



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

THE GROWL

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Homecoming set for Oct. 23 on the Goodman Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos



Homecoming 2025 is set for Thursday, Oct. 23 on the Goodman Campus with activities beginning at 8:30 a.m. and concluding with live music during the football game against Northwest Mississippi Community College.

Festivities kick off at 8:30 a.m. with a Visual Arts display in McMorrough Library.

At 9 a.m., there will be an open practice for the softball and baseball teams, which alumni and friends are welcome to attend. At the same time, Academic Programs and Career Technical Education will host a Career and Transfer Fair, and Workforce Development will

present Major's Truck Expo, featuring large industry vehicles on display for all guests.

Honorees for 2025 include: Alumna of the Year: Candace Parish of Lexington; Distinguished Service Award: Dr. Sidney Bondurant of Madison; Young Alumnus of the Year: Jacob Black of Madison; and Veteran of the Year: Norman Hitchcock of Sparta, Georgia.

Honorees will be recognized in McDaniel Auditorium at 10 a.m. followed by a debut performance from the

Homecoming, continued on Page 8

Holmes mourns the loss of longtime coach and administrator Quinby Morgan

From Staff Reports/Photos



Lewis Quinby Morgan, Sr.

Lewis Quinby Morgan Sr., a revered coach and administrator who dedicated 32 years to Holmes Community College, died Sunday, Sept. 14, at Choctaw Medical Center in Starkville, Mississippi. He was 83.

Known affectionately as "Quinby," Morgan began his career at Holmes in 1968 and retired in 2000. During his three decades with the Bulldogs, he held numerous positions, including assistant football coach, head baseball coach, head football coach and director of athletics. He was inducted into the Holmes Sports Hall of Fame in 2020 as a Coach/AD.

A memorial service was held on Sunday, Sept. 21, at the Holmes Chapel in Goodman. The Rev. Gene Richardson, Joe Lynn Gant, Randy Martin and

Doug Fowler officiated. Former players, coaches and employees of Holmes served as honorary pallbearers.

Born Aug. 17, 1942, in Greenville, Morgan was the son of Starkey Collins Morgan and Nannie Lou Hamer Morgan. He was a graduate of Greenville High School and attended the University of Mississippi before earning his bachelor's and master's degrees from Delta State University in 1968 and 1971, respectively.

Morgan is survived by his wife, Rebecca Derrick Morgan; sons and daughters-in-law, Lew Morgan, Aaron (Shannon) Morgan and Hamer (Stephanie) Morgan; granddaughters, Avery, Sidney Owens, Kate, and Quin; and step-granddaughter, Taylor Whitehead. He is also survived by his sister, Nan

Rushing (Johnny), and sisters-in-law, Sue Morgan and Martha Morgan.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three brothers, William Earl Morgan, Starkey Morgan, and Joe Morgan.

Morgan, who was a member of Durant Methodist Church, resided in Starkville at the time of his death, after living for a time in Blanche, Tennessee.

The family requests that memorials be sent to the Holmes Community College Development Foundation, P.O. Box 527, Goodman, Mississippi 39079 or online at www.holmescc.edu/development-foundation.

Online condolences can be left at www.jordanfuneralhome.com.

Holmes celebrates 100 years of success, looks to dynamic future

From Staff Reports/Photos



Faculty, staff and administration gathered on the football field, forming a giant "100" during the back-to-school meeting on campus, commemorating Holmes' centennial.

From its start with just three buildings to its current role as a multi-campus educational leader, Holmes Community College is celebrating 100 years of preparing students for success. It is a milestone that honors a century of history while also celebrating the college's dynamic future.

The journey began in 1925, with an endorsement from the State Superintendent of Education, W.F. Bond, to establish a junior college in Goodman. Led by Superintendent M.E. Morehead, the college was founded on a small campus with an administrative building and separate dormitories for boys and girls. Early on, the college's farm provided both hands-on learning

and food for the students. The campus quickly grew, and in 1928, the college opened its first gymnasium and introduced student publications that still exist today: "The Growl" student newspaper and the yearbook, which became "Horizons" in 1941.

The college continued to grow under the leadership of Ras M. Branch, who became president in 1940. He expanded course offerings and student activities to include athletics, a marching band and several academic and social clubs. The football stadium, built in 1936, was named in his honor. During this period, the college even bought

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- Student Editorials
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- 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!

From coffee to clothes: Why the Renaissance at Colony Park is the perfect student hangout

By Daylan Henderson
Staff Reporter



If you are a student looking for the perfect place to hang out, read books, go shopping or even to eat, the Renaissance at Colony Park is the place for you. With

restaurants, electronic stores, clothing shops and more you are guaranteed to have a blast at the Renaissance. The Renaissance has many places to spend your time, such as Barnes & Noble Booksellers, the bookstore, any of the two Starbucks locations or even the fountain in front of the movie theater. If you enjoy reading books, regardless of genre, Barnes & Noble is the place to go with a never-ending selection of books for all types of genres. There are dedicated reading areas. If reading isn't your thing, Barnes & Noble also has selections

for card games, action figures, Legos and DVDs. Barnes & Noble has each category broken into several sections for children, teens and adults. There is something fun for the entire family. Located inside of the Barnes & Noble, you can find a Starbucks with tables filled with people talking, studying, reading and even writing, all while enjoying a fresh house-made coffee. Patrons can also be found enjoying snacks such as an Impossible Breakfast Sandwich, a Ham & Swiss Croissant, an assortment of cake pops and even a selection of protein boxes, to name a few.

If you are not in the mood for coffee and a light snack maybe you will want to try one of the many restaurants offered such as Five Guys, Another Broken Egg Café, Palos Simple Mediterranean, Basil's, Chicken Salad Chick and more. The restaurants offered at the Renaissance range from basic burger and fry meals to candlelit dinners. It is



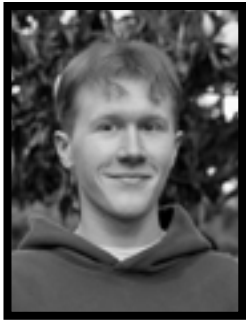
the perfect location for a quick meal on the go or for a fancy date night.

If you aren't hungry then you may be interested in shopping for new clothes or shoes. With locations such as Aerie, Altar'd State, American Eagle, Amy's

Hallmark and many more clothing locations to pick from, your choices are virtually endless. Whether you want a casual outfit to wear to classes or a special outfit for an event going on, the Renaissance is the perfect place to go.

When fandom turns toxic: The rise of stan culture

By Bennett Brantley
Staff Reporter



Everyone, regardless of their background, has a favorite singer, rapper or musician—that certain artist that every song or album they release

captivates interest and you're immediately hooked. With social media becoming so prevalent in day-to-day life, many fans have gotten to see a level of coverage on their favorite artists that has never been seen before. This raises the question: at what point are individuals seeing TOO much coverage of their favorites and at what point does this favoritism turn into obsession? That further begs the question of, when do these relationships can potentially become dangerous?



Fandom has reached new heights.
Photo courtesy of Vivek Arya on Unsplash

more malicious and oftentimes turns into hate speech potentially involving things such as racism, sexism and bigotry.

These issues are already bad enough

as it is, but with them being brought into so many conversations surrounding music, it can open up a downward path with how impressionable people can be.

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.



The Growl

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

Campus culture shaping friendships

By Lexus Mullins
Staff Reporter



There are so many different people at college and the majority of them are people you don't know. Just how many people can someone become friends with at college and how many new friendships are born each semester? College is stressful at times but making new friends makes life a little easier.

Holmes in Grenada is a pretty small school but it is packed with students;

from those coming in from high school to returning students here for their next semester. There are so many people that come to Holmes that it's hard not to make a friend. Whether it's sitting in class next to someone, chilling in the cafe, waiting in the foyer, in the library or even outside on a bench, you are bound to make friends in these places.

I too had to make friends when I got to Holmes and talking to others isn't very easy. Eventually, talking to strangers becomes easier, especially if you take public speaking, which is a course offered here at Holmes. During other classes, students get in groups to

complete assignments, and the person someone chooses as their partner ends up eventually being their partner all year thus making friendships.

In conclusion, while college and speaking to strangers is hard, you'll never find it too hard to make at least one friend. When it comes to classroom discussions, buying snacks in the cafe or waiting for your next class in the foyer, you'll always have someone near you to become friends with. I make new friends every semester and meet someone new in every class. Just how many friends have you made so far and where?



NFL Season is back

By Owen Clark
Staff Reporter



The NFL Season is Back and is Already Crazy

On Thursday, Sept. 4, the reigning Super Bowl champions, the Philadelphia Eagles had their divisional rivals, the

Dallas Cowboys, come to Philadelphia to face them in the 2025-26 NFL season opener. This game was tense even when a single snap wasn't played; Jalen Carter of the Eagles came over to Dallas's side of the field and spit on quarterback Dak Prescott before the Cowboys' first drive, causing Carter to be ejected from the game. Even with the Eagles' best defensive player gone they still were able to beat the Cowboys 24-20 starting the season with a great game and even more drama.

The very next day the Los Angeles Chargers played the highly favored Kansas City Chiefs in Sao Paulo, Brazil; another division rival game but

an even bigger quarterback battle with Justin Herbert and Patrick Mahomes. The day before second-year wide receiver Ladd McConkey said this in press conferences, "We know if we want to be the best, we have to compete. Our division is tough, but to be the best you have to beat the best."

In the end, the Chargers pulled through with a 27-21 win against the Chiefs. Mahomes had this to say about the game and his opponents, "This will be a big lesson for us. They definitely came out with more energy than we did. We got to get better from the start."

The Chiefs hope to bounce back against a well-known team next week. That being the team that beat them in the Super Bowl, the Philadelphia Eagles.

The Sunday slate of regular games held an offensive slugfest with the Pittsburgh Steelers heading into MetLife Stadium to take on the New York Jets.

"The storylines are crazy. ... But it's no storyline for me," said starting



quarterback Justin Fields after Tuesday's practice. "It's ball for me. I'll let you guys handle the storylines and the newlines. In the locker room, it's just straight ball for us. The Steelers had 271 offensive yards combined with D.K. Metcalf being the leading receiver with 83 yards; The Jets had even more with 394 yards with Justin Fields throwing for 218 yards and rushing for 48. Despite the stats the Jets had the Steelers came away with a 34-32 victory; Arron Rodgers said

this in the post-game interview, "I love beating everybody. It doesn't matter who it is." The Steelers are trusting in Rodgers this year and are hoping that he can bring them to their 22nd year of non-losing seasons.

To end the Sunday games was the Primetime game featuring the Baltimore Ravens playing the Buffalo Bills at home. The press asked starting quarterback for the Ravens, Lamar Jackson, about the MVP race last year asking if he should've won it over

Jazz, karaoke, trivia and more! Hal & Mal's invites you to enjoy!

By MJ Kersh
Staff Reporter



On Monday, Sept. 8, the Central Mississippi Blues Society played live music at Hal & Mal's in downtown Jackson. Students and locals alike came

out to listen, socialize start the week with some blues. With the many events that go down at H&M's, there's always something for anyone!

"Events like this give our community a chance to come together and celebrate local talent," said Maria Johnson, event coordinator.

The night kicked off with fan favorite Trivia Night from 6-8 p.m., testing the crowd's knowledge and giving out some fun prizes. Trivia was followed by the weekly celebration of Blues; the music was enjoyed from 7-11 p.m.

Later, Karaoke Night with Rett Robinson ran from 9-11 p.m., at The Walk-

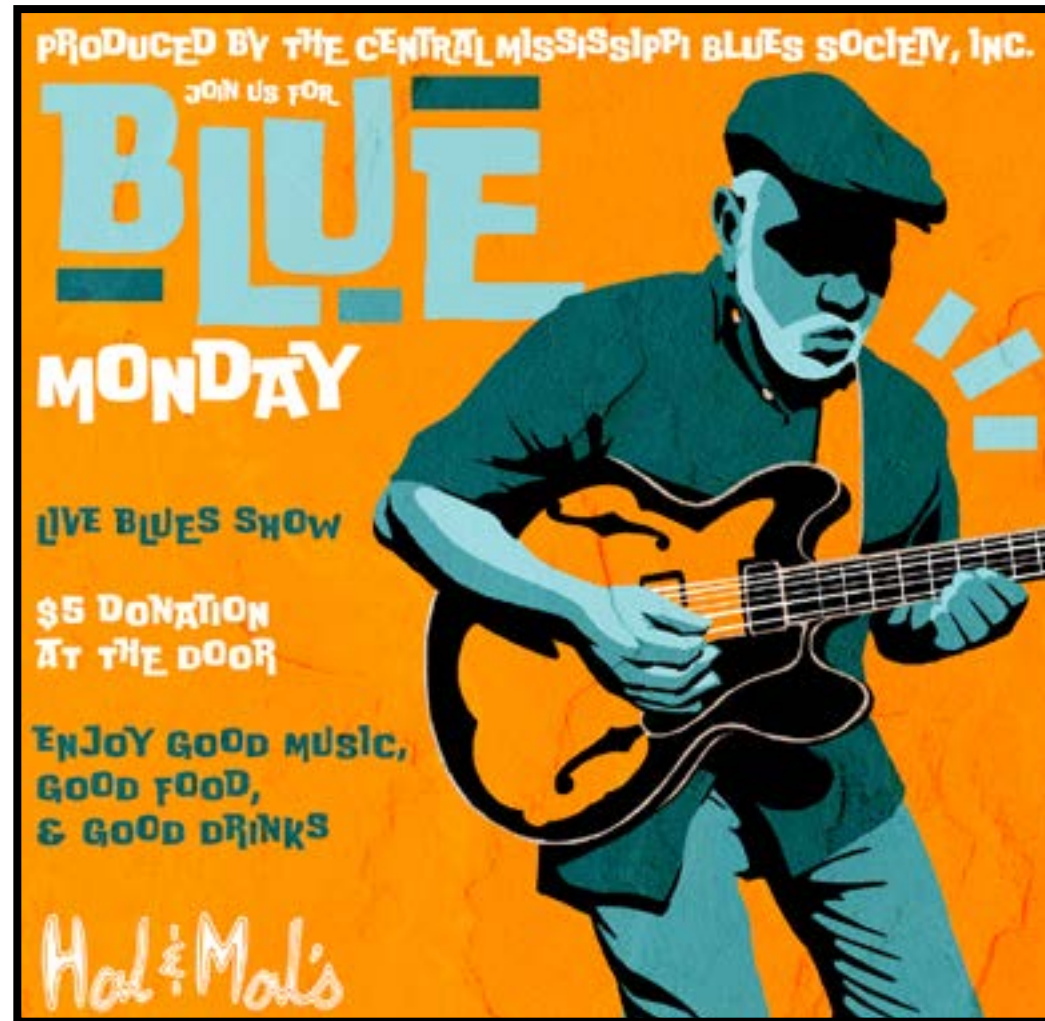
In, inviting people to sing, watch their friends perform or discover the hidden talents among fellow locals.

"It's awesome to see students and locals get up and share their voices," said Rett Robinson, karaoke host. "It brings energy and fun downtown every week."

Hal & Mal's keeps the events rolling, showing that the place is more than just food or drinks—it's a spot for people to connect and enjoy local talent.

Looking ahead, Chris Derrick Live will perform on Wednesday, Sept. 10, and Tim Avalon's Bluegrass Night is set for Friday, Sept. 12. And beyond that, Hal & Mal's throws events like this all the time! Check out their website and all of the dates lie before you!

"Hal & Mal's isn't just a place to eat or listen to music," said Maria Johnson. "It's where our community comes alive and has fun together."



Bridging the gaps: Should we be concerned about ADHD?

By C.J. Dedmon & Emma K. McCarter
Staff Reporter



Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, or “ADHD,” is one of the most common struggles people face. It typically affects children, but in most cases, it carries over into adulthood. In a school setting, this is the most critical time for someone to have this disorder. However, the biggest problem surrounding the disorder is the lack of sympathy toward it.

The idea of ADHD is often treated as a joke in the eyes of the public. You’ll hear, “Oh yeah, I forget what I’m doing, ’cause I’m so ADD,” followed by a chuckle or something along those lines. To most people, it’s dismissed as an unimportant illness. This is because the population has grown desensitized to it. The general public fails to see it as a major concern. Even researchers don’t fully commit to combating the disorder. They will prescribe a treatment that isn’t right for the patient’s specific needs. Medication, while being essential, is in many cases only a small part of the solution. A clinical review published in “The Journal of Clinical Psychiatry” found that many adults with ADHD still experience significant impairments even when medicated. Researchers argue that

cognitive-behavioral therapy, or CBT, can help bridge the gap by teaching patients how to structure their daily routines, manage emotions and reshape the way they approach tasks, according to Psychiatrist.com. ADHD is not a one-size-fits-all condition. The disorder has many different symptoms that affect each person differently. It’s similar to a fingerprint; no one is the same, they’re all a little bit different. Medication helps some, CBT supports others, coaching works when the timing is right and lifestyle interventions can also make a difference. It just depends on the symptoms.

Unfortunately, instances such as forgetting why you walked into a room, being jittery or talking too much are only a few of the many symptoms that people with ADHD face. Yet, more often than not, these are the traits that first come to mind when people think of the disorder. The reality, particularly for college students, is far more serious and challenging to manage. Current research is pushing ADHD conversations into new territory, emphasizing that it is not purely a psychological issue. For instance, a clinical paper from “Clinical Education” highlights the importance of addressing brain disorders through both psychology and biology, noting links between nutrition, gut health and neurological function. Together, these findings suggest that effectively managing ADHD requires a holistic approach that goes beyond behavior and medication alone, incorporating both physical and mental health strategies.

The complexity of ADHD becomes even clearer in daily life. Consider

waking up for school and spending 20 minutes going back and forth, checking that you grabbed all your books, only to realize they are already in the car. You take the medicine that you were prescribed to help manage symptoms, but during the hours it isn’t active, you may find yourself in a full-blown argument with your own mind over something as simple as which pocket you put your keys in. Even strategies like ADHD coaching, which have become increasingly popular, do not work for everyone. A study in “The Journal of Attention Disorders” revealed that coaching outcomes vary significantly depending on an individual’s readiness and support structures. This underscores that while interventions can help, ADHD requires flexible, personalized strategies tailored to each person’s unique challenges.

Adding to this complexity is the way ADHD overlaps with other conditions, making it even more difficult to understand. It can cause someone to appear as if they have anxiety disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) or other psychological issues, though many of these struggles are actually the result of the chemical imbalances caused by ADHD itself. When these imbalances are properly managed, more than half of these secondary issues can improve or even disappear. Beyond therapy, cultural shifts are redefining how ADHD is understood.

The blog “Lightbulb ADHD” challenges the notion that ADHD is purely a deficit, emphasizing that people with ADHD have “interest-based nervous systems,” meaning they excel when deeply engaged but struggle with

repetitive or unstimulating tasks. Recognizing these strengths allows both individuals and society to shift the focus from limitations to potential, paving the way for more supportive approaches.

These challenges are particularly evident in academic settings, where the structure of traditional classrooms often fails to accommodate ADHD. A teacher may call on a student, confident their grades show understanding, only for that student to suddenly forget how to speak, with their legs shaking for the rest of class. Random bursts of energy occur that cannot be physically released because the stimulation is mental rather than physical. The body feels sluggish while the mind races like a loud concert, with countless thoughts colliding simultaneously. Frequently, the only accommodation offered is: “Here’s 15 extra minutes to finish your test.” Such experiences highlight not only the severity of ADHD but also the urgent need for awareness, understanding and tailored support.

Despite these challenges, students diagnosed with ADHD are not alone. Support is possible, and it is vital to ensure that their struggles are not dismissed as laziness or poor behavior. ADHD is just as serious as depression or anxiety and should no longer be treated as the punchline of a joke. By recognizing its severity and advocating for effective interventions, colleges like Holmes can help students with ADHD thrive academically, professionally and personally.



the Ridgeland Campus, plans to apply for Student Government Association. “I think SGA is the best way for students to be heard,” Thompson said. “I want to be a part of that, not just for myself but for everyone here.”

Darryl “DJ” Thompson is a freshman at Holmes Community College, and he’s already looking for ways to get involved on campus. Thompson, who attends

Thompson said getting involved is an important part of making the most of college.

“It’s easy to just come to class and go home,” he said. “But when you take the time to participate, you start to feel like you really belong.”

DJ hasn’t wasted time waiting for a title or recognition to get involved either. He’s already stepped into campus life by taking on a (hyphenate)work-study job at the Holmes gym, finding a way to contribute to the same community he wants to help lead.

Even though this is his first semester, Thompson said he wants to set the

example for other students.

“I may just be starting out, but even small steps matter,” he said. “If more of us get involved, we can make Holmes stronger for everybody.”

Applications for Holmes SGA are open, and Thompson said he is ready to take the next step.

“I’m excited to see where this takes me,” he said. “This is just the beginning of how I want to get involved here.”

Pictured are (left to right) Darya Thompson and Darryl “DJ” Thompson.



A fresh cup for the community

By Daylan Henderson
Staff Reporter



-1:30 p.m. This is the perfect place to study with a snack and coffee.

Located in the Joe A. Adams Student Union, Rollin’ Beans is the best spot for students. You can order from their wide selection of espressos, frappes, food and more. Location is just a bonus with the prices being affordable

The Ridgeland Campus has gotten a new addition to the Student Union. Rollin’ Beans Coffee Company open Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m.

for all.

Rollin’ Beans has two locations; one in the student union at Holmes and the second in Brandon off Spillway Road. Rollin’ Beans is the best coffee establishment, especially if you don’t want to pay the inflated prices offered at other coffee establishments.

Rollin’ Beans also wants to make students’ lives easier. When asked the most challenging part of her job, Rollin’ Beans barista Sadie O’Quinn said “making drinks in a timely manner to not be the reason students end up running late for their class”

In today’s society it is common to hear about establishments not listening to nor caring about their employees.

That is not an issue at Rollin’ Beans Coffee Company. “All the employee’s voices are heard” Sadie O’Quinn stated.

Not only are the employees heard and listened to, but O’Quinn also enjoys getting to know her customers. “My favorite part of my day is working with customers. “

Run, don’t walk, to Rollin’ Beans Coffee Company- if not for the coffee, then for the chance to experience customer service done right. With its warm and welcoming atmosphere, the comforting aroma of freshly brewed coffee and the genuine smiles behind the counter, Rollin’ Beans is more than a café, it’s a community.



From pressure to peace: Resources every student should know about

By Daylan Henderson
Staff Reporter



for tests, adjusting to college life and the pressures that come with it can be overwhelming.

Stress also affects students who have been out of school for a while, especially those coming from the structured life of high school to the freedom of college, as well as students transferring from other universities. Change is a stressful and unavoidable part of

As a college student, stress is a common and often harmful reality. While not all stress is bad, too much stress could affect your personal and social life. Studying

life. Not all change is bad, but it can cause stress. Adjusting to an unfamiliar environment with new or different rules can feel overwhelming and start to affect your social and academic life.

Everyone has been there. You stay up late studying for a test and when you finally feel confident you go to bed. When you get your grade back you notice that you did worse than you thought. Cue stress! This is a feeling all college students are oh so familiar with. It’s not over when the grade is in, it continues to the next.

Stress doesn’t always come from external pressures such as grades, tests, homework and changes. It also comes from internal pressures. You may have had an awkward conversation or even set larger goals without small goals.

Small goals are important when reaching a large goal because it helps you accomplish your larger goal easier.

It is normal to want help mentally and physically. Luckily there is a program in place so that you don’t have to deal with it alone. With locations in Attala, Choctaw, Grenada, Holmes, Madison, Montgomery, Webster and Yazoo counties, you have a safe space to speak to someone about any mental health issues. If you are unsure about how to get started, you should use the MindHealth Navigator which is a free quick and easy sign up. You answer a few questions, and it will help guide you to the best options for you to get help and more. You don’t ever have to feel like you have to deal with things alone.



Use the QR code above to access MindHealth Navigator

Campus to Career : Ashton Smith shows power of hard work

By Lexus Mullins
Staff Reporter



connections into a successful career. Successfully graduating and using the skills learned can lead to a good job, pay raises and even promotions.

Smith’s success story began at Holmes, where she took classes such

Life after college can lead down many paths, and for Ashton Smith, an alumna of Holmes Community College, it meant turning hard work, determination and campus

as business development, business administration and accounting, laying the foundation for her career in finance. Much like many students entering college, Smith was unsure of what exactly she wanted to do. It can be difficult to decide on a career path, but she persevered. Smith graduated with an associate degree and through her connections made at Holmes, she landed a job in finance. She strives to eventually be a corporate trainer within the finance company where she currently works.

By sharing her path to success, Smith hopes not only to encourage students at Holmes, but also to provide an

example of what success can look like for anyone working hard toward their goals. She graduated from Holmes in 2019 and has been working in finance for five years now. With multiple pay raises and promotions, she has made her way to senior loan sales officer and also trains new employees. Miss. Smith leaves a piece of advice for students at Holmes, “Don’t just chase grades; focus on learning and applying knowledge. It will carry you further in life than a number on paper.”

Pictured is (center) Ashton Smith being presented an award at work.



Intramural sports on the Holmes Goodman Campus

By Owen Clark
Staff Reporter



the community. With many sports and people, it’s a great place for social fun and friendly competition.

Intramural sports are full of people with past athletic experiences, people that just like the sport and people who

are totally new to the sport and just want to have fun. When asked about his first experience with intramural sports, freshman welding major Jack Hood said “It was nice to feel included when I got there. They let me join their team to play flag football.”

The intramural sports here at Holmes are a perfect place to branch out and get to know fellow students and to make new friends. Intramural sports are also a good place for you and your friends to band together and play.

A popular, recreational sport right now is pickleball, and Hood said he really enjoyed playing it at Holmes.

“Me and my friends were waiting to play and then some group gave us their court,” Hood said. “Regardless of the situation, Holmes will do its best to include students in its intramural sporting events.

To find out more about the intramural sports at Holmes, go to the Holmes website and go under student life, and then to intramural sports. There is usually an intramural sport every day except for Thursdays. The sports could range from flag football and ultimate frisbee, to pickleball and basketball. There are sports for everyone and fun times and memories to be made.

The intramural sports here at Holmes are intended for the students to de-stress and have a good time. It’s a good time for students to get to know new people and friends. It’s great for just showing up to play and not having to sign up to play. There are new sports every now and then so trying new sports is always an option. If you like these types of events, then it’s time to get your shoes on and go out to engage in the intramural sports here at Holmes!



with, you really start to feel right at home. For Kayleigh Wall, a first-year student, that home is Holmes. Having graduated from Florence High School

For many people, choosing a college that is the perfect fit for them can be tough. That said, when the time finally comes and you find the perfect school that just clicks you

just this past May, Wall started her journey towards a higher education this fall semester at Holmes Ridgeland Campus, focusing on pre-nursing.

When it came to finding the right college for Wall, she wanted a place that offered a calm and optimistic environment, one where she could work on her studies and meet new faces.

“When I first came to visit, I loved how peaceful the campus was, it had a positive attitude that made me feel comfortable to branch out and meet new people,” Wall said.

Since school has started, Wall has felt like Holmes has been a great foundation for her future. It has helped her build the confidence and the desire to succeed as well as find the confidence in her own abilities.

“I feel like Holmes has really prepared me for the next steps in achieving

Pictured is Kayleigh Wall.



Homecoming at Holmes

By Owen Clark
Staff Reporter



Homecoming week is arriving here very soon on the Goodman Campus. Its arrival brings many fun activities and events for everyone. With performances from the Holmes Connection! and festivities like the Homecoming Court there is something always fun to go and do.

One of the best things about Homecoming week is the dress-up days. When asked about what the things he's looking forward to during Homecoming week, freshman general studies major Moss Bruce answered, "I like everything, but the dress-up days are my favorite. The one I'm most looking forward to is rhyme without reason because I get to dress up with my friend."

The dress-up days consist of dress like a senior citizen, dress as your favorite holiday, rhyme without reason and wear your Homecoming t-shirt. These days are perfect for students to have a fun time starting Homecoming week.

Homecoming is on Oct. 23 and is going to be an eventful day for the campus. While asking communications major Cooper Utley what he will be doing for Homecoming, he said "The Holmes Connection! always has good performances, so I can't wait for that. I'm also ready for the football game!"

The Homecoming festivities begin at 8:30 a.m. and are full of entertainment. A Visual Arts display, an alumni game in Frank Branch Coliseum, an outdoor concert, a pep rally and the football game against Northwest Mississippi Community College are a few events that will be going on. There will be a lot going on, so be ready for the event-



ful day ahead.,

Homecoming at the Goodman Campus is going to be a fun one. The students are encouraged to have a fun time with their ideas for the dress-up

days. There are many events to enjoy. You might want to listen to the Jazz Band or watch the alumni game; the choice is yours! Homecoming is almost here, so go out and have fun!

A day in the life of a Holmes student

By Lexus Mullins
Staff Reporter



Mornings all start a little differently, but it starts early for most college students and for me, I am no exception to the early morning rushes. My alarms start at 5 o'clock in the morning and they ring every five to 10 minutes until 7:20 am, just to make sure I wake up for the day. Before leaving the house, I make sure to grab a granola bar for breakfast and head to my first class. My drive to Holmes is about an hour and my first class starts at 8 a.m., so in order to make sure I make it on time I have to leave the house before 7:10 at the latest. After

the long drive, I head to my first class on Monday. Lucky for me, I only have two classes on Mondays and Wednesdays. As for after school, I grab some lunch before heading home.

Unlike my Monday and Wednesday classes, my Tuesday and Thursday classes are a lot longer. I start my day off the same and head to my first class where I write my schedule and plans for the week down. My second class I typically try to do any assignments, notes or study for any of my classes. By this time of day, the halls fill with conversations as the break room fills with people and laughter now that everyone is awake and ready for the rest of the day. I head over to the next building to go to my third class of the day which is biology. My fourth class

is held in the library all the way across campus where I get on a Zoom call to talk to another campus class about journalism. By the end of the day, I have my lab which is the final class for me on Tuesdays.

Evenings are when the campus slows down, and the only sounds left are conversations of students heading to their next class or to their cars. For me, my evenings consist of catching up after the lab with friends and heading to get lunch before heading home. Once I am home, I do some chores, homework and I try to study for any test or quiz that might be coming up. Unlike my schedule, my day never goes the same with new people to talk to in the halls and different teachers saying good morning. My favorite part of my day

is the calm and relief I feel when I get to my seat on time and have those couple of minutes to spare. Or when I am talking to my sociology teacher about topics from class. By the end of the day, I realized that I made more connections with people than I had thought I would when I first arrived at Holmes. Even though meeting those tough deadlines, walking far across campus and having the many stresses that life throws at students can be hard, the finer things happen in the quiet mornings, and in the laughter that is shared between students and teachers. It makes college seem like less of a due date and more of a community. A day in my life as a Holmes student reminds me that the journey is worth it.

Holmes prepares for Homecoming: Dress-up days bring spirit

By MJ Kersh
Staff Reporter



It's officially that time of year again — Homecoming Week at Holmes Community College. From Oct. 20-23, students, faculty and staff are invited to take part in

themed dress-up days, Bulldog pride and community connection.

Each day of Homecoming Week brings a new way to show off creativity and school spirit:

- Monday — Senior Citizen Day: Dress as your future self and embrace the "golden years" with style and humor.

- Tuesday – Holiday Day: Represent your favorite holiday — whether it's Christmas, the 4th of July or Hallow-

een — and spread cheer across campus.

- Wednesday – Rhyme Without Reason: Find a friend and create a fun, rhyming duo. The sillier, the better!

- Thursday – Homecoming Day: Show your Bulldog pride by wearing your official Homecoming shirt.

Student leaders say these traditions are more than just a chance to dress up — they're about unity and pride.

Homecoming Week also reminds students of the strength of community at Holmes. The laughter and creativity during Spirit Week often lead to deeper bonds that extend beyond the classroom.

The week will wrap up with Homecoming festivities, including recognition of the 2025 Homecoming Court

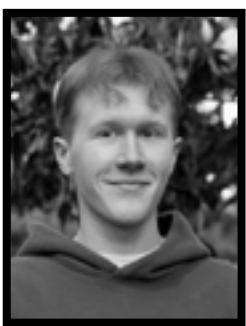


on the field. As the Bulldogs prepare to celebrate another year of excellence, one thing is clear — Homecoming at Holmes is more than just a week of themed outfits. It's a celebration

of pride, unity and community that continues to define what it means to be a Bulldog.

Relieving stress through drawing

By Bennett Brantley
Staff Reporter



For many people, life has its onslaught of stressful moments. Whether you're a high schooler or college student, whether you work a full-time job or are a parent of three kids, life gets hard, and it gets overwhelming. Luckily, there is a solution. A way to channel all of your stress and overwhelming thoughts out

into the world in a calm, peaceful exercise, and that is drawing.

"Many studies suggest that engaging in art and creative activities can have physiological effects that reduce stress and promote well-being," according to MentalHealthResearch.Org. "Whether through formal art therapy programs or informal creative hobbies."

For many people, the immediate reaction to being asked to draw can be negative. Many people might get caught up with the work being "perfect," the lines having to be straight,

or maybe the curves have to be rounded just right. People often think of themselves as a lackluster or outright bad artist, or fear possible critiques from others; fortunately, there is no rule saying you have to be good at art to express yourself. These drawings do not even have to be of anything specific; abstract depictions can help alleviate stress or anxiety just the same and help you feel more grounded. It is important not to feel pressure to draw a certain object or scene.

Stress is something everyone battles with from time to time, and self-expression through art can be a game-changer for many when it comes to managing strong emotions like anxiety. You should remember not to feel confined or restrained when practicing this therapeutic exercise, and always keep in mind that, at the end of the day, it is a relief method for you, not a means to impress other people.

Finding value close to home: Kyan Harmon's unexpected Holmes journey

Contributed by Holmes student By Kennedy Proctor

When Kyan Harmon graduated from high school, Holmes Community College wasn't where she had pictured herself starting her college career. Her first choice was Tuskegee University, a school she had dreamed of attending.

"I wanted to go to Tuskegee," Kyan said. "Holmes was too close to home."

Kyan isn't alone in feeling that way. Many students admit that Holmes wasn't their first choice, but once they arrived, they decided to make the most of it.

For Kyan, the shift began when she started exploring what the campus had to offer. "I started using the amenities,

like the gym and the library," she said. "That helped me appreciate what's actually available here."

Over time, she found more reasons to value Holmes for what it offers.

"My opinion has changed a little," she admitted. "The classes aren't difficult; they're easy and straightforward, and a lot cheaper."

Holmes has also been working to create a stronger sense of community through campus events that make college life more enjoyable and meaningful. From fun activities like National Sneaker Day to stress-relief events like Stress Paws-er with the Mississippi

Animal Rescue League, there's always something happening. The school even hosted voter registration drives to help students get involved beyond campus.

Now with experience under her belt, Kyan has advice for other students who might be disappointed about not getting into their first-choice college.

"Don't give up," she said. "There are many schools where you can still get your education and find your place."

Pictured is Kyan Harmon.



From Physics to the Universe: An interview with Dr. Giri

By C.J. Dedmon
Staff Reporter



Dr. Rekham Giri shakes hands with C.J. Dedmon prior to the interview.

Holmes Community College is home to Dr. Rekham Giri, an astrophysicist with a passion for teaching and a wealth of experience spanning over two decades. Dr. Giri is committed to making complex topics like physics and astronomy accessible to his students. He believes that these two fields are equally important and deeply interconnected, with astronomy relying on a strong foundation in physics and

mathematics.

Dr. Giri's academic journey began in Nepal, where he earned his master's degree. He then moved to the U.S. to pursue his Ph.D. in physics with a specialization in nuclear astrophysics at Ohio University. This field involves the study of the universe through experiments done in nuclear facilities, where researchers mimic stellar environments to study nuclear reactions.

After his Ph.D., he completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Indiana University Bloomington, working on nuclear reactions that bridge the gap between physics and chemistry. Since 2019, he has been teaching at Holmes Community College, where he has spent six years helping students who might be nervous about going directly to a university.

Dr. Giri believes that traditional exams are only one part of the assessment process. His grading system incorporates multiple components, including homework, quizzes, lab work and class participation. He gives pre-quizzes before a lesson to check if students have reviewed the material and post-quizzes after a lesson to see what they've learned. Lab work is particularly important, as students perform experiments, submit lab reports and answer questions during sessions. For students considering a career in physics, Dr. Giri advises starting at a community college. He recommends taking as many basic physics and math classes as possible to build a solid foundation before transferring to a university for a bachelor's degree. While he acknowledges that pursuing a pure physics degree is challenging, he finds it incredibly rewarding. He encourages

students to begin their education, build a strong physics base and then pursue advanced degrees that can lead to research or work in national labs. His personal favorite physicists are Stephen Hawking and Albert Einstein. He admires their contributions to understanding space, time, gravity and the universe.

Dr. Giri recognizes that students learn at different paces. His teaching strategy, therefore, is based on active learning, which he defines as "learning by doing experiments or demonstrations." He prefers teaching in the lab because it allows him to explain a concept and then immediately demonstrate it with equipment, providing students with a hands-on connection between theory and practice. He also uses software and virtual labs to help visualize difficult concepts. For students who are struggling, Dr. Giri often uses a group-based approach. He creates small groups with a mix of students; one strong, one average and one who is struggling—to work on a task together. The more advanced students help explain concepts to their peers, with Dr. Giri always there to provide guidance. He also encourages students to visit his office whenever they have questions.

Homecoming *(continued from Front Page)*

Holmes Connection! and The Coachmen at 10:20 a.m.

Midday activities will include lunch available at the Carroll Cafeteria, Lorraine Student Center and food trucks in front of McDaniel Hall plus fun and games in the Grove.

Former basketball players will participate in an alumni game at noon in Frank Branch Coliseum. There will be a Holmes Chorale performance at

12:15 p.m. in the Chapel on the Hill followed by an outdoor concert at 1 p.m. by the Holmes Steel Band and Jazz Band.

The Holmes tailgating experience begins at 1 p.m. on the practice field adjacent to Ras Branch Field.

The Holmes Alumni Association Annual Meeting will be held at 1:45 p.m. under the alumni tent in the tailgating area. A pep rally will follow at 2 p.m.

leading into the stadium entrance by the Holmes Band.

At 2:55 p.m., the alumni honorees will be recognized on the field followed by the national anthem performed by the Holmes Chorale. Kickoff against Northwest Mississippi Community College is scheduled for 3 p.m.

The Homecoming Court will be presented at halftime of the game.

McMorrough Library will remain open for guests who need a cool, quiet place to relax and are encouraged to explore until kick off.

The evening live music schedule will be posted closer to the event at <https://events.holmescc.edu/homecoming/>.

For questions or more information, please contact: Katherine Ellard, 662-472-9134 or Kellard@holmescc.edu.

Centennial *(continued from Front Page)*

and renovated a grammar school to serve as a boys' dormitory. Following World War II, the college acquired two naval barracks for dormitories and apartments and adding a new manual arts building and a grade-A dairy barn. In 1949, an archway was erected to mark the entrance to the college, symbolizing the institution's growing stature. The arch was tragically lost in the 1990s but was rebuilt in 2015 for the college's 90-year celebration, with a new inscription reflecting its name change to Holmes Community College.

Under the leadership of presidents Ras M. Branch and Clarence W.

Lorance, who succeeded him in 1949, Holmes excelled in academics and athletics. The Bulldogs football team played in several bowl games in the 1940s and won multiple state championships. However, the mid-1950s brought tragedy with the unexpected death of President Lorance and the destruction of the student center by fire.

A new era dawned with the appointment of Frank B. Branch, a beloved figure at the college who had served in many roles since 1936. During his tenure, he expanded the college's district to include seven more counties, creating the nine-county area the college still serves today. Under his leadership, new buildings were added, including the McMorrough Library and the Montgomery Fine Arts Building. Academic and athletic programs flourished, and in 1959, the college was granted a chapter of the prestigious honor society Phi Theta Kappa.

The college continued to evolve, offering classes in multiple locations and expanding its curriculum to include a wide array of career and technical programs like automotive mechanics and practical nurse education. The new coliseum was built and dedicated to Frank B. Branch in 1974.

The most pivotal changes of the late 20th Century were the establishment of new campuses in Ridgeland and Grenada by 1985 and the official name change to Holmes Community College in 1989. This change reflected the college's mission to serve a broader population

In the past two decades, Holmes has embraced technology and continued to grow. Following the leadership of Dr. Glenn Boyce, Dr. Jim Haffey became the ninth president of Holmes on Sept. 10, 2014, making history as the youngest president in the Mississippi Community College system at age 37.

Under Dr. Haffey, the college has reached several milestones. New facilities have been built across all campuses, including the D.P. "Pat" McGowan Workforce Training Center in Ridgeland and a new \$8.5 million facility in Grenada. Within the first year of Dr.

Haffey's tenure, new sites and property were acquired. On June 24, 2015, Holmes celebrated the ribbon-cutting for the Yazoo County Economic Development and Educational Center in Yazoo City. The new Attala Center then opened its doors in November 2015, and just weeks later, Holmes officially announced it had acquired the approximately 25,000 square-foot building that formerly housed Fitness Lady, plus roughly four acres of prime I-55 Frontage Road access, to expand the Ridgeland Campus territory.

The college has made significant technological strides, continuously adding new programs and expanding partnerships to meet workforce and higher education needs. Holmes has numerous partnerships with local businesses through its workforce division, as well as multiple collaborations with four-year universities and colleges.

Construction is underway for a brand-new Allied Health Facility on the Ridgeland Campus, which broke ground on June 19, 2025. The facility will house the Associate Degree Nursing, Practical Nursing, Occupational Therapy Assistant, and Surgical Technology programs. In addition to classrooms and offices, it will feature a large multipurpose space with banquet seating for 350 and lecture-style seating for 530, allowing Holmes to host more group events for the local community.

Pioneering programs and partnerships have marked recent years at the college. In 2017, Holmes became the first community college in the nation to offer PSY 2543 Applied Behavior Analysis, an online course required to earn the Registered Behavior Technician credential. The same year, the Holmes Grenada Campus became the third location in the state to house an arboretum. In 2018, Holmes set up a training partnership with Ingalls Shipbuilding. Most recently, in 2024, Holmes successfully launched Mississippi's first Amazon Web Services (AWS) Information Infrastructure Pre-Apprenticeship (I2PA) program, one of only three in the nation at that point. The four-week program equips participants with in-demand skills for careers in information infrastructure, concluding with a networking opportunity with AWS experts and contractors.

Recent campus and facility expansions continued the growth trend. In the past six years, the college purchased a 7,000 square foot health club on Highway 12 in Kosciusko, built a new maintenance building and cedar pavilion in Goodman, and added a cedar pavilion and lighted walking trail in Grenada. Career Technical Education expanded to include massage therapy, the health care assistant program and culinary arts. The 2022-

23 year was one of major development: Holmes added the 1,100-acre Bulldog Ranch, allowing the college to again offer hands-on agricultural electives for credit and serving as the new location for the Electrical Linemen program. The linemen program also made headlines when Gracie Gustafson became the second female lineman student in the state in 2024. Holmes has added a state-of-the-art new athletic facility and weight room in Goodman, and new courtyard area on the Ridgeland Campus, as well.

Student and athletic achievements have also been historic. On Dec. 4, 2016, the Holmes Bulldogs football team made history by winning their first NJCAA Bowl with a 28-21 win in the Graphic Edge Bowl. In 2019, the Lady Bulldogs soccer team made it to the NJCAA Gulf South District Championship for the first time in the college's history. The Lady Bulldogs soccer team won the MACCC title after going 8-1-1 during the regular season conference play in 2022-2023 and finished as the National Championship Runner Up that year.

In other notable developments, in November 2020, Holmes alumnus Rocky Vaughan's design for a new Mississippi Flag was passed as the new flag referendum. Additionally, Rollin Beans coffee was added to the Holmes Ridgeland Student Union during the 2024-2025 school year.

Holmes' commitment to excellence is reflected in recent accolades: Niche ranked it as Mississippi's top community college and among the best in the nation. It has also been selected as an educational partner for Amazon's Career Choice program.

To celebrate Holmes' centennial during the 2025-26 school year, two of the college's Phi Theta Kappa chapters will focus their Honors in Action projects on preserving the college's history. The Kappa Alpha Chapter (Good-

man Campus) has chosen "Preserving Stories" as its theme, focusing specifically on Holmes' 100-year history.

"To honor this legacy, members are developing a podcast that will feature interviews with alumni, faculty, and staff, alongside archival research," said Goodman Campus Phi Theta Advisor Simonee Miller. "Their goal is to digitally preserve these stories in the campus library, ensuring Holmes' rich history remains accessible for generations to come."

Meanwhile, the Ridgeland Campus Phi Theta Kappa Chapter is documenting Holmes' history through a different medium. Ridgeland Campus Advisor Lisa Anglin explained that students are continuing a book of Holmes' history, focusing on the last 50 years.

"They are also telling the oral history of Holmes by interviewing students, faculty, staff and alumni," Anglin said. "They will compile all the stories into something spectacular that will last for the next 100 years."

This year's celebrations honor a century of achievements while looking ahead to a future of continued expansion. The college invited all living members of the Holmes Sports Hall of Fame to its banquet in April. In August, faculty and staff formed a giant "100" on the Goodman campus football field for a drone photo, symbolizing a unified spirit. The college is also distributing commemorative blankets and Compass Coins, which represent the guidance and support it provides to students.

The festivities will culminate with a special celebration on Oct. 16. Prior to the football game against Itawamba Community College, an open house will be held for the newly renovated Frank B. Branch Coliseum. At halftime, a spectacular fireworks show will light up the sky, marking a century of history and a future of endless possibilities for the Holmes community.



Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey talks about the history of Holmes and how the college is moving forward in strides during this SACSCOC Accreditation visit year.

Holmes launches Hotel and Restaurant Management program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College recently announced the launch of a new Hotel and Restaurant Management Technology program on the Ridgeland Campus. The program, which expands upon the college's long-standing Culinary Arts Technology program, provides students with an option to pursue careers in the growing hospitality and tourism industry.

The Culinary Arts Technology program remains focused on hands-on lab instruction led by a chef instructor in a commercial kitchen. Students gain practical experience in food preparation while also preparing to earn their ServSafe Manager certification from the National Restaurant Association upon completion of CUT 1213 Sanitation and Safety.

The new Hotel and Restaurant Management Technology program provides specialized career and technical instruction in all phases of hotel and restaurant management. The curriculum is designed to prepare students for leadership roles in the hospitality and tourism industry, including positions as general managers and directors of operations. Instruction covers travel and

tourism, hotel and lodging facilities, food services, recreation facilities, hospitality marketing, franchise and unit management, business and financial management, hospitality transportation and logistics, and industry policies and regulations.

Instructor Alexei Harrison, who leads the program at Holmes, said the expansion is in direct response to student and industry needs.

"We have listened to our students and industry over the past five years," Harrison said. "The need for flexible degree options and training to fit the varied career goals of our students pushed us to expand the course offerings of the traditional culinary or hospitality degree. Our students can now customize the learning experience by choosing from the many baking and pastry, advanced culinary or hospitality course electives being offered."

Harrison emphasized that the Hotel and Restaurant Management degree is designed with career readiness in mind.

"Our Hotel and Restaurant Management degree prepares students for leadership in one of the world's most

dynamic industries," Harrison said. "With hands-on experience, industry connections and a focus on hospitality, graduates are prepared to build careers in hotels, resorts, restaurants and beyond. The opportunities are endless, both internationally and at home. Once students complete the required coursework, they can earn the nationally recognized Restaurant Management Professional credential from the National Restaurant Association."

In addition, instructor Lori Morrison is teaching both Culinary Arts and advanced Baking and Pastry courses at Holmes. While the Baking and Pastry degree is not yet an official program, Holmes already offers all of the courses required, giving students another avenue to enhance their skills.

"We are so very proud of how Chef Alexei Harrison has built this program over the past few years," said Vice President for Career Technical Education Dr. Amy Whittington. "Her knowledge and industry relationships have helped make this program world class. We look forward to seeing how this new program option will support our local industry needs."

Restaurants are a driving force in Mississippi's economy, providing jobs

and building careers for thousands while playing a vital role in local communities. In 2019, there were 121,900 restaurant and foodservice jobs in Mississippi, accounting for 10 percent of employment in the state. By 2029, that number is projected to grow by 10.2 percent, adding 12,400 jobs for a total of 134,300.

Employment opportunities in hospitality are expected to continue increasing nationwide. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects employment of chefs and head cooks to grow 11 percent from 2018 to 2028, faster than the average for all occupations, with most opportunities in food services such as restaurants. Food service managers should see the same increase of 11 percent. In 2024, the BLS estimated that the median salary for food service managers averaged \$65,310 while lodging managers averaged \$68,130. The BLS also notes that an associate degree is the minimum requirement for a variety of entry-level positions in the hospitality field.

For more information about the Hotel and Restaurant Management Technology program, contact Harrison at amharrison@holmescc.edu or (601) 605-3327.



Ridgeland Campus Celebrates 40th Birthday

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus marked its 40th anniversary on Tuesday, Oct. 14 with a celebration attended by students, faculty and staff. The campus, which was established in 1985, hosted the party to invoke community spirit.

The festivities included a large cake cutting, a cupcake eating contest and a student karaoke competition. Attendees participated in campus activities and signed a giant birthday card wishing the campus continued success.



Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus students pose for a photo with fun props during the 40th Birthday Bash for the Holmes Ridgeland Campus.



Jordan Heflin shoots some video of Holmes Ambassadors singing karaoke.



Amanda Lindsey shows off her 1985 sweater, which is the year Holmes Ridgeland was established.



Dr. Bronwyn Martin and Amanda Lindsey pose for a photo at the birthday party for the Ridgeland Campus.

Holmes honors Candice Parish as Alumna of the Year

From Staff Reports/Photos



Candice Edwards Parish

Holmes Community College will honor Candice Edwards Parish as the 2025 Alumna of the Year, the highest

honor awarded by the Holmes Alumni Association. Parish will be formally recognized during the college’s annual Homecoming celebration, which brings together alumni, faculty, staff and students to commemorate the institution’s rich legacy.

A Holmes County native and 1996 graduate of Holmes, Parish has devoted more than two decades to nursing and community health. Her career spans emergency medicine, post-operative care, home health and geriatric services as a registered nurse, culminating in her current role as a family nurse practitioner with Premier Medical Group in Goodman and Kosciusko.

After earning her Associate of Arts from Holmes, Parish went on to complete a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1998 and a Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in 2019.

She is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

Parish has also been recognized for her athletic accomplishments in softball, basketball and track. In 2013, she was inducted into the Holmes Sports Hall of Fame, and in 2025, she was inducted into the Central Holmes Christian School Sports Hall of Fame, where she attended high school.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Parish is a committed community leader in Holmes County. After living and working in various parts of the country, she and her husband, Jason, chose to return home to work and raise their family. She serves on the boards of Central Holmes Christian School and Friends of Lexington Preservation (FOLP), a non-profit organization dedicated to historic preservation and community revitalization. Parish also has a long history of

mission work, including medical missions to Romania and Mexico, and she has led church retreats and volunteered with ministries supporting survivors of abuse.

Parish’s daughter Daynie, is currently on the Holmes Cheerleading team, and their son Gibson, is a 2025 Holmes alum.

“Candice Parish is a shining example of the Holmes spirit,” said the Alumni Association Executive Committee. “Her professional excellence, community service and commitment to the people of Holmes County embody everything this award stands for.”

The Alumna of the Year award is the most prestigious distinction given by the Holmes Alumni Association and is awarded annually to a graduate who exemplifies the college’s values through personal achievement, leadership and service.

Retired Marine Lt. Col. Norman Hitchcock named Veteran of the Year

From Staff Reports/Photos



Lt. Col. Norman Hitchcock

Norman Hitchcock, a native of Grenada, dedicated 29 years to the U.S. Marine Corps, rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel and earning distinction as both a leader and educator. Known early on for his warm personality, Hitchcock was voted “Friendliest” during his sophomore year at Holmes Junior College. He is the son of Willard J. and Eddie Pritchett Hitchcock. He began his academic journey at

Holmes in 1970, graduating in 1972. He transferred to Delta State University, earning a bachelor’s degree in 1974. The following year, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and completed Officer Candidates School in 1975.

Hitchcock’s military education includes the Marine Basic School, the basic and advanced field artillery courses at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and graduation from the U.S. Army War College. He earned a master’s degree in education from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, and a Master of Arts in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

As an artillery officer, Hitchcock commanded Marines both in the United States and during overseas deployments to Europe, the Western Pacific and Cuba. He trained with the British Royal Marines above the Arctic Circle in Norway and deployed aboard Sixth Fleet ships during four Mediterranean cruises. As commanding officer of Battery A, Battalion Landing Team 1/3, his Western Pacific deployment included stops in Korea, Japan, the Philip-

pines, Malaysia, the Indian Ocean and Australia.

His final overseas deployment took him to Cuba during Haitian and Cuban migrant humanitarian operations with Joint Task Force 160.

One of Hitchcock’s key command roles was as commanding officer of the Marine Embassy Security Battalion, where he led more than 250 Marines assigned to 26 detachments throughout the Caribbean, Central America and South America.

He also held numerous staff positions, including recruiting duty in Orlando, Florida, where he served as operations and executive officer. Following a three-year assignment in Hawaii, he was selected to serve at the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Unit in Hampton Roads. He was accredited as a military professor at Old Dominion University, Hampton University and Norfolk State University.

Later, he was assigned as assistant naval and air attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Madrid, Spain. He subsequently served at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, as a fires officer with the II

Marine Expeditionary Force.

His final active-duty assignment brought him back to the Naval War College, where he served as a game director in the War Gaming Department and led the International Team for three years. He then joined the academic faculty as a military professor in the National Security Affairs Department. After retiring from active duty, he remained at the college as an associate professor in the Distance Education Department.

In 2014, following his second retirement, Hitchcock and his wife, Gretchen, settled in Sparta. He has remained active in his community, serving as a public library trustee and as a trustee of Pierce Memorial United Methodist Church, where he is a member.

Hitchcock is a Master Mason and a 32nd-degree member of the Scottish Rite. He is a past master of St. Paul’s Lodge No. 14 in Middletown, Rhode Island.

An avid outdoorsman, he enjoys fishing, hunting and shooting.

Holmes to honor Dr. Bondurant with Distinguished Service Award

From Staff Reports/Photos



Dr. Sidney Wiggins Bondurant

Holmes Community College will recognize Dr. Sidney Wiggins Bondurant with its Distinguished Service Award during the Homecoming celebration on Oct. 23.

Bondurant, a native of Forest, is being honored for his outstanding

career in medicine, public service and community involvement. He graduated from Forest High School and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from Mississippi State University in 1968, where he was a member of the Alpha Epsilon Delta pre-med honor society. He earned his medical degree from Vanderbilt University Medical School in 1971.

“The father of my best friend in high school was a physician and he inspired me to follow my career in medicine, so I had made my career choice early on,” Bondurant said.

On July 1, 1972, Bondurant completed his medical internship training. Just two days later, on July 3, he put on a Navy uniform after being told by his draft board that he could “volunteer” and choose his branch of service. If he declined, he would be drafted into the Army as a private.

“I did not volunteer nor desire to go to Vietnam but the experience was one of the most memorable in my life,” Bondurant said.

Bondurant served as an active-duty medical officer in the U.S. Navy from 1972 to 1976 and continued his service in the U.S. Naval Reserve until retiring as a lieutenant commander in 1993.

“About 2% of Americans have served in the military and about half of those have actually been in a combat zone — the brotherhood formed in war is a special thing,” he said.

His civic involvement is equally notable. Bondurant served as a Mississippi state representative for Grenada, Yalobusha and Calhoun counties from 2004 to 2012. He was a reserve deputy sheriff with the Grenada County Sheriff’s Office from 1993 to 2004 and president of the Grenada County Historical Society from 1990 to 2012. He has been a member of the Mississippi Civil War Battlefield Commission since 1991. From 2012 to 2016, he served as Veterans Affairs and Healthcare Policy adviser to Gov. Phil Bryant. Bondurant continues to network professionally by consulting on medically related issues for Bryant’s

business development company, BSS Global LLC.

In 2012, Bondurant established the Bondurant Family Scholarship at Holmes Community College to support local students pursuing higher education.

He is married to Aida Valeriano Bondurant, and they live in Madison. They have two children, Morgan, 50, and John, 49, and three grandchildren: Ava, 17; Sidney, 12; and Samuel, 8.

Today, Bondurant continues to learn and grow professionally by reading medical journals almost every day. He also remains active in research and regularly publishes papers in medical journals.

Homecoming festivities will be held on the Holmes campus in Goodman beginning at 8:30 a.m., where alumni, students, faculty and community members will gather to recognize Bondurant’s distinguished career and lifelong commitment to service.

Holmes breaks ground on new Allied Health Facility

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are members of the **Holmes Community College administration, faculty and staff** during the Allied Health Facility Groundbreaking Ceremony.

A momentous groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday, June 19, marked the beginning of construction on Holmes Community College’s new Allied Health Facility on the Ridgeland Campus. Students, faculty, staff, alumni, board of trustee members, the contractor, the architect and even a state senator were among those in attendance to celebrate the occasion, along with member of the Madison County community and those representing the chamber of commerce.

Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey kicked off the event with an address, expressing his excitement about this addition to the college.

“This is going to be an amazing building,” Dr. Haffey said. “Along the way, we’ve visited with our faculty and our students, planned with our architects who are here today, and we’ve looked under every rock that we could for funding, with help from folks like Sen. Walter Michel and Sen. Lydia Chassaniol, who are here today.

The Young Alumnus of the Year award recognizes outstanding graduates who have made significant contributions early in their careers.

Black’s favorite class at Holmes was Physical Science with Jim Shirley, which helped guide his professional path.

those actions of the people we serve.”

Black and his wife, Ryan, also a Holmes graduate, met on the Goodman Campus in 2007 and credit the college for bringing them together. They now live in Gluckstadt with their two sons.

“Every action has an equal reaction,” Black said. “When you look at big agencies like the Department of Human Services, such a small reaction can make a big difference and affect

ment of Human Services.

He previously served as president of the Holmes Alumni Association and continues to serve on the college’s Alumni Association Executive Committee.

Black said he chose Holmes because it provided a smaller, supportive environment where he could both play football and prepare for his career.

“When you look at big agencies like the Department of Human Services, such a small reaction can make a big difference and affect

Jacob Black, a 2008 graduate of Holmes Community College, has been selected as the Young Alumnus of the Year. The honor will be presented at an awards ceremony on Oct. 23 at the Goodman Campus.

Black, originally from McCool, completed the Pre-Law curriculum at Holmes and played football during his time there. As a sophomore offensive tackle, he was named Second Team All-State. He earned a Juris Doctorate from Mississippi College and currently serves as the executive deputy director for programs at the Mississippi Depart-



Jacob Black



Pictured is a **rendering of the Allied Health Facility**. The team behind the design and construction of the new facility includes Thrash Commercial Contractors, JH&H Architects Planners Interiors, Benchmark Engineering & Surveying, LLC, and Smithers Engineers + Consultants.

Holmes announces 2025 Homecoming Queen and Maids

From Staff Reports/Photos



(left) Pictured are Goodman court members (left to right) **Freshman Maid Tearshanae “Tea” Mallett, Sophomore Maid Harley Grace Rayburn, Homecoming Queen Chasity Delaya Washington, Sophomore Maid Lillie Kate Jones, Freshman Maid Tassianna Calloway and Student Body Maid Hannah Stanley.**

Holmes Community College announced the members of its 2025 Homecoming Court, including the Homecoming Queen, who will be honored during homecoming festivities on Oct. 23. For the Goodman Campus, the court includes Homecoming Queen Chasity Washington of Winona; Student Body Maid Hannah Stanley of Winona; Sophomore Maids Lillie Kate Jones of Winona and Harley Grace Rayburn of West; and Freshman Maids Tassianna Calloway of Carthage and Tearshanae “Tea” Mallett of Kosciusko.

For the Ridgeland Campus, court members are includes Student Body Maid Alisha Davis of Flora; Sophomore Maids Ashlyn Dodd of Flowood and Sydney Neely of Brandon; and Freshman Maids Mariah Jimerson of Hattiesburg and Sarah Grace Nail of Brandon.

Finally, for the Grenada Campus, the court includes Student Body Maid Lexi McClain of Vaiden, Sophomore Maid Caitlynn Bingham of Kilmichael and Freshman Maids Kelley Evans of Vaiden and Katie Grace Ray of Duck Hill.

Chasity Washington

Chasity Delaya Washington, the daughter of Ashley Phillips and Cortez Washington, was named 2025 Homecoming Queen. Washington, a native of Winona, is majoring in pre-occupational therapy. On campus, she serves as manager for the HCC Band/Dazzlers. After Holmes, she plans to attend the University of Mississippi to continue her studies in occupational therapy. Washington is also a member of Abundant Life Temple of Faith Church.

Hannah Karol Stanley

Hannah Stanley, the daughter of Leanne and James Woodall, is a social work major. Stanley serves as an Ambassador, member of the Student Government Association, vice president of Honors in Action for Phi Theta Kappa, writing center tutor and leader of the Content Creators Club. After Holmes, she plans to transfer to the University of Mississippi to pursue a bachelor's degree in social work. Her ultimate goal is to become a high school guidance counselor. Outside of academics, she enjoys playing tennis, painting and spending time with friends and family. Stanley is also a member of Abundant Life Pentecostal Church of God, where she serves on the worship team and volunteers regularly. Next May, she will marry her fiancé and move to Oxford to begin a new chapter of her life.

Lillie Kate Jones

Lillie Kate Jones is the daughter of

Shane and Cindy Jones of Winona. A pre-medical major, Jones is a member of the HCC Cheerleading squad. Following her time at Holmes, she plans to pursue a nursing degree. She is active in her community as a member of Kilmichael Baptist Church and an employee at Vaiden Farm Supply. During her time at Holmes, she was also named 2025 HCC Most Beautiful.

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

Tassianna Calloway

Tassianna Calloway is the daughter of Joyce Smith of Carthage. Calloway is a nursing major involved in the HCC Choir and serves as a football manager. She plans to transfer to the University of Mississippi for medical school with the goal of becoming a plastic surgeon. In her free time, she enjoys creating social media content and spending time with family.

Tearshanae Mallett

Tearshanae “Tea” Mallett, the daughter of Derrick and Tissy Stribling of Kosciusko, is majoring in pre-nursing. She is a member of the HCC Dazzlers and plans to transfer to the Mississippi University for Women to pursue a career as a labor and delivery nurse. Outside of school, she enjoys modeling, competing in pageants and working at Faulkenberry's.

Alisha Davis

Alisha Davis, the daughter of Tim Davis and Lisa Bryant, is majoring in pre-physician assistant studies. On campus, Davis is involved as an Ambassador, Student Government Association representative, work-study for Student Services, member of the Content Creators Club and member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society. After Holmes, she plans to transfer to the University of Southern Mississippi to obtain her bachelor's degree in biological sciences with a specialization in sports medicine, then apply to physician assistant school.

Ashley Dodd

Ashlyn Dodd, the daughter of Shannon and Matthew Dodd, is majoring in pre-med. Dodd is active on campus



(left) Pictured are Ridgeland court members (left to right) **Freshman Maids Mariah Jimerson and Sarah Grace Nail; Student Body Maid Alisha Davis and Sophomore Maids Sydney Neely and Ashley Dodd.**



(left) Pictured are Grenada court members (left to right) **Sophomore Maid Caitlynn Bingham, Freshmain Maid Katie Grace Ray, Student Body Maid Lexi McClain and Freshman Maid Kelley Evans.**

as an Ambassador, president of the Alpha Lambda Sigma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, Student Government Association and the Content Creators Club. After Holmes, she will transfer to Mississippi State University to major in biochemistry with a concentration in pre-med.

Sydney Neely

Sydney Neely, the daughter of Sherry Neely and Sean Neely, is majoring in pre-radiological science. Neely is involved in the Student Government Association, STEM Club, Grands and Gadgets Club and the Content Creators Club. After Holmes, she plans to attend a two-year program at Arkansas State University to earn her bachelor's degree in radiological science and become an x-ray technician. In her free time, Neely enjoys working at her job, dog sitting and taking naps.

Mariah Jimerson

Mariah Jimerson, the daughter of Amy Downing and Hannah Benton, is majoring in sports medicine. Jimerson is active in the Student Government Association and STEM Club. After Holmes, she plans to continue her education at Alcorn State University. Outside of school, she attends Relate Church in Byram and enjoys volunteering at the Webster Animal Shelter, where she helps care for the animals.

Sarah Grace Nail

Sarah Grace “SG” Nail, daughter of Angela and Adam Nail, is a pre-nursing major. She is active in the Student Government Association, the Content Creators Club and serves as a Holmes Ambassador. After obtaining her associate degree in nursing from Holmes, Nail plans to pursue her bachelor's in nursing at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC), with the goal of becoming a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. Outside of

school, she works as a customer service representative at Palm Beach Tan. She also enjoys going to church, spending time with her family—including her mini dachshund Lola—shopping with friends, traveling and going to the beach. Nail loves spending time with her nephews and is excited to become an aunt to a new niece in January 2026.

Lexi McClain

Lexi McClain, the daughter of Dale and June McClain, is majoring in pre-med. A sophomore, McClain is highly involved at Holmes, serving as a Holmes Ambassador, president of Phi Theta Kappa, a member of the Student Government Association, a member of the Content Creators Club, a Baptist Student Union member and founder of the Holmes Book Club.

Caitlynn Bingham

Caitlynn Bingham, the daughter of Ricky and Lesa Bingham, is majoring in pre-nursing. She is an active member of several campus groups, including the Holmes Ambassadors, Student Government Association, Baptist Student Union, Content Creators Club and Student Activities.

Kelley Evans

Kelley Evans, the daughter of Joey Evans, is a freshman majoring in general studies.

Katie Grace Ray

Katie Grace Ray, the daughter of Louis and Wendy Ray, is majoring in accounting. A freshman, Ray is involved as a Holmes Ambassador, vice president of Phi Theta Kappa, Student Government Association member, Baptist Student Union member and member of the Grenada Content Creators Club.

Holmes implements “Career Compass” as part of accreditation visit, earns reaffirmation with flying colors

From Staff Reports/Photos



Dr. Teresa Mackey, vice president for compliance and institutional research, shares how Holmes is preparing for the accreditation visit during a Back to School meeting.



Director of Admissions **Bethany Miller** and Ridgeland Campus Vice President **Dr. Bronwyn Martin** explain the QEP during a Back to School meeting.

Holmes Community College recently implemented its new Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), Career Compass, as part of its reaffirmation process with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The QEP was introduced to faculty, staff and administration during a Back to School meeting on the Goodman Campus on Aug. 11.

Holmes is accredited by SACSCOC to award associate degrees and certificates. As part of the reaffirmation process, the SACSCOC On-Site Reaffirmation Committee visited the college in September, and Holmes successfully passed the accreditation visit.

The Career Compass initiative is designed to help students identify academic and career pathways that align with their goals and interests, ensuring they stay on track toward graduation

and career success. The QEP underscores Holmes' continued commitment to student achievement and workforce readiness.

As part of Career Compass, students will receive enhanced academic advising, access to career exploration tools, and guided planning resources to help them make informed decisions about their future. The initiative aims to strengthen the connection between classroom learning and real-world career opportunities.

This milestone comes as Holmes celebrates its 100th year of serving students and communities across Mississippi.

For more information about Career Compass and the college's Quality Enhancement Plan, visit www.holmescc.edu/careercompass.

Holmes Grenada biology students explore aquatic conservation at North Mississippi Fish Hatchery

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College students from the Grenada Campus recently took their learning beyond the classroom as part of Mrs. Sara Pollan's General Biology I course. The class visited the North Mississippi Fish Hatchery in Enid on Sept. 18 to explore the importance of freshwater habitats and aquatic conservation.

During the visit, students gained hands-on experience learning about fish breeding, habitat management and the ecological significance of maintaining healthy freshwater systems. Hatchery staff discussed how conser-

vation efforts contribute to sustaining Mississippi's native fish populations and preserving biodiversity across the state.

The trip offered students a valuable opportunity to connect classroom lessons with real-world environmental applications.

The North Mississippi Fish Hatchery, operated by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, plays a key role in managing fish populations and educating the public about the importance of aquatic ecosystems.

Holmes Goodman Campus holds ‘Purple Out’ for suicide prevention and mental health awareness

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Goodman Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at Holmes Community College hosted a “Purple Out” event on Sept. 17, to promote suicide prevention and mental health awareness.

Students, faculty and staff were encouraged to wear purple in support of the cause and to download a mental health app offering resources and crisis support. The initiative aimed to remind students that it's okay to seek help and that no one has to face their struggles alone.

Through events like Purple Out, Phi Theta Kappa continues to emphasize the importance of community, compassion and mental health education among Holmes students.



Holmes Ridgeland students put teamwork and science into action

From Staff Reports/Photos

Collaboration took center stage in Dr. Antoine Gates' classes on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus as students combined hands-on learning with teamwork.

General Biology I students applied the steps of experimental design using paper airplanes—building, testing and analyzing data to better understand the scientific method. Meanwhile, Medical Terminology students teamed up in Quizlet Live to review skeletal system disorders and pharmacology terms. The interactive activities highlighted Holmes' commitment to active learning in the classroom.



Holmes Connection! performs exhibition show at All-State Show Choir event in Biloxi

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College show choir, The Holmes Connection!, gave an invitational exhibition performance for the All-State Show Choir event hosted by the Mississippi Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) at the Biloxi High School Performing Arts Center on Saturday, Oct. 4.

Students from show choirs across the state were impressed by Connection's

energetic and engaging first performance of the year.

The group will present its official annual premiere performance during the Holmes Homecoming celebration on Thursday, Oct. 23. A special sneak peek performance for students and faculty will be held the evening before.

Holmes celebrates National Custodian Appreciation Day

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are Grenada Campus custodial/maintenance crew members **Angela Tanner, Bryce Fleming, Jeff Newsome** and **John Byars**. *Not pictured:* Chad Carpenter and Debbie Collins.

Holmes Community College is honoring its custodial, maintenance and grounds staff in recognition of Custodian Appreciation Day on Thursday, Oct. 2, with celebrations held on each campus. The district-wide celebration recognizes the hard work and dedication of these essential team members who keep Holmes a clean, safe and welcoming environment for students, faculty, staff and visitors.

Executive Vice President Sonny Sparks expressed gratitude on behalf of the college.

"So thankful for our incredible custodial, maintenance and grounds staff at Holmes Community College! Their hard work keeps our campuses clean and welcoming for all. Their positive attitude and hard work make all the difference. We truly appreciate the

extra effort they put in to make everything perfect for our recent accreditation visit. Their dedication makes Holmes truly a special place, and we thank them for that!" Sparks said.

At the Ridgeland Campus, Vice President Dr. Bronwyn Martin praised the team's commitment to excellence.

"On the Ridgeland Campus we are blessed to have such an outstanding custodial, maintenance and grounds team," Dr. Martin said. "Together they ensure campus looks beautiful and all of our constituents leave with a positive first impression of our grounds and buildings. This team quietly works behind the scenes with tremendous dedication. They create a safe, welcoming campus where our employees and students can learn, work and thrive. From greeting students with a

friendly smile to tackling unforeseen maintenance issues, we are grateful to have each and every one of them as invaluable members of our Holmes family. We thank them for their contributions and helping us all live up to why we confirm there is 'No Place Like Holmes.'"

Vice President of the Grenada Campus Dr. Matt Surrell also expressed gratitude for the staff's tireless service. "Our maintenance and custodial staff works tirelessly every day to make

sure that our staff and our students have a safe, clean and welcoming place to work and learn," Dr. Surrell said. "This fact was evident most recently from the many comments that we received from the SACSCOC Committee concerning how nice and clean our facilities were. The thing that impresses me the most about our staff is the pride that they take in making

sure that their work is completed well. Their dedication, professionalism and tireless efforts often go unseen, but I hope they understand that they are never unnoticed. On behalf of everyone, I want to thank our staff for their commitment to all of us and to Holmes Community College!"

Goodman Campus Vice President Andy Wood shared a similar sentiment, calling the custodial and maintenance staff "the backbone of the school."

The Oct. 2 celebration across Holmes' campuses highlights the college's appreciation for the staff who play a vital role in creating an environment where students can succeed. Custodian Appreciation Day is recognized nationally each year as a time to thank custodial and maintenance employees for the vital role they play in keeping schools, businesses and organizations running smoothly.



Pictured are Ridgeland Campus custodial/maintenance crew members at the luncheon held on Oct. 2.

Holmes to offer Fiber Optic Fusion Splicing course Nov. 3–13 in Ridgeland

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College in Ridgeland recently wrapped up a Fiber Optic Fusion Splicing course and will offer another one Nov. 3–13 through its Workforce Development division.

The non-credit training program prepares participants for in-demand careers in fiber optics, with a focus on skills aligned to the needs of Amazon Web Services (AWS) and its network partners. Students will gain hands-on experience with fiber splicing, installation and troubleshooting — all critical for supporting data centers and modern

communication infrastructure.

The class will meet Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. in the McGowan Building, located at 412 W. Ridgeland Ave., Ridgeland. Seats are limited, with only seven students accepted into the class. Interested individuals must register by calling the Vicksburg WIN Job Center at 601-619-2843 or 601-629-6886.

Participants must have a valid driver's license and reliable transportation. The role of a fiber optic technician may require working in confined spaces

or at heights, with flexible hours that include evenings and weekends. The job is physically demanding and may involve lifting equipment and navigating challenging environments. While a basic understanding of technical systems, operations or information technology is helpful, it is not required for enrollment.

For more information, call the Vicksburg WIN Job Center at 601-619-2843 or 601-629-6886, or contact Angie M. Williams, Workforce Development Coordinator at Holmes.

Holmes hosts 'Shatter the Silence' program to promote mental health awareness

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College's Counseling Office, Phi Theta Kappa and Student Support Services on the Goodman Campus recently partnered with the Mississippi Department of Health to host "Shatter the Silence," a mental health awareness program encouraging young people to talk about their feelings with friends and trusted adults.

The event was held on Sept. 30 in the Math/Science Building on the Goodman Campus. Representatives from the Mississippi Department of Health led the presentation, emphasizing the importance of open communication and mental health support among students.

"Shatter the Silence" is part of a statewide campaign designed to break the stigma surrounding mental health issues, particularly among young adults. The initiative encourages participants to recognize the value of seeking help, offering support to peers and maintaining honest conversations about emotional well-being.

Holmes' Counseling Office, Phi Theta Kappa and Student Support Services coordinated the event as part of their ongoing efforts to promote student health and wellness on campus.

Holmes nursing instructor Dr. Alicia Turner selected to help develop NCLEX exam

From Staff Reports/Photos



Alicia Turner

Holmes Community College Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) instructor Dr. Alicia L. Turner, DNP, RN, was recently selected as a volunteer item writer for the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN)

Licensure Examination (NCLEX). Dr. Turner is an instructor on the Ridgeland Campus.

NCSBN, headquartered in Chicago, is responsible for developing and administering the NCLEX-RN® and NCLEX-PN examinations, which are used to determine minimal competency for entry-level nurses in the United States and participating Canadian provinces and territories. Passing the NCLEX is one of the requirements for attaining a nursing license or registration.

Approved by the Mississippi State Board of Nursing, Dr. Turner was selected by NCSBN to serve on the NCLEX item development panel of subject matter experts held in Chicago from July 27–Aug. 1, 2025. She was chosen for the honor based on her clinical specialty and nursing expertise.

In addition to her recent NCSBN selection, Dr. Turner was recognized by the organization Today's Nurse as one of the Best in Healthcare for her

integrity, experience, and dedication to the profession.

A Holmes alumna, Dr. Turner joined the Ridgeland Campus nursing faculty as an adjunct instructor in 2017 and became full-time in 2020. She previously served as head nurse on the 5D oncology unit at Mississippi Baptist Hospital in Jackson, working full-time before transitioning to part-time in 2020. She continues to work part-time at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC), where she has trained new nurses on the kidney/liver transplant unit since 2020.

Dr. Turner holds a mortuary science degree, a practical nursing degree and an ADN degree from Holmes. She also earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Jackson State University, a BSN from the University for Women and an MSN from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She graduated with her Doctor of Nursing Practice from UMMC on May 23.

Her professional accolades include

being named Nurse Educator of the Year in 2020 by Baptist. Dr. Turner is an active member of the American Nurses Association, American Psychiatric Nurses Association, Oncology Nursing Society and Phi Theta Kappa Sigma Mu honor society. She also serves as Co-Chair of Education for Eliza Pillars Registered Nurses of Mississippi.

Outside of her professional commitments, Dr. Turner enjoys reading, watching movies with her family, working in her yard, volunteering with her church's food ministry, singing in the choir and mentoring new nurses. She and her husband Frederick have three children: Kaylyn, Maddison and Brandon.

To learn more about the NCLEX® and item development volunteer opportunities, visit www.ncsbn.org. For more information about Today's Nurse, visit www.todaysnurse.org.

Holmes Ridgeland hosts Mississippi Animal Rescue League for "Stress Paws-er" event

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Community College Student Government Association hosted the Mississippi Animal Rescue League (MARL) on the Ridgeland Campus on Sept. 30, giving students a fun way to unwind from exam stress while supporting a worthy cause.

The event invited students to take a "paws" from studying to enjoy the beautiful day, interact with puppies, and learn more about MARL's mission. The visit was a hit among the campus community, drawing strong participation from both students and employees.

In addition to the hands-on fun, the event also collected much-needed supplies for MARL, including dog food, cat food and cleaning products.



Riley Lambert cuddles one of the puppies during the "Stress Paws-er" event.



Practical Nursing students take a photo with the massive amount of food and cleaning supplies they brought to donate to MARL.

Holmes chorale members participate in prestigious Southern Invitation Choral Conference

From Staff Reports/Photos



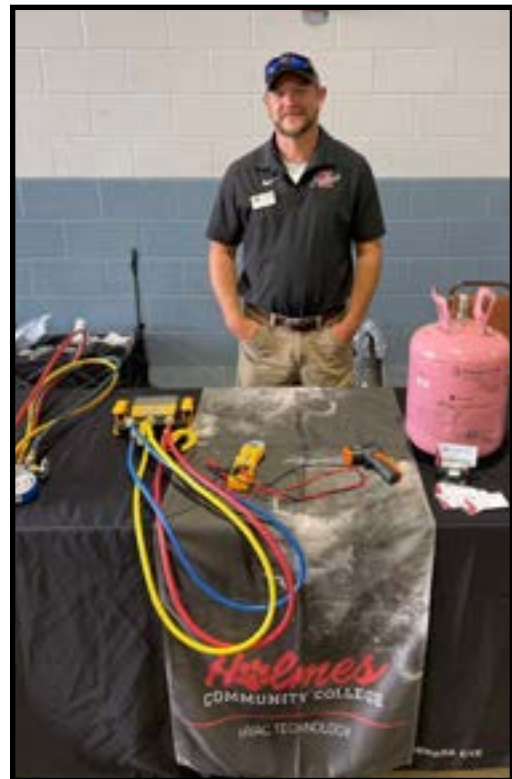
Seven members of the Holmes Community College Concert Chorale participated in the 22nd annual Southern Invitation Choral Conference on Sept. 15 and 16 at the University of Southern Mississippi's Hattiesburg campus. Dr. Drew Trautman, director of the Holmes Concert Chorale, led the students as they joined over 700 other choral students from Mississippi and the surrounding region for the two-day intensive clinic. During the conference, the Holmes students, alongside their peers, learned an entirely new concert program in approximately nine hours of rehearsal.

They then performed the complete program for colleagues and Hattiesburg residents. Students had the opportunity to sing for clinician Dr. Bret Peppo from Diablo Valley College and worked extensively with Shawn Kirchner, a prolific choral composer and arranger, on his original music and other works. The participating students from the Holmes Concert Chorale were: freshmen Owen Clark and Asher Walls, and sophomores Edward Fletcher, III, Colby Solomon, Daniela Lewis, Tamara Haynes and Jakeria Williams.

Holmes CTE programs participate in Future Me Expo

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College helped local high school students plan their futures by participating in the Future Me Expo in September, an event showcasing various career and technical education options. The expo brought together 10th graders from Montgomery and Carroll Counties who explored multiple Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs at Holmes. The event was designed to introduce students to diverse careers, specific programs, and training opportunities available to prepare them for their next steps after high school. Holmes offers a wide range of CTE programs and encourages interested students and parents to visit their website for more information: holmescc.edu/career-technical/.



Holmes Grenada ADN and PTA collaborate to learn

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College Grenada Campus Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) and Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) students collaborated on a patient mobility lab on Sept. 12. The ADN program is a two-year Associate of Applied Science (AAS) curriculum that combines nursing theory, general education and clinical experience, and qualifies graduates to sit for the NCLEX-RN exam to become registered nurses. It is offered in Grenada, Goodman and Ridgeland. The PTA program, which is only offered in Grenada, is a five-semester AAS degree designed to train students to assist physical therapists in patient care; graduates become eligible to take the national licensure exam for physical therapist assistants.



Holmes Ridgeland STEM Club Hosts Social

From Staff Reports/Photos

The STEM Club on Holmes Community College's Ridgeland Campus hosted a social on Sept. 10, offering students, faculty and staff an opportunity to mingle while enjoying drinks and snacks. During the event, students learned more about the STEM Club and how to get involved in its upcoming activities and projects.



Holmes Grenada SGA hosts Karaoke & Games

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus hosted Karaoke & Games on Oct. 1 in the Corey Forum. Hosted by Student Government Association (SGA), students enjoyed fun and fellowship, giving them a chance to take a break from studying for midterms. Students enjoyed karaoke, giant checkers, Jenga, photo opps, futsal and badminton. To learn more about SGA across the district and to apply for membership, visit <https://holmescc.edu/student-life/student-government-association/>.



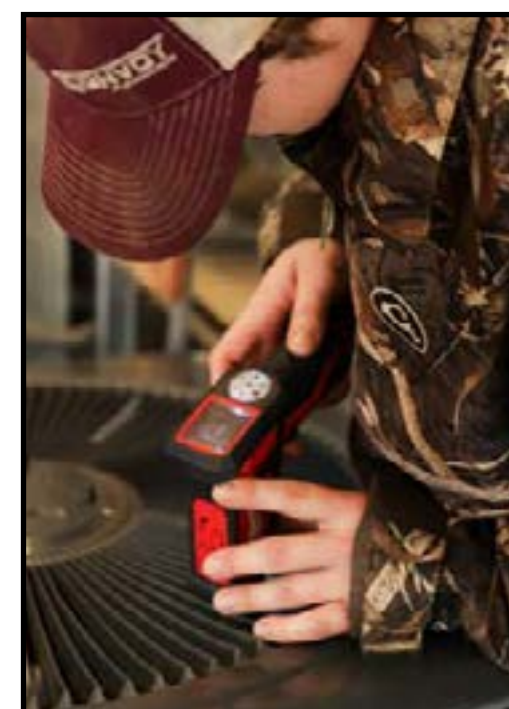
William Hobson sings during karaoke hour in the Corey Forum.



Selena Gary and Charli Woods play checkers in the Corey Forum.

Holmes to offer HVAC Basics Course in Yazoo City

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College will offer an HVAC Basics course at the Yazoo Center, located at 637 East 15th St. in Yazoo City, beginning Oct. 14. The course, taught by instructor Leroy McBride, will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-8 p.m. for six weeks, totaling 30 instructional hours. The cost is \$35 per participant. Class size is limited to 15, and participants must be at least 18 years old. Students who complete the program will receive a Holmes certificate of completion in Basic HVAC. The course is non-credit bearing and is facilitated by the Holmes Workforce Training division. The course will cover the fundamentals of heating, ventilation and air

conditioning systems, including safety procedures, basic electrical principles, refrigerant cycles and troubleshooting techniques. Participants will gain hands-on experience with tools and equipment while learning how to perform routine maintenance and identify common system issues. While this class is designed to provide a foundation of HVAC knowledge, additional training or certifications may be required depending on the position students pursue. Entry-level jobs in the HVAC field may include roles such as maintenance assistant, installer helper or technician trainee. The program can also serve as a first step for those interested in advancing

into skilled technician positions or furthering their education in HVAC technology. "HVAC is a high-demand trade that offers strong career opportunities," said Holmes Workforce Development Coordinator Melissa Love. "This course will give participants a solid starting point, whether they are interested in working in residential systems, commercial operations or continuing their education in this growing field." To register, contact Love at mlove@holmescc.edu or 601-605-3387. To learn more about the career technical HVAC courses offered by Holmes (which lead to an associate degree), visit holmescc.edu.

Holmes Ridgeland hosts Racing into Fall Ridge Day

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College's Ridgeland Campus hosted a "Racing Into Fall" event on Wednesday, Sept. 17, giving students, faculty and staff an opportunity to celebrate the new season with food, fun and fellowship. The race-themed event featured large electric animal scooter races, futsal, basketball, inflatable games, music, snacks and other games and interactive activities that encouraged students to take a break from their studies and enjoy time outdoors. Phi Theta Kappa, SGA and some of the Career Tech programs who sponsored the event also provided information about student involvement opportunities and gave out goodies.



Holmes joins national effort to celebrate Adult Education & Family Literacy Week

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is Alanna La'Shè Luckett with Instructor Marlena Simon. Luckett recently completed her High School Equivalency after taking classes at Holmes.

Holmes Community College is joining the national celebration of Adult Education and Family Literacy Week, highlighting the importance of lifelong learning and the impact adult education has on individuals, families and communities. Throughout the week, Holmes Adult Education classes will host events to raise awareness about adult learning. Community leaders, business partners and civic organizations are invited to take part in classroom celebrations. Events will be held Tuesday at the At-tala Center in Kosciusko, Wednesday on the Ridgeland Campus and Thursday in Yazoo City. The observance is part of a nation-

wide effort led by the Coalition on Adult Basic Education, or COABE, which serves more than 3.2 million adult learners through a network of more than 100 national partners. COABE works to equip and empower educators and learners, offering professional development, advocacy and resources for adult education programs across the country. Adult education programs help learners improve literacy, develop job skills and pursue credentials that lead to better employment opportunities and stronger economic stability. Research also shows that learners who return to school often inspire their children's educational journeys and strengthen

civic life in their communities. "At Holmes, we believe lifelong learning lifts up not only individuals but entire communities," said District Director for Adult Education/HSE Earline Russell-Smith. "This week, we honor those who are making the journey, those who support them and recommit to making adult education accessible and effective." For more information about Holmes' Adult Education programs, visit <https://holmescc.edu/workforce/adult-education-high-school-equivalency/>. Additional information about the national movement is available at www.coabe.org.

Holmes student organizations hold fundraisers across the district

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College student groups are fundraising for their organizations across the district. All three chapters of Phi Theta Kappa are selling gourmet cheese for their fundraiser. Orders and payment are due by Nov. 4 to Stephanie Blue on the Ridgeland Campus, Simonee Miller in Goodman

and Haley DeNoon in Grenada.

On the Goodman Campus, the Associate Degree Nursing students are selling raffle tickets, with chances to win a TV, \$100 gift card or \$50 gift card. The drawing will take place on Oct. 27. Please see the flyers for more information.

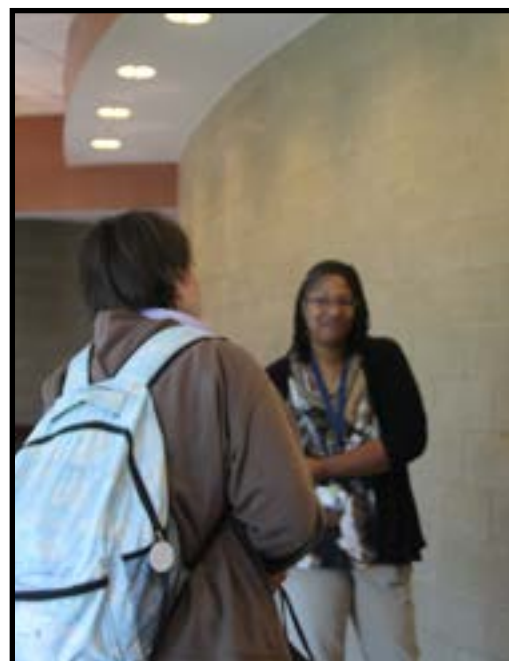


Holmes Ridgeland hosts STEM Mixer

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus hosted a Pre-Professional STEM Mixer on Oct. 2, giving students an opportunity to network with faculty in their future STEM and health fields.

Students were able to meet with representatives from UMMC's School of Nursing, Graduate Studies, Health-Related Programs and Dentistry; Mississippi College's Engineering Department; USM's College of Nursing and Health Professions and Holmes' ADN Nursing and Occupational Therapy Assistant programs. There was also a special demonstration from Cengage Publishing Company.



Holmes Goodman celebrates Canine Companion Day

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Community College Goodman Campus celebrated Canine Companion Day on Thursday, Oct. 2 from 10:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in front of the cafeteria. Sponsored by the Goodman Campus Admissions Office, Canine Companion Day is a day set aside to celebrate and honor the bond between people and their dogs.

The idea was founded in 2004 by Colleen Paige, a pet expert and advocate, to promote awareness and appreciation for dogs as companions. People celebrate it by loving on their own dogs, making donations/volunteering with dog rescues or sharing photos of their dogs. At Holmes, students got to pick up fun Bulldog-themed cookies and goodies, showing love for the college's Bulldogs!



Electrical Lineman Informational Meeting set for Oct. 16

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Electrical Lineman Informational Meeting for the January class will be held Thursday, Oct. 16 at 5 p.m. at The Attala Center in Kosciusko. This meeting is mandatory for interested students. The Attala Center is located at 620 West Jefferson St., Kosciusko.

The 16-week Electrical Linemen program at Holmes was established in 2008. Participants will complete

608 clock hours and the classes that are taught include: CPR/First Aid and Bloodborne Pathogens, Chainsaw Safety, Employability Skills, Truck Driving, Pole Climbing, Protective Grounding, Underground, Bucket Truck Rescue and Basic Electricity.

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

Holmes welcomes new employees for the 2025-26 schoolyear

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College welcomed new employees across the district this summer. In July, an onboarding session was held on the Goodman Campus, preparing them for the upcoming school year.

New employees pictured with Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey are: (front row, left to right) ADN Instructor Lakeshia McGowan, Biology Instructor Hannah Jobe, EMS Instructor Latisha Beasley, Biology Instructor Christanna Saums; (back row, l-r) Director of Bands Wil Richmond, ADN Instructor Niki Walker, ADN Instructor Coretta Carter, Biology Instructor Jonathan Beasley and History Instructor Kyle Doolittle.

Fisher joins Holmes Ridgeland staff as chief of police

From Staff Reports/Photos



Stan Fisher has joined the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus staff as chief of police. Fisher brings more than two decades of law enforcement experience to Holmes. He earned a bachelor's degree in administration of justice with a minor in business from Mississippi College.

"It is with great pleasure that we welcome Chief Stan Fisher to our Holmes family," said Holmes Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Bronwyn Martin. "We are blessed to have been able to employ a chief with such an outstanding record in law enforcement. The talent, skills and experience in community college public safety he

brings to campus will foster continued growth within the district and among local agencies."

Before joining Holmes, Fisher served as police chief for Hinds Community College's Rankin Campus for seven and a half years. His career also includes working in the Mississippi Attorney General's Office as a cyber crimes investigator and serving 10 years with the Madison County Sheriff's Department as a deputy specializing in SWAT operations.

Outside of law enforcement, Fisher is an active member of Word of Life Church in Flowood, where he serves in security care, altar care and youth

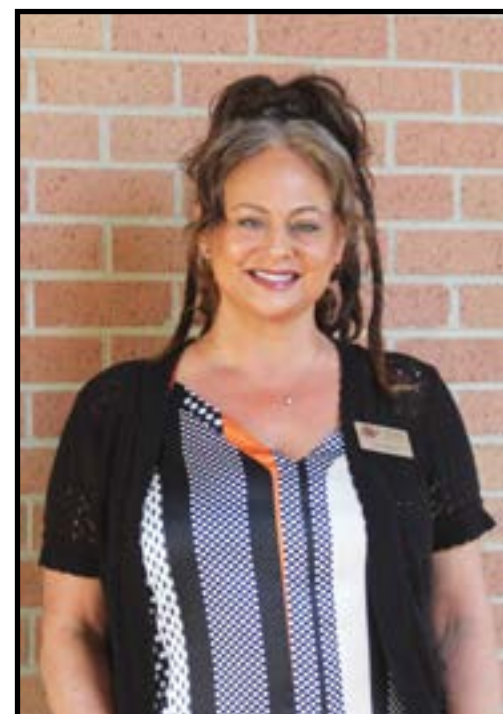
ministry. He and his wife, Leslie, host a small group in their home, as well. Leslie works for Deloach Family Clinic in Gluckstadt. Fisher has a daughter, Kaylin, a senior at Copiah Academy; three stepsons; two grandsons and a granddaughter.

"I felt God calling me to lead," Fisher said. "I feel like I'm here for a dual reason; to be Holmes' police chief but also to pour into these young people and show them the love of Christ. I'm excited about this next season of my life and plan to continue to be obedient to where God leads me."

In his spare time, Fisher enjoys fishing.

Morrison joins Holmes culinary arts program as instructor

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College recently welcomed Lori Morrison of Madison as a new instructor for the Culinary Arts program on the Ridgeland Campus. Morrison will teach alongside Chef Alexei Harrison and will lead courses in both culinary arts and baking and pastry.

Morrison, who lived in Meridian for 15 years before moving to Madison in 2003, brings a wide range of professional and personal experience to the classroom. She worked as a loan officer in Meridian before joining Nissan North America Manufacturing Company, where she focused on engines and transmissions and earned her forklift license through Holmes. She has also

served as a church nursery director, owned a sewing business, worked in catering and taught exercise classes that promoted healthier eating habits and lifestyle changes.

In addition to her work experience, Morrison holds an Associate of Applied Science degree from Hinds Community College, where she graduated magna cum laude and was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

A creative and hands-on individual, Morrison enjoys reading, sewing, working in the yard, baking, trying new experiences and listening to a wide variety of music. She is also passionate about true crime stories and says she loves "living in the moment

and fully immersing myself in whatever I'm doing."

Her love of baking led her to open The Yellow Squirrel Bakery three years ago. Although the business recently closed, Morrison said the experience gave her an opportunity to deepen her skills and share her passion, which she is excited to carry into her new role at Holmes.

"I'm passionate about creativity, baking and encouraging others to explore their talents," Morrison said. "I look forward to inspiring that same enthusiasm in my students."

Morrison is the mother of two sons and grandmother to two grandchildren.

McGowan joins Holmes Ridgeland as ADN instructor

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College recently hired Lakeshia McGowan as an instructor for the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program on the Ridgeland Campus.

McGowan earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2013 and her Master of Science in Nursing with a focus in education from William Carey University in 2022.

She has served as adjunct clinical faculty for the Holmes ADN program since 2022 and has worked in a variety of nursing disciplines throughout her career. Most recently, McGowan worked as a travel nurse specializing in medical-surgical and cardiac care. McGowan is a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, and Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. In her free time, she enjoys

crocheting and listening to music.

She and her husband, Corey, have four children: Sha'keya, Corey, Amara and Caleb.

"I'm excited for this opportunity and ready to grow with this organization," McGowan said. "Knowledge is power, and I am ready to spread the word."

Holmes welcomes Saums as new biology instructor to Ridgeland Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College recently welcomed Chrisanna Saums of Raymond as a new biology instructor on the Ridgeland Campus. Saums earned a Master of Science in

biology from Mississippi College and a Bachelor of Science in general studies with an emphasis in life science from Louisiana Tech University.

Before joining Holmes, Saums taught at Hinds Community College's Raymond Campus from 2006-2025, serving as science department chair and biology instructor. In that role she managed 13 science employees and taught a wide range of courses including principles of biology I and II, general biology I and II and anatomy and physiology I and II. She taught in traditional, virtual, hybrid, dual credit and 8-week formats.

Through the Hinds Honors Program, Saums created and implemented Bio 2814 Field Experience in Yellowstone National Park, a domestic travel

course that allows students to study the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem in an 8-week format before traveling to Yellowstone to work directly in the field with a biologist. She said the program was inspired by her love for the national parks.

Prior to Hinds, Saums taught at Clinton Public Schools' Alternative School as a science and biology instructor in 2005-2006.

She is a five-time nominee for Hinds CC Teacher of the Year (2012, 2015, 2016, 2021 and 2023) and has been active in her community as a volunteer with the Raymond Chamber of Commerce, a youth leader at Hinds Independent Methodist Church and a member of the Central Hinds Academy Touchdown Club.

Saums is also a member of the National Association of Biology Teachers.

Outside of work, she and her family enjoy visiting national parks each summer. Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado is their favorite.

She lives in Raymond with her husband, Robert. They have three sons: Christian, a senior in mechanical engineering at Mississippi State University; Jackson, a senior at Central Hinds Academy who plans to attend the University of Mississippi in the fall and Walt, a junior at Central Hinds Academy.

"After more than 20 years of teaching, I still get excited to share my passion for biology with new students," Saums said. "I am so excited to be a part of the Holmes CC family."

Price named Director of Business Services for Holmes

From Staff Reports/Photos



Lucas Price

Holmes Community College is proud to announce the appointment of Lucas Price as the new Director of Business Services.

A proud alumnus of Holmes, Price brings a strong background in accountancy and higher education administration, along with a deep-rooted passion for the institution. He holds an associate degree from Holmes, as well as a Bachelor of Accountancy and a Master of Professional Accountancy from Mississippi State University.

Before returning to Holmes, Price served with distinction in the College

of Business Development at Mississippi State University. His accomplishments include serving on the Student Advisory Board for the MSU Adkerson School of Accountancy, being named to the Holmes Hall of Fame and the Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi Academic Team, earning a spot on the President's List every semester at Holmes and being honored as Mr. Holmes for the Goodman Campus. Price was also involved on campus as a member of the Holmes Connection!, Coachmen, Chorale and Baptist Student Union.

"Holmes has always held a special place in my heart," Price said. "From the well-respected, professional staff to the unmistakable sense of community in the air, I cannot wait to get started. There is truly 'No place like Holmes.'"

Outside the office, Price enjoys playing golf and pickleball. He and his wife, Macey, are active members of First Baptist Church Kosciusko.

Crosby comes to Goodman Campus as multimedia specialist

From Staff Reports/Photos



David Crosby

Kosciusko native David Crosby has joined the Marketing and Recruiting Department at Holmes Community College as a Multimedia Specialist.

Crosby, a 1991 East Holmes Academy graduate, has an associate's degree from Holmes Community College and bachelor's degree from the Art Institute of Pittsburg.

Prior to Holmes, Crosby worked in the Kosciusko School District as an IT Specialist. He also did some video, photography and graphic design for the district. Before Kosciusko, he worked at Pearl River Resort in the advertising department handling graphic design

projects. He was a data entry specialist for Merchants and Farmers/Renasant Bank in Kosciusko. He started his career in the art department for Mississippi Sportswear.

He got his start in video by working with his dad in N-Focus Video Productions. He worked 10 years before branching out on his own to form Fully Grounded Productions. With Fully Grounded, he videos weddings, dance recitals, showchoir/choir productions, plays, films commercials and school homecomings along with other events.

At Holmes, Crosby will be headquartered on the Goodman Campus

and will be responsible for video and graphic design projects. He holds certifications in videography and legal videography.

He and his wife, Suzanne have three children – John Alden, Anna Loren and Lila Morgan. John Alden attended Holmes for two years before transferring to Mississippi State while Anna Loren will be a freshman at Itawamba Community College in the fall. Lila Morgan is a student in the Kosciusko School District.

Beall named director of Human Resources for Holmes

From Staff Reports/Photos



Kassidy Beall

Kassidy Beall has been named director of Human Resources for Holmes Community College.

Beall, a dedicated Holmes employee for the past seven years, has held a variety of positions within the college, including eLearning administrative assistant, Human Resources administrative assistant, and most recently, coordinator of Human Resources.

A Holmes alumna, Beall earned her Associate of Arts degree from Holmes before going on to receive a Bachelor of Business Administration from Belhaven University. She later earned her Master of Organizational Leadership with an emphasis in Human Resources, also from Belhaven.

Outside of work, Beall enjoys spending time with her family and friends.

She and her husband, Parker Beall, have two children, Ella and Eli.

Beasley named EMS instructor at Holmes Grenada Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos



Latisha Beasley

Holmes Community College is proud to welcome Latisha Lindsey Beasley as the new Emergency Medical Services Instructor on the Grenada Campus. A highly experienced paramedic and educator, Beasley brings over a decade of hands-on EMS experience, simulation education, and professional leadership to her role at Holmes.

A native of Indianola and graduate of Clinton High School, Beasley began her career in emergency medical services after earning her EMT certification through Copiah-Lincoln Community College. She went on to complete her paramedic degree

at Holmes Community College and later received her bachelor's degree in Health Science from the University of Mississippi School of Health-Related Professions.

Her professional journey includes roles as a paramedic across multiple Mississippi EMS providers, a communication specialist at the Mississippi Center for Emergency Services, and most recently, Simulation Coordinator for the University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Nursing. She also served as an EMS instructor at Copiah-Lincoln Community College before joining the team at Holmes in 2025.

Beasley holds numerous specialty certifications including ACLS, BLS, EVOC, and PALS, and is a certified National Registered EMT-Paramedic. She is a member of the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning, the Society for Simulation in Healthcare, and the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians. Her contributions to healthcare education have earned her multiple accolades, including the UMMC School of Nursing's Professional and Administrative Continued Excellence Award in 2025.

Beasley named biology instructor at Holmes Grenada Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos



Jonathan Beasley

Holmes Community College has named Jonathan Beasley as a new biology instructor on the Grenada Campus. A Natchez native with a strong background in science education and research, Beasley brings both experi-

ence and enthusiasm to his new role at Holmes.

Before joining the Holmes faculty, Beasley spent eight years teaching at Pillow Academy in Greenwood. His dedication to students and the sciences has been a consistent theme throughout his career. He holds an Associate of Arts from Copiah-Lincoln Community College, as well as a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Medical Sciences from Mississippi College.

While completing his graduate studies, Beasley served as a teaching assistant in both nursing and medical microbiology. He also completed extensive research focusing on potential medical uses of plant extracts native to the southeastern United States. These experiences deepened his passion for biology and sparked a desire to connect classroom instruction to real-world applications.

Outside of the classroom, Beasley is actively involved in his community. While living in Jackson, he regularly

volunteered in the emergency room at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Since moving to Greenwood, he has become a member of First Baptist Church, where he serves on the live streaming crew.

When he's not teaching or serving in the church, Beasley enjoys board games and the occasional fishing trip. Some of his favorite games include Trekking the National Parks, Qwirkle, and Sequence. He's also looking forward to spending time on Grenada Lake and trying his hand at catching some of the local white perch.

Her expertise in simulation education is widely recognized through her publications, pilot projects, and national presentations on healthcare training. She has co-led sessions at major conferences, including the Society for Simulation in Healthcare and the Mississippi Academy for Simulation Training.

Beasley is also deeply engaged in community service and outreach,

having volunteered with events like UMMC's Discovery Day, Project SEARCH, the Mosaic Summer Enrichment Program and career expos such as Pathways2Possibilities.

Outside of her professional life, Beasley enjoys time with her close-knit family. She married Barry Beasley of Georgetown in 2003, and together they have three children: Anna Elise Arnold, Landan Beasley and Paris Beasley. She is also a proud grandmother to Kesler and Dallen Arnold, and excitedly awaiting the arrival of grand baby Merrit in January 2026.

Holmes is thrilled to have Beasley join the Career and Technical Education team and looks forward to the wealth of knowledge and passion she brings to training the next generation of EMS professionals

Holmes alumna Jada Edwards joins Holmes admission staff

From Staff Reports/Photos



Jada Edwards

Jada Ivy Edwards has joined the staff at Holmes Community College as an admissions representative on the Ridgeland Campus.

A Holmes alumna, Edwards graduated from the college in May 2022 before continuing her education at Mississippi State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in elementary education in December 2024.

Her previous work experience includes positions with Deep South

Spirit and MEA Medical Clinics. Edwards is a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church and enjoys spending time with her friends, family and her two dogs, Lucy and Piper.

As a student at Holmes, Edwards was a cheerleader on the Goodman Campus, where she met her husband, Pearce, a former Holmes Ambassador. The couple now lives in Ebenezer, less than 10 miles from where they first met.

Edwards said she is excited to return to Holmes in this new role and looks forward to helping future students begin their college journey.

Walker joins Holmes ADN faculty on Ridgeland Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos



Niki Walker of Madison has joined the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) faculty on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus.

Walker is a 2009 graduate of Holmes, where she earned her ADN. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Delta State

University and a master's degree as a Family Nurse Practitioner from Mississippi University for Women.

She served as an adjunct instructor in the Holmes ADN program last year and also works PRN for Baptist Health Systems as a clinical nurse practitioner.

Outside of work, Walker enjoys

spending time with her family and riding horses. She and her husband, Rob, have four children: Spencer Grace, Allie Kate, Carley Bea and George Mason. Much of her free time is spent watching her children play softball or being around horses.

Theresa Conner named new system admin for eLearning

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College has named Theresa Conner as its new eLearning systems administrator. Based on the Ridgeland Campus, Conner will oversee the college's learning management systems and support online instruction across all campuses.

A Mississippi State University graduate, Conner holds both a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Business Administration in banking and finance. Before joining Holmes, she worked for the Rankin County School District.

Conner brings extensive educational

experience to her new role. She is a Canvas Certified Educator, an educational consultant for Get2College (a college access program of the Woodward Hines Education Foundation), and serves as an instructional designer and instructor for the Mississippi Council on Economic Education. She has also been recognized for her contributions to the Mississippi Department of Education's College & Career Readiness Curriculum.

Outside of her professional responsibilities, Conner enjoys spending time with her family and is known for her

love of organizing. She is a member of First Baptist Church of Jackson.

Conner's family includes her husband, Jeff, owner of LOCOS convenience store in Clinton; daughter, Mary Austin, a 2025 graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi currently pursuing a physical therapy assistant degree at Pearl River Community College; son, Dalton, a rising junior at Madison Ridgeland Academy; and stepdaughter, Natalie, a cosmetologist at Salon232 in Flowood.

Shalon Farris promoted to director of eLearning

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College has named Shalon Farris as the new director of eLearning. Farris, a longtime member of the Holmes family, brings a wealth of experience in instructional technology and learning management systems, as well as a deep personal connection to the college.

Vice President for Academic Programs and eLearning Dr. Jenny B. Jones praised Farris' promotion, stating, "Shalon brings a unique blend of institutional knowledge, statewide leadership experience and technical expertise that makes her the ideal person to lead our eLearning department. Her commitment to innovation and student success will strengthen Holmes' ability to deliver high-quality online learn-

ing."

Farris holds a master's in management information systems and a bachelor's in educational psychology, both from Mississippi State University. Her career began at Holmes, where she worked as a work-study student in the eLearning department while attending summer school. She later returned in a full-time role as a Learning Management System (LMS) administrator.

Her professional journey has taken her across the state and beyond. Farris served as program/technical specialist and later director of instructional technology for the Division of eLearning and Instructional Technology at the Mississippi Community College Board, where she supported all 15

community colleges across Mississippi. She also worked as an instructional designer for Instructure, the company behind Canvas, before returning to Holmes as eLearning systems administrator.

Now, as director of eLearning, Farris brings home the knowledge and expertise gained from each step of her career.

Outside of work, Farris enjoys spending time with her son, Jack, as well as her six nieces and nephews. The oldest of her nieces will be attending Holmes as a freshman this fall. She also enjoys riding her bike, playing board games and is an active member of Madison Heights Church in Madison.

Sample named Goodman Campus Chief of Police

From Staff Reports/Photos



Ebenezer native Patrick Sample has been named the new chief of police at the Goodman Campus of Holmes Community College.

"I am excited to announce the promotion of Patrick Sample as our new Chief of Police," Goodman Campus Vice President Andy Wood said. "Patrick brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his new role. We are confident that we will not miss a beat with him following Chief Joey Merri-

man."

Sample, a Kosciusko High School graduate, graduated from the Mississippi Delta Community College Law Enforcement Training Academy in Moorhead in 2016. Sample came to Holmes in 2014 working in both security and with the grounds department until becoming a police officer in 2018. He was elevated to sergeant in 2018.

He received his associate's degree in criminal justice from Holmes Commu-

nity College in 2021.

In his spare time, he enjoys riding his motorcycle, wine making and traveling. He is the son of Sam and Jamie Sample of Ebenezer. He is a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Gluckstadt.

Holmes Ridgeland hosts Wizard of Oz-themed Mini Ridge Day

From Staff Reports/Photos



On Sept. 4, the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus held a Mini Ridge Day: a "No Place Like Holmes" Wizard of Oz-themed booth complete with treats and a perfect photo spot for quick snaps between classes.

This Ridge Day was hosted by the Academic Office. Throughout the year, Holmes campuses across the district set up fun activities/celebrations, big and small, to enhance student life.

Holmes recognizes faculty, staff for years of service during Back to School gathering

From Staff Reports/Photos



Andy Wood and Dr. Jenny Jones were recognized for 30 years of service with Holmes.



(left to right) Dr. Mike Blankenship, Joy Kellum and Jay Cheatham were recognized for 25 years of service with Holmes. Not pictured: Angela Tanner.

On Tuesday, Aug. 12, Holmes Community College kicked off the upcoming school year with a Back to School Meeting on the Goodman Campus. The day began with a breakfast social, giving faculty and staff time to connect and catch up. Attendees also took their yearbook photos and participated in a special "100 Years" group picture in honor of the college's centennial celebration this year. The event continued in McDaniel Auditorium, where Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey delivered a state-of-the-college address. Additional administrators shared updates and prepared employees for the institution's upcoming accreditation visit. The program also recognized new employees and honored those who have reached service milestones of five, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years with the college.

The Holmes employees recognized for five years of service with the college included: Jennifer Bertucci, Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) instructor, Ridgeland; Cathy Cummings, administrative assistant for academic programs, Goodman; Madison Cummins, director of admissions and records, Goodman; Chris Ellis, maintenance worker, Goodman; Alexei Harri-

son, instructor for hotel and restaurant technology, Ridgeland; Jake Hood, public speaking instructor, Grenada; Erin Jenkins, financial aid specialist, Goodman; Tammy Jones, data assessment coordinator, Goodman; Jessica Leverette, administrative assistant for career technical education, Ridgeland; Mark McDaniel, security, Goodman; Simonee Miller, counselor of academic programs, Goodman; Sabrina Moore, ABE/HSE programs instructor, Goodman; Sandy Palmertree, supervisor of operations for the fitness center, Goodman; Quint Raper, supervisor for grounds and landscaping, Goodman; Joshua Smith, grounds/custodial, Ridgeland and Dr. Alicia Turner, ADN instructor, Ridgeland.

The employees recognized for 10 years of service with the college were Thad Ables, groundkeeper, Goodman; Jennifer Brunson, business administration instructor, Grenada; Tammy Caldwell, practical nursing instructor, Goodman; Nettie Coggin, maintenance/precision machinery instructor, Grenada; Ana Davenport, foreign language instructor, Ridgeland; Dedrick Dawson, mechanic, Goodman; Reagan Dilmore, assistant to the vice president of career technical education, Goodman; Ber-

nard Erving, housekeeper, Goodman; Kala Evans, business office assistant, Goodman; Katrena Harris, criminal justice instructor, Ridgeland; Rhonda Jefcoat, social science instructor, Goodman; Dr. Amber Mabus, English instructor, Grenada and Bethany Miller, director of Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), Goodman.

The Holmes employees recognized for 15 years of service with the college included: Tammie Burrell, security, Goodman; Dr. NaTunya Johnson, business and office technology instructor, Ridgeland; Ben Lewis, welding instructor, Goodman; Marshall McCain, director of maintenance, Ridgeland; Barbara Moody, housekeeper, Ridgeland; Ametra Pleas, English instructor, Ridgeland; Heather Roberts, practical nursing instructor, Ridgeland; Dr. Matt Surrell, vice president of the Grenada Campus/Finance and Bessie Thomas, security.

The employees recognized for 20 years of service with the college were Cynthia Abel, academic programs counselor, Grenada; Will Alexander, engineering technology instructor, Goodman; Lilly Austin, assistant to the vice president of academic programs, Goodman, Dr. Alice Austin,

ADN instructor/chair, Ridgeland; Mandy Burrell, director of the Attala Center and workforce coordinator, Attala; Matt Convertino, head men's soccer coach, Ridgeland; Jason Flanigan, head men's basketball coach, Goodman; Heather Hale, engineering technology instructor, Ridgeland; Kay Kelly, history instructor, Ridgeland; Dr. Tonya Lawrence, dean of academic programs, Ridgeland; Earline Russell-Smith, director of ABE/HSE programs and Sonny Sparks, executive vice president.

The Holmes employees recognized for 25 years of service with the college were Dr. Mike Blankenship, vice president of Workforce Development, Ridgeland; Jay Cheatham, art instructor, Goodman; Joy Kellum, business office assistant, Ridgeland and Angela Tanner, housekeeper, Grenada.

Finally, the employees recognized for their 30 years of loyal service to Holmes were Vice President for Academic Programs & eLearning Dr. Jenny Jones and Goodman Campus Vice President & Athletic Director Andy Wood.



Pictured are the Holmes employees who were recognized for 20 years of service with the college. They are (front row, left to right) Dr. Tonya Lawrence, Dr. Alice Austin, Lilly Austin, Cynthia Abel, Mandy Burrell, (back row, left to right) Matt Convertino, Heather Hale, Earline Russell-Smith, Kay Kelly, Will Alexander, Sonny Sparks and Jason Flanigan.



Pictured are the Holmes employees who were recognized for 15 years of service. They are (front row, left to right) Tammie Burrell, Dr. NaTunya Johnson, Heather Roberts, (back row, left to right) Dr. Matt Surrell, Ben Lewis and Marshall McCain. Not pictured: Barbara Moody, Ametra Pleas and Bessie Thomas.



Pictured are the Holmes employees who were recognized for 10 years of service with the college. They are (front row, left to right) Bethany Miller, Katrena Harris, Ana Davenport, Tammy Jones, Alexei Harrison, Cathy Cummings, Sabrina Moore, Jake Hood and Erin Jenkins. Not pictured: Thad Ables, Dedrick Dawson and Bernard Erving.



Pictured are the Holmes employees who were recognized for five years of service with the college. They are (front row, left to right) Quint Raper, Madison Cummins, Dr. Alicia Turner, Jennifer Bertucci, Jessica Leverette, Simonee Miller, (back row, left to right) Tammy Jones, Alexei Harrison, Cathy Cummings, Sabrina Moore, Jake Hood and Erin Jenkins. Not pictured: Chris Ellis, Mark McDaniel, Sandy Palmertree and Joshua Smith.

Grenada Campus celebrates Practical Nursing Pinning

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the Holmes Grenada Campus Practical Nursing graduates of 2025. They are (front row, left to right) Jasmine Kimble, Kalilah Burchfield, Estrella Dimas, Jerry Farmer, Jade Ruth, Jakyla Lewis, Kaira Davis, Takiyha Hemphill, Amber Henley, Caroline Smith, Natalie Strong, Za'Kayla Owens, (back row, left to right) Josie Williams, Kayla Minyard, Lexie Taylor, Takyla Wicks, Tayshun Taylor, Christopher Winston, Ashley Carpenter, Tarilyn Elliott, Seira Deere, Tamera Ellis and Memree Young.

The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus celebrated its Practical Nursing graduates with a pinning ceremony on June 26, in the Corey Forum. The event honored the accomplishments of students who completed the rigorous program and are now prepared to enter the nursing workforce as licensed practical nurses.

The graduates included Zykerah Boclair, Kalilah Burchfield, Ashley Carpenter, Kaira Davis, Seira Deere, Estrella Dimas, Tarilyn Elliott, Tamera Ellis, Jerry Farmer, Takiyha Hemphill, Amber Henley, Jasmine Kimble, Jakyla Lewis, Kayla Minyard, Za'Kayla Owens, Jade Ruth, Olivia Smith, Natalie Strong, Lexie Taylor, Tayshun Taylor, Takyla Wicks, Josie Williams, Christopher Winston and Memree Young.

Instructor Heather Rozier welcomed family, friends and faculty to the ceremony and commended the

graduates for their dedication and perseverance throughout the program. She also recognized outstanding academic achievement, noting that Ashley Carpenter, Kaira Davis, Seira Deere, Estrella Dimas, Tarilyn Elliott, Tamera Ellis, Jasmine Kimble, Natalie Strong, Lexie Taylor, Tayshun Taylor and Christopher Winston all completed the program with an average of 90 or above. Jade Ruth was recognized as the salutatorian, and Kayla Minyard earned the title of valedictorian.

During the ceremony, students received their traditional nursing lamps and pins from Instructor Kate Barton. The lamps symbolize the continuation of Florence Nightingale's legacy of compassionate care and the transition from student to nurse. Instructor Casey Welch delivered the benediction, closing the ceremony with words of encouragement and celebration.

Holmes celebrates graduates of AWS Information Infrastructure Apprenticeship Program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are graduates of the Amazon Web Services Information Infrastructure Pre-Apprenticeship (I2PA) following their ceremony on June 27.

Holmes Community College Holmes Community College recently hosted its second cohort of the Amazon Web Services (AWS) Information Infrastructure Pre-Apprenticeship (I2PA) program. The college launched the inaugural cohort in fall 2024, becoming the first institution in Mississippi—

and only the third in the nation—to offer the program. This paid, four-week training is designed to equip participants with the skills needed for high-demand careers in the global information economy. The program concluded on June 27 with a graduation ceremony and networking event,

where graduates had the opportunity to connect with AWS subject matter experts, as well as industry vendors and contractors.

The latest cohort ran from June 2–27 on the Ridgeland Campus, with classes meeting Monday through Friday under the instruction of Cham Blain, Ben Kay and Larry Tait. Hinds Community College workforce instructor Casey Hutson shadowed the instructors, as well, in preparation for a future I2PA class at Hinds. In addition to the core instructors, various industry professionals led specialized training sessions throughout the program.

Graduates of the program included Kwavon Anderson, Arrington Anthony, Edwin Bernard, Henry Bufkin, Christopher Codjoe, Elijah Fletcher, Juan Garcia, Terrance D. Gaston, Mario Gonzalez, Andrea Jackson, Johnnie Jefferson, Markell Jones, Tatyana Mack, Tredarius McPherson, Daniel McGowan, Kyle Raynes, Shemekia Robinson, Jabari Ross, Malcolm Shelwood, Dwena Smoots, Christian Wilder and Kenneth Williams.

Participants completed 30 hours of hands-on instruction each week, using field-relevant tools and materials to build job-ready skills in cloud technology, networking and security. They learned about mission-critical building projects, including fiber optics, electrical and mechanical systems, computer servers, and the software used to design and construct these systems.

In addition to technical skills, the program emphasized essential workplace competencies such as problem-solving, time management, teamwork and effective communication. Graduates earned industry-recognized certifications, including AWS I2PA and OSHA 10, and received compensation during their training.

The program is part of AWS's broader initiative to create more accessible pathways into high-growth tech careers and support a more diverse and inclusive workforce. It also aligns with Holmes' mission to offer high-quality, relevant educational opportunities that prepare individuals for success in today's global economy.

21 inducted into National Adult Education Honor Society

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the Holmes National Adult Education Honor Society of 2025.

Twenty-one Holmes Community College students were inducted into the National Adult Education Honor Society today in the multipurpose room in the Career-Technical Building.

To qualify for NAEHS membership adult education students must demonstrate the following attributes: 1. Dependable attendance 2. Cooperative attitude 3. Work ethic All enrolled adult education students are eligible for NAEHS membership including ESOL, ABE, Literacy, HSD and GED students.

Holmes students inducted included: Christopher Belieu, Grace Berch, Lonnie Chaney, Gwendolyn Cunningham, Sara DeMoney, Taveon Ford, Braxden

Hill, Lauren Lee, Promise Mason, Aubrey McCarty, Shaneika Moore, Oteria Moss, Chloe Palato, Felicia Perry, Avery Staten, Alexandria Sylvester, Willie Mae Watts, Stefanie West, John Timothy Williams and Zoey Williams.

Adult Education Honor Society members received a letter of recommendation for employment from their NAEHS chapter, an NAEHS membership certificate and pin during the school's induction ceremony.

Guests included Representative Fabian Nelson and Brandy Ratliff of MCCB. Nelson also presented the inductees with a resolution from the legislature.

Holmes Ridgeland celebrates Practical Nursing Class of 2025

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus Practical Nursing Class of 2025 with their instructors. Pictured are (front row, left to right) PN Instructor Dr. Lakesia Sutton, Jasmine Williamson, Tyakia Allen, Gabriela Flores, Alexis Guth, Natalie Butler, PN Instructor Heather Roberts, (middle row, left to right) Camryn Lofton, Patricia Marinelli, Akia Destiny Brown, Kassidy Irby, Deana Grossley, (back row, left to right) Riana Scott, Lucy Reeves, Helen Hancock, Ian Burnette and Lexie Davis.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus held a pinning ceremony on June 26 at Olde Towne Community Church to honor the Practical Nursing Class of 2025. The event recognized 15 graduates: Tyakia Allen of Jackson, Akia Destiny Brown of Vicksburg, Ian Burnette of Madison, Natalie Butler of Raymond, Lexie Cole Davis of Pearl, Gabriela Flores of Ridgeland, Deana Grossley of Jackson, Alexis Guth of Madison, Helen

Hancock of Bentonla, Kassidy Irby of Pearl, Camryn Lofton of Jackson, Patricia Marinelli of Madison, Shakahai "Lucy" Reeves of Goodman, Riana Scott of Jackson and Jasmine Jayonna Williamson of Camden.

The ceremony began with a processional of the graduates, followed by an invocation led by Marinelli, the class secretary-treasurer. Following the prayer, Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Bronwyn Martin and Director

of Health Science Allison DeWeese offered welcoming remarks to the audience.

"Becoming a nurse is never an easy journey," Dr. Martin said. "It tests your endurance, patience and empathy every step of the way. Becoming a nurse is more than a career – it's a calling. Every person you will care for has a unique story and your compassionate experience will leave a lasting impact. Continue to let your light shine bright and let others see God's good works in and through you. Congratulations and may God bless you as you begin this new chapter."

Davis, the class president, then offered remarks on behalf of the Practical Nursing Class of 2025.

"I want to give a big thank you to our friends and family for supporting us in this journey one way or another," Davis said. "I also want to thank our instructors for always having your office doors open when we needed reassurance. God has a plan for each and every one of us in this room. Whether you continue your education or go straight to work, or if you want to take some time off and say, have a baby, God will always be there to walk with you. God has a purpose for each and every one of us. Congratulations to my fellow classmates!"

Following Davis' address, PN Instructor Heather Roberts presented a few special awards. Irby was honored as valedictorian for having the

highest GPA in the class, Butler was recognized as salutatorian for having the second highest GPA and Lofton, as class historian, for having the third highest. Roberts also announced that Butler was chosen as Practical Nursing Student of the Year.

"This student has shown exceptional leadership in the clinical and classroom setting," Roberts said. "It is the highest honor the faculty can bestow upon a student in our class. This student has shown not only academic determination and competency in the clinical setting, but also humility and genuine compassion. She has demonstrated what it means to conduct one's self as a professional, in and out of the classroom."

After the awards presentation, Practical Nursing Instructor Dr. Lakesia Sutton called the students to the stage one-by-one to receive their certificates and pins. Dr. Martin and DeWeese presented certificates before Roberts pinned each student. Following the pinning, Roberts explained and led the candle lighting before Davis led the graduates in reciting the Practical Nurse's Pledge. Finally, Dr. Sutton concluded the program by presenting the Class of 2025 Marinelli gave the benediction.

For more information about the Holmes Practical Nursing program, contact Career Technical Counselor Jovonna Parker at (601) 605-3355 or jparker@holmescc.edu.

Holmes Attala Center holds pinning for PN Class of 2025

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Holmes Community College Attala Center Practical Nursing Class of 2025. They are (front row, left to right) Tawanda Mallett, Sa'Marreia Lott, Akeba Kern, Kayla Hodges, Hannah Hodge Tyler, Yobana Cordoba, Precious Clayton, Ava L. Bell, Ava C. Bell, (back row, left to right) Alicia Zollicoffer, Niaya Word, Adrienne Townsend, Ola Smith, Jessica Seals, Lakin Rushing, Sequoia Roby-Teague, Monica Riley, Cory Power, Keorra Phillips and BreAnnna McMillon.

On June 26, the Holmes Community College Practical Nursing program held its annual pinning ceremony at the Attala Center, honoring 20 students who successfully completed the intensive coursework and clinical hours required for graduation.

The ceremony opened with a processional to "Pomp and Circumstance," followed by the invocation led by Lakin Rushing. Class remarks were delivered by Cory Power, class president, and the presentation of awards was made by Dr. Christi Blair. The Pinning and Candle Lighting Ceremony was directed by program instructors Amy Lindsay and Tammy Caldwell.

Several students were recognized for exceptional achievements. Alicia Zollicoffer was named valedictorian and received the Practical Nursing Award. Lakin Rushing earned the honor of salutatorian. The Citizenship Award was presented to Kayla Hodges and Keorra

Phillips received the General Excellence and Leadership Award.

Students who were pinned included Ava C. Bell, Ava L. Bell, Precious Clayton, Akeba Kern, Kayla Hodges, Monica Riley and Alicia Zollicoffer, all of Attala County; BreAnna McMillon, Lakin Rushing and Ola Smith of Leake County; Yobana Cordoba and Cory Power of Choctaw County; Hannah Hodge Tyler, Tawanda Mallett and Sequoia Roby-Teague of Holmes County; Jessica Seals and Adrienne Townsend of Montgomery County; Sa'Marreia Lott and Keorra Phillips of Carroll County; and Niaya Word of Madison County.

The benediction was led by BreAnna McMillon, followed by a recessional.

For more information about the Holmes PN Program at the Attala Center, contact Leslie Spell at (662) 472-9098 or lspell@holmescc.edu.

8 Ridgeland students complete 8-week EMT summer class

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (front row, left to right) Morgan Webste, Mercedes Haggard, William Coleman, Desiree Wilson, (back row, left to right) Pierre Chatelain, Lyniko Boston, Mark Carrick and Elijah De Lashmet.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus celebrated the graduation of its summer 8-week Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) class on June 27.

Graduates included Lyniko Boston of Ridgeland; Mark Carrick of Vicksburg; Pierre Chatelain of Lexington; William Coleman of Flora; Elijah De Lashmet of Germantown, Tennessee; Mercedes Haggard of Jackson; Morgan Webster of Madison and Desiree Wilson of Port Gibson.

The course was led by instructors Yancy Brewer and Sandra Hultz.

The EMS program prepares students for a variety of roles in the field of

emergency medicine. The field offers graduates several commonly-used work schedules with a wide range in base salary. Students who complete the one-semester EMT course and receive certification are prepared for direct patient care and serve as the support personnel as well as operate the ambulance. They also work in emergency departments, fire departments, and physicians' offices. Current certification as an EMT often provides points toward selection for entry into other allied health programs.

Holmes Grenada Campus hosts Surgical Technology pinning ceremony

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Grenada Campus Surgical Technology Class of 2025. They are *(left to right)* Jaylynn Hall, Teslyn Ford, Kaylyn Barrett, Hannah Grace Jacks, Lee-Ann Acy, Anna Ross and Jessica McGowan.

The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus held a Pinning Ceremony for the Surgical Technology Class of 2025 on Tuesday, June 25, in the Corey Forum Auditorium. Surrounded by family, friends, and faculty, seven dedicated students were recognized for completing the Surgical

Technology program.

The ceremony began with a warm welcome from Surgical Technology Instructor Leah Mitchell, who praised the graduates for their perseverance and dedication throughout the program. She also recognized two outstanding students for academic excellence:

Anna Ross was named valedictorian for earning the highest GPA, and Hannah Grace Jacks was named salutatorian for the second-highest GPA in the class. Speeches were given by Jacks, LeeAnn Acy and Kaylyn Barrett.

Following the presentation, Mitchell called each graduate individually to receive their certificate and ceremonial pin. The honored graduates were:

Kaylyn Barrett of Attala County, LeeAnn Acy of Carroll County, Teslyn Ford of Montgomery County, Jaylynn Hall of Grenada County, Hannah Grace Jacks of Grenada County, Jessica McGowan of Tallahatchie County, and Anna Ross of Tallahatchie County.

After receiving their pins, Ross recited the Association of Surgical Technologists (AST) Code of Ethics, affirming their commitment to professionalism, integrity, and patient care in the surgical setting. The ceremony concluded with a benediction delivered by Barrett.

The Holmes Surgical Technology Program offers both classroom instruction and clinical experience to prepare students as competent entry-level surgical technologists. Coursework

includes aseptic technique, operative procedures, anatomy and physiology, microbiology, pharmacology, medical terminology, legal and ethical considerations, and technological sciences such as computers, electricity, and robotics.

The program’s goal is to equip students with cognitive knowledge, psychomotor skills, and professional behavior necessary to become valuable members of the surgical team. Upon graduation, students are eligible to apply to take the national certifying exam through the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) to become Certified Surgical Technologists.

Serving the healthcare needs of a nine-county region, the program continues to produce highly trained professionals who are well-prepared to contribute to surgical teams across Mississippi and beyond.

For more information about the Surgical Technology program on the Grenada Campus, contact Career Technical Counselor Brenda Dorris at (662) 227-2360 or bdorris@holmescc.edu.

Holmes Ridgeland Campus celebrates Surgical Technology Class of 2025

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Ridgeland Campus Surgical Technology Class of 2025 with their instructors. They are *(left to right)* Director Shea Coleman, Maisie McCoy, Jalencia Young, Jayla Palmer, Jasmine Luckett, Madison McGee, Madalynne Mcknatt, Jasmine Johnson, Amanda Qaqish, Tailynn Remmel and Instructor Christin Boyette.

The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus held a Pinning Ceremony for the Surgical Technology Class of 2025 on Tuesday, June 25, in the Corey Forum Auditorium. Surrounded by family, friends, and faculty, seven dedicated students were recognized for completing the Surgical

Technology program.

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Holmes Alum Garian Edwards accepted into prestigious Super Bowl Sports Business Program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College alumnus Garian Edwards of Grenada has been accepted into the prestigious Living Sport 2026 Big Game International Sport Business Program, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that will take him to San Francisco, California, during Super Bowl LX week. The 11-day Living Sport experience, held Jan. 31–Feb. 10, 2026, brings together over 1,500 young professionals and industry leaders for immersive networking and hands-on experiences in the global sports industry.

Edwards, who graduated from Holmes in 2024, will begin his senior year at Alcorn State University this fall, where he is majoring in athletic training and physical education.

“This opportunity is one of a lifetime,” Edwards said. “Not only do I get to repre-

sent my family and friends, but I also get to represent my hometown of Grenada, Holmes CC and Alcorn State. This experience will teach me leadership, professionalism and give me experience like no other within the sports industry, and I’m very excited!”

During his time at Alcorn, Edwards has served as a Brave Ambassador and worked as a student trainer with the sports medicine team at the NFL HBCU Legacy Bowl, which was held in February. He was recently selected to serve as a volunteer athletic trainer for Alabama A&M during the 2025–26 academic year, where he will assist their athletic department and sports medicine program through the Student Aid Program. This summer, he will work as a fitness consultant for youth ages 8–18 at Camp Micah in Maine.

At Holmes, Edwards left a lasting impact as a leader and scholar. He began his academic journey on the Grenada Campus before transferring to Goodman, where he served as an Ambassador. He was actively involved in MOSAIC, the Student Government Association (SGA) and the Behavioral and Social Sciences Honors program. He earned an Associate of Arts degree with a concentration in athletic training.

Looking ahead, Edwards aspires to become a certified athletic trainer and work at the professional level in leagues such as the NFL, NBA or MLB.

To help make his San Francisco journey a reality, Edwards has launched a GoFundMe campaign to raise funds for travel, food and other expenses associated with the program, <https://gofund.me/cf70b4ad>.

Holmes Alumni recognized at Dental Hygiene White Coat Ceremony

From Staff Reports/Photos



Four Holmes Community College alumni were recognized for their accomplishments during the University of Mississippi Medical Center’s (UMMC) Dental Hygiene Program White Coat Ceremony, held Friday, May 30, at the Nelson Student Union in Jackson.

Jalen Carter of Jackson, Radleigh Woods of Winona, Brooke Anne Renfroe of Madison and Maggie Wingfield of Canton – all

former Holmes students – received their white coats, signifying the transition from classroom instruction to clinical training in their journey to become dental hygienists.

Part of the UMMC School of Dentistry, Mississippi’s only dental school, the Dental Hygiene Program prepares students with the knowledge and skills needed for careers in preventive oral health care. The White Coat Ceremony is a symbolic milestone in healthcare education, celebrating students’ commitment to compassionate patient care and professional standards in the clinical setting.

Holmes congratulates these outstanding alumni on their continued academic and professional success.

Holmes Ridgeland celebrates Paramedic graduates

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus Paramedic graduates. They are *(front row, left to right)* Jermaine Winston, Jessica Tucker, Nicholas Stump, Michael Campbell, Walter Beamon, *(middle row, left to right)* Recardo Johnson, Quinyia Taylor, Kimberly Phillips, Shanta McNair, Marlin Nickson, *(back row, left to right)* Jonathan Phillips, Joseph South, Mark Greenwood, Vincent McRaven and Peyton Grewe.

Holmes Community College honored 17 paramedic students during a graduation ceremony Monday, Aug. 4, at 3 p.m. in the McGowan Workforce Training Center on the Ridgeland Campus.

Family, friends and faculty gathered to celebrate the graduates, who completed the rigorous program designed to prepare them for state certification and careers in emergency medical services. The program is led by EMS Program

Director Mark Galtelli, along with instructors Yancy Brewer and Sandra Hultz.

The 2025 paramedic graduates include Walter Beamon of Vicksburg, Michael Campbell of Pearl, Mark Greenwood of Vaughan, Peyton Grewe of Flora, Recardo Johnson of Brandon, Vincent McRaven of Vicksburg, Shanta McNair of Columbus, Marlin Nickson of Vicksburg, Jonathan Phillips of Mendenhall, Kimberly Phillips of Amory, Joseph South of Canton, Nicholas Stump of Vicksburg, Quinyia Taylor of Canton, Alysha Thrasher of Canton, Jessica Tucker of Meridian, Daniel Weeks of Utica and Jermaine Winston of Madison. Nicholas Stump was named Paramedic Student of the Year, an award recognizing the student who excels academically and clinically while demonstrating exceptional character through respect for and encouragement of others. Brewer presented the award to Stump during the ceremony.

During his remarks, Galtelli praised the graduates for their perseverance through an intense program. “I want to congratulate you guys on

the work that you have done,” Galtelli said. “It is nothing short of a feat, the amount of effort it takes to get through a paramedic program. A year might seem like a long time, but in the blink of an eye, it’s gone.

“You will be exhausted, mentally fatigued and ready to quit just about every day, but when you look back after your accomplishments, you will appreciate the last year. Hopefully you’ve made friendships and acquaintances that you’ll carry with you for the rest of your career.

“Our program is nearing its 25th year and has graduated over 470 students, many of whom now serve across Mississippi and beyond, providing outstanding care. You’ve got big shoes to fill, and I know you can do it. What you’ve done doesn’t stop today—this is a field that grows every day, and your success depends on what you put into it.”

Following his address, Galtelli presented certificates to the graduates. For more information about the paramedic program or upcoming classes, visit <https://holmescc.edu/career-technical/emergency-medical-sciences/>.

Holmes congratulates Grenada Summer EMT Graduates

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are *(front row, left to right)* Lakendra Lewis, Landon Turner, Heaven Latham, Kori Edwards, Kayden Walters, *(back row, left to right)* Edward Jernigan, Wesley Calvert, Michael Cole, Will Tharp and Jayla Campbell.

Holmes Community College recognized the Grenada Summer Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) class for completing their training and becoming eligible to take the National Registry Exam for EMT certification.

The 2025 graduates include Lakendra Lewis, Landon Turner, Jayla Campbell, Wesley Calvert, Edward Jernigan, Michael Cole, Kayden Walters, Will Tharp, Heaven Latham and Kori Edwards.

Special recognition was given to Will Tharp, who achieved the highest overall grade average in the class.

Instructor Raymond Liberto led the program, which prepares students for entry-level positions in emergency

medical services by teaching life-saving skills, patient care techniques and emergency response protocols. Holmes’ EMT program combines classroom instruction with hands-on training to ensure students are fully prepared for real-world emergencies. Upon completion, graduates are qualified to take the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) exam to become certified EMTs.

For more information about Holmes’ EMT program or to learn about upcoming classes, visit <https://holmescc.edu/programs/career-technical-programs/ems---emergency-medical-technician/>.

Lady Bulldogs knock off No. 2 Northwest

From Staff Reports/Photos



The No. 4 Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs picked up a huge MACCC win at home 2-1 over No. 2 Northwest Mississippi Community College on Oct. 14.

Holmes moves to 12-1 and 7-1 in the MACCC.

Brooklynn Samonski scored both goals in the game for the Lady Bulldogs. She scored the first goal on an assist from Emma Korhonen in the 24th minute. She added her second goal in the 53rd minute on an assist from Tyler Grace Sims.

Lilly Callum got the start for the Lady

Bulldogs and played 45 minutes with four saves. Aly Vancor played the final 45 and had four saves and gave up one goal.

Against No. 5 Jones on Oct. 11, the Lady Bulldogs won 2-1.

Zion Causey scored in the 40th minute on an assist from Korhonen. Jones scored in the 66th minute. Sims gave the Lady Bulldogs the lead in the 86th minute on an assist from Brenna Sanford.

Callum and Vancor both had two saves in 45 minutes. Callum gave up the goal.

Bulldogs knock off the Rangers, 4-2

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs picked up MACCC win at home on Tuesday, Oct. 14 against Northwest Mississippi Community College, 4-2.

Holmes will play Dallas College Cedar Valley on Saturday, Oct. 18 at noon.

Jacob Roberts scored in the 8th minute to put the Bulldogs up 1-0. Bryan Silva scored on back to back goals to put the Bulldogs up 3-0 at halftime. Victor Piccone had two assists in the first half while Hunter Freeny added

the other.

The Rangers scored in the 52nd minute before Freeny scored a goal of his own in the 77th minute. The Rangers scored the final goal in the 84th minute.

Jesus Estrada started in goal for the Bulldogs had five saves.

Against Jones, the Bulldogs fell 2-1. Freeny had a goal for the Bulldogs on an assist from Silva in the 87th minute.

Holmes defeats Gulf Coast, 2-1

From Staff Reports/Photos



The No. 4 Holmes Lady Bulldogs picked up a 2-1 win at home on Friday, Oct. 3 over the No. 10 Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Lady Bulldogs in MACCC action.

The Lady Bulldogs took a 1-0 lead in the 41st minute when Akala Jacobs scored on an assist from Tyler Grace Sims.

Holmes went up 2-0 in the 59th minute when Kaylee Avant headed in an assist from Maddie Caldwell.

Gulf Coast's only score came in the 72nd minute.

Aly Vancor got the start and went 45

minutes and had one save. Lilly Callum played the final 45 minutes and had five saves and had one goal against in the match.

Against East Central on Friday, Sept. 26, the Lady Bulldogs fell behind 2-0 early but scored three straight goals for the win.

Tyler Grace Sims, Zion Causey and Mallory Sutton each had goals in the match. Sims had two assists and Sidney Clare Sing added the other.

Bulldogs fall to Bobcats, 38-28

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs fell in Ellisville Saturday, Sept. 27 to the Jones College Bobcats, 38-28, in MACCC action.

This brought Holmes to 2-3 overall. Jones scored with 5 minutes left in

the first quarter on a rushing touchdown. After the extra point, the Bobcats led 7-0.

The Bobcats went up 14-0 with 1:17 left in the first on a passing touchdown and PAT.

The Bulldogs' first score of the game came early in the second quarter when Jeremy Atkins intercepted a pass and raced in from 22 yards out. Colston Bennett's extra point was good. Jones led 14-7 with 14:53 left in the second.

The Bobcats answered the score on a passing touchdown and PAT to go up 21-7 with 9:48 left in the second.

The Bulldogs scored with 5:45 left in the second when Chase Richardson found Dalyn Jackson from 31 yards out. Bennett's extra point was good, and Jones led 21-14.

The Bobcats scored again before halftime on a rushing touchdown to lead 28-14 after a successful PAT with 3:03 remaining in the quarter.

The Bulldogs got on the scoreboard with 10:10 to play in the third when Richardson found Jackson again, this time from 17 yards out. Bennett's extra point was good, and Jones led 28-21.

The Bobcats increased the lead to 31-21 on a field goal with 7:36 left in

the third.

Jones scored with 6:05 left in the third on a rushing touchdown. The extra point was good, and Jones led 38-21.

The Bulldogs' final score came with 9:52 left in the game when Richardson found Tristin Purnell from 17 yards out. Bennett's extra point was good.

Richardson finished the game 26-of-52 for 293 yards and three touchdowns. K.J. Miller led the Bulldogs in rushing with 90 yards on 16 carries. Jekerious Williams led the Bulldogs with four catches for 63 yards while J.J. Harrell had three catches for 48 yards and Jackson had two catches for 48 yards and two touchdowns.

E.J. Segrest had 15 tackles to lead the Bulldogs including 2.5 tackles for loss. Kebian Gilmore had 10 tackles and one TFL.

Bulldogs knock off NE Tigers, 43-27

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs improved to 2-0 in the North Division at home on Thursday, Sept. 18, with a 43-27 win over the Northeast Mississippi Community College Tigers behind three passing touchdowns and one rushing touchdown from sophomore quarterback Chase

Richardson.

Northeast got on the scoreboard first in the game on a rushing touchdown. The extra point was good, and the Tigers led 7-0 with 7:02 left in the first quarter.

The Bulldogs responded to tie the game as J.J. Harrell scored from a yard

out with 3:14 to play after Colston Bennett's extra point was good.

Holmes went up 14-7 early in the second when Richardson found D.J. Welch on an 85-yard touchdown pass. Bennett's kick was good with 13:02 left in the second quarter.

After a Northeast fumble, Bennett connected on a 20-yard field goal to extend the Holmes lead to 17-7 with 7:31 left in the first half.

The Tigers cut the lead to three at 17-14 with 4:27 left in the first half when the Tigers scored on a passing touchdown and PAT.

Northeast took the lead at 21-17 with 9:49 left in the third as the Tigers added a rushing touchdown and extra point.

Holmes then answered the score as Richardson scampered in from four yards out. The Bulldogs led 24-21 with 7:01 left in the third.

On the next possession, Richardson found K.J. Miller on a 56-yard screen pass for a touchdown and the lead

increased to 30-21 with 4:53 left in the third.

The Bulldogs continued to air it out in the fourth as Richardson connected with Harrell on a 58-yard touchdown pass to give the Bulldogs a 37-21 lead with 9:26 left in the game.

Northeast scored with 2:19 on a rushing touchdown. The try for two failed.

The Bulldog defense got the final score fo the game when Jeremy Atkins picked off the Tigers and raced in from 60 yards out. The extra point failed.

Richardson finished 31-of-47 passing for 413 yards with three touchdowns and added 80 yards rushing on 18 carries and a touchdown. Welch had three catches for 89 yards, Harrell had three catches for 78 yards and Miller had three catches for 70 yards. E.J. Segrest was credited with 13 tackles while Atkins had nine and Kendrick Davis and Kam'Ron Robinson each had seven.

Bulldogs battle for 2-2 draw with Meridian

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs battled with Meridian Community College in Meridian on Friday, Sept. 19, for a 2-2 draw in the MACCC contest.

Hunter Freeny scored a goal in the first and second halves for the Bulldogs.

Jesus Estrada played 90 minutes in goal and gave up two goals and had nine saves in the contest.

Lady Bulldogs win 5-0 vs. Meridian

From Staff Reports/Photos



The No. 3 Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs improved to 7-0 on the season and 2-0 in the MACCC after a 5-0 win in Meridian Friday night, Sept. 19, over Meridian Community College.

Tyler Grace Sims scored to put Holmes up 1-0 in the 20th minute. Kate Gray Nesbit scored in the 25th minute on an assist from Mallory Sutton to put Holmes up 2-0 at halftime.

Anna Beth Korhonen got an assist

from her sister, Emma, in the 50th to put Holmes up 3-0. Maddie Caldwell scored on a penalty kick in the 56th minute to put Holmes up 4-0. The final goal came in the 73rd when Sutton scored on an assist from Rosamaria Ibarra.

Lilly Callum played 45 minutes in goal and had four saves. Aly Vancor played the final 45 minutes and had one save.

Caldwell named Holmes CC's Player of the Week

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes freshman midfielder Maddie Caldwell on the women's soccer team was named Holmes CC's Player of the Week for her play the last week of September.

Caldwell, a Jackson Prep product from Brandon, finished the week with one assist and an outstanding defensive effort in the Lady Bulldog's win over Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

Richardson named Holmes CC’s Player of the Week

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes sophomore quarterback Chase Richardson was named Holmes CC's Player of the Week for his play the second week of September.

Richardson, a Winona High product from Winona, threw for 200 yards and had four touchdown passes in Holmes' 53-14 win over Coahoma last Thursday in Clarksdale. The Bulldogs host the

Northeast Tigers Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in Goodman.

Previous winners include Kaylee Avant and Kam'Ron Robinson the first week of September, and Mallory Sutton and Joao Victor DeMoraes the last week of August.

No. 3 Holmes defeats Itawamba, 3-0

From Staff Reports/Photos



The No. 3 Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs started MAC-CC play off with a 3-0 win at home on Sept. 16 over Itawamba Community College.

The Lady Bulldogs got on the scoreboard in the first half when Tyler Grace Sims scored on a Mallory Sutton assist in the 29th minute. The Lady Bulldogs scored again in the 39th minute when

Raven Pernell scored on an assist from Jessica Adamson. Holmes led 2-0 at halftime.

Maddie Caldwell scored on a penalty kick in the 60th minute for the last goal of the match.

Aly Vancor got the start in goal and had two saves in 45 minutes. Lilly Callum played the final 45 and had one save.

Bulldogs pick up two wins in Birmingham

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs picked up two wins in Birmingham on Friday, Sept. 12 and Saturday, Sept. 13. Holmes defeated Central Georgia Technical College, 3-0, on Friday and Oxford College of Emory University, 2-0, on Saturday.

Against Central Georgia, Victor Piccone, Alejandro Robles and Brady Peacock each had goals and Piccone

added an assist.

Jaydon Smith played 90 minutes in goal and had four saves.

Against Oxford-Emory, Piccone and Brandon Shaffer each had goals and each had an assist.

Jesus Estrada played 90 minutes in goal and had five saves.

Bulldogs get 4-0 win over Andrew College

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs picked up a 4-0 win at home on Sept. 6 over Andrew College.

Neither team was able to score in the first half.

Hunter Freeny got the Bulldogs on the scoreboard in the 49th minute on an assist from Alejandro Robles. Riley Moon then scored on a Bryan Silva assist a minute later to put Holmes up 2-0.

Freeny got his second goal of the day in the 55th minute to put Holmes up 3-0. Brandon Shaffer scored on an assist from Victor Piccone in the 69th minute to end all scoring.

Jesus Estrada played 90 minutes in goal and had three saves.

In a match Thursday, Sept. 4 vs. Dallas College-Mountain View, the Bulldogs fell 1-0.

Avant, Robinson named Holmes Players of the Week for Week 2

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes sophomore midfielder Kaylee Avant on the women's soccer team and Kam'Ron Robinson on the football team were named Players of the Week for their play the first week of September..

Avant, a Newton County product from Decatur, finished the week with two goals and three assists. No. 3 Holmes defeated St. Louis, 8-0, and No. 17 Northeast, 2-0. Sutton scored three

goals in the Lady Bulldogs' three wins this week. Holmes defeated Southern Union State, 1-0, Pensacola State, 7-0, and Dallas-Brookhaven, 2-0.

Robinson, a Winona High product from Winona, had 11 tackles including one tackle for loss, one forced fumble and an interception return 61 yards for a touchdown in the Bulldogs' 30-13 loss at Co-Lin.

Bulldogs get 53-14 win over Coahoma to open division play

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs moved to 1-0 in the North Division in Clarksdale on Thursday night, Sept. 11, with a 53-14 win over the Coahoma Community College Tigers.

The Bulldogs were on the scoreboard

first in the first quarter when Chase Richardson found B.J. Johnson from 20 yards out. Dan Lindsay's extra point was no good, and Holmes led 6-0 with 9:37 left in the quarter.

The Tigers took the lead with 5:55 left in the quarter and a score and PAT.

The Bulldogs took the lead for good with 4:08 left in the first when Jeremy Atkins recovered a Coahoma fumble in the endzone for a touchdown. Lindsay's extra point was good, and Holmes led 13-7.

Holmes went up 19-7 with 37 seconds left in the first when Cam Joseph caught a Richardson pass and raced in from 13 yards out. Lindsay's PAT was no good.

The Bulldogs scored again 22 seconds later when Nicholas Kilpatrick intercepted a Tiger pass and raced in from 27 yards out. The extra point was no good, and Holmes led 25-7.

Holmes scored with 1:45 left in the second when J.J. Harrell ran it in from four yards out. Colston Bennett's extra point was good, and Holmes led 32-7 at halftime.

The lead increased to 39-7 with 13:34 left in the third when Richardson

found Johnson again, this time from 32 yards out. Bennett's extra point was good.

The Bulldogs added another score with 8 minutes left in the third when Richardson found DeCorey Knight on a 56-yard pass. Bennett's extra point was good, and Holmes led 46-7.

The final score of the night came when Cole McCarty connected with Jamarius Grayter from nine yards out. Bennett's extra point was good.

Coahoma scored with 11 minutes to play to make the final score, 53-14.

The Bulldogs amassed over 500 yards of total offense. Richardson was 18-of-29 for 252 yards and four touchdowns while McCarty was 5-of-6 for 52 yards and one touchdown. Knight had two catches for 64 yards while Johnson had two catches for 53 yards and Joseph had four catches for 46 yards.

Holmes takes two matches in St. Louis

From Staff Reports/Photos



The No. 3 Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs picked up two wins in St. Louis, Missouri, on Friday, Sept. 5, and Sunday, Sept. 7. Holmes defeated St. Louis, 8-0, on Friday and No. 17 Northeast, 2-0, on Sunday.

Versus Northeast, the Lady Bulldogs scored two goals before halftime to hold on for a 2-0 win.

Emma Korhonen scored in the 10th minute on an assist from Mallory Sutton. Tyler Grace Sims scored on a penalty kick in the 40th minute.

Aly Vancor got the start in goal and had no saves. Lilly Callum played the final 45 minutes and had three saves.

Versus St. Louis, the Lady Bulldogs

held a 3-0 lead at halftime. Kaylee Avant, Kate Gray Nesbit and Anna Beth Korhonen each had goals in the first half. Nesbit, Emma Korhonen and Avant also had assists.

Holmes scored five goals in the second half. Emma Korhonen, Maddie Caldwell, Nesbit, Adams and Avant each scored in the second half with Tyler Grace Sims, Mallory Sutton, Avant and Rosemaria Ibarra each having assists with Avant having two in the second half and three total for the game.

Callum got the start in goal and had three saves. Vancor played the final 45 minutes and had no saves.

Bulldogs fall to Wolves, 30-13

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs fell in Wesson to the Co-piah-Lincoln Community College Wolves, 30-13, in a MACCC contest on Sept. 4.

Co-Lin scored on a rushing touchdown in the first quarter to go up 7-0 after the made PAT. They increased the lead to 10-0 later in the quarter on field goal.

The Wolves then recorded two safeties to go up 14-0.

Holmes answered on the Wolves next drive when Kam'Ron Robinson intercepted a pass and raced in from 60 yards out. The extra point was blocked,

and Co-Lin led 14-6 with 4:15 left in the second.

The Wolves added another field goal to lead 17-6 at halftime.

Co-Lin scored early in the third on a rushing touchdown to go up 23-6.

Holmes got an offensive touchdown with 11:50 to play in the third quarter when Chase Richardson found Cayden Burger from 65 yards out. The PAT was good, and Co-Lin led 23-13. The Wolves answered back to score their final points of the night on a rushing touchdown. The PAT was good and Co-Lin led 30-13.

Lady Bulldogs get 2-0 win over Dallas-Brookhaven

From Staff Reports/Photos



The No. 4 Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs improved to 3-0 on the season Aug. 31 with a 2-0 win over Dallas College-Brookhaven at home. Dallas-Brookhaven is the No. 3 team in NJCAA Division III soccer.

Holmes took a 1-0 lead in the 33rd minute on a goal from Kate Gray Nesbit on an assist from Tyler Grace Sims. Holmes led 1-0 at halftime.

The Lady Bulldogs took a 2-0 in the

72nd minute on a goal from Mallory Sutton on an assist from Maddie Caldwell.

Aly Vancor got the start and went 45 minutes in goal with one save. Lilly Callum had the remaining 45 minutes in goal and had two saves.

Bulldogs fall in season opener to Southwest

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs dropped their MACCC opener at home Thursday night, Aug. 28, to the Southwest Mississippi Community College Bears, 34-6. Southwest got on the scoreboard with

11 seconds left in the first quarter on a touchdown run. The PAT was good, and the Bears led 7-0.

The Bears added a field goal with 1:45 left before halftime to take a 10-0 lead at halftime.

The Bears increased the lead to 17-0 with 13:23 left in the third on a rushing touchdown. The PAT made it 17-0. They added another rushing touchdown with 1:25 left in the quarter on a rushing touchdown. the PAT made it 24-0.

Southwest added another score early in the fourth on a passing touchdown. The PAT made it 31-0 with 9:39 left in the game.

The Bulldogs only score of the game came with 7:19 left in the game when

Cole McCarty found Cayden Burger in the left corner of the endzone for the touchdown. The PAT was blocked by the Bears.

Southwest's final points came with 4:40 to play on a field goal to end all scoring.

Chase Richardson finished 15-of-25 for 89 yards while McCarty was 5-of-10 for 79 yards and a touchdown. Dalyn Jackson led the Bulldogs in receiving with 80 yards on four catches. Eddie Holly was credited with 12 tackles while Ja'Marion Bennett and E.J. Segrest each had eight and Kam'Ron Robinson had seven.

Sutton, DeMoraes named Players of the Week for Week One

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes freshman forward Mallory Sutton of Saint Amant, La. and freshman forward Joao Victor DeMoraes of Utica were named Players of the Week for their play the last week of August.

Sutton scored three goals in the Lady Bulldogs' three wins during the last week of August. Holmes defeated Southern Union State, 1-0, Pensacola State, 7-0, and Dallas-Brookhaven, 2-0. DeMoraes scored three goals and

had two assists in one match that week. Holmes played two matches but DeMoraes didn't play in the second. He had three goals and two assists against Tougaloo on Tuesday, Aug. 26. The Bulldogs defeated Tougaloo, 15-1, and Northeast Alabama, 1-0, on Saturday, Aug. 30.

No. 4 Lady Bulldogs pick up 7-0 win over No. 20 Pensacola State

From Staff Reports/Photos



Weather forced the Lady Bulldogs' match with No. 20 Pensacola State to be moved to Key City Park in Vicksburg, but the Bulldogs didn't let the loss of the homefield advantage bother them as they won 7-0 on Aug. 29.

Holmes got on the scoreboard with two goals in the 12th minute. The first came from Mallory Sutton on an assist from Kate DeAngelo. Kaylee Avant followed that up with a goal on an assist from Kate Gray Nesbit. The Lady Bulldogs went up 3-0 in the 27th minute when Akala Jacobs scored on an assist from Jessica Adamson. Avant scored her second goal the next minute

on an assist from Emma Korhonen to put Holmes up 4-0. Anna Beth Korhonen then scored on an assist from Avant to put the Lady Bulldogs up 5-0 at halftime.

Holmes scored twice in the second half. Maddie Caldwell scored on a PK in the 56th minute and Nesbit scored on a Sidney Clare Sing assist in the 75th minute.

Lilly Callum got the start in goal and played the first 45 minute and had no saves or goals against. Aly Vancor played the final 45 minutes and had no saves or goals against.

Shorthanded Bulldogs defeat Northeast Alabama, 1-0

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs played shorthanded for the final 60 minutes but held on for a 1-0 victory against Northeast Alabama at home on Aug. 30.

Hayden Boykin got the Bulldogs' only score of the match in the 30th

minute on an assist from Riley Moon. Jesus Estrada played 90 minutes in goal and had six saves in the match.

Bulldogs football season opened Aug. 28

From Staff Reports/Photos



The 2024 Holmes Community College Bulldogs returned to the MACCC playoffs for the first time since 2002, and 25 returning players geared up to keep the momentum heading into the 2025 season. Holmes kicked off the 2025 season vs. Southwest in Goodman Thursday, Aug. 28 at 6:30 p.m.

The Bulldogs finished the 2024 campaign, 7-3 overall and 4-2 in the North Division. The Bulldogs averaged 371.6 yards per game (282.3 passing and 89.3 rushing). The Bulldogs were second in the NJCAA in passing yards per game (282.3), 11th in points per game (33.1) and seventh in passing touchdowns (24).

Offensive returners include: Hubert Broadnax, lineman, Gulfport; Cayden Burger, receiver, Petal; Brandon Elam, lineman, Brandon; B.J. Johnson, receiver, Greene County; Cam Joseph, receiver, Gulfport; Sean McGill, lineman, Gulfport; Braylon McKinion, lineman, Northwest Rankin; Kayden Miller, wide receiver/running back,

Greene County; Cole Parker, lineman, MRA; Tristin Purnell, receiver, Winona; Chase Richardson, quarterback, Winona; Jaylin Rogers, lineman, Union; Easton Sartin, running back, Bogue Chitto; and Jekerious Williams, receiver, Grenada.

Richardson finished 10th in the NJCAA with 181 passing yards per game (169-of-275). He threw for 16 touchdowns in his rookie campaign. Miller led the Bulldogs in rushing with 224 yards and one touchdown while Richardson had 218 yards and five touchdowns.

Of the returning receivers, Johnson led with 377 yards on 27 receptions while Burger had 318 yards on 37 catches, Purnell had 291 yards on 20 catches and Cam Joseph had 209 yards on 13 catches.

Offensive newcomers include: Jordyn Ashford, lineman, Choctaw County; Dewayne Brown, lineman, Yazoo County; Krisjeohn Burks, receivers, Gulfport; Jaliel Cameron, receiver,

Quitman; Erik Gilkey, quarterback, Canton; Jamarius Grayer, athlete, Copiah Academy; Zauri Hughes, tight end, Hillcrest, Ala.; Jer'Kel Ivy, receiver, East Webster; Dalyn Jackson, receiver, Demopolis, Ala./UWA; Zion Jones, lineman, Heidelberg; DeCorey Knight, athlete, Vicksburg; Cole McCarty, quarterback, Moody, Ala.; Don McGee, lineman, Yazoo County; Jon Stephens, lineman, Mary G. Montgomery, Ala.; D.J. Welch, receiver, Noxubee County; and J.J. Harrell, receiver, North Panola.

Defensive returners include: Jeremy Atkins, defensive back, West Jefferson, La.; Malik Bell, defensive line, Oxford; Montaine Bonner, defensive line, Oxford; Landon Carson, defensive lineman, Frisco, Texas; Kebian Gilmore, linebacker, Clarksdale; P.J. Pace, defensive back, Kosciusko; Chance Richardson, defensive back, Winona; Kam'Ron Robinson, defensive back, Winona; Jake Rodgers, linebacker, West Lauderdale; and E.J. Segrest, linebacker, Copiah Academy.

Segrest finished the 2024 season with 59 tackles including seven TFL and 2.5 sacks and one interception return for a touchdown. Pace had 50 tackles and two pass breakups. Gilmore had 33 tackles including 2.5 TFL and .5 sacks and Atkins had 22 tackles with three breakups and two fumble recoveries.

Defensive newcomers include: Ja'Marion Bennett, defensive back, Hillcrest, Ala.; Martavious Brown, linebacker, McComb; Jamyrans Cross, defensive back, Kosciusko; DeKasei Crump, defensive back, Warren Central; Jamoris Davis, lineman, Coral Shores, Fla.; Kendrick Davis, linebacker, Hillcrest, Ala./UNA transfer; Sebastian Ford II, lineman/linebacker,

Pascagoula; Ekeeleum Grant, linebacker, Holmes County Central; Tyricco Henderson, lineman, Canton; Jayden Hicks, defensive end/linebacker, New Albany; Eddie Holly, linebacker, Coral Shores, Fla.; Kamar Houston, defensive back, Oxford; Zauri Hughes, defensive end, Hillcrest, Ala.; Jaylon Ina, lineman, Franklin, La.; Nicholas Kilpatrick, defensive back, William Raines/WCU; Elijah O'Briant, linebacker, East Webster; Jordan O'Briant, defensive back, East Webster; Trey Pettway, lineman, Williamson, Ala.; L.J. Reynolds, lineman, Warren Central; Jalen Smith, linebacker, Canton; Jamar Teague, defensive back, Holmes County Central; Malachi Williams, linebacker, Holmes County Central; Nireek Sharpe, defensive back, Stockbridge, Ga; and Kaden Briggs, lineman, Pleasure Ridge Park.

Kicker Dan Lindsay (Central Holmes) returns at kicker for the Bulldogs. Joining him are newcomers Connor Helms (Winona) at longsnapper and Colston Bennett as kicker/punter.

Head Coach Marcus Wood is in his fourth year as head coach of the Bulldogs. Returning coaches from the 2024 staff include C.J. Johnson as Assistant Head Coach/Defensive Coordinator/Linebacker Coach; Kam Myers as Offensive Coordinator/Wide Receivers Coach; and DeAndre Johnson as Quarterbacks Coach and Pass Game Coordinator. New coaches include: Jermaine Jones as Recruiting Coordinator and Offensive Line Coach; Derek Welch as Special Teams Coordinator and Defensive Backs Coach; and Brandon Varner as Strength and Conditioning Coordinator and Defensive Line Coach.

Lady Bulldogs open the season with a 1-0 over Southern Union

From Staff Reports/Photos



The No. 4 Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs soccer team opened the 2025 regular season with a 1-0 victory over Southern Union State Community College on Tuesday, Aug. 26, in Opelika, Alabama.

Freshman forward Mallory Sutton netted the game's only goal in the 11th minute off an assist from Anna Beth Korhonen, giving Holmes the early advantage. The Lady Bulldogs' defense held strong the rest of the way, with

goalkeepers Aly Vancor and Lily Callum combining for five saves. Vancor started the first half and recorded two saves, while Callum took over after halftime and notched three.

The Lady Bulldogs entered the season ranked No. 4 in the NJCAA preseason poll, building on a tradition of success that includes multiple MACCC titles and deep postseason runs.

Bulldogs roll past Tougaloo, 15-1

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Bulldogs improved to 2-1 on the young season after picking up a 15-1 win in Ridgeland on Aug. 26

the contest.

The Bulldogs scored first in the match on a goal from Alejandro Robles on a free kick in the third minute. Tougaloo scored their only goal in the match in the 21st minute. Hayden Boykin put the Bulldogs ahead 2-1 for good in the 37th minute. Holmes led 2-1 at halftime.

The Bulldogs then scored 13 goals in the second half including three each from Piccone, DeMoraes and Moon. DeMoraes made it 3-1 in the 49th minute. Robles got his second goal in the 51st minute before Bryan Silva scored to make it 5-1 in the 54th minute. DeMoraes scored twice in the 65th min-

ute to put Holmes up 7-1 before Silva scored again to make it 8-1 in the 69th minute.

Landon Campbell made it 9-1 in the 70th minute before Piccone scored three straight goals (70th, 71st, 79th) to make it 12-1. Riley Moon then scored three straight goals (85th, 89th, 89th) to make it 15-1.

DeMoraes and Moises Hernandez each had two assists while Campbell, Tyler Bogard, Brady Peacock, Silva, Piccone and Landon Slaven each had one assist. Jaydon Smith got the start in goal and had no saves and one goal given up in 45 minutes. Jesus Estrada played the final 45 and had three saves.

Bulldog Football Radio Network began its 15th season on the air on Aug. 28

From Staff Reports/Photos



Cliff Barker and Breck Riley

The Holmes Community College Football Radio Network began its 15th season on Aug. 28 with the season opener in Goodman against Southwest

Mississippi Community College at 6:30 p.m.

The partnership consists of radio stations (WLIN 103.7 FM in Kosciusko,

WQXB 100.1 FM in Grenada, WTWZ 102.5 FM and 1120 AM in Jackson) and reaches nearly one million listeners.

WLIN (103.7 FM) recently changed their frequency from 101.1 to 103.7 and now reaches all or parts of Attala, Holmes, Montgomery, Carroll, Winston, Choctaw, Webster, Leake, Neshoba and Madison counties and reaches over 100,000 people. WTWZ (102.5 FM and 1120 AM) covers Madison, Hinds and Rankin counties and reaches nearly half a million listeners while WQXB (100.1 FM) located in Grenada, covers Grenada, Carroll, Montgomery, Webster, Quitman, Tallahatchie, Leflore, Calhoun, Yalobusha, Panola and Lafayette counties and reaches over 350,000 people.

Breck Riley began his fifth year as the

Voice of the Bulldogs and 13th year as the Voice of the Kosciusko Whippets. Cliff Barker began his seventh year as color commentator for the Bulldogs. He is also in his 10th year doing Tri-County Academy football.

You can follow the Bulldogs at HolmesAthletics on Facebook and Twitter. Selected games will also be live streamed at holmesccmedia.com. You can follow all sports at holmesathletics.com.

2025 Holmes Community College Football Schedule (remaining games):

Sept. 27, at Jones, 2 p.m.

Oct. 9, at Miss. Delta, 7 p.m.

Oct. 16, vs. Itawamba, 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 23, vs. Northwest, 3 p.m.

Oct. 30, at East Miss., 7 p.m.

Bulldogs improve to 1-1 on the season

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs improved to 1-1 on the season after picking up a 3-1 win over Enterprise State Community College in Mobile, Ala., on Friday, Aug. 22.

Bryan Silva got the Bulldogs on the scoreboard in the first half on an assist from Moises Hernandez. Holmes led 1-0 at halftime.

The Bulldogs then added a second goal when Brandon Shaffer got the

rebound on a PK and scored to make it 2-0 in the second half. Brady Peacock added the final goal of the night scoring after a deflection from a Enterprise State player.

Jaydon Smith got the start in goal and gave up one goal and had three saves.

In the season opener in Ridgeland on Thursday, Aug. 21, the Bulldogs fell to Wallace-Hanceville, 1-0.

Chamblee named head coach of the Bulldogs baseball team

From Staff Reports/Photos



Winona native Adam Chamblee has joined the Holmes Community College family as the new head coach of the Bulldogs baseball team.

Chamblee brings extensive knowledge of the MACCC after serving as head coach at Copiah-Lincoln for the past three seasons. In two of the three seasons, Co-Lin finished sixth in the conference and made a run in the Region 23 Tournament.

He said facility upgrades and a major focus on needs for the baseball program by Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey and the administration drew him to the position. He added that it shows that Holmes is extremely serious about athletics and in particular, baseball.

“This is almost like home for me,” he said. “growing up in Winona in the Holmes district just allows me to know the people and area so well. There is plenty of tradition throughout the

college and baseball program. It was an opportunity to get to a place that's closer to home and a place that feels like home.”

Chamblee said his parents, Brad and Ashlie, are also Holmes alumni. “It’s a place that runs deep as far as connections,” he said.

Prior to Co-Lin, he served as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at East Central Community College for three seasons. At East Central, Chamblee helped coach the Warriors to an NJCAA Region 23 Runner-Up finish in 2021 and saw the team ranked No.5 in the nation during the 2022 season.

He was also director of player development at Nicholls State University and also was an assistant at Meridian Community College.

After his high school career at Winona High School, Chamblee played

baseball for the University of West Alabama. He was a member of the 2015 Gulf South Conference Championship team, served as team captain, and was Gulf South Conference Player of the Week. At UWA, he earned a bachelor's degree in physical education with an emphasis in sports management.

The 2025 Bulldogs made the Region 23 playoffs this season for the first time since 2011, and Chamblee wants to keep that momentum.

His first objective is reaching out to the 2025-26 Bulldog baseball players. “I think one of the first things is reaching out to current players and telling them what our vision for the program will be,” he said. “congratulating the returning players on the year they had last year.” We want those types of years every year and let them know they are in good hands. We are going to work and grow the program as much as we possibly can.”

He looks forward to fall workouts and getting to work to see where the Bulldogs stand. He also says recruiting is huge. “We'll be contacting guys with offers and buckle down on the 2026 class. Showing face and being out there is important and being on the road as much as we can.

“Getting guys that fit what we want at Holmes which is what I'd say is a blue-collar mindset...those who want to be very serious about college baseball and really work. They need to be focused on what they're doing on the field and in the classroom. Each player will be expected to play the game with

a ton of energy. We are going to be as tough of a group as we can possibly be.”

Chamblee said he looks forward to working with Assistant Coach Josh Aguilar, who just finished his first season at Holmes.

“Obviously Coach DeLoach was the head coach and had a huge part in the success of last season, but I do think that Coach Aguilar brought some things to the table as well,” Chamblee said. “I know he is very well-respected in the baseball world and recruiting community. Things I've heard from other coaches are good... very professional. Even being on the other side of the field with him you could tell that's just who he is and how he always carries himself.”

He said duties haven't been discussed but he knows whatever aspects of the game that need attention, he feels that Aguilar will be up to the test. “I trust him to oversee any part of player development,” he said. “I believe that it's a huge advantage to have an assistant coach that was a former catcher. Those guys have to manage so much during their playing career that prepare them to coach. Holmes has committed some players and signed some guys that are a direct reflection of him getting out and working.”

Chamblee also boasts experience in fundraising efforts, academic advising, and facility upgrades.

He is married to Emily Hester Chamblee and they have two daughters, Mills Katherine, 3, and Mary Leighton, 1.

No. 4 Lady Bulldogs kick off regular season at Southern Union State

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs return nine players from the 2024-25 team that made it to the NJCAA Division II National Tournament in Huntsville, Ala. before falling in the semifinals. The Lady Bulldogs began the regular season on Aug. 26 vs. Southern Union State Community College.

Holmes, who finished 17-5-2 overall

and 8-1-2 in the MACCC, has appeared in five straight NJCAA Division II National Tournaments and made it to the championship game in two of those.

The Lady Bulldogs returning players include: Brooklynn Samonski, forward, Nottingham, N.J.; Brenna Sanford, defender, Richland; Kaylee Avant, midfielder, Decatur; Daysha Taylor,

defender, Navarre, Fla.; Kate DeAngelo, midfielder, Baton Rouge, La.; Anna Beth Korhonen, forward, Foley, Ala.; Emma Korhonen, forward, Foley, Ala.; Jacie Rouse, defender, Brandon; and Akala Jacobs, forward, Madison.

Newcomers include: Lily Callum, goalkeeper, Madison Central; Aly Vancor, goalkeeper, Northwest Rankin; Rylee Kirkland, forward, Sumrall; London Martinez, midfielder, St. Martin; Myla Thortis, defender, Northwest Rankin; Mallory Sutton, forward, St. Amant, La.; Kate Gray Nesbit, forward, Northwest Rankin; Tyler Grace Sims, midfielder, Northwest Rankin; Zion Causey, forward, Oak Grove; Sidney Clare Sing, defender, Northwest Rankin; Jessica Adamson, forward, Madison; Rosamaria Ibarra, forward, Hernando; Maddie Caldwell, midfielder, Jackson Prep; Lillian Moody, forward, Heritage Academy.

Wesley Noble returned as head coach of the Lady Bulldogs. Hardy Lewis joined as assistant for both the women's

and men's team. Volunteers Miguel Molina and Sarah Keeton Odom returned as well.

The remaining schedule includes:

Sept. 23, VS Pearl River Community College *, 1 p.m.

Sept. 26, AT East Central Community College *, 5 p.m.

Oct. 3, VS Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College *, 1 p.m.

Oct. 7, AT Southwest Mississippi Community College *, 5 p.m.

Oct. 10, AT Jones College *, 8 p.m.

Oct. 14, VS Northwest Mississippi Community College *, 1 p.m.

Oct. 21, AT Copiah-Lincoln Community College *, 5:30 p.m.

Oct. 24, VS East Mississippi Community College *, 1 p.m.

Oct. 28, AT Hinds Community College *, 5 p.m.

*Denotes MACCC contest

Men's soccer began season on Aug. 21

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs soccer team returned 10 players from the 2024-25 squad to this year's 2025-26 team. The Bulldogs opened the season on Thursday, Aug. 21, vs. Wallace State-Hanceville in Ridgeland.

Returning players included: Jeremy Heflin, defender, Florence; Landon Campbell, midfielder, Northwest

Rankin; Thomas Martin, defender, Clinton; Tyler Bogard, defender, Tupe-lo; Marcus Moore, forward, Alpharetta; Hunter Freeny, midfielder, Baker; Alejandro Robles, midfielder, B You Academy; Landon Slaven, forward, Brandon; Riley Moon, forward, Park Place; Jacob Roberts, midfielder, Park Place.

Newcomers included: Jesus Estrada,

goalkeeper, Clinton; Jaydon Smith, goalkeeper, Southaven; Samir Garmakani, defender, Valencia College; Brady Peacock, forward, Pearl; Silas Sorey, midfielder, Hartfield; Bryan Silva, forward, Boca Raton; Victor Piccone, defender, Luis M. Inglesias; Jacob McGaugh, defender, St. Augustine; Michael Callahan, defender, Brandon; Moises Hernandez, midfielder, Germantown; Joao Victor DeMoraes, forward; Kevin Ragoyta, defender, Richland; Aiden Bryan, defender, Itawamba AHS; Brandon Shaffer, forward, Starkville; and Hayden Boykin, forward, Florence. Peacock and Ragoyta are sophomores.

Matt Convertino returned as head coach of the Bulldogs. Hardy Lewis joined the staff as assistant coach.

Schedule for rest of the fall:

Sept. 13, VS Oxford College of Emory University @ Sicard Hollow Park, Birmingham, Ala., TBA

Sept.. 16, VS Itawamba Community College *, 4 p.m.

Sept.. 19, AT Meridian Community College *, 5 p.m.

Sept.. 23, VS Pearl River Community College *, 4 p.m.

Sept.. 26, AT East Central Community College *, 7 p.m.

Oct. 3, VS Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College *, 4 p.m.

Oct. 7, AT Southwest Mississippi Community College *, 7 p.m.

Oct. 10, AT Jones College *, 8 p.m.

Tue. 14, VS Northwest Mississippi Community College *, 4 p.m.

Oct. 18, VS Dallas College Cedar Valley, noon

Oct. 21, AT Copiah-Lincoln Community College *, 3 p.m.

Oct. 24, VS East Mississippi Community College *, 4 p.m.

Oct. 28, AT Hinds Community College *, 7 p.m.

*Denotes MACCC contest

Lewis named assistant coach for the Bulldogs/Lady Bulldogs

From Staff Reports/Photos



Hardy Lewis joined the Holmes Community College family serving as an assistant coach with both the men's and women's soccer teams.

Lewis also coaches at Rankin SC and Mississippi (MS) Rush United. He has previously coached at Brilla Juniors, Greenville Blues, and Cleveland Youth Soccer Association.

He is originally from Brandon, where he grew up playing at Brandon FC, MS Rush United, and Brandon High

School.

After high school, Lewis joined Copiah-Lincoln Community College, where he was named First Team All-Conference, First team All-Region, and All-American.

After Copiah-Lincoln, he went to Delta State University, and was part of the 2023-2024 team, who made the GSC Conference Final.

Student-athletes recognized for their work in the classroom

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College athletes not only performed well on the playing surfaces this season but did outstanding work in the classroom with 76 being named scholar athletes in the fall (3.4 GPA or higher), 68 in the spring and 71 for both fall and spring semesters with an overall GPA of 2.83.

One hundred and forty-five student athletes graduated during the 2024-25 school year. Seventy-one have been nominated for the MACCC Academic All-State Team (23 for 3.8-4.0 GPA and 48 for 3.25-3.79 GPA) and 40 for the NJCAA Academic Team (10 for 4.0 GPA, 12 for 3.8-3.99 GPA and 18 for 3.6-3.79 GPA).

Fall Semester Scholar Athletes include: Aidan Bellman, Wes Bishop, John Paul Buckner, Cade Clinton, Vince Glorioso, Thomas Kuhn, Jacob Lott, J.P. Lyon, Will McClure, Xavier Myles, Parker Simpson, Landon Wallace and Isaac White, baseball; Cole Estes, Presley Fulgham, Cameron Howell, Cooper Jones, Leilani Montgomery, Lawson Nichols, Rayann Sanders, Gavin Scoby, Macee Sisson, Landon Thornton and Summer Watkins, cheer; Colton DeShazo, Charlie Fair, John Ford, Johnny Holly, Jay Matthews, Easton Sartin and Jekerious Williams, football; Trey Alexander, Lermoyne Jones, men’s basketball; Kamren Edwards, Kelsey Joseph, Jaiyra Rankins, Bella Roberts and Amanda Walker, women’s basketball; Sammi Doyle, Bailee Fairley, Christina Guzman, Akala Jacobs, Stevie Kerns, Anna Korhonen, Emma Korhonen, Katie Smith, Daysha Taylor, Morgan Walberg, Carley Dawkins and Breeanna Goza, women’s soccer; Gracie Boland, Megan Brewer, Kaitlyn Cortez, Meg Glasgow, Jadyn Miles, Anne Elise

Sartin, Cinclaire Simpson, Mallory Thibodaux, Allie Vicknair, Gracie Williams, Lennie Kate Wood and Tierney Evans, softball; and Colten Kimble, Jordan Leech, Eli Lewis, Casen Shurden, Gage Smith and Kendall Williamson, men’s tennis.

Spring Semester Scholar Athletes include: Aidan Bellman, Wes Bishop, John Paul Buckner, Cade Clinton, Josh Fleming, Thomas Kuhn, Jacob Lott, Kaiden Rosetti, Nicolas Schwing, Parker Simpson, Landon Wallace and Isaac White, baseball; Cole Estes, Presley Fulgham, Cameron Howell, Cooper Jones, Leilani Montgomery, Lawson Nichols, Gavin Scoby, Macee Sisson and Landon Thornton, cheer; Landon Carson, John Ford, Kebian Gilmore, Brycen Johnson, Andrew Merrell, Easton Sartin and Dalyn Jackson, football; Kameryn Bailey and Lermoyne Jones, men’s basketball; Kamren Edwards, Kelsey Joseph, Bella Roberts and Amanda Walker, women’s basketball; Kaylee Avant, Rivers Gilreath, Christina Guzman, Anna Korhonen, Emma Korhonen, Jacie Rouse, Daysha Taylor, Morgan Walberg, Carley Dawkins and Jade Fleming, women’s soccer; Gracie Boland, Megan Brewer, Kaitlyn Cortez, Meg Glasgow, Jadyn Miles, Anne Elise Sartin, Cinclaire Simpson, Gracie Williams and Lennie Kate Wood, softball; Jaydon Porter, trainer; and Colten Kimble, Jordan Leech, Eli Lewis, Parker McLendon, Casen Shurden, Gage Smith and Kendall Williamson, men’s tennis.

Scholar Athletes for the 2024-25 School Year include: Aidan Bellman, Wes Bishop, John Paul Buckner, Cade Clinton, Vince Glorioso, Thomas Kuhn, Jacob Lott, Xavier Myles, Parker Simpson, Landon Wallace and

Isaac White, baseball; Cole Estes, Presley Fulgham, Cameron Howell, Ryan Johnson, Cooper Jones, Leilani Montgomery, Caitlin Mullins, Lawson Nichols, Gavin Scoby, Macee Sisson, Landon Thornton and Summer Watkins, cheer; Colton DeShazo, Charlie Fair, John Ford, Kebian Gilmore, Johnny Holly, Jay Matthews, Easton Sartin and Jekerious Williams, football; Lermoyne Jones, men’s basketball; Kamren Edwards, Kelsey Joseph, Bella Roberts and Amanda Walker, women’s basketball; Christina Guzman, Akala Jacobs, Stevie Kerns, Anna Korhonen, Emma Korhonen, Jacie Rouse, Katie Smith, Daysha Taylor, Morgan Walberg, Carley Dawkins, Jade Fleming and Breeanna Goza, women’s soccer; Gracie Boland, Megan Brewer, Kaitlyn Cortez, Meg Glasgow, Jadyn Miles, Anne Elise Sartin, Cinclaire Simpson, Gracie Williams and Lennie Kate Wood, softball; Jaydon Porter, trainer; and Colten Kimble, Jordan Leech, Eli Lewis, Parker McLendon, Garrett Myers, Casen Shurden, Gage Smith and Kendall Williamson, men’s tennis.

MACCC Academic All-State honors (3.8-4.0 GPA, Distinguished Academic All-State) include: Wes Bishop, John Paul Buckner, Parker Simpson and Aidan Bellman, baseball; Colton DeShazo, Easton Sartin, Charlie Fair, Johnny Holly and Jay Matthews, football; Stevie Kerns, Emma Korhonen, Akala Jacobs, Anna Korhonen, Jacie Rouse and Katie Smith, women’s soccer; Bella Roberts, women’s basketball; Alejandro Robles, men’s soccer; Kendall Williamson, Jordan Leech and Colten Kimble, men’s tennis; Megan Brewer, Cinclaire Simpson and Jadyn Miles, softball. These players have been nominated for the MACCC honors but have not received notification yet.

MACCC Academic All-State honors (3.25-3.79 GPA, Academic All-State) include: Anne Elise Sartin, Meg Glasgow, Kaitlyn Cortez, Lennie Kate Wood, Gracie Boland, Gracie Williams, Mallory Thibodaux, Allie Vicknair and Mollie Swilley, softball; Cade Clinton, Thomas Kuhn, Landon Wallace, Vince Glorioso, Jacob Lott, Xavier Myles, Will McClure, Josh Fleming, J.P. Lyon, Tre Rainey, Nicolas Schwing, Holton Hartzog and Kaiden Rosetti, baseball; Amanda

Walker, Kelsey Joseph, Kamren Edwards and Jaiyra Rankins, women’s basketball; Jeremy Heflin, Marcus Moore, John Smith, Jacob Roberts and Thomas Martin, men’s soccer; John Ford, Jekerious Williams, Kebian Gilmore, E.J. Segrest and Jalon Townes, football; Casen Shurden, Eli Lewis, Gage Smith, Garrett Myers and Parker McLendon, men’s tennis; Christina Guzman, Daysha Taylor, Morgan Walberg, Rivers Gilreath and Brenna Sanford, women’s soccer; and Trey Alexander, men’s basketball. These players have been nominated for the MACCC honors but have not received notification yet.

Team nominations for MACCC Academic Teams of the Year include: men’s tennis, 3.51; softball, 3.30 GPA; baseball, 3.18 GPA; women’s soccer, 3.15 GPA; women’s basketball, 3.14 GPA; and 2.68 GPA.

NJCAA Academic Awards (first team, 4.0 GPA; second team, 3.8-3.99 GPA; and third team, 3.6-3.79 GPA) for 2024-25 include: First Team – Wes Bishop, John Paul Buckner and Parker Simpson, baseball; Alejandro Robles, men’s soccer; Bella Roberts, women’s basketball; Colton DeShazo, Easton Sartin, football; Emma Korhonen, Stevie Kerns, women’s soccer; Kendall Williamson, men’s tennis; Second Team – Akala Jacobs, Anna Korhonen, Jacie Rouse, Katie Smith, women’s soccer; Jordan Leech, Richard Green, men’s tennis; Aidan Bellman, baseball; Megan Brewer, Cinclaire Simpson, Jadyn Miles, softball; Jay Matthews and Johnny Holly, football; Third Team – Anne Elise Sartin, Meg Glasgow, Kaitlyn Cortez, Lennie Kate Wood, Gracie Boland, softball; Cade Clinton, Thomas Kuhn, Landon Wallace, baseball; Amanda Walker, Kelsey Joseph, Kamren Edwards, women’s basketball; Jeremy Heflin, Marcus Moore, men’s soccer; Casen Shurden, Eli Lewis, Gage Smith, men’s tennis; John Ford, football; Christina Guzman, women’s soccer. These players have been nominated for the NJCAA honors but have not received notification yet.

Team nominations for NJCAA Academic Teams of the Year include: men’s tennis, 3.51 GPA; softball, 3.29 GPA; baseball, 3.21 GPA; women’s soccer, 3.15 GPA; and women’s basketball, 3.14 GPA.

Welch named defensive backs coach and special teams coordinator for the Bulldogs

From Staff Reports/Photos



Taylorsville native Derek Welch has joined the Holmes Community College Bulldogs as defensive backs coach and special teams coordinator.

Prior to Holmes, Welch was Co-De-

fensive Coordinator and safeties coach for Alcorn State University. Before coming to the reservation, Welch spent a season at Northeastern State in Oklahoma as the special team’s coordinator/

secondary coach.

Prior to Northeastern, Coach Welch was the Defensive Coordinator at Mississippi Valley State for five seasons. During his tenure, Coach Welch had 12 different student-athletes to make the all-conference teams including MVSU’s single season sack leader, Ronnie Thomas.

Welch began his coaching career as a student assistant strength and conditioning coach at UT-Martin (2011-12) and followed that with a stint as an offensive assistant at the University of Southern Arkansas (2012-13), coaching wide receivers for an offense that ranked second in the Great American Conference in total offense and fifth nationally with 497.6 yards per game.

Welch then spent 2013-14 as defen-

sive coordinator at Kemper County High School before spending 2014-15 as Assistant Defensive Backs Coach at Northwestern State University before heading to East Central Community College. During his tenure at ECCC, the Warriors reached the playoffs twice and won the Heart of Texas Bowl vs Kilgore Community College in 2015.

Welch prepped at Taylorsville High School, where he was a four-year letter winner in football, basketball and track. Welch still holds the touchdown record at Taylorsville (28) which he captured his senior season. Welch was also an all-state receiver his junior and senior season.

Welch and his wife, Rachel, have a daughter, Rylee Marie.

Roberts named women’s basketball assistant coach

From Staff Reports/Photos



Freeport, Florida native Nathan Roberts joined the Holmes Community College women’s basketball program as an assistant coach in 2025.

He played multiple sports in high school including baseball, basketball and golf serving as team captain for basketball and baseball and was the team’s No. 1 golfer.

Upon graduation, Roberts chose Troy University to continue his education, where he earned both his bachelor’s (2023) and master’s (2025) degrees in Sport Management.

As a graduate assistant at Troy, the program experienced historic success

highlighted by a championship victory at the prestigious Great Alaska Shootout, a trip to the WNIT Fab Four in the 2023–2024 season, and a run to the WNIT championship game in 2024–2025.

Known for his work ethic, attention to detail, and passion for the game, Roberts contributed significantly to scouting, film breakdown, and on-court player development at Troy. His experience in a winning culture at the NCAA Division I level brings valuable perspective to the Bulldogs’ program.

He is the son of Steve and Dana Roberts and has one brother, Braden.

Bulldog Football welcomes 41 new players

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs welcomed 41 new players to the fold for the 2025 season.

New players included: Mashun Anderson, OL, Columbia; Jordyn Ashford, OL, Choctaw County; Colston Bennett, K, Pearl; Ja’Marion Bennett, DB, Hillcrest, Ala.; Jaylen Brooks, LB, Ripley; Dewayne Brown, OL, Yazoo County; Krisleohn Burks, WR, Gulfport; Jaliel Cameron, WR/ATH, Quitman; DeKasei Crump, DB, Warren Central; Kendrick Davis, LB, Hillcrest, Ala./UNA; Tyneke Davis, DL, George County; Troylando Eden, WR, Winona; Sebastian Ford II, DL/LB, Pascagoula; Ekeelum Grant, LB, Holmes County Central; Jamarius Grayer, ATH, Copiah Academy; Jayden Hicks, DE/LB, New Albany; Eddie Holly, LB, Coral

Shores, Fla.; Carson Honeycutt, LS, Grenada; Kamar Houston, DB, Oxford; Zauri Hughes, DE/TE, Hillcrest, Ala.; Jaylon Ina, DL, Franklin, Ala.; Jer’kel Ivy, WR, East Webster; Dalyn Jackson, WR, Demopolis/West Ala.; Zion Jones, OL, Heidelberg; DeCorey Knight, Jr., ATH/RB, Vicksburg; Desean Little, DL, Davidson, Ala.; Don McGee, OL, Yazoo County; D.J. Moore, QB, Bolles, Fla.; Elijah O’Briant, LB, East Webster; Jordan O’Briant, DB, East Webster; Trey Pettway, DL, Williamson, Ala.; TK Qualls, DL, Warren Central; LJ Reynolds, DL, Warren Central; Jarvis Scott, DB, Parklane Academy; Jalen Smith, LB, Canton; Jon Stephens, OL, Mary G. Montgomery, Ala.; Jamar Teague, DB, Holmes County Central; and Malachi Williams, LB, Holmes County Central.

Varner named defensive line/strength and conditioning coach for the Bulldogs

From Staff Reports/Photos



Atlanta native Brandon Varner joined the Holmes Community College Bulldogs as defensive line coach and strength and conditioning coach.

Varner joined the Bulldogs from Mississippi Valley State University, where he served as defensive line coach.

The 2025 season marks Varner’s

eighth as a coach with two of those years as a graduate assistant coach at his alma mater, Grambling State University.

Varner was a four-year player for the Tigers with one year as an Offensive Lineman and three years as a Defensive Lineman and earned two SWAC Championships and one HBCU Black College Football National Championship. Two-time Black College Football Hall of Fame Watch list.

During his four-year career, Varner amassed 68 total tackles, including 41 solo stops. He had 17.5 tackles for a loss of 73 yards, including 9.5 sacks for a loss of 43 yards. In addition, the Atlanta, Ga. native recorded six quarterback hurries, five pass breakups, two

forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries.

Varner earned SWAC Preseason First Team Honors and Phil Steele Preseason First Team honors during senior season and was named to the All-SWAC First Team in 2017.

Prior to attending Grambling State, Varner played three years of football and one year of basketball at Kipp Atlanta Collegiate High School in Atlanta, Ga. Coach Varner did 4 years coaching High school coach in Louisiana at Bossier High and Peabody Magnet High School.

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The Growl Staff



Bennett Brantley

From Florence, Bennett Brantley is a freshman at Holmes on the Ridgeland Campus and graduating in the spring with an associate degree in communications and journalism. When it comes to campus involvement, he is a member of the Growl, the yearbook staff, SGA and the Ridgeland Phi Theta Kappa chapter. Outside of school, he likes seeing the newest movie releases with his friends, trying new coffee places and traveling with his family.

After his time at Holmes, Brantley plans to finish his education at Mississippi State University with a bachelor's degree in graphic design.



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.



C.J. Dedmon

Christopher "C.J." Dedmon is a sophomore on the Holmes Ridgeland Campus majoring in biological sciences. He was born in Jackson, and currently lives in Flora. He is president of the STEM Club, and spends his free time playing Magic the Gathering in professional tournaments. In his spare time, he also writes music and helps his children grow and learn.



Daylan Henderson

Daylan Henderson is a sophomore at Holmes Community College, where he is majoring in mass communications/ journalism. He plans to work as a writer for a news station. He was born in Jackson, but now he lives in Ridgeland. During his free time, he enjoys writing, hanging out with friends, playing games and drawing.



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.



Emma McCarter

Emma McCarter of Madison is a sophomore biology major. She will be graduating from the Holmes Ridgeland Campus in the summer with an associate degree. In her free time, McCarter enjoys hiking, camping, sailing and crafting. Other than being involved in The Growl, McCarter is also an English tutor in the Holmes writing lab. After graduation, she plans to finish her bachelor's degree and then earn a doctorate in marine biology at the University of Mississippi.



Lexus Mullins

Lexus Mullins of Eupora will be graduating from Holmes Community College in Grenada this December with an Associate of Arts degree. In her free time, she enjoys watching movies, playing video games and spending time with others. After graduating from Holmes, she plans to move up north to begin her journey in the film industry. There, she will film movies, act in movies and help with backgrounds. After getting experience, she hopes to film her own short films.

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