



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

THE GROWL

Volume 87
Number 21

March 21, 2023

Holmes mourns loss of beloved employee Willie Chambers

From Staff Reports/Photos



Willie Chambers

The Holmes Community College family was saddened to learn of the passing of Holmes Community College friend and employee Willie Chambers. Willie, also known to many as “Pig,” passed away in February, surrounded by family, after a short illness. Chambers had been a member of the college’s grounds crew on the Goodman Campus since Sept. 12, 2002.

“Willie was one of the first guys I met when I was hired on with Holmes,” said engineering instructor Will Alexander. “He would always pick with me in passing and say ‘What’s up Willie 2?!?!’ On occasion,

we would bump into each other at the Campus Mart and take turns buying each other a small order of gizzards or some summer sausage and crackers. This one time, when I knew it was outright my turn to buy, he jumped up in line and bought us both a large order and when I asked what the occasion was, he smiled and said ‘It’s a good day to be alive Willie 2!’ He will be greatly missed by us all!”

Services for him were arranged by Porter and Sons Funeral Home in Lexington and held at Frank Branch Coliseum on Holmes’ campus on Saturday, Feb. 25.

“As far as coworkers go, we got along great,” said Mac McPhail. “Pig always had this twinkle in his eye, when you saw that, you knew he was up to something. He saw me sharpening a knife one day, asked me to sharpen his and was really proud of it when I was done. I showed him how to sharpen his, but he preferred I did it. Now, I’ve got quite a few asking me to sharpen theirs, ‘Hey, do mine like Pigs.’ He was one of the good guys. It always hurts to lose such a great person. I dare say he was one of the best tractor drivers Holmes CC ever had. I know he’s in heaven.”

Hood presents lecture as Humanities Teacher of the Year

From Staff Reports/Photos



Grenada Campus Vice President **Dr. Michelle Burney**, Holmes President **Dr. Jim Haffey**, Humanities Teacher of the Year **Jake Hood** and **John Spann**, program and outreach officer for Mississippi Humanities Council, stop for a photo post presentation.

Jake Hood, a speech instructor on the Grenada and Goodman campuses, was selected as the 2022-2023 Holmes Community College Humanities Teacher of the Year. He delivered his scholarly presentation, “Reframing and Understanding Conflict,” on Feb. 22 in the Corey Forum on the Grenada Campus. A reception followed the presentation. The lecture was free and open to the public.

Hood began teaching at Holmes in 2020. This year, he implemented a Civil Discourse Wall on the Grenada Campus for students. The mission of the wall was to promote dialogue that enhances understanding among individuals with diverse viewpoints in an open and respectful environment. As a topic is added to the wall, students

have the opportunity to anonymously write their thoughts on the topic, expressing their viewpoints in a respectful manner. Hood is passionate about improvement and believes that the field of speech communication can help unlock human potential.

Prior to joining the Holmes family, Hood served as a speech communication instructor for Linn-Benton Community College in Oregon and prior to that, at Oregon State University. He holds a Master of Arts in Speech Communication and Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Speech Communication and Psychology from OSU.

Hood has a heart for giving back and

Humanities, continued on Page 3

Six students named to Phi Theta Kappa All-MS Academic Team

From Staff Reports/Photos



Mia Coy Bridges



William Cairncross



Charlotte Lamar



Garrett Viator



Dawson Carnathan



Kevion McGee

Holmes Community College students Mia Coy Bridges of Winona, William Cray Cairncross of Kosciusko, Dawson Carnathan of Grenada, Charlotte Lamar of Jackson, Kevion McGee of Grenada and Garrett Viator of New Iberia, Lou-

isiana, were all named to the 2023 Phi Theta Kappa honor society All-Mississippi Academic Team. Nominations are based on outstanding academic performance and service to the college and community. Bridges was named First Team while

everyone else was named Second Team.

Mia Coy Bridges

Bridges, daughter of Holly and Andy Bridges, is an accounting major on the

Goodman Campus. She is active on campus as a Bulldog cheerleader, accounting tutor and officer for the Kappa Alpha Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. As a fresh-

Phi Theta Kappa, continued on Page 3

WHAT'S INSIDE...

- STUDENT EDITORIALS
- NEW EMPLOYEES
- SPORTS PHOTOS/RECAPS AND MORE!



SEE PAGES 3-5
FOR PICTURES OF
HALL OF FAME
INDUCTEES 2023

HBO’s “The Last of Us” gives gamers the perfect TV adaptation for a video game

By Justin Biggers
Staff Reporter



In times past, when news of a beloved video game title getting its own TV or movie adaptation was announced, people tended to roll their eyes.

Typically, these adaptations are simply just unfaithful to the source material of its video game predecessor. Some of the adaptations are so off-the-rails that the only thing similar to the game is its name. HBO finally put an end to this ever-lasting drought of poorly received adaptations with their reimagining of Naughty Dog’s “The Last of Us.”

In June of 2013, Naughty Dog released the first installment of “The Last of Us.” Some may argue that this game single handily changed the

way that video games were made. Video games were no longer just about mashing buttons or hacking and slashing one’s way through enemies. “The Last of Us” gave gamers something refreshing: a dark, gut-wrenching and impactful story. A game about two complete strangers in a post-apocalyptic world being drawn to one another due to unfortunate circumstances grow from loathing one another to becoming a father-daughter relationship by the game’s end.

After announcing the TV adaptation, HBO brought on the creator of the game, Neil Druckmann, to ensure the show stays faithful to its source material. Not only does the show stay true to its roots, but there is also new content in the show that gives more insight into how the cordyceps fungus began spreading to rapidly bring upon the apocalypse. Even if someone played



the game first and knows the story in-and-out, there are still many twists and turns to keep those people on the edges of their seats.

So far, “The Last of Us” has been extremely well received, and has av-

eraged nearly 5 million viewers in its first two episodes. The show airs every Sunday on HBO and streams on HBO MAX. The story is still far from its climax, and fans of the game are surely along for the ride of emotions to come.

How to have a great Spring Break (even if you can’t travel)

By Kaitlyn Anderson
Staff Reporter



Spring Break is a time where everyone usually goes on vacation or spends their week having fun and taking a break. When Covid hit indur-ing 2022 Spring

Break, it changed things for everyone. States and countries began to shut

down and many people caught Covid with many dying from it. After 2020 Spring Break, things felt a little different then before and although things have kind of gone back to normal, at least as far as traveling goes, some might still like to stay at home and not go out of town. I decided to share some ideas that might help you if you are wanting to stay at home for Spring Break.

1. Have a movie marathon/binge watch your favorite TV show or movie.
2. Go on a picnic.
3. Go camping.
4. Have a girls’ night/guys’ night.
5. Go for a hike or a bike ride.
6. Go shopping.
7. Learn a new hobby.
8. Visit a family member.
9. Make memories by getting creative; do things such as taking pictures,

- scrapbooking, making a dream board.
10. Have a pizza night or a taco night; whatever type of food you like.
 11. Make time for yourself. Take yourself on a date. Have a spa day, go to the movies, go shopping or just relax at your own home. But make time for you.
- These are just a few ideas. There are so many things you could do for your spring break at home. Let’s get planning; spring is right around the corner.

Is the NFL scripted?

By Justin Biggers
Staff Reporter



What’s the difference between professional wrestling and any other contact sport? Well, the obvious answer would be that one is heavily scripted and rehearsed,

and the others are not. After former Houston Texans running back, Arian Foster, came forward blatantly calling the NFL “scripted,” fans are now beginning to speculate if there even is

a difference between them, especially after the conclusion of this year’s Super Bowl.

Fans took to Twitter after a controversial holding penalty was called on the Philadelphia Eagles’ defense during the final minutes of Super Bowl 57. This flag essentially caused the Eagles to burn their final timeouts and give the Kansas City Chiefs a field goal attempt with only seconds left on the clock. Had the flag not been thrown, there could have been numerous different outcomes to the game, including a victory for the Eagles.

I’m not so sure the NFL is scripted; in fact, I’m fairly certain that it is not. However, I think it is extremely obvious that the referees clearly have some sort of bias for a select number of teams. We’ve all seen our favorite team play magnificently for most of a game, and then out of nowhere the opposing team starts having everything go their way. Now, that is not to say that it is impossible for a team to lose all momentum and give a game away. The fact of the matter is that this kind of stuff happens way too often across all sports, not just in the NFL, but in

every other sport, whether they be professional or amateur leagues.

Now, is there any way to eliminate such bias from the sport? If there is, it surely won’t be coming any time soon. There have been talks in other leagues, such as the MLB, to implement an automated officiating system soon. Could we see something similar come to the NFL? Possibly, but it could prove too difficult for a game as complex as football. So, until then, we cannot expect the supposed “rigging” of games to stop.



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)

has volunteered at special school centers, working with people with disabilities. In his free time, he enjoys keeping up with the stock market, golfing with family and friends, participating

in fantasy football, cooking, filling his shelves with books and DVDs, visiting baseball parks across the U.S. and seeing and learning about history. He also loves going to Lake Tahoe in Cali-

fornia and Nevada in the summer and winter and visiting his brother Ben and the rest of his family in California. After presenting his lecture at Holmes, Hood was recognized by the

Mississippi Humanities Council at the 2023 Public Humanities Awards Gala in Jackson.

Phi Theta Kappa (Continued from Front Page)

man, she was a Holmes Ambassador, as well. Bridges is an active member of North Winona Baptist Church where she enjoys helping with the children’s ministries. She is also a clerk at Hammond’s Pharmacy in Winona where her duties include checking customers out and creating displays. Bridges was recently selected as a Statesman Transfer Scholarship Top 5 Finalist and was selected for the Magnolia Scholarship at Delta State University. She was also selected for the Phi Theta Kappa Catalyst Award at Delta State University. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, watching sports, shopping with her mom, taking trips and seeing new places with her family.

William Cray Cairncross

Cairncross, son of Holly Cairncross and J.D. Cairncross, is a journalism/mass communications major on the Goodman Campus. He goes by Cray and is active on campus as a member of the Baptist Student Union, Student Government Association and the Kappa Alpha Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. He is also a President’s List scholar who enjoys playing disc golf in his spare time. Off campus, Cairncross stays busy working for WFCA Radio and practicing Taekwondo, Judo.

Dawson Carnathan

Carnathan, son of Jennifer and Kevin

Carnathan, is a member of the Alpha Mu Beta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. He has also been named to the President’s List three times and was awarded the History Award during the Honors Banquet. Off campus, he is a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church and employed at Sherwin Williams. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, working out and watching movies.

Charlotte Lamar

Lamar, daughter of Miriam Lamar and Jaime Lamar, is a social work/sociology major. She serves as vice president of leadership for the Alpha Lambda Sigma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and was named an Order of the Golden Key Scholar at PTK Regions. She is also a tutor for The Writing Center and an active participant/volunteer for intramural sports. Lamar is also a Hall of Fame inductee, a Board of Trustees ACT Scholarship recipient and a President’s List scholar. Off campus, she is a preschool Sunday School teacher for CityHeart Church. In her free time, Lamar enjoys thrift shopping, completing crossword puzzles, driving and exploring the city and fellowshiping with family and friends.

Kevion McGee

McGee, son of Shelisa R. Hair, is a meteorology major on the Grenada Campus.

He is vice president of leadership for the Phi Theta Kappa Alpha Mu Beta Chapter, a Dean’s List scholar and a member of the Holmes choir. He is also a Writing Center tutor who won second place for his short story in the Creative Writing Contest. McGee has volunteered at Providence Living Center in Grenada. Upon graduation, he plans to attend Mississippi State University and complete his Bachelor of Science in professional meteorology.

Garrett Viator

Viator, son of Monica and Ernie Turner, is a pre-law/legal studies major on the Ridgeland Campus. He is active on campus as Phi Theta Kappa chapter president, student body vice president, a Growl student newspaper reporter and a Social Science Club member. Viator was instrumental in helping with the establishment and growth of the Ridgeland Campus’ new intramural sports program, which he consistently participates in. For the Growl, he covers intramural sports events as well as informational and academic topics. Additionally, he created graphic designs for Holmes’ official Instagram page in order to help promote student activities and events, such as Spring Fling. Some of Viator’s accolades include induction into Holmes’ 2023 Hall of Fame, receiving the Board of Trustees Scholarship, earning a 3.92 GPA and being named to the President’s List every semester of

college so far. Off campus, he is involved with and currently seeking membership at Grace Community Church in Jackson. He’s also a student worker at Huffman and Company, CPA P.A. In his free time, Viator enjoys reading God’s Word, working out, writing, learning new things and finding new ways to influence/better his community. “All of these achievements would be nothing without the saving grace of Christ Jesus, my Lord and Savior,” Viator said. “I am thankful to Him for using the people in my life as a means of shaping me into who I am today. I would like to thank my parents, as well as Grace Community Church, for mentoring me and raising me on the principles of God’s Word. I would also like to show gratitude to my peers, professors and advisors. I thank them for trusting me to work my hardest to make Holmes’ Ridgeland Campus a better place for all students.” Viator’s favorite verse is Ephesians 2:8-9; “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” For more information about Holmes’ Phi Theta Kappa chapters, visit https://www.holmescc.edu/student_life/clubs/ptk/index.aspx. For more information about Phi Theta Kappa, visit <https://www.ptk.org/>.

Ridgeland Campus announces Hall of Fame 2023

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 2023 Ridgeland Campus Hall of Fame inductees. They are (front row, left to right) Callie Kurth McKinney of Flowood; Hollyn Grace Oswalt of Clinton; Makyra Miller of Brandon; Darian Alexandra Blackburn of Vestavia Hills, Alabama (with Nikki Blackburn in front); (middle row, left to right) Mikala Alayne McDonald of Byram; Jaylen Grays of Jackson; Cooper Herrington of Brandon; Charlotte Lamar of Jackson; (back row, left to right) Elijah Dustin Mangum of Florence; Garrett Michael Viator of New Iberia, Louisiana; Daniel Patrick O’Dell of Madison and Derrick Lashun Taylor II of Clinton.

Each year, Holmes Community College faculty and staff members select the winners for the prestigious Hall of Fame. This year, the Hall of

Fame inductees from the Ridgeland Campus included: Darian Alexandra Blackburn of Vestavia Hills, Alabama; Jaylen Grays of Jackson; Cooper Her-

ington of Brandon; Charlotte Lamar of Jackson; Elijah Dustin Mangum of Florence; Mikala Alayne McDonald of Byram; Callie Kurth McKinney of Flowood; Makyra Miller of Brandon; Daniel Patrick O’Dell of Madison; Hollyn Grace Oswalt of Clinton; Derrick Lashun Taylor II of Clinton and Garrett Michael Viator of New Iberia, Louisiana.

Darian Alexandra Blackburn

Blackburn, daughter of Donna and David Blackburn, is a mechanical engineering major. She is also a member of the Lady Bulldogs soccer team, where she plays forward. The team’s accolades include selection by United Soccer Coaches as All American, MACCC Champions, Region XXIII Champs, Gulf South District Champs, NJCAA #1 National Seed for the first time in program history and NJCAA National Finalist. Blackburn has also been named the MACCC Offensive Player of the Week. Outside of Holmes, Blackburn serves as a youth soccer coach for Brandon Futbol Club (BFC) and is a certified soccer referee for both Mississippi and Alabama. Upon graduation, Blackburn will attend Illinois University to obtain a bachelor’s degree in physics and mechanical engineering. After that, her goal is to build prosthetics with a biomedical focus.

Jaylen Grays

Grays, son of Rose and J.Z. Grays, is a psychology major. Grays is also a President’s List scholar, vice president of public relations for Phi Theta Kappa and a Student Government Association representative who assisted in founding intramural sports on the Ridgeland Campus. Additionally, he established Student Instagram Takeover. Off campus, he is an active member of Relevant Church and a member of Thursday Night Thrive. As a freshman, Grays was employed at Shoe Station and served as a volunteer for Abraham’s Kitchen. After Holmes, he plans to transfer to Jackson State University or Mississippi State University to pursue his bachelor’s degree in psychology.

Cooper Herrington

Herrington, son of Kelly and Marc Herrington, is a criminal justice major. He is also a defender and recruiter for the Holmes Bulldog soccer team and a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Off campus, he is a REC soccer coach, a member of Crossgates Baptist College group and works at Crossgates Pool. He volunteers for Shower Power and a nursing home, as well. Upon graduation from Holmes, Herrington plans to continue his education at the University of Mississippi where he will major in homeland security.

Ridgeland HOF, continued on Page 4

Ridgeland HOF (Continued from Page 3)

Charlotte Lamar

Lamar, daughter of Miriam and Jaime Lamar, is a social work major. She is active on campus as vice president of leadership for Phi Theta Kappa and as a Writing Center tutor. As a freshman, she was a member of the Social Science Club, as well. Lamar was named to the All- Mississippi Team for Phi Theta Kappa and received the Order of the Golden Key Award at the regional conference. Additionally, she assisted in founding intramural sports on the Ridgeland Campus, assisted with the first-ever Turk-a-Thon, is a President’s List Scholar and a Board of Trustees ACT Scholarship recipient. Off campus, she serves at CityHeart Church of Jackson in the children’s ministry and is a middle school tutor in various subjects. Lamar’s plan is to earn a bachelor’s degree in social work from Jackson State University or the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. After obtaining her bachelor’s degree, she plans to pursue a master’s in counseling.

Elijah Dustin Mangum

Mangum, son of Tamara and Dusty Mangum, is a communications/journalism major. He is a reporter for The Growl newspaper staff and a Dean’s List scholar. For The Growl, he produced Holmes’ first video stories. Off campus, Mangum is an intern with Dark Horse Press and an active member of Cleary Baptist Church in Florence. At Cleary Baptist, he volunteers with media and children’s ministries. He has interviewed journalists and public figures for both his Dark Horse Press internship and for his personal YouTube channel, Mangum Studios. Upon graduation from Holmes, he plans to transfer to Mississippi College in the fall of 2023. Mangum hopes to intern and eventually work at WLBT as a reporter after graduating from Mississippi College in 2025.

“All glory of these achievements ultimately belong to God!” Mangum said. “None of these things could have

been possible without Him as well as the support from my family, church and journalism mentors.”

Mikala Alayne McDonald

McDonald, daughter of Dixie and Mike McDonald, is an elementary education major. She is also a President’s List Scholar, a member of Phi Theta Kappa and a Dean’s ACT Scholarship recipient. Outside of Holmes, she serves in the children’s ministry at The Pointe Church and is employed as a part-time dog sitter. After graduating from Holmes, McDonald plans to attend Delta State University in the fall of 2023 to obtain her bachelor’s degree in elementary education. Her goal is to become a fourth grade teacher after earning her degree.

Callie Kurth McKinney

McKinney, daughter of Julie and Mike McKinney, is a biological science major. She is a President’s List Scholar and member of the Lady Bulldogs soccer team, where she plays forward. The team’s accomplishments include selection by United Soccer Coaches as All American, MACCC Champions, Region XXIII Champs, Gulf South District Champs, NJCAA #1 National Seed for the first time in program history and NJCAA National Finalist. McKinney was selected as Offensive Player of the Week and named All Region by the United Soccer Coaches Association. Outside of Holmes, she is employed by Trace Nutrition and provides private soccer training when time allows. McKinney plans to accept an offer to play soccer at Louisiana Tech while pursuing a degree in biology. Fulfilling an interest in forensics and the FBI, she would like to entertain potential opportunities there or become a pediatric nurse.

Makyra Miller

Miller, daughter of Camille Campbell-Ervin and Eric Ervin, is a general college studies major. She is a Dean’s List scholar, member of Phi Theta

Kappa and an active Air National Guardsman (172nd Airlift Wing). Miller is a member of Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church and a volunteer dance coach at Gemstone Dance Factory, as well. Upon graduation from Holmes, Miller plans to attend Mississippi University for Women, earn her baccalaureate degree in nursing and then pursue a master’s degree to become a neonatal nurse practitioner.

Daniel Patrick O’Dell

O’Dell, son of Laurie O’Dell and William O’Dell, is a general college studies major. He is a Dean’s List scholar and a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Off campus, he is an assistant Scout Master for Troop 164, which meets at Parkway Hills United Methodist Church. He’s also a media team volunteer for Broadmoor Baptist Church. After Holmes, O’Dell plans to transfer to a university, possibly Belhaven or Millsaps, and earn his bachelor’s degree.

Hollyn Grace Oswalt

Oswalt, daughter of Christi and Edward Oswalt, is a pre-nursing major. She is active on campus as a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the women’s soccer team, where she plays defense. The team’s accolades include selection by United Soccer Coaches as All American, MACCC Champions, Region XXIII Champs, Gulf South District Champs, NJCAA #1 National Seed for the first time in program history and NJCAA National Finalist. Off campus, Oswalt is employed with College Corner PrintShop and Brandon Soccer Tots. She has also volunteered with a local food bank in Jackson. Her plans after Holmes are to attend nursing school and become a labor and delivery nurse.

Derrick Lashun Taylor II

Taylor, son of Shavon Hampton and Derrick Taylor, is a pre-nursing major. He is an active member of The Bridge Church, where he is part of the lead-

ership initiative staff, a member of the youth and adult choir and an employee working with audio/video and social media management. He is also employed with Walmart as an online grocery worker. As a freshman, he was a back of house team member with Chick-fil-A. Upon finishing his degree at Holmes, Taylor plans to attend Mississippi College where he will major in Christian studies.

“I received my calling to ministry full-time as of last semester which encouraged my plan of employment,” Taylor said. “I also plan to allow God to guide me to whatever else He sees as my purpose and obtain Kingdom Wealth. I give all glory, honor and praise to God first! I want to honor my parents for the person I am today. I also want to honor The Bridge Church, Bridge Builders and Bridge Kidz for the Word and life lessons they have taught me to make me the man of God that I am.”

Garrett Michael Viator

Viator, son of Monica and Ernie Turner, is a pre-law/legal studies major. He is active on campus as president of Phi Theta Kappa, vice president of Student Government Association, a reporter for The Growl student newspaper and a member of Social Science Club. Viator is also a President’s List scholar, a Board of Trustees Scholarship recipient and was named to the Phi Theta Kappa All Mississippi Academic Team. On campus, he assisted with the establishment of Ridgeland’s first intramural sports program, and he established awareness to new student activities and organizations. He also conducted academic research and data collection for Phi Theta Kappa. Off campus, Viator is employed as a student-worker at Huffman & Company, CPA, P.A., and is actively involved (and currently seeking membership) at Grace Community Church in Jackson.

Grenada Campus announces Hall of Fame 2023

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 2023 Grenada Campus Hall of Fame inductees. They are (left to right) Kevion McGee, Olivia Pharr, Karlee Luke and Eli Black.

Each year, Holmes Community College faculty and staff members select the winners for the prestigious Hall of Fame. This year, the Hall of Fame inductees from the Grenada Campus included: Eli Black of Grenada, Karlee Luke of Eupora, Kevion McGee of Grenada and Olivia Pharr of Charleston.

Eli Black

Black, a psychology major, is a Dean’s List scholar and Bain and Corey Scholarship recipient. On campus, he is active as an Ambassador and member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Black has volunteered on campus with the Grenada Food Pantry. After graduation from Holmes, he plans to attend Mississippi College to earn

a bachelor’s degree before pursuing his master’s and doctorate at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Karlee Luke

Luke, a nursing major, is president of Phi Theta Kappa and was named a Golden Key scholar at regionals. She is also an Ambassador, Student Government Association member and Baptist Student Union member. Some of Luke’s honors include making it on the President’s List, receiving the Fine Arts Award, being voted a Sophomore Homecoming Maid and receiving the ACT Scholarship.

She has volunteered at the annual Hope Outdoors Banquet the past three years, and she helps organize and fill the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes each year at her church. After graduating from Holmes in May, Luke plans to return in the fall of 2023 to begin the Associate Degree Nursing program.

Kevion McGee

McGee, a meteorology major, is vice

president of leadership for Phi Theta Kappa, a Dean’s List scholar and a member of the Holmes choir. He is also a Writing Center tutor who won second place for his short story in the Creative Writing Contest. McGee has volunteered at Providence Living Center in Grenada. Upon graduation, he plans to attend Mississippi State University and complete his Bachelor of Science in professional meteorology.

Olivia Pharr

Pharr, a secondary English education major, is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the Holmes Choir. She is also a Writing Center tutor, President’s List scholar and winner of the Poetry Award for the Creative Writing Contest. Pharr enjoys volunteering at her church, as well, where she has taught the youth at certain functions. She has also taught art and music, and she has helped organize a book drive for a schoolteacher’s classroom library. Upon graduation from Holmes, she plans to transfer to the University of Mississippi to complete her degree in education.

Allie Williamson named Most Beautiful 2023

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the Top Five for Holmes Parade of Beauties 2023. They are (left to right) **Mackenzie Hancock** of Yazoo City, **Harley Henley** of Grenada, **Most Beautiful Allie Williamson** of Grenada, **Olivia Howell** of Lexington and **Abigail Edge** of Vaughan. Hancock also won Most Photogenic.

Allie Williamson of Grenada was crowned Holmes Community College's Most Beautiful during the 2023 Parade of Beauties pageant held

March 7 in McDaniel Auditorium on the Goodman Campus. She was crowned by 2022 Most Beautiful Lindsey Turner of Sallis.

The daughter of Audrey and Bart Williamson, she is a graduate of Grenada High School. On the Holmes Grenada Campus, Williamson is vice president of her Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) class, a member of Phi Theta Kappa and was voted as Student Body Homecoming Maid. In her free time, she enjoys working out, shopping and tanning. Williamson attends church at Zion Grove where she is active in leading the youth group and helping in every way possible. After graduating nursing school, she plans to keep an open mind and experience the broad field of nursing before choosing a specific path.

In addition to Williamson, the Top Five for Parade of Beauties included Abigail Edge of Vaughan, Mackenzie Hancock of Yazoo City, Harley Henley of Grenada and Olivia Howell of Lexington. The Top 10 included William-

son, Edge, Hancock, Henley, Howell, Maddie Davis of French Camp, Bralyn McGee of Kosciusko, Kathryn Clare Schuler of Kosciusko, Tessa Mullins of Stewart and Charli White of Madison. Hancock was named Most Photogenic, as well.

The pageant included interviews with judges earlier in the day and the evening gown competition. Tina Boyette, administrative assistant to the Goodman Campus vice president, directed the pageant with student activity directors Haley DeNoon and Amanda Lindsey serving as assistant directors. Goodman Campus Recruiter Nikki Boutwell served as Mistress of Ceremonies. Chase Langford of McCool and Noah Steen of Kosciusko escorted the contestants, and members of the Holmes Connection!, under the direction of Mike Yates, provided entertainment at intermission.

Holmes SkillsUSA brings home the gold from state championship

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (front row, left to right) **Chef Alexei Harrison** (instructor), **Sarah Hammons**, **Leah Rainey**, **Jacob Sledge**, **Heather Mooney** (instructor), **Peter Hindman** (instructor), (back row, left to right) **Ethan Oxley**, **Kennedy Lacey**, **Derrick Rainey** (instructor), **Will Alexander** (instructor), **Jacob Lott** and **Arzelle Spikes**.

The SkillsUSA chapters from Holmes Community College's Goodman and Ridgeland campuses successfully competed in the 2023 SkillsUSA State Leadership and Skills Conference held March 2-8. The winners were recognized during a ceremony on March 9 at the Hilton Jackson. Overall, Holmes took home seven awards; six gold medals and one bronze. Every participant placed.

In the Culinary Arts Division, Ridgeland SkillsUSA students Sarah Hammons of Clinton, Kennedy Lacey of Canton and Ethan Oxley of Brandon took home gold medals in their respective categories. Hammons placed first in Baking & Pastry Arts, Lacy took home first in Restaurant Service and Oxley took home the gold for Culinary Arts.

Other Ridgeland students brought

home medals, as well. Leah Rainey of Madison placed first in Prepared Speech; Jacob Lott of Canton won the gold for Job Skills Demonstration A and Arzelle Spikes of Pearl won first in the category of Heating, Ventilation, and Air Condition (HVAC).

On the Goodman Campus, Jacob Sledge of Pickens won a bronze medal for Welding.

The first place winners are invited to take part in the Annual National Leadership and Skills Conference held June 19-23 in Atlanta, Georgia.

For more information about SkillsUSA on the Ridgeland Campus, contact Heather Mooney at hmooney@holmescc.edu. For information about the Goodman chapter, contact Will Alexander at walexander@holmescc.edu.

All three campuses shine at Phi Theta Kappa regionals

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) **Samuel Grainger**, **Kevion McGee**, **Chase Langford**, **Karlee Luke**, **Charlotte Lamar**, **Jaylen Grays** and **Garrett Viator** holding awards won at Phi Theta Kappa regionals.

The Phi Theta Kappa chapters on all three campuses of Holmes Community College attended the Mississippi/Louisiana Regional Conference and Awards Gala held at Mississippi State University in Starkville March 2-4. All three chapters had success at the conference.

The Alpha Mu Beta Chapter from the Holmes Grenada Campus was named #7 in the region for Most Distinguished Chapter. They also came in seventh place for the College Project Award and ninth place for the Honors in Action Project. Additionally, Karlee Luke of Eupora received the Order of the Golden Key Award, and Grenada Campus Recruiter/Student Activities Coordinator Haley DeNoon received a Horizon Advisor Award.

The Kappa Alpha Chapter from the Goodman Campus came in seventh place for the Honors in Action Project and 10th place for the College Project Award. They also received recognition for the Honors in Action Distinguished

Theme, Theme 7. Chase Langford of McCool won the Golden Key Award and Goodman Campus Academic Counselor Simonee Miller won the Horizon Advisor Award, as well.

The Lambda Sigma Chapter from the Ridgeland Campus was named #10 in the region for Most Distinguished Chapter. They also placed ninth in the College Project Award category and received recognition for the Honors in Action Distinguished Theme, Theme 2. In addition, Charlotte Lamar of Jackson won the Order of the Golden Key Award, mathematics instructor Stephanie Blue received a Horizon Advisor Award and Director of Marketing Dr. Bronwyn Martin was named an Outstanding Administrator by Phi Theta Kappa.

For more information about Holmes' Phi Theta Kappa chapters, visit https://www.holmescc.edu/student_life/clubs/ptk/index.aspx.

Holmes Ridgeland Campus celebrates Valentine's Day

By Elijah Mangum
Staff Reporter



Love is in the air at the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus. The Student Government Association provided candy, props and a spot for photo ops in the lobby of Ridgeland Hall on Tuesday,

Feb. 14.

"What better way to celebrate Valentine's than to celebrate it with the Holmes CC family," said Olasike Olagbegi, SGA president. "Even though this is not a big

event, we did want to decorate and have our treats to show our students that we are thinking about them and we love them. Because it is Valentine's Day, we want everyone to have a sweet Valentine's."

The setup made students like Aisha Sall feel loved. Sall had just received a Valentine's gift from her best friend before having fun with a photo shoot.

"It is a wonderful thing to be appreciated," Sall said. "It is like showing your love and affection toward family and friends."

The SGA wasn't the only one giving out Valentine happies. The eLearning office gave out everything from pens to phone

loops. Students could receive these items on all campuses. In Goodman, they were located on McDaniel Hall room 11. In Ridgeland, they were located in Ridgeland Hall room 212B. In Grenada, they were located in the Phillips Hall Office Suite.

"We just wanted to wish everyone a Happy Valentine's Day on behalf of eLearning," said eLearning Systems Administrator Sharon Farris. "Today, we wanted give out happies to all our students to let them know that we wish them a Happy Valentine's Day and where all our offices are on all three campuses."



Ridgeland Campus students take advantage of the Valentine's Day photo backdrop in Ridgeland Hall.

Holmes Grenada SGA hosts Bake-Off

From Staff Reports

Photos submitted by Baker Avant & Ashlyn Gillespie

The Holmes Grenada Campus Student Government Association sponsored the first ever Great Holmes Bake-off on Thursday, Feb. 16. The winner of Best Presentation went to Phillip Crawford for his chocolate cake and the winner of Best Tasting went to Ashlyn Gillespie for her cookie dough cupcakes.

(right) Ashlyn Gillespie poses next to her Best Tasting cookie dough cupcakes.



(right) Phillip Crawford won Best Presentation for his chocolate cake (pictured above).



Jessica Brown awarded the Gregory Cowan Memorial Award for Excellence in the Teaching of English

From Staff Reports/Photos



Jessica Wahl Brown

Jessica W. Brown, Holmes Community College English instructor, was awarded the Gregory Cowan Memorial Award for Excellence in the Teaching of English at the annual Two Year College Association of Southeastern Region (TYCA-SE) Conference in February held in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where she delivered her speech, "No Teacher Is An Island (Though Some May Wish Us to Remain There)." TYCA-SE is affiliated with the National Council Teachers of English (NCTE) and TYCA National, and Jessica has been a member for the past 10 years. In the 42 year history of the Cowan Award, Brown is the 10th Mississippiian and the first from Holmes to receive the award.

The Gregory Cowan Memorial Award for Excellence in the Teaching of English is the highest award given to an English instructor based on a nomination of peers and a thorough evaluation of course assignments, syllabi, and course design led by TYCA-SE board members.

Brown published the article, "Speaking Deliberately: The Conversational

Project" in the TYCA-SE Journal Vol. 50. no. 1 (Spring 2017): 24-28 and has presented at numerous professional conferences with topics such as: "Writing a 19th Century Nun as a Damsel in Distress" (SCMLA, Houston, TX); "Y'all Can Do It, Too: The Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association Builds on Mississippi's Writing Tradition" (co-presented with Chad Moorer, TYCA-SE, Memphis, Tennessee); "Speaking Deliberately: The Conversational Project (TYCA-SE, Knoxville, TN); and led a few roundtables centered on topics of composition, developmental English and Reading, and literature.

For the past 17 years as an instructor at Holmes and as co-division chair (2016-2022), Brown has dedicated her career to student success. During her time at Holmes, she has held several positions within her department from an academic advisor for English education majors and dual enrolled students to Writing Center founder and director (2014-2016) as well as an online course designer for literature courses, composition courses and Beginning English and Reading. She has and continues to serve as an online instructor for American literature and World Literature as well as a face to face instructor on the Goodman Campus for Beginning English and Reading, English Composition I and II and American Literature.

Brown's teaching style is scholarly yet learner centered. She teaches students different types of writing from narrative to argumentative all while building a student's empathy and critical thinking skills.

"I want students to think as the expert and envision the possibilities so I approach learning in ways to engage with the students by varying the expe-

rience in the classroom," Brown said.

In addition to teaching, Brown is currently working on her Doctor of Arts in English Pedagogy through Murray State University. She plans to graduate in the spring of 2025 but already uses the research, writing, assessment building and teaching techniques she has acquired through the program within her own classroom.

Brown grew up in Vicksburg but now resides in Canton with her husband Jeffrey, and their three boys, Jude (11); Malcolm (8) and Frankie (6). She is an active parishioner at Sacred Heart Catholic Church serving as a Mass Lector and Sunday School Teacher. She loves to read, travel, relearn piano and watch her boys explore their own personal interests and endeavors.

Brown is involved in several professional organizations such as the South Central Modern Language Association (SCMLA), Two Year College Association of Mississippi, the state organization of NCTE (TYCAM) which she co-chaired with Chad Moorer from 2019-2022, Two Year College Association of Southeastern Region, the regional organization of NCTE (TYCA-SE) and Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association (MCCCWA).

Other professional accolades for Brown include The Sally M. Wilson Distinguished Educator Award, Ovid S. Vickers Excellence in Teaching Award, Mississippi Humanities Teacher of the Year Award for Holmes and an invitation to present research on Cordell Jackson rockabilly artist at the University of Mississippi Gender Studies conference.

Following Brown's speech in Chattanooga, members of the TYCA-SE board invited her to send in a copy of the speech for publication in next fall's

professional journal. The TYCAM board also scheduled her as the keynote speaker for their upcoming conference in September. ing and teaching techniques she has acquired through the program within her own classroom.

Brown grew up in Vicksburg but now resides in Canton with her husband Jeffrey, and their three boys, Jude (11); Malcolm (8) and Frankie (6). She is an active parishioner at Sacred Heart Catholic Church serving as a Mass Lector and Sunday School Teacher. She loves to read, travel, relearn piano and watch her boys explore their own personal interests and endeavors.

Brown is involved in several professional organizations such as the South Central Modern Language Association (SCMLA), Two Year College Association of Mississippi, the state organization of NCTE (TYCAM) which she co-chaired with Chad Moorer from 2019-2022, Two Year College Association of Southeastern Region, the regional organization of NCTE (TYCA-SE) and Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association (MCCCWA).

Other professional accolades for Brown include The Sally M. Wilson Distinguished Educator Award, Ovid S. Vickers Excellence in Teaching Award, Mississippi Humanities Teacher of the Year Award for Holmes and an invitation to present research on Cordell Jackson rockabilly artist at the University of Mississippi Gender Studies conference.

Following Brown's speech in Chattanooga, members of the TYCA-SE board invited her to send in a copy of the speech for publication in next fall's professional journal. The TYCAM board also scheduled her as the keynote speaker for their upcoming conference in September.

Dr. Bronwyn Martin selected as Phi Theta Kappa Distinguished College Administrator

From Staff Reports/Photos



Dr. Bronwyn Martin

Holmes Community College's Director of Marketing and Recruiting Dr. Bronwyn Martin was selected as a Phi Theta Kappa Distinguished College Administrator. This award recognizes

college leaders for their outstanding support of student success. She will be recognized at Phi Theta Kappa's Annual Catalyst Convention, held April 20-22 in Columbus Ohio.

"News of this honor has left me speechless," Dr. Martin said. "I feel so unworthy, but my heart is filled with joy knowing I have been recognized in such an unbelievable manner. Working with our future Mississippi leaders is invigorating, and their passion ignites my positive energy."

Dr. Martin holds a Doctor of Education in Professional Studies from Delta State University (2022), as well as a master's and bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi. She was part of the Leadership Madison County Class of 2023, and the capstone project was about aiding in financial literacy for underrepresented Mississippi citizens. She was also part of the Community College Policy Fellows Program (CPFP) 2021-22 cohort, which

is a one-year leadership development program focusing on public policy and advocacy for Mississippi community colleges. Her capstone project was advocating for broadband internet in rural Mississippi. Additionally, she graduated from Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy (MCCLA) in 2016.

Prior to moving into her current position at Holmes in 2014, Dr. Martin served as workforce development coordinator from April 2007-June 2014. Prior to her position as workforce coordinator, she was an ABE/GED instructor from July 2006-March 2007.

Dr. Martin is a member of the Madison County Chamber of Commerce, Mississippi Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions (MACRAO), Mississippi Hunter Jumper Association (MHJA) and Southern Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (SACRAO). She is a former member of Junior League of Jackson

(she co-chaired the grand opening of the Mississippi Children's Museum), the American Advertising Federation, the American Society of Training and Development (she served as vice president of professional development), the Capital Area Human Resource Association and the Professional Women's Association.

Dr. Martin and her husband, Brandon, have two children; Presley, 15, and Hudson, 11. They are members of Madison United Methodist Church. In her free time, she enjoys working out at OrangeTheory and gardening. It is a goal of hers to be a Mississippi Master Gardener one day.

"I am thankful from the bottom of my heart for this honor and I am forever grateful to be named a Phi Theta Kappa Distinguished College Administrator," Dr. Martin said.

Deveesha Magee joins Holmes Ridgeland as new police chief

From Staff Reports/Photos



Chief Daveesha Magee

Deveesha Magee recently joined the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus as the new police chief.

Chief Magee began her career in law enforcement in 2001 with the Jackson State University Department of Public Safety. While employed at JSU, she served at the rank of sergeant, lieutenant, captain and assistant chief. In 2015, Chief Magee joined the University of Mississippi Medical Center Campus Police Department where she served as assistant chief of police until 2019. She has also worked for the City of Byram and City of Terry police departments.

Chief Magee graduated from Provine High School in Jackson prior to attend-

ing Jackson State University. Upon earning a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from JSU, she continued her education at Northcentral University. In August of 2022, Chief Magee completed her master's in organizational leadership with a specialization in project management from Northcentral.

She is a member of Holy Temple Baptist Church located in Jackson, under the leadership of Dr. Audrey L. Hall.

"I serve in many capacities at my church," Chief Magee said. "However, I most enjoy being the adult Sunday school teacher."

In her free time, she enjoys watching

sports; especially the Atlanta Braves and Dallas Cowboys. She likes to watch TV, listen to music, play videos games and partake in outdoor activities. Chief Magee also enjoys the holidays, spending time with her family traveling and exploring new places. Her family is originally from Tylertown and she is the oldest of three children. Chief Magee is a fur mom to an adorable Yorkie Poo named Bam Bam, as well.

"I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve as chief of police," Chief Magee said. "I look forward to working with this awesome community here at Holmes CC!"

Ridgeland ADN uses grant to benefit Canopy Children Solution's Cares Center

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Victoria Bailey, Jessica Orozco, John Bullock, Sarah Brown, Toni Freeman Plotkin and ADN instructor Jennifer Bertucci, PhD, RN.

The Holmes Community College Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program was recently awarded the "Fighting for Kids Social Emotion

Health Post Covid-19" grant in the fall of 2022. ADN instructor Jennifer Bertucci, PhD, submitted the grant application in benevolent efforts toward the

residents of Canopy Children Solution's Cares Center (CARES).

Through a partnership with Skyhawks Sports Academy, the funding from the grant will provide physical fitness, emotional support and coping skills to increase the holistic well-being of the recipients. Skyhawks Sports Academy is the nation's leading provider of youth sports with a mission to teach life skills including teamwork, respect, sportsmanship and a healthy lifestyle.

Canopy CARES provides behavioral health, education and social services to children with serious emotional and behavioral challenges caused by traumatic experiences. Canopy CARES' mission is to help children and families overcome extraordinary challenges by providing a continuum of behavioral health, educational and social services. The organization offers multiple therapeutic interventions to help children overcome challenges so that they may thrive and return to their homes, com-

munities and school.

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused a decline in mental health conditions. "As the United States approaches two full years of the COVID-19 pandemic, mental illness and the demand for psychological services are at all-time highs—especially among children," said Ashley Ambramson in her article "Children's mental health is in crisis."

The grant program aims to combat the resulting psychological effects of the pandemic among our community's children.

Holmes ADN student volunteers and Skyhawks Sports will implement three 45-minute sessions a week over a period of 20 weeks. The partnership will support the community's Canopy CARES in addition to providing ADN students the opportunity to learn about psychosocial, behavioral treatments options for children and adolescents.

For more information about Canopy CARES, visit <https://mycanopy.org/>.

New Goodman Campus ADN class began in January

From Staff Reports/Photos



For several years, the U.S. has been battling a nursing shortage. To help combat this, Holmes Community College saw the need and agreed to start a new Associate Degree Nursing program on the Goodman Campus starting the first class in January.

“All across the United States, hospitals, facilities, clinics, etc. are suffering from a shortage of nurses,” Director of Health Science Programs Ginger Meriwether said. “Whether it be due to Covid or just aging out of the field, the nursing shortage has made national headlines. We decided to add a cohort in Goodman because it will allow opportunities for students in a rural area that may not have the capabilities

to drive long distances to complete a healthcare program. We also were excited to offer the program to those who needed housing on the Goodman Campus.”

The 30-member first class has many facets. “We have a full gamut of students from traditional to non-traditional,” Meriwether said. “Several are commuting students and several are dorm residents. We are excited that they have chosen Holmes to broaden their knowledge, and we look forward to growing our Associate Degree Nursing Program in this area. The opportunities for many were broadened by offering the program on our home campus.”

Goodman ADN instructors are Kaitlyn Chunn and Anna Brittain. Chunn transitions to ADN from the Healthcare Assistant Program in Goodman and has experience in surgical and medical-surgical nursing. Brittain has done clinical adjunct for Holmes’ Practical Nursing and our Associate Degree Nursing Programs for several semesters.

“Kaitlyn brings a youthfulness and vigor to the program that welcomes students to the field of nursing,” Meriwether said. “Anna is a seasoned ER nurse, and she brings great experiences and expertise to the classroom. We are pleased to have the both of them and look forward to what all they will accomplish with this newly established cohort.”

The ADN program utilizes classrooms in the newly-remodeled Phillips Building on the Goodman Campus and in the Thorne Vocational-Technical Building.

“We cannot thank those in maintenance, housekeeping, CTE, Dr. (Jim) Haffey, Dr. (Amy) Whittington enough for the many efforts they have put into the opening of our new classrooms,” Meriwether said. “I am thankful for Dr. Alice Austin and Patty Jones who have also worked diligently to get the Goodman program up and running.”

“We have ordered and are still in the process of ordering state of the art equipment that will make the laboratory facility on the Goodman Campus competitive with any nursing laboratory across our region,” she said. “We are indebted to each person who has had a hand in everything from remodeling, to moving furniture and to

ordering and securing equipment.”

She said she is grateful to the nursing faculty at Grenada and Ridgeland who reached out to new instructors making sure they have everything they need in the new program.

The application cycle will occur annually from Aug. 1-Sept. 15. The Goodman cohort begins in January each year, and the first cohort is set for graduation in Dec. 2024.

“They have 4 semesters of curriculum and they are offered an externship opportunity that occurs in the summer before graduation,” Meriwether said. “Local hospitals, working through the Mississippi Hospital Association, provide learning opportunities for students to obtain great experience in the field of nursing, and they get paid for this opportunity as well. They work hand in hand with a registered nurse, and they gain wonderful experiences.”

“I sincerely thank Holmes Community College for the opportunity to grow our programs,” she said. “I feel that Health Science Programs are in high demand across the region, the state, and the U.S. as a whole. I am thankful to work at such a place that encourages growth. It is very exciting to see the numbers improve and to be able to see programs collaborating with each other to reach the goals of a fast moving industry.”

Holmes also offers ADN classes at the Grenada and Ridgeland Campuses. For more information on ADN at Holmes Community College, go to <https://holmescc.edu/career-technical/associate-of-applied-science/> or call 1-800-Holmes-4.

Brittain named Goodman Campus ADN instructor

From Staff Reports/Photos



Anna Brittain

Anna Brittain of Duck Hill has joined the Associate Degree Nursing staff as an ADN instructor on the Goodman Campus.

Brittain attended Holmes Community College before receiving her bachelor’s degree in nursing from Baptist College of Health Sciences in Memphis and a master’s degree in nursing from the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

She still serves as an emergency room nurse at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Grenada and at Baptist Hospital in Calhoun City. She has spent the majority of her career

working in the emergency room at Baptist-Desoto as a staff nurse before being named a clinical resource/charge nurse. She has been an adjunct teach for ADN in Grenada since 2021.

She is a member of Duck Hill Baptist Church and is a part of the women’s AGAPE group there.

Her hobbies are traveling, spending time on the family farm, attending church functions and reading. They have two cats (Salvatore and Frick) and three dogs (Oxford, Molly and Jack).

Brittain and her husband, Dwight, have one daughter, Addison. Her

parents are Chris and Sheila Lea. Her siblings include: Adam and Amanda Lea with children, Ada, Faith, Nate and Hope; James and Ansley Lea; Chenoa and Rodney Hoyt; and Jennifer and Josh Montgomery with children, Jaelynn and Paxton.

“Holmes truly is a great place to work, and I am so blessed to call this my work home,” Brittain said. “I am blessed to have an amazing husband and family who have supported me through school and helped to get me where I am in my career. My time in the ER has shaped me into the nurse and now educator that I am today.”

Chunn named Goodman Campus ADN Instructor

From Staff Reports/Photos



Kaitlyn Chunn

Kaitlyn Chunn of Kosciusko has joined the Associate Degree Nursing staff as an ADN instructor on the Goodman Campus.

The Kosciusko High School graduate holds an associate’s degree from Holmes Community College and both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in nursing from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson.

Chunn has been a registered nurse since 2017. She came to Holmes in Fall 2022 as a health care assistant instructor. Prior to Holmes, she worked for Mississippi HomeCare in Kosciusko and at Baptist Memorial Hospital.

She is a member of the Junior Auxiliary of Kosciusko and serves as Placement Chair, active member of First Baptist Church in Kosciusko and

serves on the Children’s Committee. She also volunteers at Kosciusko’s Natchez Trace Visitor’s Center.

Her hobbies include playing tennis, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

Chunn and her husband, Wesley, have two daughters, Harper and Lucy.

Holmes ADN student Diamond Boyd receives nursing award

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Virginia Applewhite, Alicia Turner, Diamond Boyd, Dr. Alice Austin and Dr. Tiffany Cox at the Eliza Pillar's Registered Nurses of Mississippi Scholarship Gala.

The Eliza Pillar's Registered Nurses of Mississippi held the Annual Schol-

arship Gala on Dec. 9 at Fondren Hall in Jackson. The celebratory night

included honors, laughter, food and fun in recognition of scholarship and nursing excellence. The most important aspect of the gala included the awarding of the scholarships to minority students currently enrolled in a nursing program in the Metro Jackson area.

Holmes Community College's Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) student Diamond Boyd received the Ruby Florence Book Award book award for outstanding contributions and future aspirations in nursing. ADN instructors Dr. Alice Austin, Dr. Tiffany Cox, Alicia Turner and Virginia Applewhite attended the event to support Boyd.

"I congratulate Diamond on receiving this book award from Eliza Pillar's Registered Nurses of Mississippi," Dr. Austin said. "Diamond is a fourth semester nursing student expected to graduate in May. She exhibits caring and compassion for the patients she

cares for. I expect great things in nursing from Diamond as she continues her education. Congratulations!"

Dr. Cox also expressed her excitement for Boyd receiving the Ruby Florence Award.

"Diamond is an intelligent, humble and very respectful student," Dr. Cox said. "She cares about the welfare of others including her fellow students and the clients served in practice. Diamond is excited about where her career will take her and the opportunities that the study of nursing will yield. I congratulate Diamond on receiving this award and look forward to seeing where the path of nursing will lead."

For more information about the ADN program at Holmes, contact Dr. Austin at (601) 605-3419 or aaustin@holmescc.edu.

Dees named Grenada Campus Practical Nursing Instructor

From Staff Reports/Photos



Lauren Dees

Lauren Dees of Grenada has joined the Practical Nursing staff on the Grenada Campus.

The Grenada High School graduate has an ADN degree from Holmes Community College and has a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Dees has been a registered nurse for 11 years and currently still works at UMMC-Grenada as an ICU nurse. At UMMC-Grenada, she also worked on PCU and transitioned to ICU charge nurse and also worked in the Emergency Department, Medical Surgical Unit and in Infection Control. While

at UMMC-Grenada, she also worked part-time for Greenwood Leflore Hospital and Baptist Hospital in Calhoun City. She also has done travel nursing assignments and served as a hospice nurse with Sta Home health and Hospice.

She is a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church and also helps with the children's nursery.

Her hobbies include reading, baking, cake decorating and spending time with her family with most weekends being spent attending her daughter's activities and her son's travel ball games.

Dees and her husband, Cull, a lieu-

tenant with the Grenada Fire Department, have been married for almost 11 years and have two children, Emily, 15, and Lane, 10. The Dees met and began dating while attending the Grenada Campus.

"I am so thrilled to be a part of the Holmes family," Dees said. "I can say without a doubt I finally feel like I am exactly where I belong! I know the Lord led me to this career for this exact job. I have always loved nursing and now I get to share that love and help grow future generations of compassionate nurses."

Two Attala students complete CDL program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Matthew Hawthorne of Brandon and Colton Crosby of Kosciusko with (center) instructor Rodney Mainelli. Hawthorne and Crosby both passed and obtained their CDL Class A licenses on Feb. 17. They began the program on Jan. 9 at the Holmes Attala Center. For more information on the CDL program, contact Kim Fowler: kfowler@holmescc.edu.

with Friends of Children's Hospital

BE BRAVE FOR KIDS!

APRIL 29, 2023

HERTZ JACKSON ONE – REGIONS PLAZA

11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

friendsofch.org

22

STORIES UP,

1 WAY DOWN!

Welch named Grenada Campus Practical Nursing Instructor

From Staff Reports/Photos



Casey Welch

Casey Welch of Grenada has joined the Practical Nursing staff on the Grenada Campus. The Grenada High School graduate holds an associate’s degree from Holmes Community College in surgical technology and has an ADN degree from Mississippi Delta Community College. Prior to Holmes, Welch worked six years at the University of Mississippi Medical Center Wound Care Center and seven years at Sta-Home Health and Hospice. She is an active member of Emmanuel Baptist Church, where she serves as a member of the Praise Team and Adult Choir, serves as the 9th/10th grade Sunday School teacher and she

helps with the children’s choir and 1st grade Girls-Missions on Wednesday nights. She is a member of the Junior Auxiliary of Grenada, where she serves as chair of the Christmas float and will serve as Chair of auction at the 2023 Annual Charity Ball. She is a member of the Kirk Academy Booster Club and Parent Teacher Association, where she serves as Secretary on the PTA Board. Her hobbies include reading, singing, and being a full-time Mama. She spends the majority of her time attending her son’s travel baseball games and her daughter’s dance competitions. Welch and her husband, Sonny, have been married for 19 years and have two children, Logan (11) and Anna

Katherine (7). She has two dogs, Darla, a black lab and Hazel, a sheep-a-doodle. “I knew at a young age that I wanted to be a nurse, and I have always loved the profession and the work I have done up until this point but having the opportunity to become a Nurse Educator has opened my eyes to a whole new world of nursing,” Welch said. “I feel I have truly found my calling in life. My goal is to impact the lives of as many future nurses as I can by teaching them and instilling in them the value of caring for others and how important it is to love the work you do and take pride in it. I am so excited and truly honored to have joined the Holmes Community College team.”

Jones and Mack earn graduate degrees from Delta State; Jones also receives fellowship

From Staff Reports/Photos



Tammy Mack and David Jones show off their diplomas.

Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus employees David Jones and Tammie Mack both graduated from Delta State University with graduate degrees in December 2022. Mack, a library technical assistant, completed

her Master of Business Administration. Jones, a psychology instructor, earned a Master of Arts in liberal studies (with a concentration in sociology). Additionally, Jones received the John S. and Jutta Karnstedt Ferretti Fellow-

ship. This fellowship is designated for an outstanding student in the Master of Arts in liberal studies program and was made possible by Mrs. Ferretti in honor of her late husband John. Tammie Mack is a proud 2020 alumna of Holmes, where she obtained her Associate of Applied Science degree in business management and administrative office technology. She also holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Jackson State University (1993). She joined the Holmes family as a library technical assistant on the in September 2021. “I’m proud to have joined the Holmes family,” Mack said. “I’m always happy to assist all the students, faculty and staff at the college.” Mack and her husband, Joe, have been married 28 years and have three children: Joe Jr., Janae and Samuel. David Jones holds a Master of Counseling Psychology and a Bachelor of Science in technology from University of West Alabama and an associate of

applied science degree in funeral service education from East Mississippi Community College. He started at Holmes in August of 2013 as an instructor in the funeral service program. When the program closed in May 2020, he moved into the Social/Behavioral Science Division. Prior to coming to Holmes, Jones served as the general manager of Lathan Funeral Home in Jackson, Alabama; prior to that, he was the assistant general manager of Pine Crest Funeral Homes in Mobile, Alabama. He currently works as a part-time funeral director/embalmer with Chancellor Funeral Homes in Byram and Florence. Jones is a member of the American Psychological Association, the American Sociological Association and the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practitioners. He is also a member of Christway Church in Flowood. Jones and his wife, Cynthia, have three four-legged children; Rosy, Macy and Bandit.

Holmes introduces new mobile welding training facility

From Staff Reports/Photos

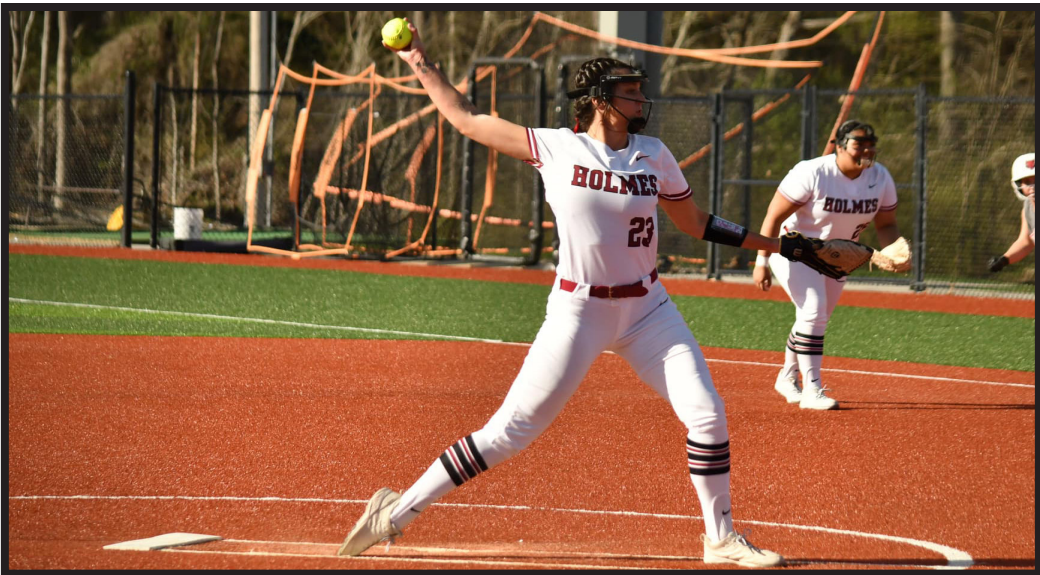


Holmes Community College recently purchased a 52-foot eighteen wheeler trailer equipped with eight state-of-the-art welding station booths that will function as a stand-alone training center. It will allow an advanced selection of training as the trailer also includes a plasma cutter, rod oven, angle grinder and bench grinder plus the oxyfuel cutting and welding outfit. The mobile training facility is powered by a 90 KW generator. Holmes is excited about the possibility of bringing the Welding & Cutting Technology program to surrounding industries and middle college sites in their district which include Holmes, Attala, Madison, Yazoo, Carroll, Montgomery, Grenada, Webster and Choctaw counties. “Not only is it state of the art, but we

now have the opportunity to bring one of our most popular programs to potential students,” said Dr. Luke Jones, Career Tech Dean of Career-Technical Education. Holmes now has the ability to offer on-site training at any industry or middle college location in their district which is a game changer for students. Schools that are approved as a middle college site can offer this program to their students. Prospective students would have the potential of earning a high school diploma and an AAS in Welding & Cutting Technology upon graduation. For more details please contact Dr. Luke Jones, Dean of Career-Technical Education, tjones@holmescc.edu or 662-472-9057.

Lady Bulldogs take two from Meridian, 5-3 and 8-0

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs softball team took two games at home on Saturday, March 18, from Meridian Community College, 5-3 and 8-0. Holmes hosts East Mississippi at 2 p.m. on Tuesday.

In game one, Elleigh Willis got the start and picked up the win. She went seven innings and gave up three runs on three hits with four strikeouts and one walk. Lanie Phillips, Iris Farve, Neera Bell and Willis each had two

hits with Phillips and Willis adding a double each.

In game two, Emmagail Kelley got the start and picked up the win. She went six innings and gave up no runs on six hits with two strikeouts and one walk. AnnaLeigh Jones and McKayla Crowley each had two hits with Crowley and Katelynn Gipson each have a double.

Bulldogs fall to Meridian, 15-3 and 11-10 in eight innings

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs fell twice at home to Meridian on Saturday, March 18, 15-3 and 11-10 in eight innings.

Holmes travels to East Mississippi at 2 p.m. Tuesday.

In game one, Abbott Hankins got the start and suffered the loss. He went 4.1 innings and gave up eight runs with three strikeouts and three walks. Graydon Gullick and Leland Selby also pitched in the game. Matthew Reed led

with two hits including a double.

In game two, Cameron Pilgrim got the start. Austin Russell, Jackson Dollar, Jaden Clinton, Justin Jenkins, Will Carter and Matthew Reed all pitched in the game. Reed suffered the loss going 1 1/3 innings as Meridian scored in the eighth inning. Parker Knight led with two hits including a double. Carson Buckner had a two-run homerun while Ethan Wood and Reese Smith each added a double.

Tatum named to the MACCC All-Conference Team

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College freshman Jalen Tatum of Raymond has been named to the MACCC All-Conference team for the 2022-23 season.

Tatum averaged 14.8 points per game. He averaged 6.3 rebounds per game, .8 assists per game and one steal per game.

The Bulldogs finished the season 14-11 and 6-8 in the MACCC. Holmes fell in the first round of the Region XXIII to Meridian Community College.

Alford and Luckey named to the MACCC All-Conference Team

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs placed two players on the MACCC All-Conference team for the 2022-23 season. Sophomore Ally Alford of Batesville and sophomore Danielle Luckey of Pensacola, Florida, were named the Second Team.

Alford averaged 14.3 points per game. She averaged 4.3 rebounds per game, 1.7 assists per game and 2.9 steals per game.

Luckey averaged 11.5 points per game. She averaged 8.1 rebounds per game, 1.9 assists per game and .5 steals per game.

Holmes finished the season 16-11 and was 7-7 in the MACCC. The Lady Bulldogs fell to Meridian in the second round of the Region XXIII Tournament after knocking off the Itawamba Community College Lady Indians.

Lovertich named QB Coach for the Bulldogs

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College Head Football Coach Marcus Wood has named Jackson native Chance Lov-
ertich as the new quarterbacks coach at Holmes Community College. He played for Mississippi State Univer-
sity, the University of South Alabama and Mississippi Gulf Coast Commu-
nity College Bulldogs before joining the Bulldogs in January.
At Gulf Coast in 2018-19, he was

named Second Team National Ju-
nior College Athletic Association
All-American, First Team All-Missis-
sippi Association of Community & Ju-
nior Colleges and the South Division's
Most Valuable Offensive Back after
helping the Bulldogs win the national
championship while going 12-0 his
sophomore year. He was also named
First Team All-Region and was named
the Most Valuable Player in Region 23

after completing 236-of-366 passes for
2,794 yards and 24 touchdowns.
As a freshman, Lovertich led the NJ-
CAA in passing efficiency (184.1) and
set MGCCC records for completion
percentage (70.8 percent) and touch-
down passes in a game (six) complet-
ing 92-of-130 passes for 1,299 yards
and 14 touchdowns. He was named
third-team NJCAA All-Academic and
to the MACJC All-Academic Team
during this freshman season.
After Gulf Coast, he transferred to
South Alabama. He appeared in six
games and completed 47 of 86 pass
attempts for 619 yards and had five
touchdown passes. He then played his
final two seasons at Mississippi State.
He played in two games at Mississip-
pi State during his senior season. He
was 13 of 18 on pass attempts for 179
yards with one touchdown. In his grad-
uate season, he was 6 of 6 for 36 yards
and a touchdown.
At Jackson Prep, he lettered in
football, baseball and soccer setting

school records for touchdown passes
in a game and for his career. He helped
lead Prep to three state championships
at quarterback. As a senior, he was
selected a MaxPreps Medium Schools
First Team All-American as a punter
and also chosen Second team All-State
at quarterback by the Clarion-Ledger
completing 112-of-173 passes for
2,274 yards and 32 touchdowns with
just three interceptions and averaged
42.4 yards per punt. As a junior, he
finished 110-of-169 passing for 1,926
yards with 25 touchdowns and no
interceptions and averaged 41.9 yards
per punt. He threw for 1,233 yards and
15 touchdowns as a sophomore.
Lovertich, the son of Trey and Lynn
Lovertich, is the grandson of MSU
and Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame
member Doug Hutton. Hutton lettered
in basketball, baseball and track at
Mississippi State.

Lady Bulldogs fall in second round of Region XXIII Tournament

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College
Lady Bulldogs' season came to an end
at home on Wednesday night, March
1, in the second round of the Region
XXIII Tournament as they fell to the
Meridian Community College Lady
Eagles, 84-52.
Holmes ended the season at 16-11.
Meridian led 22-14 after one period

and 40-26 at halftime. Meridian out-
scored the Lady Bulldogs, 44-25 in the
second half to pull out the win.
Holmes was led by Ally Alford with
18 points while Danielle Luckey had
16. Luckey had eight rebounds in the
game.

Bulldogs end season with loss at Meridian

From Staff Reports/Photos



The 2022-23 basketball season has
come to an end for the Holmes Com-
munity College Bulldogs after falling
to the Meridian Community College
Eagles, 72-65, at home on Monday
night, Feb. 27, in the opening round of
the Region XXIII Tournament.
The Bulldogs ended the season 14-11
overall.

Meridian led 27-24 at halftime and
then outscored the Bulldogs, 45-41, in
the second half for the win.
Dacory Porter led the Bulldogs in
scoring with 21 points while Caleb
Campbell had 15. Jalen Tatum led with
eight rebounds while Jourdain Dish-
mond had six.

college prep Clinic

\$25

WHEN → Thursday, March 23 from 4:30-6:30 pm
Goodman Campus Coliseum

OPEN GYM

ALL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS
AND TRANSFERS ARE
WELCOME TO ATTEND

TUESDAY, MARCH 28
TUESDAY, APRIL 4
MONDAY, APRIL 17

TRYOUTS FOR 2023-2024 TEAM
THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023
MORE DETAILS TO COME

TIME : 3:00-5:30 PM

Admission - \$10
Location - Cheer Gym on
Goodman Campus

Intramural sports continue successfully in Ridgeland

By Garrett Viator
Staff Reporter



In the previous semester, the Ridgeland Campus' Phi Theta Kappa officers and the Holmes Community College administrative council worked together to deliver intramural sports to the Goodman and Ridgeland campuses. Their purpose in this endeavor was to provide the college with more student activities and bring unity to

the student body.

With the help of Intramural Sports Coordinator Sidney Kimble, the Ridgeland Campus held dodgeball, kickball and flag football tournaments in the fall semester. All of the events were wildly successful, and laid the foundation for more seasons of the campus' newest student program.

Following the previous season's success, Ridgeland's Spring 2023 season kicked off the campus' newest intramural sport: basketball. The two basketball events were held in a 3-on-3 format. Teams played in the Sunnybrook Children's Home gymna-

sium on Jan. 26 and Feb. 9. Both events took place from noon until 3 p.m.

"The staff encouraged everyone to attend or play at the event and show their love for the students involved," said Phi Theta Kappa Chapter President Garrett Viator.

Those interested in playing intramural sports can sign up via the IMLeagues website or app or with their school email. The IMLeagues site is: <https://www.imleagues.com/spa/account/registration>.



Pictured are Phi Theta Kappa members (left to right) **Jaylen Grays**, **Charlotte Lamar** and **Garrett Viator** promoting intramural sports.

Intramural basketball tips off in Ridgeland

By Garrett Viator
Staff Reporter



On Jan. 26, the Ridgeland Campus' intramural sports program hosted basketball for the first time. The Sunnybrook Children's Home staff made this possible by allowing Holmes to host games on their court. Four teams played in a round-robin tournament, with each team being allowed to have three players on the court at once. In total, 12 games were played at the event, lasting from noon until 3 p.m.

Coordinator of Intramural Sports Sidney Kimble and Intramural Sponsor Ryan Beggs officiated the games. They also established event rules and set up equipment. The Ridgeland Campus' Phi Theta Kappa officers played in the games while assisting Kimble and Beggs. Each team

played three games, giving all four teams the opportunity to play each other. These teams were called "Triple J," "The Victors," "JK3" and "Team V."

At the end of the day, "Triple J" came out on top, boasting an undefeated record. The team was composed of four Ridgeland students: Jaylen Grays, Jordan Holly, Jadarius Williams and Jadarius Owens. These students' excellent performance secured their spot as the top basketball team in Ridgeland.

The next intramural basketball event will be held at Sunnybrook on Feb. 9. The same teams will play in a double elimination tournament, and will be ranked according to their win-loss records from the previous games. "The Victors" came in second place, whose only loss was to "Triple J." "JK3" and "Team V" placed in third and last place, respectively.

Overall, the campus' first intramural basketball event was a major success.

Many friends and family members came out to watch the games, and there was an overwhelming turnout of participants. PTK Chapter Vice President Jaylen Grays had this to say about the event's success:

"I think it went great, especially considering the fact that this was the first event of the semester. I think Feb. 9 will [sic] be even bigger."

If you are interested in participating in intramural sports, be sure to visit Holmes' website for more information. Holmes' intramural events are arranged through an online app called IMLeagues. Sign up for an IMLeagues account if you don't have one already! <https://holmescc.edu/student-life/intramurals/>

IMLeagues signup: <https://www.imleagues.com/spa/account/registration?schoolId=19651a18380d41089c799f3788dc9dc4>



Charlotte Lamar takes on **Jabari Hard-en** on during an intramural basketball game.

A new intramural season kicks off in Ridgeland

By Garrett Viator, *Staff Reporter*
Photo provided by *Morgan Bondurant, Multimedia Specialist*



On Tuesday, Feb. 21, the Ridgeland Campus held its first intramural flag football event for the Spring 2023 semester. In the fall semester, the newly-founded intramural sports program held a successful flag football event on the Ridgeland Campus. The Ridgeland Campus' program and its constituents look to replicate its previous success by starting a flag football league. Currently, the program's administrators hope to hold a full season with playoffs and a championship.

Intramural Sports Coordinator Sidney Kimble and Ridgeland Campus Intramural Sponsor Ryan Beggs resumed their roles for the games. They established rules, officiated the games, and set up the necessary equipment. Teams were allowed to have seven players on the field at once, and the first team to score four touchdowns was declared the winner. The games began at noon on Holmes' soccer practice field.

At the start of the event, Kimble asked how they wanted to form teams. The students agreed to be selected by team captains, and nominated Garrett Viator and Jaylen Grays to be the opposing captains. Viator and Grays serve the Ridgeland Campus as its Phi Theta Kappa chapter president and chapter vice president, respectively. Once the captains drafted their rosters, Kimble gave teams sets of flags to wear for the game. Viator's team

wore blue flags, while Grays' team wore red flags.

The red and blue teams, lined up against each other before their next play. Photo provided by Bondurant.

In the first game, the blue team was allowed to take the first possession. For the first half of the game, their offense proved to be efficient, with their defense being the team's cornerstone. As the defense caused interceptions and turnovers on downs, the offense's consistent passing game brought the points home. The blue team's defense was routinely shutting down the red team's passing game. Because of this, the red team quickly ran out of offensive options. That was until the defense started giving way.

After some turnovers and quick offensive drives, the red team was back in it after a three-point deficit. The score was now 3-2, with the blue team still leading. The blue team's quarterback room got its head back in the game, and nipped a potential comeback in the bud. Through consistent, short gains and keeping their cool under pressure, the blue team came away with the game-winning touchdown. The blue team emerged victorious from its first game, and was ready for its next challenge.

In the following game, the red team retained some of its key members, such as Grays and Jordan Holly. However, they replaced most of its roster with new players who arrived late. This way, everyone could have to opportunity to play. The red team's new lineup played better football, and this showed in the blue team's initial



Holmes Ridgeland students pose with their shirts pre-intramural flag football game.

performance. For the first half, both teams were neck-and-neck. However, the blue team's defense locked down in the second half, giving their offense more favorable field position. Soon after, the blue team sealed their final win with two more passing touchdowns.

The blue team upon winning their second match of the day, along with some members of the red team. Photo captured by Kimble.

The draft pool for this game was chock-full of athletic talent, with several key players from the intramural basketball tournament returning to the fray. Many new players showed up to test their skills on the gridiron, as well. As a result, this diverse mix of players made Tuesday's flag football games especially interesting to watch. Having new and old faces on the field gave the Ridgeland Campus hope

that intramurals would maintain their great popularity in the spring semester.

Overall, today's event gave Ridgeland students a taste of what Ridgeland's intramurals could look like in the future. Furthermore, its success also served to generate hype for future intramural games. The Ridgeland Campus' student body will hopefully continue to benefit from the intramural sports program through forming friendships, practicing teamwork, and living an active lifestyle. According to Holmes' website, the next flag football event in Ridgeland is slated for Mar. 7 at noon.

Holmes arranges its intramural events through an online app called IMLeagues. Sign up for an IMLeagues account by going to: <https://holmescc.edu/student-life/intramurals/>

A game-by-game breakdown of the Ridgeland basketball playoffs

By Garrett Viator, *Staff Reporter*

Photo provided by Sidney Kimble, *Intramural Coordinator*



On Feb. 9, the Ridgeland Campus held its playoff tournament for intramural basketball. As usual, Sidney Kimble and Ryan Beggs headed up the event. Kimble and Beggs serve as Holmes' intramural coordinator and the Ridgeland Campus' intramural sponsor, respectively. Kimble and Beggs officiated games, set up equipment and established the rules of the tournament. The campus' Phi Theta Kappa officers assisted Kimble and Beggs by promoting the tournament on social media.

Similar to the last event, this tournament was played in a 3-on-3 format. Two games would simultaneously take place, one on each half of the court. The first team to score 15 points would win their match. Shots made behind the three-point line would count as two points, while shots in front of the line counted as one. Each team had two chances to survive in the playoffs, since it was a double-elimination tournament.

The four teams from Ridgeland's previous event returned to the Sunnybrook Children's Home gymnasium to play for it all. Officials seeded teams according to how well they performed in the campus' last event, which was played in a round-robin format.

Triple J, who dominated the round-robin games, was planted as the playoffs' first seed. Due to their poor placement in the round-robin event, Team V was scheduled to play Triple J in the first round. The Victors, who only lost to Triple J, were placed as the playoffs' second seed. Thus, The Victors were slated to play JK3 in their opening match. JK3's only round-robin victory was against Team V, who didn't win a single game that day.

The Opening Round

For the day's first matchup, Triple J and Team V lined up to compete once again. Although Triple J's players demonstrated raw athletic ability, Team V's defense was playing unusually well. Travian Chambers, Team V's newest addition, was a major force on defense and quickly began developing chemistry with his teammates. Before long, Team V was consistently scoring in the paint and containing Triple J's star players like never before. Triple J showed up, but Team V's improved defense and shooting accuracy helped them pull off a stunning upset.

At the same time, The Victors and JK3 faced off for their first playoff match. JK3, boasting an entirely revamped roster, gave their opponents a look they had never seen out of this team before. Payton Day, one of JK3's star players, showed unprecedented potential in his consistent accuracy and vast shooting range. However, The Victors' teamwork and fundamentals outmatched that of JK3, giving them the upper hand. The Victors came away with the win, albeit JK3 played a competitive match. Consequently, Team V and The Victors advanced to the Winners' Finals.

Losers' Semifinals

With one loss each, Triple J and JK3 were demoted to the loser's bracket. This left both teams with one more chance to survive in the playoffs. Each side had a chip on their shoulder from tough losses. Excellent play was mandatory for their playoff hopes to survive. Triple J initially built a strong lead, while trying to knock down long-distance shots and make their way into the paint. However, they seemed to be missing their rhythm from the round-robin games.

JK3 took the opportunity to capitalize on Triple J's mistakes, putting significant points on the board. As the game went on, Day's skills began to flourish. He handled the ball fluidly and scored from all over the court. Day was just as efficient at the three-point line as he was in the low post. In addition, his teammates played solid

defense and complemented each other's playing styles. The new and improved JK3 earned a well-deserved victory through cohesive and efficient team play. Thus, Triple J was the first team eliminated from the playoffs.

Winners' Finals

As JK3 advanced to the Losers' Finals match, Team V and The Victors contested for the opportunity to appear in the Finals. This game was one of the tournament's best, with high scoring and hot contention from both teams. The Victors and Team V exchanged shots on offense, while also making stout defensive plays throughout the match. Chambers made several hook shots and slam dunks for Team V. He also knocked down some long-distance shots to boot. Darrin Storks also played well near the three-point line, and skillfully moved the ball to his teammates. Team V's Jay Williams also played at a high caliber, by following through at the rim and playing aggressive defense.

Although Team V was playing well, that alone wasn't enough to win the match. The Victors were consistently matching Team V's caliber of play in their back-and-forth exchanges. Jude Williams and Ethan Hendry were efficient from the three-point line. Furthermore, they utilized Colin Crosby's size to create mismatches in the paint. Hendry also made his way to the rim often, complementing Crosby's style of play. When uncontested, The Victors hardly missed their shots, which Team V's defense allowed too often in this match. With more bodies in the paint, Williams was freed up to land several two-pointers throughout the game. As their defense began to fall apart, Team V utilized Garrett Viator and Charlotte Lamar to help alleviate these issues.

However, it became too late for Team V to recover from their previous mistakes. The two teams finally made it to the end. The Victors led with 13 points, needing a two-point shot to seal the game. Team V wasn't far behind, but their defense began to brace itself. Hendry was starting off what would be his team's last possession for this game. Without hesitation, he pulled up from the top of the key and drained the game-winning shot. Both teams played exceptionally, but only one could take this win. The Victors secured their spot in the Finals, while Team V earned a spot in the loser's bracket.

Losers' Finals

The stakes have increased and the pressure has officially risen for Team V. This team was reaching heights they never envisioned, considering they lost out in the round-robin matches. Everything looked perfect until The Victors secured them a spot in the Loser's Finals. Now, Team V needs to stay alive in the playoffs against a JK3 team that shocked everyone. Is Team V's Cinderella story truly at risk? Will Day and JK3 turn the tables by eliminating the team to beat, or will Team V rise up to face The Victors again?

These questions were up in the air for the entire match. Team V playing JK3 was like watching the unstoppable force meet the immovable object. JK3's offense was fluid and efficient, while Team V's defense tenaciously shut down their opponent's plays. Initially, Team V's defense made room to build a significant lead. However, Day decided to quickly shut that down.

In the middle of that match, Day suddenly got in the zone. As soon as the ball got in Day's hands, he started draining shots like it was nothing. He knocked down goals from the three-point line, the key, the low post, the paint... and hardly missed any. The crowd's energy during this run was unforgettable, as players and spectators were left in awe. Before Team V knew it, their lead was cut down entirely.

Thanks to Day's unprecedented scoring run, the scores evened out. Everyone knew Team V's defense needed to tighten up, but things started looking bleak for them. As soon as Day got out of the zone, Team V realized their defense needed to get in it.



Pictured are Team V's team members upon winning the championship title. (*left to right*) **Charlotte Lamar, Darrin Storks, Travian Chambers, Garrett Viato and Jay Williams.**

JK3 kept playing their hearts out, but their shots weren't accurate like before. They started failing to keep possession, and couldn't pass like they did several minutes ago. Team V's defense was back, and constantly in the faces of its adversaries. The teams fiercely contended for possessions as scores came closer to 15 points. Viator and Lamar rotated in and caused some turnovers. As the match regressed to a stalemate, Team V took the ball back with intentions to finish the match. Each team had 14 points. Storks began the team's possession, knowing this moment could make or break Team V. Storks pulled up, staying outside the three-point line. Time slowed down for everyone watching. One of the playoffs' most nerve-racking matches might be coming to a devastating close. With the entire playoff picture on the line, Storks nailed the two-point shot for Team V, sending them to the Finals. The five players celebrated in joyous relief, ready to take on the challenges ahead of them.

After JK3's departure from the playoffs, two teams remained: Team V and The Victors.

The Finals

After winning a nail-biter in the Losers' Finals, Team V had unfinished business with The Victors. The Victors were dominating the Ridgeland basketball scene at this point. They were among the best in the round-robin games, and just dominated the winners' bracket. The Victors were characterized by making big plays and being fundamentally sound, intimidating teams unfortunate enough to face them.

In contrast, Team V started at the bottom. They entered the playoffs as losers, only to establish themselves as a dominant team during the playoffs. Initially, the roster Viator drafted couldn't hang with the rest. Now, times have changed, and Team V's performance has improved drastically. With a deeper roster and the staunchest defense in the playoffs, they were ready to flip the script once more. There was just one issue — they had to win twice. The winner of the losers' bracket must beat their opponent twice to win it all. However, the winners' bracket champion must only win once to take the championship home. Given the situation, Team V faced yet more adversity in the playoffs.

To the spectators' surprise, Team V quickly got things rolling. In a mere few minutes, they built a very comfortable lead. Team V's defense was constantly pulling down rebounds and maintaining possession of the ball. Unlike their first match against The Victors, they were sticking to their men on defense. Nonetheless, The Victors began to persist later in the match. Their efforts helped cut down Team V's lead, but it simply wasn't enough. Leading by several points, Team V easily took the Finals to game two.

With the first game leaving much to be desired, the crowd eagerly anticipated the final game of Ridgeland's intramural basketball playoffs. After seeing what "Team V" was truly capable of, The Victors understood they needed to play their best if they wanted a championship.

The final playoff match was truly one to remember. The game was a fast-paced series of high-caliber plays being made by both teams. Both teams' offense and defense played remarkably well, and no points were scored easily. Team V knew better than to play sloppy defense, and The

Victors knew not to underestimate their opponent.

After a string of electric plays on both sides of the ball, the scores came closer to 15 points each. The two teams stayed within 2 points of each other throughout the entire game. The Victors were coming closer to securing their championship title, and tensions began to rise for Team V. Players from JK3 and Triple J were watching with the crowd, and all spectators were on the edge of their seats.

As the end became nearer, Team V and The Victors tied up with 14 points each. After some back-and-forth fighting for possession, Team V received the ball. Both teams had the same mindset and goal. They played their hardest throughout the playoffs and wanted to finally reap their rewards. The Victors started working to stop Team V's efficient offense from scoring the game-winning point. However, Storks made an opening once again.

With the championship at stake, Storks attempted a long-distance jumper that could seal the game for Team V. As he released the ball, the audience became stupefied. Nobody was expecting him to take a risky shot from the three-point line! It could've been easier to get Chambers in the paint and take a low-risk shot from there. Williams could have swiftly made his way to the rim and secured the championship for Team V. Viator and Lamar easily could have stepped in to handle the situation, as well. Regardless, this was the situation at hand. Everyone's eyes were glued to the court, and the entire tournament culminated at this moment.

Just a few seconds later, it was over. Storks nailed the game-winning shot and concluded the Cinderella story that shocked Ridgeland. After all of the adversity and underestimation, Team V came out on top. Team V played the most outstanding basketball that Ridgeland intramurals had ever seen, and were rightfully declared as the Ridgeland intramural basketball champions.

Conclusion

In summary, the Ridgeland Campus' intramural basketball playoff games were a raging success. The tournament held more spectators than the previous event, and played out smoothly. Kimble and Beggs did an excellent job of structuring the tournament to play efficiently, while still being exciting for audience members and players alike. The playoffs' results could have never been predicted by anyone and made for an amazing comeback story.

Every team, from Triple J to Team V, played exceptionally and helped further the growth of the Ridgeland Campus' fastest-growing student activity. Each team stood out in its own way, and the tournament wouldn't have been the same without them. Every player, official, scorekeeper, student, and spectator contributed to intramural sports opportunities for the Ridgeland Campus' student body and growing the campus as a whole. The success of this event will hopefully create buzz for the upcoming intramural flag football league.

Holmes arranges its intramural events through an online app called IMLeagues. Sign up for an IMLeagues account by going to: <https://holmescc.edu/student-life/intramurals/>

Chiefs defeat Eagles in absolute nailbiter

By Jacob Duncan
Staff Reporter



On Sunday, Feb. 12, Patrick Mahomes and his Kansas City Chiefs took the title of Super Bowl 57 champions by defeating the Philadelphia Eagles. The end of the game was by a late field goal from the Chiefs which made it 38-35. Harrison Butker sealed the game by booting the 27 yard field goal directly in the center of the uprights. Both teams played and fought their hardest, as both of the teams’ starting quarterbacks were battling with injuries/

fatigue. Patrick Mahomes fought an ankle injury prior to Sunday, and even stated in previous interviews that he was not 100 percent. That did not keep him from putting on a clinic, as he was 21 for 28 on pass completions and threw for three touchdowns. Travis Kelce played a significant role on offense as well, but what was a standout factor for the Chiefs was their defense. Mahomes’ performance was so impressive that he actually went on to win the Super Bowl 57 MVP. His statistics for the game were fair, but what stood out was his willingness to fight through his injury for his Chiefs. An interesting fact about that

stat is that he is the first quarterback to win both regular season MVP and a Super Bowl since Kurt Warner back in 2000, according to ESPN. Mahomes just won his second Super Bowl ring and gives a ton of credit to Head Coach Andy Reid, who also just won his second with the Chiefs. He was asked in the Super Bowl post-game interview what his plans were with the Chiefs and he stated, “I mean, I plan on sticking around.” Regardless of what Reid’s age may be, it is evident that there will be a ton of success following this big championship for him and his Kansas City Chiefs.



Will Bryce Young’s game translate to the NFL?

By Justin Biggers
Staff Reporter



With the NFL Draft on the near horizon, Bryce Young, quarterback for the Alabama Crimson Tide, is predicted by most to be one of the first QBs taken off the board. Young is the most decorated quarterback to come from the Crimson Tide since Joe Namath. He holds the record for most passing yards in a single game in school history with 559. Young is listed at 6 feet, which is relatively undersized for a pro at his position. However, after concerns arose on social media about the former Heisman winner’s “true” height,

the sports media world has begun to question whether he can truly make the jump to the pros. In times past, it was pretty much the standard for a QB to be at least 6 feet 2 inches in order to make it to the pros. As of late though, athletes such as Kyler Murray and Russell Wilson, both of whom are under 6 feet, have had little trouble transitioning to the NFL. So Young should fare well if we’re going off the successes of other smaller QBs, right? Well, it’s not that simple to write off. Not only is Young undersized in terms of height, but he’s also smaller in the weight department. He weighs in at a mere 194 pounds. Alabama is in a league of their own in college football. The talent on the offensive line there is tremendous, to

say the least. In other words, Young won’t have the time he had to throw the ball that he had in college. He won’t only have to adjust to the speed of the game mentally, but also physically. Young has proven time and time again to be a tremendous football player. There’s no doubt in my mind that he is the most talented QB in this draft class. Though, I do believe that there are other QBs that are safer bets. At his current weight, if he takes enough hits, his body will wear down, hindering his overall game. So, I don’t believe the concerns should be within the realms of height, but in weight. The question should be, can his body hold up?



Rahm on a winning rampage

By Jacob Duncan
Staff Reporter



On Sunday evening, Jon Rahm was struggling at the first part of his round but managed to recover and take home the win. He won The American Express Cup that was hosted in La Quinta, California at PGA West golf course. The whole weekend was a nailbiter to say the least, as Rahm beat the young Davis Thompson by just one stroke in the end. Rahm finished

the weekend at an impressive 17 under par. Rahm celebrated with his wife and two young children while hoisting the trophy in front of cameras and fans. The Spaniard golfer has been red hot lately as he has won four of his last six starts in PGA tournaments. An even more impressive stat is that two of those wins already happened in the month of January. Rahm having two wins in 2023 already is outstanding, as it is reported he is quickly at \$4.6 million in earnings for the year. There is a wide debate about who is the best golfer in the world, and Jon Rahm is definitely a part of the conversation.

According to CBS, Jon Rahm is ranked as the third top golfer in the world. The two golfers he is behind have produced incredible success in the past: Rory Mcilroy and Scottie Scheffler. Many golf critics say that the performance Rahm is putting on at the moment, though, is full evidence as to why he is the most talented golfer in the world.



HOLMESATHLETICS.COM

#BULLDOGNATION
SCORES, SCHEDULES, ALERTS





The Growl Staff



Kaitlyn Anderson

Kaitlyn Anderson is from Jackson and is currently a sophomore at Holmes. She is planning to attend Belhaven University in the fall of 2023. Kaitlyn is majoring in mass communications with a minor in theater. She wants to work in the entertainment industry. Kaitlyn is currently working as a kennel assistant at All Creatures Animal Hospital. Kaitlyn attends Pinelake the Madison Campus where she is a part of the worship team. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, writing, singing, dancing and traveling.



Justin Biggers

Justin Biggers, resident of Winona, is a freshman communications major on the Goodman Campus of Holmes Community College. He is an active member of Phi Theta Kappa. In his spare time, Biggers enjoys going to Mississippi State football games, having song-filled car rides with friends on dirt roads and making others laugh. After he receives his associate from Holmes, Biggers plans to continue his academics at Mississippi State University. His ideal career is to be either in sports journalism or sports broadcasting, with hopes of covering college football.



Jacob Duncan

Jacob Duncan of Hernando is a sophomore journalism major on the Holmes Community College Goodman Campus. He is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the Bulldogs baseball team. In his free time, Duncan enjoys watching and playing sports like baseball and golf, collecting sneakers, and loves spending time with his family and friends back in North Mississippi. Upon graduating from Holmes, he plans to transfer to a university to play baseball and study journalism but is undecided where that will be right now. Duncan's dream is to become a sports broadcaster or work in sports analytics!



Elijah Mangum

Elijah Mangum is a sophomore on the Ridgeland Campus from Florence. He is majoring in journalism and mass communications with hopes of transferring to Mississippi College and going into broadcast journalism. He has been a member of the FHS News team at Florence High School, an intern at Darkhorse Press and has a weekly news YouTube channel, Mangum Studios. He is an active member of Cleary Baptist Church and enjoys spending time with family, videography, writing and public speaking.



Garrett Viator

Hailing from New Iberia, Louisiana, Garrett Viator is a legal studies major on the Ridgeland Campus. He began attending Holmes after graduating from Park Place Christian Academy. He began living in Mississippi at 11 years of age, and has resided in the Madison area during his time at Holmes. Viator serves as Phi Theta Kappa president, as well as vice president of the student body in Ridgeland. He enjoys spending time with family, studying and being an active member of his college. He also spends his time reading the Bible, working out and being involved in church activities.

Following graduation from Holmes, Viator plans on earning his bachelor's in business economics then attending law school. His career goal is to work as a corporate lawyer and start his own firm one day.