacob Roberts

Roberts, son of Chryste and Chris Roberts, is a business administration major. After Holmes, he plans to attend Mississippi State University with the goal of becoming a business owner. Roberts has earned recognition for his academic achievements as a member of the President's List and as a recipient of the ACT Scholarship. He was also inducted into Phi Theta Kappa and is a member of the men's soccer team.

Miss Holmes Ashlyn Dodd

Dodd, daughter of Shannon and Matthew Dodd, is a pre-med major. She plans to transfer to Mississippi State University to pursue a Bachelor of Science in biochemistry before applying to medical school at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

During her time at Holmes, Dodd has been recognized for her academic achievements as a President's Scholarship recipient and as a member of Phi Theta Kappa, where she serves as president. She has also earned President's List honors, received a STEM Award and was inducted into the Hall of Fame. In addition to her academ-

ic accomplishments, Dodd serves as president of the Student Government Association and as an Ambassador. She is also a member of the Content Creators Club, and was voted Sophomore Maid.

Vivian Collins

Collins, the daughter of Donna Collins and Michael Collins, is a psychology major. She is a member of the Social Science Club and Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Collins is actively involved in community service, regularly volunteering with Shower Power and organizing clothing and food drives on campus to support local nonprofit organizations. After graduating in the fall semester, she plans to participate in the Disney College Program in Orlando in spring of 2027. She then plans to pursue a bachelor's degree at Princeton University, followed by graduate studies in health psychology at University of California, Los Angeles, with the goal of establishing her own health psychology program at a university.

Alisha Davis

Davis, daughter of Lisa Renee Bryant and Tim Davis, is a pre-physician assistant major. She plans to transfer to the University of Southern Mississippi to pursue a degree in sports medicine with a minor in chemistry with the goal of becoming a physician assistant. Davis currently works as an emergency room technician at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center and is interested in emergency medicine and orthopedics. While at Holmes, she has been active as an Ambassador, vice president of Student Government Association, a member of Phi Theta Kappa and of the Content Creators Club. She has earned President's List honors, a STEM-

MY Award and recognition as STAR Student of the Semester in Dr. Gates' Medical Terminology course. Davis was also voted 2025 Ridgeland Campus Student Body Maid and inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Houston Griggs

Griggs, the son of Emily Griggs, is a pre-radiologic sciences major. He is involved on campus as an Ambassador and member of Student Government Association, Content Creators Club and Phi Theta Kappa. Griggs was also selected as a Class Favorite as a freshman, and selected to serve as an escort during Homecoming 2025 and Parade of Beauties 2026. Upon graduation from Holmes, Griggs plans to attend University of Mississippi Medical Center to further his radiologic sciences career path.

Kelsey Hall

Hall, the daughter of Annette and Fred Hall, is a general studies major. Hall is involved in the Content Creators Club, Student Government Association and serves as an Ambassador. She is also a member of Phi Theta Kappa and has earned President's List honors. Additionally, she was inducted into the Hall of Fame. After graduating in May, she plans to pursue a bachelor's in social media at Grand Canyon University.

Paxton McGee

McGee, the son of Erin and Keith McGee, is in the Culinary Arts program. He is active on campus as an Ambassador and member of the Content Creators Club and Phi Theta Kappa. He also serves as a worship leader for the Pinelake Church Reservoir

Campus. After Holmes, he will transfer to the University of Mississippi to study hospitality and management.

Seth Murphy

Murphy, the son of Laura and Ryan Murphy, is a sports management major. He is a recipient of the Phi Theta Kappa scholarship and a President's List Scholar. Murphy enjoys playing intermural volleyball, as well. He plans to transfer to Mississippi State University to pursue his bachelor's and master's in sports management.

Sydney Neely

Neely, the daughter of Sherry Neely and Sean Neely, is majoring in pre-radiological science. Neely is involved in the Student Government Association, STEM Club, Grands and Gadgets Club and the Content Creators Club. She was also selected as a Homecoming Maid during both her freshman and sophomore years.

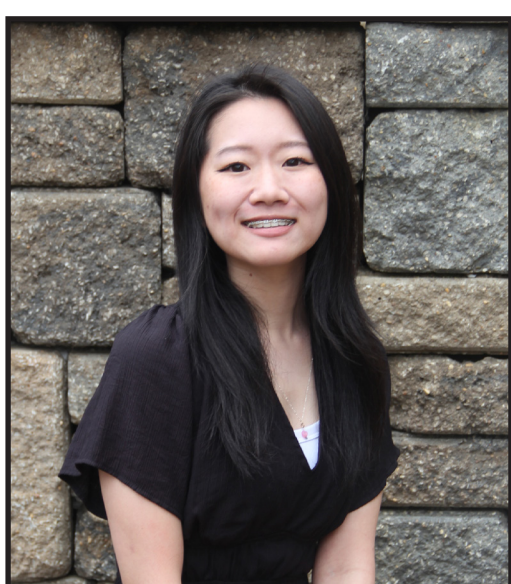
After Holmes, she plans to attend a two-year program at Arkansas State University to earn her bachelor's in radiological science and become an x-ray technician. In her free time, Neely enjoys working at her job, dog sitting and taking naps.

Gregory Windham, Jr.

Windham, the son of Melinda and Gregory Windham Sr., is a business management major. He is active on campus as an Ambassador, and as a member of STEM Club, Content Creators Club and Student Government Association. He enjoys playing intramural volleyball, as well. Upon graduation from Holmes, he plans to attend Oglethorpe University and earn a Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in accounting.

Maehata named to All-USA Academic Team, selected as New Century Transfer Scholar

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College student Mika Maehata of Jackson has been named a member of the prestigious 2026 All-USA Academic Team and selected as a 2026 New Century Transfer Scholar, earning a combined \$5,750 in scholarships.

Maehata was selected to the All-USA Academic Team from more than 2,300 nominees nationwide and will receive a \$3,000 scholarship. She also was named Mississippi's 2026 New Century Transfer Scholar and will receive a \$2,750 scholarship. Only one New Century Transfer Scholar is selected

from each state.

A biological engineering major on the Ridgeland Campus, Maehata plans to transfer to Mississippi State University to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering while participating in the Thrive in Five program toward earning a master's degree in biomedical engineering. She is the daughter of Nami and Kousaku Maehata.

Maehata was recognized for her academic achievement, leadership and campus and community engagement. During her time at Holmes, she has earned President's List honors and

received the Board of Trustees ACT Scholarship and STEM Award. She serves as an officer of the college's Phi Theta Kappa chapter, as well, and was inducted into the 2026 Holmes Hall of Fame.

The All-USA Academic Team is among the nation's premier academic honors for students pursuing an associate degree. Each college may nominate two students who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement, leadership and citizenship, as well as a

Maehata, continued on Page 9

Maehata (continued from Page 8)

commitment to using their community college experience to better themselves and their communities. Maehata will be recognized during the American Association of Community Colleges annual convention in Seattle in April.

“The All-USA program is a prestigious recognition of a student’s exceptional abilities both in and outside of the classroom,” Amanda Karpinski-Gorman, director of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation, said. “These students are selected for their resilience, creativity and ingenuity in tackling

global and local challenges. We are incredibly proud of the individuals named to the 2026 team and eagerly anticipate the continued impact they will make.”

New Century Transfer Scholars are selected based on academic accomplishments, leadership, activities and how they extend their intellectual talents beyond the classroom. The program is sponsored by The Coca-Cola Foundation, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and Phi Theta Kappa.

“We congratulate Mika for receiving

this prestigious scholarship, and we are honored to partner with the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and The Coca-Cola Foundation to recognize these outstanding achievements,” said Phi Theta Kappa President and CEO Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner. “Scholarship programs like this are integral for creating opportunities for two-year college students to succeed and for putting college completion within reach.”

Maehata will be recognized as a New Century Transfer Scholar at Phi Theta Kappa’s annual convention, PTK Cat-

alyst, in Baltimore, Maryland, March 26-28.

For more information about the All-USA Academic Team Scholarship Program, visit <https://www.ptk.org/scholarships/all-usa-academic-team-scholarship/>.

To learn more about the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, visit <https://www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org/>.

Holmes Phi Theta Kappa chapters shine at Regionals

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are Ridgeland Phi Theta Kappa officers and advisors at Regionals. They are (front row, left to right) Ashlyn Dodd, Mika Maehata, (back row, left to right) Advisor Laura Canard, Advisor Stephanie Blue, Mary Canard, Advisor Lisa Anglin and Anna Box.

Holmes Community College’s Phi Theta Kappa chapters earned numerous honors during the PTK Mississippi/Louisiana Regional Awards Gala held March 5–6 at Mississippi State University.

Students from the Ridgeland, Goodman and Grenada campuses were recognized for academic achievement, leadership and chapter projects. All three Holmes chapters earned Five Star Chapter status, the highest level of recognition in Phi Theta Kappa’s Five Star Chapter Plan.

The Ridgeland Campus chapter received several honors, including first place in the region. Mika Maehata was named a New Century Scholar and also received the Golden Key Award. Advisors Lisa Anglin, Laura Canard and Stephanie Blue received Horizon Awards, and the chapter was recognized as a Distinguished Advisor Team. Ridgeland also placed first in the Honors in Action competition and first in Theme 3, along with a fourth-place finish in the College Project competition.

The Goodman Campus chapter also earned Five Star status. Kazzye Wood received the Golden Key Award. Advisors Simonee Miller and Charles Wood were honored with Horizon Awards, and Wood also received the Paragon Award for New Advisor. Goodman placed eighth in Honors in Action and second in Theme 4.

The Grenada Campus chapter earned Five Star status and placed fifth overall in the region. Gabrielle Hopkins received a Horizon Award. Grenada placed third in Honors in Action and first in Theme 6.

Chapters competed by submitting Honors in Action and College Project initiatives. The Honors in Action project is a research-based initiative in which students explore a theme and develop solutions that serve their communities. The College Project focuses on partnering with campus leadership to create initiatives that support the college’s mission.

Holmes students will travel to Baltimore later in March to compete at the national Phi Theta Kappa convention.



Pictured are Goodman Phi Theta Kappa officers and advisors at Regionals. They are (left to right) Advisor Simonee Miller, Kazzye Wood, Lawson Nichols, Lindsie Winford and Advisor Charles Wood.



Pictured are Grenada Phi Theta Kappa officers and advisors at Regionals. They are (left to right) Advisor Gabrielle Hopkins, Katie Grace Ray, Lexi McClain and Advisor Haley DeNoon.

Holmes Goodman ADN hosts bone marrow drive for local youth

From Staff Reports/Photos



On March 5, the Goodman Campus Associate Degree Nursing program hosted a swab drive in partnership with the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) outside of Carroll Cafeteria, bringing together students, faculty and staff for a cause that reaches far beyond campus. The event aimed to find a life-saving bone marrow match for 11-year-old Cate Hargett, who is currently battling a rare genetic mutation and urgently searching for a donor to begin a critical transplant.

The NMDP, a global nonprofit organization, operates one of the world’s largest registries of potential marrow donors and works to connect patients with matching donors for blood stem cell and bone marrow transplants. Through community partnerships and

donor drives like this one, the organization helps increase the likelihood that patients—especially those with rare conditions—can find a compatible match in time.

Throughout the day, volunteers from the nursing program educated participants about the donation process, dispelling common misconceptions and explaining how a simple cheek swab could potentially save a life. Students passing between classes stopped to learn more, ask questions and step forward to be added to the national registry.

While the drive was organized with a special focus on supporting “Team Cate,” its impact extended to countless

Team Cate, continued on Page 10

Team Cate (continued from Page 9)

others in need. By joining the registry, participants also made themselves available to help patients across the country who are fighting leukemia, sickle cell disease and other life-threatening immune disorders. For many, the decision to participate was driven by the understanding that a match could offer someone a second chance at life.

Organizers emphasized that finding a compatible donor can be especially challenging, making community involvement essential. Events like this not only raise awareness but also increase the chances of connecting

patients with the matches they desperately need.

The swab drive served as a powerful reminder of how small acts—like taking just a few minutes to register—can make a profound difference, offering hope to Cate and many others still waiting for a life-saving transplant. They desperately need.

Those who were unable to attend the event can still make an impact by joining the registry—simply scan the provided QR code to sign up and take the first step toward potentially saving a life.



Holmes Culinary Arts students win first place at Bowls of Blessings for second straight year

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Culinary Arts students Patrick Kelly and Airiyana Humphrey represented the college at the Salvation Army's Bowls of Blessings charity event, and their winning soup was served by Rising Star Celebrity Server Caimbrie Coughlin. Pictured are (left to right) Patrick Kelly, Caimbrie Coughlin and Airiyana Humphrey.

Holmes Community College Culinary Arts students earned top honors at the Salvation Army's annual Bowls of Blessings charity event held Sunday, March 8, at the Mississippi Trade Mart.

Representing Holmes at the competition were students Patrick Kelly and Airiyana Humphrey. The duo prepared a dish titled "Cheeseburger in Paradise," a creative soup inspired by the classic flavors of a cheeseburger, which they paired with a refreshing Pineapple Margarita mocktail. Their entry impressed judges and attendees alike, earning first-place honors for the second consecutive year for the Holmes Culinary Arts program.

The annual Bowls of Blessings event, hosted by The Salvation Army, brings together chefs, restaurants and culinary students from across Mississippi to compete in a friendly cooking competition while raising funds for the organization's community outreach and assistance programs. Attendees sample a variety of soups prepared by

competitors and vote for their favorites, with proceeds supporting local Salvation Army initiatives.

For Holmes students, the competition provides a valuable opportunity to showcase their culinary creativity while gaining real-world experience in a high-energy event setting. Kelly and Humphrey represented the college well, demonstrating both skill and teamwork as they prepared and presented their dish to judges and guests.

The Holmes Culinary Arts program continues to provide hands-on training and opportunities for students to participate in competitions and community events that highlight their talents. Bringing home first place for the second year in a row reflects both the dedication of the students and the strength of the program.

Through events like Bowls of Blessings, Holmes students not only sharpen their culinary skills but also give back to the community—serving up creativity, compassion and a winning dish.

Phi Theta Kappa inducts new members on the Goodman Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Community College Kappa Alpha Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa on the Goodman Campus held its Spring Induction Ceremony on Feb. 26 in McDaniel Auditorium.

The ceremony recognized students who have demonstrated academic excellence and commitment in the classroom. Inductees were welcomed into the honor society, which celebrates scholarship, leadership and service.

Chapter officers include Kazzye Wood, president; Lawson Nichols, vice president of college projects; Lindsie Winford, vice president of communication and engagement; and Hannah Stanley, vice president of Honors in Action. Advisors are Will Alexander, Simonee Miller and Charles Wood.



Goodman Campus Phi Theta Kappa President **Kazzye Wood** speaks to the new inductees during the induction ceremony held Feb. 26.



Goodman Campus Phi Theta Kappa Vice President of Campus Projects **Lawson Nichols** explains the significance of the white rose during the ceremony.

Holmes Ridgeland PTK hosts grab-and-go induction celebration

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus Phi Theta Kappa officers and advisors gathered March 2 in the PTK room to celebrate new inductees with a grab-and-go ceremony. Officers distributed certificates and Chick-fil-A lunches to students as they arrived. The event was sponsored by Mississippi State University, who sent a representative to speak to students as they picked up their certificates and lunches.

Chapter officers include Ashlyn Dodd, president; Anna Box, vice president of college projects; Mika Maehata, vice president of membership and fundraising; and Mary Canard, vice president of Honors in Action.

Advisors for the chapter are Lisa Anglin, Stephanie Blue and Laura Canard.

(right) Pictured are **Anna Box**, **Stephanie Blue**, **Mary Canard** and **Mika Maehata**.



Holmes nursing students provide meals for linemen during storm recovery

From Staff Reports/Photos



As utility crews worked through the night to restore power following a punishing winter storm in late January, two Holmes Community College nursing students made sure the workers stayed fueled for the task.

Cassie Smith and Jessica Brown, both students on the Holmes Grenada Campus, stepped up to provide meals for linemen working across Grenada County and the surrounding areas. The effort was a personal one for Smith, whose son was among those working in the field to repair downed lines and broken poles.

The initiative, spearheaded by Smith and supported by Brown's volunteer

work, came as freezing temperatures and icy conditions left thousands in the region without electricity. Linemen from across the state and beyond were deployed to North Mississippi to assist in the grueling restoration process.

For Smith and Brown, the transition from the classroom to community service was a natural fit. While their nursing studies prepare them to care for patients, their recent efforts show a commitment to the well-being of the broader community during a crisis.

The pair's contribution served as a reminder of the local support behind the recovery.

Holmes OTA Program earns prestigious 10-year accreditation

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the second-year OTA students with their instructors. They are (front row, left to right) **Madison del Rio, Madison Hall, Ania Thomas-Albrecht, Madden Brewer,** (back row, left to right) **Instructor Erica Fitzhugh, Ally Purvis, Lawanda Parks, Ja'Kora Eskridge and Instructor Monica McDonald.**

The Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program at Holmes Community College's Ridgeland Campus has been granted a 10-year certificate of accreditation, marking the maximum term possible for the health science program.

The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) issued the accreditation for the period of 2025-2035 following a comprehensive review of the program's curriculum, facilities and student outcomes. The 10-year term is a significant

milestone, reserved for programs that demonstrate full compliance with all educational standards.

"Monica and I are absolutely thrilled to have achieved a 10-year accreditation period!" said Erica Fitzhugh, OTA program director and instructor. "The self-study and on-site visit demanded a tremendous amount of time and energy, but we couldn't have done it without the invaluable support of Penny Rogers, DHA, MAT, OTR/L, Dr. Amy Whittington, Allison DeWeese, Jovonna Parker and the other amazing

CTE staff who assisted us throughout. This rigorous process has provided us with valuable insights, and we're excited to apply what we've learned as we continue to grow and enhance the OTA program at Holmes, ensuring we produce skilled OTA practitioners who are ready to meet the evolving needs of the healthcare field."

The news comes as Holmes continues to expand its footprint in the medical field. The college recently broke ground on a new state-of-the-art Allied Health Facility on the Ridgeland Campus. The building is designed to house the OTA program alongside nursing and surgical technology, providing modern labs and multipurpose spaces to accommodate the growing demand for healthcare professionals in Madison County.

"I am incredibly proud of our OTA program for earning a 10-year accreditation certification — a true reflection of excellence," said Dr. Amy Whittington, vice president for career technical education. "This achievement speaks to the unwavering dedication and hard work of Program Director Erica Fitzhugh and Fieldwork Coordinator Monica McDonald along with the remarkable accomplishments of our students. The support from our Health Sciences Director Allison DeWeese and CTE staff was tremendous as well. As vice president of career technical programs, it's an honor to support a program that consistently sets the

standard for quality, commitment and student success."

"This is a significant accomplishment that is earned through dedication, teamwork and an uncompromising standard of quality," added Director of Health Science Programs Allison DeWeese. "We are so proud of the OTA instructors, Erica and Monica, and others who made this accomplishment possible."

The Holmes OTA program is a five-semester course of study that leads to an Associate of Applied Science degree. Graduates are eligible to sit for the national certification examination administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). The program's curriculum focuses on preparing students to work under the supervision of licensed occupational therapists, helping patients restore or maintain skills for daily living.

This accreditation ensures that students entering the program through 2035 will receive an education that meets the highest national standards for the profession. Applications for the

Applications for the OTA program opened Jan. 15 and will close on April 1.

For more information regarding admission requirements and the Ridgeland-based program, visit holmescc.edu/career-technical/occupational-therapy-assistant-technology/.

STEM mixer connects Holmes students with health care programs

From Staff Reports/Photos

Students explored future opportunities in health care and STEM fields during the Holmes STEM Pre-Professional School Mixer held Feb. 12 in the Science Building East Lobby on the Holmes Ridgeland Campus.

The event brought together students, faculty and representatives from universities and professional programs to provide valuable networking opportunities and insight into academic pathways and careers in science and health-related fields.

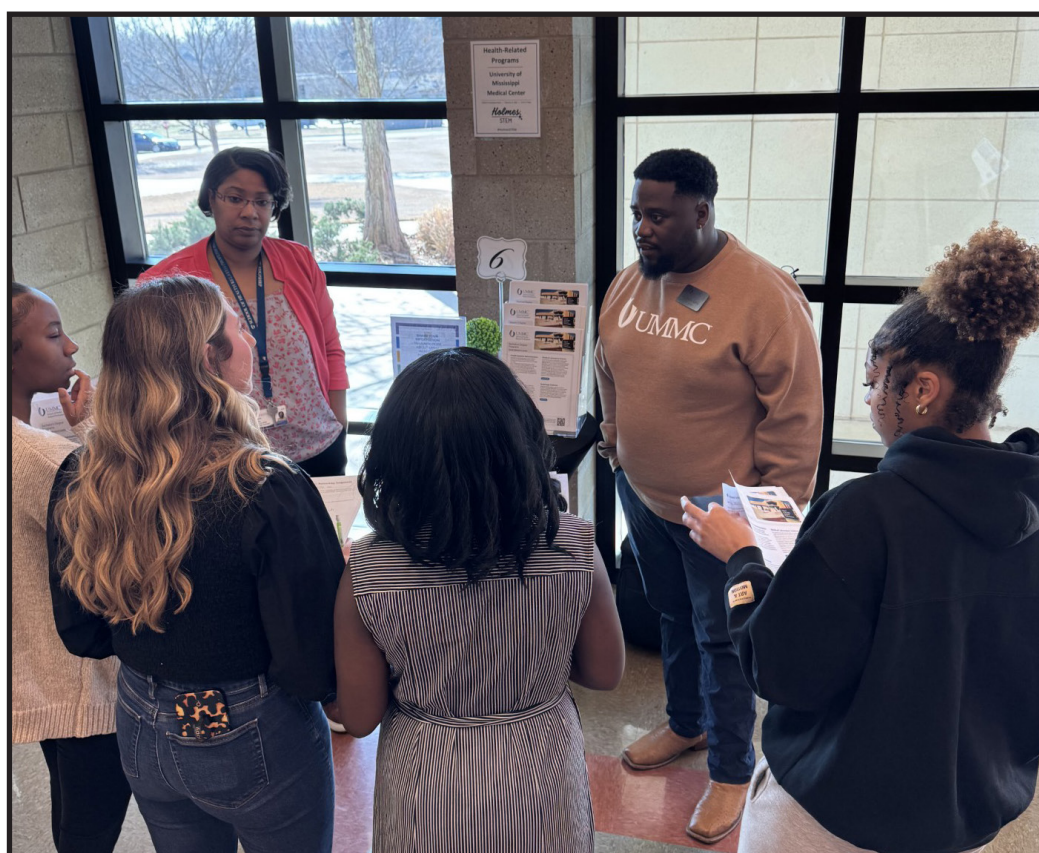
Faculty representatives from Holmes Community College's Associate Degree Nursing and Surgical Technology programs were available to speak with students about program options and career preparation. Representatives from the University of Mississippi Medical Center Schools of Nursing and Graduate Health Sciences, William Carey

University College of Health Sciences and the University of Southern Mississippi College of Nursing and Health Professions also attended, sharing information about transfer opportunities and advanced degree programs.

Students had the chance to ask questions, learn about admission requirements and gain a better understanding of the steps needed to continue their education in specialized health professions.

McGraw-Hill provided giveaways for students in attendance.

The mixer aimed to strengthen connections between Holmes students and four-year institutions while helping participants better understand available pathways into professional programs within STEM and health care fields.



PTK Alpha Mu Beta Chapter Completes College Project to Enhance Student Services on Grenada Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are Phi Theta Kappa Officers (left to right) **William Hobson**, **Lexi McClain** and **Katie Grace Ray**.

The Phi Theta Kappa Alpha Mu Beta Chapter on the Grenada Campus recently completed its College Project, aimed at improving the campus environment through the installation of a micro market in the student lounge.

A College Project is a joint initiative between a Phi Theta Kappa chapter and college administration that supports the institution's mission and strategic priorities while creating positive change on campus. This project aligned with the college's commitment to providing an accessible, student-centered, and supportive learning environment.

The project was led by PTK President Lexi McClain, Vice Presidents William Hobson and Katie Grace Ray, along with advisors Cynthia Abel, Gabrielle Hopkins, and Haley DeNoon. Chapter members collaborated closely with campus leadership and multiple

departments, including administration, campus police, maintenance, and information technology, to bring the project to completion.

The newly installed micro market provides expanded food and beverage options for students and employees, including healthier choices and added convenience. The market features drink coolers, snack units, refrigerator, a coffee station, and a self-checkout kiosk.

In addition to enhancing campus services, the project strengthened relationships between the chapter and college administration while helping members develop leadership, communication, collaboration, and professional skills. The micro market represents a lasting improvement to the student lounge and reflects the chapter's commitment to serving the campus community.

QEP events offer career insight to guide students' academic paths

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College recently hosted a series of QEP Career Compass seminars across the district, providing students with valuable insight into academic pathways and real-world career experiences.

The seminars are part of Holmes' Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), an initiative tied to accreditation through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). SACSCOC serves as an institutional accreditor for quality assurance in higher education, ensuring colleges and universities maintain high standards of quality and integrity. Holmes Community College is accredited by SACSCOC to award associate degrees and certificates.

As part of the accreditation reaffirmation process, each institution develops a five-year Quality Enhancement Plan. Defined by SACSCOC as a "carefully designed course of action," the QEP focuses on improving student learning and success. Holmes' QEP, titled "Career Compass," is a campus-wide initiative designed to help students—particularly those in General College Studies—identify and commit to an academic or career pathway early in their college experience. The overall goal is to increase graduation rates and better prepare students for entry into the workforce or transfer to a university.

The first seminar in the series took place Feb. 11 on the Ridgeland Campus. Titled "Major Decisions: Find Your Fit, Not Just Your Degree," the event was held at 9:30 a.m. in the McGowan Workforce Building. The seminar focused on helping students connect their interests, strengths and goals with the right academic programs.

The Ridgeland event featured a panel of Holmes alumni representing a variety of local businesses and industries. Panelists included Dr. Autumn Barron, audiologist at The Hearing Center of Jackson; Dr. Amy Whittington, vice president for Holmes Career and Technical Education; and Derek Starling Sr., principal and co-founder at SOL Engineering Services. Academic Dean

Dr. Tonya Lawrence served as moderator. Panelists shared insight into why they chose their professions, challenges they faced along their career journeys and the rewards of pursuing work they are passionate about.

Holmes continued the initiative on Feb. 19 at the Grenada Campus. Held at 9:30 a.m. in the Corey Forum, the seminar again brought together alumni from diverse professional backgrounds to speak with students about career development and decision-making.

Grenada panelists included Paul McCarley, city president of Grenada at BankPlus; Nicholas Johnson, second grade math and science teacher at Grenada Elementary School; and Meghan Welch, a psychiatric nurse practitioner at Balance Therapy and Wellness LLC. Each speaker discussed their career path, the obstacles they have overcome and the fulfillment that comes from working in their chosen field.

The final seminar was held Feb. 25 on the Goodman Campus at 1 p.m. in the McMorrough Library. Like the previous events, the Goodman seminar featured alumni panelists who provided students with firsthand knowledge of various industries and career journeys.

Panelists for the Goodman event included Dr. Dudley Moore, senior engineer in combustion technology at Solar Turbines Incorporated; Lucas Price, director of business services at Holmes Community College; and Dr. Lily Fran Guastella, physician at Malory Community Health Center. The panel offered insight into professional growth, overcoming challenges and aligning career choices with personal goals.

All three seminars were part of Holmes' Career Compass initiative, emphasizing intentional academic planning, career readiness and the value of learning from professionals who have successfully transitioned from college to the workforce. Sponsored by Cengage, the series supports student success by helping students make informed, confident decisions about their futures.



Pictured are (left to right) **Dr. Autumn Barron**, **Dr. Amy Whittington**, **Derek Starling Sr.**, and **Dr. Tonya Lawrence**.



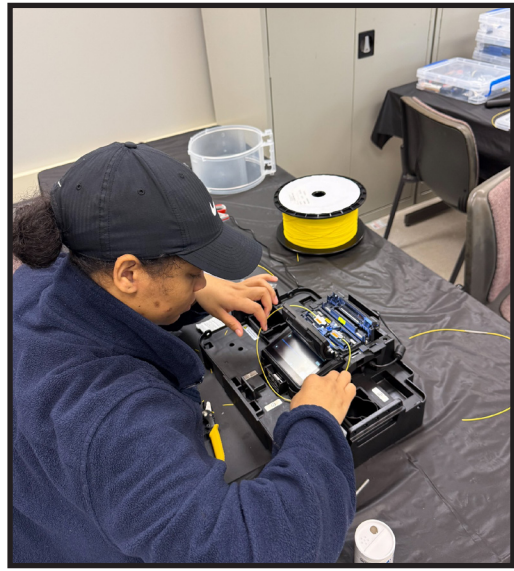
Pictured are (left to right) **Dr. Tina Garrett**, **Paul McCarley**, **Meghan Welch** and **Nicholas Johnson**.



Pictured are (left to right) **Dr. Bronwyn Martin**, **Andy Wood**, **Lucas Price**, **Dr. Lily Fran Guastella**, **Dr. Dudley Moore** and **Bethany Miller**.

Fiber optics training scheduled at Holmes Ridgeland Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos



A Fiber Optics 1-2-3 workforce training course will be offered at the Holmes Ridgeland Campus March 16–26 and again April 13–23. Classes will be held Mondays through Thursdays from 8 a.m.- 3 p.m. The training is designed to prepare participants for in-demand careers in fiber optics, with instruction aligned to the needs of Amazon Web Services and its network partners. Participants will gain hands-on experience in fiber splicing, installation and troubleshooting — skills essential to supporting data centers and modern communi-

tions infrastructure. Applicants must have a valid driver's license and reliable transportation. The role may involve working in confined spaces or at heights, along with flexible hours that could include evenings and weekends. Technicians should be comfortable performing physically demanding tasks such as lifting equipment and working in challenging environments. A basic understanding of technical systems, operations or information technology is helpful but not required. Training will take place in the Mc-

Gowan Building on the Ridgeland Campus. To register, call Vanessa Shiers at the WIN Job Center at 601-619-2843 or 601-629-6886. While training is held on the Ridgeland Campus of Holmes Community College, participants must register through the WIN Job Center. The training is offered as a non-credit workforce course, and participants do not enroll as Holmes students. For those who qualify, grant funding may cover the registration fee and may also provide an hourly stipend for time spent in class.

Holmes Ridgeland celebrates Valentine's with service

From Staff Reports/Photos

Students at Holmes Community College shared the spirit of the season during the "A Valentine's Ridgeday" event held Feb. 10 in Ridgeland Hall. Participants enjoyed a flower bar, Valentine's sweets and card decorating, with the handmade cards created for a local children's home. The event gave students an opportunity to combine creativity with service while celebrating Valentine's Day. Students, faculty and staff took part in the morning activities focused on spreading kindness and supporting children in need. The event was sponsored by the Student Government Association and Holmes Ambassadors.



(left to right) Sydney Neely, Student Activities Representative Jordan Heflin and Sarah Grace Nail.



(left to right) Mary Canard happily takes her bouquet she designed from Holmes Recruiter Amanda Lindsey.

Biology II class conducts lake field study

From Staff Reports/Photos

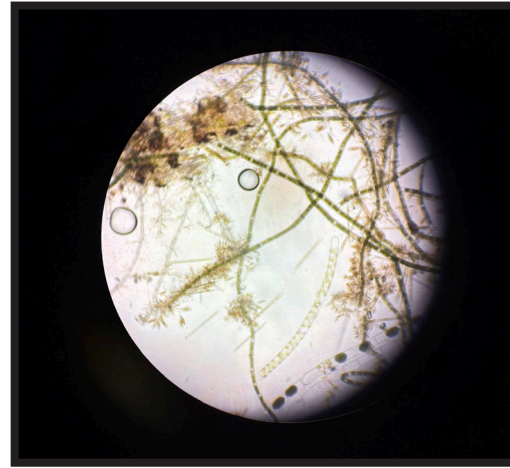
Students in instructor Hannah Jobe's Principles of Biology II class on the Goodman Campus of Holmes Community College collected water samples from Holmes Lake on Feb. 9 as part of a hands-on laboratory activity. After gathering the samples, students returned to the classroom to examine them under microscopes, observing microorganisms and other aquatic life present in the freshwater ecosystem. The lab provided practical experience that reinforced classroom instruction, allowing students to apply biological concepts through both fieldwork and detailed laboratory analysis.



Students collect water samples from Holmes Lake on the Goodman Campus as part of a hands-on lab.



Students examine a water sample under a microscope in Hannah Jobe's Principles of Biology II class.



Microscopic organisms collected from the Holmeslake are visible under magnification.

Valentine's pancake bar brings sweet treats to Grenada Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College students and staff gathered for a Valentine's Mini Pancake Bar on the Grenada Campus, enjoying a morning of sweet treats and fellowship in the lobby outside the Corey Forum. The event featured mini pancakes from Willow & Mane, along with Dirty Alanis and Dirty Sodas. Hosted by the Student Activities Department, the come-and-go celebration provided an opportunity for the campus community to connect and celebrate Valentine's Day. The event offered a festive break in the day and highlighted the sense of community shared among students and employees on the Grenada Campus.



(left to right) Ally Bingham, Faith Avery and Maddie Terrell stop for a photo.



Fat Tuesday RidgeDay brings festive fun to the Ridgeland Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College students, faculty and staff celebrated Mardi Gras with a festive Fat Tuesday Ridge Day event on the Ridgeland Campus on Feb. 17.

Hosted by the Culinary Arts, Occupational Therapy Assistant and Creative Arts and Fine Arts programs, the event brought together members of the campus community for food, creativity and celebration.

Attendees gathered in the courtyard outside the Ridgeland Student Union to enjoy king cake prepared by the Culinary Arts program while participating in themed activities that reflected the spirit of Fat Tuesday.



Holmes Culinary Arts students pose with the delicious king cake they made for the Fat Tuesday celebration.

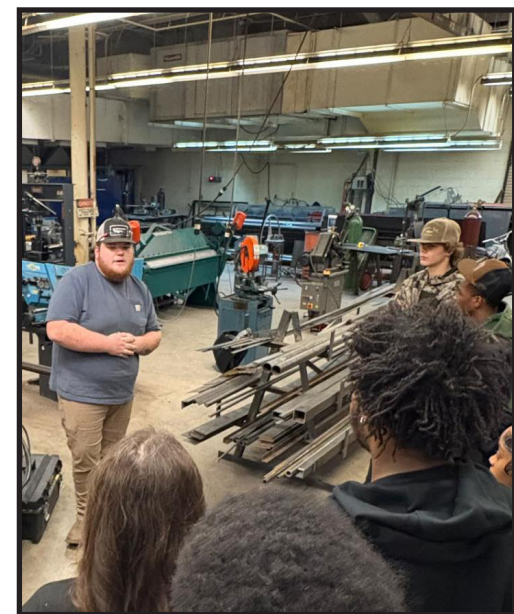


Winona-Montgomery students tour Holmes Grenada Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos

Prospective students from the Winona-Montgomery Consolidated School District visited the Holmes Grenada Campus in February to learn more about the college's programs and opportunities.

Students toured campus facilities and explored Career and Technical Education programs, gaining a firsthand look at potential academic and career pathways. Campus visits such as these provide prospective students with the opportunity to experience the Holmes environment and discover why the college promotes its "No Place Like Holmes" message.



Holmes CTE showcases career pathways at Germantown Middle School expo

From Staff Reports/Photos

Faculty and staff from Holmes Community College Career and Technical Education and Workforce programs participated in the Germantown Middle School Career Expo on Feb. 12, giving students a hands-on look at high-demand career fields.

Programs represented included CTE Counseling Services, Cosmetology, Occupational Therapy Assistant Technology, Practical Nursing and CDL (professional truck driving). Holmes faculty and students provided interactive demonstrations, shared program information and discussed career pathways to help students explore their future options.

The expo highlighted how Holmes CTE programs prepare graduates for immediate employment and continued education in health care, skilled trades and service industries.



(far right) OTA Program Director **Erica Fitzhugh** demonstrates exercises used in occupational therapy to help rehabilitate patients.



PN Instructor **Dr. Lakesia Sutton** shares with students about pursuing a career in practical nursing.

Holmes Grenada Career Fair connects students

From Staff Reports/Photos

Big plans start with great connections, and students at Holmes Community College recently got a head start on their next steps.

The college hosted a Career and Transfer Fair on Feb. 26 at the Corey Forum on the Grenada Campus. The event provided students the opportunity to meet with more than 40 transfer university recruiters and local businesses. Participants explored various pathways for both continued education and future career opportunities, connecting directly with representatives to discuss admission requirements and local employment needs.



MDHS opens a new MS LIFT Resource & Referral Center in Ridgeland

By MJ Kersh
Staff Reporter

In February, Ridgeland community leaders and families gathered for the opening of a new MS LIFT Resource & Referral Center in Ridgeland, marking a significant expansion of services for parents, caregivers and childcare professionals in the area.

The center, located at 7157 Old Canton Road, is designed to help families connect with childcare resources and support services, including referrals to local providers, guidance for early childhood education and access to family engagement activities.

Organizers said the opening reflects ongoing efforts to make critical family services more accessible across Mis-

issippi.

“Parents in the surrounding area now have greater access to the resources and support they need to navigate childcare challenges,” officials said in a statement shared by the Mississippi Department of Human Services about the center launch.

Community members, partners and staff gathered at the new facility on Feb. 4 for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The center is part of the statewide Mississippi LIFT Resource & Referral Network, which aims to support parents and early childhood professionals through a range of free services and community events.



The Indiana Hoosiers are champions

By Owen Clark
Staff Reporter



The Indiana Hoosiers are college football national champions for the first time in program history. They went from one of the worst teams and programs to the number one team in two years.

After going 3-9 in 2023, the Hoosiers made a head coaching change. The Hoosiers found their guy, Coach Curt Cignetti. The next year the

Indiana Hoosiers went 11-2 making the college football playoffs the 10th seed. Even though the team lost the next year, they were ready. Getting the Heisman award winner Fernando Mendoza from the transfer portal, the team went 16-0 winning the College National Championship.

In the 2023 press conference that held the hiring of Curt Cignetti, he said he’s most famous quote to date. When asked a question, Cignetti chimed back, “Yeah, it’s pretty simple. I win. Google me.” Cignetti backed up his claim by going to the playoffs for the

first time in program history.

The team’s quarterback, Fernando Mendoza, is a big reason why this team had so much success. He was poised throughout the whole entire season, winning the Heisman trophy.

Mendoza earned the Offensive MVP honors of the National Champion game against Miami. In the post-game interview, Mendoza said “I would die for my team.” He left it all on the field. He also became the eighth Heisman winner to win a CFP or BCS national championship.

The Indiana Hoosiers went from one



of the worst teams to the number one in the span of only two years. This

Holmes History Club tours African American Military History Museum

From Staff Reports/Photos

Members of the Holmes Community College History Club traveled to Hattiesburg on Feb. 6 to tour and conduct research at the African American Military History Museum, located in the historic USO Building. History Club Sponsor and History Instructor Charles Wood traveled with the students.

During the visit, students also met with humanities faculty at the University of Southern Mississippi. While on campus, the group toured the university’s archives department, where facilitators allowed them to observe and conduct research using a 16th-century book and an authentic Gutenberg Bible.

The trip provided students with hands-on learning opportunities and exposure to primary historical resources.



Pictured are (left to right) USM Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences **Dr. Chris Winstead**, Jada Clay, Mikayla Tew, Holmes History Instructor Charles Wood, Amber Smith and USM History Professor **Dr. Matthew Casey**.



Pictured are (left to right) USM History Professor **Dr. Joseph Peterson**, Amber Smith, Mikayla Tew and Jada Clay.

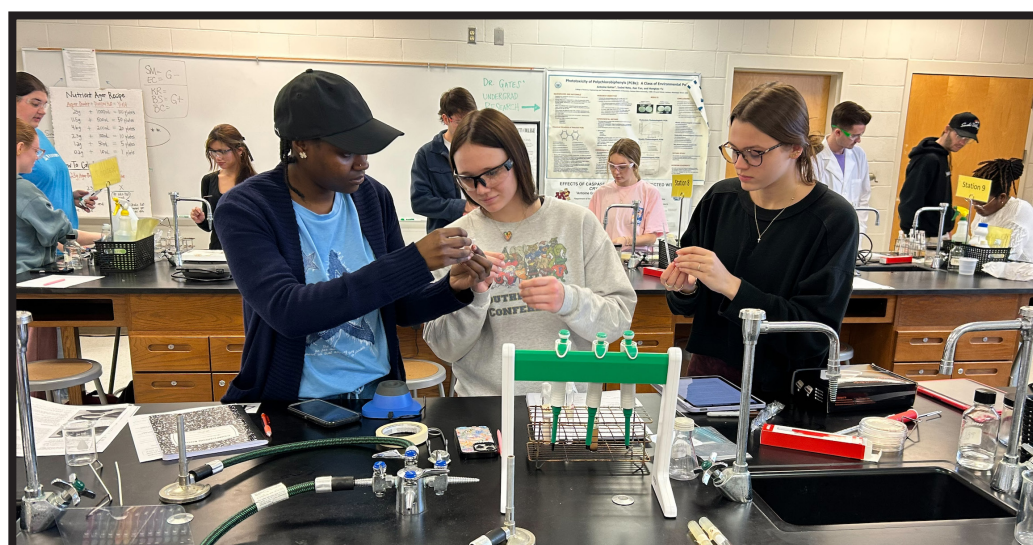
Microbiology students conduct hands-on research at Holmes

From Staff Reports/Photos

Students in Dr. Antoine Gate’s microbiology class at Holmes Community College are exploring the hidden microbial world on the Ridgeland Campus.

Using techniques such as serial dilutions and centrifugation, students collected soil samples and isolated bacteria to study the diversity of microorganisms beneath the surface.

The next phase of the project includes culturing the microbes for staining and biochemical testing to identify and characterize the organisms.



Holmes Culinary Arts volunteer at Statewide ProStart Invitational

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College Culinary Arts students volunteered at the annual Mississippi ProStart® Invitational (MPSI), presented by US Foods, on Tuesday, March 3. The statewide competition brings together high school ProStart students from across Mississippi to showcase their talents in restaurant management and culinary arts.

Holmes students and instructors supported the event by assisting with setup, timing competitors and helping ensure the competition ran smoothly from start to finish.



Holmes Culinary Arts students pose with the delicious king cake they made for the Fat Tuesday celebration.



Holmes to host Electrical Lineman informational meeting in Kosciusko

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College Workforce will host an Electrical Lineman informational meeting for individuals interested in enrolling in the August class on Thursday, March 19, at 5 p.m. at The Attala Center.

The meeting is mandatory for prospective students and will be held at The Attala Center, located at 620 W. Jefferson St. in Kosciusko.

Holmes' 16-week Electrical Lineman program, established in 2008, provides hands-on training designed to prepare participants for careers in the electrical utility industry. The program consists of 608 clock hours of instruction.

Coursework includes CPR/First Aid and Bloodborne Pathogens, Chainsaw Safety, Employability Skills, Truck Driving, Pole Climbing, Protective Grounding, Underground Systems, Bucket Truck Rescue and Basic Electricity.

Participants are required to obtain a CDL Class A permit prior to enrollment.

For more information, click here or contact Mandy Burrell at mburrell@holmescc.edu.



Holmes Grenada EMT, ADN respond to simulated bus crash

From Staff Reports/Photos

Future healthcare professionals at Holmes Community College put their skills to the test March 2 during a high-pressure mass casualty incident (MCI) simulation on the Grenada Campus.

The exercise challenged sophomore Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) and Emergency Medical Technology (EMT) students to respond to a simulated bus crash. Working alongside the Grenada Fire Department Shift C and AirCare 4, students practiced triage, communication and life-saving interventions under realistic conditions.

The simulation relied on a collaborative effort from the campus and local community. Freshman ADN students and staff acted as victims and bystanders to provide a realistic environment



for the responders. Organizers extended a special thanks to the Grenada Fire Department, AirCare 4 and the ADN instructors for coordinating the hands-



Holmes named finalist for Madison's 'Best of the Best' Workplace

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College has been named a top-five finalist for the 2025-2026 "Best of the Best" awards, sponsored by Hometown Madison Magazine. The college is currently in the running for the "Best Place to Work" category.

The nomination highlights the college's standing as a premier employer in Madison County. While the institution previously took home the top honor in 2015, this year's selection as a finalist reinforces its decade-long commitment to fostering a positive and professional work environment.

Voting for the contest opened Jan. 19 and concluded Feb. 13, with local residents casting ballots for their favorite community institutions and businesses.

Following the close of public voting, Holmes emerged as one of the few remaining contenders for the title.

Representatives from the college - Vice President of the Ridgeland College Dr. Bronwyn Martin, Graphic Designer Maggie Robinson and Workforce Development Coordinator Melissa Love - recently attended the Red Carpet Rollout to celebrate the "Best of the Best" nominees. The final winners will be officially announced at the Red Carpet gala scheduled for March 26.

(right) Pictured are (left to right) Melissa Love, Maggie Robinson and Dr. Bronwyn Martin.



Holmes Criminal Justice Department hosts ‘Break into your Future’ day

From Staff Reports/Photos

Spearheaded by Katrena Harris, the Holmes Criminal Justice Department hosted “Break Into Your Future Day” March 18 at the Ridgeland Campus. The event provided students with a hands-on look at public safety careers, bringing together a diverse array of local, state and federal agencies.

Participating Agencies & Organizations:
 Law Enforcement: Mississippi Highway Patrol, Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, Madison Police Department, Ridgeland Police Department, Columbus Police Department, University of Mississippi Medical Center Police, Jackson Municipal Airport Authority Police and the Rankin County Sheriff’s Office.

Emergency & Federal Services: City of Madison Fire Department, Ridgeland Fire Department, Pafford Emergency Medical Services and the Yazoo Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Military & Advocacy: Mississippi Army National Guard, JSU Youth & Drug Court/Prevention Specialists, Holmes QEP and the Holmes Police Department.

The courtyard atmosphere was high-energy, featuring music, games, inflatables and a variety of local food trucks, including

TT ‘n B Snowcones, Sweet Eats Biz, Corni’val Popcorn and Freddie’s BBQ.

A highlight of the afternoon was a creative “jail cell” challenge designed to test students’ civic knowledge. Faculty and staff members—including Dr. Tonya Lawrence, Dr. Mike Blankenship, Stephanie Blue, Kay Kelly and Dr. Antoine Gates—were “locked up,” and students had to correctly answer questions regarding constitutional amendments and legal procedures to

“bail” them out.

“Parents in the surrounding area now have greater access to the resources and support they need to navigate childcare challenges,” officials said in a statement shared by the Mississippi Department of Human Services about the center launch.

Community members, partners and staff gathered at the new facility on Feb. 4 for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The center is part of the statewide Mississippi LIFT Resource & Referral Network, which aims to support parents and early childhood professionals through a range of free services and community events.



Holmes Alumnus, 1973 track champion Terry Moore shares history with students

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College alumnus Terry Moore returned to campus recently as the guest speaker for the History Club’s Black History Month celebration on Feb. 17.

Moore, a standout athlete during his time at Holmes, was a key member of the 1973 state championship track team. During the event, he shared reflections on his journey from the Goodman Campus to his professional career, highlighting the importance of perseverance and community.

The celebration, organized by the History Club, aimed to honor the contributions of Black alumni and provide current students with a perspective on the college’s athletic and academic heritage.



Holmes representative advocates for community colleges at State Capitol

From Staff Reports/Photos

Members of the Mississippi Faculty and Staff Association of Community Colleges gathered at the State Capitol on Feb. 18 to advocate for the state’s community college system.

Sara Pollan, an instructor at the Holmes Community College Grenada Campus, represented the college during the event. Pollan joined colleagues from across the state to meet with legislators and discuss key issues impacting students and faculty.

The annual visit serves as a platform for educators to highlight the role

community colleges play in Mississippi’s workforce development and higher education landscape. Pollan and other association members focused on securing continued support for classroom resources and student success initiatives.

The annual Capitol visit provides a critical link between the classroom and the legislature, allowing faculty members like Pollan to provide first-hand accounts of the successes and challenges facing the Holmes District.

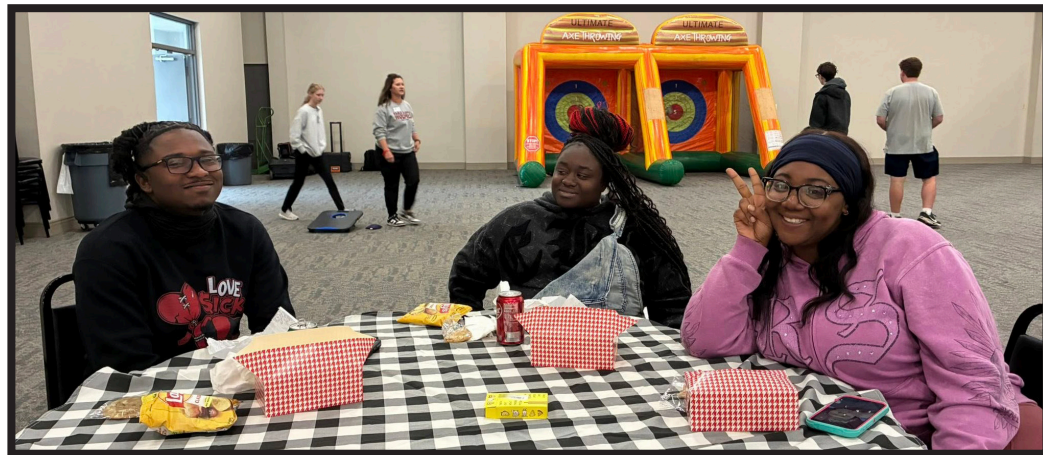
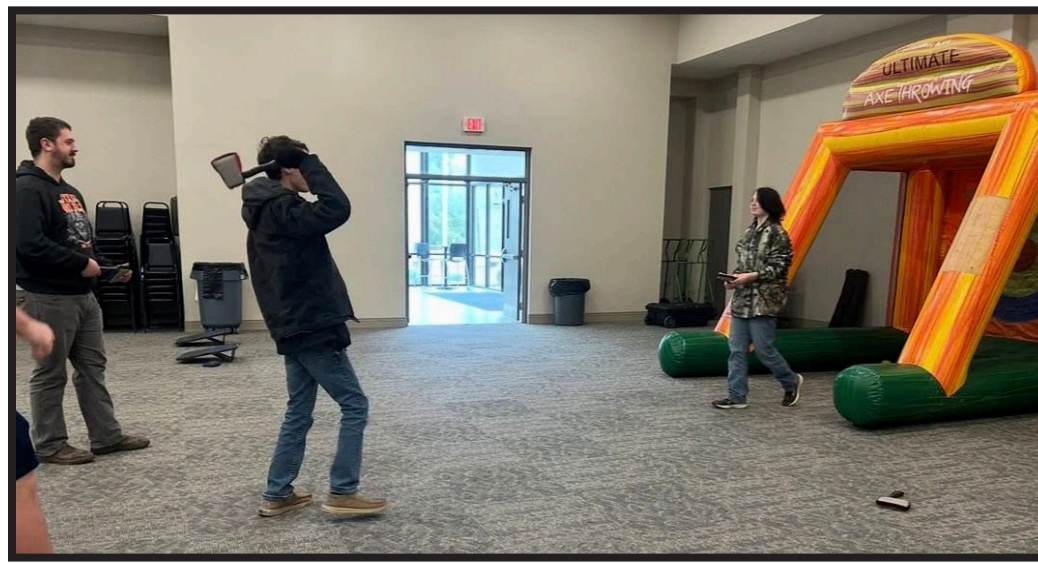


Holmes Grenada kicks off spring with annual Spring Fling

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College Grenada hosted its annual Spring Fling on March 18, offering students a day of fun and relaxation on campus.

The event featured free lunch, a rock wall, inflatables and a variety of games, giving students a chance to unwind and connect with friends between classes. Spring Fling continues to be a popular campus tradition, bringing the Holmes Grenada community together to celebrate the season.



Coachmen Singers lead worship at Attala County Fields of Faith

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Coachmen Singers, a vocal ensemble from Holmes Community College known for their powerful worship performances, were directed by Dr. Drew Trautman and Mike Yates and provided music for Attala County Fields of Faith on Wednesday night, March 18, at the Skipworth Performing Arts Center in Kosciusko.



Holmes Dazzlers dance team hosting clinics ahead of tryouts

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Community College Dazzlers Dance Team is hosting clinics in preparation for upcoming tryouts. The clinics give participants a chance to learn material, ask questions and experience what it takes to be a Dazzler. They are open to current high school juniors and seniors as well as college freshmen. Clinics will be held March 19, March 30, April 6 and April 13, each from 3 to 5 p.m. at Frank Branch Coliseum (Band Hall). Participants must attend at least two clinics to be

eligible for tryouts

Tryouts are scheduled for April 23, starting at 3 p.m. Requirements include form-fitting black dance clothing, jazz shoes and sneakers and clean, professional hair and makeup. Tryouts will consist of hip hop, jazz, pom and technique. Students selected for the team may be eligible for scholarships.

Interested students can register online at <https://docs.google.com/...> or contact Shelby Sones at shturner@holmescc.edu



Holmes Grenada Career Fair connects students

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Ridgeland hosted a Career Fair on March 19 at the McGowan Workforce Training Center.

The event connected students with more than 70 representatives from universities, four-year colleges and businesses, offering opportunities to explore career paths, learn about internships and full-time positions and network with professionals.

Holmes massage therapy students provided complimentary massages during the event, while culinary arts students prepared and served breakfast for attendees.

The Career Fair is part of Holmes' ongoing efforts to support workforce development and prepare students for success beyond the classroom.



Holmes receives proclamation for 100th anniversary

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College was honored on the Mississippi House Floor with a proclamation celebrating its centennial on Feb. 18. Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey and Dr. Jenny Bailey Jones, vice president for Academic Programs and eLearning, represented the college at the event.

Founded in 1925 with the support of State Superintendent W.F. Bond, the college began in Goodman with an administrative building, separate dormitories for boys and girls and a campus farm that provided both hands-on learning and food for students. Over the decades, Holmes has grown under the leadership of presidents including Ras M. Branch, Clarence W. Lorange, and Frank B. Branch, adding academic programs, athletics, fine arts and

multiple campuses in Ridgeland and Grenada. In recent years, the college has expanded facilities, programs and partnerships to meet workforce and higher education needs.

Rep. Bryant Clark presented Holmes with the proclamation, commending the institution's 100th anniversary. Clark is the son of Robert G. Clark Jr., the pioneering Mississippi lawmaker who was the first African American elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives since Reconstruction. Bryant Clark followed in his father's footsteps and currently serves as a Mississippi state representative, representing parts of Holmes County and the surrounding area. He has been active in state politics, continuing his family's legacy of public service.



Pictured with the proclamation are (left to right) Dr. Jenny Jones; Sara Bailey Jones, a 2019 Holmes alumna and Dr. Jones' daughter, who serves as a policy advisor for the Office of the Speaker of Mississippi House of Representatives; and Dr. Jim Haffey.

Goodman Campus ADN showcases "Bring Your Own Wound" project

From Staff Reports/Photos

First-year Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) students on the Holmes Community College Goodman Campus displayed their "Bring Your Own Wound" project on March 19. Each student submitted a simulated wound, and Holmes faculty voted on the best submission.

The project is part of the ADN program's hands-on approach to preparing nursing students for clinical practice. Students learn to assess, treat and document a variety of wound types, building skills they will use in hospitals, clinics and other healthcare settings.



Holmes falls to Gulf Coast in MACCC action

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Lady Bulldogs fell March 14 in Perkinston, dropping two close MACCC games to Mississippi Gulf Coast, 2-0 and 4-3. Presley Scarbrough took the loss in game one, while Miley Billie had a double.

In game two, Avery Smith started, with Josie Azlin, Haylen Pascal and Scarbrough also pitching. Pascal took the loss. Tashika Carothers led with two hits, including a home run and McKenzie Blue added a double.

Holmes swept East Mississippi on March 10, winning 13-4 and 12-4. Scarbrough earned the game one win as Carothers had three hits, including a home run, and Billie doubled. In game two, Azlin started and Smith earned the win in relief. Lauren Frazier and Allie Henderson had two hits each, while Carothers homered and Megan Brewer and Alyssa Sockey doubled.

Holmes splits with Hinds to open conference play

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs opened MACCC play at home on March 6 and split two games with the Hinds Community College Lady Eagles winning 4-1 in game one and falling 6-5 in nine innings in game two.

Presley Scarbrough got the start in game one and picked up the win. She gave up one run on three hits with five strikeouts and two walks. Alyssa Sockey led with two hits in the game while Tashika Carothers added a double.

In game two, Josie Azlin got the start. Hayley Pascal and Avery Smith also pitched in the game. Smith took the loss after Hinds scored in extra innings for the win. Miley Billie had a double in the game.

Bulldogs fall to Hinds in Region 23 Tournament first round

From Staff Reports/Photos



The 2025-26 season came to an end at home on Thursday night, March 5, after the Hinds Bulldogs knocked off the Holmes Bulldogs, 67-58.

Holmes ended the season at 20-8 overall.

The game was tied at 31 at halftime before Hinds outscored Holmes, 36-27, in the second half.

Isaiah Patrick led the Bulldogs with 14 points including four three-pointers. Jhamien Smith had nine, Jakobe Cavett had eight and Trey Alexander added six.

Bulldogs fall to Hinds in Region 23 Tournament first round

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs fell at home, 77-55, in the first round of the Region 23 Tournament to the Jones College Bobcats.

Holmes ended the season at 13-13 overall.

Jones led 13-12 after one period and 36-24 at halftime. Jones outscored Holmes 41-31 in the second half for the win.

Zion Harvey led the Lady Bulldogs with 13 points while Kiara Shelly and Samora Moody each had eight. Harvey and Da'Riyah Mayers each had nine rebounds while Shelly added eight.

Holmes faces Jones in Region 23 Tournament opener

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs entered the Region 23 Tournament as the No. 11 seed and faced No. 6 Jones College on March

5, in Ellisville. Holmes finished the regular season 13-12 overall and 5-9 in the MACCC, while Jones was 19-8 and 8-6. The winner was scheduled to

play No. 3 Northwest on March 7, in Senatobia.

Other tournament teams included No. 1 Pearl River, No. 2 Itawamba, No. 3 Northwest, No. 4 Gulf Coast, No. 5 Meridian, No. 7 LSU-Eunice, No. 8 Coahoma, No. 9 East Central, No. 10 Co-Lin and No. 12 Northeast. Coahoma faced East Central, Meridian played Northeast and LSU-Eunice played Co-Lin, with winners advancing to face the top seeds.

Holmes was led by Zion Harvey at 13.2 points per game, followed by Kiara Shelly at 10.7. Shelly averaged 6.4 rebounds per game, Da'Riyah Mayers 5.2 and Harvey 5.1. The Lady Bulldogs

averaged 62 points per game, shooting 38.2 percent from the field, 24 percent from three-point range and 60.1 percent from the free-throw line, while allowing 63.5 points per game.

Jones was led by Jakera Ducksworth at 12.8 points per game, with Lamarah Cleaves (11.8), Larrisa Hubbard (10.8) and Zharia Leflore (9.4) also contributing. Hubbard averaged 8.8 rebounds per game and Cleaves 7.9. The Bobcats averaged 68.7 points per game, shooting 39.1 percent from the field, 22.5 percent from three-point range and 65.4 percent from the free-throw line, while allowing 58 points per game.

Bulldogs open Region 23 Tournament play at home vs. Hinds

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs went into the Region 23 Tournament as the No. 5 seed facing the No. 12 seed Hinds Community College Bulldogs on Thursday, March 5 in Goodman at 6:30 p.m.

Holmes finished the regular season at 20-7 overall and 9-5 in the MACCC while Hinds finished 16-14 overall and 6-8 in the MACCC. The winner of the game was set to play No. 4 seed Gulf Coast on Saturday, March 7, at 3 p.m. in Perkinston.

Other teams participating (with

seeding) include: No. 1 Itawamba, No. 2 Southwest, No. 3 Jones, No. 4 Gulf Coast, No. 6 Pearl River, No. 7 Coahoma, No. 8 Northwest, No. 9 Southern-Shreveport, No. 10 Northeast and No. 11 Co-Lin. Northwest plays Southern Shreveport, Coahoma plays Northeast and Pearl River plays Co-Lin in the other first round games. The Northwest-Southern Shreveport winner will play Itawamba, the Coahoma/Northwest winner will play Southwest

Region 23, continued on Page 19

Region 23 (continued from Page 18)

and the Pearl River/Co-Lin winner will play Jones.

Holmes is led in scoring by Trey Alexander, averaging 13.7 points per game. Markalon Rochell averages 11.9 points per game, and Jhamien Smith averages 10.6. The leading rebounder is Rochell with 4.4 rebounds per game

followed by Smith and David Washington with 4.1 per game.

As a team, the Bulldogs are averaging 78.3 points per game and are shooting 50 percent from the floor, 34.5 percent from three-point range and 65.9 percent from the free-throw line.

Holmes is giving up 70 points per

game.

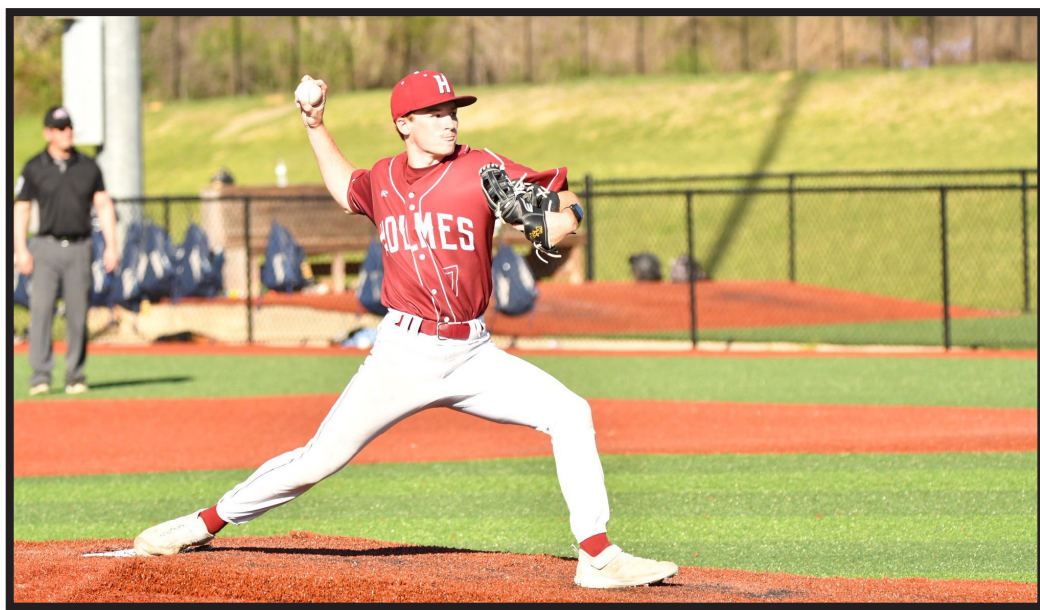
Hinds is led by Terrance Clark, who is averaging 14.4 points per game. Austin Ratliff is averaging 13.9 points per game and Daveon Henry is averaging 13.4 points per game. Abubakar Cham is averaging 9 rebounds per game while Ratliff brings in 6.4 rebounds per

game.

As a team, the Hinds Bulldogs are averaging 79 points per game and are shooting 47.7 percent from the floor, 35.1 percent from the three-point line and 67.4 percent from the free-throw line. Hinds is giving up 74.9 points per game.

Holmes splits with Gulf Coast

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs split two games at home on Saturday, March 14, with Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College winning 8-2 and falling 5-2.

In game one, Tyler Bickett got the

start and picked up the win. Bickett threw seven innings while Mac Griffin went the final two. Ethan Walker led with three hits including a homerun and two doubles. Ethan Trimble, Jaxon Cripps and Wes Bishop each had two

hits with Cripps adding two homeruns while Trimble and Bishop added a double.

In game two, Trimble got the start and suffered the loss. Warner Young also pitched in the game. Trimble led with two hits. Charley Dunn added a homerun.

Against East Mississippi on March 10, the Bulldogs split winning the first game, 10-8, and falling in the second game, 10-8.

In game one, Landon Hoshell got the start. Warner Young and Lane Robertson each pitched in the game with Young picking up the win. Jaxon Cripps led with three hits including two doubles. Chase Peebles, Ethan Walker and A.J. Arguello each had two hits with Peebles having a homerun and a triple with five RBIs. Charley Dunn and Jack Harkins each had a

double.

In game two, Mac Griffin got the start and suffered the loss. Eli Lowe, Braxton Demopolos, Britt Stringer and Ethan Trimble all pitched in the game. Cripps led with three hits including a homerun and a double with four RBIs. Trimble had two hits including a double. Ethan Walker added a homerun.

Against Pearl River on March 6, the Bulldogs fell 10-0. Bickett suffered the loss. Lane Robertson and Eli Lowe also pitched in the game.

Against Jones and Itawamba on March 3, the Bulldogs fell 12-2 and 4-3. Against Jones, Hoshell suffered the loss. Stringer and Demopolos also pitched in the game. Against Itawamba, Griffin got the start and suffered the loss. Young also pitched in the game. Cripps led with two hits.

Bulldogs knock off Tigers; prepare for Region 23 Tournament

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College knocked off the Coahoma Tigers, 75-64, at home on March 2 in Goodman.

This put Holmes 20-7 overall and 9-5 in the MACCC, setting up for Region 23 Tournament play.

The Bulldogs led 40-26 at halftime. The Tigers outscored the Bulldogs 38-35 in the second half but it wasn't enough as the Bulldogs took home the win.

Trey Alexander led the Bulldogs with 14 points while Jhamien Smith had 12. Holmes shot 52.1 percent from the floor, 58.3 percent from the three-point line and 72 percent from the free throw line in the game.

The Bulldogs fell to the Itawamba Indians on Thursday, 76-72. Markalon Rochell led with 21 points while Tre'Voïn Bass had 11.

Lady Bulldogs fall to Lady Tigers in regular season finale

From Staff Reports/Photos



On March 2, the Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs fell at home, 75-53, in the final regular season game of the year.

Holmes finished the regular season 13-12 and 5-9 in the MACCC prior to Region 23 Tournament play.

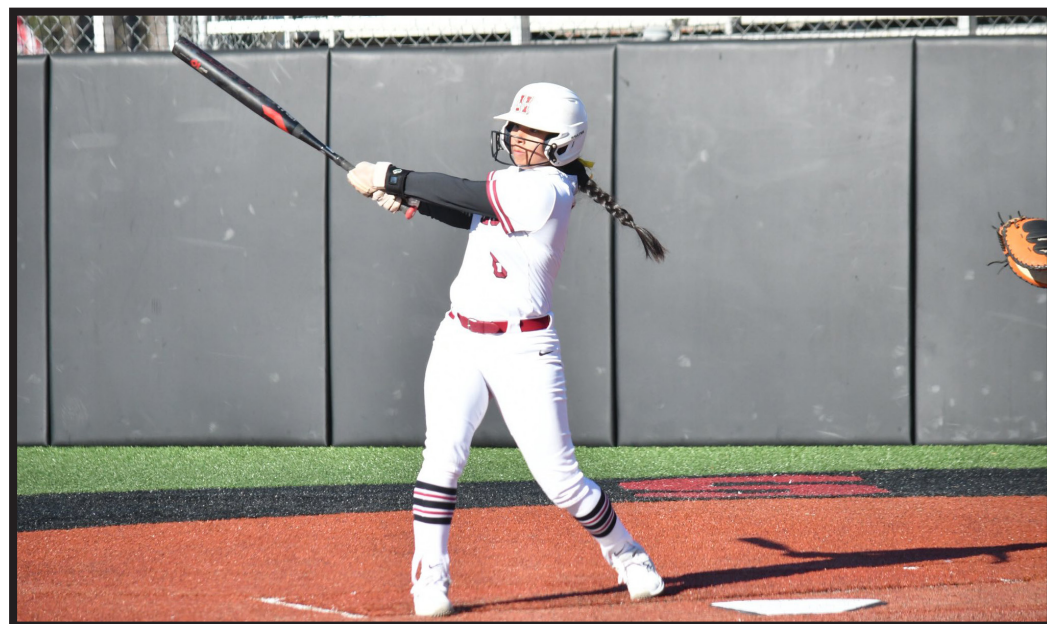
Coahoma led 34-15 at halftime and then outscored the Lady Bulldogs 41-38 in the second half.

Hannah Finley led the Lady Bulldogs with 14 points while Kiara Shelly had 11 and Zion Harvey had 10. Shelly finished with 11 rebounds.

The Lady Bulldogs fell 84-46 at Itawamba on Feb. 26.

Lady Bulldogs win four in one weekend

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs took two games from Southeast Arkansas on Feb. 27 and two

games from Lamar State College-Port Arthur on Feb. 28.

Against Southeast Arkansas, the

Lady Bulldogs won 12-4 and 19-5. In game one, Presley Scarbrough went the distance and picked up the win. Karly Garner and Megan Brewer each had three hits with Brewer adding a three-run homerun. Tashika Carothers, Kamayah Stephens and Lennie Kate Wood each had two hits with Carothers adding a solo homerun and a double.

In game two, Avery Smith picked up the win. Hayley Pascal also pitched in the game. McKenzie Blue, Alyssa Sockey, Allie Henderson and Miley Billie each had two hits with Henderson having two doubles and Wood adding one while Billie added two triples and Blue had one. Garner and Brewer also had a double.

Against Lamar State, the Lady Bulldogs won 5-4 and 3-2 in walk off

fashion. Scarbrough picked up the win going seven innings. Sockey led with three hits including a triple. Brewer and Garner each had solo homeruns in the game.

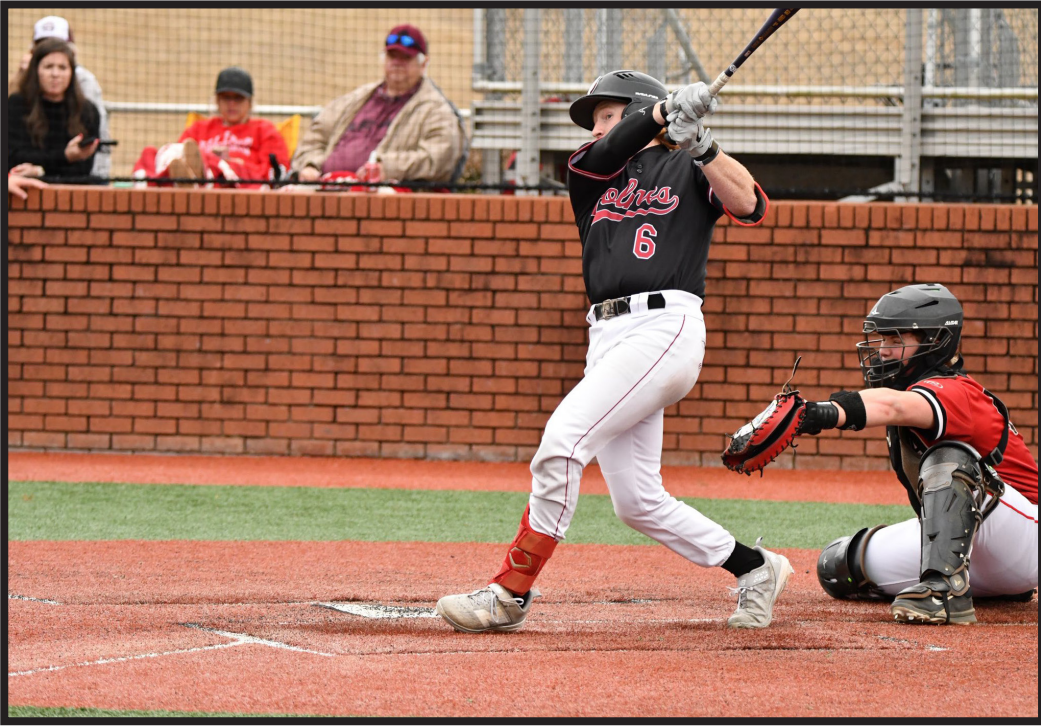
In game two, Pascal went the distance and picked up the win. Stephens led with two hits. Wood stole home on the final play for the win.

Holmes split with Marion, 1-0 and fell 15-4 on Monday, Feb. 23. In game one, Josie Azlin had a no-hitter in seven innings to pick up the win. Emma Fabre led with three hits while Billie and Blue adding two.

In game two, Smith got the start and suffered the loss. Pascal and Mauhree Jones also pitched in the game. Sockey and Carothers each had two hits with Carothers having two doubles.

Bulldogs take two of three from Rend Lake

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs took three games from the Rend Lake Warriors at home on Feb. 28 and March 1.

In game one on Saturday, the Bulldogs fell 10-8. Ethan Trimble got the start and suffered the loss. Warner Young also pitched in the game. Co-

per Bennett led with three hits including two doubles while A.J. Arguello, J.R. North and Jack Harkins each had two hits with Arguello adding a two-run homerun and Harkins having two doubles and North one double. Charley Dunn added a double.

In game two Saturday, the Bulldogs won 7-6. Tyler Bickett got the start. Lane Robertson, Britt Stringer and Warner Young also pitched in the game with Robertson picking up the win. Trimble and Harkins each had two hits with each having a double along with Chase Peeples and Bennett each having one double.

On Sunday, the Bulldogs won 14-7. Eli Lowe got the start. Landon Hoshell, Mac Griffin and Braxton Demopulos also pitched in the game with Hoshell picking up the win. Jaxon Cripps and Dunn each had three hits with Cripps adding a two-run homerun and a double while Dunn added a double. Ben-

nett, Peeples and Harkins each had two hits with Bennett adding two doubles.

On Feb. 25, Holmes defeated Mississippi Delta, 26-5, and Coahoma, 11-8, in Goodman. Against Delta, Mac Griffin picked up the win. Lowe and Demopulos also pitched in the game. Cripps, Dunn and Bennett each had four hits with Dunn having a 3-run homerun and a triple, Bennett having a solo homerun and a triple and Cripps having two doubles. Arguello had three hits including a double while Trimble, Tyler Martin, North and Peeples each had two hits. Martin, Peeples and North had two doubles while Wes Bishop added one.

Against Coahoma, Landon Hoshell got the start and picked up the win. Demopulos and Young pitched in the game. Arguello, Trimble, Cripps and Walker each had two hits with Trimble, Cripps and Dunn each having a double.

Holmes defeats East Miss., 86-75

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs knocked off the East Mississippi Lions, 86-75, at home on Feb. 19.

Holmes improved to 19-6 and 8-4 in the MACCC. The Bulldogs led 42-32 at halftime and then outscored East Miss. 44-43, in the second half.

Trey Alexander led the Bulldogs with 16 points while Tre'Voin Bass had 15 and Andrew Mancell had 10.

Against Delta on Feb. 16, Holmes won 65-55.

Isaiah Patrick led with 15 points while Alexander had 12. Deriyon Graydon led with 11 rebounds.

Lady Bulldogs knock off Lady Lions, 71-60

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs finished the season sweep of the East Mississippi Lady Lions at home on Feb. 19, 71-60.

Holmes improved to 13-10 overall and 5-7 in the MACCC.

Holmes led 31-30 at halftime and then outscored East Miss. 33-29 in the second half.

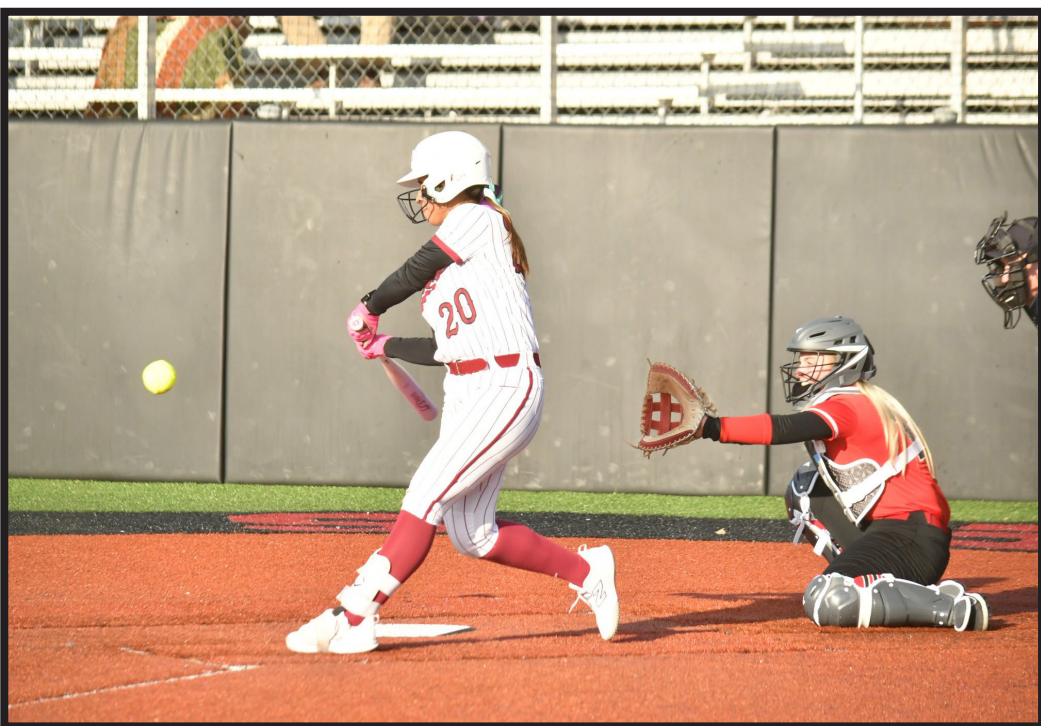
Zion Harvey led with 23 points while Samora Moody had 15, Kiara Shelly 12 and Da'Riyah Mayers 10. Mayers had 14 rebounds in the game while Harvey had nine.

Against Delta on Feb. 16, Holmes fell 58-55.

Shelly led with 13 points while Moody had 11 and Hannah Finley had 10.

Lady Bulldogs go 2-2 in Coyote Classic in Gulf Shores, Ala.

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College went .500 in the Coyote Classic Tournament in Gulf Shores, Alabama, Friday, Feb. 13 and Saturday, Feb. 14. Holmes defeated Enterprise and Coastal Alabama-North on Saturday but fell Friday to Central Alabama and Bishop State.

Against Enterprise State, Holmes won 2-1 in eight innings. Avery Smith picked up the win. Mauhree Jones led with three hits.

Against Coastal Alabama, Holmes won 10-0 in five innings. Allie Henderson led with three hits while Karly Garner had two with each adding a double.

Against Bishop, Holmes fell 4-3. Avery Smith suffered the loss after

Azlin got the start. Fabre and Kamiyah Stephens each had two hits.

Against Central Alabama, Holmes fell 5-3. Presley Scarbrough suffered the loss. Lauren Frazier led with two hits with Frazier, Carothers and Mauhree Jones each having a double.

Against Reid State on Wednesday, Holmes won 9-0 and 12-4. In game one, Josie Azlin picked up the win. Miley Billie led with two hits. Emma Fabre, Megan Brewer and Bille each doubled while Tashika Carothers and Billie homered.

In game two, Avery Smith picked up the win. Allie Henderson led with three hits while Billie had two. Carothers and Henderson each doubled.

Bulldogs knock off the Warriors, 76-64

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs knocked off the East Central Community College Warriors, 76-64, at home on Thursday night, Feb. 12.

This put Holmes 17-6 and 6-4 in the MACCC.

East Central led 37-35 at halftime. Andrew Mancell led with 17 points while Markalon Rochell and Isaiah Patrick each had 15 points while Trey Alexander had 13 and Tre'Voin Bass had 10. Bass had nine rebounds while Alexander had eight.

Against Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College on Monday, Feb. 9, Holmes fell 77-73. Trey Alexander led with 17 points while Markalon Rochell had 13.

Lady Bulldogs defeat Lady Warriors, 66-62

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs battled back from a first half deficit to defeat the East Central Community College Lady Warriors, 66-62, at home on Feb. 12. This put Holmes 12-9 and 4-6 in the MACCC.

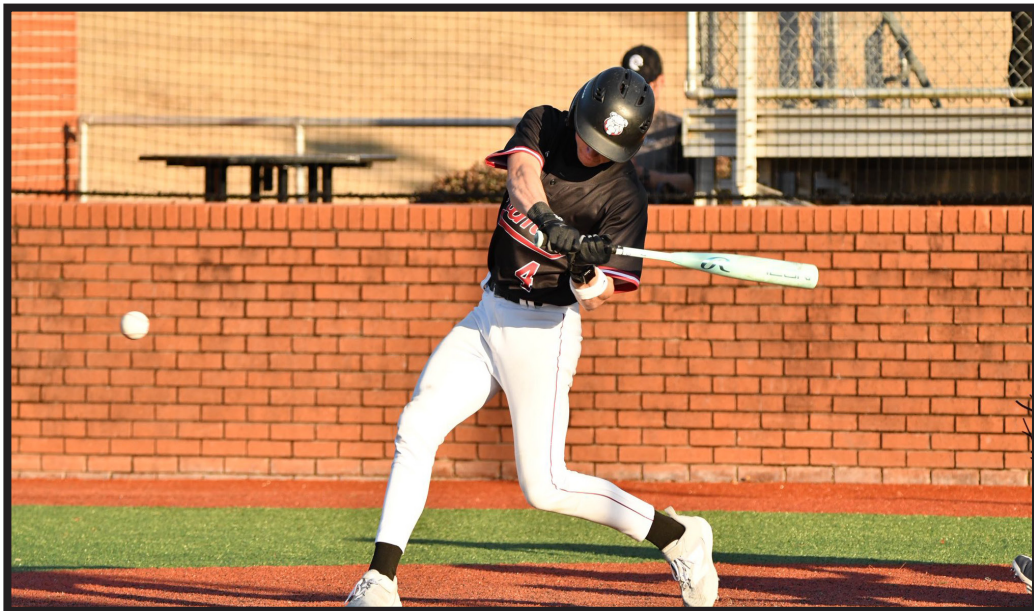
East Central led 30-25 before Holmes outscored East Central, 41-32, in the second half for the win.

Zion Harvey led with 27 points while Kelsey Joseph had 12 and Kiara Shelly had 10. Harvey and Shelly each had seven rebounds.

Against Gulf Coast on Feb. 9, the Lady Bulldogs fell 68-56. Shelly led with 14 points while Cynia Johnson had 11 and Samora Moody had 10. Shelly had 11 rebounds.

Bulldogs knock off Sharks, 10-0

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs picked up a 10-0 win at home on Saturday, Feb. 14 over Southeast Arkansas College.

On Saturday, Tyler Bickett got the start and picked up the win. He gave up three hits with no runs with four strikeouts and three walks. Jack Harkins and Jazon Cripps each had two hits with Harkins and Sam Roy each having a double.

On Friday, Feb. 13, the Bulldogs fell to Paris Junior College, 11-6 and 12-2.

In the first game, Ethan Trimble got the start. Mac Griffin, Britt Stringer, Drew Daigle and Lane Robertson also

pitched in the game with Daigle suffering the loss. Roy led with three hits while Ethan Walker had two. Walker had a three-run homerun.

In game two, Warner Young got the start and suffered the loss. Eli Lowe and Braxton Demopolos also pitched in the game. Cooper Bennett led with two hits including a homerun and a double. Stringer each pitched in the game with Stringer suffering the loss. Sam Roy, Tre Rainey and Jack Harkins each had two hits with Rainey adding a homerun and Roy adding a double.

25 players to join Bulldogs for 2026 season

From Staff Reports/Photos



The incoming class features talent from throughout Mississippi as well as Alabama and Tennessee, strengthening both sides of the ball and boosting competition at key positions.

Quarterbacks include Tristan "Boss" Colenberg (South Panola), George Wilcox (Leake Academy), Jack Durr (Pearl) and KJ Cork (Choctaw County). The offensive line gains Quan Bland (Grenada), Nathan Kelly (Terry), Roman Lister (Brandon), Anquan Moore (Lake Cormorant), Anthony Adams (Lake Cormorant), Brett Boykin (Robertsdale, Alabama) and Zell McKenzie (Pearl). Running back Jeremiah Miller (Choctaw County) adds speed to the backfield.

Defensive additions include line-

men Deandre Kincaid (Union), Amari Whalen (Terry), Josiah McLaurin (Ridgeland), Dezron Mobley (Moody, Alabama), Prentiss Cork (East Webster) and linebackers Lazarius Ashford (Terry) and Jereon Reed (Grenada). The secondary welcomes BJ Lee (Columbia), Jhaylen Rose (Cleveland Central), Myilan Moore (Union) and Will Shoemake (Madison Central). Wide receivers Michael Hall (Warren Central) and Jontae Alexander (Southwind, Tennessee) add offensive playmaking ability.

The group represents a strong mix of positions and regional talent as the Bulldogs prepare for the 2026 campaign.

Holmes knocks off Hinds, 70-69

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs finished a season sweep of the Hinds Community College Bulldogs at home on Thursday, Feb. 5, with a 70-69 win in MACCC action. Freshman Malik McGuire tipped a ball in the goal in the final seconds for the win.

This put Holmes 16-5 overall and 5-3 in the MACCC.

The game was tied at 31 before Holmes outscored Hinds 39-38 in the second half.

Tre'Voin Bass, Jhamien Smith and Andrew Mancell each had 10 points in the game. David Washington had six rebounds.

In an 86-80 loss at Southwest Monday, Jhamien Smith led with 16 points while Trey Alexander and Tre'Voin Bass each had 14 and Kameryn Bailey had 11. Markalon Rochell had eight rebounds.

Holmes CC Sports Hall of Fame Banquet set for April 9

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College will induct six new members into the Holmes Sports Hall of Fame on Thursday, April 9, at 6 p.m. in Frank Branch Coliseum on the Goodman Campus. The six inductees will be recognized during an in-person banquet following a full day of celebration in Goodman.

The Class of 2026 includes Neil Hitchcock, Charlie Smith, Terry Seals Jr., Daryl Macon, Chelsea Raines-Germany and Rashad Williams.

Hitchcock, a native of Mendenhall, came to Goodman to play football for the Bulldogs during the 1971 and 1972 seasons under coach Tommy Avis. He earned All-State honors in 1972, played in the All-State game and received the Ras M. Branch Award. He continued his football career at Delta State University, earning a bachelor's degree in

education while playing for the Statesmen. At Delta State, Hitchcock was named Most Improved Player in 1973, All-Gulf South Conference in 1974, Academic All-Conference in 1974 and Academic All-American in 1974. He later served as a high school head football coach for 17 years, earning Coach of the Year honors in 1985 and from 1988-99, while teaching for more than 35 years in Mississippi public schools.

Smith, a native of Canton, played high school football at Canton High School before continuing his athletic career at Holmes, where he played football and ran track. He earned All-American honors in football and helped win a state championship in track in the 220-yard dash. Smith later attended Abilene Christian University in Texas, where he was part of a team

that won a national championship. He continued his education at McKinley Theological Seminary, earning a master's degree in theology and a doctorate from Slidell Baptist Seminary.

Seals, a native of Kosciusko, played on the 1977 Kosciusko Whippets team that finished 12-0. He continued his football career at Holmes under coaches Quinby Morgan and A.J. Kilpatrick, then played offensive line for Delta State University. His football journey included a tryout camp with the Houston Oilers in 1984.

Macon, a native of Little Rock, Arkansas, earned junior college All-American honors after averaging 23 points per game as a freshman, ranking fourth nationally in the NJCAA. He shot 88.9 percent from the free-throw line while averaging 4.1 rebounds and 3.1 assists per game. As a sophomore during the 2015-16 season, Macon averaged 23.9 points per game, ranking sixth nationally, and was named to the NJCAA Division I Men's Basketball Third Team All-America. After playing at Holmes and the University of Arkansas—where he became one of the Razorbacks' leading scorers—Macon entered the professional ranks in 2018. Though undrafted, he signed a two-way contract with the Dallas Mavericks and later joined the Miami Heat. He also competed internationally with clubs such as Galatasaray, AEK Athens, Panathinaikos and UNICS Kazan, earning honors including the 2021 Greek Super Cup.

Raines-Germany, a native of Acker-

man, played softball for the Lady Bulldogs under coach Casey. She earned the Academic Athletics Award, was selected to multiple all-tournament teams, led the team in doubles and ranked third in RBIs.

Williams, a native of Jackson, came to Holmes from Callaway High School to play soccer on one of the program's first Bulldog teams. He earned co-Offensive MVP and Best Forward honors in 1999, led the team in assists and ranked second in goals scored. Williams later earned a bachelor's degree magna cum laude in business administration from Belhaven University and an MBA from Jackson State University.

The Hall of Fame festivities includes a reception for inductees, a tour of athletic facilities on the Goodman campus and visits with current Holmes student-athletes. The celebration concludes with the banquet honoring the inductees at 6 p.m. in Frank Branch Coliseum. Steven Waggener ('02) will represent Holmes Community College as an inductee into the Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame during a special ceremony in Pearl on April 28.

Alumni, family and friends are invited to attend the banquet. Tickets are \$40 and go on sale Feb. 14 through the Holmes Alumni online community at holmesccalumni.360alumni.com.

For more information, contact the Holmes Alumni Office at kellard@holmescc.edu.

Holmes cheerleaders cap remarkable season with Top-10 national finish in Orlando

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Cheerleaders continued a standout

season with a strong showing at the Universal Cheer Association (UCA)

College Cheerleading National Championship in Orlando, Florida, earning top-10 finishes in two divisions and one of the highest scores in program history. Competing in the Open Small Coed Game Day and Open Small Coed Traditional Routine divisions, the Bulldogs finished among the nation's top programs, marking a significant national achievement for the team.

The 26-member squad, led by a strong class of 16 sophomores and supported by 10 freshmen, opened the season at UCA College Spirit Camp at the University of Alabama, where the team earned Superior Ribbons in Sideline, Performance Timeout and Game Day Timeout. The cheerleaders also received the Traditions Award for Game Day Class, recognizing their excellence in spirit and execution.

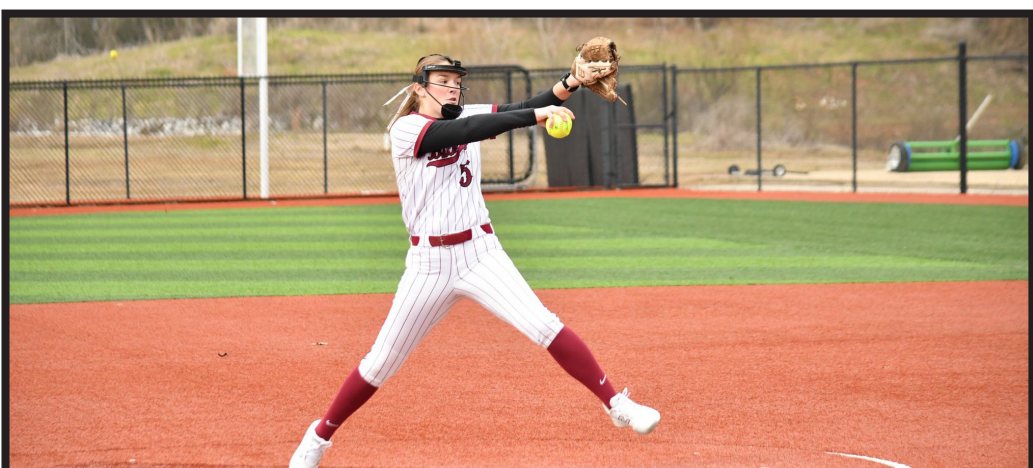
Throughout the football and bas-

ketball seasons, the team energized crowds during numerous victories and competitive matchups while remaining active beyond athletics. The cheerleaders participated in a variety of community service and campus events, including Meet the Bulldog, Holmes pep rallies, district high school pep rallies, the City of Benton Christmas Parade, Freshman Friday, and Major Experience.

That commitment to excellence—developed through early-season training, reinforced by campus and community involvement and sharpened throughout the year—was on full display in Orlando, where the Holmes cheerleaders translated months of preparation into top-10 national finishes and one of the highest scores in program history at UCA College Nationals.

Lady Bulldogs split with Marion

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes split two games with Marion Military Institute in Marion, Alabama, on Friday, Feb. 6 winning 7-5 and falling 4-1. Holmes is now 3-1.

In game one, Presley Scarbrough got the start and the win. Tashika Carothers, Miley Billie and Lauren Fraizer each had two hits with Carothers and Billie each adding a double while Kamiyah Stephens hit a homerun.

In game two, Avery Smith suffered the loss. Josie Azlin also pitched in the

game. Carothers had a homerun.

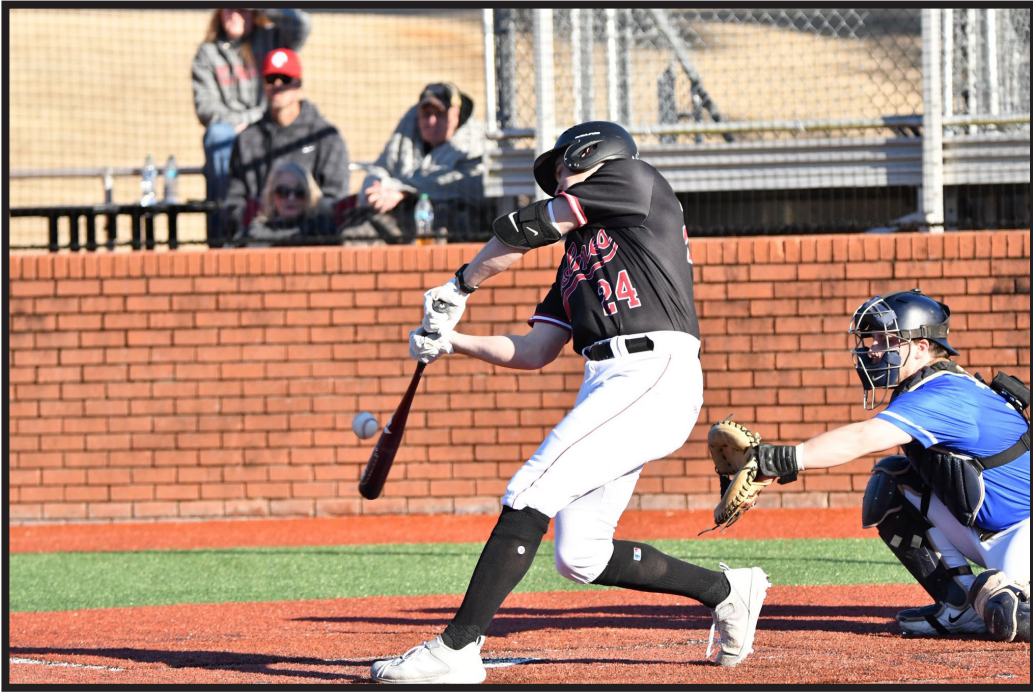
On Feb. 4 vs. Delta, Holmes won 8-0 and 5-4.

In game one, Scarbrough went the distance and had a no hitter. Karly Garner led with two hits while Carothers had a homerun and Megan Brewer and Billie doubled.

In game two, Smith picked up the win. Billie and Azlin each had two hits with Emma Fabre, Allie Henderson, Frazier and Billie each adding a double.

Bulldogs split opening series with Kaskaskia

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs opened the season Feb. 6-7 versus Kaskaskia and split four games winning twice Saturday and fall twice on Friday.

This put Holmes 2-2 for the season. On Saturday, the Bulldogs won 6-5 and 12-2. In game one Saturday, Warner Young got the start. Eli Lowe, Lane Robertson and Britt Stringer each pitched in relief with Stringer picking up the win. Charley Dunn led with four hits while Jaxon Cripps and J.R. North each had two hits. A.J. Arguello, Dunn and North doubled.

In game two, Tyler Bickett got the start and the win. Braxton Demopulos pitched in relief. Ethan Trimble and

North each had two hits with Trimble adding a double.

On Friday, the Bulldogs fell 10-8 and 8-6.

In game one, Mac Griffin got the start and suffered the loss. Carter Rose also pitched in the game. Tyler Martin, Arguello and Trimble each had two hits with Martin and Trimble adding solo homeruns and Martin and Arguello each adding a double.

In game two, Ethan Trimble got the start. Lane Robertson and Britt Stringer each pitched in the game with Stringer suffering the loss. Sam Roy, Tre Rainey and Jack Harkins each had two hits with Rainey adding a homerun and Roy adding a double.

Holmes gets 86-62 win over Hinds

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs finished the season sweep of the Hinds Community College Lady Bulldogs at home on Thursday, Feb. 5 with an 86-62 win in MAC-CC action.

This put Holmes at 11-8 overall and 3-5 in the MACCC.

Holmes led 35-26 at halftime and outscored Hinds 51-36 in the second half for the win.

Zion Harvey led with 26 points

including six three-pointers to lead the Lady Bulldogs. Hannah Finley followed with 18 while Samora Moody had 10. Cynia Johnson had eight rebounds.

Holmes shot 50 percent from the floor and 40 percent from the three-point line in the game.

In a 55-47 loss at Southwest Monday, Kelsey Joseph led with 11 points while Kiara Shelly had 10. Da'Riyah Mayers led with 10 rebounds.

Softball season kicks off Feb. 4 in Goodman

From Staff Reports/Photos



The 2025-26 Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs had five players return to this year's team. Holmes kicked off the season Feb. 4 in Goodman vs. Jackson State Community College.

Returners included: Lennie Kate Wood, utility, Winona; Josie Azlin, pitcher/outfielder, Leland; Emma Fabre, outfielder, Brusly, La.; Miley Billie, utility, Carthage; and Megan Brewer, catcher, Olive Branch.

Newcomers included: Tashika Carothers, infielder/catcher, Taylor; Alie Henderson, outfielder, Terry; Avery Smith, pitcher, Sumrall; Presley Scar-

brough, pitcher, Ackerman; McKenzie Blue, infielder, Madison; Kamiyah Stephens, utility, Independence; Karly Garner, catcher/infielder, Laurel; Kailyn Ely, outfielder, Hattiesburg; Lauren Frazier, outfielder, Philadelphia; Hayley Pascal, pitcher, Picayune; Mauhree Jones, pitcher, Philadelphia. Carothers is a sophomore transfer from Mississippi Delta while the remaining players are freshmen.

Matt Hudson returns for his second season as head coach while Katie Mitchell is in her fourth season at Holmes as assistant.

Bulldogs kick off season on Feb. 6 vs. Kaskaskia in Goodman

From Staff Reports/Photos



The 2025-26 Holmes Community College Bulldogs returned eight players to this year's team from last year's team that made a postseason run. Holmes

kicked off the season Friday, Feb. 6 in Goodman vs. Kaskaskia.

Returners included: Sam Roy, outfielder, Oxford; Eli Lowe, pitcher,

Purvis; Ethan Trimble, pitcher/infielder, Brandon; Cade Clinton, outfielder, Sumrall; Braxton Demopulos, pitcher, Denham Springs, La.; Vince Glorioso, pitcher, Brandon; Wes Bishop, outfielder, Ethel; Tre Rainey, outfielder/infielder, Tupelo.

Newcomers included: Brayson Hall, outfielder/pitcher, Brandon; Jack Harkins, infielder, Carthage; Drew Daigle, outfielder/pitcher, Brusly, La.; Cooper Bennett, outfielder, Hernando; Jaxon Cripps, infielder, Hurley; Ethan walker, catcher, Purvis; J.R. North, infielder, Ridgeland; Mac griffin, pitcher, Walker, La.; Chad Stewart, catcher/outfielder, Blytheville, Ark.; A.J. Arguello, outfielder, Ocean Springs; Tyler Bickett, pitcher, Watson, La.; Warner Young, pitcher, Sandhill; Chase Pee-

ples, infielder, Brandon; Lane Robertson, pitcher, Columbia; Barrett Kuhn, catcher, Kosciusko; Landon Hoshell, pitcher, Sarah; Tyler Martin, infielder, Brandon; Cooper Burleson, infielder, Saltillo; Britt Stringer, pitcher, Petal; Charley Dunn, catcher/pitcher, Greenville; Claiborne Perry, infielder/outfielder, Madison; Bennie Powell, outfielder, Kosciusko; Carter Rose, pitcher, Ellisville; and Tyler Hester, catcher, Madison. Bennett is a sophomore transfer from Meridian CC, and Stringer is a sophomore transfer from Gulf Coast.

Adam Chamblee is in his first season at Holmes while Josh Aguilar is in his second season at Holmes as assistant.

Lady Bulldogs fall to Lady Wildcats

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs fell at home on Thursday, Jan. 22, to Pearl River, 69-39.

Zion Harvey and Hannah Finley each had nine points. Da'Riyah Mayers had seven rebounds while Samora Moody had six.

Against Co-Lin Tuesday, Jan. 20, the Lady Bulldogs knocked off the Lady Wolves 74-69. Kiara Shelly led with 24 points while Hannah Finley had 18 and Zion Harvey had 16. Harvey added 15 rebounds.

Bulldogs defeat the Wildcats, 74-66

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs improved to 14-3 overall and 3-1 in the MACCC with a 74-66 win over the Pearl River Community College Wildcats at home on Thursday, Jan. 22.

The Wildcats led 39-36 at halftime before the Bulldogs outscored the Wildcats, 38-27, in the second half.

Trey Alexander led the Bulldogs with 16 points while Jhamien Smith had 15, David Washington had 14 and Markalon Rochell had 10. Smith had a double-double with 12 rebounds.

Against Co-Lin Tuesday, Jan. 20, the Bulldogs fell 81-68. Alexander and Andrew Mancell each had 14 points while Rochell had 12.

Lady Bulldogs fall to Northwest in MACCC action

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs fell behind early against the Northwest Mississippi Community College Lady Rangers and couldn't pull out the win falling 72-54 on Jan. 15.

Holmes fell to 9-4 overall and 1-1 in the MACCC.

Northwest led 35-15. Holmes outscored Northwest, 39-37, in the second half, but it wasn't enough.

Zion Harvey led the Lady Bulldogs with 13 points while Cynia Johnson had nine. Da'Riyah Mayers led with 10 rebounds.

Holmes uses strong second half to defeat the Northwest Rangers

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs battled back from 16 points down early in the second half to defeat the Northwest Mississippi Community College Rangers, 95-85 in Goodman on Jan. 15. Holmes improved to 13-2 and 2-0 in the MACCC.

Northwest led 55-43 at halftime, and the Bulldogs outscored the Rangers, 52-30, in the second half.

Markalon Rochell led the Bulldogs with 24 points while Trey Alexander added 19, Jhamien Smith had 12 and David Washington had 10. Washington led with seven rebounds while Smith had six.

Rochell score 18 points in the second half while Alexander added 12.

The Bulldogs shot 63.8 percent from the floor and 42.9 percent from the three-point line.

12 Bulldogs sign with four-year schools today

From Staff Reports/Photos



On Dec. 3, 12 Holmes Community College Bulldogs signed with four-year schools across the country to continue their education and athletic playing careers.

The Bulldog Football program held a signing in the foyer of Frank Branch

Coliseum for the Bulldogs moving on.

Included in the signing were: Cayden Burger, Eastern Michigan; E.J. Segrest, Nicholls; Jeremy Atkins, Prairie View; Jon Stephens, Akron; Jaylin Rogers, Troy; Lionel Williams, Nicholls; P.J. Pace, Delta State; B.J. Johnson, Delta

State; Jekerious Williams, Delta State; Kam'Ron Robinson, South Alabama; J.J. Harrell, Old Dominion; and Nireek Sharpe, Charlotte.

Burger, a sophomore receiver from Petal, had 50 catches for 470 yards and five touchdowns during his career at Holmes.

Segrest, a linebacker from Copiah Academy, finished his Holmes career with 146 tackles including 11.5 tackles for loss and 3.5 sacks.

Atkins, a defensive back from West Jefferson, La., had 69 tackles, 5.5 tackles for loss and three interceptions during his career.

Stephens, a freshman offensive lineman from Mary G. Montgomery, Ala., was a starter at offensive tackle during his only season at Holmes.

Rogers, a sophomore offensive guard from Union, played offensive guard for his two years at Holmes.

Williams, a sophomore from Hazlehurst, was injured in summer workouts and was unable to play in 2025, but as a freshman, he had 24 tackles, four

tackles for loss and 1.5 sacks.

Pace, a sophomore defensive back from Kosciusko, finished his Holmes career with 77 tackles, 5.5 tackles for loss and two sacks.

Johnson, a sophomore receiver from Greene County, finished his Holmes career with 58 catches for 739 yards and seven touchdowns.

Williams, a sophomore receiver from Grenada, had 51 catches for 431 yards.

Robinson, a sophomore defensive back from Winona, had 62 tackles, four tackles for loss and one interception during his Holmes career.

Harrell, a sophomore receiver from North Panola, had 14 catches for 226 yards and two touchdowns and five carries for 21 yards and three touchdowns in his only season at Holmes.

Sharpe, a sophomore defensive back from Stockbridge, Ga., had 28 tackles including .5 tackles for loss and two interceptions.

Johnson, Williams, Robinson, Harrell and Sharpe were not able to make the signing day photo.

Lady Bulldogs open MACCC play with a 63-60 win over NE Tigers

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes freshman guard Zion Harvey hit a three-pointer at the buzzer to lift the Lady Bulldogs to a 63-60 MACCC opening win over the Northeast Mississippi Community College Lady Tigers in Booneville on Jan. 12.

scored 33 in the second half to give Holmes the three-point win.

Northeast led 21-16 after the first period before the Lady Bulldogs outscored them in the second period to lead 30-27 at halftime. Each team

Harvey finished the game with 21 points while Kiara Shelly had 12. Da'Riyah Mayers had 10 rebounds.

Against Williams Baptist JV on Wednesday, the Lady Bulldogs won 83-75. Kelsey Joseph led with 18 points while Harvey had 15. Lakayla Lewis led with six rebounds.

Bulldogs finish season sweep of the Knights

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs improved to 11-1 on the year after picking up a 65-64 win at home on Tuesday, Jan. 6 over the Louisiana Knights.

The Bulldogs led 37-31 at halftime, and the Knights outscored the Bulldogs, 33-28, in the second half, but it wasn't enough.

Isaiah Patrick was the only Bulldog in double figures with 26 including six three-pointers. Malik McGuire led in rebounds with 11 while Andrew Mancell had eight and Markalon Rochell and Deriyon Rochell each had six.

Bulldogs open MACCC play with an 87-61 over NE Tigers

From Staff Reports/Photos



Five Holmes Bulldogs scored in double figures to secure an 87-61 victory over Northeast Mississippi in their MACCC opener on Jan. 12. After leading 40-34 at halftime, Holmes (12-2, 1-0) dominated the second half 47-27 while shooting 55.9% from the floor. Trey Alexander led with 24 points, followed by David Washington (21), Jhamien Smith (14), and Emajai Horton and Markalon Rochell with 11 each. This win follows a 71-69 loss to Lighthouse Christian on Jan. 8, where Rochell led the Bulldogs with 14 points.

Bulldogs place 12 on All-MACCC team for 2025 season

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Community College Bulldogs placed 12 players on the All-MACCC Team for their play during the 2025 season.

The Bulldogs had one First Team selection, five Second Team selections and six Honorable Mention selections.

Sophomore quarterback Chase Richardson (Winona) was named First Team quarterback. Second team members included: E.J. Segrest (Terry), linebacker; Colston Bennett (Flowood), punter; J.J. Harrell (Sardis), wide receiver; Trey Pettway (Mobile, Ala.), defensive lineman; and Jeremy Atkins (Marrero, La.), defensive back.

Honorable mention members included: Braylon McKinion (Brandon), offensive line; Kam'Ron Robinson (Winona), defensive back; Hubert Broadnax (Gulfport), offensive line; Jaylin Rogers (Union), offensive line; Kendrick Davis (Tuscaloosa, Ala.), defensive line; and D.J. Welch (Macon), wide receiver.



Chase Richardson



E.J. Segrest



Colston Bennett



J.J. Harrell



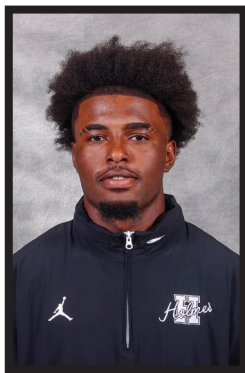
Trey Pettway



Jeremy Atkins



Braylon McKinion



Kam'Ron Robinson



Hubert Broadnax



Jaylin Rogers



Kendrick Davis



D.J. Welch



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The Growl Staff



Owen Clark

Owen Clark of Ackerman is a freshman communication major; he is attending the Goodman Campus. In his free time, Clark hangs out with his friends, listens to music, plays golf and likes to try new things. Other things Clark does on campus is sing in the Holmes Goodman choir. He still doesn't know what his future plans are, but he hopes he can continue his time at Holmes.



Jasmiah Collier

Jasmiah Collier, a journalism/communications major, is a freshman on the Ridgeland Campus. She is a member of both The Growl staff and the Horizons yearbook staff. While she is not involved in other campus activities, Collier said motherhood is her main priority. She has two children, ages 7 and 8. Outside of being a mother, her hobbies include graphic design and crafting. A Brandon native, Collier returned to school to further her education and chose to join The Growl to gain more experience in communications and journalism. She previously worked on yearbooks and newsletters and was recently enrolled at Los Angeles Film School for graphic design.



M.J. Kersh

M.J. Kersh of Brandon is a freshman journalism major studying at the Holmes Ridgeland Campus. In his free time, Kersh enjoys playing sports, listening to and playing music, and talking with friends. In addition to being part of The Growl newspaper team, he stays active on campus. After graduating from Holmes, Kersh plans to transfer to Mississippi State University to continue his academic progression and figure out his plan for the future.

**Interested in Joining the Growl? Contact
Mary Margaret Busby at mbusby@holmescc.edu**