



THE GROWL

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

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Holmes holds 98th Commencement on May 14

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Ridgeland M.C. McDaniel Scholarship Award recipient **Alisha Davis** of Flora, **Dr. Jim Haffey** and Ridgeland Campus Outstanding Phi Theta Kappan **Mary Crawford Canard** of Madison.

Holmes Community College held the 98th Commencement Exercises on Thursday, May 14 in Frank Branch Coliseum on the Goodman Campus, recognizing student achievement and academic excellence. The Ridgeland Campus and Yazoo Center ceremony was held at 10 a.m., and the Goodman and Grenada campuses, along with the Attala Center, held a combined ceremony at 2 p.m. The ceremonies were also live streamed at holmesccmedia.com/white-channel.

Vice President for Academic Programs/eLearning **Dr. Jenny Jones** and Vice President of Career-Technical Education **Dr. Amy Whittington** served as

keynote speakers for both ceremonies.

Each ceremony began with a faculty and administration processional. For the first ceremony, **Mika Maehata** of Jackson served as macebearer and **Ashlyn Dodd** of Flowood delivered the invocation. Maehata is a Phi Theta Kappa vice president, STEM Club co-president and All-USA Academic Team member. Dodd serves as an Ambassador, Phi Theta Kappa president and Student Government Association president. Both were inducted into the 2026 Holmes Hall of Fame.

Graduation, continued on Page 4

Holmes Phi Theta Kappa chapters earn top honors at international convention

From Staff Reports/Photos



Phi Theta Kappa chapters from Holmes Community College earned international recognition at the 2026 Phi Theta Kappa Catalyst Convention, competing alongside more than 1,200 chapters from around the world.

Students, advisors and campus administrators from the college's Ridgeland and Grenada campuses attended the annual convention, where chapters were recognized for academic excellence, leadership and service.

The Ridgeland Campus chapter received multiple top honors, including a Top 5 finish for Most Distinguished Honors in Action Project and a No. 3 ranking for Most Distinguished

Chapter Theme. The chapter was also named a ninth-place finalist for Most Distinguished Chapter in the World.

The Grenada Campus chapter was recognized among the Top 50 for Most Distinguished Honors in Action Project.

Both Ridgeland and Grenada chapters were also named among the Top 100 chapters worldwide, placing them among the highest-performing Phi Theta Kappa chapters internationally.

During the trip, students, advisors and administrators also spent a day in Washington, D.C., where they explored historic landmarks, strength-

Catalyst, continued on Page 5

Holmes Growl newspaper earns top honors at O.C. McDavid Summit

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is **Jasmiah Collier**, who represented The Growl at the O.C. McDavid

Holmes Community College participated in the 28th Annual O.C. McDavid

Journalism Summit held March 26 at the Embassy Suites by Hilton,

joining student journalists and media professionals from across the state. Holmes earned top recognition during the Better Student Media Contest awards presentation. In the Community College Division, The Growl student newspaper received first place in Editorials and third place in Overall Excellence. In addition, former Growl staff member **Naomi Ubeda**, a Holmes graduate, earned third place in the Feature Story category for her article, "Military Barbie: Michelle's story of bravery," continuing the program's tradition of excellence beyond graduation.

Growl Advisor **Mary Margaret Busby** and staff reporter **Jasmiah Collier** represented the college during the summit, which featured sessions focused on investigative reporting, storytelling and the evolving role of community journalism. The event included

a keynote address from **Emily Wagster Pettus**, editor-in-chief of Mississippi Today and longtime Associated Press state Capitol correspondent.

The summit, hosted by the Mississippi Press Foundation, also included presentations such as "What is True?," an investigative initiative from the Roy Howard Community Journalism Center, and a presentation by **Alcorn State University Professor Dr. J. Janice Coleman**, "From the Scraps of My Life in the Mississippi Delta" where she also shared quilts she made in honor of **Fannie Lou Hamer's** life.

The O.C. McDavid Journalism Summit, established in 1999, is designed to promote journalism education across Mississippi and provide students with opportunities to engage with industry professionals and showcase their work. To learn more about the conference, visit <https://mspress.org>.

What's Inside...

- Student Editorials
- Awards Night Honors
- Student & Employee Highlights
- Sports Photos/Recaps
- And More!



To keep up with everything going on at Holmes, follow us on DogTracks on our website at holmescc.edu!

Gas prices introduce new problem for community

By M.J. Kersh
Staff Reporter



With summer right around the corner, the temperature isn't the only thing going up. The global oil supply disruptions caused by the conflict in Iran have caused

our precious affordable gas prices to skyrocket into unprecedented territory. While Mississippi isn't being hit the hardest by the change, it has proven to be a problem for Ridgeland locals.

For many people, the rising cost of gas is starting to look less like an inconvenience and more like an impact on their daily routine. Individuals who rely on driving to work are now forced to spend more just to maintain their normal schedules. What used to be a quick and relatively cheap trip across

town is slowly becoming something people have to think twice about.

Small businesses are also starting to feel the heat. Companies like delivery services and mobile businesses that depend on transportation are seeing their operating costs increase. As a result, some may be forced to raise prices, which could potentially affect customers throughout the community.

Even commuter students and younger drivers are noticing the shift. With limited income, many are having to cut back on unnecessary trips, choosing to stay home more often or carpool with friends to save enough money to fill their own tank.

"It used to cost me around \$30 to fill up my tank, now it's closer to \$45," said Greg Windham, a Holmes commuter student at the Ridgeland (capitalize) campus. "That's a huge difference, and it's still adding up."



While there is no clear-cut timeline for when gas prices will stabilize, or even for when the Iranian conflict will wind down, the current increase serves as a reminder of how quickly large-scale global events can affect everyday

life at the local level. For now, Mississippi residents need to adjust their habits and budgets as they navigate yet another rising cost. What a start for 2026!

The Joys of Awards Day

By Owen Clark
Staff Reporter



Awards Day at Holmes

The 49th annual awards and honors program was held in Goodman on April 14. It was a wonderful time full of acknowledgments and honors.

Held in McDaniel Auditorium, the event was full of award recipients along with their proud parents, guardians, grandparents and friends. The awards ranged from academic awards to some special awards such as Hall of Fame, Phi Theta Kappa and the Dean and Directors Award. Each student claimed their awards along with a few words from teachers. One student, Jack Hood, was award-

ed the Welding Award. Ben Lewis, Jack's welding instructor, gave him a vast amount of praise. Bragging about his work ethic, helping others without complaining and always showing manners towards his instructor. When asked how he felt about receiving the award, Jack said, "I enjoy welding. It's my passion and what I want to do for work. Mr. Lewis's class has helped my welding ability flourish. I'm just very blessed to be able to do what I love here at Holmes."

Another award that was given was the Journalism Award. I received that award, which was presented by Katherine Ellard. She highlighted my growth over my articles published in The Growl, and many other things. I love the time I spend writing for The Growl. My instructor, Mary



Pictured is Katherine Ellard presenting the Journalism Award to Owen Clark.

Margaret Busby, has helped me with my errors and writing style fixes throughout my articles. I enjoy writing and am glad that others have a chance to read articles from The Growl.

The program was full of fun and excitement. We hope these students of Holmes will soon blossom into an amazing bunch of individuals.

Years on the road as a tow truck driver

By Jasmiah Collier
Staff Reporter



Joshua is a 34-year-old single dad who drives tow trucks. He is the manager of the tow truck department and has 16 years of experience behind the wheel. He started

out as a rollback driver, then moved to heavy hauling tow trucks, and now he is back to rollback driving.

He is a single dad who has raised his daughter while being a trucker. His

story highlights single dads who have had their struggles, too. It all started when he would ride with his dad's best friend in his tow truck while he was working. After being around the truck for a while, he began to pick up some of the workings of the job. Once he became old enough, he decided to give the job a try on his own. Joshua says that the challenges of the job are what drew him to tow truck driving.

His daily routine is almost never the same, but it does have a slight rhythm to it. He says that every morning he gets up and gets his daughter ready for

school so that his mom can drop her off. Then he proceeds to get himself together to ready for work, and everywhere he goes, that truck goes with him. Once he gets to work, there is no telling what the day holds. Sometimes it is wrecks, stuck cars, repossessions or just moving trucks and cars; either way, he's the guy they call on first. He gets off at 5 p.m. every day unless duty calls and he has to answer that call. Even in the middle of the night, he is on call, which means if dispatch calls him at 3 a.m., he has to roll over, get dressed and head to work. Josh-

ua says it is hard at times because of how much he has to be away from his daughter for long periods or barely getting to see her due to the long shifts.

"This is one of the downfalls of the job," Joshua says.

His advice to anybody that wants to join this career field is, "Learn all that you can learn, and be teachable." Although he has had many tow truck jobs, Joshua says that the company he is at now is the best one he has ever worked for. No matter what job you choose or have chosen, always be your best at all times: it will pay off today.



The Growl

Holmes Community College
<https://www.facebook.com/hccgrowl>

Contents in the Opinion Section do not represent the official opinions of Holmes Community College or The Growl unless specifically indicated. Letters are welcome, but may be edited for clarity and space.

Send to: mbusby@holmescc.edu.

College Kids and their caffeine

By Owen Clark
Staff Reporter



Red Bull, Monster and Celsius are the three top-selling energy drink brands in the U.S. One of the biggest target demographics for these products is

college kids.

Many students use energy drinks for late-night studying. With finals approaching, there will be no shortage of students at late-night study sessions with an energy drink beside them. These high-caffeine products have become a regular part of many students' lives. The problem is that caffeine can lead to issues such as sleep problems, anxiety and elevated heart rate.

Caffeine itself isn't the problem. It's the amount of caffeine consumed that is the problem. The Mayo Clinic staff addressed energy drink consumption in a Q and A, stating, "Consuming up to 400 mg of caffeine a day is safe for most adults — some energy drinks contain over half this amount in a single can." This level of intake isn't ideal for late-night study sessions followed by an important test the next morning. Many people also consume more than one drink at a time, making it worse for their body.

Large amounts of caffeine can cause multiple health problems. Anxiety can increase stress levels for a college student stressed out over exams and tests. These drinks can raise blood pressure, and this becomes even more



concerning for people who already have high blood pressure. Caffeine can affect people's mental health as well by stimulating the nervous system. One of the biggest things these energy drinks affect is sleep. Students may lose sleep

the night before an important day because the caffeine kept them up.

Energy drinks can provide a temporary boost for late-night studying, but students should be careful not to consume too much caffeine.

Students prepare for summer classes, college transitions and saying goodbye

By M.J. Kersh
Staff Reporter



As the school year comes to a close, many students are beginning to plan for the summer months, with some choosing to enroll in classes to

get ahead academically.

At Holmes Community College, summer registration has already begun, offering students the opportunity to earn credits before the fall 2026 semester begins. These courses are often used to complete general educa-

tion requirements, allowing students to reduce their workload during the regular school year.

For graduating seniors coming to Holmes, summer classes can also serve as a transition into college life. By starting early, students can become familiar with campus expectations, class structure and time management before taking on a full course load in the fall.

Advisors also emphasize the importance of early preparation. A lot of students wait until the last minute, and by then, classes are already full. Registering early and meeting with someone to plan your schedule can make a big

difference. For those of you who want to get ahead of the game, you can also register for fall classes early!

Classes fill up fast! It's important that when you prepare to be advised, you inform your advisor of the classes you want to take so they can find what best fits you.

Students are encouraged to attend orientation sessions, meet with advisors and stay aware of registration deadlines to avoid unnecessary stress.

With deadlines approaching, preparation during the summer months can play a key role in setting students up

for success. For many, taking advantage of early opportunities now can make the transition into college smoother and more manageable.

Some students are packing their bags and preparing to transfer to a four-year university. We know they will go off and do great things. Come support your future alumni at the District-Wide Graduation on May 14.

Ridgeland and Yazoo — 10 a.m.

Goodman, Grenada and Attala — 2 p.m.

That's all Bulldogs, have a great summer!

Technology in the classroom

By Owen Clark
Staff Reporter



As time goes by, technology is constantly changing. A big place where it is being used is in the classroom. But is this a good or bad thing?

Overall, using technology in the classroom is a good thing. It can help students access information fast. With search engines, it's just one click away, and you have the information you need. It also can help students learn information better. You have videos, photos, PowerPoint and many other resources to use to help students learn.

Although we have all these benefits, there is still a downside to technology in the classroom. For example, when screens are available and aren't used

for learning at the time, they are a distraction. Liz Kolb, who is a professor in teacher education at the University of Michigan, wrote an article about technology being used in education. She said, "Just having a laptop screen open or a cell phone next to a student (but not being used) is enough to distract their brain from fully focusing on the class activities." This has been a problem for some time now, but there really isn't a way to fix it now with practically everything online.

These distractions will keep happening, but the teachers and professors will have to find ways to use technology to help them. One thing that can help teachers is AI. While AI has its downsides, it can help teachers with things like study guides, answer keys and even things like practice tests. Teachers also have so multiple ways to



help students by linking their material to them and many other websites to study on.

Technology is always going to be

evolving. When used the right way, students' education and teachers' teaching will be altogether better.

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

Graduation (continued from Front Page)

For the second ceremony, Hannah Karol Stanley served as macebearer, and Maeson Jolley gave the invocation. Stanley is an Ambassador, Phi Theta Kappa vice president and Student Government Association member. Jolley serves as an Ambassador, Baptist Student Union president and Phi Theta Kappa vice president. Jolley was also a 2026 Hall of Fame inductee.

Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey presented special awards during both ceremonies. 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. Alisha Grace Davis of Flora was the M.C. McDaniel Scholarship recipient for the Ridgeland Campus; Diana Garcia of Kosciusko for the Goodman Campus and Christopher Michael Beach of Duck Hill for the Grenada Campus.

Alisha Davis is a pre-physician assistant major who plans to transfer to the University of Southern Mississippi to pursue a degree in sports medicine with the goal of becoming a physician assistant. Davis currently works as an

emergency room technician at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center and is interested in emergency medicine and orthopedics. While at Holmes, she has been active as an Ambassador, vice president of Student Government Association, a member of Phi Theta Kappa and of the Content Creators Club. She has earned President's List honors, a STEMMY Award and recognition as STAR Student of the Semester in Dr. Gates' Medical Terminology course. Davis was also voted Ridgeland Campus Student Body Maid and was inducted into the Hall of Fame.

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

Christopher Michael Beach is a history major who earned President's List honors and is an active member of Phi

Theta Kappa and the Baptist Student Union. He was elected as Mr. Holmes Grenada and as a Hall of Fame recipient, as well. Upon graduation, Beach plans to either transfer to the University of Mississippi or join the National Guard.

Phi Theta Kappa awards were presented to Mary Crawford Canard of Madison for the Ridgeland Campus, Lawson Nichols of Benton for the Goodman Campus and Aubrey Lexi McClain of Vaiden for Grenada.

Mary Crawford Canard is an English writing major who was inducted into the Hall of Fame. Her academic achievements include membership in Phi Theta Kappa honor society, President's List honors and an ACT Scholarship. Canard plans to transfer to Mississippi State University to continue her studies in English writing. She is currently working on a novel and aspires to build a career in publishing, with the long-term goal of opening her own publishing house in Mississippi.

Lawson Nichols is a secondary education English major who has earned President's List honors and serves as Phi Theta Kappa vice president of campus projects. He is also a Hall of Fame inductee. A member of the Holmes cheer team, Nichols was

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

Lexi McClain is a pre-medicine major at Holmes who has earned the Dean's Scholarship as well as President's List honors. McClain was also inducted into the Hall of Fame, selected as Grenada Student Body Maid and elected as Miss Holmes Grenada. She has served as president of the Student Government Association and president of Phi Theta Kappa and is also a member of the Baptist Student Union and Content Creator's Club. Additionally, she has served as an Ambassador. After Holmes, McClain plans to attend Mississippi State University before applying to medical school at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, with the goal of pursuing a career in orthopedic surgery.

The ceremonies marked the culmination of students' academic journeys as they prepared to transition into the workforce or continue their education.



Pictured (left to right) Goodman Campus M.C. McDaniel Scholarship Award recipient **Diana Garcia** of Kosciusko, Holmes President **Dr. Jim Haffey** and Grenada Campus M.C. McDaniel Scholarship recipient **Christopher Michael Beach** of Duck Hill.



Pictured are (left to right) Goodman Campus Outstanding Phi Theta Kappan **Lawson Nichols** of Benton, Holmes President **Dr. Jim Haffey** and Grenada Campus Outstanding Phi Theta Kappan **Lexi McClain** of Vaiden.



Ashlyn Dodd of Flowood gives the invocation during the ceremony for the Ridgeland Campus and Yazoo Center.



Maeson Jolley of Sallis gives the invocation during the ceremony for the Goodman Campus, Grenada Campus and Attala Center.



Mika Maehata of Jackson serves as macebearer for the Ridgeland Campus and Yazoo Center ceremony.



Hannah Karol Stanley of Winona serves as macebearer for the Goodman, Grenada and Attala ceremony.



Graduates listen to the speakers, preparing to walk across the stage to receive their diplomas on May 14.

Catalyst (continued from Front Page)

ened connections and shared time together outside of competition.

“Such an incredible weekend! Could not be more proud of this group,” said Ridgeland Phi Theta Kappa Advisor

Stephanie Blue.

College officials said the recognition reflects the dedication and hard work of Holmes students and advisors.

The Phi Theta Kappa Catalyst Con-

vention is the organization’s annual international gathering, bringing together high-achieving students from two-year colleges to celebrate academic success and leadership development.

Holmes representatives said they are proud of the students for representing the college at a high level on the global stage.



Pictured are the Phi Theta Kappa students from across the district who represented Holmes following the awards gala at Catalyst.



Pictured are the Phi Theta Kappa students from across the district who represented Holmes enjoying a day in Washington, D.C., during the convention trip.

Flight training school set to take off at Holmes

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College is expanding its career-focused programs with the launch of a new flight training school and the addition of Aviation Management courses.

The flight training school will prepare students to earn private, instrument and commercial pilot licenses certified by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), key steps toward careers as commercial, corporate or private pilots. Students will also gain foundational skills for air traffic control careers with plans to expand into advanced certifications including multi-engine endorsements. Training

will be conducted at the Kosciusko-Atala County Airport using three aircraft: a two-seat Cessna 150 and two four-seat Cessna 172 airplanes, widely recognized as safe and reliable training aircraft.

The flight school is a Workforce Development initiative with no college credit earned. Cameron Clark will teach one-on-one instruction and students may begin any time they would like with a self-paced schedule worked out with Clark. Students must be at least 18, U.S. citizens, have a valid driver’s license and be able to read, write and speak English. To fly solo,

students must pass a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) medical exam performed by an authorized Aviation Medical Examiner (AME). While not required for the first lesson, students must obtain at least a Third-Class Medical Certificate before soloing; early completion is recommended to ensure fitness to fly.

“This program allows students, even those starting from scratch, to pursue private, instrument or commercial licenses,” Clark said. “The training and licensure gained can open doors to careers flying for commercial airlines, corporate aviation or private operations.”

Beginning in August, Holmes will offer Aviation Management courses as Career-Technical Education classes for college credit that can transfer. Courses include Introduction to Aviation, Private Pilot Ground I and Private Pilot Ground II. These courses provide students with knowledge on flight principles, aircraft systems, the National Airspace System, airport operations and FAA pilot certification requirements.

Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey said the programs reflect the college’s commitment to workforce develop-

ment and career readiness.

“These initiatives provide students with unique opportunities to pursue aviation careers and earn FAA certification,” Dr. Haffey said. “When looking around our district at available hangar space for three airplanes, availability of certified instructors and instructional space, we eventually decided on the Kosciusko airport as the best fit for student pilots and their ability to have a safe, accessible environment to train. The beauty of aircraft as training devices is, they tend to be very mobile! So, we will offer the ability to move the aircraft to various airports in our district to fit individual training needs. We will also be offering discounts for training to employees, and employees with a license will be able to eventually rent the planes.”

There will be an interview process for slots once they become scarce, and priority will be given to students interested in a career in aviation. Individuals interested in the flight training school or Aviation Management courses can contact Emily Bennett at ebennett@holmescc.edu for more information.

Holmes students earn honors at state writing competition

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Dr. Amber Mabus, Anne Hall Adams, Mikayla Tew, Ceketha Herndon, Chad Moorer and Abigail Glazier.

Holmes Community College students recently showcased their talent at the Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association Annual Workshop and Contest, held April 10 at Northwest Mississippi Community College.

Representing the Goodman Campus were Mikayla Tew, Abigail Glazier, Daniela Lewis, Jakeria Williams and Ceketha Herndon. Competing against students from community colleges across the state, the group earned several honors in multiple categories.

Ceketha Herndon placed third in the literary essay category, demonstrating strong analytical writing and organization. Mikayla Tew earned third place in poetry for her creative expression and use of imagery, while Abigail Glazier received honorable mention in the poetry category.

Anne Hall Adams, representing the

Grenada Campus, also earned second place in the literary analysis essay category, adding to Holmes’ overall success at the event.

English instructors Chad Moorer and Dr. Amber Mabus accompanied the students, providing guidance and support throughout the workshop and competition.

The annual workshop and contest brings together community college students from across Mississippi to participate in writing sessions, receive feedback from judges and peers, and compete in a variety of categories, including poetry, fiction and literary analysis.

Holmes students’ performance at the event reflects the college’s continued commitment to academic excellence and the development of creative talent across its campuses.

Holmes Grenada Phi Theta Kappa chapter inducts new members

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 2026 Grenada Campus Phi Theta Kappa inductees.

The Grenada Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Holmes Community College held its induction ceremony on April 14th in the Corey Forum, welcoming a new group of outstanding students into the prestigious scholarly fellowship. Dr. Tina Garrett, coordinator of

academic programs on the Grenada Campus, opened the program and welcomed guests. Katie Grace Ray, vice president of the chapter, shared the history and purpose of Phi Theta Kappa, noting that it is the largest honor society with more than 3.5 million

members across the United States and 10 sovereign nations. Founded in 1918, the organization is dedicated to scholarship, leadership, service, and fellowship, and awards approximately \$1.5 million in scholarships annually to its members.

During the ceremony, William Hobson, vice president, described the symbolism of the organization. A candle representing the torch of knowledge, a white rose symbolizing purity and the beauty of life, and the official emblem, featuring a golden slab and black band, each reflect the ideals of wisdom, aspiration, and purity that define Phi Theta Kappa.

Chapter President Lexi McClain delivered a charge to the inductees, encouraging them to uphold the values of the organization before inviting each new member to the stage for induction.

A special thank you was extended to Hannah Pierce, assistant director of transfer recruitment at Mississippi State University, for sponsoring the event and providing refreshments.

During the ceremony, she also recognized Lexi McClain for receiving the Presidential Partnership Scholarship to Mississippi State University, a full-tuition award and a significant achievement.

PTK advisors for the Grenada Chapter include Cynthia Abel, Gabrielle Hopkins, and Haley DeNoon. Chapter officers are President Lexi McClain and Vice Presidents William Hobson and Katie Grace Ray.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Cynthia Abel was honored for her 10 years of dedicated service as a Phi Theta Kappa advisor as she prepares to roll off this semester. Her impact on the Grenada Chapter and its students has been meaningful, and she will be greatly missed.

The ceremony celebrated the academic excellence and leadership of Holmes Community College students and marked the beginning of their journey as members of Phi Theta Kappa.

Wood accepted into Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Pro-

From Staff Reports/Photos



Lennie Kate Wood

Lennie Kate Wood of Winona, a student on the Holmes Community College Goodman Campus, has been accepted into the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program (MRPSP) at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine. This acceptance secures her a reserved seat in the medical school's class entering in August 2028.

Wood, the daughter of Laura and Ryan Wood, is a pre-med biological sciences major who has distinguished herself through academic excellence and campus leadership. She was recently inducted into the Holmes Hall of Fame and received the Physical Science Award. Her academic

honors include being named to both the NJCAA Academic Team and the MACCC Academic All-State Team, and she is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. In addition to her studies, she is a member of the Holmes softball team.

Beyond the classroom and the field, Wood is actively involved in community service, volunteering through youth softball camps and participating in local disaster relief efforts. Her commitment to service aligns with the mission of the MRPSP, which aims to prepare future physicians to serve rural and underserved communities across Mississippi.

Wood plans to attend the University

of Mississippi, where she will pursue a degree in biological medical sciences before continuing on to medical school.

The MRPSP is a competitive program designed to address the state's physician shortage in rural areas. Students selected for the program must complete all academic and program requirements prior to enrollment. Upon successful completion, participants are guaranteed admission to the University of Mississippi School of Medicine.

Wood's acceptance reflects her academic achievement, leadership and dedication to serving others, positioning her to make a meaningful impact in the field of rural health care.

Holmes Attala Center honors Practical Nursing graduates

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Attala Practical Nursing Class of 2026 reciting the Nightingale Pledge. They are (left to right) John Valadie, Erickah Tucker, Ally Purvis, Carrienne Holden, Angel Freeman, Charlotte Crane, Takeira Brown, Baylee Brandt and Morgan Bailey.

Holmes Community College Attala Center held its Practical Nursing Hybrid pinning ceremony May 7, honoring 10 students who completed the program and took their first step toward joining the nursing workforce.

Students entered the auditorium during a processional to "Pomp and Circumstance," and Angel Freeman delivered the invocation.

Dr. Christi Blair welcomed family members and guests to the ceremony and offered words of encouragement, praising the students for their hard work and dedication in preparing for nursing careers.

Charlotte Crane delivered remarks on behalf of the class, focusing on encouragement and perseverance.

Dr. Blair presented academic awards, recognizing Charlotte Crane as valedictorian and Ali Eubank as salutato-

rian. Tammy Caldwell presented the graduates, and Amy Lindsay led the candle-lighting ceremony.

Graduates included Morgan Bailey, Baylee Brandt, Takeira Brown, Charlotte Crane, Ali Eubank, Angel Freeman, Carrienne Holden, Melissa Johnson Thomas, Erichah Tucker and John Valadie.

The ceremony concluded with students reciting the Nurses Pledge before the recessional.

Family members and friends gathered following the ceremony to celebrate the students' success in completing the nursing program. retary; and Ally Purvis, treasurer.

The pinning ceremony serves as a milestone for graduates as they transition from classroom instruction and clinical training into the professional workforce.

Holmes honors OTA graduates at pinning ceremony

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the OTA Class of 2026 (left to right) Instructor Erica Fitzhugh, Lawanda Parks, Ally Purvis, Madison del Rio, Ja’Kora Eskridge, Madison Hall, Madden Brewer, Victoria Thomas, (middle row, left to right) Myesha White, Tyler Sims, Ashlyn Dodd, Mika Maehata, Emma Korhonen, Alayna Lowery, Tristen Sierra, James Price, (back row, left to right) Laila Seals, Alisha Davis, Brooklin Potee, Alyssa Vancor, Mary Crawford Canard, Anna Korhonen, Matthew Hatchett and Patrick Kelly. Not pictured: Anthony Angel Agustin-Salvador, Salaya Barnes, Matthew Galloway, Dallas Kurtz and Ian Willoughby.

Holmes Community College honored Occupational Therapy Assistant

graduates during a pinning ceremony held May 6 at 9 a.m. in the McGowan

Workforce Training Center on the Ridgeland Campus.

The ceremony recognized students completing the college’s Occupational Therapy Assistant Technology program, a two-year course of study designed to prepare graduates to work alongside licensed occupational therapists in a variety of health care settings.

The ceremony began with a welcome from instructor Erica Fitzhugh, CO-TA/L, followed by the introduction of faculty, administration and students. Class President Madison del Rio delivered the keynote address.

Fitzhugh then pinned each graduate, symbolizing their transition into the profession.

Awards presented included the OTA Student of the Year Award and the Mississippi Occupational Therapy Association scholarship, both awarded to del Rio. Lawanda Parks received the Outstanding Clinical Experience Award, and Ja’Kora Eskridge received the Outstanding Growth Award.

Class Vice President Madison Hall led her classmates and all occupation-

al therapy practitioners present in the Occupational Therapy Creed. Instructors Fitzhugh and Monica McDonald offered closing remarks following the creed.

The Ridgeland Campus-based OTA program includes both academic and clinical experiences that emphasize communication skills, patient care techniques and the ability to implement treatment plans across the lifespan. Occupational therapy assistants play a vital role in helping patients develop, recover and maintain daily living and work skills. Graduates are trained to promote healthy lifestyles, restore or maintain function, modify activities for success and assist in preventing disability. Students who complete the program earn an Associate of Applied Science degree and are eligible to sit for the National Certification Examination for Occupational Therapy Assistants administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy.

Class officers included Madden Brewer, public relations; Madison del Rio, president; Ja’Kora Eskridge, sec-

Holmes students achieve 100% pass rate on AutoCAD certification

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (front row, left to right) Instructor Heather Hale, Alyree Williams, Cade Germany, Brayam Morales-Vasquez, (second row, left to right) Karsyn Pauline, (third row, left to right) Cadence Neal, Will Barker, (back row, left to right) Chris Morrow, Tucker Richmond and Riane Pearson. Not pictured: Deja Wheaton.

Holmes Community College Engineering Technology students on the Ridgeland Campus achieved a 100% pass rate on the Autodesk Certified User: AutoCAD 2026 certification examination, with four students earning perfect scores on their first attempt.

Students earning a perfect score included Cade Germany, Deja Wheaton, Brayam Morales-Vasquez and Riane Pearson. Additional students who successfully completed the exam included Will Barker, Chris Morrow, Cadence Neal, Karsyn Pauline, Tucker Richmond and Alyree Williams.

“After spending a full year working with these students, I’m continually impressed by the growth they demonstrate—from where they begin to where they ultimately finish,” said Engineering Technology instructor Heather Mooney Hale. “I am incredibly proud of this group and all they have accomplished. In terms of CAD certification, I’ve only had one student

achieve a perfect score in the past, so to see four students reach that milestone this year is truly remarkable.”

The Autodesk AutoCAD certification validates students’ foundational skills in computer-aided design and supports career readiness in drafting, engineering, architecture and industrial technology fields.

The Engineering Technology Department at Holmes offers six areas of concentration: architectural engineering technology, construction technology, drafting and design, industrial engineering management technology, industrial technology and interior design technology. Each area leads to an Associate of Applied Science degree, with some programs also offering a technical certificate and/or advanced technical certificate.

For more information about Engineering Technology programs at Holmes, contact Hale at hmooney@holmescc.edu.

Holmes Ridgeland celebrates Associate Degree Nursing Class of 2026

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Holmes Ridgeland ADN Class of 2026. They are (left to right) Joanna Mills, Tilia Sanders, Hannah Rigby, Anna Gowan, Peyton Johnson, Mary Claire Mayo, Shyuanna Rodgers, Kalicia Goldman, Emily DeLashmet, (middle row, left to right) Marquese Wright, Monisa Stallion, Ashely Nechole Butler, Shakara Roper, Shatterrica Sumler, Sara Self, Abigail Ellzey, (back row, left to right) Chauncey Paige, Jenny Clark, Rowdy Bishop, Salayah Barnes, Stanleyesha Warren, Robert Lee Elbert III, Hunter Burwell, Olivia Dutro and Angela Tucker.

Holmes Community College celebrated the achievements of the Associate Degree Nursing Class of 2026 during a pinning ceremony held May

11 at the Ridgeland High School Auditorium. The ceremony honored 25 graduates who completed the rigorous requirements of the ADN program, a

tradition of excellence at the college since 1982.

Graduates included Salayah Jewel Barnes of Flowood, Rowdy Scout Bishop of Vicksburg, Hunter Colby Burwell of Brandon, Ashely Nechole Butler of Jackson, Jenny Rae Clark of Yazoo City, Emily Katherine De Lashmet of Madison, Olivia Carol Dutro of Madison, Robert Lee Elbert III of Jackson, Abigail Nicole Ellzey of Pelahatchie, Kalicia Amaya Tiara Goldman of Canton, Anna Carol Gowan of Kosciusko, Peyton Grace Johnson of Brandon, Mary Claire Mayo of Gluckstadt, Joanna Dallas Mills of Puckett, Chauncey Elizabeth Paige of Jackson, Hannah Alexis Rigby of Vicksburg, Shyuanna Nicole Rodgers of Jackson, Shakara Chrysanthemum Roper of Edwards, Tilia Sanders of Union Church, Sara Kathryn Self of Gluckstadt, Monisa Chantay Stallion of Clinton, Shatterrica Monet Sumler of Flora, Angela Marie Tucker of Brandon, Stanleyesha Sharay Warren of Brandon and Marquese Laterrian Wright of Ridgeland.

During the ceremony, Salayah

Barnes was named ADN Student of the Year. Program Chair and Assistant Director Dr. Alice Austin praised Barnes for exemplifying academic excellence, professionalism and integrity throughout the program.

Dr. Bronwyn Martin, vice president of the Ridgeland Campus, welcomed graduates, faculty members and guests. Angela Tucker gave the opening prayer.

The ceremony also featured a presentation on the history and symbolism of the nursing pin and candle by Dr. Alicia Turner, followed by scholarship recognition and the presentation of the ADN Student of the Year award by Dr. Austin. Nursing faculty members Niki Walker, Danette Tannehill, Dr. Alicia Turner, Lakeshia McGowan and Dr. Jennifer Bertucci conducted the formal pinning.

After receiving their pins, graduates joined instructor Cindy Bridges in reciting the Florence Nightingale Pledge. The ceremony concluded with a closing prayer by Rodgers.

Holmes Ridgeland honors students at 40th annual awards program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 2026 Ridgeland Campus Awards Day recipients. They are (front row, left to right) **Dylan Kilpatrick, Jrace L. Jamison, Danielle Dunn, Kelsey Hall, Alejandro Robles, Phoebe Ferguson, Cadence Neal, Victoria Thomas,** (middle row, left to right) **Myesha White, Tyler Sims, Ashlyn Dodd, Mika Maehata, Emma Korhonen, Alayna Lowery, Tristen Sierra, James Price,** (back row, left to right) **Laila Seals, Alisha Davis, Brooklin Potee, Alyssa Vancor, Mary Crawford Canard, Anna Korhonen, Matthew Hatchett and Patrick Kelly.** Not pictured: Anthony Angel Agustin-Salvador, Salaya Barnes, Matthew Galloway, Dallas Kurtz and Ian Willoughby.

Holmes Community College recognized outstanding student achievement during its 40th Annual Awards and Honors Program held April 14 in the

McGowan Workforce Training Center on the Ridgeland Campus.

The program featured an introduction by Allison DeWeese, director of Health Science Programs, and an invocation by Dr. Bronwyn Martin, vice president of the Ridgeland Campus. Closing remarks were delivered by Dr. Tonya Lawrence, dean of academics for the Ridgeland Campus.

Students were honored across a wide range of academic and career and technical programs. Academic award recipients included Alayna Lowery in Business Administration; Matthew Hatchett in English and Foreign Language; Alejandro Robles in Health, Physical Education and Recreation and Biological Science; Dylan Kilpatrick in History and Political Science; Phoebe Ferguson in Criminal Justice; Laila Seals in Journalism; Mika Maehata in Engineering; Ashlyn Dodd in Physical Science; Emma Korhonen in Mathematics; and Ian Willoughby in Social and Behavioral Science. Myesha White received the Rising Educator Award.

Career and technical honors were

awarded to Victoria Thomas in Business Technology; Dallas Kurtz in Paralegal Technology; James Price in Information Systems Technology; Danielle Dunn in Welding and Cutting Technology; Matthew Galloway in Electro Mechanical Technology; Cadence Neal in Engineering Technology; Patrick Kelly in Culinary Arts Technology; Tristen Sierra in Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration; and Salayah Barnes in Associate Degree Nursing.

Special recognition was also given to Hall of Fame recipient Anthony Angel, along with honorees Mary Crawford, Alisha Davis, Ashlyn Dodd, Kelsey Hall, Jrace L. Jamison, Anna Korhonen, Emma Korhonen, Mika Maehata, Brooklin Potee, Tyler Sims and Alyssa Vancor. The Hall of Fame represents the highest honor a student can receive at Holmes.

The annual event celebrates student excellence and highlights the academic and technical accomplishments of Holmes Community College students.

Holmes named ‘Best Place to Work’ in Madison County

By Jasmiah Collier
Staff Reporter



Holmes Community College was named “Best Place to Work” in the 2025–26 Best of the Best awards, sponsored by Hometown Madison Magazine.

The honor, voted on by local residents, recognizes Holmes as a premier employer in Madison County and highlights the college’s continued commitment to fostering a positive, supportive and professional work environment. Holmes previously earned the title in 2015, and this year’s recognition reaffirms a decade-long dedication to its employees.

Representatives from the college at-

tended the Red Carpet Gala on March 26, where winners were announced. Attending on behalf of Holmes were Ridgeland Campus Police Chief Stan Fisher, Multimedia Specialist Stephanie Wood, Graphic Designer Maggie Robinson, Student Activities Director Jordan Heflin and Workforce Development Coordinator Melissa Love.

“Having served Holmes since 2006, I can speak firsthand about why we are blessed to be employed by the best place to work in Madison County,” said Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Bronwyn Martin. “I’ve served the college in four different roles, and I’ve spent most of my professional life here. For those fortunate enough to experience why we say, ‘No Place Like Holmes,’ it is validating to know our community recognizes our per-



Pictured are (left to right) Chief Stan Fisher, Stephanie Wood, Maggie Robinson, Jordan Heflin and Melissa Love.

sonable, unique and authentic work environment. We are excited about this honor.”

The annual Best of the Best awards

recognize businesses and organizations across Madison County for excellence in service, workplace culture and community impact.

Holmes Grenada PTK President earns prestigious scholarship to MSU

From Staff Reports/Photos



Lexi McClain

Holmes Community College Grenada Campus is proud to announce

that Phi Theta Kappa President Lexi McClain has been selected to receive the highly competitive Presidential Partnership Scholarship to attend Mississippi State University this fall.

The Presidential Partnership Scholarship is one of Mississippi State’s most distinguished awards for transfer students. Each Mississippi community and junior college may nominate only one student, with final selections made by the university’s scholarship committee. The award covers the cost of tuition for up to five semesters, provided recipients maintain academic excellence and full-time enrollment.

McClain, a pre-medicine major from Vaiden, Mississippi, will transfer to

Mississippi State University to continue her academic journey as she prepares for a career in the medical field.

“I’m honored to receive this scholarship and forever grateful for the opportunities, support, and experiences Holmes has given me,” McClain said.

During her time at Holmes Community College, McClain has built an exceptional record of academic achievement and leadership. She has earned the Dean’s Scholarship and President’s List honors and was selected as Student Body Maid. She has served as President of the Student Government Association and President of Phi Theta Kappa, while also being actively involved in the Content Creator’s Club.

In addition, McClain has represented the college as a Holmes Ambassador and was named a Hall of Fame recipient, one of the highest honors awarded to Holmes students.

Following her time at Mississippi State University, McClain plans to apply to University of Mississippi Medical Center with the goal of pursuing a career in orthopedic surgery.

Holmes Community College congratulates McClain on this outstanding achievement and looks forward to seeing the impact she will make in the future.

Bank of Commerce celebrates grand opening on Goodman Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Bank of Commerce celebrated the grand opening and ribbon cutting of its newest branch located on the Goodman Campus of Holmes Community College.

The event began with a meal served in Carroll Cafeteria, where community members, college representatives and bank officials gathered to mark the occasion. Following the meal, attendees moved to the new branch site, located just off Highway 14 on the Goodman

Campus, for the official ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The new branch expands banking access for students, employees and the surrounding community, further strengthening the partnership between the Bank of Commerce and Holmes Community College.

Holmes Grenada Campus honors Associate Degree Nursing graduates

From Staff Reports/Photos



A photo of **URhonda Lewis** was placed in her seat with her pin, Bible and lamp to honor her memory.

The Grenada Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) pinning ceremony was held May 13 at the Grenada Campus of Holmes Community College in the Corey Forum.

Following the processional of more than 40 students, the ceremony opened with a prayer by Kasey Avent. Patty Jones welcomed guests and introduced the nursing faculty members who worked with the students throughout the program.



Pictured is the Grenada Nursing Class of 2026 reciting the Nightingale Pledge.

Class reflections were given by Stephanie Oliver, who also recognized classmate URhonda Lewis, who died unexpectedly one month before completion of the program.

Instructor Lovie Rodela announced awards and scholarships. Scholarship recipients were recognized for the Vint Scholarship, Foundation Scholarship, NMMC Nursing Student Scholarship, Mississippi Board of Nursing Scholarship, 2025-26 Dr. Chiquita Rock-

iemore Aspirant Nurse Scholarship, WIOA Scholarship, Grenada Living Center Scholarship, Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship, Renasant Bank Completions Scholarship, AmeriCorps Award, ONW Scholarship and Junior Auxiliary of Grenada Scholarship.

Anthony DelGeorge received the Outstanding Student Award. Kandi Harris received the Mississippi School of Nursing Scholarship, presented by Amanda Crawford, executive director

of the Mississippi Nurses Foundation.

Chelsea Mims and Cherrie Winter presented the Gideon Bible, lamp and pins, while Gwen Lordeon shared reflective thoughts from the students.

The ceremony concluded with students and nurses in attendance reciting the Nightingale Pledge, followed by the benediction and recessional of the ADN Class of 2026.

Members of the class included Shecorey Allen, Alexis Arrington, Kasey Avent, Kristian Avery, Ally Bingham, Janya Bowdry, Sharnell Bowdry, Stone Bowering, Whitney Brock, Nieshia Butts, Anthony DelGeorge, Linesha Harbin, Kandi Harris, Dynaquia Hemphill, Misty Johnson, Tiffany Johnson, Amber Killough, Kamelia Lacy, Chelsea Latham, URhonda Lewis, Karrington Lofton, Karlee Manues, Bralyn McGee, Addison Meeks, Jessica Moore, Victorrio Murray, Stephanie Oliver, Lakendra Roby, Tyara Sledge, Precious Staten, Elliott Stephen, Shamorquesha Stevenson, Tasha Stewart, D'Ariel Sykes, Madison Terrell, Makayla Thompson, Brianna Vaughn, Asia Wade, Mackenzie Ward, Harlee Whitten, Michaela Wilson, Tehya Woods and Alexandria Wright.

Lewis was remembered during the ceremony with a shadow box contain-

Holmes wins Grand Award, multiple honors at CPRAM 2026

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College representatives attended the 2026 College Public Relations Association of Mississippi (CPRAM) Annual Conference May 18-20 at Northwest Mississippi Community College in Senatobia, earning multiple awards in the community college division for excellence in marketing, communications and public relations.

The annual CPRAM Conference brings together public relations and marketing professionals from two- and four-year colleges and universities across Mississippi for professional development, networking and recognition of outstanding work in communications, advertising, graphic design, social media and media relations.

Holmes attendees included District Director of Communications and Associate Athletic Director for External Relations Steve Diffey, Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Lindy McCain, Alumni Coordinator and Goodman Campus Public Relations Specialist Katherine Ellard, Goodman Recruiter Nikki Boutwell, Grenada Recruiter and Public Relations Specialist Haley DeNoon, Ridgeland Recruiter Amanda Lindsey, Multimedia Specialist Stephanie Wood, Ridgeland Public Relations

Specialist and Journalism Instructor Mary Margaret Busby, Graphic Designer Maggie Robinson, and Ridgeland Student Activities Director and Student Support Services Coordinator Jordan Heflin.

Leading the honors for the college, Wood received the Grand Award for for "Media Guide Cover." The Grand Award is one of the conference's top overall honors, recognizing the absolute highest level of excellence in design and communications. Wood also won first place in the single piece of artwork sports category for the same entry.

Additionally, Wood partnered with Ellard to earn first place in the newsletter category for "PawPrints Newsletter." Wood also secured first place in the viewbook/admissions and recruitment piece category for "Holmes At-A-Glance" and took home second-place honors in the advertisement category for "100-Year Ad," environmental designs/exhibitions for "Coliseum Renovation" and digital art/photo illustration for "You're A Bulldog - Northpark Mall Video Ad."

Former Holmes employee Jill Sowell received first place in the single piece of artwork category for "Freshman



Pictured are (front row, left to right) **Jordan Heflin, Maggie Robinson, Stephanie Wood, Mary Margaret Busby, Amanda Lindsey, Haley DeNoon,** (back row, left to right) **Nikki Boutwell, Steve Diffey and Dr. Lindy McCain.**

Friday Marketing."

Robinson earned first place in the social media sports post category for "Thursday Night Lights are Back" and second place in the social media non-sports account category for the Holmes CC Instagram account.

Busby won first place in the news story category for "Holmes Launches Hotel and Restaurant Management Technology."

CPRAM recognizes outstanding achievement in public relations, marketing and communications among Mississippi's community colleges, junior colleges and universities through annual competitions, workshops and professional development opportunities.

Holmes Grenada Campus holds 2026 Honors Day

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College recognized outstanding student achievement during its Annual Awards and Honors Program held April 22 in the Corey Forum on the Grenada Campus.

Dr. Jenny Jones, vice president of Academics and eLearning, welcomed guests. Slade Redwine, coordinator of Career and Technical Education on the Grenada Campus, delivered the invocation. Awards were presented throughout the ceremony, and Dr. Tina Garrett, coordinator of academic programs on the Grenada Campus, gave closing remarks.

The Hall of Fame represents the highest honor a student can receive at Holmes. This year's inductees were Lexi McClain,

Christopher Beach, Madeline Branch and Sara Cochran.

Students were honored across a wide range of academic and career and technical programs. McClain also received the Chemistry Award, while Beach received the English Award.

Abbie Ellington of Attala County received the Physical Therapist Assistant Award. Tiffany Johnson of Attala County received a Phi Theta Kappa Award. Riley Boyd received the Surgical Technology Award.

Anthony DelGeorge received the Associate Degree Nursing (Day) Award, and Tamika Hardiman received the Associate Degree Nursing (Evening) Award. Alexia

Strong received the Business Administration Award. Jason Bender received the Fine Arts (Music Appreciation) Award. William Hobson received the Mathematics Award. Taylor Willis received the Social Sciences Award, and Blake Williams received the History Award. Savannah Edwards received the Speech Award, and A'Maiya Noel received the Business Technology Award.

James Harris received the Forestry Technology Award. Phillip Penn received the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Technology Award. Benjamin Smith received the Electro-Mechanical Technology Award. LaTavia Carson received the Practical Nursing (January)

Award, and Lindsey Tartt received the Practical Nursing (August) Award. Jacob Bennett received the Welding and Cutting Technology Award. Jessica Moore received a Phi Theta Kappa Award.

Melissa Falchi Fornitani received the Biological Science Award. Tasia Bryant received the EMS-Basic Award. Noah Dean received the Computer Science Award, and Alyssa McCord received the Engineering Technology Award.

The annual event celebrates student excellence and highlights the academic and technical accomplishments of Holmes Community College students on the Grenada Campus.



Sara Pollan presents the Biological Science Award to **Melissa Falchi Fornitani**.



Pictured are Hall of Fame honorees (left to right) **Madeline Branch, Sara Cochran, Lexi McClain and Michael Beach**.



Shae Wang presents the Mathematics Award to **William Hobson**.



Noah Dean accepts the Computer Science Award from **Shae Wang**.



Jake Hood presents the Public Speaking Award to **Savannah Edwards**.



Aimee Kitching presents the Social Sciences Award to **Taylor Willis**.



Lovie Rodela presents the Associate Degree Nursing Award for the day program to **Anthony DelGeorge**.



Leah Mitchell presents the Surgical Technology Award to **Riley Boyd**.



Casey Welch presents the Practical Nursing Award to **Latavia Carson**.



Latisha Beasley presents the EMS Basic Award to **Tasia Bryant**.



Lovie Rodela presents the Associate Degree Nursing Award for the evening/week-end program to **Tamika Hardiman**.



Abbie Ellington accepts the Physical Therapist Assistant Award from **Heather Pounds**.



Lisa Wilbourn presents **A'Maiya Noel** with the Business Technology Award.



Craig Kirkendall presents **Alyssa McCord** with the Engineering Technology Award.



James Harris accepts the Forest Technology Award from **James Floyd**.



Sammy Green presents **Phillip Penn** with the HVAC Award.



Nettie Coggin presents **Benjamin Smith** with the Electro-Mechanical Technology Award.



Slade Redwine presents **Jacob Bennett** with the Welding and Cutting Technology Award.



Cynthia Abel presents **Jessica Moore** with the Phi Theta Kappa Award.

Coleman and Parker complete MCCB Career Technical Leadership Academy

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Jovonna Parker and Shea Coleman.

Holmes Community College employees Shea Coleman and Jovonna Parker were pinned following completion of the Mississippi Community College Board Career Technical Education Leadership Academy during a ceremony held April 28 at the Clyde Muse Center in Pearl.

Coleman and Parker recently graduated from the MCCB Career Technical Education Leadership Academy, a professional development program designed for career and technical

education administrators across the state. They were among a select group of community college leaders who completed the program during the 2025–2026 academic year.

Coleman serves as program director of the Surgical Technology program at Holmes and teaches on the Ridgeland Campus. She holds a Bachelor of Science in clinical exercise physiology from Mississippi State University and an Associate of Applied Science in surgical technology from Hinds

Community College. She is a Certified Surgical Technologist and earned the Fellow of the Association of Surgical Technologists (FAST) designation in 2022.

Coleman is an active leader in the Association of Surgical Technologists, serving on the Mississippi State Assembly Board in multiple roles, including president, vice president and treasurer, and contributing to the organization’s education professional committee.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to complete the Leadership Academy,” Coleman said. “This experience has strengthened my commitment to lead with clarity, purpose and impact as I continue to serve students, the profession and the future of surgical technology.”

Parker serves as a career technical education counselor and adjunct instructor at Holmes Community College’s Ridgeland Campus. In addition to her recent pinning, she is a 2022 graduate of the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy (MCCLA). Parker is currently pursuing a Doctor of Education in higher education at Delta State University. She also holds a Master of Arts in liberal studies with a focus on gender and diversity from Delta State, as well as a Bachelor of Science in office administration from the University of Southern

Mississippi.

Throughout her career, Parker has held several leadership roles, including serving as the director of student disability services at Hinds Community College, where she supervised 20 staff members and interpreters. She also has experience drafting and executing MCCB nontraditional grants.

“I was honored to represent Holmes in the MCCB Leadership Academy,” Parker said. “We have a strong network of community college faculty and staff across our state, and I appreciate Dr. Sterling and MCCB for advancing our professional growth through this academy.”

The MCCB Career Technical Education Leadership Academy provides practical, hands-on leadership training for career technical administrators across Mississippi. The program focuses on topics such as effective communication, ethics in the workplace, conflict resolution, leadership development, legislative processes and the socioeconomic impact on community college students.

Participants engage in a variety of learning experiences, including collaborative discussions, book studies, legislative session attendance and in-person training sessions throughout the academic year. A completion and pinning ceremony is held each spring.

Boutwell graduates from MCCLA

From Staff Reports/Photos



Nikki Boutwell stops for a photo with Dr. Jim Haffey at MCCLA graduation.

Nikki Merchant Boutwell, recruiting specialist on the Goodman Campus at Holmes Community College, was recognized May 5 as a graduate of

the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy, a yearlong professional development program designed to prepare mid- and upper-level

administrators within Mississippi’s community college system for senior leadership roles. The graduation ceremony was held at Mississippi State University.

In her role at Holmes, Boutwell supervises Ambassador student recruiters, teaches Leadership and Communication Skills courses and serves as a liaison between business and industry leaders, recruiters and university admissions counselors. She also works closely with prospective students and campus partners to support recruitment and enrollment efforts on the Goodman Campus.

Established in 2009, MCCLA is a selective leadership development program that equips participants with skills in strategic planning, communication, organizational leadership and policy understanding within Mississippi’s community college system. The

program also emphasizes collaboration and networking among administrators across the state.

Boutwell is a 2017 graduate of Holmes Community College, where she was active as a student ambassador and involved in a variety of campus leadership and service activities. She later earned a Bachelor of Science in public relations from Mississippi College in 2019, graduating cum laude.

Beyond her professional responsibilities, Boutwell is a life member of Junior Auxiliary of Yazoo City, where she recently completed her final active year of service. She remains engaged in community service and values opportunities to give back through volunteer work.

She resides in Satartia with her husband, Trent, and their dogs, Ellie and Finn.

Spurlock named Holmes’ Director of Bands

From Staff Reports/Photos



Cody Spurlock

Jacksonville, N.C. native Cody Spurlock has joined the Holmes Community College family as the new Director of Bands on the Goodman Campus.

Spurlock, who moved to Mississippi when he was a year old, came to Holmes from Wesson Attendance Center, where he served as Director of Bands.

The high honor graduate of Hillcrest Christian School attended the University of Mississippi and received a bachelor’s degree in Music Education. He was the principal euphoniumist in the UM Wind Ensemble from 2015 to 2019. He also was a member of the Tuba Euphonium Ensemble, the Trombone Ensemble, and was the bass trombonist in The Collegiate Jazz

Band.

He began his teaching career at Wesson Attendance Center in 2019 as assistant band director, later becoming head director in 2023. While there, he built a strong curriculum for younger students and helped elevate the marching band program which culminated in all superior ratings in his final year, a milestone not achieved in seven years. Spurlock also holds a master’s degree in music education from William Carey University.

Whether you’re a music major or simply want to continue playing, the Holmes band program offers a place to stay involved, improve your skills, and be part of something rewarding.

“I just enjoy immersing myself in

music-making,” Spurlock said. “I’m excited to build that same passion with our students here at Holmes.”

He and his wife Audra, whom he married in 2021, recently welcomed their daughter Ellasyn in January 2026. At Holmes, Spurlock expressed enthusiasm about continuing his passion for music and sharing it with students as he leads the band program forward.

Students of all majors are welcome. For more information about the bands at Holmes, contact Spurlock at espurlock@holmescc.edu, call (662) 472-9051 or visit <https://holmescc.edu/academic-divisions/fine-arts/>.

Holmes Ridgeland celebrates STEMMY award recipients

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College's Ridgeland Campus recently recognized outstanding students in the Division of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) with the STEMMY Awards, honoring academic excellence and achievement in STEM coursework.

To qualify for a STEMMY Award, students must be enrolled in or have completed at least two face-to-face STEM courses on the Ridgeland Campus and maintain a 3.0 or higher STEM GPA. Each recipient

is nominated by STEM faculty members in recognition of their dedication, performance and success in STEM disciplines.

"These students have demonstrated exceptional commitment and talent in their STEM courses," a spokesperson for the Division of STEM said. "We are proud to recognize their hard work and accomplishments."

The STEMMY Awards are part of Holmes Community College's ongoing commitment to strengthening STEM edu-

cation and preparing students for careers in high-demand fields.

Spring 2026 STEMMY Award recipients include Akala Jacobs, Anna Korhonen, Emma K. Korhonen, Alyssa J. Vancor, Ayesha Ahmad, Keaten Albright, Magnolia Allen, Anne Adams, Uzair Amer, Laura Armstrong, Lillian Bassett, Barry Bethany, Harrison Boling, Saylee Brantley, Taylor Chamblee, Jonah Clarke, Blake Collins, Tymerria Crowley, Ashlyn R. Dodd, Kayla Earls, Sawyer Egger, Benjamin Gore, Tyler

Gray, Katelyn Grubbs, Keagan Hamilton, Mathew Hatchett, Victoria Holbrook, Noah P. Humphrey, Shamiya Jones, Logan Karisse, Asia Knotts, Zykeria Langston, Pierce Loveall, Emma Loving, Mika Maehata, Kaylee Moudy, Sarah Nail, Marleigh Otwell, Embrey Painter, John M. Pate, Trevor D. Peters, Reese Rial, Tyler Robbins, Shawn Roberts, Alejandro Robles, Joshua Stokes, Mallory Sutton, Darryl Thompson, Ella Tierce and Alice White.



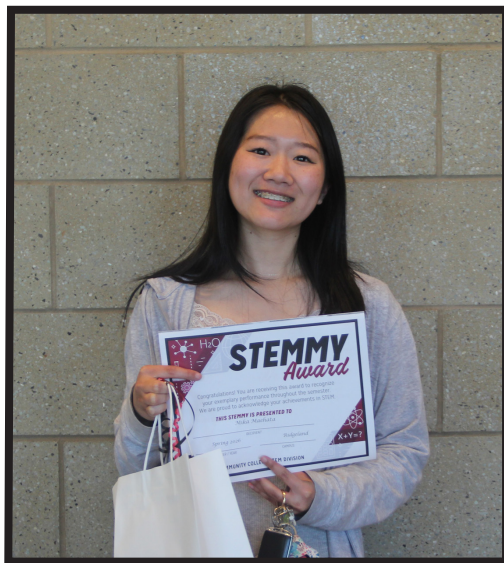
Pictured is award recipient **Keaten Albright**.



Pictured are award recipients (left to right) **Alice White, Kayla Earls, Kaylee Moudy and Ayesha Ahmad**.



Pictured is award recipient **Keagan Hamilton**.



Pictured is award recipient **Mika Maehata**.



Pictured are award recipients (left to right) **Emma Korhonen and Anna Korhonen**.



Pictured is award recipient **Alyssa Vancor**.

Holmes supporting bone marrow donor drive for local child in need of match

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College is calling on students and the local community to support a lifesaving cause by hosting a bone marrow donor swab event for 11-year-old Cate, a Greenwood native in need of a match.

This is part of a nationwide effort to increase the number of potential donors on the national registry. Registering as a donor involves a simple cheek swab that takes less than a minute to complete. Those interested in volun-

teering can contact Haley DeNoon at hdenoon@holmescc.edu for more information.

Several digital options are available to join the registry and support the cause. Individuals between the ages of 18 and 35 can text TeamCate to 61474 to receive a free swab kit through the National Marrow Donor Program. Those between the ages of 36 and 55 can request a kit online through DKMS at dkms.org/swabforcate.

New endowed scholarship supports Holmes nursing students

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College students pursuing nursing now have access to a new endowed scholarship designed to support advanced training and strengthen the healthcare workforce.

The LCT Nursing Advancement Scholarship will assist students enrolled in the Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) accelerated/bridge program for licensed practical nurses (LPNs) and paramedics, or the practical nursing hybrid option. The scholarship is awarded annually to eligible students who demonstrate academic commitment and progress in their nursing education.

The scholarship was established through the Holmes Development Foundation, Inc., as part of a donor agreement creating an endowed fund. The agreement states that the gift will be used to support

Holmes Community College students and may continue to grow through additional contributions from individuals, organizations and other donors. Under the terms of the agreement, recipients must be enrolled in the ADN accelerated/bridge program for LPNs or paramedics or the practical nursing hybrid option. Scholarships will be awarded annually as long as students remain enrolled full time in the program and maintain a GPA higher than 2.0.

Selection of scholarship recipients will be coordinated through the Holmes Development Foundation and the college's scholarship committee, which will administer the endowment according to the donor's criteria. A report on student progress will be submitted to the donor annually. The scholarship was made possible through donor Christiana Palmer, nursing home administrator of Grenada Living

Center, with the goal of reducing financial barriers for students pursuing nursing careers and addressing the growing demand for healthcare professionals.

"This scholarship provides an important opportunity for our students to continue advancing in the nursing field without as many financial barriers," said Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Lindy McCain. "Hopefully the scholarship will encourage more students to pursue advanced nursing credentials and remain in the healthcare field after graduation."

The scholarship will be available beginning this academic year, with applications open to qualifying students in eligible nursing programs.

Holmes honors 2026 Retirees at Goodman Campus reception

From Staff Reports/Photos



Dr. Jim Haffey and Joy Kellum



Dr. Jim Haffey and David Brock



Dr. Jim Haffey and Wesley Lepard

Holmes Community College held its 2026 retirement reception April 23 on the Goodman Campus, recognizing districtwide retirees Joy Kellum, David Brock and Wesley Lepard for their years of dedicated service. College officials expressed appreciation for their combined decades of commitment to the institution.

Joy Kellum retired after 26 years of service, where she served as a business office assistant on the Ridgeland Campus. A Holmes graduate, she earned her degree in 1985 and worked in the banking industry before returning to the college.

Kellum and her husband, Marty, are the parents of two children, Caleb and Danyelle, both Holmes alumni. Caleb and his wife, Mackenzie, have two

children, Case and Hallie. In retirement, Kellum plans to travel and spend more time with her family and grandchildren.

“Holmes will forever occupy a cherished place in my heart as both an alumna and dedicated employee,” Kellum said. “Working at Holmes all these years was a true privilege. I had the joy of meeting numerous individuals, including current and former employees and students, who profoundly impacted my life. The lifelong friendships I formed are a divine blessing that I will always treasure, and I am grateful for the 26 years filled with unforgettable memories I will hold dear. Thank you — and indeed, there is ‘No Place Like Holmes!’”

David Brock dedicated 25 years of

service to Holmes Community College, spending much of his career managing the courier route between campuses, delivering UPS shipments and ensuring materials were transported efficiently across the district. For the past three years, he also oversaw operations at the college ranch.

Before joining Holmes, Brock worked five years at Fleetwood Homes of Mississippi, managed a farm supply store and worked in farming. He and his wife, Elizabeth, are members of Sallis Baptist Church.

Brock is the father of Mandy Vandlandingham and Michael Brock and stepfather to Ryan Cain and Daniel Cain. In retirement, he looks forward to spending time with his grandchildren, attending their plays and sporting

events and enjoying travel. He reflected fondly on his years at Holmes and the friendships he made along the way.

Wesley Lepard retired after 19 years of service, including 15 years as a help desk technician and four years as an IT support technician.

A 1996 Holmes graduate, Lepard earned an Associate of Arts in business administration before completing a Bachelor of Business Administration at Mississippi State University in 2002. He also served in the U.S. Air Force as a Desert Storm veteran from 1989-93 and was named Outstanding Contracting Airman of the Year in 1992.

His career includes work with the U.S. Postal Service, entrepreneurship, full-time study and service as director of human resources at Anel Corporation.

Lepard has spent 35 years playing music as a hobby and most recently performed with the band 51 South, which received the Central Mississippi Best Band Award in 2008 and 2012 and a Jefferson Award for outstanding public service in 2015. He is a member of Seneasha Methodist Church in Goodman.

In retirement, Lepard plans to spend more time with family, as well as hunting, fishing and traveling.

“Working for Holmes has truly been a blessing for me and my family,” Lepard said. “I can’t think of a better place I could have spent my career than Holmes. Everyone here is like family, and that has always meant so much to me. Our motto is absolutely true — ‘No Place Like Holmes.’”

Holmes honors retirees at Grenada Employee Appreciation Event

From Staff Reports/Photos



(left to right) Grenada Campus Vice President Dr. Matt Surrell presents retirement plaques to Debbie Collins and Wendy Jones.

The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus recently hosted its end-of-the-year Employee Appreciation Lunch and Learn, featuring a “May the 4th Be With You” theme, where the focus of the program was

honoring campus retirees for their service and dedication.

The event provided faculty and staff an opportunity to celebrate Debbie Collins and Wendy Jones, who were recognized for their contributions to

the college and its students.

Debbie Collins retired after 12 years of service to Holmes Community College in housekeeping, where she contributed to the campus community through her commitment and care. Over the course of her career, she also held a wide range of leadership and management roles, including director of a daycare, executive director of a transportation company, project manager of summer programs, human resources administrator, tours company administrator, manager in both auto sales and trucking operations and director of housing operations.

Collins is married to Henry Collins and is the mother of Tamarcus and Tiffany. She is a proud grandmother to Telisha, Alyssa, Jamalin and Samuel. In retirement, she looks forward to traveling, enjoying long coffee breaks and relaxing on her patio while watching the sunrise and sunset with a glass of sweet tea. Collins said her time at Holmes Community College will always be remembered as one of the most meaningful chapters of her life.

Wendy Jones retired after serving as a campus police officer on the Grenada Campus. She joined Holmes in 2024, bringing more than 30 years of law enforcement experience, including service with the Charleston Police Department and the Tutwiler Police Department.

Jones holds a Master of Science in special education from Grand Canyon University, a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice from Mississippi Valley State University and an Associate of Arts in criminal justice from Coahoma Community College. She is a graduate of Charleston High School.

The daughter of the late Almer Hampton, Jones has one daughter, Ukari Pimpton, and is one of 11 children. She is a member of Table of Life Ministries and enjoys gardening, word games and reading.

“I have loved working with the friendly faculty and staff,” Jones said. “I’ve also enjoyed meeting and talking with our students, and I see why everyone says, ‘There’s No Place like Holmes.’”



Holmes to host Amazon Web Services workforce training program in June

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College will host the Amazon Web Services (AWS) Information Infrastructure Pre-Apprenticeship (I2PA) program in June,

offering eligible participants an opportunity to gain workforce training and industry-relevant skills.

The four-week program is scheduled

for June 1–26 and will meet Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Holmes Ridgeland Campus. Due to the accelerated nature of the program and the volume of material covered, daily attendance is required, and participants must provide their own transportation.

“I2PA is a great opportunity for recent high school graduates as well as adults who want to learn new skills,” said Workforce Development Coordinator Angie Williams. “Participants will be exposed to the different kinds of work that go into building and maintaining data centers and given opportunities to network with professionals working in the field.”

The application period is open through April 24. To be eligible, ap-

plicants must be at least 18 years old and possess a high school diploma or GED equivalent. All applicants will be screened, and final selections will be made at the discretion of Holmes Community College. Submission of an application does not guarantee acceptance into the program.

Participants in the program will receive a stipend of \$10 per hour. The AWS I2PA program is designed to prepare individuals for careers in information infrastructure by providing foundational training and hands-on experience.

For more information or to apply, visit <https://aws.1110ths.org/i2pa-2026-06-jackson-ms/>.

Holmes honors officers during Law Enforcement Appreciation Week

From Staff Reports/Photos



(left to right) Officer Patrick Lampkin, Officer Sytaria Weathersby, Sgt. Michael Jones and Chief Stan Fisher stop for a photo.

Holmes Community College is joining Madison County in recognizing May 11-15, 2026, as Law Enforcement Appreciation Week, honoring the dedication and service of local law enforcement officers who work daily to protect and serve the community.

The Madison County Board of Supervisors recently passed a resolution declaring the week in appreciation of officers’ commitment to public safety

throughout the county.

As part of the observance, Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus presented local officers with a thank-you basket this week as a gesture of gratitude for their continued service and support of the campus community.

Community members across Madison County are encouraged to participate in several initiatives throughout



(left to right) Sgt. Michael Jones, Officer Sytaria Weathersby, Marvin Lewis and Chief Stan Fisher stop for a photo.

the week, including Wear Blue Day on Wednesday, May 13, to show support for law enforcement officers. Citizens are also encouraged to participate in the Blue Ribbon Campaign by displaying blue ribbons on mailboxes, businesses and homes.

Additional activities include the Law Enforcement Appreciation Luncheon scheduled for noon Wednesday, May 13, at the Madison County Sheriff’s

Department.

Residents are also encouraged to send notes or letters of appreciation to local law enforcement agencies or share messages of support on social media throughout the week.

Holmes expressed appreciation for the officers who help maintain safety and security on the Ridgeland Campus and throughout the surrounding communities.

Student Health Fair connects students with wellness services on Goodman Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos



Student Support Services and Holmes Mosaic hosted a Student Health Fair on April 29 in the Goodman Campus Library, offering students access to a variety of health and wellness resources.

The event ran until 2 p.m. and provided screenings and services including blood pressure checks, cholesterol testing, triglyceride screening, blood glucose testing, financial services

guidance and mental health resources, among others.

Organizers said the goal of the health fair was to promote student wellness and connect students with both health-related and support services available on campus and in the community.



Freshman Friday turns college plans into reality for future Bulldogs

From Staff Reports/Photos

For many high school seniors, college still feels like an idea—something waiting on the other side of graduation. Freshman Friday at Holmes Community College helps turn that idea into a plan.

The event gives incoming students the opportunity to choose classes, meet instructors, and see firsthand what life as a Bulldog looks like. Freshman Friday 2026 was held April 10 on the Ridgeland and Grenada campuses and April 17 on the Goodman Campus, allowing students to move from uncertainty to confidence in a single visit.

“Freshman Friday felt like the first real step into college,” said Jonas May, a Hartfield Academy senior who will attend Holmes Ridgeland in the fall. “It gave me a chance to meet people, get signed up for classes and feel more prepared before the semester even starts.”

“Freshman Friday gave me confidence as a new freshman entering college,” said Elisyah Adams of Clinton, a pre-med major on the Ridgeland Campus. “I had fun exploring the campus and seeing my routes to classes.”

Melissa Falchi, a health sciences major from Winona, said the event helped her plan her schedule and become familiar with the campus. “Freshman Friday was an extremely helpful

experience to create my schedule, see which classes were a better fit for my career path and to get to know the campus a little more. You get to make your student I.D., see future classmates and find your future classes,” she said.

Adelette Nichols, a health sciences major from Brandon, added, “Freshman Friday put me at ease because I had no clue what I was doing. It helped me figure out the ropes of college and settled me in for the semester ahead!”

During the day, students met one-on-one with academic and career-technical counselors, explored programs of study and registered for summer or fall classes. Faculty and staff were available to answer questions, provide guidance and help students begin mapping out their academic paths.

“Freshman Friday is one of my favorite days of the year,” said Grenada Campus Recruiter Haley DeNoon. “It gives incoming students the opportunity to meet advisors, create class schedules, explore campus and connect with current student Ambassadors...turning first-day nerves into confidence as they join the Bulldog family.”

The event is often a student’s first real step into college life. It’s where future nurses, welders, teachers, business leaders and transfer students begin seeing their goals take shape. Many

students also meet their instructors for the first time, replacing nerves with familiarity before the semester begins.

“On Freshman Friday, students have an on-campus experience that allows them to meet with the instructor of their career-technical program and enroll in summer and/or fall classes,” said Ridgeland Campus Career-Technical Counselor Jovonna Parker. “It’s great to see the students navigate college enrollment more independently, as Holmes employees and student Ambassadors are there providing support.”

Goodman Campus Career-Technical Counselor Leslie Spell said the event is especially beneficial for first-generation students. “Freshman Friday is an invaluable experience for our incoming students, especially those who may feel nervous about transitioning to college,” Spell said. “For first-generation students, it offers an opportunity to gain insight into what college life is truly like. It’s not just about registering for classes—it’s about building confidence and helping students feel supported.”

By the end of the visit, students often leave with a class schedule and a clearer sense of direction.

Alisha Davis, a pre-physician assistant major from Flora, said the event helped her decide on a career path. “I

attended it as an incoming freshman who wasn’t sure what I wanted to study; I just knew I wanted to come to Holmes. During the event, I met with an advisor to discuss different career paths I was interested in, and we were able to choose classes that matched those goals. It eased many of my nerves, and by the time August arrived, I felt prepared for college and much less nervous,” she said.

Freshman Friday also provides an opportunity for students to complete enrollment steps in a supportive environment while gaining insight into campus life and student resources.

“Freshman Friday provides incoming students with a supportive space to ask questions, make connections and gain confidence,” said Grenada Campus Academic Advisor Cynthia Abel. “It’s more than just an introduction to campus; it’s a chance to ensure that all students feel prepared and empowered to navigate their college experience.”

For Holmes, the event reflects a commitment to making the transition from high school to college approachable and personal. For students, it’s often the moment college stops feeling distant and starts feeling possible.



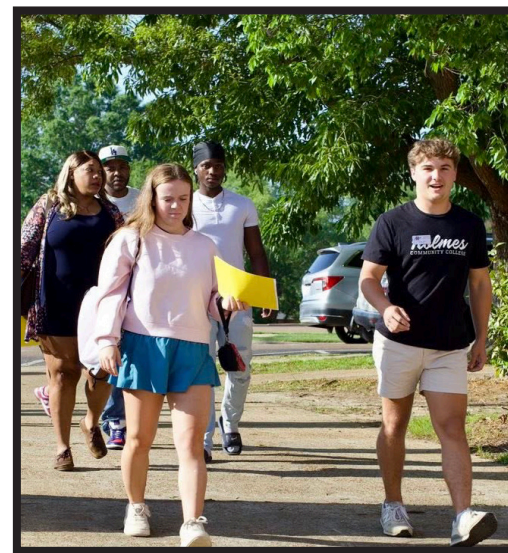
Students chitchat while they wait in line during Freshman Friday in Ridgeland.



Students get help registering for classes on the Goodman Campus.



Students chitchat while they wait in line during Freshman Friday in Ridgeland.



Incoming students and their families take a tour of the Goodman Campus during Freshman Friday.

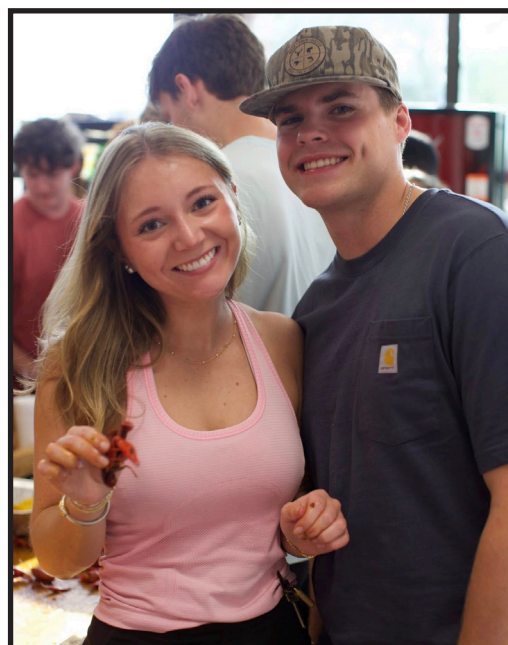
Holmes Goodman Campus hosts Spring Fling crawfish boil

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College’s Goodman Campus welcomed students, faculty and staff to its annual Spring Fling on April 2 in the Lorange Student Center.

The event featured a festive atmosphere with crawfish served to attendees, giving the campus community an opportunity to relax and connect outside the classroom.

Spring Fling is designed to celebrate the season while fostering student engagement and campus spirit. Students gathered throughout the day to enjoy food, fellowship and a break from their academic routines.



Holmes counselor presents research at national conference in New Orleans

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College Academic Counselor Dr. Pamela Fells recently presented her research at the Association of Social & Behavioral

Scientists 91st Annual Conference, held March 18–21 in New Orleans. The theme of the 2026 conference, “Bridging Divide: Theory and Practice

in a Polarized World,” brought together scholars and professionals to discuss research and solutions addressing societal challenges.

Dr. Fells presented her study titled “Beyond the Classroom: Institutional Support and the Persistence of First-Generation African American Female College Students at PWIs.” Her research explores how institutional support systems influence student success and degree completion.

Her findings emphasize that persistence is not determined solely by academic ability, but also by how supported, connected and valued students feel within their campus environment.

According to the study, holistic support systems – including academic advising, tutoring, mentoring and

counseling – play a critical role in student success. Students who regularly engaged with these resources reported greater confidence and resilience.

Dr. Fells also found that a strong sense of belonging is essential. Students who built meaningful relationships with faculty, staff and peers were more likely to stay enrolled and remain motivated.

The research highlights mentorship and representation as additional key factors. Access to mentors, particularly those who understand students’ lived experiences, helps students navigate challenges and envision success.

Campus climate also plays a significant role. Institutions that foster inclusive environments and prioritize diversity contribute to stronger student

Holmes hosts mock interviews for STEM students on Ridgeland Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College hosted mock interviews April 2 on the Ridgeland Campus for students preparing for professional school in STEM fields.

Aspiring STEM professionals received hands-on practice and feedback from biology instructors Jennifer McGehee and Rosalyne Davis, along with Career-Technical Education Counselor Jovonna Parker. The sessions were designed to simulate real interview settings and help students strengthen communication skills, build confidence and better prepare for the competitive

admissions process in science and healthcare programs.

Officials said the experience gives students a practical advantage as they move forward in their academic and career paths.

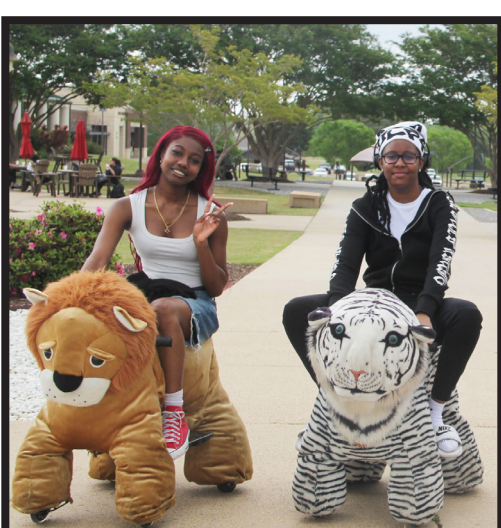
Holmes Community College continues to provide opportunities aimed at helping students reach their professional goals one step at a time.

Spring Fling brings food, fun to Holmes Ridgeland Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus hosted its annual Spring Fling on March 31, offering students a day of fun and relaxation on campus.

The event featured pulled pork nacho bar, Flying Dolly on the Rez sno cones and homemade ice-cream, a bungee trampoline, a mechanical bull, inflatables, music and a variety of games, giving students a chance to have some fun and connect with friends between classes. Spring Fling continues to be a popular campus tradition to celebrate the season.



Holmes hosts mock interviews for STEM students on Ridgeland Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College's STEM Department hosted its Bio Bowl on April 29 in SBE 126 on the Ridgeland Campus, bringing together students for a fast-paced academic competition focused on biology concepts.

Students from nutrition, anatomy and physiology II, microbiology and medical terminology for health professions courses competed in teams, testing their knowledge on topics ranging from cellular processes to human anatomy.

Teams represented instructors Davis, McGehee, Saums and Dr. Gates, with

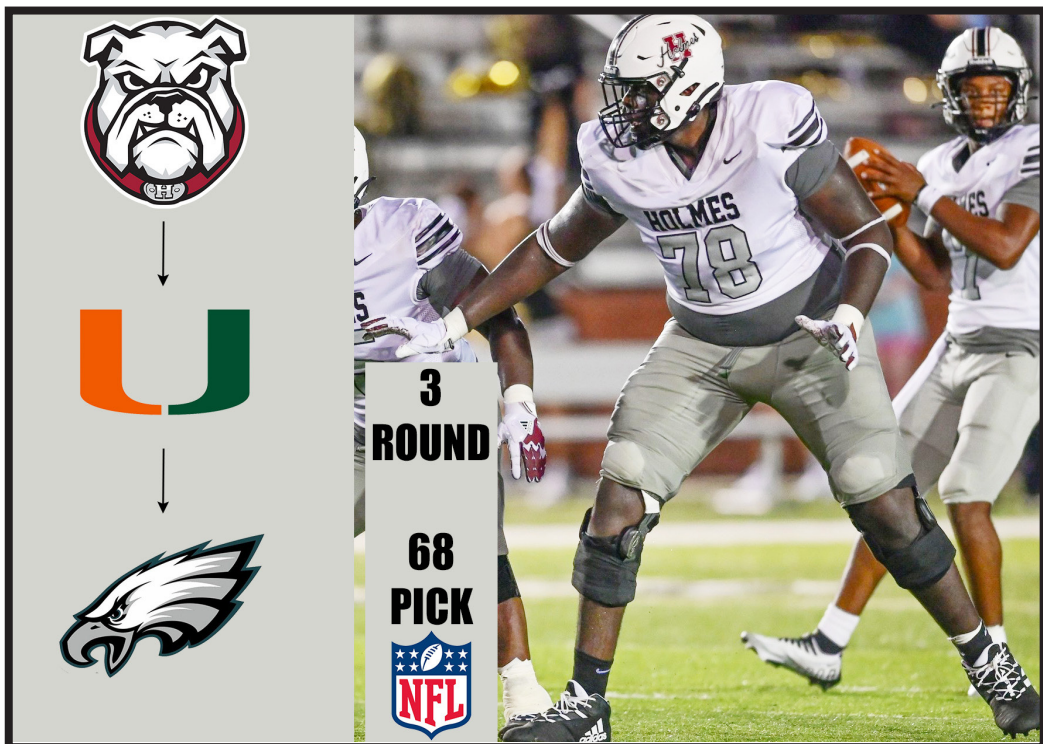
students working collaboratively to answer questions and earn points toward the overall title.

The event provided an interactive way for students to reinforce course material while building teamwork and critical thinking skills in a competitive environment. (They also enjoyed Papa Johns pizza and brownies!). Bio Bowl continues to be a valuable opportunity for students to engage with science outside the traditional classroom setting while celebrating academic achievement within the STEM programs.



Eagles chose former Holmes standout Markel Bell in third round of the NFL Draft

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Philadelphia Eagles made dreams come true for former Holmes Community College Bulldog Markel Bell when they called his name in the third round of the NFL Draft from Philadelphia.

With a pick acquired from the New York Jets, the Eagles selected Bell, a Cleveland native and Cleveland Central graduate, as the 68th overall pick in the draft. Bell played two seasons at Holmes before playing the last two years at the University of Miami, where his Hurricanes made it all the way to the National Championship before falling to Indiana on Jan. 19 in Hard Rock Stadium in Miami, Fla.

Bell, a 6-foot-9, 346 pound offensive lineman, was a mainstay along with

offensive line for the Holmes Bulldogs. He left Holmes as one of the nation's top-ranked junior college players before choosing to transfer to Miami over offers from Arkansas, Auburn, Mississippi State, and Ole Miss.

At Miami during his junior season, he played in 12 games and started five helping Miami become the No. 1 offense in the country in yards per game (537.2) and points per game (43.9).

As a senior, Bell had an outstanding season starting all 16 games and not allowing a sack in 558 pass block snaps. He was named Third Team All-ACC. He also played in the Panini Senior Bowl on Jan. 31 in Mobile, Ala.

Adult Education Day connects students with academic and career pathways on Goodman Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College held its Adult Education Day on April 22 on the Goodman Campus.

College and Career Navigator Chelia Woodfork-Thompson welcomed students to campus. Ridgeland Campus instructor Marlena Simon spoke with students about insights Adult Basic Education staff gained at a recent conference.

District Director for Adult Education/HSE Earline Smith introduced Career-Technical Dean Dr. Luke Jones, who shared updates on Career-Technical Education programs across the Goodman Campus and throughout the Holmes district.

Smith also introduced guest speaker Michel'Le McDowell of Greenwood,

an employee of the Mississippi Department of Corrections.

Goodman Academic Counselor Simonee Miller informed students of their academic options at the college. Goodman Campus recruiter Nikki Boutwell highlighted resources available on the Goodman Campus, provided informational materials about the college and introduced student ambassadors.

Business Technology instructor Ginny Ables discussed her program within Career-Technical Education.

Following the program, students toured Career-Technical classrooms to learn more about programs offered on the Goodman Campus as well as additional academic pathways available

Holmes recognizes students at Atmos Energy Operations Signing Day

From Staff Reports/Photos



(left to right) Logan Engle and Dakerrion Williams sign with Atmos Energy on May 6.

Holmes Community College recognized students during the Atmos Energy Operations Signing Day on May 6, highlighting partnerships that connect Career-Technical Education programs with workforce opportunities.

College officials expressed appreciation for Atmos Energy's investment in Holmes Career-Technical programs and students, noting that partnerships like this provide students with first-hand exposure to the industries they are training to enter.

The following students were recognized:

Logan Engle of Lexington, a 2025 graduate of Central Holmes Christian School. Engle is graduating in May with a one-year technical certificate in industrial technology. He plans to return to Holmes in the fall to complete an advanced technical certificate and an Associate of Applied Science

degree in industrial technology.

Dakerrion Williams of Sallis, a 2025 graduate of McAdams High School. Williams is graduating in May with a one-year technical certificate in welding and cutting technology. He also plans to return to Holmes in the fall to complete an advanced technical certificate and an Associate of Applied Science degree in welding and cutting technology.

The Industrial Technology program at Holmes prepares students for careers in manufacturing, maintenance and technical operations. Students gain hands-on training in industrial systems, safety practices and problem-solving skills needed in today's workforce.

The Welding and Cutting Technology program provides students with instruction in fabrication, welding

Holmes STEM Department supports Ronald McDonald House Charities Through Donation Drive

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College STEM Department on the Grenada Campus recently supported Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mississippi through a donation drive benefiting families in need.

Through the generosity of STEM students and staff, the drive collected toys, cleaning supplies, laundry products and pantry items to support families staying at the Ronald McDonald House during difficult times.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mississippi expressed appreciation for the effort, thanking the Holmes STEM Department for its kindness, generosity and support of its mission

to keep families close when it matters most.

"We are incredibly grateful for your kindness, generosity, and support of our mission to keep families close when it matters most," the organization said in a statement.

Holmes officials said they were honored to support the organization and thankful for the opportunity to give back and serve families in the community.

The donation drive was coordinated through the Grenada Campus STEM Department under the direction of biology instructor Sara Pollan.

Freshman Friday Survey Winner announced at Holmes

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College thanked students who participated in Freshman Friday and completed an experience survey, noting that student feedback helps improve the registration process for future Bulldogs.

College officials expressed appreciation to all students who took the time to share their experiences and provide input aimed at strengthening campus services and enrollment processes.

Mikayla Burchfield was recognized as the Grenada Campus Freshman Friday survey prize winner. Her name was drawn from among student participants who completed the survey.

Freshman Friday Survey Winner announced at Holmes

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Academic Programs and eLearning departments at Holmes Community College sponsored a Dirty Soda event on May 4 on the Goodman Campus.

Students enjoyed customized sodas in front of McDaniel Hall while taking a break to prepare for final exams week.

College officials said the event was designed to provide students with a fun, refreshing pause during end-of-semester preparations.

UMMC professors speak to Holmes Ridgeland microbiology students

From Staff Reports/Photos



Students in Dr. Antoine Gates' microbiology class on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus welcomed guest speakers from the University of Mississippi Medical Center on April 27 on the Ridgeland Campus.

Stacy H. Vance, professor in the Department of Medical Laboratory Science at UMMC, and Luessie Jones-

Lee, assistant professor in Medical Laboratory Science, spoke with students during a lab session.

Students attended the session after studying leukocytes and differential white blood cell counts in class. The guest speakers shared expertise from the medical laboratory science field and provided real-world applications that reinforced classroom instruction.

Holmes student gives back through Ingenues Mentorship Program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College student Kamiya Wiggins recently volunteered with the Ingenues girls program, spending the afternoon mentoring participants through crafts, activities and fellowship.

During the visit, Wiggins helped the girls create a fun craft project while encouraging creativity, confidence and positive interaction among the group. Organizers said the experience provided an opportunity for the girls to build memories and connect with a mentor who once stood in their shoes.

The opportunity held special meaning for Wiggins, who participated in the Ingenues program herself as a fifth-grade student. Returning as a volunteer

allowed her to give back to a program that played a role in her own development and childhood experiences.

Holmes officials said it is always meaningful to see students investing in younger generations and supporting programs that have positively impacted their lives. Acts of service and mentorship, they said, reflect the college's commitment to community involvement and leadership.

The Ingenues is a child welfare project of the Junior Auxiliary of Grenada focused on mentoring, encouraging and supporting young girls throughout the area through educational and character-building activities.

Holmes recognizes National Library Week

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College recognized National Library Week April 19–25, honoring the work of library staff who support students, faculty and lifelong learning across the district.

Library personnel play a key role in connecting students and employees to information resources, assisting with research needs and fostering academic success through daily support and services.

Holmes expressed appreciation for the dedicated library workers at Holmes, noting their ongoing commitment to helping individuals learn, grow and achieve their educational goals.



Dr. Sarah Clay



Rachel Havens



Yoshika Stingley



Tammie Mack



Suzanne Haney



Taylor Rodgers



Kaylee Chisholm

Holmes announces 2026-27 cheerleaders

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College has officially announced the members of the 2026-27 cheerleading squad following recent tryouts.

The members selected for the upcoming season are Allie Hart Boatner, Wyatt Nichols, Kaye Louise Purvis, Landon Thornton, Katie Druey, Kate Norwood, Makenzie Reeves, Ava O'Bryan, Jessika Williams, Shelbee Nipper, Tristin Wilson, Lily Hostetler, Anna Claire Poynor, Kameron Fortenberry, Brenden Thrasher, Anna Paige

Beith, Cameron Howell, Presley Haddon, Mallory Moore, Brayden Hall, Drake Smith, Greyson Patton, Anna Summers, Alli Sparks, Hadley Barnes, Emma Roberts and Peyton McGlawn.

The cheerleading squad plays a vital role in promoting school tradition and spirit at athletic events and campus activities throughout the academic year.

For more information about Holmes athletics, visit holmesathletics.com.

Billie inks with MUW

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College sophomore Miley Billie signed with the Mississippi University for Women Monday, April 27, in a signing ceremony in the Holmes Community College softball field house.

Billie, a Carthage native and Choctaw Central graduate, played two seasons for the Lady Bulldogs before signing with the W, who is a member of the St. Louis Interscholastic Athletic Conference and plays in NCAA Division III.

As a sophomore, Billie saw action at shortstop, center field and catcher for the Lady Bulldogs. She finished the season with a .287 batting average including 18 doubles, five triples and three homeruns with 33 RBI.

As a freshman Billie saw action at shortstop and catcher for the Lady Bulldogs. She finished the year with a .169 average with three doubles and one triple with four RBI.

Bulldogs sweep Hinds Eagles in season finale

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs ended the 2026 season with a double header sweep of the Hinds Community College Eagles in Raymond Tuesday, April 28, 8-4 and 14-4.

In game one, Lane Robertson got the start and picked up the win. He went 7 2/3 innings and had six strikeouts and four walks. Mac Griffin and Ethan Trimble also pitched in the game. Wes Bishop and Jack Harkins each had two hits with Bishop adding a three-run

HR and a double.

In game two, Warner Young got the start and picked up the complete game win. He went five innings and had two strikeouts. J.R. North led with three hits including three doubles. Charley Dunn and Jack Harkins each had two hits with Dunn adding a double. Ethan Trimble and Sam Roy also doubled in the game.

Holmes falls to Copiah-Lincoln in season finale

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs fell twice in Wesson to Copiah-Lincoln, 9-1 and 8-0 in the regular season finale.

In game one, Josie Azlin got the start and suffered the loss. Miley Billie and Tashika Carothers each had one hit

with Billie adding a double.

In game two, Avery Smith got the start and suffered the loss. Hayley Pascal and Mauhree Jone also pitched in the game. Emma Fabre led with three hits including a double.

Against Itawamba on April 21, the

Lady Bulldogs fell 9-1 and 13-5. The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and Chief Cyrus Ben recognized Bulldog players Miley Billie, Alyssa Sockey, Lauren Frazier and Mauhree Jones along with Head Coach Matt Hudson, Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey and

Athletic Director Andy Wood prior to the contests.

In game one, Smith got the start and suffered the loss. Pascal pitched in the game. Lauren Frazier had a solo homerun in the game.

In game two, Azlin got the start and suffered the loss. Jones and Pascal also pitched in the game. Fabre led with two hits. Allie Henderson, McKenzie Blue, Billie and Carothers each doubled in the game.

Against Pearl River on April 17, the Lady Bulldogs fell 7-0 and 9-3.

In game one, Smith suffered the loss. Jones also pitched in the game. Kamiyah Stephens led with two hits including a double.

In game two, Azlin suffered the loss. Pascal, Presley Scarbrough and Jones also pitched in the game. Karly Garner led with two hits including a double. Alyssa Sockey also had a double.

Bulldogs recognize sophomores on Saturday in Co-Lin DH

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs fell twice to the Copiah-Lincoln Community College Wolves at home on Saturday, April 25, 10-0 and

14-8, on Sophomore Day in Goodman. Eleven Bulldog sophomores were recognized in between the games including: Sam Roy, outfielder, Ox-

ford; Eli Lowe, pitcher, Purvis; Cooper Bennett, outfielder, Hernando; Ethan Trimble, pitcher/infielder, Brandon; Braxton Demopulos, pitcher, Denham Springs, La.; Vince Glorioso, pitcher, Brandon; Lane Robertson, pitcher, Columbia; Wes Bishop, infielder, Ethel; Britt Stringer, pitcher, Petal; Omari Eskridge, manager, Winona; Isaac White, manager, Pelahatchie.

In game one, Drew Daigle got the start and suffered the loss. Tyler Bickett also threw in the game. Ethan Trimble, J.R. North and Sam Roy each had a hit in the game.

In game two, Mac Griffin got the start and suffered the loss. Landon Hoshell and Trimble also pitched in the game. Jack Harkins and Trimble each had three hits with Trimble adding a double. Barrett Kuhn, Bishop and North each had two hits with Bishop adding a double. Jaxon Cripps also had

a double in the game.

Against Itawamba on April 22, the Bulldogs fell 7-2 and 8-2.

In game one, Lane Robertson got the start and suffered the loss. Hoshell also pitched in the game. Chase Peoples led with two hits including a double. Cripps and Ethan Walker also doubled.

In game two, Warner Young got the start and suffered the loss. Braxton Demopulos also pitched in the game. North led with three hits while Cripps added a double.

Against Pearl River on April 18, the Bulldogs fell 10-0 and 6-1.

Tyler Bickett got the start in game one and suffered the loss. Daigle and Britt Stringer also pitched in the game. North led with two hits.

In game two, Griffin got the start and suffered the loss. Robertson also pitched in the game. Trimble led with two hits while Bishop added a double.

Bulldogs split with Rangers

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs split two games at home on Tuesday, April 14, with the Northwest Mississippi Community College Rangers, falling 17-6 and winning 6-4.

In game one, Landon Hoshell got the start and suffered the loss. Braxton Demopulos, Drew Daigle and Britt Stringer also pitched in the game. A.J. Arguello led with two hits. Charley

Dunn had a 3-run homerun while Ethan Walker had a solo homerun.

In game two, Warner Young got the start and picked up the win. He went all seven innings and had three strikeouts and four walks. Jack Harkins, Wes Bishop and Dunn each had two hits with Harkins adding a solo homerun and Dunn and Bishop each having a double.

Holmes falls to Northwest; lose heartbreaker in game two

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs softball team fell in Senatobia twice on Wednesday, April 15, to the Northwest Mississippi Community College Rangers, 7-0 one and 12-11 in game two.

In game one, Josie Azlin got the start and suffered the loss. Holmes had four hits in game one.

In game two, Presley Scarbrough got the start and suffered the loss as she came back in the game in relief late in

the contest. Holmes had an 11-7 lead going into the bottom of the seventh, and Northwest scored five to take the game. Hayley Pascal and Avery Smith also pitched in the game.

Lauren Frazier led with four hits including a double and a 3-run homerun. Lennie Kate Wood, Miley Billie and Tashika Carothers each had two hits with Billie and Carothers adding a double.

Bulldogs split with Meridian Eagles

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs split two games in Goodman on Saturday, April 11 with the Meridian Community College Eagles winning 12-6 in game one and falling 6-1 in game two.

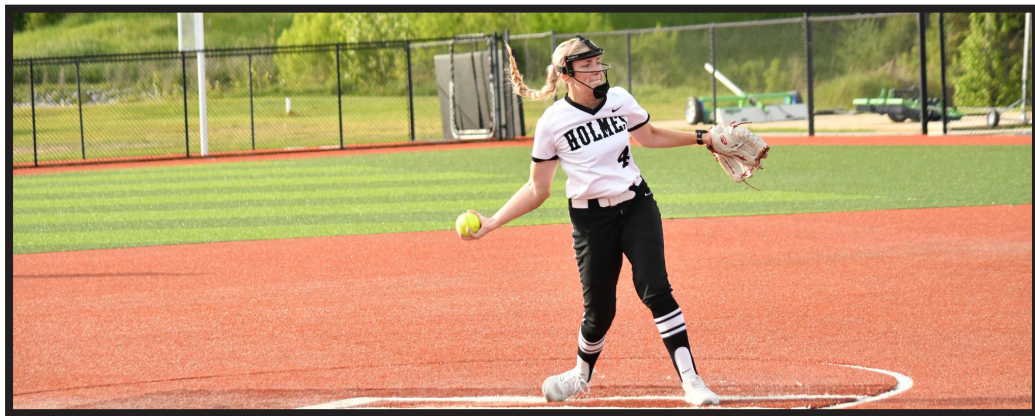
In game one, Tyler Bickett got the start. Drew Daigle, Lane Robertson and Warner Young also pitched in the game with Robertson picking up the win. Ethan Trimble, Jack Harkins and Wes Bishop each had three hits with

Bishop adding a three-run homerun and Harkins adding a double. Jaxon Cripps and J.R. North each had two hits with Cripps adding a double. Ethan Walker had a two-run homerun.

In game two, Mac Griffin got the start and suffered the loss. Britt Stringer and Ethan Trimble pitched in the game. North led with two hits including a solo homerun. Chase Peebles added a double.

Lady Bulldogs fall twice to Meridian

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College lost two games in Meridian on Saturday, April 11, losing 13-5 in game one and losing a heartbreaker in game two in 11 innings, 5-4.

In game one, Josie Azlin got the start and suffered the loss. Hayley Pascal and Mauhree Jones also pitched in the game. Karly Garner led with two hits

while Kamiyah Stephens and Allie Henderson each doubled in the game.

In game two, Avery Smith got the start. Presley Scarbrough pitched the final 3.2 innings and suffered the loss. Lauren Frazier and Garner each had two hits with Frazier adding a double.

Waggener inducted into MS Community College Sports Hall of Fame

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Stephen Waggener with Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey.

Stephen Waggener of Madison was inducted into the Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame during a ceremony held April 28 at the Clyde Muse Center.

Waggener starred on the diamond at Holmes Community College, where he played for head coach Kenny Dupont during the 2001 and 2002 seasons. A graduate of Madison Central High School, he earned his associate degree from Holmes in 2002 before continuing his baseball career at University of

West Alabama.

At West Alabama, Waggener emerged as a team leader, earning captain honors and being recognized as the team's Best "Team" Player. He also completed his Bachelor of Business Administration degree during his time with the Tigers.

Following his playing career, Waggener earned a master's degree in sports science from the United States Sports

Hall of Fame, continued on Page 26

Hall of Fame (continued from Page 25)

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Following his playing career, Wagge-

ner earned a master's degree in sports science from the United States Sports Academy while serving as a graduate assistant. His coaching responsibilities included working with hitters, outfielders and recruiting. During the 2004-05 season, the team captured the Gulf South Conference Tournament championship and finished the year ranked No. 4 nationally.

Waggener continued to climb the

coaching ranks with a stop at Division I Southeast Missouri State University before spending several seasons at University of Indianapolis at the Division II level.

He returned to Mississippi in 2008 and joined the coaching staff at Delta State University, where he spent nearly nine years as an assistant coach. His duties included coordinating recruiting, serving as the hitting coach and

Bulldogs take two from Delta, 10-0 and 7-2

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs picked up two MACCC wins here Wednesday winning 10-0 and 7-2 over Mississippi Delta.

Landon Hoshell got the start in game one and picked up the win. He went six innings and gave up five hits with four strikeouts and three walks. Drew Daigle pitched the final inning. Ethan Trimble, Jaxon Cripps and J.R. North each had two hits with Trimble adding a double and a homerun and Cripps adding a homerun. Chase Peeples and Wes Bishop also doubled in the game.

In game two, Warner Young got the start and picked up the win. He went five innings and gave up two runs on six hits with three strikeouts and three walks. Lane Robertson went the final two with three strikeouts and two walks. Trimble led with three hits while Charley Dunn and A.J. Arguello each

had two. North had a double.

Against East Central on April 3, the Bulldogs fell 17-4 and 12-1.

Lane Robertson took the loss in game one. Warner Young, Landon Hoshell, Tyler Bickett and Drew Daigle pitched in the game. Wes Bishop had a grand slam in the game.

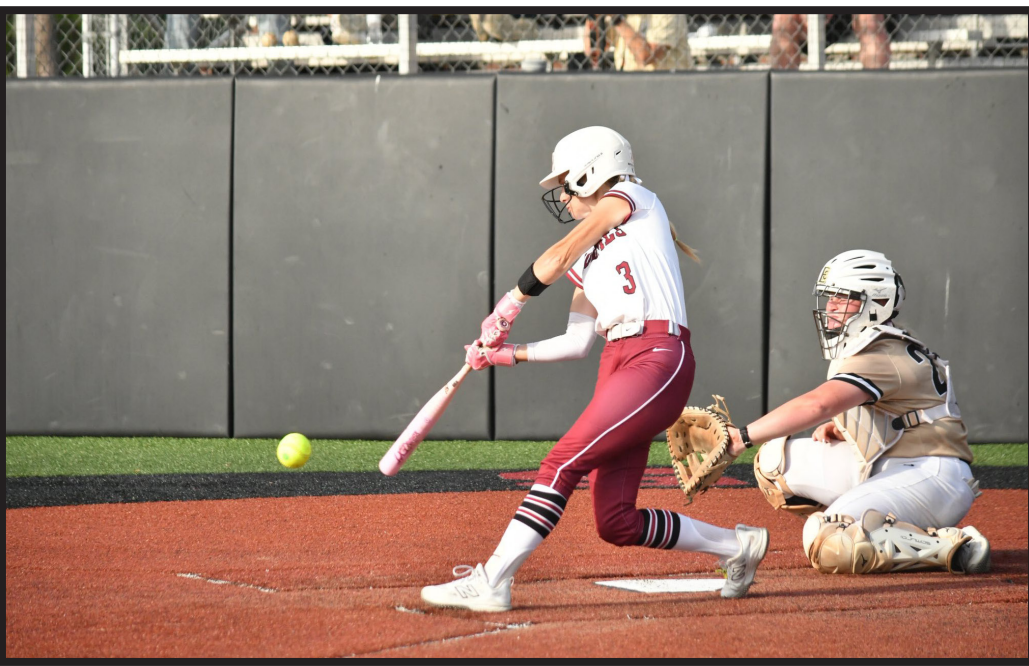
In game two, Mac Griffin got the start and took the loss. Hoshell pitched in the game. Cripps led with a double.

Against Jones on March 28, the Bulldogs fell to Jones 9-4 and 11-1. Bickett got the start and suffered the loss. Hoshell pitched in game two. Jack Harkins led with two hits. Dunn added a double.

In game two, Braxton Demopolos got the start and took the loss. Lane Robertson also pitched in the game. Bishop had a homerun.

Lady Bulldogs take two from Delta, 9-1 and 7-4

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs took two MACCC games at home on April 7 from Mississippi Delta Community College 9-1

and 7-4.

In game one, Josie Azlin got the start and picked up the win for her third no-hitter of the season. She went five

innings with three strikeouts and five walks. Miley Billie led with three hits including three doubles while Allie Henderson had two hits with two doubles.

In game two, Avery Smith got the start and picked up the win. Hayley Pascal and Presley Scarbrough also pitched in the game. Kamiyah Stephens and Billie each had two hits with Stephens adding a three-run HR and Billie adding a triple. Henderson added a three-run homerun.

Against East Central on April 3, the Lady Bulldogs fell 9-0 and won 8-7.

In game one, Azlin got the start and took the loss. Pascal pitched in the game. Lauren Frazier had a double.

In game two, Smith got the start. Scarbrough and Mauhere Jones also pitched in the game with Jones picking up the win. Stephens led with two hits

with a double. Jones added a double.

Against Baton Rouge on March 31, the Lady Bulldogs won 8-0 and fell 4-2.

In game one, Azlin picked up the win. She went five innings and gave up one hit with three strikeouts and two walks. Billie led with three hits with a triple and double. Lennie Kate Wood had two hits.

In game two, Smith got the start and suffered the loss. Pascal also pitched in the game. Carothers had a two-run homerun while Emma Fabre had a double.

Against Jones on March 28, the Lady Bulldogs fell 14-0 and 8-0.

Scarbrough got the start and suffered the loss in game one. Pascal also pitched in the game.

In game two, Azlin got the start and suffered the loss. Smith also pitched in the game. Stephens had a double.

Diffey joins baseball program as volunteer coach

From Staff Reports/Photos



Sallis native Choyce Diffey has joined the Holmes Community College

Bulldogs baseball team as a volunteer assistant coach.

A graduate of Winona Christian School, Diffey most recently played in the United Shore Professional Baseball League with the Birmingham Bloomfield Beavers in Utica, Michigan. As a starting pitcher for the Beavers, he logged 59 innings and recorded 60 strikeouts.

Prior to his time in the USPBL, Diffey played two seasons at the University of Tennessee at Martin. In his first season, he pitched 17 innings with 16 strikeouts. As a senior, he threw 50.1 innings and finished with 33 strikeouts.

Diffey began his collegiate career at Meridian Community College, where he spent two seasons. As a freshman, he pitched 6⅔ innings with nine strike-

outs, followed by 20½ innings and 18 strikeouts during his sophomore season.

He also spends time in Pineville, North Carolina, training with Tread Athletics to further develop his pitching. Diffey remains committed to advancing his baseball career through continued training and bullpen work.

In his spare time, Diffey enjoys hunting and works as a baseball umpire for tournaments across the Jackson, Brandon, Pearl, Flowood, and Vicksburg areas.

In his role with Holmes, Diffey will assist in the development of the Bulldogs' throughout the season.

Lady Bulldogs lose two at Northeast

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs fell twice in Boonewill on Tuesday, March 24, 9-5 and 9-4.

Presley Scarbrough got the start and suffered the loss. Hayley Pascal also pitched in the game. Kamiyah Stephens, Lennie Kate Wood and Allie Henderson each had two hits with Stephens having a homerun and Henderson having a double.

In game two, Avery Smith got the start and suffered the loss. Pascal and Josie Azlin also pitched in the game. Alyssa Sockey and Stephens each had two hits with Sockey adding a double. Henderson also doubled.

Bulldogs split with Northeast Tigers

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes CC Bulldogs split two games at home on March 25, falling 13-4 and winning 9-2.

In game one, Mac Griffin got the start and suffered the loss. Drew Daigle and Carter Rose also pitched in the game. Jack Harkins led with three hits including a double. Jaxon Cripps and Ethan Walker each had two hits with Walker adding a homerun and Cripps adding a double. A.J. Arguello also doubled in the game.

Warner Young got the start and picked up the win in game two. He went 6 1/3 innings and gave up two runs on five hits with two walks and five strikeouts. Lane Robertson went the final 2/3 of an inning and gave up one hit and had a strikeout. Jaxon Cripps and Jack Harkins each had two hits with Cripps adding a double. Ethan Walker and Charley Dunn also doubled.

Bulldogs fall twice to Southwest

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs fell twice in Summit on Saturday, March 21, to the Southwest Mississippi Community College Bears, 6-2 and 14-5.

In game one, Ethan Trimble got the start and went 5 2/3 innings and suffered the loss. Braxton Demopolus also pitched in the game. Chase Peeples, Charley Dunn, Jack Harkins and A.J. Arguello each had a hit.

In game two, Tyler Bickett got the start and suffered the loss. Daigle, Lane Robertson, Landon Hoshell and Carter Rose also pitched in the game. J.R. North led with two hits with North, Trimble and Sam Roy adding a double.

Against Coahoma on March 18, the Bulldogs won 12-5 and 7-6.

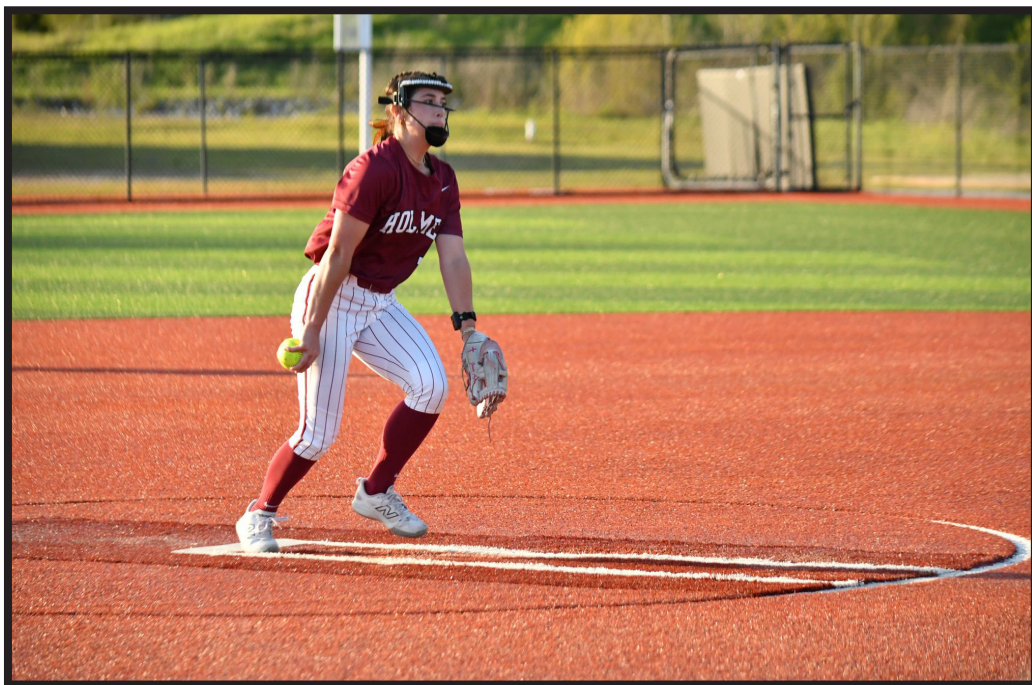
In game one, Landon Hoshell got

the start and went 3 1/3 innings. Lane Robertson came into the game and picked up the win in relief. He went 5 2/3 innings and gave up one run on four hits. Ethan Walker and Drew Daigle led with three hits with Daigle adding two doubles and Walker one. Jaxon Cripps and Wes Bishop had two hits with Cripps adding a homerun and Bishop adding a double.

In game two, Mac Griffin got the start and went five innings. Warner Young went the final two innings and picked up the win. He had a strikeout in the game. Jack Harkins led with three hits while Walker added two with Harkins adding a double. A.J. Arguello had a homerun while Daigle added a double.

Holmes fall to Southwest, 3-0 and 5-4

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs fell twice in Goodman Saturday, March 21, to the Southwest Mississippi Community College Lady Bears, 3-0 and 5-4.

In game one, Presley Scarbrough got the start and suffered the loss. McKenzie Blue and Lennie Kate Wood each had a hit.

In game two, Josie Azlin got the start and went six innings suffering the loss. Scarbrough pitched one inning. Tashika Carothers and Lauren Frazier each added a double.

Against Coahoma on March 18, the Lady Bulldogs won 13-5 in six innings and 13-0 in five innings.

In game one, Avery Smith got the

start and went 3 2/3 innings and picked up the win. Scarbrough picked up a save in 2 1/3 innings. Megan Brewer and Allie Henderson each had two hits with Henderson adding a triple and a double. Karly Garner added a triple while Carothers and Miley Billie each added a double.

In game two, Josie Azlin got the start and pitched a no-hitter in five innings of work. Blue led with four hits including two doubles. Kamiyah Stephens and Carothers each had three hits with Stephens adding a triple and a double while Carothers had two doubles. Billie added a double.



BULLDOG NATION FOR YOUR PHONE/DESKTOP

To keep up with all Holmes Athletics - gameday schedules, live streaming, rosters and more - visit HOLMESATHLETICS.COM.



The Growl Staff



Owen Clark

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



Jasmiah Collier

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



M.J. Kersh

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