



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

# THE GROWL

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May 17, 2022

## Goodman Campus takes a devastating hit from tornado

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Holmes Community College in Goodman was one of several places across the state damaged by severe weather on March 22.

Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey says he saw what looked like a small tornado as the clouds swirled across campus damaging the roofs of practically every building and doing extensive damage to four of them—two dormitories, the cafeteria and a classroom building. He says 50 to 75 trees

were knocked down and the windows of about 100 cars were blown out.

“I haven’t ever been through anything like this, so I can’t even put it into words. It’s my first tornado,” sophomore George Carter said.

Carter stays in one of two dorms at the college that had its roof completely torn off as a result of high winds.

He and a number of others had no

*Tornado, continued on Page 6*

## Holmes holds 94th Commencement on May 12

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Holmes Community College held the 94th Commencement Exercises on Thursday, May 12 in Frank Branch Coliseum on the Goodman Campus.

The Ridgeland Campus and Yazoo Center ceremony was held at 10 a.m. and the Goodman, Grenada and Attala

Center graduates had a ceremony at 2 p.m. The ceremony was also live streamed at [holmesccmedia.com/white-channel](http://holmesccmedia.com/white-channel).

Each ceremony began with a faculty and administration processional. Ava Stegall served as the mace bearer for

the first ceremony and Hayley Haffey carried the mace for the second one. Following the processional, a video produced by the Holmes Marketing Department was shown that highlight-

*Graduation, continued on Page 6*

## Growl takes home three awards from Better Newspaper Contest

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured are (left to right) Growl newspaper staff members **Elijah Mangum**, **Alek Dickerson**, **Callie Pope** and **Dallon Sisco** at the MPA Conference.

Holmes Community College won three awards in the 2022 Mississippi Press Association (MPA) Better Newspaper Contest. Callie Pope of Madison won first place in the Editorial Category for her piece, “Metal detectors in schools,” and Alek Dickerson of Biloxi won third in Editorials for “Remembrance for the Oxford victims.” The Growl newspaper came in third place for Overall General Excellence, as well. The awards were presented during the O.C. McDavid Journalism Conference held March 24 at the Mississippi Children’s Museum

in Jackson.

Four Holmes journalism students were able to represent the college at the conference: Dickerson, Pope, Elijah Mangum of Florence and Dallon Sisco of Brandon. Sponsored annually by MPA, the conference is named after the late O.C. McDavid, who served as managing editor of the Jackson Daily News. This year’s conference began with a welcome by MPA Executive Director Layne Bruce. Next, veteran journalists Emily Wagster Pettus and

*Growl continued on Page 7*

## Holmes PTK chapters fare well during Annual PTK Awards Gala

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured are Grenada Campus Phi Theta Kappa Officers (left to right) **Jamya Benson**, **Tanner Vance**, **Anna-Claire Marascalco**, **Caitlin Parker**, **Kevion McGee** and **Lekita Norwood**.

All three of Holmes Community College’s Phi Theta Kappa chapters fared well at the Annual Phi Theta Kappa Mississippi/Louisiana Region Awards Gala. This year the Awards Gala was streamed on Zoom from 5-7 p.m. on March 29.

The Alpha Mu Beta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, housed on the Grenada Campus, took home a Top 10 Most Distinguished Chapter Award, Distinguished Honors in Action Theme 1 Award, seventh place for College Project as well as a few individual awards. Jamya Benson of Grenada received the

Most Distinguished Officer Award and the Golden Key Award, and Academic Counselor Cynthia Abel received the Horizon Advisor Award.

Additionally, the Kappa Alpha Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa from the Goodman Campus placed first in Theme 4 Issue, eighth in College Project, 10th in Honors in Action and 10th in Most Distinguished Chapters. Lucas Price of Kosciusko received the Golden Key Award, and Academic Counselor Simonee Miller and Engi-

*PTK continued on Page 7*

### WHAT’S INSIDE...

- STUDENT EDITORIALS
- STUDENT AND FACULTY HONORS
- SPORTS PHOTOS/RECAPS AND MORE!



**SEE PAGES 11-12  
TO SEE THE 2022  
AWARDS DAY  
WINNERS**



## The benefits of medical marijuana

By Callie Pope  
Staff Reporter



On Feb. 2, Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves signed legislation legalizing medical marijuana. This law permits the use of cannabis to treat certain debilitating medical conditions. Shane Polk is an army veteran that served over six years in the war. Below I am going to inform you of the reasons I support the legalization of medical marijuana in Mississippi.

Polk was born in Gibson, Louisiana in 1969. Polk has three children and 5five grandchildren. Polk served our great country in Operation Deseret Storm where he was a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne of the U.S. Army. Once he returned home,

he continued his training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Unfortunately, while doing a routine training procedure during the night, his parachute malfunctioned. He only remembers jumping from the airplane and the parachute not opening properly. His body apparently hit the ground with great force. As anyone can imagine, he had multiple bone fractures and a traumatic brain injury. It took him three days to wake up while in ICU. After he woke up, he suffered with horrific pain and memory loss that he still suffers with to this day.

Polk was on 22 different medications for his pain and suffering and has been able to get off over half of the medications due to medical marijuana. As Polk stated, “Medical marijuana has improved my quality of life dramatically.” Medications can cause an increased risk of internal bleeding or liver damage. The

more medications a person takes can also increase the risk of those drugs interacting dangerously with others. Taking too many medications can also cause a person to build a tolerance becoming addicted to the medications.

Medical marijuana offers many benefits. It can reduce anxiety, relieve pain, relax tight muscles, kill cancer cells and even stop tumor growth. For Polk, he uses medical marijuana to treat his seizures, chronic pain and muscle spasticity. He has not had to take seizure medications for a while now because of the medical marijuana. This is why, as a friend of a 100 percent disabled veteran, I support the legalization of medical marijuana. For more information on medical marijuana and the benefits of it visit <https://www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/medical-marijuana-faq>.



Shane Polk

## Keifer’s comes to Madison

By Callie Pope  
Staff Reporter



Keifers’s is a Greek restaurant with two locations in Jackson Mississippi. Since 1981, Keifer’s downtown has been serving Jackson’s favorite Greek food, with made-to-order sandwiches and quick, friendly staff. Keifer’s specialties include gyros with cottage fries, hummus and their famous feta dressing as well as their popular burger and curly fires. Mr. Jimmy has been working at

Keifer’s for over 20 years. He always has a smile on his face and loves to make people laugh. Sometimes he will sneak you a piece of cheesecake if he likes you! As Mr. Jimmy said “Keifer’s wouldn’t be Keifer’s without me” and he is right. Anytime he is not there you will hear people ask where he is!

Madison is steadily growing with new shops and restaurants opening daily. Keifer’s will add some more Greek to Madison. For more information about Keifer’s or to access their menu go to <http://www.keifersdowntown.com/>



## The disappearance of Robin Smith

By Alek Dickerson  
Staff Reporter



One case that hits close to home is the case about Robin Smith. Smith has been missing since Sept. 2, 1998. The reason I hear about this case so much is because my mom was a close friend to Smith and her death has truly haunted her, especially knowing that Smith’s potential killer is the father of her two children. From what I collected, Smith worked at the Gulfport Memorial Hospital as a unit clerk. She punched out her time card at

11:26 p.m., walked down a hallway, out the doors and was last seen getting into her 1997 Mitsubishi Galant in the hospital parking lot. Smith then called home to let her sister know that she stopped at the store, but to the family’s surprise, she never showed up at the house. They knew that that was unlike her, so they put in a missing person’s report that next day. I think what is truly sad about this case is that it went cold. The case was closed because of the lack of evidence but then was reopened for investigation in 2010. Because of the fact that nothing new showed up, it was then closed again, but there is one thing that the family and my

mom does believe: Tim Bryant had something to do with her death. When she was a senior at Pass Christian High School, Bryant was the girls’ basketball coach at Ocean Springs High School. Bryant and Smith had a thing going on which eventually led to having two children together. There is a lot of suspicion about Bryant as to where he was the night of Smith’s disappearance, but after the interviews, he was cleared. He then moved to Texas with the two children the summer of 1999. It is sad that the case went cold, but now her nephew is looking into the case to find out what really happened to Robin Smith.





## The effects of social media on mental health

By Callie Pope  
Staff Reporter



Social media plays a big role in today’s society. Social media platforms such as Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat and Tik Tok are the primary platforms used today. The reinforcing nature of social media has caused individuals to become obsessed with it, spending hours upon hours throughout the day on them. The platforms are intentionally designed to be addictive. Most platforms are associated with depression, anxiety and even physical illness.

The earlier an individual starts using social media, the greater the impact the platforms have on their mental health. For example, a child that is given an iPad at 4 years old will feel dependent on an electronic device because that’s what they were given to play with as a child.

Sadly, there is increasing evidence that links social media to increasing rates of suicide. Social media combines technology with social interaction through

the internet-based applications such as Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, TikTok and Instagram. Through these applications there are direct messages that are hidden from others. Comments on apps such as Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and TikTok can be seen by others. Social media has become a fundamental way for a great number of people and organizations to share opinions, ideas information. Those ideas, opinions and information aren’t always positive and can be very negative and cruel.

There are many ways that social media can increase risk for suicidal behavior. For example, cyberbullying and cyber harassment are serious problems. A survey was given to 2000 middle school children and the results showed that victims of cyberbullying were two times as likely to attempt suicide than those who were not victims. Although social media is not always to blame for suicide, it can increase the risk of suicide by increasing feelings of depression, isolation and hopelessness for those with preexisting emotional, physiological, environmental or mental stressors.

If social media is affecting your mental health negatively, taking a break for a little



while is always good to do. If you are feeling depressive or suicidal thoughts, there are people that love and care about you. There are also counselors here at Holmes Community College that would love to help in any way that they can. If you feel as though you cannot talk to someone in

person, the national suicide prevention lifeline number is 800-273-8255. You do not have to be actively attempting suicide to call the hotline, anyone in emotional distress can call and use their services.

## Goodbye Holmes

By Lakesia Smith  
Staff Reporter



I started my journey at Holmes in the fall of 2017. I tried but I wasn’t really ready for school so I took a break. During this break, I started working full time and I even got married. In 2019, I decided to come back to school and give my all. Since coming back I have won

various awards, sung at numerous events and been inducted into Phi Theta Kappa.

School has been an awesome privilege for me and I’m so thankful for all I’ve encountered here. I’m thankful for Dr. Banks, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Yates and Mr. Trautman for helping me perfect my vocal craft. I’m thankful for the beautiful ladies in MOSAIC for always encouraging me. I’m thankful for Ms. Levy for being her true self and allowing me to do so. I’m most thankful for Mrs. Busby for giving me an outlet to write. There are so many

people I could thank but I dare not want to miss anymore.

To all the teachers, faculty and fellow classmates, thank you for leading me to be the best me I could be. There will never be a place like Holmes! Being a voice major has been one of the best parts of my life.



## Professional athletes are overpaid

By Callie Pope  
Staff Reporter



An NFL player makes an average of \$20 million a season compared to teachers who on average make \$30,000 a year, police who make \$40,000 a year and soldiers who makes \$30,000. Americans

love to watch and support professional football, but America does not benefit from it. In comparison teachers help students grow mentally and academically. Police prevent crime and protect the U.S. citizens by enforcing laws. Without soldiers, we wouldn’t be free here in America!

Professional football players’ duties are attending regular practice sessions, memorizing complex defense patterns and keep themselves in great physical shape. The NFL requires players to be at least three years out of high school to be drafted. While playing football is dangerous and requires a lot of time spent away from family at games and conferences, the pay is worth every second spent being a professional football player compared

to what other important role models in America make.

Teachers are responsible for preparing lesson plans and educating students at all levels. Teachers must have patience to deal with students and also parents. Teachers not only work from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. they go home and grade papers and prepare lessons. Teachers not only make an impact on students academically, but also emotionally. Students become close to teachers and value teachers’ opinions. Teachers are one of America’s most underpaid and underrated occupations.

Police not only prevent crime and enforce laws, but they also save lives and prevent drug and sex trafficking. Police patrol assigned areas, respond to disturbance’s, conduct searches and observe suspicious activities. Police must do and see a lot of things that many individuals could not handle, including seeing the deceased, seeing abused individuals and investigating horrendous crime scenes. Police are extremely underpaid for risking their lives daily.

Soldiers do the unimaginable. From jumping out of planes to running into guns blazing, soldiers risk their lives everyday so that Americans can be free. Soldiers



operate and command aircraft ships or armored vehicles. There are many different branches of the military all performing specific duties. Soldiers also must be away from their families for long periods of time and sometimes cannot speak to their families for months leaving their families fearful of their loved one’s life. Also, many veterans suffer from injuries and

post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD). America has got to make a stand for what really matters. Yes, football is a beloved sport in America but what is more important? I believe our teachers, first responders and military should be rewarded financially for their service and dedication to the American people.



## Dealing with anxiety

By Lakesia Smith  
Staff Reporter



According to Francesca Coltrera in the article “Anxiety: What it is, what to do,” anxiety symptoms vary widely. Many students in college deal with anxiety. While anxiety symptoms vary widely, odds are good that at some point you’ve experienced occasional physical and emotional distress signals such as panicky breathing, your heart pounding in your chest, trouble sleeping, feelings of dread, or even loops of worry. Today’s teens and young adults are the most anxious ever, according to mental-health surveys. They admit it themselves: In February, a Pew survey found that 70 percent of teens say anxiety and depression is a “major problem” among their peers, and an additional 26 percent say it’s a minor

problem. Even amid the rush of final exams and graduation celebrations at this time of year, college beckons with the chance to live on your own, find new friends and explore interesting ideas. Yet for college students, these changes can also be stressful. Overnight, college students separate from their traditional support system of family and friends. For students: Approach, don’t avoid. College is challenging and many students cope by avoiding stressors (skipping class, staying in bed all day). However, we know that avoidance tends to make anxiety worse over time. Instead, practice taking small steps to approach anxiety-provoking situations. If you’re struggling in a class, try emailing the professor for help. If you’re feeling lonely, try introducing yourself to someone in the dining hall. Not at college yet? Practice this skill over the summer by participating in pre-college

programs on campus. Practice self-care. Many students struggle to maintain healthy eating habits, consistent exercise, and regular sleep without the structure of home. But self-care behaviors like these are extremely important for regulating mood and helping people cope with stress. Try to establish your own self-care routine — preferably before you even start college. Good sleep hygiene is key. Set a consistent bedtime and wake-up time each day. Avoid using your bed for activities other than sleep, like studying. Limit caffeine in the evening and limit alcohol altogether, as it interferes with restful sleep. Find resources on campus. Many colleges offer resources to help students navigate the initial transition to campus and cope with stress. Investigate campus resources for academic advising, study support, peer counseling and student mental health. If you’ve been diagnosed



with a mental health issue, such as an anxiety disorder, you may also want to find a mental health provider near campus. If you struggle with anxiety and you’ll be starting college next year, you may find it helps to establish a relationship with a therapist. For more information visit [www.kid-sheath.org](http://www.kid-sheath.org).

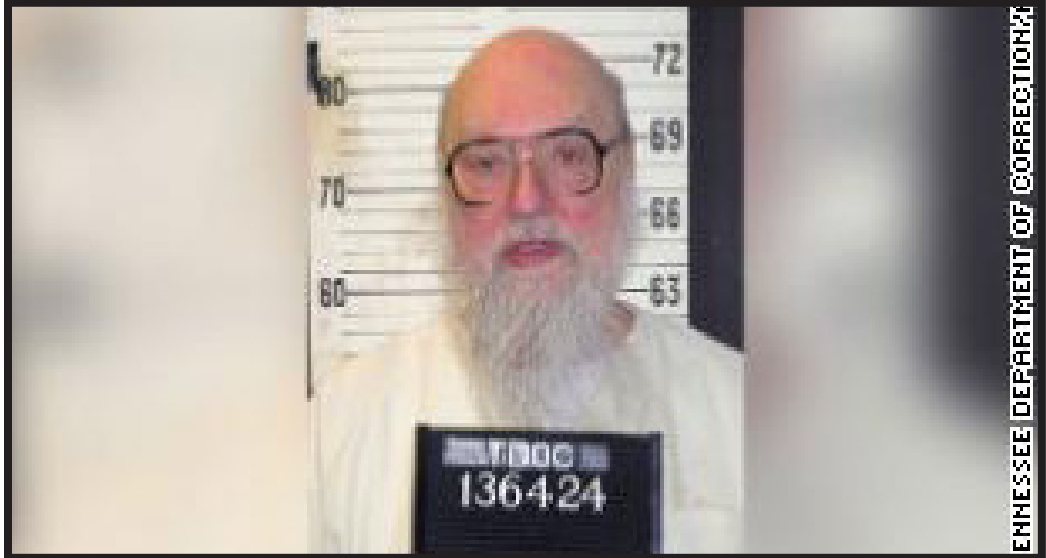
## Gov. Bill Lee halts execution process in Tennessee

By Dallan Sisco  
Staff Reporter



Earlier this year, following Texas’s first execution since 2021, Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee raised his concern about the lethal injection process by announcing a pause to all executions for the time being. By offsetting their execution schedule, inmate Oscar Smith was spared just days before he was set for lethal injection. Personally, my stance on capital punishment waivers with each case. In some

instances, I believe the punishment is unnecessary, but with others, I can see where some might think it is futile. Although I do not fully agree with the methods they use, I do find it progressive the states are taking a step back, and looking into how they are using these methods. With these chemicals mass-produced to increase productivity, it is possible substance regulation and oversight could have been limited. Hopefully, Tennessee’s example will act as a standard for the other states, and more oversight will be implicated for a more humane and safe execution process.



## Mississippi crime crisis

By Callie Pope  
Staff Reporter

In April, the second annual Mississippi Mudbug Festival was held in Jackson. The crawfish was the main attraction, but there was also live music and fair rides. Many families made their way out to the fairgrounds for opening night. Sadly, on the fourth night this family friendly event turned into a fatal shoot out. On Saturday, April 30, around 10 p.m. gunfire broke out throughout the fairgrounds. Over 100 rounds were fired, and several people were taken to local hospitals after injuries. A family friendly event that was meant to be fun and entertaining, turned tragic leaving one teenager dead. There has been a dramatic increase

in crime in the capitol city of Mississippi. In 2021 Jackson’s rate of killings per capita ranked highest in the United States. There were over 160 killings in 2021 and the homicide rate for Jackson is 99.5 per 100,00 residents. These rates are topping other high crime locations such as Memphis and Atlanta. Many illegal guns are being used in these shootings including machine guns. Low police force and poverty in the metro area does not help either. This was the 50th shooting that has taken another life in Jackson. Our capitol should be a safe city for everyone including residents and visitors. Sadly, if the murders continue, we will be ranked number one per capita



again. We must all come together as a community and state to prevent more killings. For more information or to report a crime go to <https://www.dps.ms.gov/crime-stoppers/program-information>.

*Are you interested in having your work published? Do you love to take photos? Have a passion for writing? We need you! We would love to have you join our staff by signing up for Coll Publications-Growl&Grid for the Fall of 2022. For more information, contact Mary Margaret Busby at: [mbusby@holmescc.edu](mailto:mbusby@holmescc.edu).*



## March 22 was a life-changing day in Goodman

By Lakesia Smith  
Staff Reporter



Tuesday, March 22 of 2022 was a life-changing day for the Holmes Goodman Campus. Holmes Community College in Goodman was one of several places across

the state damaged by severe weather. Just after lunch, the roofs of several buildings on campus were ripped off including the cafeteria. There were no students inside at the time, but the cafeteria staff had to quickly take shelter. Though none of the students were hurt physically, emotionally is a different story. Much progress has been made since the

damage. Many students are back in the dorms and the administration has worked hard to ensure everything gets back to normal.

With less than a month of class left, the students, faculty and staff are making the final days count.



## The devastating Ukraine/Russian war

By Callie Pope  
Staff Reporter



On Feb. 24, the world watched as Russia invaded its neighboring country, Ukraine. On this day the world was filled with fear and questions as to how this is happening. Many major events led to this crisis. In December of 1991, Ukraine became independent. Many Ukrainian people supported Ukraine becoming a sovereign state. Many other major events happened from then until now, starting this devastating war.

In December of 2021 Putin, the president of Russia, demanded security guarantees. Zelenskyy, the president of Ukraine cracked down on pro-Russian Ukrainian oligarchs, including close friends of Putin. Putin then deployed many troops near the Ukrainian border. Putin then published an article stating that Russians and Ukrainians are “one people.” By the end of December tens of thousands of Russian troops were deployed to the border and Putin issued demands to the United States and NATO. The request was rejected by the Biden administration.

Then on Feb. 24, Russia launched a full-scale invasion on Ukraine. Zel-

enskyy then declared martial law in Ukraine and officially broke diplomatic ties with Russia. Putin’s actions were harshly condemned across the world. Sadly, from Feb. 24 to April 2 there have been a total of 3,500 civilian casualties in the country including over 2,000 killed. Most of the civilian casualties recorded were caused by the use of explosive weapons, missiles and air strikes. Many believe the actual figures are much higher as not everyone has been found or accounted for the and war is not over. Over 200 children have been killed and another 200 injured.

War is such a devastating, cruel thing. As Franklin Roosevelt said “More than an end to war, we want an end to the beginning of all wars – yes, an end to this brutal, inhuman and thoroughly impractical method of settling the differences between governments.”



## Dealing with grief

By Alek Dickerson  
Staff Reporter



Being told that a close friend, classmate or even a loved one has passed away can be really hard to hear. Death is a tough subject to even think about. It’s a concept, for

some that is really hard to grasp. In my experience with life, I have not had someone die that I was close with and even though I understand that death is natural and it happens, I have not yet been able to experience the sadness that it brings.

One thing that I have been able to see from the outside looking in is that everyone deals with death differently. I’ve been around people who have had death come recently to knock on their door and how they deal with it was

different than the broad “five steps of grief.”

Overall, from what I have seen, there was one thing I was able to tell: there is no time limit on when you feel like you should be over someone’s death, but there are proper ways to cope. It is proven that coping in a healthy way will make the process of grief go by quicker than someone who doesn’t grieve at all. Suppressing any type of feeling is not healthy and can have negative long-term effects.

If you are experiencing loss and don’t know how to deal with it, it would be wise to reach out to somebody or read up on it. There are several books depending on how you are and your beliefs. Another thing that is helpful is coming to terms with death itself. Understand that death is a natural part of life and even though how one may die be upsetting, it doesn’t mean death is something to be sad about.

## HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Holmes Community College, a comprehensive public institution located in Central Mississippi, provides innovative educational and cultural opportunities to its constituents through campus-based and distance education programs. The college seeks to prepare its students for university transfer, productive employment and lifelong learning by offering an Associate of Arts degree, Associate of Applied Science degree, technical certificates and career certificates as well as workforce training. Holmes, whose primary commitment is to excellence in all areas, offers affordable, equal access to higher education in an attractive, secure, multi-campus environment.



The following items are required for admission to Holmes Community College: 1) A current, complete application for admission; 2) First-time freshmen must submit an official high school transcript from a regionally accredited high school showing the graduation date, type of diploma, and signature of the high school official and it must be submitted from the high school to the Admissions Office or delivered in a sealed school envelope. Students who complete high school with an Occupational Diploma, a Certificate of Attendance, or the equivalent will not be admitted into the College. Students who obtain the General Educational Development (GED), the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET), or the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) credential must have an official GED, HiSET, or TASC transcript sent to the college from an official testing center or GED state office; and 3) Transfer students must submit an official transcript from any regionally accredited college attended or any documentation accepted for a First-Time Freshman.

Holmes Community College does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, national origin, citizenship, age, disability, veteran status, or genetic information. Employees, students, applicants for admission or employment, or other participants in Holmes Community College programs or activities who believe they have been discriminated against are entitled to seek relief through the Compliance Officer, Dr. Stephanie C. Diffey (662) 472-9429. Written inquiries may be e-mailed to: [compliance@holmescc.edu](mailto:compliance@holmescc.edu) or sent to: Compliance Office, P.O. Box 369, Goodman, MS 39079.

Holmes Community College through the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS) provides reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. DSS verifies eligibility for accommodations and works with eligible students to develop and coordinate plans to provide those accommodations. DSS is committed to ensuring equal access to a quality education for qualified students with disabilities through the provision of reasonable academic accommodations and auxiliary aids which support the College standards and academic integrity.

The Office of Disability Support Services is committed to creating a positive campus environment where students with disabilities are encouraged to pursue careers on the basis of personal interest and ability. DSS is a non-fee generating program designed to meet the unique needs of HCC students with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations are offered in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). DSS staff, Laura Bigbee, may be contacted at (662) 472-9088.

Holmes Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate degrees and certificates. Contact the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia, 30033-4097 or call (404) 679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Holmes Community College.

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## Tornado (continued from Front Page)

other choice but to clear out their rooms and find somewhere else to stay once the conditions calmed down.

“We all knew the storm was coming, but we didn’t think it would be as

bad as it was,” he said. “When it came through, the door swung open, and you could see the sky was dark green like the grass. We heard everything coming off the roof, but we thought it was

trees.”

Dr. Haffey is estimating the damage at \$3-4 million.

“I was riding around campus a little bit, and some of the students weren’t

taking it too seriously, and I saw their attitude change,” Dr. Haffey said. “It was pretty intense.”

Dr. Haffey said a little over 1,000 employees and students evacuated



## Graduation (continued from Front Page)

ed the major events/campus life for the 2021-2022 school year.

Next, Ridgeland Campus Phi Theta Kappa President Bethany Biggers gave the invocation during the first ceremony and Grenada Campus PTK President Tanner Vance gave it during the second one. Vice President for Academic Programs Dr. Jenny Bailey Jones and Vice President for Career Technical Education Dr. Amy Whittington followed the invocation with a welcome and a few inspiring remarks.

“Graduates, during your time at Holmes, you have learned how to put words into action, how to listen carefully and communicate clearly, how to understand and appreciate complexity and to continue to make Mississippi a great place to live and work,” Dr. Whittington said. “These are the fruits of a college education and the skills for a lifetime, the building blocks of a productive, ethical and satisfying life. Class of 2022, you are joining Dr. Jones and me as proud alumnae of this College and will become part of the lifelong Holmes family, a connection we hope brings you as much pride as it has for us in our lives.”

Dr. Jones shared a famous quote by

John Wesley, as well.

“As you move on to the next part of your journey, remember to ‘Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can,’” Dr. Jones said. “Welcome to all, and congratulations graduates!”

After Dr. Jones and Dr. Whittington’s remarks, Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey stepped forward to present special awards/recognitions. The awards given were the M.C. McDaniel Scholarship Award and the Outstanding Phi Theta Kappan Award. The M.C. McDaniel family established this scholarship to be presented to outstanding graduating sophomores who plan to further their education at an institution of higher learning.

Yasmin Chambers was the M.C. McDaniel Scholarship recipient for Ridgeland, Nicholas Johnson, for Grenada, and Lucas Price for Goodman.

Chambers is a computer engineering major, serves as a combat engineer for the U.S. Army and works as a sterile processing tech for University of Mississippi Medical Center. Additionally,

she is a tutor and volunteers for Molina Health Care, Gamblin’s Orthodontics and Madison-Ridgeland Pet Grooming. On campus, Chambers is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and is a Dean’s List scholar. In the fall, Chambers plans to attend Mississippi State University and continue majoring in computer engineering. With this degree, she plans to create new and innovative medical technology.

Johnson, an elementary education major, holds several accolades at Holmes including Freshman Class Favorite, Dean’s List scholar, President’s List scholar, Holmes Foundation Scholarship recipient, Fine Arts Award recipient and Mississippi Economic Council Hobnob recipient. He serves as an Ambassador; the SGA secretary and treasurer; Baptist Student Union member, and a Writing Center tutor. After Holmes, Nicholas will transfer to Delta State University to earn a bachelor’s degree and master’s degree in elementary education and administration.

Price, an accounting major, was named Mr. Holmes Community College during the 2020-2021 school year. He served as vice president of

Phi Theta Kappa in 2021, president of Phi Theta Kappa in 2022 and was on the President’s List every semester. Price is also a member of the Holmes Connection!, Coachmen, Chorale and Baptist Student Union. After graduation from Holmes, Price plans to continue his education at Mississippi State University to pursue a career in accounting.

Price also received the Outstanding Phi Theta Kappan for the Goodman Campus. Bethany Biggers was the Ridgeland Campus Outstanding Phi Theta Kappan Award recipient and Tanner Vance, Grenada’s.

Biggers, a pre-medical major, president of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, president of STEM Club, an Ambassador, an SGA representative and served as the 2021 Ridgeland Campus Student Body Homecoming Maid. As a freshman, she served as secretary of the STEM Club, was voted Freshmen Class Favorite, received the English Composition Award and was involved in Focus Factor. She is planning to transfer to Mississippi State University

*Graduation, continued on Page 7*



Pictured is **Ava Stegall**, the mace bearer for the Ridgeland Campus/Yazoo Center ceremony.



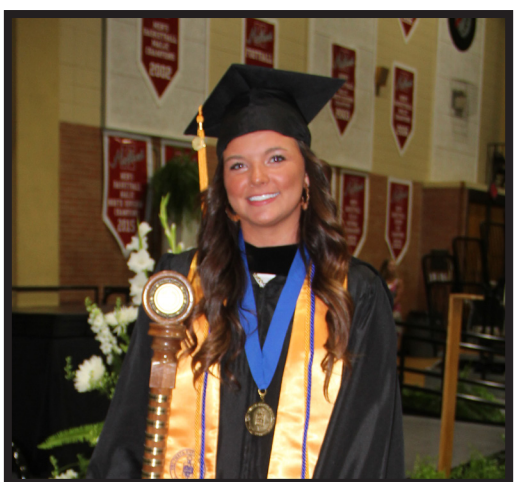
Pictured is Holmes President **Dr. Jim Haffey** presenting the M.C. McDaniel Scholarship Award to **Yasmin Chambers** during the Ridgeland Campus/Yazoo Center ceremony.



Pictured is Holmes President **Dr. Jim Haffey** presenting the Outstanding Phi Theta Kappan Award to **Bethany Biggers** during the Ridgeland Campus/Yazoo Center ceremony.



Pictured are graduation presenters (left to right) **Dr. Jenny Bailey Jones**, **Dr. Walter Roberts**, **Dr. Amy Whittington** and **Bethany Miller**.



Pictured is **Hayley Haffey**, the mace bearer for the Goodman Campus, Grenada Campus and Attala Center ceremony.



Pictured is Holmes President **Dr. Jim Haffey** presenting the M.C. McDaniel Scholarship Award to **Nicholas Johnson** during the Goodman Campus, Grenada Campus and Attala Center ceremony.



Pictured is Holmes President **Dr. Jim Haffey** presenting the M.C. McDaniel Scholarship Award to **Lucas Price** during the Goodman Campus, Grenada Campus and Attala Center ceremony. Price also received the Goodman Phi Theta Kappan Award.



Pictured is Holmes President **Dr. Jim Haffey** presenting the Outstanding Phi Theta Kappan Award to **Tanner Vance** during the Ridgeland Campus/Yazoo Center ceremony.



## Graduation *(continued from Page 6)*

and after graduation, plans to attend University of Mississippi Medical School to further her dream of becoming a pediatrician.

Vance is the president of the Alpha Mu Beta chapter. He is a Holmes Ambassador, Student Government Association Representative, Baptist Student Union member, Campus Favorite, and

an intern at Malachi Financial. He will transfer to The University of Mississippi Grenada and continue his education in Business Administration.

After the special awards, Director of Admissions Bethany Miller addressed the graduates.

“We are so proud of you!” Miller said. “As you leave today, you are

embarking upon a new chapter in your journey of life, and we sincerely hope you consider Holmes Community College a place to which you can return for support and encouragement. Our interest in you does not end today. As alumni, we ask that you stay in touch because you are important to us – our administration, faculty, and staff. You

carry the legacy of Holmes with you wherever you go, so when you succeed, Holmes Community College succeeds.

Each graduate made their way to the stage one-by-one to receive their diploma as their name was called. Miller concluded the ceremony, and presented the Class of 2022 to the audience.

## Growl *(continued from Front Page)*

Pender discussed their work covering the issues before the state legislature. Pettus covers Mississippi politics for The Associated Press and Pender serves as senior political reporter at Mississippi Today.

Following Pettus and Pender’s presentation, editorial cartoonist Ricky Nobile shared some of his favorite cartoons he has done over his 50 plus years career. Nobile also gave

students valuable tips for working in journalism, including “tell the truth.” Conference attendees enjoyed a boxed lunch from Broadstreet Bakery as they listened to the keynote speaker, investigative reporter Jerry Mitchell.

Mitchell, best known for reporting and writing stories that helped put four Klansmen and an accused serial killer behind bars, shared highlights from his colorful career and words of wisdom to

the aspiring college journalists. When asked if he was ever scared for his life when he pursued these interviews/ investigations of dangerous people, he remarked that “living fearlessly is not living without fear, it is living beyond fear...I’m a man of faith and I believe that it’s important to live for things bigger and more important than just yourself.”

Following Mitchell’s presentation,

Bruce announced the winners of the Better Newspaper Contest before dismissing everyone.

For more information about MPA, visit [www.mspress.org/](http://www.mspress.org/).

For more information about student publications at Holmes, contact Mary Margaret Busby at [mbusby@holmescc.edu](mailto:mbusby@holmescc.edu).

## PTK *(continued from Front Page)*

gineering Technology Instructor Will Alexander each received the Horizon Award for advisers.

Finally, the Alpha Lambda Sigma Chapter from the Ridgeland Campus received fifth place Most Distinguished

Chapters, fifth place in College Project and eighth place in Honors in Action. Je’la McLin of Jackson won the Gold-

en Key Award, as well.

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



Pictured are Goodman Campus Phi Theta Kappa Officers *(left to right)* **Macey Steed, Hayley Haffey, Lucas Price, Lindsey Turner and Jeffrey Jones.**



Pictured are Ridgeland Officers *(left to right)* **Edi Craft, Bethany Biggers, Ava Stegall and Je’la McLin.**

## Trautman joins Holmes family as choral/vocal music director

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



**Andrew Trautman**

T. Andrew Trautman recently joined the Holmes Community College family as director of choral and vocal music on the Goodman Campus. He has reached ABD status in the pursuit of the Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting at the University of Southern Mississippi. As a graduate assistant at USM, he held a variety of

teaching positions, including teacher of beginner and advanced aural skills, chorus master for the Southern Opera and Musical Theatre Company and instructor for a 200-student music appreciation class. He assisted most of the choirs at USM and led several of them in public performances.

Trautman holds two degrees from Coastal Carolina University, a Bachelor of Arts in Music with concentrations in voice and percussion, and a Master of Arts in Teaching with a concentration in music. While he was pursuing his master’s degree, Trautman was selected as the sole graduate assistant for the Department of Music at Coastal Carolina University.

He has studied conducting under Gregory Fuller, Jonathan Kilgore, Timothy Koch, Frances T. Sinclair, James Tully, Richard Johnson, David Rayl and Daniel Bara. Trautman is also in demand as a performer, having worked as a tenor soloist, chorus member and percussionist. In addition, he has held positions in church music programs

since 2007, including six years as the director of a church choir comprised entirely of paid musicians.

Before his collegiate postings, Trautman was a department head and taught choir, band and general music at Waccamaw Middle School in Pawleys Island, South Carolina. At the same time, he held the position of associate conductor for the Carolina Master Chorale, a symphonic chorus, under the direction of Dr. Tim Koch. Additionally, he is a member of the American Choral Directors Association, National Association for Music Education, National Collegiate Choral Organization, College Music Society, Conductors Guild, Royal School of Church Music (America), Percussive Arts Society and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

Not long after Trautman came to Holmes, he took the Concert Chorale to the 2022 State Community College Choral Festival. The event is split into two parts; a clinic and exhibition. The clinic experience is where all of the

gathered choirs get together to sing the same music under the same conductor. The conductors are chosen in a rotation from the various four-year schools of music in Mississippi. As for the exhibitions, they are interspersed throughout the two days of rehearsal. There are several breaks during which each participating community college choir gets to perform for an audience of their peers throughout the state.

“While it isn’t a competition, the Concert Chorale represented themselves and Holmes Community College very well,” Trautman said. “I got several compliments from other choir directors around the state. Upon our return to Goodman, many students mentioned that singing with so many people from so many places was a highlight.”

To learn more about the Holmes Concert Chorale and other opportunities for choral/vocal majors, contact Trautman at [dtrautman@holmescc.edu](mailto:dtrautman@holmescc.edu).



## Holmes honors 11 retirees on April 28

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured are the Holmes Community College faculty and staff members honored during the 2022 Retirement Reception at the President's Home on April 28. They are *(left to right)* **Greg Wilson, Cham Blain, Angie Blain, Wyndy Peeples, Dr. Stephanie Diffey, Pamela Moore, Roxanne Harrison, James Hodges and Terry Fancher.** *Not pictured:* Jessica Elliott and Jennie Pegg.

On Thursday, April 28, Holmes Community College honored 11 Holmes employees who are retiring this spring with a reception at the President's House in Goodman. Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey presented each retiree with a plaque and a reception followed for honorees, faculty, staff, family and friends. Honorees recognized included: Angie Blain, Cham Blain, Dr. Stephanie Diffey, Jessica Elliott, Terry Fancher, Roxanne Harrison, James Hodges, Pamela Moore, Wyndy Peeples, Jennie Pegg and Greg Wilson. Elliott and Pegg were unable to attend.

### Angie Blain

Blain is retiring from Holmes after 30 years of service. She is an instructor in the Education Department on the Ridgeland Campus, but she has held a few different positions over the years. Blain joined the Holmes family in 1989 as an administrative assistant in the Goodman Campus vocational/technical department. She took a one-year hiatus from Holmes to work at Brookhaven Elementary but returned in 1993.

In 1996, she became assistant to the district vocational/technical director, and in 2000, moved into the role of director of personnel and assistant to the executive vice president and business manager. Blain switched gears and began teaching on the Ridgeland Campus in 2004.

She holds an Associate of Arts from Holmes Junior College, a Bachelor of Science from Mississippi State University and a master's from Grand Canyon University. She is married to Cham Blain, an engineering technology instructor at Holmes, and they are members of Pickens Baptist Church. They have a son, Hunter, who is employed with Continental Tire in Clinton, and a daughter, Haley, who is employed with Graduate Services and is married to Josh King, employed with B&B Archery.

"In retirement, I'd like to work part-time, but I look forward to spending more time with my precious family and friends," Blain said. "I would love for Cham and I to do some traveling."

### Cham Blain

Blain is retiring from Holmes after nearly 25 years of service as an Engineering Technology and Industrial Technology instructor/advisor. Prior

to Holmes, he worked in educational sales for Educational Training & Consultants (ETC). Before his employment with ETC, he taught diversified technology for two years at the Canton Career Center and three years at Brookhaven Vocational Center.

He earned the Specialist in Safety and Health (SSH) from University of Texas at Arlington, a Master of Education from Mississippi State University and a Bachelor of Science from MSU.

Blain and his wife, education instructor Angie Blain, are members of Pickens Baptist Church. They have a son, Hunter, who is employed with Continental Tire in Clinton, and a daughter, Haley, who is employed with Graduate Services and married to Josh King. In his spare time, Blain enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time with family. In retirement, he plans to find something to do part-time, hunt, fish and spend time with loved ones.

"I have truly enjoyed my time working here," Blain said. "I will miss the friends and family that we call Holmes!"

### Stephanie Diffey, Ed.D.

Dr. Diffey is retiring from Holmes after 18 years of service working for the college and 29 years of working for the State of Mississippi. She started as a faculty member at Holmes in the Mathematics Department, served as the PreCore Studies Department Chair and QEP Director and accepted the position as Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness in 2014. She earned her undergraduate and master's degrees from Mississippi State University and her doctorate from the University of Mississippi.

During her tenure at Holmes, Dr. Diffey served as the music director of Main Street Baptist Church for more than 15 years and of Pickens Baptist Church for more than three. In addition to singing and playing the piano, she enjoys drawing, pottery and spending quality time with her three adult children - Ethan, Noah and Jesse. Following her retirement, Dr. Diffey will continue her career by working for the Alabama Commission on Higher Education.

### Jessica Elliott

Elliott, program director and instructor for surgical technology, retired from Holmes after 26 years with the college. She is currently a registered

nurse with Life Help Mental Health Center – Grenada Crisis Stabilization Unit.

Elliott holds a BSN from the University of Texas, as well as three associate degrees from the Holmes Grenada Campus. Her associate degrees are in nursing, forensic science and psychology. She earned her teacher licensure from Mississippi State University and an associate degree in occupational education and an associate degree in surgical technology from Hinds Community College.

Elliott is a national officer for the Association of Surgical Technologists (AST) and on the board of the Mississippi State Assembly of Association of Surgical Technologists. She's also a member of Association of Operating Room Nurses and Mississippi Nurses Association.

"In addition to working with my national organization, the AST, I plan to travel and spend more time with family," Elliott said. "I will be continuing my healthcare career and pursuing higher education. I also have plans to go on surgical mission trips to Ecuador and Kenya this fall."

Elliot enjoys traveling, painting, reading, cooking and volunteering for Healing the Children. She has three children – Anita, Xavier and Tarilyn – and three grandchildren – Kayleb, Corey and Jaelyn.

### Terry Fancher

Terry Fancher is retiring from Holmes after 25 years of service. He is the director of student housing and has also served as head women's softball coach in the past (for nine years while also serving as housing director). Fancher holds a B.A. degree from Mississippi State University (MSU) with additional master's degree hours. He also attended Mississippi College (MC) for two years.

Prior to Holmes, Fancher worked with international student services at MSU, and before that, as a claims representative for Social Security Administration. He and his wife, Lacye, have a daughter, Lakelynn (and a son, Brennan (17). Lakelynn is a junior at Mississippi College and Brennan is a junior at Kosciusko High School.

In his spare time, Fancher enjoys spending time with family, metal detecting (treasure hunting), antique collecting and fishing. A former baseball player at MC and MSU, and member of the 1989 SEC baseball championship team, he enjoys baseball and softball instruction, as well. He is a deacon and Sunday school teacher at First Baptist Church Kosciusko as well as a member of the Mississippi Association of Housing Officers. Upon retiring from Holmes, he will begin full-time employment with French Camp Academy.

"I truly appreciate having had the opportunity to be a part of Holmes Community College all these years," Fancher said. "I realize now that I have spent close to half of my life working here and, in that time, have had the privilege of meeting a lot of good people along the way. I hope that during my time here that I was able to make some small contribution to the lives of those I served."

### Roxanne Harrison

Harrison is retiring from Holmes after serving as an administrative

assistant for Career-Technology and Workforce Development. She holds degrees in music education and elementary education from Delta State University and Texas A&M University, respectively. Harrison and her husband, Kenny, are active members of Coffeeville First Baptist Church where she serves as the church pianist. The Harrisons have three boys, Ben, Ryan and Philip; three daughters-in-law and four grandsons, Rowan, Maclane, Easton and Benjamin (and a baby girl on the way). In her free time, she enjoys sewing, creating crafts for her Etsy shop, needlework, remodeling and playing the piano.

"I plan to spend a lot of time with my grandbabies, do some remodeling with my husband and just relax for a while!" Harrison said.

### James Hodges

Hodges of Lexington is retiring from Holmes after working for eight years with the grounds crew. The J.J. McClain graduate worked for the Holmes County Sanitation Department before coming to the college. He was with the department for 11 years. He worked at Fleetwood Holmes in Lexington for 11 years prior to that and 10 years at Lexington Products.

Hodges enjoys spending time with his church family at Pentecost Church of God in Christ and also hunting and fishing. He has two grown children.

### Pamela Moore

Moore is retiring from Holmes after serving as a Grenada Campus English instructor for nearly 13 years. Prior to coming to Holmes, she taught in the Mobile, Alabama, school district and at St. Agnes Academy in Memphis, Tennessee. She also owned and operated a bookstore called Pages and More Booksellers for nine years (before the days of Amazon).

Moore earned her bachelor's and master's in education from the University of Mississippi. Her professional memberships include: Alpha Phi Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International Society for Women Educators and the Grenada Higher Education Association (local and state member).

Moore has been an active member of the Grenada Garden Club for over 25 years. She is also an active member of the New Century Book Club and a Life Member of the Junior Auxiliary of Grenada. Moore attends Emmanuel Baptist Church where she is currently serving on the Properties Committee and the Boomers "50 and Up" Committee.

"I enjoy gardening, traveling, reading, playing bridge every other Friday, attending Ole Miss sporting events and spending time with my family, especially my sweet grandchildren," Moore said. "I was married for almost 35 years to the late Kevin Moore. I have three daughters, two sons-in-law and five beautiful grandchildren. I plan to spend more time visiting with family and friends. I also want to get back into my yoga classes, travel and just enjoy having more time for all of favorite hobbies."

### Wyndy Peeples

Peeples is retiring after serving nearly 16 years as a Goodman Campus

*Retiree, continued on Page 9*



## Retirees (Continued from Page 8)

Career-Technical Education (CTE) counselor. Previously, she worked as an elementary counselor and taught kindergarten and first grade in the Kosciusko School District for 12 years.

Peeples holds a bachelor’s degree in education and a master’s degree in education/counseling from Mississippi State University. Her professional memberships include Mississippi Counseling Association, Mississippi Community College Counselors Association and Mississippi Vocational Counselors Association. She has also been a member of Harmonia United Methodist Church for 45 years.

“I have been married to Cody Peeples for 10 years and I have two sons: Ryan Lawrence and Sam Lawrence,” Peeples said. “Ryan farms in the Attala County area and he and his wife Lauren have five sons: Sam, Chap, Knox, Wells and McCoy. My son Sam attends

seminary in Knoxville, Tennessee with plans to graduate in 2023. In retirement, I plan to travel with my husband and spend time with my children and grandchildren.

“I plan to garden, cook, kayak and live life to the fullest, making the most of every day. There are many fond memories that I will be taking with me from my time at Holmes and as part of the CTE family. I will continue to recruit potential students after my retirement and make sure they understand why there truly is “No Place like Holmes.”

### Jennie Pegg

Pegg, a mathematics instructor on the Grenada Campus, is retiring from Holmes after 19 years of service. She served as chair of the mathematics and computer science department begin-

ning in the fall of 2015. Pegg has a bachelor’s degree in physics from Converse College, in Spartan, South Carolina, and a master’s in education from Delta State University.

She previously worked as a medical assistant in Nashville, Tennessee; a mathematics instructor at Bolton High School in Shelby County, Tennessee; district manager of Field Enterprises Education Corporation and a mathematics instructor in the Grenada Separate School District. Pegg came to Holmes in 1985, the year the Grenada Campus opened, as an adjunct instructor and has been full-time since 2002.

### Greg Wilson

Wilson is retiring from Holmes after 13 years of service to the college. He teaches Human Anatomy & Physiology, Nutrition and Principles of Biology

on the Ridgeland Campus. Wilson has been in education for 41 years; 28 years in high school and the remaining 13 at Holmes. He holds an Associate of Arts from Hinds Community College, a Bachelor of Science from The University of Southern Mississippi and a master’s from USM. In his free time, he enjoys cycling, wildlife conservationist and traveling.

“My plans for retirement are to visit National Parks if I can afford the gas,” Wilson said.

## Higgins chosen to State Advocacy Fellowship

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Daphne Higgins

Holmes Community College Adult Education/HSE Instructor Daphne Higgins was selected to the Coalition on Adult Basic Education’s second cohort of State Advocates for Adult Education.

The Coalition on Adult Basic Education’s State Advocacy Fellowship focuses on the development of leadership, advocacy skills, research capacity, and network of influence for adult educators, educational staff, and/or administrators. The purpose of this fellowship is to help build a robust network of leaders and advocates focused on the advancement of adult literacy across the country.

During the part-time, year-long

fellowship, fellows will engage in national and regional policy discussions and join a growing number of peers dedicated to building advocacy. The COABE State Advocacy Fellowship comprises a series of federal- and state-related training sessions focused on building advocacy and leadership skills.

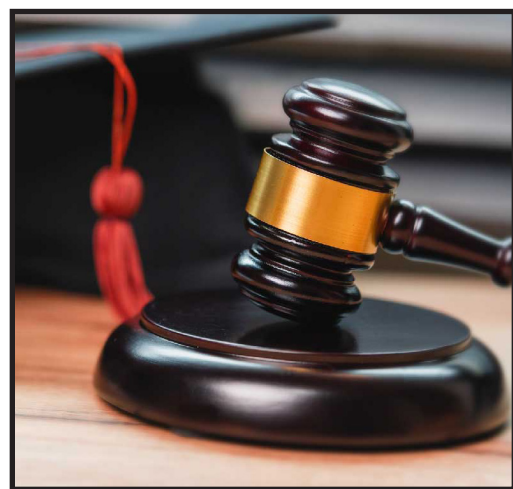
“This program has proven success increasing funding and visibility at the state level,” said Sharon Bonney, Chief Executive Officer for the Coalition on Adult Basic Education. Bonney cited the recent Collective Impact Report that was published by COABE noting the accomplishments of the first cohort of the Fellowship.

“I am thrilled for the 2022 SAAEF Fellows as they spend the next year learning how to become better advocates for adult education across the country and better leaders, with the ultimate goal of providing the best adult education systems for our students. We are mindful that legislators do not make policy, the stories of our students and our teachers do,” says Jeffrey Abramowitz, Chair of the SAAEF Fellowship Program.

Dollar General served as the sponsor for this program. For more information about the SAAEF program, visit <https://coabe.org/legislative-center/state-advocates-for-adult-education-fellowship/>.

## Holmes adds two specialties for the paralegal program

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



The Holmes Community College Paralegal Technology program is now offering two different pathways for students: Legal Assistant Technology and Legal Management Technology. The Paralegal Technology program is housed on the Ridgeland Campus and taught by Darleen Dozier.

“It’s the same basic program, but students will choose specialized electives depending on which pathway they take,” Dozier said. The Legal Assistant Technology option is more computer-focused classes, more about formatting documents (along with many other skills learned). The management option is more along the lines of managing a law firm, and the stu-

dent will take more business classes.”

Students do have the option to complete both specializations and could even come out with two different degrees by only taking six extra hours.

“The degree is so versatile; I’ve got graduates working all over the place, not just law firms,” Dozier said. “You could work in a corporate environment, an insurance company, in a courtroom, an administrative agency, a hospital, among other places. Because it is so versatile, it opens up a number of opportunities to work in possible non-traditional environments and/or hours.”

Dozier still keeps in contact with many of her former students and they are proof of the versatility of the degree.

Tanya Rogers, CP, a 2010 Holmes graduate, is a paralegal supervisor at Forman Watkins & Krutz, LLP.

“I have always been interested in law,” Rogers said. “When I looked at the course work for the program, I knew this program was perfect for me. I couldn’t wait to take every single class. The classes you will take in the paralegal program will not only help you in your career, these classes will help you in your day-to-day life. The

law touches us in a practical way every day.

“For example, the information and computer skills you will learn in this well-rounded program are far reaching into other career areas,” Roger said. “I highly recommend the Paralegal Technology Program at Holmes Community College.

Amy L. Tester, CP, ALP, is a legal assistant for the U.S. Department of Justice/Federal Bureau of Prisons – Consolidated Legal Center (CLC). She graduated from Holmes’ Paralegal Technology program in December of 2021 (after formerly graduating from Holmes in 2012 with an Associate of Art degree in business administration). In her position, Tester serves as Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) coordinator for the federal prison complex which consists of four security level prisons all located at one centralized Federal Correctional Complex in Yazoo City.

“I assist in civil litigation duties pertaining to Bivens and Habeas Corpus petitions filed by inmates against the Bureau of Prisons/United States,” Tester said. “I also assist in discovery efforts. I started my federal corrections career with the Bureau of Prisons in 2013. Prior to working for the Bureau,

I had always had an interest in legal information and the criminal justice system. I was promoted to legal assistant at FCC Yazoo City, CLC in 2019 after the birth of my daughter. It was then that I wanted to be more educated in the legal field and feel more evolved in legal work to assist in my new legal position.

“I didn’t want to just show up and do the work I knew to do based on my bureau experience,” Tester said. “I wanted to actually know law and study law and be more familiar with the documents I came across daily, so I chose to go back to school. Holmes was my start and gave me the tools and studies I needed to feel like a part of something within my department. Holmes also prepared me for very tough paralegal certifications for reputable national paralegal associations like NALS and NALA.”

Tester now holds two legal credentials, Certified Paralegal (CP) with NALA and Accredited Legal Professional (ALP) with NALS. She is continuing her education at Mississippi College and will graduate next spring

*Paralegal, continued on Page 10*



## Paralegal (Continued from Page 9)



**Tanya Rogers, CP**



**Amy L. Tester, CP, ALP**



**Kimberly Warren, CP**



**Ken Tullis, Jr.**



**Tammy Hughes**

with a Bachelor of Science in Paralegal Studies.

“Without my experience at Holmes and the online capabilities to finish my legal studies, I would not be where I am today and I give all the credit to Holmes Community College,” Tester said. “Students who are on the fence, give Darleen Dozier a call and let her talk to you. She is over the program and I can almost 100 percent guarantee if the legal world is something you enjoy, you will be highly satisfied with the education you will attain while in the Holmes Paralegal Technology program.”

Kimberly Warren graduated from Holmes in December of 2012 before continuing on to earn her bachelor of science in legal studies from Mississippi College in May 2015. She is now

a legal assistant for the Mississippi Attorney General’s Office – Consumer Protection Division.

The Attorney General’s Office is essentially the law firm for the State of Mississippi. The Attorney General, Lynn Fitch, is the chief law enforcement officer for the state and the Attorney General staff work daily to uphold and enforce the laws for the state, both criminally and civilly. The Consumer Protection Division protects Mississippians from unfair, anticompetitive and deceptive business practices.

“Even when I was little girl, I always wanted to do work in the legal field in some capacity,” Warren said. “I love to research issues and to find that one fact that may make or break a case. I have always wanted a career where I could make a difference. As a paralegal, I feel that I can do that in some capacity.”

Warren’s job duties range from administrative tasks to assisting consumers and helping with complex litigation. She also helps attorneys with the different computer programs that they use and conducts trainings for them on the programs. She has also helped draft proposed legislation.

“Currently, there are 12 colleges and universities that offer paralegal/legal assistant degree programs in Mississippi,” Warren said. “Of those 12, the program at Holmes under Darlene Dozier is by far the best. Mrs. Dozier does more than teach classes and what it means to be a paralegal. She encourages her students and pushes them to step

outside of their comfort zone so that they can discover their true potential. Even now, after I graduated her program almost 10 years ago, I will still go to her for advice. This program that she has built along with the instructors truly make a huge difference in what you do and how you approach working in the legal field.

“When I started Holmes in January 2011, I had been out of high school for nearly 16 years,” Warren said. “A lot changed since that time, and I was way out of my element. I was terrified of the amount of work that had to be done on a computer as my skills were basic at best. However, all the instructors at Holmes were amazing and helped make it an easier experience. As I said, Mrs. Dozier pushed us to take on tasks outside of our comfort zones. She required that all enrolled in the program enter the Mississippi Paralegal Association Essay writing contest at least one time. The fall of 2011 was the first year that our program won first and second place in the contest. To my surprise, I won first place in the entire state. Without this program I would never have realized my true potential. Mrs. Dozier and this program changed my life, and I would not be where I am today without it.”

Ken Tullis, Jr., graduated from Holmes in 2019 and his most recent position was at Left Jones Law Group. He left that position in April to move to Memphis, but at Left Jones, he primarily assisted clients with interrogatories and requested medical records.

He was also a runner that filed documents at different court houses around the Jackson area as well as a process server who served people.

“I got into the paralegal field because I wanted to be part of the legal field and at the time, didn’t want to incur the debt or invest the time to get law degree,” Tullis said. “It is a rewarding field; it is challenging but worth the effort. It has opened doors for me where I normally would not have had a chance.”

Tammy Hughes graduated Holmes in 2020 and is now a paralegal specialist for the U.S. Small Business Administration. Her job duties include researching and interpreting disaster loan programs’ laws, regulations, policies and standard operating procedures.

“I’ve always helped family and friends with documents and decided to enhance my skills with paralegal studies,” Hughes said. “This is a wonderful and rewarding program that will require a high level of studying and preparation to launch your paralegal career. You will receive a comprehensive, well-designed curriculum and support system to help you become an excellent Paralegal. After all, ‘There’s No Place like Holmes!’”

For more information about the Holmes Paralegal Technology program and the new specializations, visit <https://holmescc.edu/career-technical/paralegal-technology/> or contact Darleen Dozier at [ddozier@holmescc.edu](mailto:ddozier@holmescc.edu).

## UMMC visits the Ridgeland Campus

**By Elijah Mangum**  
*Staff Reporter*

Dr. Dan Coleman and Dr. Demondes Haynes of the University of Mississippi Medical Center delivered a talk and Q&A at the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus on Tuesday, April 20.

This was part of annual visit by UMMC every spring semester. Over

20 students attended the event looking to learn more about medical school.

For Dr. Kenneth T. Milliken, a Holmes chemistry instructor who organized the visit, said it was the Q&A session that he felt was the most impactful. Dr. Milliken stated “There were good questions they had on their



minds and they were answered in very good detail. So, the students came

away satisfied knowing what to do to prepare and apply.”

## Choctaw Culinary Arts students tour Holmes

*From Staff Reports/Photos*

Students from the Culinary Arts program at the Choctaw County Career and Technology Center toured the Ridgeland Campus on Wednesday, May 11. Students enjoyed a culinary demonstration followed by a wonderful lunch prepared by Chef Alexei Harrison and her students.

The Culinary Arts program, established in 2020 on the Ridgeland

Campus, is a two-year program that operates out of the Woods Williams Complex on the Sunnybrook Children’s Home campus. Culinary Arts is just one of 25 career-technical programs offered throughout Holmes’ nine-county district. To learn about all of the programs, visit <https://holmescc.edu/career-technical/>.





## Grenada Campus holds Honors Day 2022

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured are the Grenada Campus honorees. They are *(first row, left to right)* Gavin Kolb, Jayminia Walden, Jamya Benson, Nick Johnson, LoriLee Vail, Kristi Bagwell, Lilly Morrow, Kristen Holifield, Catlin Parker, Amber Thompson, Keiarra Ward, *(middle row, left to right)* Rodrian R. Phillips, Ian Cook, Marcus Flowers, Alexander Willoughby, Martha Clark Robertson, Carla Thompson, Karlee Luke, Hunter Blaylock, Josh Millican, Jillian Craig, *(back row, left to right)* Malcom Booker, Allyn-Claire Gaunt, Karsten Denton and Charles Love.

The Holmes Community College  
Grenada Campus held their Honors

Day on April 6.  
Family and friends were welcomed

by Academic Coordinator Dr. Kathryn Cox. Following Dr. Cox, Director of Heath Science Programs Ginger Meriwether gave an opening prayer.

A number of awards were presented to students, recognizing their achievements over the last year: Kristi Bagwell for the Associate Degree Nursing (Day) program; Jayminia Walden for the Associate Degree Nursing (Evening) program; Robert May for the Business Administration award, Katelyn Blakely for the Computer Science award; Alexander Willoughby for the Creative Writing award; Hunter Blaylock for the Conservation Law Enforcement Technology program; Malcolm Booker for the Welding & Cutting Technology program; Dawson Carnathan for the History award; Princess Carr for Life and Learning Skills and Criminal Justice awards; Ian Cook for the Chemistry award; Jillian Craig for the English Composition and Speech award; Karsten Denton for the

Physical Therapy Assistant program; Marcus Flowers for the Electro-Mechanical Technology program; Allyn-Claire Gant for the Spanish award; Elizabeth Gianini for the Engineering Technology program; Kristen Holifield the EMS Basic program; Nick Johnson for the Literature award; Charles Love for the Welding & Cutting Technology program; Karlee Luke for the Fine Arts award and Lilly Morrow for the Biology award.

Additionally, students inducted into the Grenada Campus Hall of Fame were honored. Inductees included Jamya Benson, Allyn-Claire Gant, Nick Johnson and Gavin Kolb. Benson was also recognized for her Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi Academic Team accomplishments.

The ceremony was followed by a reception with family and friends of all award recipients hosted by faculty and staff of the Grenada Campus.

## Holmes Ridgeland Campus holds annual honors program

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Pictured are the honorees from Madison County. They are *(front row, left to right)* Laura Reilly, Madison Jackson, Julia Jordan, Ava Grace Stegall, Rachael Parham, Olivia Deslatte, Junnah Faye Mondejar, Emily Huff, Jon Stegall, *(back row, left to right)* Jeffrey Graham, Daniel O'Dell, Bethany Biggers, Estrella Mondragon, Rachel Landrum, Obaid Maha and Jaylon Boarden.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus recognized its students' achievements and honors during the 2022 Honors Day Program held April 20 in the Ridgeland High School auditorium. Representatives from each academic and career-technical program presented awards to students who have shown excellence in their given major, program or extracurricular activity. Other special awards were given, as well, in various categories.

The evening began with a welcome

from Ridgeland Campus Academic Dean Dr. Tonya Lawrence and an invocation from Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Don Burnham. Award presentations began with recognizing the 2022 Ridgeland Campus Hall of Fame inductees. Hall of Fame is the highest honor a student can receive, and recipients were voted on by faculty and staff based on academic achievement, campus involvement and community service. The inductees included: Faith Elizabeth Austin, Bethany

Jadyn Biggers, Yasmin Chambers, Olivia M. Deslatte, Londyn McKenzie Dorsey, Jireh Green, Alfredo Marin, Je'la McLin, Junnah Mondejar, Ava Grace Stegall, Jon Stegall and Joseph "Joe" N. Williams.

The Biological Science Award went to Ava Case; the Physical Science Award went to Obaid Maha and the Business Administration Award went to Rachael Parham. The Criminal Justice Award went to Estrella Mondragon; the Educational Programs Award to Faith Austin and the English Composition Award to Anna Wilson. Julia Jordan received the Fine Arts Award; Morgan Kaminski the Health, Physical Education & Recreation Award; Brooklyn Gaddis, the Journalism Award and Madison Jackson, the Literature Award.

Daniel O'Dell was the Spanish Award recipient, Jada Van Buren, History & Political Science Award recipient and Jon Stegall received the Engineering Award, the Mathematics Award, and the Computer Science Award. The Public Speaking Award went to Jeanetra Hayes and the Social & Behavioral Science Award to Calum Sinclair.

Winners of the Literary Contest were

also recognized. In the Short Story Category, Bethany Biggers came in first place, Laura Reilly in second and Elizabeth Venarske in third. In Poetry, Gladys Wilson won first and Junnah Mondejar came in second. Finally, Emily Huff placed first in the Personal Essay Category.

In the CTE and workforce programs, Curtis McCune was the Information Systems Technology Award recipient; Camille Jones received the OTA Award; Kenya Wooten, Business Technology; Jeffrey Graham, Emergency Medical Sciences and Jaylon Boarden, Engineering Technology. There were two Surgical Technology Award recipients, as well as two Culinary Arts Technology. For Surgical Tech, Rachel Landrum and Kara Patterson were honored, and for Culinary Arts, Sean Jordan and Sarah Hammons.

In addition, Megan Morris received the ADN Award, Emily Barber received the Paralegal Technology Award and Christopher Dancy was the Industrial Mechanics & Maintenance Technology Award recipient. Louis Phelps was the Welding and Cutting honoree. The ceremony concluded with closing remarks by CTE Coordinator Allison DeWeese.



Pictured are the honorees from Rankin County. They are *(left to right)* Jireh Green, Megan Morris, Morgan Kaminski, Faith Austin, Joseph Williams, Kara Patterson and Brooklyn Gaddis.



Pictured are the honorees from Hinds County. They are *(left to right)* Kenya Wooten, Sarah Hammons, Sean Jordan, Callum Sinclair, Je'la McLin, Yasmin Chambers, Londyn Dorsey and Jada Van Buren.



*(left)* Pictured is **Curtis McCune** of Warren County.

*(center)* Pictured is **Camille Jones** of Sunflower County.

*(right)* Pictured is Madison County honoree **Louis Phelps** (missed the group photo).



# Holmes Goodman Campus recognizes student achievement with Honors Program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the Goodman Campus honorees from Attala County. They are (first row, left to right) **Lucas Price, Dorwin Jenkins, Robert Ethan Lindsay, Addison Burrell, Cayley N. Tiller, Cadence A. Tiller**, (middle row, left to right) **Morgan Goodwin, Lindsey Turner, Hanadi A. Hariri, Shadilya M. Russell, Jaquarius Thomas, Charles Jeffrey Jones, Briley Carter Nunn**, (back row, left to right) **William Cook, Paul Wood, Shon Denny, Hayley Haffey and Gabrielle Hunt**.

The Holmes Community College Goodman Campus recognized its students' honors during the 2022 Honors Program held April 19 in McMorrough Library. Representatives from each academic and career-technical program presented awards to students who have shown excellence in their given major, program or extracurricular activity. Other special awards were given, as well, in various categories. Prior to the ceremony, recipients, presenters, family and friends had an opportunity to mingle and enjoy hors d'oeuvres by Southern Occasions.

The program began with Goodman Campus Vice President Andy Wood welcoming everyone to the program followed by Dean of Career Technical Education Dr. Luke Jones giving the invocation. Will Alexander kicked off the award presentations, presenting the Architectural Engineering Award

to Cameron Keys. Derrick Rainey presented the Automotive Technology Award to Jaquarius Thomas; Jeffrey Brown presented the Band Award to Noah Routh and Jay Cheatham presented the Bill Watkins Visual Arts Award to Catherine Milford, who was unable to attend.

Jamie Sample presented the Biological Science Award to Dorwin Jenkins; Tracy Morgan presented the Business Administration Award to Cayley Tiller; Ginny Ables presented the Business Office Technology Award to Briley Carter Nunn; Drew Troutman presented the Choral Music Award to Camden Dixon and Angela Boyd presented the Christine Herron Achievement Award to Sanjay Patel. The Christine Herron Achievement Award is given to a non-traditional student who is active in MOSAIC and shows academic excellence.

Casey Caldwell presented the Collision Repair Technology Award to Victor Levell Nolden; Dr. Luke Jones presented the Cosmetology Award to Morgan Goodwin and Chad Moorer presented the Creative Writing Award to Lakesia Smart. Smart also received the Literature Award, presented by LaShonda Levy, and the Music Major Award, presented by Drew Trautman.

Katrena Harris presented the Criminal Justice Award to Shadilya Russell; Sonja Arnett presented the Elementary Education Award to Addison Burrell; Will Alexander presented the Industrial Technology Award to Kaden Raper and Jason Kelly presented the History & Political Science Award to Colby Tavares who was unable to attend.

Jessica Brown presented the English Composition Award to Olivia Johnson; LaShonda Levy presented (on behalf of Ana Davenport) the Foreign Language Award to Robert Ethan Lindsay; Mary Margaret Busby presented the Growl Award to Dallan Sisco; Bill Grace presented the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Award to Cadence A. Tiller and Jeffery Cotten presented the Heating & Air Conditioning Award to Ethan Worthy.

Wood returned to the podium to recognize the Hall of Fame inductees. Hall of Fame is the highest honor a student can receive and recipients were voted on by faculty and staff based on academic achievement, campus involvement and community service. The inductees included: Elizabeth Cain, William Cook, Hayley Haffey, Sharad Patel, Lucas Price and Paul Wood. A few of these students were honored with other awards, as well.

Heather Jones presented Cain with the Michael Klauk Award, named for a former pre-med student who tragically passed away. She also present-

ed Cook with the Physical Science Award and the Holmes Plus Award. The other Holmes Plus Award recipient was Charles Jeffrey Jones. Jones also received the Engineering Award, presented by Dr. Durga Siwakoti, and the Wesley David Rule Mathematics Award, presented by Jodie Burchfield and Angela Miles.

Price was also recognized for Phi Theta Kappa awards. Simonee Miller recognized him and Lindsey Turner of for being named to the Phi Theta Kappa All Mississippi Academic Team, and Will Alexander recognized him for receiving the Order of the Golden Key Award.

Amanda Maples was the recipient of the Dr. Marilyn Burrell Memorial Award, presented by Tess Crenshaw, which is given to a student with a strong academic record, leadership skills and campus involvement. Jeffrey Brown presented the Percussion Award to Cathy Taylor Shute; LaShonda Levy presented the Social & Behavioral Science Award to Hanadi Hariri and Tina Boyette presented the Student Government Association Award to Gabrielle Hunt.

Ben Lewis presented the Welding Award to Ta'Skyaa Brown and Tammy Caldwell presented the Practical Nursing Award to Urhonda Lewis, who was unable to attend. Shon Denny received the Deans and Directors Award, which is bestowed upon a non-traditional student who has been out of school for a while and but has exceptional grades and has made an impact in the classroom. Dr. Luke Jones presented him with this award. Academic Coordinator Wendy Grace concluded the evening, thanking everyone for coming and congratulating the students again.



Pictured are the Holmes County honorees (left to right) **Victor Levell Nolden, Lakesia Smart, Cameron Keys and Ta'Skyaa Brown**.



Pictured are the Rankin County honorees (left to right) **Dallan Sisco and Noah Routh**.



Pictured are the Marion County honorees (left to right) **Sharad Patel and Sanjay Patel**.



Pictured is **Amanda Maples**, the only honoree from Adams County.



Pictured is **Olivia Johnson** of Carroll County.



Pictured is **Camden Dixon**, the only honoree from Hinds County.



Pictured is **Elizabeth Cain**, the only Leake County honoree.



(left) Pictured is **Kaden Raper**, the only Madison County honoree.



(center) Pictured is **Cathy Taylor Shute**, the only honoree from Montgomery County.



(right) Pictured is **Ethan Worthy**, the only Yazoo County honoree.



## Holmes hosts 2022 Spring Pops Concert

*From Staff Reports  
Photos by Amy Lindsay*

Holmes Community College hosted the 2022 Spring Pops Concert on Wednesday, April 20 and Thursday,

April 21 at 6:30 p.m. in McDaniel Auditorium on the Goodman Campus. The Chorale, Coachmen and Connec-



## Rosie L. Small-Gregory Memorial Scholarship established

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Rosie Lee Small-Gregory was born and raised in Winona as the sixth child of Monroe & Lucy Bell Small. She completed her formal education at J.J. Knox High School. After graduation, Small-Gregory moved to Chicago, Illinois, and became a part of the labor force.

After some time, she moved back to Winona to take care of her mother & father who were in failing health. It was then when she developed a passion for caring for others. This passion led her to enroll in and graduate from the Holmes Commu-

nity College Practical Nursing program in 1980.

During her 32-year tenure as a licensed practical nurse, Small-Gregory worked in a variety of health care settings which included hospitals, clinics, nursing homes and her favorite, a group home. Small-Gregory worked as an LPN until her last day on this earth. July 3, 2012. Small-Gregory was on her lunch break and suffered a pulmonary embolism.

Her caring and compassionate spirit is still alive in so many patients and families

and her presence is truly missed. Therefore, her children, William K. Small and Dr. Keon M. Gregory, want to ensure that her spirit is eternal.

This scholarship is presented to a well-deserved person who identifies as an African American, is from Montgomery County and who wishes to model her caring and compassionate spirit. This scholarship is a way for William and Keon to give to other families what their family had.

## Goodman intramural activities continue after tornado

**By Dallan Sisco**  
*Staff Reporter*



**Lawrence Wiley** participates in intramural activities.

On Wednesday, April 25, intramural activities on the Holmes Goodman Campus commenced their final activity with the conclusion of their ongoing dodgeball tournament. With six teams in total, the reigning champion, The Average Joes, emerged victorious once again. Although the Goodman Campus has sustained damage from severe weather, spirits are still high. Spirits so high in fact, that individuals off campus made the trip just to show support for their fellow team and classmates.

When interviewed, Intramural Director Sidney Kimble voiced her hopeful

outlook on the situation, and how she plans to make the best under the present circumstances.

"I plan on bringing back all the same stuff we did this semester," Kimble said. "I am also looking to add a wiffle ball court, a badminton court and a few other things I have up my sleeve."

If you are interested in participating in these activities, they will resume next semester. You or a fellow student can reach Kimble in the fitness center on the Goodman Campus from 1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.



Holmes Ridgeland graduates 27 from ADN program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Ridgeland Campus ADN Class of 2022. They are (first row, left to right) Kaitlyn McBride, Tristan Taylor, Romona Watts, Madison Wilson, Brandi Holden, Rebecca Harper, Megan Morris, (middle row, left to right) Olajumoke Olateru-Olagbegi Linson Georgia Watkins, Anna Gunter, Lawankia Ward, BreAnna Marshall, Kelsey Watts, Allison Rivers, Hannah Nash, Raveen Johnson, (back row, left to right) Maria Ibarra, Meagan Murphey, Stephanie Hill, Slade Allgood, Landon Kinney, Sarah Vaughan, Candice Miles, Deyuna Woods and Shonda Pate.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus held a Pinning

Ceremony for the graduating Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Class of 2022

on May 4 at Ridgeland High School. Twenty-seven students graduated from the program

The Class of 2022 includes: Slade Allgood, Romona Bishop, Anna Gunter, Rebecca Harper, Stephanie Hill, Brandi Holden, Maria Ibarra, Raveen Johnson, Melissa Keese, Landon Kinney, Olajumoke Olateru-Olagbegi Linson, Breanna Marshall, Kaitlyn McBride, Candice Miles, Megan Morris, Meagan Murphey, Hannah Nash, Shonda Pate, Allison Rivers, Tristan Taylor, Sarah Vaughan, Lawankia Ward, Georgia Watkins, Kelsey Watts, Madison Wilson, Erin Windham and Deyuna Woods.

The program began with a processional of the Class of 2022 followed by a welcome from ADN Program Chair/Assistant Director Dr. Alice Austin. Class President Slade Allgood followed Dr. Austin with the opening prayer. Next, ADN instructor Ali-

cia Turner explained the symbolism behind the nurse pin and candle before Dr. Austin returned to present special awards.

Megan Morris was named ADN Student of the Year for her outstanding grades and work in clinicals. Stephanie Hill and were also recognized for being awarded the scholarships from the Knights of Pillars Nurses Association (KPNA). Following award presentation, ADN instructor Kim Manning called each graduate’s name as instructors Dr. Tiffany Cox and Virginia Hart pinned them/gave them their lamp candle. Finally, instructor Cindy Bridges led the students in the Nightingale Pledge before Class Vice President Landon Kinney gave the closing prayer.

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

Morgan earns doctorate from Delta State University

From Staff Reports/Photos



Larry Morgan, a music and computer science instructor on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus, recently earned his Ed.D. in Higher Education from Delta State University. His dissertation was titled “The Addition of Video to Music Appreciation Classes and Its Effect on Student Achievement and Attitude.” Dr.

Morgan received his previous degrees - a Bachelor of Music Education, a Master of Music Education and a Master of Education - from Mississippi State University. Despite having such a long educational journey, Dr. Morgan still vividly remembers his very first college class - English Comp I at Holmes Junior College during

the summer of 1981 with Mrs. Harvey Black. Dr. Morgan, a resident of Pearl, has been a member of the Holmes family since 2003. He previously served as a continuing education computer instructor at Jackson State University and as a high school computer teacher.

Holmes Attala Center holds pinning for PN Hybrid Program

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Community College Attala Practical Nursing (Hybrid program) pinning ceremony was held on May 5 at the Attala Center in Kosciusko. There were eight graduates from

the two-year program instructed by Dr. Christi Blair.

Graduates included Rachel Burnside of Attala County, Ashely Butler of Hinds County, Brittany Holley of

Lawrence County, Morgan Parker of Rankin County, Christina Roberts of Adams County, Faye Roy of Holmes County, Anthonette Thompson of Lafayette County and Whitney Ulrich

of Bolivar County. Christi Blair, DNP, RN, is the instructor for the program. Butler was named valedictorian and Ulrich was named salutatorian.



Rachel Burnside



Ashely Butler



Brittany Holley



Morgan Parker



Christina Roberts



Faye Roy



Anthonette Thompson



Whitney Ulrich



## OTA program holds pinning ceremony to celebrate Class of 2022

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the OTA Class of 2022. The Class includes (left to right) **Chelsea Taylor, Adam Weaver, Charles Stewart, Richard Bennett, Ambra Watkins, Ashley Daigle, Kayla Daley** and **Megan Heard**. Not pictured: Nava Fisher, Robin Robinson and Jessica Whitley.

On May 10, Holmes Community College held a pinning ceremony for the Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Class of 2022 in the McGowan Workforce Training Center on the Ridgeland Campus. Eleven students graduated from the program.

The Class of 2022 includes Richard Bennett of Drew (class vice president), Ashley Daigle of Brandon, Kayla Daley of Terry, Nava Fisher of Jackson (class secretary), Megan Heard of Vicksburg (class treasurer), Robin Robinson of Washington, Charles Stewart of Pearl, Chelsea Taylor of Jackson, Ambra Watkins of Canton (class president), Adam Weaver of Kosciusko and Jessica Whitley of Clinton. The OTA instructors are D.

Cade Montague, OTR/L, and Erica Fitzhugh, COTA/L.

The ceremony began with an introduction of the faculty, administration and students, followed by the ceremonial pinning of each graduate. Bennett led his classmates in reciting the Occupational Therapy Creed before Watkins stepped forward to make remarks on behalf of the Class of 2022.

Following Watkin's address, Montague and Fitzhugh brought the ceremony to completion with closing remarks.

For more information about the OTA program, contact Jessica Leverette at (601) 605-3386 or [jleverette@holmescc.edu](mailto:jleverette@holmescc.edu).

## Akumcha Mobit selected for Mississippi INBRE Scholars Program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College student Akumcha Mobit was selected for the Mississippi INBRE Service Scholars Program and will serve as an intern with the program this summer in Jackson. The program integrates public health education and intervention training with community-based programs and health clinics. Through Mississippi INBRE's partnership with My Brother's Keeper, Inc., this internship trains students to serve the Mississippi community as public health educators and service providers.

Mobit is a freshman psychology major on the Goodman Campus.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed having Akumcha in my class this semester," said

biology instructor Jamie Sample. He always comes by to tell me good morning and is a bright spot in my day. He has impeccable manners, and such a love for learning. I can always depend on Akumcha to provide answers to the questions that I ask the class. Due to the tornado, he was zooming for a while, and then he came back to face-to-face class. He told me that he came back because he knew that I needed him there, as no one was answering my questions."

The son of Dr. Paul and Edith Mobit, he is originally from Cameroon, Africa, but moved with his family to Madison several years ago. Upon graduation from Holmes, Mobit plans to transfer to a four-

year university to continue his studies in psychology.

"I would like to thank Mrs. Jamie Sample for bringing this internship opportunity to my attention and encouraging me to apply," Mobit said. "I'd also like to thank the rest of the Holmes faculty for everything they've taught me and my parents for their support and laying a good foundation for me."

For more information about Holmes, visit [www.holmescc.edu](http://www.holmescc.edu).

For more information about the Mississippi INBRE Service Scholars Program and internship opportunity, visit <https://msinbre.org/student-programs/>.

## Spring Fling returns to the Ridgeland Campus

By Elijah Mangum  
Staff Reporter



Brooklyn Gaddis, Faith Austin and Anna Goodloe enjoy Spring Fling.

Holmes Community College hosted their annual Spring Fling at the Ridgeland Campus on Tuesday, April 12.

Students received a free Chick-fil-A sandwich, chips and a drink. There were also inflatables, music and more to enjoy.

The Student Government Association organized the event. Student Activities Coordinator Amanda Lindsey, who advises the SGA, said "We

believe in studying hard, working hard and playing hard. We are happy to provide an atmosphere where you can come out, reconnect, meet new people, learn about new opportunities, student organizations and just have a fun day".

Spring Fling returns after two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It was originally scheduled for April 5, but was delayed a week due to severe weather.

## Holmes Jazz Band holds recital

By Dallan Sisco  
Staff Reporter

On the afternoon of April 26, the Holmes Community College Jazz Quartet commenced its final performance of the year. Following a disastrous tornado that closed most of the facilities available on the Goodman Campus, the group still prevailed in the light of adversity. What was originally planned to be a concert consisting of one large ensemble, quickly

turned into an opportunity for each member of the band to display their talents.

The quartet was separated into multiple groups consisting of three members, and each group was then tasked with learning their personalized set list, compliments of Jazz Band Director Terry Miller. Each group would receive three tunes to perform, and once their

set was concluded the next trio would make their way to the stage. Jazz Band member David Greene had this to say about the performance.

"I felt like a collective we did good, but individually I felt as if I was one of the weak points in the band," Greene said. "When watching the video back by bass wasn't as loud as I wanted it to be."

From an outside perspective, Holmes sophomore Carter Jones weighed in with his opinion of the performance as a whole.

"I thought it was great, I was jamming," Jones said. "We were yelling for an encore."



## Holmes Grenada graduates 41 from ADN program

*From Staff Reports*

*Photo by Shelby Wood Smith*



Pictured is the **Grenada Campus ADN Class of 2022.**

The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus held a Pinning Ceremony for the graduating Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Class of 2022 on May 10 on campus in the Corey Forum. Forty-one students graduated

from the program

The Class of 2022 includes: Alyssa A. Allen of Holmes County, Princess D. Allen of Grenada County, Haley M. of Grenada County, Kristi E. Bagwell of Holmes County, Paisley R. Bell of

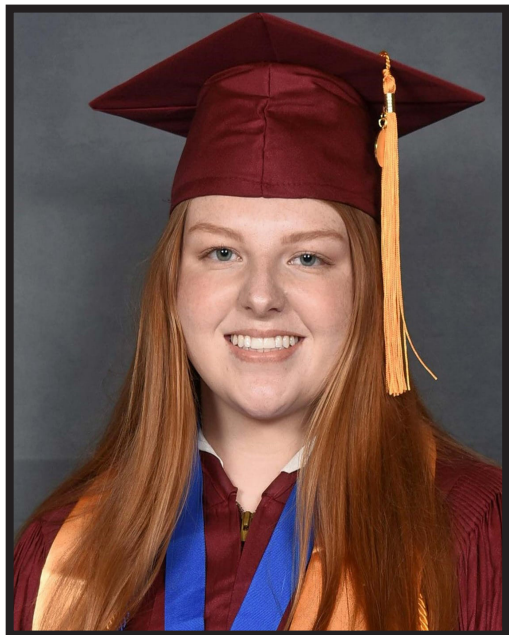
Webster County, Hannah B. Blount of Grenada County, Logan C. Brower of Yalobusha County, Marissa D. Brown of Webster County, David M. Buchanan of Webster County, Joniyah Z. Campbell of Grenada County, Randi L. Cooper of Montgomery County, Madison R. Crowell of Webster County, Cameren M. Duke of Grenada County, Mary Lynn Ferguson of Grenada County, Shannon D. Foster of Montgomery County, Cierra V. Griffin of Holmes County, Xena M. Handy of Humphreys County, Jennifer N. Henry of Grenada County, Kendria Q. Hopson of Grenada County, Wisdom R. James of Holmes County, Ja’Kenia D. Jones of Montgomery County, Ashlyn B. Kerr of Holmes County, Sarah E. Lamkin of Grenada County, Andrea R. Leach of Holmes County, Kara E. Love of Webster County, Cherry N.

Mathis of Panola County, Gabrielle N. McAnally of Lafayette County, Karen N. Mims of Grenada County, Emily P. Palmer, Samuel D. Pullen of Yalobusha County, Austin W. Ruthelford of Grenada County, Billy G. Salley II of Webster County, Earnestine Y. Sayles of Tate County, Tinesha L. Shelley of Lee County, Shantrice K. Smith of Holmes County, Jelisa Stanford of Panola County, Christacia T. Stasher of Holmes County, Summer L. Stevens of Carroll County, Keaundra L. Thomas of Tallahatchie County, Abby L. Vaughan of Webster County and Kristen L. Worley of Grenada County.

For more information about the ADN program on the Grenada Campus, contact Assistant Program Director Dr. Theresa Hargett, Ed.D, MSN, RN, at [thargett@holmescc.edu](mailto:thargett@holmescc.edu) or (662) 227-2305.

## ADN student Megan Morris awarded Dongieux Award of Excellence

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



Holmes Community College nursing student Megan Morris of Brandon was chosen for the Oneita Dongieux Award of Excellence scholarship. The award, which comes with a \$500 scholarship, was established through the Mississippi Nurses Foundation in honor and memory of Oneita Dongieux’s legacy. Morris was chosen as one of two winners from 500 nursing students in Mississippi.

“It is an honor that one of Holmes Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) students was chosen to receive the scholarship,” said ADN Department Chair/Assistant Director Dr. Alice Austin. “Megan is a respectful, pleasant honor student who will do well in the nursing profession. The Associate Degree Nursing program wishes her well

as she continues her education and works as a registered nurse.”

The daughter of Kris and Scott Morris, Morris is a student on the Holmes Ridgeland Campus. She is active in Phi Theta Kappa honor society, the Social Problems Club and the Mississippi Student Nurses Association. Morris is also a McLaurin Elementary School reading tutor as well as a McLaurin High School volunteer for athletics and Beta Club. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, baking, decorating for holidays, enjoying the outdoors, fishing and boating, spending time with her boyfriend and family, and spending time with her two boxers and American bulldog.

In addition to the Dongineaux Scholarship, Morris was awarded the Mississippi

Board of Nursing Scholarship, the Miller Transporters Scholarship and the Mississippi Trucking Association Scholarship. She is a President’s List scholar, as well.

“I am honored that I was chosen for Dongineaux Scholarship Award,” Morris said. “Following graduation from Holmes, I plan to sit for the Boards right away and work registered nurse in a metro area hospital while pursuing my Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree.”

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

## Ridgeland Campus adds new programs

*From Staff Reports/Photos*



The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus has added a number of new program offerings to the schedule. Beginning this summer, the Practical Nursing (PN) program will began offering an evening/weekend option, and in the fall, the Ridgeland Campus will add the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning (HVAC) & Refrigeration Technology program. Additionally, the Paralegal Technology program is now offering two different pathways for students: Legal Assistant Technology and Legal Management Technology.

The PN evening and weekend track begins in June and spans five consecutive semesters. The applicant must have a high school diploma or a GED certificate and provide official transcripts from all schools/colleges previously attended. Although college credit is not required for application to the program, applicants with any college credit must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 to be considered for selection.

“I am thrilled to add this new evening and weekend track to our Practical Nursing program,” said PN Department Chair

Christi Blair. “This option will allow students the opportunity to attend classes part-time, while working, to pursue a nursing career. Holmes is committed to offering various program types to meet our student needs.”

HVAC & Refrigeration Technology is a post-secondary instructional program that prepares individuals to work in engineering departments or private firms installing, maintaining and operating small or medium air conditioning, heating, and refrigeration systems. Instruction prepares individuals to work in a commercial setting performing special tasks relating to designing ductwork, assembly, installation, servicing, operation and maintenance of heating, cooling and refrigeration systems.

As for the paralegal program, instructor Darleen Dozier says, “It’s the same basic program, but students will choose specialized electives depending on which pathway they take. The Legal Assistant Technology option is more computer-focused classes, more about formatting documents (along with many other skills learned). The management option is more along the lines of managing a law firm, and the student will take more business classes.” Students do have the option to complete both specializations and could

even come out with two different degrees by only taking six extra hours.

The EMS/Paramedic-to-RN program is designed to assist qualified Nationally Registered Paramedics (NRPs) with the transition to RN practice via an evening/weekend hybrid (face-to-face and distance) learning environment.

In addition, Holmes added the Drafting and Design Technology program as part of the Engineering Technology Department, and ADN added an evening/weekend program during the 2021-22 school year. Taught by Heather Mooney, the Drafting and Design courses include Engineering Graphics, Mechanical Design I, Construction Standards and Materials, Computer Aided Design I, Computer Aided Design II and Blueprint Reading I. For the ADN evening/weekend program, the application process is open through Sept. 15 and requirements include: a 2.0 GPA, an ACT composite of 18, an ACT reading score of 18 and an ACT math score of 17 (or have completed College Algebra). Pre-requisites are Anatomy & Physiology I and II, Microbiology and Nutrition.

To sign up for these classes, click on the Enroll Now tab on the Holmes website at [www.holmescc.edu](http://www.holmescc.edu).



Gant inducted into Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Alumnus **Joe Lynn Gant** (’73) poses for a photo with Goodman Campus Vice President and Athletic Director **Andy Wood** during the Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame ceremony. Gant was inducted for excelling in football and track.

Holmes Community College alum-nus Joe Lynn Gant (’73) was one of 15 individuals inducted into the Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame on April 26 at the Clyde Muse Center on Hinds Community College’s Rankin Campus.

Gant graduated from Vaiden High School before continuing to Holmes to play football and run track. He played football at Holmes under coaches Tommy Davis, Quimby Morgan and Ode Burrell. During his football career, he was awarded Best Defensive Back two years in a row and MVP in 1972. On the track field, Gant

was the 1973 state champion in the pole vault and hurdles, launching a state record in both.

“One of my most memorable experi-ences while attending Holmes was living in the ‘white house,’ which served as the athletic dorm for football and basketball teams,” Gant said. “It had approxi-mately 10 rooms for 55 to 60 athletes. The camaraderie built by living with so many friends left memories that have lasted a lifetime.”

During Gant’s time at Holmes, he was also selected for Who’s Who Among American Junior Colleges, was named

Most Athletic and a 1973 Class Represen-tative. After Holmes, Gant attended Mis-sissippi State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science while continuing to participate in track and field. In 1974 and 1975, he was named All-SEC in track and field, and in 1975, he was the SEC Decath-lon Champion.

Post college, Gant had a 25-year ca-reer of coaching football and track at Weir High School. During his tenure, he won five state championships in foot-ball (’85, ’86, ’94, ’96 and ’97) and five championships in track (’81, ’82, ’83, ’84 and ’88). Gant remained loyal to his senior college and coached track for 15 years at Mississippi State, as well.

Over the years, Gant’s success was re-cognized through multiple honors. He was inducted into the Mississippi High School Coaches Hall of Fame, inducted into the Holmes Sports Hall of Fame and was nominated as president of the Mississippi High School Coaches Association.

Gant resides in Weir and is engaged to Madelon Gruich. His late wife, Kay, was also a graduate of Holmes (’73), and they have one son, Trey (39). Trey and his wife, Heather, have two children: Joe Lynn Gant IV and Kaylee Jane Gant.

The Mississippi Association of Com-munity Colleges Conference (MACCC) established the Sports Hall of Fame in 2007 to recognize outstanding athletes who have coached and/or played in one or

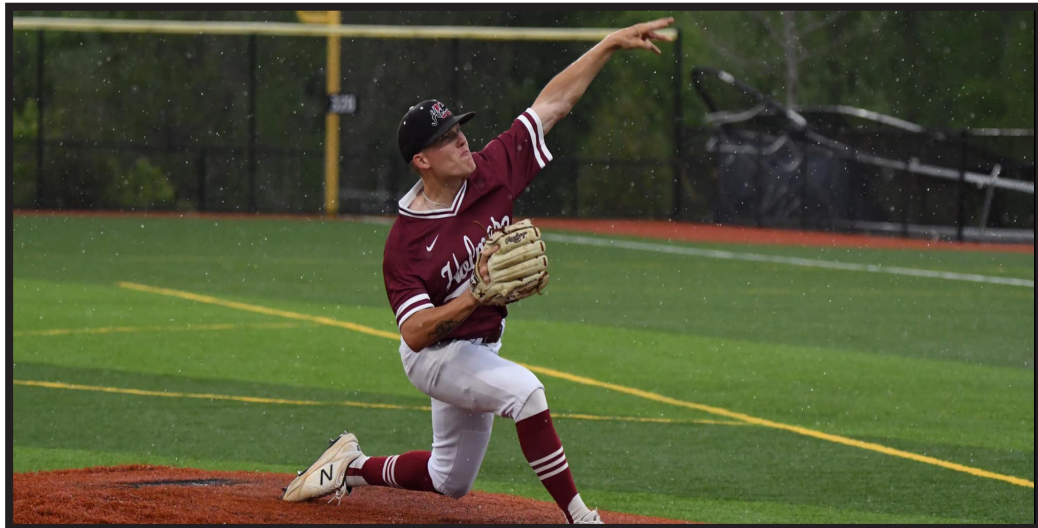
more of Mississippi’s public community colleges. This year marked the 16th class of inductees.

Gant joins previously elected Holmes inductees Alvin McKinley (2021), Randy Baldwin (2020), Charles Hughes “Sonny” Smith (2019), Wayne Leonard (2018), Roy Oswalt (2017), Mike Kinnison (2016), Aubrey Rozzell (2015), Ricky Black (2014), Bennie Kimble (2013), Dr. Donald E. Phillips (2012), Faye Dillard (2011), Greg Robinson (2010), Homer D. “Cot-ton” Robertson (2009), Ken Waddell Sr. (2008), Dr. Melvin “Mel” Gibson (2008), Ode Burrell (2007), Charlie Howard (2007) and Hugh M. Pepper (2007).

Other newly elected members honored during Tuesday’s Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremonies included: Marcus Metcalf (Coahoma CC); Dennis “Keith” Case (Copiah-Lincoln CC); Tim Anderson (East Central CC); Max Howell Johnson (East Mississippi CC); Terri Shores Black (Hinds CC); Gerald Goodman (Itawam-ba CC); Kevin Jackson (Jones College); Damani Ralph (Meridian CC); Willie Henry Dickson (Mississippi Delta CC); Steven Mark Campbell, Sr. (Mississippi Gulf Coast CC); Dontaé Jones (Northeast Mississippi CC); Marc Dukes (Northwest Mississippi CC); the late LaRue Saulters (Pearl River CC) and Mac Anders (South-west Mississippi CC).

Bulldogs fall to Bobcats in season’s final DH

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bull-dogs fell twice Friday, April 29, to Jones College falling in a heartbreaker 3-2 and falling in game two, 11-3.

The Bulldogs ended the season 11-29 and 8-20 in the MACCC.

In game one, Matthew Koch went seven innings and gave up six hits with two strikeouts and one walk. Jake McKay suffered the loss. He gave up three runs on two walks. Abbott Hankins pitched the final inning. Hankins, Cole Drake and Evan Scott each had two hits with Drake

having two doubles and Carson Buckner adding a double.

In game two, Brody Wilkins got the start and suffered the loss. He went one inning and gave up nine runs on seven hits with one walk. Will Cook went 1/3 of an inning and gave up two runs on one hit with two walks. Heath McBride finished the game and had one walk and one strikeout in 4 2/3 innings. Hayden Beall led the Bull-dogs with two hits including a double.

Lady Bulldogs’ season comes to an end with losses to Jones

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs fell at home on Friday, April 29, to Jones College, 6-0 and 13-1.

The Lady Bulldogs finished the season 28-16 and 13-15 in the MACCC.


In game one, Elleigh Willis got the start and suffered the loss. She went seven innings and gave up six runs on eight hits with four strikeouts and three walks. Kel-

sie Travis had a double.

In game two, Emmagail Kelley got the start and suffered the loss. She gave up seven runs on seven hits. Travis went one inning and gave up six runs on four hits with one strikeout and three walks. Julianna Ingram and Leah Kinard had one hit each.

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SCORES, SCHEDULES, ALERTS





## Bulldogs fall to Indians, 8-3 and 6-0

From Staff Reports  
Photo by Lee Adams, ICC



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs fell twice on Tuesday, April 26 to the Itawamba Community College Indians, 8-3 and 6-0, during an away game.

In game one, Jaden Clinton got the start and suffered the loss. He went four innings and gave up eight runs on 11 hits with one strikeout and five walks. Will Cook went three innings and gave up two hits with two strikeouts and one walk while Justin Jenkins went one inning and gave up one hit with one walk. Carson Buckner had a homerun while Abbott Hankins had a

double.

In game two, Heath McBride got the start and suffered the loss. He went three innings and gave up two runs on four hits with two strikeouts. Jackson Dollar went one inning and gave up one run on three hit with one strikeout. Cordarius Brown gave up two runs on two hits with one walk while Eric Gibbs went two innings and gave up one run on two hits with two walks. Hankins had a double.

## 2022-23 Bulldog Cheer Squad named

From Staff Reports/Photos



## Men’s Basketball Elite Team Camp adds additional day

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Men’s Basketball Team has added an additional day to their 2022 Elite Team Camp (Saturday, June 25) at Frank Branch Coliseum. There are only a few spots left.

For more information, contact Assistant Coach Eric Colbert at 662-472-9066 or ecolbert@holmescc.edu.

## Lady Bulldogs fall to Lady Indians, 8-0 and 7-4

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs fell twice at home on Tuesday, April 26 to the Itawamba Community College Lady Indians, 8-0 and 7-4.

In game one, Emmagail Kelley got the start and suffered the loss. She gave up eight runs on 11 hits with two strikeouts

and two walks. Julianna Ingram and Kelsie Travis each had a hit in the game.

In game two, Kelsie Travis got the start and suffered the loss. McKayla Crowley led the Lady Bulldogs with two hits while Travis added a double.

## Holmes holds Foundation Golf Tournament

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is Team Paint Plus Construction, the Championship winner. The team included (left to right) Kevin Connor, J.T. Blair, John Thompson and Scott DeLoach.

On May 4, the Holmes Community College Foundation held its annual golf tournament at Deerfield Country Club.

Team Paint Plus Construction - Scott DeLoach, J.T. Blair, John Thompson and Kevin Connor - was the Championship Winner. Team Howard Industries - Justin Ferguson, Steven Tiller, Bennet Witcher and Quint Raper - won the First Flight and Team Magee Enterprises, Inc. - Larry Webster, Luke Jones, John Shows and



Pictured is Team Howard Industries (left to right) Quint Raper, Steven Tiller, Justin Ferguson, and Bennet Witcher. They won the First Flight.

Dewayne Magee - won the Second Flight.

Other winners included: Bud Lawrence, closest to the hole on two holes; Drew Godfrey, closest to the hole on one hole; Jay Leverette, closest to the hole on one hole and Greg Wynne, putting contest winner.

Additionally, Entergy Mississippi provided a mini grant which covered lunch for the tournament.



Pictured is Team Magee Enterprises, Inc. (left to right) Larry Webster, Luke Jones, John Shows and Dewayne Magee. They won the Second Flight.





# The Growl Staff



**Alek Dickerson**

Dickerson is a sophomore from Biloxi, but moved to Ridgeland in 2017. When deciding a major, she originally wanted to do criminology because her Abuelo (grandfather) is a lawyer, but then realized that she would not enjoy it and it didn't fit her personality. Someone introduced her to Public Relations. Because Holmes does not have a Public Relations major, she is majoring in Journalism/Mass Communications. She plans to transfer to The University of Southern Mississippi and obtain a career in activism journalism, broadcast journalism, investigative journalism or event/wedding planning. Outside of school, she loves to interact with friends and family, create anything with her hands and participate in events around her. She is also very into different cultures because she is the daughter of a Puerto Rican mother and a Jamaican father.



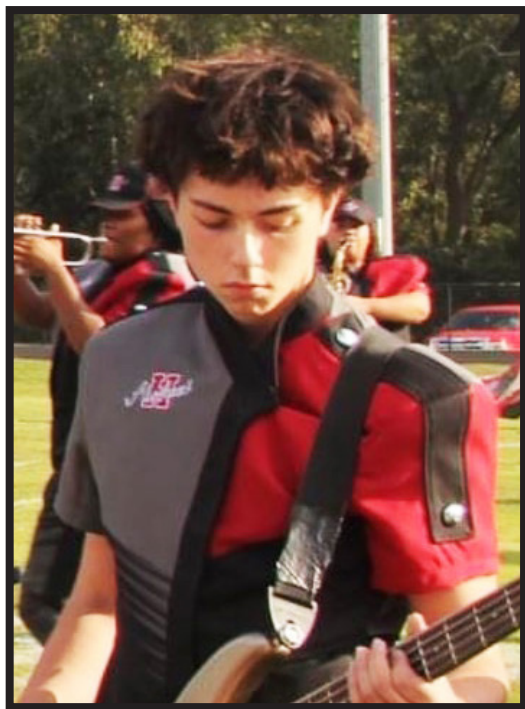
**Elijah Mangum**

Mangum is a freshman 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.



**Callie Grace Pope**

Pope is a sophomore pre-med major from Madison. She is an active member of Pinelake Church and has been working in childcare at Burn Bootcamp in Madison Ms since 2017. Callie plans to transfer to Ole Miss with an end goal of gaining employment at a children's doctor's office. In her spare time, she likes to paint, hang out with friends and family and shop.



**Dallan Sisco**

Dallan Sisco is a second-semester freshman on the Goodman Campus. Previously occupying a position on his former high school's newspaper staff, he is ecstatic to continue his journalistic journey at Holmes. Not only does he partake in this school-organized activity, but Dallan also indulges in the niceties of almost every aspect of his college campus. These include playing guitar for the Holmes Band and even working part-time at the fitness center.



**Lakesia Smith-Smart**

Smith-Smart has always had a passion for music. She is a sophomore on the Holmes Goodman Campus who began singing in her church choir at an early age. This sincere passion has followed her throughout her lifetime, for she has traveled extensively performing and entering several musical contests abroad. After finishing high school, she continued indulging in her passion by attending Holmes with a concentration in vocal performance. In 2019, Lakesia opened her own dance school in Lexington, MS named House of Mannassah: Kessey's Kiss. She continues to grow as an independent artist, sharing her musical talents and gifts with the world.