



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

THE GROWL

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Homecoming 2023 set for Oct. 26

From Staff Reports/Photos



Homecoming 2023 is set for Oct. 26 on the Goodman Campus with activities starting at 8:30 a.m. and finishing up with live music after the football game against Northwest Mississippi Community College.

Homecoming festivities kick off with a Visual Arts Display in the McMorrough Library at 8:30 a.m. There will be an open practice for the softball and baseball teams at 9 a.m., which alumni and friends are welcome to enjoy. Academic Programs and Career Technical

Education will be hosting their Career and Transfer Fair from 10 a.m. until noon and at the same time Workforce Development will host “Major’s Truck Expo” with all of the big industry vehicles on display for guests coming to campus. Women’s basketball will be holding an open practice at 9:15 a.m. followed by Meet the Bulldogs for both Men’s and Women’s basketball.

Honorees for 2023 include: Alumna

Homecoming, continued on Page 7

Holmes says goodbye to beloved welding instructor

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College Grenada Campus welding instructor Norman Clark Faulkner passed away Sunday, July 23, 2023, at his home in Holcomb. Faulkner loved pouring his passion into his students at Holmes. Born Jan. 15, 1964, in Memphis, Tennessee to James and Emilie Faulkner, he was 59 years old at the time of his death. He loved the Lord and attended Hillside Baptist Church. In his spare time, Faulkner enjoyed singing, blacksmithing, working on old trucks and tractors, collecting antiques and spending time with his grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, July 27 at McKibben and Guinn Funeral Service in Grenada with Rev. Jerry McNeer officiating. Interment followed in the

Sparta Cemetery near Holcomb.

Survivors include daughter Amy (Colby) of Duck Hill, a English instructor at Holmes; son Adam (Kelsey) of Duck Hill; five grandchildren Brody, Brantlee, Mady Kate, John Hayes, and Nora Kathryn; brothers Jimmy of Courtland, Greg (Julia) of Courtland, Keith (Teresa) of Como, Wade (Samantha) of Courtland, one sister Melody of Batesville, and a host of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara Henry Faulkner, his parents James and Emilie Faulkner, and brother, Timothy Faulkner.

The Pall Bearers were Slade Redwine, Craig Kirkendall, David Hill, Cody Lancaster, J.B. McDonald and Nick Watkins.

Honorary Pall Bearers include Austin Fagan, Vance Smith, Barry McDonald, Dusty Rainey, David Burt and John Douglas Staten.

In lieu of flowers, the family requested that donations be made to the Clark Faulkner Memorial Scholarship Fund through the Holmes Development Foundation to provide funds for a Career Technical student to gain an education. Checks may be mailed to HCC-Dev Foundation Attn. Clark Faulkner Memorial Scholarship, PO Box 527, Goodman, MS 39079 or online through the Holmes Developmental Foundation.

Online condolences may be expressed to the family at www.mckibbenandguinn.com.

Holmes hosts first-ever statewide EMS Memorial Service et for

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Mississippi House of Representatives District 108 **Stacey Hobgood Wilkes**, Director of the Bureau of EMS **David Hall**, Holmes EMS Program Director **Mark Galtelli**, Gov. **Tate Reeves** and Mississippi State Health Officer **Dr. Daniel Edney**.

Holmes Community College hosted Mississippi’s first statewide memorial service for fallen EMTs, paramedics and other Emergency Medical Services professionals on May 25. The event, held in the McGowan Workforce Training Center on the Ridgeland Campus, recognized 132 emergency medical caregivers in the state who have died due to illness or injury suffered in the line of duty over the past 49 years.

Holmes EMS Program Director Mark Galtelli kicked off the service with a welcome.

“Let us be reminded that we come together today with heavy hearts, but also with deep gratitude,” Galtelli said. “We are here to remember and celebrate the lives of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to others.”

Following Galtelli’s welcome, there was a procession that included the Posting of the Colors by the AMR

of Central Mississippi EMS Honor Guard. AMR paramedic Eric Phillips then took the podium to explain the significance of the Table of Honor which was set up as part of the service. Each element had a special meaning, down to the white tablecloth symbolizing the purity of EMS professionals’ intentions to respond to the needs of others. AMR paramedic Stella McNeer followed Phillips with an opening prayer before Director of the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services David Hall spoke.

Mississippi State Health Officer Dr. Daniel Edney followed Hall’s remarks with a few words of his own about EMS professionals’ crucial role in healthcare.

“When we’re talking about life and death, minutes matter; ya’ll understand that more than anyone,” Dr. Edney said. “Unfortunately, those precious

Memorial, continued on Page 7

WHAT’S INSIDE...

- STUDENT EDITORIALS
- HOMECOMING HONOREES
- SPORTS PHOTOS/RECAPS AND MORE!



SEE PAGE 7 FOR PICTURES OF THE 2023 HOMECOMING MAIDS

September was suicide prevention awareness month

By Malley Chase Faulkner
Staff Reporter



September is suicide prevention awareness month. Suicide is one of the leading causes of death. In 2021, suicide was the cause of 48,183 deaths. That is 11 deaths every minute. In

2021, the estimated serious thought about suicide was 12.3 million. Additionally, 3.5 million planned a suicide attempt and 1.7 million attempted suicides.

Suicide and attempts affect the well-being of the people around them. When someone dies by suicide, the family experiences a lot of different feelings, such as grief, shock, anger, guilt and symptoms of depression or anxiety. I can relate to this because I experienced it first-hand. My brother died by suicide on Feb. 14. My whole family can relate as well.

During September, social media is flooded with positive thoughts and things on suicide awareness. That is all great! But what about the days outside of September? Why is suicide awareness only recognized one month a year? I think with

it being a leading cause of death in our world today we should be cautious of the things we say and the things we post.

Mental health problems such as depression, anxiety and bipolar disorder can contribute to student suicides. These conditions can be exacerbated by stress, loneliness, being surrounded by negativity and lack of support.

For a college student, the average cause of death is suicide. When you are away from the things and people you are familiar with and know, it makes it harder to adapt. College comes with stress and social anxiety. At Holmes we have an



online mental health app called Mindyra's MindHealth Navigator. It is a support app that helps you along your mental health journey. If you need the Suicide and Crisis hotline, it's 988.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month

By Ashley Steen
Staff Reporter



According to domestic violence.org, ever since 1987, October has been the month where domestic violence and its victims are observed. The color for domestic violence awareness is purple. As a whole,

we like to link domestic violence to one area and that is the physical one. Domestic violence has many different levels, though.

Domestic violence can be violent or aggressive behavior. In most cases, the abuse takes place in a private setting to prevent exposure of abuse. Domestic violence is real and in fact is a slow "death sentence." Many who have experienced abusive behavior are familiar with the signs of abuse due to childhood trauma.

It is important to stay alert and know the signs for domestic violence or abuse. The signs are isolation from friends, family and social events; fear-driven or submissive behavior towards a partner; unexplainable or frequent

injuries such as bruises, scratches or burns and personality changes, such as a loss of confidence or sudden quietness. I cannot stress this enough; pay close attention to red flags or warning signs of a partner, such as jealousy, possessiveness, unpredictability, bad temper, controlling behavior, threats, humiliation or rigid beliefs.

If you know someone that is suffering from abuse, pull them to the side and just listen if they talk about what's going on in their lives. Give them different ideas along with resources for help. If you or anyone you know



is going through domestic violence, please feel free to contact 24-hour hotline at 1-800-799-7233 or text START to 88788 or check out their website at thehotline.org.

WGA has ended their strike; where does that leave SAG-AFTRA?

By Alyssa Jackson
Staff Reporter



On May 2, all members of the Writers Guild of America (WGA) and the Screen Actors Guild and American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA)

began their strike against large film and television corporations. This would be the first time both the writers' and actors' guild would be on strike since 1960. The strike came to fruition after their requests for an increased minimum compensation and stronger workers' rights and protections were denied. Though both unions

were negotiating their own contracts, they joined forces due to their similar causes. This strike would later become WGA's second longest strike since 1988.

Writers, actors and animators alike met in the streets of Los Angeles and New York to protest the producers and companies that have treated them and their colleagues unfairly. Several big-budget productions, including the summer blockbusters "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer," ended their promotions early in solidarity with the unions. Many well-known actors such as Margot Robbie, Dwayne Johnson and Daniel Radcliffe also joined the picket lines throughout the months of protest to show their stance on what

was occurring in the industry.

After 146 days of protest, the WGA and AMPTP reached an agreement that ended the guild's strike against major Hollywood studios on Sept. 27. Unfortunately, this deal does not include SAG-AFTRA, and the union will continue their strike against the studios. Though their requests have still not been met, on Oct. 2 SAG-AFTRA and AMPTP met for the first time since the strike started to continue negotiations. Though talks seem to be difficult due to the two groups, both parties hope to come to a common group soon so that art can be continued to be made.



Holmes Community College
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Send to: mbusby@holmescc.edu.

Homelessness in the Jackson area

By Ashley Steen
Staff Reporter



Why is homelessness such an issue in the inner city and why is the homeless population still growing every day? One may ask what are the causes of homelessness? Unemployment, low wages, a lack of affordable housing, physical and/or mental illness, domestic vi-

olence and poverty that limits access to education, social services and different opportunities are a few of key causes.

In my research, I discovered that there are currently 16 running shelters in the Jackson area. Just like any other facility, rules are put in place. I chose to research the two shelters that have been up and running in the community for over 30 years. We have a men's shelter called the Billy Brumfield Men's Shelter and Matt's House for Women and Children.

loneliness, being surrounded by negativity and lack of support.

Billy Brumfield offers a wide range of assistance for their clients and is dedicated to restoring lives one day at a time. They offer different programs for men, such as emergency shelter, alcohol and drug rehab and special needs programs, as well. Guests can stay up to 4 nights a week.

Matt's House for Women offers 18 beds. They also provide clients with a 14-to-28-day stay. According to the

website, they also provide support services according to individual needs.

As I stated earlier, the homeless population in Jackson is growing every day. If you know anyone who is currently homeless, tell them about the different resources available to them. For men needing assistance 1100 West Capitol Street in Jackson. Women and children needing assistance can contact Matt's House at 601-948-

Moving into a new chapter

By Aleesa Booker
Staff Reporter



Between returning back to an old sleep schedule or having to find an interesting fact about oneself for an "ice breaker," back to school is never an easy time. However,

what if it was made a little harder by moving and what if that moving was to a different country? Amanjot Jhotra knows all about these things. She is a freshmen pre-dental hygiene major at Holmes Community College who hopes to further her education and become a dental hygienist. She grew up in Calgary, Canada, where she lived for 17 years before her family decided to make the big move.

"My dad came here in 2022 and started a business and we visited back and forth and then we decided to move in 2023," Jhotra said.

Right as the weather was changing and school was ending she had to say goodbye to her friends, school and the life that she knew.

"The thing I miss the most is definitely my friends," Jhotra said. "Also, things are just fairly different; some of the jokes I could tell in Calgary people don't get here and some of the jokes that people here tell, I don't get."

In Canada, she got used to the snowy weather and not getting out of school even when there was a snow blizzard; something that people are not used to in the South. She was also used to getting out of school in June rather than in May.

"The hardest things I had to get used to were definitely the cultural differences in America," Jhotra said. "Americans do a lot of things differently."

If adjusting to American culture wasn't hard enough, adjusting to American school made it more complicated.

"School is more stressful than it was in Canada," Jhotra said. "There is more of an emphasis on standardized testing, state mandatory tests and extracurriculars. In Canada we didn't really have that extra stress, but I am adjusting."

Moving and going to college are two big steps that take a lot of adapting; however, Jhotra found a few things to make it easier.

"Adjusting to America has been hard, especially with all the people I had in Canada," Jhotra said, "but my new friends and family helped me adjust. It lets me know that I'm not alone in this."

Although finding and exploring new ideas, people and places helped, "keeping up" with home helped too.

"My friends and I still talk all the time," Jhotra said. "I miss them and instead of being there I get recaps, but life doesn't just stop."

She has a new life, but she kept her same positive attitude and insight.

"If I had to give any advice to anyone that was moving or just starting a new chapter in their life it would definitely be to get out of your bubble and make new friends," Jhotra said. "I promise you that not everyone is out to get you. Most of the people around you are going through the same thing. Just know that you are not alone."

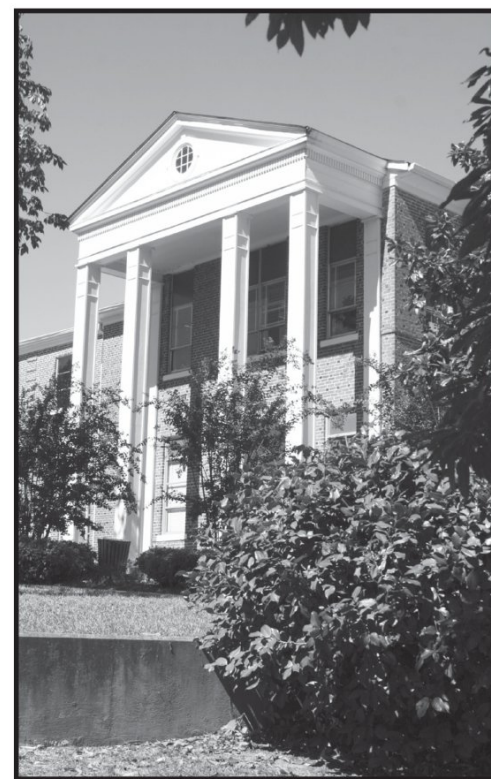
Whether you're moving or starting a new school in a new country, know that you are not alone and there are others like you. People like Jhotra show us that it is okay to miss the old and not want change, but embracing your new society and learning to "get out of your bubble" help.



Amanjot Jhotra

HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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



The following items are required for admission to Holmes Community College: a current, complete application for admission; first-time freshmen must submit an official high school transcript from a regionally accredited high school showing the graduation date, type of diploma, and signature of the high school official, and it must be mailed from the high school to the Admissions Office; students who obtain the General Educational Development (GED) credential must have an official GED transcript sent to the college from an official testing center or GED state office; and scores on the ACT or SAT for students who are less than 21 years of age and who have not earned a bachelor's degree are required. ACT/SAT scores may be accepted from an official high school or college transcript provided the subscores, composite score, and date of testing are printed rather than handwritten. Additional placement testing may also be required for some programs or courses.

Holmes Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability or genetic information in its educational programs and activities, employment practices, or admissions processes. The following administrators have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies of Holmes Community College:

Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI, ADEA, and Title IX are coordinated by the Vice President for Compliance and Institutional Research, Henry B. McClellan Administration Building, Post Office Box 369, Goodman, MS 39079, Phone: 662-472-9429, compliance@holmescc.edu.

Inquiries regarding compliance with Section 504 and ADA are coordinated by the Disability Student Services Coordinator, M.R. Thorne Vocational-Technical Building, Room 110, Post Office Box 369, Goodman, MS 39079, Phone: 662-472-9088, disabilitysupportservices@holmescc.edu.

Holmes Community College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award the associate degree and certificates. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, 404-679-4501.

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What to read: “This is Where it Ends”

By Serenity Washington
Staff Reporter



Do you love a good fiction book with mind-blowing endings? If so, you should read the book “This is Where It All Ends” by Marieke Nikjamp. The

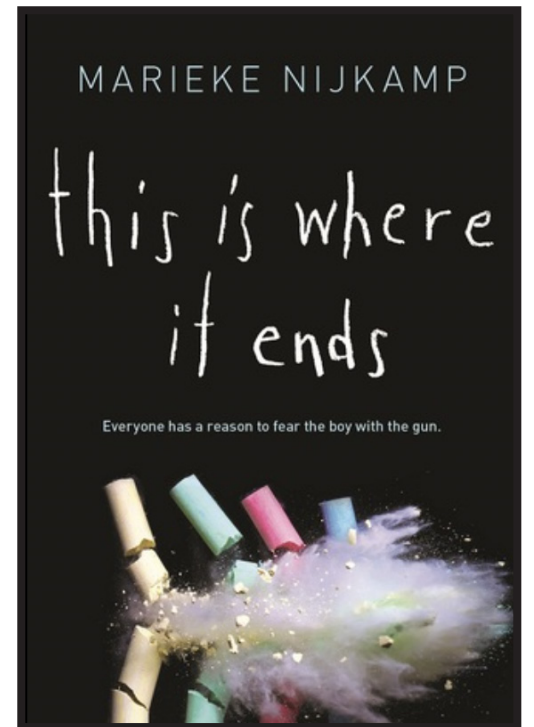
book starts off with students attending school on a regular day, everything is just as fine as always. After attending a school assembly, an unexpected turn happens that will shock everyone. This book is a fiction-based novel. This book is also the #1 best seller in the New York Times. The author explains that she wrote this book because there

have been so many school shootings and she just wanted to experience what those kids were experiencing in those traumatizing situations through writing a story of her own. She was able to imagine what may possibly happen during a school shooting as well as the small or big things that could lead up to a school shooting. She was also able to understand the backgrounds of what may make a student want to behave that specific way.

While the author was writing the book, she made sure to research and read about all the school shootings that happened in the past. Nikjamp was able to find many things that could help her write her novel and to be able to experience the whole situation

through one of her writings. Nikjamp was able to make her novel similar to an actual school shooting as well. In addition to her book allowing readers to experience how a school shooting may actually be, she also brought awareness to our teachers and students about safety around the school.

The book is not only about school shootings. It also talks about the four main characters in the book. They were all just regular students with different points of view until something extreme happened. This book is great for someone who is very interested in fiction. I would rate this book 8.5/10. It is a good book to start reading.



The ins and outs of going to a concert

By Aleesa Booker
Staff Reporter



Going to a concert can be daunting. What should I wear? What’s on the set list? Do I have good seats? Do I have enough money for merch? These are questions that

run through my head all the time. And even though I’ve been to a few concerts, 27 if you include music festivals, it always feels like I am missing something. Here is a short guide on how to have a great concert experience without feeling like you are missing anything.

Invite a friend

Going to a concert anywhere in a place you don’t know can be confusing. But if you invite a friend, it can be confusing together. Having a friend with you at the concert gives you the

ability to feel safe and be able to have someone “hold my stuff” while you run to the restroom. On the trip there you can blast the setlist and make sure you know all the lyrics. You can talk about how much you love the artist and maybe even their hot button topics. Bringing a friend is all about making new memories with someone else and most importantly safety.

Know the setlist

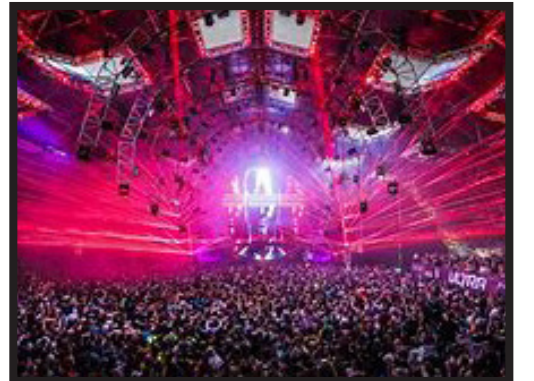
You ever been in the car when someone who goes for the high note but says the wrong word? Embarrassing. That’s how you’ll feel if you don’t know the lyrics. Most of the time if you are not the opening show of a tour, you’ll be able to find the set list. CAUTION: most performers have different set lists for different countries. Making sure you don’t get caught in a video of you singing when you are supposed to be mute is very important.

Dress comfortably

All events have dress codes and concerts aren’t excluded. I have been to concerts where I have dressed like what the artist would wear. For example, during the Ariana Grande concert, I wore heels and a high pony. And even though she is my favorite artist, her concert doesn’t even rank top five for me because I wasn’t comfortable and who wants their feet on the icky ground.

Is the price really worth it?

Recently, I went to a Drake concert. My tickets were about \$250. Believe it or not I was on the floor about 15 rows from Drake in an arena that had at least 100 rows. Since I was young, I have listened to Drake, and I was willing to spend at least \$300 for Drake. When I got to the concert, I realized I knew all of his songs and I enjoyed his music, but I was celebrity shocked. Celebrity



shock is when you think you enjoy the person more than you do because of their status. Just because you live in an area that doesn’t get a lot of “big” names don’t mean you have spend the most money to see that person. Seats in the back sometimes are the best.

Even though there have been times I didn’t know the lyrics, was sick, uncomfortable and unbearably hot, each time, I enjoyed it. The most important thing about any concert is making memories. Bring your Polaroid, bring your camera and bring your smile.

Parad-Ice: A treat worth trying

By Serenity Washington
Staff Reporter



Are you looking for a nice treat on a hot sunny day?! Well... you will enjoy trying a delicious treat from a food truck that sells desserts! It’s called the Parad-

Ice. The food truck comes around every summer. They are located all around the Jackson area! You can find them in Flowood, Brandon, Ridgeland, Pearl and Forest. They serve delicious shaved ice, with different and amazing flavors. They also serve corn on the cob, along with cheese and nachos.

Saturday evening the Prada-ice was located down in Brandon. I decided to go and try some things off of their menu. I tried the Berry Cheesecake.

It was good! The Berry Cheesecake was made with shaved iced, vanilla ice cream topped with strawberry cheesecake flavoring, with fresh strawberries all around, with a slice of cheesecake, sweet cream and whipped cream to top it off. I also had some nachos with jalapenos. Everything was great.

I was also able to try their other wonderful flavors, as well! My friends and I tried the Mangonada shaved ice. It was really good. It comes with natural mangoing flavoring, mango sorbet, fresh mango tamarind candy pieces, chamoy and Tajin, topped with a delicious tamarind stick. We also tried the Strawberry Delight shaved ice, that one was good as well! It comes with strawberry flavoring, vanilla ice cream, fresh strawberries, sweet cream and whipped cream.

I would rate my experience and customer service as 10/10. The food truck servers were great and you got your food in less than 5 minutes. The Berry Cheesecake would be an 8.5/10 and the nachos a 10/10. The Berry Cheesecake was good if you really have a taste for something really sweet or even if you just love cheesecake like me! The Mangonada was a 9.5/10; it is great if you want something not so sweet or not so tart: it’s right in the middle. The Strawberry Delight was very sweet as well. I would give it a 7/10. Overall, I enjoyed the entire experience and would recommend it to anyone!! You can find them on their social media at “The Parad-ice.”



What to expect in “Marvel’s Spider-Man 2”

By Evan Yates
Staff Reporter



In less than a month, Spider-Man fans will be able to webswing their way into one of the most highly-anticipated games of the year, “Marvel’s Spider-Man 2”. This Playstation Five exclusive follows Peter Parker and Miles Morales as they take on dangerous new foes such as the Lizard, Kraven the Hunter and Venom. Fans of Insomniac Games’ Spider-Man franchise are dying to get their hands on this game, and soon enough, it’ll be here before we know it, so let’s talk about what there is to expect in “Marvel’s Spider-Man 2.”

“Marvel’s Spider-Man 2” expands upon its predecessor by increasing the size of the map, allowing players to play as not one, but two Spider-Men and updating the way the Spider-Men maneuver around the city of New York by adding the new web wings. Also, the black, gooey viscoid that is the symbiote arrives in this sequel to aid Peter Parker in this new adventure.

In “Marvel’s Spider-Man,” which was launched on the Playstation Four and then later remastered on the PlayStation 5, Spider-Man is allowed to only swing his way around Manhattan. Now, in “Marvel’s Spider-Man 2,” both Spider-Men, Peter Parker and Miles Morales, are able to travel around Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens. The two Spider-Men will also be able to swing into Coney Island and more side locations in New York.

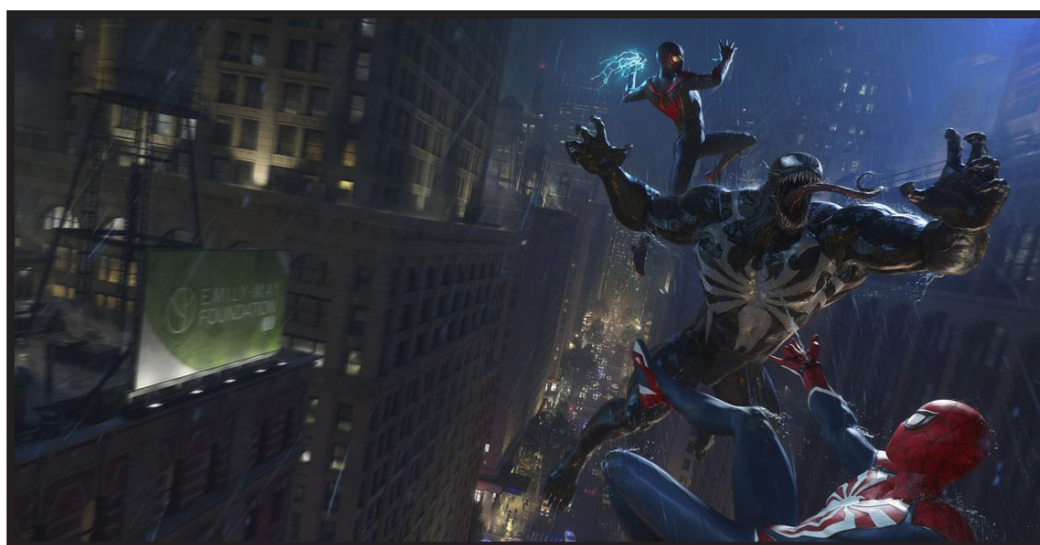
In the first game, Peter Parker was the only playable Spider-Man. Then,

during the holidays of 2020, “Marvel’s Spider-Man: Miles Morales” was released. This sequel follows Miles Morales while he is left with the duty to protect New York since Peter Parker leaves with Mary Jane to travel to Symkaria and assist her with her reporting. “Marvel’s Spider-Man: Miles Morales” presents to players new combat mechanics only applicable to Morales which is the venom power. Venom power is an ability that allows Morales to absorb electrical energy and use it to punish the enemies around him.

Now, in “Marvel’s Spider-Man 2,” Miles Morales is available alongside Peter Parker as another playable Spider-Man. This gives you the opportunity to switch to either Spider-Men in an instant. And maybe while you are swinging around New York, you might just bump into Peter or Miles depending on who you are playing as and help them defeat the criminals of the city that never sleeps.

The associate animation director at Insomniac Games James Ham confirms in an interview with Gamertag Radio, “There are times where you can be swinging throughout the city, and you can see the other Spider-Man sometimes actively doing something or stopping a crime. And sometimes you can hop in and then they’ll join you. It’s a cool experience to be able to play with both Peter and Miles in this way.” This creates endless possibilities for the two Spider-Men to involuntarily meet up and stop crimes together.

In a trailer for “Marvel’s Spider-Man 2” titled “Expanded Marvel’s New York,” Bryan Intihar, the senior creative director at Insomniac Games, gives a brief overview of what to expect from the web wings. Intihar describes the



web wings as, “...an entirely new mechanic that, when combined with web swinging, allows you to traverse the city in a whole new way and at faster speeds than ever before.” In the same trailer, Miles and Peter are seen using the web wings to fly around New York before using the momentum to return to their web swinging. This new mechanic is intriguing Spider-Man fans as we have seen the web wings all over Spider-Man media-most recently in Tom Holland’s Spider-Man franchise. We will just have to wait and see how useful the web wings will be when the game drops on Oct. 20.

Lastly, the symbiote finally arrives. Fans have been waiting a long time for the symbiote to appear in Insomniac’s Spider-Man franchise. In the game-play reveal trailer, we see Peter Parker donning the new symbiote suit as he pounces out of a basement bunker. Parker begins to unleash all the powers of the symbiote as he takes out several of Kraven the Hunter’s goons that were outside of the bunker.

Parker delivers a variety of devastating moves with the symbiote including one where he uses the symbiote to

create four tendrils and reach for four of Kraven’s goons, unfortunately bringing them up into the air and slamming them into the ground. Noticeably, Parker’s voice has also changed into a gritty, dark tone. The reason for this is that the symbiote has not only taken over control of Parker’s Spider-Man suit, but it has also taken over Parker himself. As we impatiently wait to see how Parker actually gets the symbiote suit, we can indulge in the gameplay trailers and story trailers that Insomniac has posted that show Parker using the symbiote suit with no mercy.

There is no doubt that “Marvel’s Spider-Man 2” will be one of the best video games of this year; some fans even believe that the sequel could be a nominee for Game of the Year. Thankfully, the game has just gone gold which means it is officially ready to be released on Oct. 20. To stay informed about all things “Marvel’s Spider-Man 2,” follow @insomniacgames on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.

“1 concert down 576 to go”- Lana Del Rey concert review

By Aleesa Booker
Staff Reporter



The last few concerts I have been to the openers have been successful and popular in their own right. However, I had never heard of Nikki Lane. After the concert, I went through her music and added a few I liked to my playlist. I still can’t decide whether I enjoy the hype that openers I know can give me before the “real show” starts or if I like discovering a new artist. Or in this case, a new music genre.

Lana Del Rey came on at 9 p.m., which left many concertgoers, including myself, very irritated. She came on and started her setlist. I have a video from each one of her songs, but they aren’t any good because they are overshadowed by my beautiful “scream-singing.” The music was

great, she kept very close to the original beat, tone and key of all the songs. Therefore, it was easy to sing along with her.

Her backup dancers were doing minimal easy dance moves that made her the center of attention. She didn’t have many graphics on the stage or elaborate set pieces, which is always my favorite part of concerts. She eventually came down to the pit and took pictures and conversed with her fans, which I believe to be important for the fans to feel loved. She gave her appreciation and love for wanting to come to our state. She left with her last song that wasn’t on her setlist, but everyone knew.

Needless to say, Lana Del Rey is a great artist who knows what it takes to perform in concert. To answer the question that is still looming. Yes, the concert and the money I spent were totally worth it.



Pictured is Aleesa Booker at the Lana Del Rey concert on Sept. 27.

Are you interested in having your work published? Do you love to take photos? Have a passion for writing? We need you! We would love to have you join our staff by signing up for Coll Publications-Growl&Grid for the Spring of 2020. For more information, contact Mary Margaret Busby at: mbusby@holmescc.edu.

V's debut album "Layover" may cause a jazz resurgence in popular music

By Alyssa Jackson
Staff Reporter



In June of 2022, global Korean superstars BTS announced that they were taking a group hiatus until 2025. The band explained that during this time they would

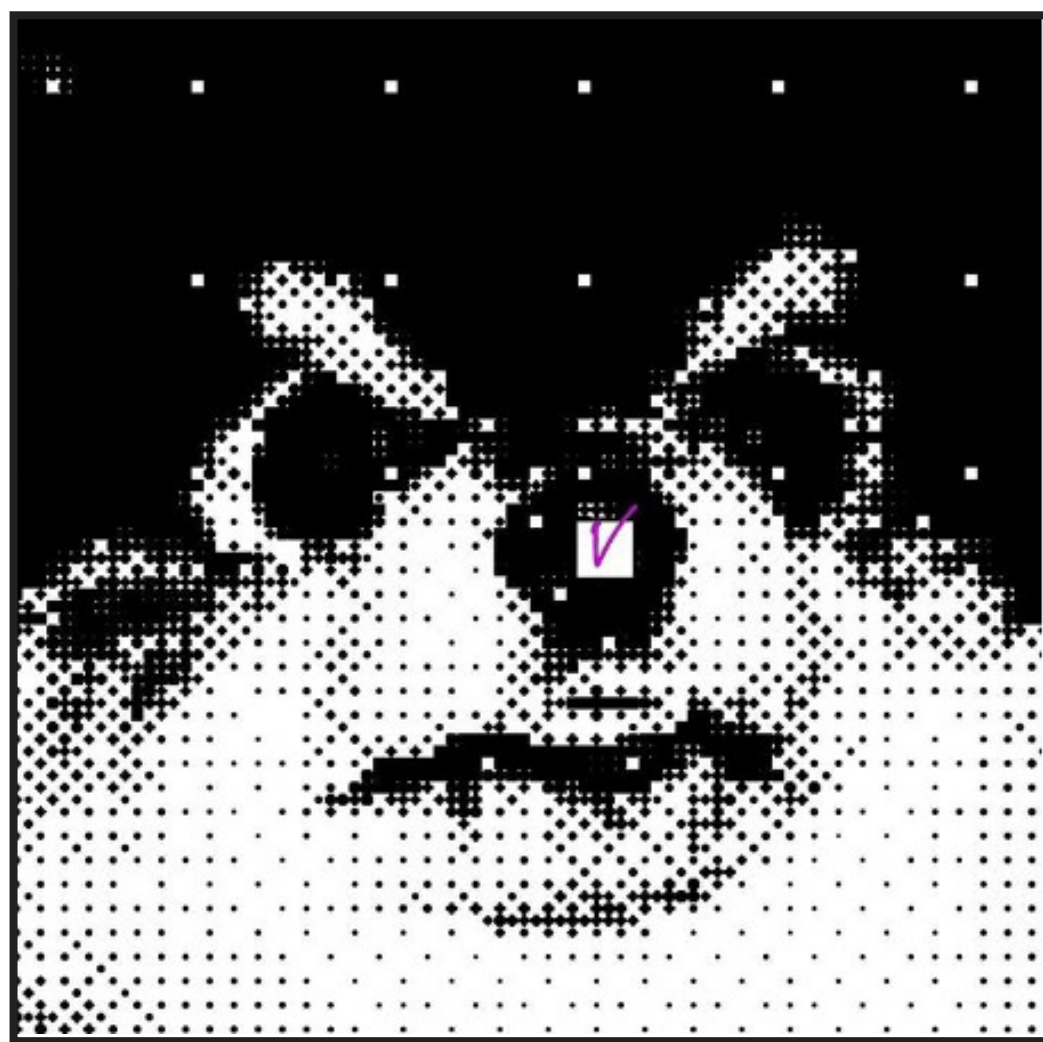
take time to discover themselves as individual artists, as well fulfill their mandatory military service. Since this announcement, all members have released solo music projects, each strikingly different from the other. The most recent release from member Kim Taehyung, artistically known as V, has struck me as possibly the most interesting project from the group's solo era thus far.

Released Sept. 8, V's mini album "Layover" uses a fusion of R&B, jazz, soul and pop to tell the story of someone going through the trials and tribulations of romantic loss. The singer has been public on his love for the jazz genre, often regarding it as the reason he fell in love with music, and this album is a testament to his words.

From start to finish the project is filled with sultry bass lines, lively pianos and fluttering flutes.

Listeners can't help but to feel warm throughout their bodies when they listen. V's unique baritone vocals, which can be compared to the likes of singers like Chet Baker and Frank Sinatra, float over the instrumentals like an instrument of their own. The track "Blue" in particular is a vocal standout. Although lyrically repetitive, V's almost croon-like vocals can simultaneously portray the emotions of loneliness and eventual hope.

In the past decades, jazz has become a genre that is gatekept from mainstream music. Those who are involved in the jazz sphere seem to harshly dictate what is and isn't considered "true jazz." Despite these efforts, releases such as "Layover" and even the recent album "Bewitched" from singer Laufey, who has spoken about the elitism in jazz, are being dawning as a renaissance for the genre. The public's reaction to V's solo endeavor has been overwhelmingly positive, and it will be no surprise to me if other musicians also take inspiration and dabble in the sound.



Pictured is the cover of V's "Layover" album.

Intramural sports at Holmes

By Evan Yates
Staff Reporter



Are you a student at Holmes Community College looking for a place to improve your physical health without going to the gym, to meet new people without being in the classroom or to have an opportunity to play sports without having to try out? In that case, the intramural sports program might be just the place for you! Intramural sports are held on campus every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; a variety of sports are played to give every student a chance to participate in a sport they are interested in.

As college students, we tend to spend most of our time sitting in a classroom, sitting in a library or sitting in our dorm studying. The only time most of us do any exercise at all is by walking to our classes—or maybe running to them if we are on the verge of being late. I had the pleasure to interview Sydney Kimble, coordinator of the fitness center and intramural sports, and she gave me her take on how intramural sports can sustain your physical health.

Kimble says, "It's a great way to be physically active! All the activities are

really fun and engaging, so it doesn't really feel like you're putting forth a lot of effort, but it's a really great way to exercise and to be active—especially while you're in college and trying to transition into this new lifestyle."

The intramural sports program is so valuable to the college students here at HCC because of how welcoming it is for everyone. The goal is to get everyone involved so that they can enjoy being around other students while unknowingly strengthening their physical wellbeing. Intramural sports breaks the barrier between physical health and social anxiety so that the program can be a useful resource for students to not only have fun playing sports, but to enhance their physical health.

Making friends in college can be hard. It is not the same as in high school when you have grown up with the people around you since elementary. In college, you are meeting people from all over the state, and even some people from out of state, so it can be hard to develop conversations with fellow students you are meeting for the first time. With the intramural

sports program, it is easier to engage with the people around you because you are outside of the classroom with other students playing a sport you are all interested in. In my interview with Sydney Kimble, I asked her how the intramural sports program can help with students mentally and she said, "For me, I was really shy in college and so intramurals was a really good way for me to put myself out there, get out of my comfort zone and to meet new people."

All Holmes students have a great opportunity to make friends through the intramural sports program. There are so many sports to be played throughout the week which allows for so many friendships to be made through those interests. Intramural sports can help you make connections with other students at Holmes that you might have never thought you could have a connection with; all in all, this will improve your state of mind and positively affect your years at Holmes knowing you have people you look forward to seeing after class at the intramural

sports events.

My last question for Kimble was why do you believe students should participate in the intramural sports program at Holmes, and she stated, "I think it's an awesome way to be involved in our Holmes family... It's a great way to put yourself out there. You don't have to be a former athlete... It's something everyone can participate in, from students to faculty and staff, to our families and to our alumni. It's a great way for the Holmes family to get together."

Considering all this, the intramural sports program is a great place for students at Holmes to succeed physically and mentally. The program gives students the opportunity to play all kinds of sports while also making fond memories with the students here at Holmes. To get involved, follow @hccintramuralsports on Instagram and be on the lookout for announcements on the page regarding dates and times for when intramural sports will be held on campus.



Homecoming (Continued from Cover)

of the Year, Maggie Garrett of Goodman; Distinguished Service Award, Jackie McKinney of Vaiden; Young Alumnus of the Year, Greg Holloway of Madison and Veteran of the Year, Dr. Sam Massey. The honorees will be recognized in McDaniel Auditorium at 10 a.m. followed by the debut performance from the Holmes Connection! and Coachmen at 10:30 a.m.

The mid-day activities include: lunch (available in several locations this year- the Carroll Cafeteria, Lorange

Student Center and Food Trucks in front of McDaniel), fun and games in the Grove accompanied with live music by the Steel Drum Ensemble. At noon, the Holmes Chorale will perform a variety of their music in the Chapel on the Hill and Men's Basketball will host an alumni game in Frank Branch Coliseum.

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

The annual Holmes Alumni Associ-

ation meeting will be held at 1:45 p.m. under the alumni tent in the Homecoming tailgating area (see map for details). The pep rally will be held at the tailgate area at 2 p.m. followed by the Holmes Marching Band entering the stadium. The alumni honorees will be recognized at 2:55 p.m and the Holmes Chorale will perform the national anthem prior to kickoff with Northwest at 3 p.m. In addition, the presentation of the 2023 Homecoming Court is set for halftime following a performance by

the Holmes Marching Band.

McMorrough Library will be open to all guests who might need a cool place to sit and guest are encouraged to visit the newly renovated space. The live music schedule will be released on our Homecoming events page closer to the date of the event: <https://events.holmescc.edu/hoco-2023/>

For any questions regarding Homecoming please contact Katherine Ellard 662-472-9134 or kellard@holmescc.edu.

Memorial (Continued from Cover)

minutes that we as physicians and healthcare providers at the hospital desperately need to achieve good outcomes often times come with a very high price. From the things our EMS professionals have to see on the side of the highways and in homes, to what they have to work with in those moments that sometimes put them in personal danger, it is a high price for them to pay. I want to say thank you to those who continue to serve and that I'm so grateful for those who have paid the ultimate price in the line of duty. No words I could say would rise to the occasion, but I know God has said those perfect words to them, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'

Gov. Tate Reeves took the podium next to give the key note address and thank the EMS professionals for their service.

"Today we gather to recognize those who have paid the ultimate price while serving in the line of duty as EMS professionals," Gov. Reeves said. "While they might not be physically with us here today, I believe in my heart that they are here in spirit. They will never be forgotten. They came from many different backgrounds and parts of our state, but they are united by one common factor: their tremendous courage."

Following the governor's address, Linda Ming spoke as a family representative on behalf of the EMS Me-

morial Committee. She is the wife of fallen AMR paramedic James Doug Ming, who passed away in 2021 after weeks of battling COVID contracted on the job.

"EMS professionals are certainly one-of-a-kind," Ming said. "I'm a kindergarten teacher and we call EMS professionals community helpers, but really community heroes is a better description."

The service concluded with a solemn recessional by the Honor Guard, keeping with the theme of honor, respect and dignity for the fallen EMS professionals. The memorial event was organized by a group of volunteers, including Holmes EMS instructor

Sandra Hultz.

"Our group felt that an annual state-level remembrance was needed in addition to the annual ceremony in Washington, D.C.," Hultz said. "Today we took a major step toward that goal. The EMS personnel who we honored gave their all to help others."

Several ambulance services and fire-rescue departments drove patient care vehicles to the service, and staff members with AirCare, the medical helicopter service at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, flew a helicopter to the event.

For more information, contact Hultz at shultz@holmescc.edu.

2023 Homecoming Queen and Maids Announced

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the Goodman Campus Homecoming Maids (left to right) Freshman Maid **Jakya Ellis** of Kosciusko, Sophomore Maid **Summer Watkins** of Madison, Homecoming Queen **Mary Patton Henderson** of Kosciusko, Student Body Maid **Cassidy Watkins** of Madison, Sophomore Maid **Audrey Eldridge** of Vaiden and Freshman Maid **Brittlyn Gillum** of Kosciusko.



Pictured are the Ridgeland Campus Homecoming Maids. They are (left to right) Freshman Maid **Maddison Turner** of Byram, Freshman Maid **Addison Sawyer** of Madison, Student Body Maid **Kennedy Manning** of Brandon, Sophomore Maid **Presleigh Powers** of Carthage and Sophomore Maid **Kamilah Millsap** of Madison.

Holmes Community College announced the 2023 Homecoming Queen and the Maids.

The Homecoming Queen is Mary Patton Henderson of Kosciusko. Goodman Campus court members include Student Body Maid Cassidy Watkins of Madison, Sophomore Maid Summer Watkins of Madison,

Sophomore Maid Audrey Ann Eldridge of Vaiden, Freshman Maid Brittlyn Danae Gillum of Kosciusko and Freshman Maid Jakya Ellis of Kosciusko.

Ridgeland Campus court members include Student Body Maid Kennedy Manning of Brandon, Sophomore Maid Kamilah Millsap of Madison, Sopho-

more Maid Presleigh Powers of Carthage, Freshman Maid Addison Chelsey Sawyer of Madison and Freshman Maid Maddison Turner of Byram.

Finally, Grenada Campus Maids include Student Body Maid Alana Claire Garrett of Carrollton, Sophomore Maid Camila Clevenger of Grenada, Sophomore Maid Melanie Ashlyn Lee of Grenada, Freshman Maid Meredith Meriwether of Holcomb and Freshman Maid Marla Ray McKnight of Vaiden.

Goodman Queen and Maids

Mary Patton Henderson is the daughter of Connie and Ricky Henderson. A graduate of Kosciusko High School, she is a marketing major at Holmes. Henderson is active on campus as a cheerleader and Phi Theta Kappa president. Off campus, she is a member of First Baptist Church of Kosciusko and works at Holt & Company in Kosciusko. In the spring of 2023, she was named a Scholar-Athlete. After Holmes, she plans to attend a university and continue pursuing her marketing degree.

Cassidy Watkins, daughter of Hollye and Mitch Watkins, is a graduate of

Germantown High School. A pre-nursing major, she is a member of the Holmes cheerleading team. Watkins has a daughter, Paisley Grace Guthrie, and is a member of Broadmoor Baptist Church. After Holmes, she plans to attend the University of Mississippi Medical Center for forensic nursing and would love to work at the Mississippi crime lab one day.

Summer Watkins is also the daughter of Hollye and Mitch Watkins and a graduate of Germantown High School. She is a pre-nursing major and cheerleader for Holmes. She was named a Scholar-Athlete during the spring of 2023 semester. Upon finishing her prerequisites, she plans to enroll in the Holmes nursing program in Goodman.

Audrey Ann Eldridge, daughter of Tara and Adam Eldridge, is a graduate of Winona Christian School. She is a biological science/pre-nursing major who is very active on campus. Eldridge is an Ambassador, member of Phi Theta Kappa and a work-study student for the Chemistry Department. Off campus, she is a dance instructor at Hot Shotz Dance Compa-

Homecoming Court (Continued from Page 7)

ny and an active member of New Salem Baptist Church. Upon graduation from Holmes, Eldridge plans to attend nursing school at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Brittlyn Danae Gillum, daughter of Bridgette Gillum and Zo Gillum, is a graduate of Kosciusko High School. A business administration major, she is active on campus as a Holmes cheerleader and member of Phi Theta Kappa. Outside of Holmes, Gillum is a member of the National Council of Negro Women and involved with the youth ministry at Guiding Light Church of God in Christ. In her free time, she enjoys braiding and styling hair, taking gymnastics and stunting classes, helping others and participating in community service events. Upon graduation from Holmes, Gillum plans to transfer to Jackson State University to pursue a degree in business administration with an emphasis in finance and management. She would like to become a financial manager, and also plans to obtain her cosmetology license and open her own shop one day.

Jakya Ellis, daughter of Moneke and Jamie Ellis, is a graduate of Kosciusko High School. She is a business major who is active on campus as part of the choir and The Holmes Connection! After Holmes, Ellis plans to transfer to Escoffier Culinary School to pursue her dream of becoming a private chef.

Ridgeland Maids

Kennedy Manning, daughter of Samantha and Mark Manning, is a graduate of Park Place Christian Academy. A pre-nursing major, she is active on campus as an Ambassador and member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Upon graduation from Holmes, Manning plans to transfer to the University for Women and earn her nursing degree. After nursing school, she

plans to work as a travel nurse. Manning will be escorted by Colin Crosby of Ridgeland.

Kamilah Millsap is the daughter of Elois and Roger Jacob. A graduate of Germantown High School, she is a social work/sociology major. Off campus, she volunteers at Webster's Animal Shelter and works at Madison Oak Daycare, where she has been employed for two years. She has also volunteered at Placenta Encapsulation, as well. Her plans after Holmes include transferring to Belhaven University, where both her mother and sister attended, to pursue a degree in social work. Millsap will be escorted by Jaderius White of Madison.

Presleigh Powers, daughter of Teresa and Jeff Powers, is a graduate of Pearl High School. She is a psychology major who is involved in numerous activities on campus. In addition to being an Ambassador, Powers is involved in Student Government Association (SGA), STEM Club and Phi Theta Kappa. She is also part of Cornerstone College Group. Upon graduation from Holmes, Powers plans to transfer to Mississippi College, major in psychology and later pursue a career in occupational therapy. She is being escorted by Graham Lambert of Canton.

Addison Sawyer is the daughter of Katesia and Earl Sawyer. A graduate of Germantown High School, she is a pre-medical major. Sawyer is active on campus as a member of Phi Theta Kappa and SGA. She also helps out at her mother's daycare, Madison Academy Preschool.

Sawyer helps children learn in many different, fun ways and helps out with big event activities like the Pumpkin Patch, May Day, the Carnival Festival, etc. After Holmes, she will transfer to Jackson State University and major in biological sciences. Her goal is to become an ophthalmologist and have her own practice someday.

She will be escorted by Aaron Sawyer of Madison.

Maddison Turner, daughter of Alicia and Frederick Turner, is a graduate of Hartfield Academy. She graduated high school with a 4.2 GPA and was a member of Mu Alpha Theta honor society. Turner is majoring in pre-veterinary medicine and she plans to continue her studies in veterinary medicine at Tuskegee or Louisiana State University. She will be escorted by Jaden Gonzalez of Brandon.

Grenada Maids

Alana Claire Garrett is the daughter of Kemp Garrett and Melissa and Jim Nester. A graduate of Carroll Academy, she is a speech pathology major. Garrett is active on campus as an Ambassador, Student Government Association (SGA) representative and member of Phi Theta Kappa. After Holmes, she plans to attend Delta State University and further her education in speech pathology before going to The W – Mississippi University for Women for graduate school. Garrett will be escorted by Ryan Hobson of Batesville.

Camila Clevenger, daughter of Veronica and Ian Clevenger, is a communications major. Off campus, she works as a private translator for Grenada. Clevenger will be escorted by Hunter Carter of Grenada.

Ashlyn Lee, daughter of Amber Brooke Hankins, is a graduate of Kirk Academy. She is a radiology major and President's List scholar. Lee is also a member of Elliot Baptist Church. Her goal is to pursue a career in radiology. Lee will be escorted by Richard Flautt of Grenada.

Meredith Claire Meriwether is the daughter of Ginger and Al Meriwether. A graduate of Grenada High School, she is majoring in pre-engineering at Holmes. She is active on campus as an Ambassa-

dor, Phi Theta Kappa president, a member of Baptist Student Union and a representative for SGA.

Off campus, Meriwether is an active member of Emmanuel Baptist Church and employed at the Grenada School of Performing Arts and at Puddleducks. She is a former Junior Auxiliary Crown Club Member, a former Anchor Club Member, a former National Honor Society Member, a Grenada High School Hall of Fame inductee and a James Hughes Outstanding Citizenship and Community Service Award recipient. Meriwether has also received the Dean's Scholarship, the Meek Foundation Scholarship and the MSCMEA Scholarship. Upon graduation from Holmes, she plans to transfer to Mississippi State University and pursue a degree in civil engineering. Meriwether will be escorted by Maddox Carpenter of Carrollton.

Marla Ray McKnight, daughter of Melanie and Bryan McKnight, is a graduate of Winona Christian School. An English major, she is active on campus as an Ambassador and member of the Baptist Student Union. She also plans to get involved with SGA and Phi Theta Kappa. After Holmes, she plans to transfer to the University of Mississippi and eventually go to law school. McKnight will be escorted by Bryce Kirk of Grenada.

The queen and her court will be presented during halftime of the Bulldogs' Homecoming Game against Northwest Mississippi Community College on Thursday, Oct. 26, in Goodman. Kick-off is scheduled for 3 p.m.

For more information about Homecoming, contact Alumni Coordinator Katherine Ellard at kellard@holmescc.edu.

Azzie Winston will be given special recognition at Homecoming

From Staff Reports/Photos



Azzie Winston, a native of Lexington, will be recognized for her hard work and dedication at Holmes Community College for over 30 years in Carroll Cafeteria. The special ceremony will be held in McDaniel Hall during the Homecoming festivities on Oct. 26.

Winston might be an employee of Aladdin but she has been the foundation of the Carroll Cafeteria food service line for almost 30 years. She does not miss a smile going through

the meal line and has welcomed almost three generations of students on the Goodman Campus.

Through the years, Winston's contributions as a nutritionist on the Food Service team have been invaluable to Carroll Cafeteria's success.

The college could not be more grateful for her time and service over these years. She loves all her "children" that she has fed over the years, but her customers are not just limited to students.

Winston has served state officials,

governors and college presidents. Her delightful customer service is something the college will always be grateful for, many years to come.

Winston resides in Goodman and has one child, Shed Winston, Jr. (46) who is a social worker for the United States Army. She also has two grandchildren, Julian and Josephine.

Jackie McKinney named Distinguished Service recipient

From Staff Reports/Photos



Jackie McKinney is the 2023 Holmes Community College Distinguished Service Award Recipient. The Holmes Alumni Association gives out this deserving award to a committed individual who shows dedicated service to the college. McKinney is a native of Vaiden and a graduate of Vaiden High School Class of 1977. She served in the military for 10 years after high school. She served as a former educator for several years, also.

McKinney helps provide opportuni-

ties for youth in Carroll County to be successful. She is now a social activist for youth in rural areas and an ordained minister.

Holmes is only 30 miles from Vaiden and has been a good fit for helping youth from rural areas," McKinney said.

In order to help provide opportunities for youth in Carroll County, McKinney established the Redeemer's Scholarship to aid African American residents of Vaiden who have a financial need.

The scholarship is given to two students (one male and one female) who pursuing an associate degree (AA).

McKinney still resides in Vaiden. She has one son and three grandchildren.

News

Gregory Neal Holloway named Young Alumnus of the Year

From Staff Reports/Photos



Gregory Neal Holloway has been named Holmes' Young Alumnus of the Year. He played soccer on the Ridgeland Campus during the 2002-03 season. He is a native of Byram and a graduate of Terry High School.

"The entire experience, the team experience at Holmes was the most memorable," Holloway said.

When Holloway played at Holmes, the soccer program was very young; it was only in its seventh year. The team only had two sophomores and one of them was Holloway. Holloway played under Coach Matt Convertino at Holmes and the team finished the year with more wins than the last four seasons combined.

"I don't think I could be prouder," Coach Convertino said. "Even though

the team consisted of almost entirely freshman, the players were willing to buy into the playing philosophy that I was selling from day one."

Holloway continued on to Mississippi College (MC) to earn a bachelor's degree in accounting. His first job after MC was with Harrold Contracting, a general contracting firm in Florida, on their estimate and bidding team. Later, he moved up to their program management team building high rise condominiums.

After working with Harrold Contracting Group, he became a partner with a company called Tenax Aerospace, LLC. Tenax was a special mission leasing company for aircrafts that leased aircrafts to different government entities. In January 2018, Tenax Aero-

space was sold to another investment firm in Connecticut.

While a principal at Tenax Aerospace, Holloway shaped the company's strategic direction and growth which gave him the foundation of where he is today with investment groups, to actively be involved in investment opportunities across multiple markets such as real estate, veterinary medicine, healthcare, oil and gas industries.

"Holmes prepared me to take on a challenge," said Holloway

Holloway and his wife, Traci, live in Madison with their two children, Cruz (8) and Mattie Grace (5). He also serves on a board of a non-profit foundation.

Dr. Samuel O. Massey, Jr. named Veteran of the Year

From Staff Reports/Photos



a B-29 bomber group in Spokane, Washington, for six months before completing a short tour of duty in the Panama Canal Zone and a longer tour at the Ramey Air Force Base (AFB) Puerto Rico during the start of the Korean War.

After being discharged from the Air Force, Dr. Massey went straight to Goodman where he entered Holmes Junior College and earned his degree in mathematics and science. He was named Most Intellectual, president of student body, president of the YMCA and president of the Baptist Training Union.

Following graduation from Holmes in 1953, Dr. Massey received his medical degree from University of Tennessee College of Medicine in 1956. After 12 years of working in a medicine and surgery practice in Picayune, he entered Tulane Medical School to specialize in otolaryngology and head and neck surgery. He received board certification in otolaryngology, cosmetic/plastic surgery and facial plastics and reconstructive surgery.

Upon finishing his training at Tulane, Dr. Massey opened his own practice in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, while simultaneously joining the Tennessee Air National Guard, where he was promot-

ed to colonel and clinic commander in 1980. During this time, he completed the professional military education courses of Air Command and Staff College, Air War College and the National Defense University. Just as Dr. Massey was on the brink of retirement, the AF offered him the positions Chief of ENT and Chief of Surgery at Eglin AFB in Valparaiso, Florida, and he accepted. After completing his four-year contract with Eglin, he returned to San Antonio to serve as Chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology for Wilford Hall Medical Center.

Dr. Massey created the Massey Medical Scholarship through the Mobile Medical Mission Hospital, Inc. in 1990 and touched the lives of 70 recipients by providing funding for these students to continue their education in a medical field of their choice. In 1993, he was honored with The Excalibur Award as the Air Force's Outstanding Clinical Surgeon and in 1994, was chosen as the National Recipient for the Annual Humanitarian Award by the Academy of Otolaryngology.

Following his stint at Wilford Hall, Dr. Massey was selected as Commander of the Air Transportable Hospital in Cuba to work with the 45,000 Cuban and 15,000 Haitian boat people. He re-

turned to Cuba twice more as a volunteer professor of surgery. Dr. Massey returned to Eglin AFB as a flight surgeon and over the tenure of his last 12 years of duty, held teaching positions at Tulane, University of Mississippi, University of Texas, U.S. School of Clinical Sciences Medical Schools and Army Schools of Aerospace Medicine. He is on the editorial review board for the Aviation, Space, and Environmental Medicine Journal and served on the Space Shuttle Medical Launch and Recovery Team.

Dr. Massey reflected on three of his instructors while at Holmes — Mrs. Frank Branch, G.J. Everett and John P. Mitchell.

"I owe my career and life to Holmes Junior College," Dr. Massey said. "I am eternally grateful to you for that."

Dr. Massey, now retired, is a full-time medical mission volunteer, and said he will go "any place, anywhere, anytime," to help those in need. He and his wife, Jamie of Jackson, reside in Ridgeland and have six children, 16 grandchildren and multiplying great grandchildren. The Auditorium in the Science and Mathematics Building on the Goodman Campus is named in his honor.

Maggie Garrett named Alumna of the Year

From Staff Reports/Photos



Maggie McCrory Garrett of Goodman is the 2023 Holmes Community College Alumna of the Year. She serves on the Holmes Development

Foundation Board of Governors, is a member of the Holmes Legacy Club and a proud alum of the Class of 1957.

Holmes was a natural fit for Garrett since it was just across the Big Black River in Goodman where she grew up. She was active in choir, the Wesley Foundation and was elected Sophomore Class Favorite and Mardi Gras Favorite.

After Holmes, Garrett attended Delta State where she earned a B.A. in English and French. She furthered her studies at the University of Southern Mississippi, Mississippi State University, The University of Mississippi and The Sorbonne in Paris, France.

Garrett is a retired teacher from the Mississippi school system. She starting her teaching career in Biloxi then continued teaching for Cheyenne High School in Wyoming. As a committed teacher, Garrett returned back to

Mississippi to teach at Central Holmes Christian School and then finished with the Kosciusko School District. Beyond her retirement she taught for the United State Federal Prison in Yazoo City.

Garrett is a woman of many talents; she's a talented musician, quilter, avid reader/author and gardener, but most of all Garrett is an accomplished artist and her talent began at Holmes. She studied under the late John Gaddis of Jackson; Marilyn Beth Hughes of Montana; Sally Phillips Buffington of San Antonio, Texas; Kevin Red Start of Robert's Montana and Santa Fe New Mexico; Bonnie Conrad of Utah and Ned Mueller of Seattle, Washington. Garrett has been chosen by the Mississippi Museum of Art to have some of her paintings hung in the museum. The Garrett collection of paintings can be found in businesses

and homes across the country.

Some might even have met Garrett on their travels to Kosciusko as she was a longtime owner of the Red Bud Inn. The Red Bud inspired a book called "A Taste of the Red Bud" which was a collection of recipes from, the bed and breakfast that has sold all through the United States.

Garrett has called Attala County home, most of her life but Red Lodge, Montana holds a special place in her heart which is where she lived after her late husband, Tom, passed away. Garrett moved back to her Mississippi farm known as Seneasha Farms, with her family in 2014. She and her late husband Tom have four sons Bobby (deceased), Tommy (60), Todd (deceased) and Scott (54). Garrett has eight grandchildren and one great-grandson whom she enjoys watching grow up.

Get ready for The Holmes Connection! during Homecoming '23!

By Evan Yates
Staff Reporter



It's October, and Holmes Community College's Homecoming is on the roll to begin! During the week of Oct. 23-26, HCC will be celebrating their Homecoming. There are many things to look forward to, but one of the most exciting parts about HCC's Homecoming is The Holmes Connection!'s first show!

If you are unfamiliar with The Holmes Connection!, the HCC website provides clarity on what to expect. "With a fantastic light show, powerful vocals, and contagiously energetic choreography, The Holmes Connection!

provides an exciting, professional show that generates magnetic audience appeal."

Since I was a kid, I have seen many of The Holmes Connection! shows, and I can confirm that everything the HCC website said is true. The energy that The Holmes Connection! give off is unmatched; the audience will genuinely enjoy what they see anytime The Holmes Connection! is on stage. The Holmes Connection! will truly take your breath away with their live performances during Homecoming week.

This year, The Holmes Connection!

has been working diligently everyday, since Connection! camp which started in July, to prepare the show for Homecoming. It has been a long and difficult process, but the pros definitely outweigh the cons. The singers and dancers put in all the effort to make sure the choreography and vocals are almost perfect and ready for show day during Homecoming. Behind the scenes, crew members are preparing the stage, working on getting costumes together, managing the lights, creating props for the show and helping backstage in any way they can. Once this all comes together, the show for Homecoming will be born.

A few members from Connection! gave me their input on how they feel about their experiences in this year's group. Eli Rigby, a sophomore crew member, said, "I enjoy getting to see behind the scenes of the show and getting to know the group."

Jakya Ellis, a freshman singer and dancer for the group, said, "I love Connection!, the people and the music and the love we have for it. With this group it teaches you many things like respect, responsibility and growth! I can't wait to perform with the people I love the most."

In addition, I asked a couple members why they feel the audience should

be excited for this year's show specifically. Madeline Davis, a sophomore singer and dancer, said, "We are incorporating some new things into this year's show. A lot of people will be surprised to see what we are doing differently this year—musically and dance-wise."

Jamya Ellis, also a sophomore singer and dancer, said, "It's going to be a good one! We have high energy songs that everyone knows. Most people haven't experienced a Connection! show, so they are in for a treat!"

This is a brand new year for The Holmes Connection! They have a new group of singers and dancers, a new list of music and dances to learn and a new audience to perform to. As a member of The Holmes Connection!, I would encourage anyone who is reading this to please come support us either on Oct. 25 during the student show or Oct. 26 for the Homecoming show at the Goodman Campus in the McDaniel Hall auditorium. There is so much to look forward to with this show and I cannot wait until it is all yours for you to enjoy! To stay up to date with The Holmes Connection, please follow @theholmesconnection on Instagram and @holmes.connection on Facebook.

Food Network Cookie Champion and owner of The Vanillan teaches Holmes culinary arts class

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the Holmes Culinary Arts students with Food Network Christmas Cookie Champion **Beth Hennington**, who owns The Vanillan custom cookie business.

Beth Hennington, artist and owner of The Vanillan custom cookie business in Madison, did a cookie baking/decorating class with Holmes Community College's culinary arts students on Thursday, Oct. 5. Hennington made

a national name for herself when she won \$10,000 and the title of Food Network Christmas Cookie Challenge Champion. Since that time, she has decorated her cookies in the Food Network kitchen with The Pioneer Wom-

an, Ree Drummond and Chef Eddie Jackson.

She has also been the closing speaker and taught classes at Cookie Con. Hennington occasionally offers cookie classes in the Jackson/Metro area and teaches students how to decorate and paint cookies like she did with the Holmes students.

During the lesson, she showed them how to make the dough for the cookies, showing how using different techniques can make the same cookie dough have a totally different texture. Next, she worked with the students on the art of cookie decorating, giving them the opportunity to decorate pawprints and Holmes logo cookies alongside her.

Prior to becoming a nationally-known cookie maker extraordinaire, Hennington owned a mortgage company, but and decided to pursue her passion. Outside of her cookie-making and teaching, she is active in the local

community. She's an Ambassador for Make A Wish Foundation, a board member for the Central Mississippi Down Syndrome Society (CMDSS), a member of The Madison County Republican Women and serves on the leadership team for Reservoir Career Women. Additionally, Hennington has judged beauty pageants and in March judged the MS ProStart Invitational for the Mississippi Hospitality & Restaurant Association, which Holmes' culinary arts students also participated with.

She and her husband Kenneth reside in Madison where in her free time she enjoys her family and two grandchildren, Aurora and Aiden. She also loves her Mississippi State University Bulldogs and her New Orleans Saints. Hennington loves the Lord her God and understands that everything she is, has and is able to do comes from Him.

Holmes Ridgeland to host self defense seminar

From Staff Reports/Photos

Join instructor Tommy Turk, a fifth-degree black belt in Seibukan Shorin-Ryu, and the chief instructor at Reservoir Karate.

**WEDNESDAY
NOV. 15
2:30**

HCC FITNESS CENTER

SIGN UP! See Ms. Canard (Madison hall 105b) to register for this **FREE** event.

On Wednesday, Nov. 15, Holmes Community College will be hosting a Self Defense Seminar in the Ridgeland Campus Fitness Center. The seminar will be taught by Sensei Tommy Turk, a fifth-degree black belt in Seibukan Shorin-Ryu and the chief instructor at Reservoir Karate.

Sensei Turk has over 40 years training in Seibukan Shorin-Ryu and is a fifth-degree black belt. He has competed in numerous tournaments receiving awards for Sportsman of the Year; Competitor of the Year; Instructor of

the Year and State Champion in Kata, Kumite and Weapons from the Mississippi Karate Association. He placed third at AAU Nationals in both weapons and kumite. He has also received the Shimabukuro Award for commitment to the Dojo Kun principles.

To register for this free event, see History and Political Science Division Chair Laura Canard in Madison Hall 105B.

Holmes alumna Madison Allyn Douglas joins the college's staff

From Staff Reports/Photos



Madison Allyn Douglas of Bentonia joined the Holmes Community College family as the administrative assistant for the Student Counseling Center on the Ridgeland Campus. An alumna of the college, she graduated Holmes in 2016 before transferring to Mississippi State University.

While at Holmes, Douglas was an Ambassador and Freshman Homecoming Maid on the Goodman Campus. After Holmes, she earned a bachelor's degree in fashion merchandising with a minor in business marketing from MSU.

An active member of the community, Douglas is a member of the Junior Auxiliary of Yazoo City where she

serves as a board member. She is also the local pageant director for the Miss Magnolia State pageant system. In her free time, she loves spending time with friends and family.

Douglas and her husband Hunter have been married for three years and have a daughter named Saylor who will be two in July.

"I have had a huge love for Holmes Community College ever since my time on campus as a student," Douglas said. "I am so excited to return to Holmes as an employee and once again be a part of the Bulldog family. There is truly 'No Place like Holmes!'"

Merriman named Goodman Campus Chief of Police

From Staff Reports/Photos



Grenada Police Department veteran Joey Merriman has been named the new chief of police at the Goodman Campus of Holmes Community College.

Merriman brings over 25 years of law enforcement experience to the College's main campus.

He attended the Grenada Campus of Holmes Community College and began in law enforcement in 1998 after being hired by the Grenada Police Department. Shortly after, he graduated from the Mississippi Law Enforcement Training Academy in Pearl and served as a patrolman in Grenada.

From 2000-2002, he worked on the

Grenada Drug Task Force and from 2002-2006, he served as evidence custodian for the Grenada PD before returning as a patrolman. He continued climbing the ranks at Grenada PD being named sergeant, captain and was named patrol commander in 2019.

He served as an instructor of defensive tactics (PPCT & SSGT) for 22 years and is certified in response to active shooter and criminal patrol and drug interdiction.

Merriman is married to his wife, Adrienne, and they have four sons, Josh, Jeremy, Noah and RJ, who is a member of the Holmes baseball team.

Holmes hires Marlena Simon as ABE/HSE instructor

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College welcomed Marlena Simon as an Adult Education/High School Equivalency (ABE/HSE) instructor on the Ridgeland Campus. She comes to Holmes with over 29 years of experience working in education.

Simon has 20 plus years of experience teaching in Louisiana public schools, six years serving as a math and science coordinator in private schools (in Louisiana and Mississippi) and three years working in adult education in Rankin County. She holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of New

Orleans and is certified to teach K-12 elementary education and Spanish. Simon is also a member of the Mississippi Association of Adult and Community Education.

In her free time, Simon enjoys gardening, traveling and cooking. She and her husband of 25 years, Ricky, have two children; Mark (34) and Alexis (21).

"I'm originally from Louisiana, but I have been a Mississippi resident since 2006," Simon said. "I love making a difference in my students' lives and I am excited to join the Holmes Community College family."

Holmes hires Taylor Arnold as ADN administrative assistant

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College welcomed Taylor Arnold as the administrative assistant for the Ridgeland Campus Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program.

Previously, Arnold served as a manager for Chick-fil-A for four years. A graduate of Ridgeland High School, she is currently enrolled at Holmes as an accounting major.

Arnold is an active member of Trace

Ridge Baptist Church where she has volunteered with the youth as well as the Resource Center. Additionally, she has volunteered with the Shower Power ministry, the Food Recourse Center and Webster Animal Clinic.

In her free time, Arnold enjoys crocheting, reading, hiking and walking her 7-month-old German Shepherd.

Suzanne Haney joins Holmes library staff

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College welcomed Suzanne Haney as a library technical assistant for the Ridgeland Campus.

Previously, Haney taught school in Alabama for 30 years. She taught for 25 years in public education at Piedmont High School, then for five years at The Donoho College Prep School in Anniston, Alabama. Haney taught grades 7-12 in writing, grammar, literature and speech, as well as Dual Enrollment English. She holds both a bachelor's and master's degree in secondary education with an emphasis in language arts.

"My husband, Terry, and I relocated to Mississippi last summer to live closer to our grandchildren," Haney said.

"We have a daughter and son-in-law, Savannah Dobbs and her husband Carson Dobbs, who have three children: Shepherd (3), Warrior (1) and another baby on the way. We also have a son, Slade, who is a pre-med major and plays baseball at Mississippi College."

Haney and her family attend Crossgates Baptist Church in Brandon. Her favorite volunteer work has been with Alaska Missions based in Anchorage and the Ronald McDonald House in Birmingham, Alabama. In her free time, she enjoys reading and spending time with her family.

"I am excited to be a part of the Holmes Community College family!" Haney said.

Katie Murphy new district coordinator of Dual Enrollment/Credit

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College welcomed Katie Murphy as the district coordinator of Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit. She has 21 years of experience working in the community college system; seven with Jones College and 14 years with Hinds Community College.

A community college alumna herself, Murphy holds an Associate of Arts degree in psychology from Hinds (1999), a Bachelor of Science in educational psychology from Mississippi State University (2001) and a Master of Arts in higher education from The University of Mississippi (2002). She is a member of The National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) and an active member of Highland Colony Baptist Church in Ridgeland, as well.

Murphy has three children: Thomas (19), Rhett (17) and Lainey Kate (14). Thomas was a dual enrollment/dual credit student at Holmes last year and is now a college freshman, Rhett is a junior at Germantown High School and Lainey Kate is an eighth grader at Germantown Middle School. Murphy's hobbies include attending her children's sporting events, working in the yard and playing with her two labs, Cocoa and Molly.

"I am very excited to be a part of the Holmes Community College family!" Murphy said. "I am a tremendous supporter of the Mississippi Community College system and I look forward to serving the students at Holmes!"

Makayla Buchanan joins the Workforce Development Department

From Staff Reports/Photos



Makayla Buchanan joined the Holmes Community College staff as the administrative assistant for workforce development on the Ridgeland Campus.

Buchanan comes to Holmes after working as a phone clerk at Jackson Healthcare for Women. A graduate of Brandon High School Class of 2020, she is in the process of continuing her

education.

Buchanan is a member of The Pointe Church in Brandon, and in her free time she enjoys reading and painting. She also enjoys keeping up with the latest movies and T.V. shows.

Holmes alumna Kailey Phillips hired as Ridgeland nursing instructor

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College welcomed alumna Kailey Phillips as an Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) instructor for the Ridgeland Campus. She earned her ADN degree at Holmes in 2013.

Following graduation from Holmes, Phillips obtained her bachelor's degree in nursing from Chamberlain University in 2020. She is currently working on her master's in nursing education at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, on track to graduate in the fall of 2024. Upon completing her master's, she will begin working toward her doctorate in nursing.

Prior to her position at Holmes, Phillips worked for Batson's Children's Hospital for six years. Before Batson's, she spent four years as a travel nurse

and working at Greenwood Leflore Emergency Room.

"I am always involved in helping Children's of Mississippi raise money through events such as Over the Edge with Friends," Phillips said. "Throughout the years, I've provided toys and clothing to the children at Batson's through various events/any donations I have been able to give."

In her free time, Phillips enjoys reading for fun (when not reading for school), spending time with her children and painting and drawing. Like his wife, Phillips' husband Adam is a Holmes alumnus; he graduated from the Emergency Medical Science Paramedic Program in 2013. They have two daughters, Henley (6) and Harley (2).

Crystal Southern named Ridgeland financial aid advisor/VA rep

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College's Crystal Southern has been named financial aid advisor and veteran's assistant representative for the Ridgeland Campus. Previously she served as a financial aid advisor on the Goodman Campus from 2022-23 and as the switchboard operator from 2021-22.

Southern is the daughter of Vanessa S. Keys and Byron Simpson. A graduate of J.J. McClain High School (now Holmes County Consolidated High

School), she is continuing her education at Holmes this fall.

Southern is involved with West Hill CME Church as well as New Canaan Missionary Baptist Church. In her free time, she enjoys practicing yoga and reading.

Gabrielle Hopkins joins Holmes Grenada Campus faculty

From Staff Reports/Photos



Gabrielle Hopkins of Greenwood has joined the academic on instructor staff on the Holmes Community College Grenada Campus.

The Piney Woods High graduate holds a bachelor's in psychology with a minor in pre-medicine from Tougaloo College as well as a master's in clinical psychology with a minor in forensic science from Capella University.

Prior to Holmes, Hopkins worked five years teaching chemistry for the Greenwood Consolidated School District. She is an active member of New Green Grove Church of Faith and the Mississippi's Association of Education. Her hobbies include reading, swimming, gardening and being a full-time mother.

Hopkins and her husband, Kenneth, have been married for eight years and have two children, Kenneth II (10) and Benjamin (4). They are expecting twins in November.

"I believe that all things are possible through Christ," Hopkins said. "I know that He has placed me here at Holmes for a purpose, and I am eager to do His will. My passion for helping others and desire to see the students grow beyond the classroom inspires me to create an atmosphere that inspires hope, kindles the imagination and infuses a love for learning. Holmes has provided a foundation to build on. I am grateful to add to this growing and loving environment."

Ridgeland PN students volunteer at Scarecrow Car Show

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus Practical Nursing students and their instructors volunteered at the 2023 Scarecrow Cruisein and Carshow held Oct. 20 and 21 on Main Street in Madison. Instructors Dr. Lakesia Sutton and Heather Roberts oversaw the students who took community members' blood pressure during the two-day event.

The Scarecrow Cruisein and Carshow is an event put on by a club of car enthusiasts with over 300 mem-

bers, the Mississippi Classic Cruiser (MCC). This event is one of the largest car shows in the South each October, and net proceeds from the event are contributed annually to Mississippi SIDS and Infant Safety Alliance and Hope Hollow Ministries.

Ridgeland ADN students volunteer at Senior Health Fair

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College Ridgeland Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) students participated in the Jackson Senior Health Fair at the Convention Center on Thursday, Oct. 19. The students participating were first semester ADN students, and they were accompanied by Instructor/Level Coordinator Alicia Turner, MSN, RN; Instructor Dr. Jennifer Bertucci and Instructor

Danette Tannehill, MSN, RN.

The event, which lasted from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., is a free community event, designed to encourage healthy lifestyles, prevent and manage disease and connect seniors to resources.

ADN students and instructors will participate in the Breast Cancer Walk at Trustmark Park on Oct. 28.

Kalee Morgan returns to Holmes Grenada to join library staff

From Staff Reports/Photos



Kalee Beck Morgan of Grenada returned to her alma mater to join the Holmes Community College Grenada Campus library staff. Morgan graduated from the Holmes Grenada Campus in May of 2020. After obtaining her associate degree in pre-allied health, she went on to complete the Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) program at Holmes Grenada, as well, in December of 2021.

Prior to working at Holmes, Morgan worked for an ambulance service in Cleveland as an EMT. She continues

her work as an EMT part-time and enjoys being able to do two very different jobs.

She and her husband, Cameron, just got married in April and they have a cat named Noella. In her free time, Morgan enjoys spending time with her family and catching up with my friends. She also loves to paint when she has the chance.

“I love Holmes Community College because I had the best experience as a student,” Morgan said. “I was an Ambassador, a member of Student

Government Association (SGA) and I served as an officer for Phi Theta Kappa honor society. I never wanted to leave Holmes when I graduated, and I am very grateful to be back.”

Holmes celebrates National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are participants and speakers at the statewide COABE event on Sept. 21 at the Two Mississippi Museums.

Holmes Community College participated in the celebration of 2023 National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week (AEFL Week) Sept. 18- 22.

AEFL Week seeks to raise awareness of the need for adult education and family literacy. The overall goal is to increase financial and societal support

for access to basic education programs for U.S. adults with low literacy, numeracy and digital skills.

Various organizations, including literacy programs, advocacy groups and community colleges participate in and host events to raise awareness about adult education and family literacy. The Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE) is a national organization dedicated to advancing adult education and literacy, and it plays a significant role in advocating for policies and programs that benefit adult learners. Chelia D. Woodfork-Thompson, the college and career navigator for Holmes, is the COABE state fellow for Mississippi this year, so the college participated in a number of events for AEFL Week.

On Tuesday, Sept. 19, Holmes hosted an event at the Yazoo City Teen Center. Yazoo County Commissioner Robert Coleman addressed the Adult Educa-

tion class at 9 a.m. In addition to Coleman’s presentation, representatives from the Dream Innovation - Kellogg Grant partnership provided a technology tour of their facilities in Yazoo City on Sept. 19.

Additionally, the Holmes Culinary Art students provided refreshments for a statewide event on Thursday, Sept. 21 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Two Mississippi Museums downtown. The event included a panel discussion featuring former Holmes GED Student and Current HSE instructor Sabrina Moore as a panelist. During the event, Mississippi Senator Joseph Thomas was recognized as Champion of the Year for the State of Mississippi by COABE.

To learn more about COABE and AEFL Week, contact Chelia D. Woodfork-Thompson at cwoodforkthompson@holmescc.edu.

Holmes’ Thompson receives MAMA Scholarship for 2023-24 school year

Information from Mississippi Automotive Manufacturers Association



Elton Thompson

Holmes Community College’s Elton Thompson in the Collision Repair Technology Program is among the winners for this year’s Mississippi Automotive Manufacturers Association (MAMA)’s 2023-2024 scholarship recipients. Thompson was one of 13 chosen from an outstanding applicant pool. The scholarships go to community college and university students interested in pursuing a career in the automotive manufacturing industry. MAMA’s scholarship fund that

has supported 205 students enrolled in Mississippi community colleges and universities reached a total of \$407,500 awarded since 2006. MAMA has supported the growth of a strong workforce essential to the health of all industries in the state since its inception in 2006. This year’s scholarships were awarded to technical and engineering-related majors, as well as non-traditional majors, that can be applied within the automotive industry. According to MAMA, “Thompson

has been dedicated to academics, extracurricular activities, and community service all while working two jobs. His love of restoring old vehicles and repairing today’s more complex vehicles that have been involved in accidents led him to the Collision Repair program where he is excelling. Thompson’s instructor described him as one of his best and hardest working students. Elton received the program’s 2023 Collision Repair Technology Award while maintaining a 3.8 GPA. After a class visit to an automotive restoration shop, Elton returned to the restoration shop to enquire about part-time help. With recommendations from Thompson’s instructor, Mike Martin at Classic Restorations in Gluckstadt hired Elton and has been pleased with his work ethic and high level of body work skills. The company hopes to hire him upon his completion of the collision repair program.”

Safety and environmental issues, along with the potential to make cars safer and more accessible for everyone, particularly individuals with disabilities, were recurring interests expressed in essays submitted by this year’s recipients. The students discussed the possibilities of integrating innovative technologies into vehicle production to create a world where each driver and passenger could em-

bark on safe and enjoyable journeys. They expressed excitement about the opportunity to be part of this transformative process and to witness the continuous advancements in automotive technology.

MAMA serves its members by promoting growth, development, and improvement in the automotive industry in Mississippi, as well as serving as a forum for interaction among automotive manufacturing companies in the state. In extending his congratulations, Kevin Burgess, MAMA’s President, said, “Mississippi has an environment conducive to advanced manufacturing. We are proud that Mississippi’s higher education system has invested heavily in educational opportunities and facilities which ensures the state will be able to produce the talented workforce necessary to keep the automotive industry strong. MAMA is committed to doing our part to recognize that workforce. I congratulate each of these students and wish them success in completing their degree, followed by a successful start in our industry!”

For more information about the MAMA Scholarship program, visit the MAMA website at <https://mamaonline.net/scholarships>.

Freedom Rides: Journey for Change exhibit in McMorrough Library

From Staff Reports/Photos



“The Freedom Rides: Journey for Change” will be on display at McMorrough Library on the Goodman Campus of Holmes Community College from Sept. 18-Oct. 30. This exhibit explores one of the most important events in civil rights history through the eyes of the activists fighting for change. The exhibit is part of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History Traveling Exhibits Program.

On May 4, 1961, the first Freedom Riders left Washington D.C., on two buses headed for New Orleans determined to challenge segregation on buses and in bus stations throughout the Deep South. The journey was organized by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). On May 24, 1961, the buses rolled into Jackson, and the Freedom Riders were immediately arrested as they attempted to use the segregated facilities. They

were charged with breach of peace and many riders made the decision of “Jail, No Bail.” By the end of the summer, hundreds of Freedom Riders had been arrested, jailed, and sent to Parchman—Mississippi’s notorious state penitentiary. Visit The Freedom Rides: Journey for Change to bear witness to their experiences as they struggled and sacrificed in the name of equality and civil rights.

“The Freedom Rides: Journey for Change” is sponsored by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the Foundation for Mississippi History, the Mississippi Humanities Council, the Mississippi Historical Records Advisory Board and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. For more information about this exhibit, contact the Mississippi Department of Archives and History at exhibits@mdah.ms.gov.

Paralegal instructor Darleen Dozier named Distinguished Educator

From Staff Reports/Photos



Darleen Taylor Dozier, the Holmes Community College program coordinator/instructor for paralegal technology, was named the 2023 Distinguished Educator by the National Association for Legal Support Professionals (NALS).

Dozier has worked on the Holmes Ridgeland Campus for 15 years. She holds a Master of Social Sciences degree in history/political science/criminal law from Mississippi College and a Bachelor of Science in paralegal studies from The University of Southern Mississippi. In addition to NALS, Dozier is a member of NALA: The Paralegal Association and the Jackson

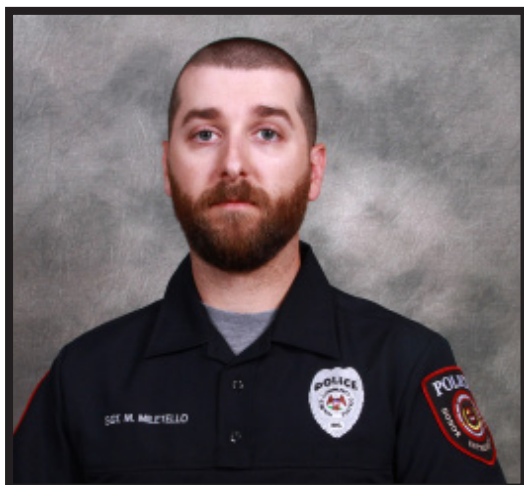
Legal Professional Association (JLPA).

Dozier holds the Advanced Certified Paralegal (ACP) through NALA and the Accredited Legal Professional (ALP) through NALS. Additionally, she was president of the Metro Legal Professional Association from 2017 – 2021, president of the Mississippi Paralegal Association President in 2013 and received the Pro Bono Award from the Mississippi Paralegal Association in 2007.

“Darleen is very deserving of this honor,” said Career Tech Coordinator Allison DeWeese. “I know her students would agree with me!”

Miletello joins Goodman Campus Police force

From Staff Reports/Photos



Grenada native Matt Miletello recently joined the Holmes Community College Goodman Campus police force as a patrolman.

Miletello came to Holmes in June from the Winona Police Department, where he served as captain and investigator. Prior to going to Winona, he worked at the Grenada Police Department, where he was the animal control officer from 2013-16 and then went

to the police academy at Mississippi Delta and served as a patrolman at Grenada from 2016-17. He is certified in criminal investigation and is also a firearms instructor.

He also was a sergeant in the Mississippi Army National Guard from 2008-15 as an infantryman.

The Grenada High School graduate has an associate’s degree in forestry from Holmes Community College. He

is also in flight school at Circle S in Starkville.

He is married to Corey Jackson Miletello, and they have a daughter, Allie, who is two. In his spare time, he is a “girl dad”, history buff and an aviation enthusiast.

MOSAIC holds Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraiser

From Staff Reports/Photos



Multicultural Organization for Students Achieving, Inspiring others, and Challenging themselves (MOSAIC) Club held a Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraiser on Oct. 10 outside Carroll Cafeteria on the Goodman Campus.

This club is made up of students who

are a part of Student Support Services and its purpose is to provide opportunities for leadership development, community services projects, fellowship and various cultural activities.

Pictured (left) are (left to right) Kaylee Everette and advisor Linda Alexander-Jones.

Tiffany Gore joins the Holmes Grenada staff

From Staff Reports/Photos



Tiffany Gore has joined the Holmes Community College Grenada Campus staff as a business office and financial aid representative. Gore is a graduate of Grenada High School and attended Holmes after.

Prior to coming to Holmes, Gore worked at The Children's Dental Center for seven years. She is a member of Friendship Baptist Church where she serves on the Children's Committee,

Women's Ministry Committee and co-teaches Sunday school for kindergarten through first grade with her husband, Bradley.

She and Bradley have two children, Mabry (9) and Grant (4), as well as two dogs, Cooper and Kate. Her hobbies include attending her daughter's softball tournaments, cheering for the Ole Miss Rebels, taking beach trips, but mostly taking her kids to sporting

events and practices.

Gore's favorite quote is, "Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless."

"I love my family, I love my community and I love people!" Gore said. "There's No Place like Holmes!"

Holmes held 95th Commencement for Class of '23 on May 11

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Grenada Campus M.C. McDaniel Scholarship recipient **Hope Avery**, Grenada Outstanding Phi Theta Kappan **Karlee Luke**, Holmes President **Dr. Jim Haffey**, Goodman Outstanding Phi Theta Kappan **Lacey Greenlee** and Goodman McDaniel Scholarship recipient **Chase Langford**.



Pictured are (left to right) Ridgeland Campus M.C. McDaniel Scholarship recipient **Garrett Viator**, Holmes President **Dr. Jim Haffey** and Ridgeland Outstanding Phi Theta Kappan **Jaylen Grays**.

Holmes Community College held the 95th Commencement Exercises on Thursday, May 11 in Frank Branch Coliseum on the Goodman Campus. The Goodman Campus, Grenada Campus and Attala Center ceremony was held at 10 a.m. and the Ridgeland Campus and Yazoo Center graduates had a ceremony at 2 p.m. The ceremonies were also live streamed at holmesccmedia.com/white-channel.

Each ceremony began with a faculty and administration processional. Robert Ethan Lindsay served as the macebearer for the first ceremony and Charlotte Lamar carried the mace for the second one. Following the processional, a video produced by the Holmes Marketing Department was shown that highlighted the major events/campus life for the 2022-2023 school year.

Next, Goodman Campus Phi Theta Kappa member Meredith Dean gave the invocation during the first ceremony and Ridgeland Campus Phi Theta Kappa member Kayla Mangum gave it during the second one. Vice President for Academic Programs Dr. Jenny Bailey Jones and Vice

President for Career Technical Education Dr. Amy Whittington followed the invocation with a welcome and a few inspiring remarks.

"Graduates, during your time at Holmes, you have learned how to put words into action, how to listen carefully and communicate clearly, how to understand and appreciate complexity and to continue to make Mississippi a great place to live and work," Dr. Whittington said. "These are the fruits of a college education and the skills for a lifetime, the building blocks of a productive, ethical and satisfying life. Class of 2023, you are joining Dr. Jones and me as proud alumnae of this College and will become part of the lifelong Holmes family, a connection we hope brings you as much pride as it has for us in our lives."

Dr. Jones shared a famous quote by John Wesley, as well.

"As you move on to the next part of your journey, remember to 'Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places

you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can,'" Dr. Jones said. "Welcome to all, and congratulations graduates!"

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

Jonathan Chase Langford was the M.C. McDaniel Scholarship recipient for the Goodman Campus, Hope Avery, for Grenada, and Garrett Michael Viator for Ridgeland.

Langford is a pre-dentistry major from Ethel. He is a 2023 Hall of Fame inductee, Mr. Holmes for the Goodman Campus, an Ambassador, Holmes Plus member and Get2College Corps member. Langford was also president of the Kappa Alpha chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and was named a 2023 Order of the Golden Key recipient. He is actively involved in community and volunteer work through Shepherd's Touch in Kosciusko, community service projects through Phi Theta Kappa and storm relief volunteer work through the American Red Cross.

Langford plans to attend Mississippi State University this fall to obtain his bachelor's degree in biological sciences before going to the University of Mississippi Medical Center to become a doctor of dental medicine. He was also recently selected as a recipient of the Mississippi Rural Dental Scholarship Program.

Avery is a business administration major from Grenada. She is a Dean's List scholar and ACT Scholarship recipient. Avery has served as a Student Government Association representative and an Ambassador for the Grenada Campus. She also serves her community as a children's church leader and member of the church sign language team. Avery plans to attend the University of Mississippi-Grenada to earn her bachelor's degree in business.

Viator is a pre-law/legal studies major from New Iberia, Louisiana. He served as president of Phi Theta Kappa, vice president of Student Government Association and was named to the Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi Academic Team. Viator was also a member of the Social Science Club and a reporter for The Growl student newspaper. He conducted academic research and data collection for Phi Theta Kappa, established awareness to new student activities and assisted in the establishment of Ridgeland's first intramural sports program. Garrett plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in accounting before going to law school.

For the Outstanding Phi Theta Kappan awards, Lacey Greenlee was the recipient for the Goodman Campus, Karlee Luke, for Grenada, and Jaylen Grays for Ridgeland.

Greenlee is a pre-med major from Kosciusko. She was Miss Holmes for

the Goodman Campus, vice president of Phi Theta Kappa and a President's List Scholar. Greenlee was also a member of the Holmes Chorale and Holmes Connection! She is a sales associate at Holt and Company, as well. Her community service includes serving as a leader for DNOW 2023 for First Baptist Church Kosciusko and volunteering for Shepherd's Touch in Kosciusko. In her free time, Greenlee enjoys singing, dancing, hanging out with friends, spending time with family and watching movies and reality T.V. She will attend Mississippi State University to earn a bachelor's degree in biological science. After graduating from MSU, she plans to attend University of Mississippi Medical Center to pursue a degree in medicine in hopes of becoming either an OB/GYN or pediatrician.

Luke is a nursing major from Eupora. She was president of Phi Theta Kappa, an Ambassador, Student Government Association member and Baptist Student Union member. Some of her honors included being voted Miss Holmes for the Grenada Campus, making it on the President's List, receiving the Fine Arts Award, being voted a Sophomore Homecoming Maid and receiving the ACT Scholarship. Luke has volunteered at the annual Hope Outdoors Banquet for the past three years, and she helps organize and fill the Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes each year at her church. She plans to return to Holmes in the fall to begin the Associate Degree Nursing program.

Grays is a psychology major from Jackson. He was Mr. Holmes for the Ridgeland Campus, a President's List scholar, vice president of public relations for Phi Theta Kappa and a Student Government Association representative who assisted in founding intramural sports in Ridgeland. Additionally, he established Student Instagram Takeover. Off campus, he is an active member of Relevant Church and a member of Thursday Night Thrive. As a freshman, Grays was employed at Shoe Station and served as a volunteer for Abraham's Kitchen. He is attending Mississippi State University in the fall and he will pursue a bachelor's degree in psychology.

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

"We are so proud of you!" Miller said. "As you leave today, you are embarking upon a new chapter in your journey of life, and we sincerely hope you consider Holmes Community College a place to which you can return for support and encouragement. Our interest in you does not end today. As alumni, we ask that you stay in touch because you are important to us – our administration, faculty, and staff. You carry the legacy of Holmes with you wherever you go, so when you succeed, Holmes Community College succeeds."

Each graduate made their way to the stage one-by-one to receive their diploma as their name was called. Miller concluded the ceremony, and presented the Class of 2023 to the audience.

Ridgeland Campus holds practical nursing pinning ceremony

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Holmes Ridgeland Campus Practical Nursing Class of 2023. They are (front, left to right) **Victoria Rushton, U’kilah McKinley, Demya Watson, Kalyn Jones, Ikeyonia Davidson, Brianna Beamon, Colton Alexander,** (back row, left to right) **Shea Harris, Jayla White, DeAnna Shoulders, Gracie Johnson, Kimberly Rushing, Brian Burrough and Robyn Liddell.**

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus held a pinning ceremony for the Practical Nursing Class of 2023 on June 29 at Broadmoor Baptist Church in Madison. Fourteen students were honored. The graduating class included Colton Alexander of Lena, Brianna Beamon of Ridgeland, Brian Burrough of Benton, Ikeyonia Davidson of Clinton, Shea Harris of Yazoo City, Gracie Johnson of Brandon, Kalyn Jones of Benton, Robin Liddell of Clinton, U’kilah McKinley of Itta Bena, Kimberly Rushing of Clinton, Victoria Rushton of Canton, DeAnna Shoulders of Jackson, Demya Watson of Clinton and Jayla White of Byram.

The ceremony began with a proces-

sional of the graduates, followed by Burrough, the class vice president, giving the invocation. Following the prayer, Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Don Burnham welcomed everyone before Davidson, the class president, shared some remarks.

“First, I give honor to God, who has made all this possible,” Davidson said. “Next, I would like to thank all of our families and our friends who aided us in this nursing journey. Last, but not least, I want to thank the Practical Nursing Class of 2023. We did it! We have seen each other at our worst and we have celebrated each other at our highest moments. We set out to achieve this goal, and here we are today, living in our moment.

“When we set out on this journey, we had no idea what was ahead for us,” Davidson said. “The late nights, the early mornings and still being active and present for our families. Whatever mountain we have had to climb, it has not been in vain. Being in this moment today, and going through these past 10 months should let us know that there is nothing that can stop any of us.”

Following Davidson’s remarks, nursing instructor Dr. Lakesia Sutton introduced the speaker, Priscilla Burks, Ph.D., the director of Practical Nursing Education for the Mississippi Board of Nursing. Burks oversees the PN curriculum in Mississippi’s community and proprietary colleges and governs the state’s PN programs. She has more than 20 years of experience in nursing education and administration, including time as the Dean of Nursing and PN director for community colleges.

“I want to say, congratulations,” Burks said. “I am humbled to participate in one of the most historical parts of your nursing journey: your pinning ceremony. What an accomplishment! A survey a few years ago deemed nursing as one of the most challenging programs to complete and you have survived it! The struggle may have been real, but the reward is worth it.

“Nursing is a fabulous career with more opportunities than you will ever imagine,” Burks said. “Being a nurse means that you will forever be learning and growing. Follow your heart, set goals and take advantage of opportunities when they are presented to you.

“In closing, graduates, I’d like to offer you some advice,” Burks said.

“Show gratitude. You wouldn’t be here today without the support of your family and friends, whether that be support financially, emotionally, spiritually... provided a shoulder for you to cry on as you prepared for finals, interceded in prayer on your behalf... show gratitude. Remain humble; humility is an indication of your inner strength. No task is beneath you and everyone on the team is important. Challenge yourself. There are going to be times of uncertainty, but trust in yourself and know that the PN faculty have prepared you to achieve greatness. Possess integrity. Take care of yourself. Always, always, always remember what it was like to be a student and encourage the next generation of nurses.”

After Burks’ address, nursing instructor Heather Roberts presented awards. Liddell was named valedictorian for having the highest GPA in her class, Jones was named salutatorian for having the second highest GPA and Watson was named the class historian for having the third highest. Additionally, Liddell was named Practical Nursing Student of the Year for her excellence in academics and leadership. After the awards presentation, Dr. Sutton called the students to the stage to receive their certificates and pins. Dr. Burnham and Career Technical Coordinator Allison DeWeese presented certificates before Roberts pinned each student.

Following the pinning, Roberts explained and led the candle lighting before Davidson, the class president, led the graduates in reciting the Practical Nurse’s Pledge. Finally, Dr. Sutton

13 Grenada students complete first ever 8-week EMS class

From Staff Reports/Photos



Thirteen students at the Holmes Community College Grenada Campus recently completed the first-ever 8-week Emergency Medical Services (EMS) class. All 13 students are now eligible for the NREMT exam.

The 13 graduates included Natijiah Basin, Kayla Beilke, D’Marin Burns, Cohen Haire, Sarah Haire, Hal Haney, Amber Killough, Kenny Murrell, Shayne Smith, J’Kira Spearman, Aubrey Waldrop, Charles Washington and Nathan Welch. The program was taught by instructor Raymond Liberto.

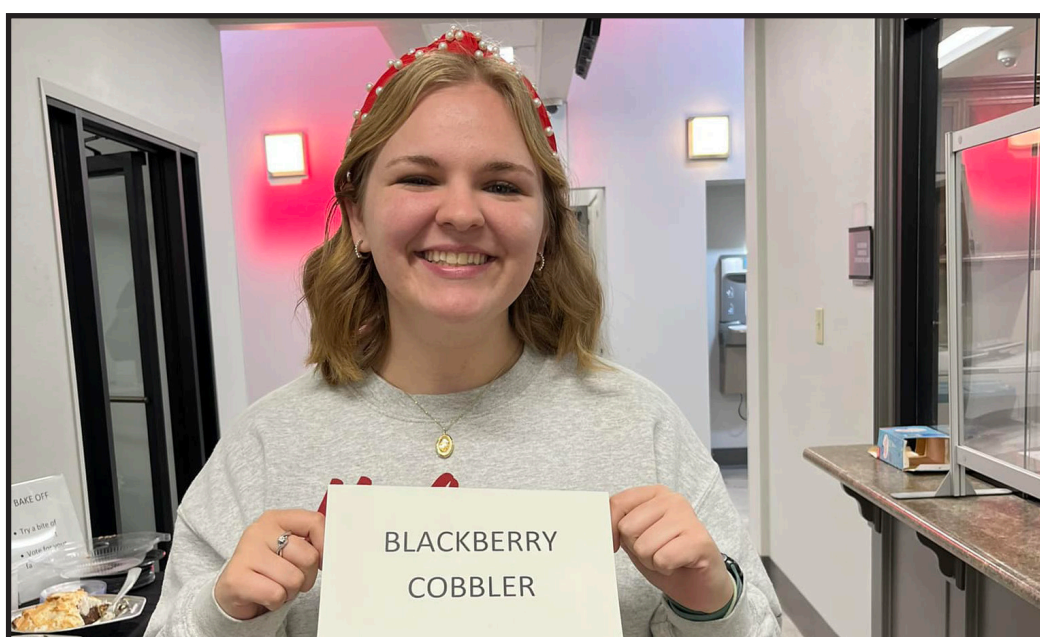
Amber Killough received special recognition for finishing the class with the highest overall average.

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.

Ashlyn Gillespie wins Grenada Bake-Off 2023

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus Student Government Association (SGA) hosted a Bake-Off on Monday, Oct. 23. Students and staff whipped up their best desserts for everyone to taste-test.

Ashlyn Gillespie was voted Bake-Off Champion for her blackberry cobbler. Gillespie is a sophomore pre-veterinary major.

Pictured (far right) is **Ashlyn Gillespie**, the Bake-Off Champion.

Pictured (left) is Ashlyn Gillespie’s winning blackberry cobbler.

Grenada Campus graduates Surgical Technology Class of 2023

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Grenada Surgical Tech Class of 2023. They are (left to right) Ashton Whitfield, Amy Bonner, Katie Lauren Clark, instructor Leah Mitchell, Elizabeth Upchurch, Akia Hollands, Markia Griffin and Raven Otis.

The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus held a Pinning Ceremony for the Surgical Technology Class of 2023 on June 29 in the Corey Forum Auditorium. Eight students were honored.

Graduates included: Amy Bonner of Boyle, Katie Lauren Clark of Carrollton, Markia Griffin of Kosciusko, Akia Hollands of Kosciusko, Raven Otis of Canton, Elizabeth Upchurch of North Carrollton and Ashton Whitfield of Holcomb.

The ceremony began with surgical technology instructor Leah Mitchell welcoming everyone. She recognized two students for having the highest and second highest GPAs in the class. Otis

was named valedictorian for having the highest and Upchurch was named salutatorian for having the second highest.

After the awards were given, Mitchell called the students up one-by-one to receive their certificates and pins. The graduates then recited the Association of Surgical Technologists (AST) Code of Ethics before Whitfield concluded the ceremony with the benediction.

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.

Ridgeland Campus celebrates Surgical Technology Class of 2023

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Ridgeland Campus Surgical Technology Class of 2023. They are (left to right) Tisha Wilson, Eurickia Williams, Jasper Warren, instructor Shea Coleman, Tiye Strong and Kenteria Griffin.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus held a pinning ceremony for the Surgical Technology Class of 2023 on June 28 in the McGowan Workforce Training Center. Five students were honored. The graduating class included Kenteria Griffin of Madison, Tiye Strong of Vicksburg, Jasper Warren of Canton, Eurickia Williams of Clinton and Tisha Wilson of Brookhaven.

The ceremony began with a processional of the graduates, followed by Williams giving the invocation. Following the prayer, Ridgeland Vice President Dr. Don Burnham welcomed the crowd before Griffin stepped up to introduce the speaker, Dr. Jared Davis.

Dr. Davis is a surgeon at UMMC. He is double board certified in general

surgery and plastic surgery. Dr. Davis earned his baccalaureate degree at Cornell University, followed by his medical degree at Meharry Medical College. He went on to complete general surgery residency, plastic surgery residency and earned an MBA at the University of Louisville. He returned home to Jackson to join the faculty at UMMC in 2018, where he served as associate program director of the Independent Plastic Surgery Resident Program.

“I want to say that I think the future of surgery can be and should be very bright,” Dr. Davis said. “That is largely due to a lot of people that are here in this room. What we do is very serious. I think of surgery not just as an occupation or a job, but as a calling. In English, those words are very different, but in German, there is no word for

job or occupation; there’s only calling. Your job is your calling.

“Calling, I think, speaks to purpose,” Dr. Davis said. “It’s that idea of your calling that helps us to get out of bed in the morning knowing that what we do makes a difference. In the operating room, the calling or purpose that we all share is singular. It’s to take high-quality care of the patient. To do that, it calls for each one of us to be knowledgeable, professional and to communicate effectively with each other. This is something that we have to do sometimes despite long days, being on call, being fatigued, sometimes being sick ourselves or having family members who are sick, but ultimately, the patient is counting on us.

“Often, you are helping a patient on what could be one of the worst days of their lives,” Dr. Davis said. “That makes your calling even more important. Saving a life is not something any one person does alone. It takes a team, so always think about the role that you play. When I think back to my days in general surgery and the emergencies and the lives I was fortunate enough to save, I fondly remember the people I was in the trenches with. I think to say ‘in the trenches’ is appropriate because to a degree, we’re going to war. Whether it’s war against cancer, cardiac disease, trauma, whatever it is, we’re all on the same side. Some of the people I learned a lot from were the surgical techs. I challenge each one of the graduates to be that person on your team who is reliable, consistent, willing to learn and willing to teach.”

Following Dr. Davis’ address, Shea Coleman, instructor for the Ridgeland surgical technology program, approached the podium to present awards. Strong was named Dedicated Student of the Year, and Warren was named 2023 Surgical Technology Student of the Year. Warren was also recognized as valedictorian for having the highest GPA in her class and Williams was named salutatorian for having the second highest.

After the awards presentation, Career Technical Counselor Jovonna Parker called the students to the stage one-by-one to receive their certificates and pins. Dr. Burnham and Career Technical Coordinator Allison DeWeese presented certificates before Coleman pinned each student. Following the pinning, DeWeese addressed the graduates one final time.

“Congratulations to the graduates; we are so proud of you,” DeWeese said. “Thank you for pushing through all those early clinical mornings, those long days of labs and those long days of lecture. I know it was a challenge, but I’m so proud of ya’ll for pushing through. Your hard work and your dedication have been rewarded. You are now a Holmes alumnus. Congratulations!”

The graduates recited the Association of Surgical Technologists (AST) Code of Ethics before Strong concluded the ceremony with the benediction.

For more information about the Holmes Surgical Technology program, contact Jovonna Parker at (601) 605-3355 or jparker@holmescc.edu.

Holmes hires Tina Cousino as admissions rep in Grenada

From Staff Reports/Photos



Tina Cousino of Grenada joined the Office of Admissions and Records staff as Holmes Community College’s newest admissions representative for the Grenada Campus.

The Grenada High School graduate holds a bachelor’s degree from Mississippi State University. Prior to Holmes, Cousino worked at The Children’s Dental Center for five years and at Mississippi State University for three. She is a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church, where she serves as a volunteer in the Pre-K4 and Kindergarten Wednesday night classes. She is also a

life member of the Junior Auxiliary of Grenada.

Cousino and her husband, Ricky, have two children, Drake (9) and Cohen (4). She also has two dogs, Heisman and Swayze.

Her hobbies include reading; horseback riding; boating and beaching with friends; rooting for her Mississippi State Bulldogs and Holmes Bulldogs; dreaming of her next travel plans, but mostly being a full-time boy mom. She spends the majority of her time attending her boys’ baseball and soccer games, as well as her husband’s tennis

tournaments.

“My goal in life is to love God and love people,” Cousino said. “I have always loved the collegiate atmosphere. From being a student at Mississippi State University, to an employee at Mississippi State University, to now – an employee of Holmes Community College. The sense of family and community is a special feeling that I will always cherish, and I am proud to be Holmes Bulldog.”

Holmes recognizes faculty, staff for years of service during Opening Convocation

From Staff Reports/Photos

On Tuesday, Aug. 7, Holmes Community College celebrated the upcoming school year with an Opening Convocation on the Goodman Campus. The day began in the Frank Branch Coliseum with a breakfast social, complete with specialty coffee/breakfast drinks from The Sip.

Once gathered in the coliseum, Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey gave an address on the state of the college. In between giving away door prizes, Dr. Haffey and other college administrators also introduced new employees and recognized employees who have reached five, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years of service with the college.

Faculty, staff and administration also enjoyed a motivational speech/presentation by Daniel Vassel from The Vassel Consulting Group before breaking for lunch and departmental meetings.

An inspirational and motivational presenter, Vassel leads programs on leadership, teambuilding, communication and motivation. He is a certified and accomplished facilitator who draws on techniques from his many successful years in government, economic development and public service.



(left to right) Tammy Collins, Jesse Nichols, Steve Diffey, Steven Groves and Trent Little were recognized for 25 years of service with Holmes.



The employees recognized for 20 years of service were *(front row, left to right)* Angela Crain, Tess Crenshaw, Michelle Dancy, Shae Wang, *(back row, left to right)* Dr. Andrew Kelly, Dr. Jim Haffey, Jeffrey Cotten and Dr. Don Burnham.



The employees recognized for 15 years of service were *(front row, left to right)* Heather Jones, Nancy Parkerson, Angela Boyd, Dean Savage, Willie Roby, *(back row, left to right)* Darleen Dozier, Judy Hemphill, Debbie Harville, Judy Smith, Lee Harmon and Ryan Beggs. *Not pictured:* John Byars, Bryant Crayton and Mark Galtelli.



The employees recognized for 10 years of service were *(front row, left to right)* Christie Adams, Dr. Tiffany Cox, Dr. Lakesia Sutton, Dr. Amy Wolgamott, Allen Green, *(back row, left to right)* Larry Lipsey, David Jones, David Hill and Jay Wilson. *Not pictured:* Lisa Davis and James Lawrence.



The Holmes employees recognized for five years of service with the college included: *(front row, left to right)* Melissa Love, Doyle Gilmore, Daphne Higgins, Rachelle Moore, Brittini Dickerson, Ginny Ables, Cassidy Beall, *(back row, left to right)* William Devore, Heather Rozier, Lindsey Harville, Vivian McGee, Bill Fitts, Cade Montague and Kris Wilson. *Not pictured:* Casey Caldwell, Sammy Green and Mac McPhail.

Holmes sends 10 to SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are *(first row, left to right)* Advisor Peter Hindman, Leah Rainey, *(second row)* Sara Beth Hammons, CTE Coordinator Allison DeWeese, *(third row)* Chef/Advisor Alexei Harrison, Ethan Oxley, Advisor Heather Mooney, *(back row)* Arzelle Spikes, Kennedy Lacey and Jacob Lott.

Holmes Community College's Ridge-land Campus sent 10 students/advisors to the 2023 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Atlanta June 19-23.

Leah Rainey of Madison took second place in the nation in the Prepared Speech competition.

The remaining students competing included: Sara Beth Hammons of Clinton (Baking and Pastry), Ethan Oxley of Brandon (Culinary Arts), Arzelle Spikes of Pearl (HVAC), Kennedy Lacey of Canton (Restaurant Services) and Jacob Lott of Canton (Job Skill Demonstration). Each of the students including Rainey had placed first in the Mississippi competition to advance to the national competition.

Attending with the students included: Advisor Peter Hindman, Career Technical Coordinator Allison DeWeese, Chef/Advisor Alexei Harrison and Advisor Heather Mooney.

In March, the students successfully competed in the State Leadership and Skills

Conference, which gave them the bids to nationals. During the state competition, Holmes took home seven awards: six gold medals and one bronze.

Hammons, Lacey and Oxley took home gold medals in Baking & Pastry Arts, Restaurant Services and Culinary Arts, respectively. Rainey placed first in Prepared Speech; Lott won the gold for Job Skills Demonstration A and Spikes won first in HVAC. Additionally Jacob Sledge of Pickens from the Goodman Campus won a bronze medal for Welding.

According to <https://www.skillsusa.org/>, SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. At Holmes, the organization was established for the purpose of encouraging, through club activities, the development of the "whole student," i.e., social and leadership abilities as well as skills needed to succeed and be competitive in the workforce. It is open to all students enrolled in Career-Technical courses.

Holmes student prepares for a career in wildlife as a future conservation law officer

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is **Jonah Lyon** of New Hebron receiving the Holmes Community College conservation Law Enforcement Technology Award from instructor **James Floyd**.

Jonah Lyon, a conservation law enforcement technology major at Holmes Community College, plans to become a conservation law officer (also known as a game warden) upon graduating. After he finishes his associate degree from Holmes in May of 2024, he will transfer to Mississippi State University to earn his bachelor's degree in conser-

vation law enforcement. A native of New Hebron, a tiny town in Lawrence County, Lyon been an outdoors enthusiast all his life. "I've always been interested in conservation law as a career path because I like working outdoors and I enjoy hunting and fishing," Lyon said. "Right now, when I'm not in school, I

am busy working. I am usually doing landscaping or construction work on Fridays and Saturdays. I was able to volunteer with Hope Outdoors this past fall and help a disabled child go deer hunting which was a rewarding experience."

On campus, Lyon has been active in intramural sports and with his work-study position with the Student Activities department. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking, hanging out with friends, playing his Xbox and reading. Additionally, Lyon attends Audubon Drive Bible Church where he is involved in the college/career Bible study group.

In the spring, Lyon received the Conservation Law Technology Award which is given to the student who has excelled academically and shown promise in their field.

Holmes is the only college in Mississippi to offer the Conservation Law Enforcement Technology degree option. Although Lyon plans to further his education and obtain a bachelor's degree as well, the two-year program

at Holmes prepares graduates for entry-level employment as a conservation law enforcement officer. It meets the requirements set by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks and blends technical courses in forestry and criminal justice with other academic courses. Students who complete the program earn an Associate of Applied Science degree.

"I would highly recommend attending Holmes," Lyon said. "The class schedule and format has been great and easy to adapt to from high school. I enjoy that most of my classes are 'in the field' and include hands-on learning. Mr. James Floyd (my instructor and advisor) has been an excellent teacher and has so much knowledge about my field of study. He has encouraged me to further my education and made me aware of so many opportunities to aid my future."

For more information about the Conservation Law Enforcement Technology program, contact instructor James Floyd at jafloyd@holmescc.edu or (662) 227-2336.

Holmes Ridgeland graduates 16 from EMS-Paramedic program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Ridgeland Paramedic Class of 2023. They are (front row, left to right) **Nicholas Welch, Jarod Squire, Krystopher Holman, Tyler Monts, Zackery Schemmel, Adam Rawls, DeWayne Rice, Dustin Perry,** (back row, left to right) **Eva Matyus-Bailey, Joseph Brewer, Brendan Gardner, Jami Blackledge, Amanda Sartain, Peyton Pigg and Christopher Alderman.**

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus Emergency Medical Science (EMS) Paramedic program held a graduation ceremony for the Class of 2023 on Thursday, July 27 in the McGowan Workforce Training Center. Sixteen students were honored.

The graduates included Christopher Alderman of Brandon, Jami Blackledge of Goodman, Joseph Brewer of Brandon, Brendan Gardner of Vicksburg, Krystopher Holman of Terry, Eva Matyus-Bailey of Brandon, Tyler Monts of Pearl, Dustin Perry of Canton, Peyton Pigg of Canton, Adam Rawls of Pinola, DeWayne Rice of Florence, Amanda Sartain of Florence, Zackery Schemmel of Clinton, Jarod Squire of Vicksburg, Christopher Sullivan of Brandon and Nicholas Welch of

Brandon. Sandra Hultz, Yancy Brewer and Mark Galtelli are the program's instructors.

Holmes has EMS programs on both the Ridgeland and Grenada campuses. After year one in the program, students may earn a technical certificate and after successful completion of all first semester coursework for this option, students are eligible to sit for the Advanced EMT National Registry Exam. If students choose to continue to the second year, they can earn an Associate of Applied Science degree as well.

For more information about applying for the program, contact Jessica Leverette at 601-605-3386 or jleverette@holmescc.edu.

Holmes represents at the Teaching Professor Annual Conference

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) **Laura Canard, Tina Garrett, Dr. Antoine Gates, Amber Mabus and Dr. Tonya Lawrence.**

Five Holmes Community College employees represented the college at the annual Teaching Professor Conference held June 9-11 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Those in attendance included: Dean of Academic Programs Dr. Tonya Lawrence, STEM Division Chair Dr. Antoine Gates, History and Political Science Division Chair Laura Canard, Social and Behavioral Science Division Chair/Grenada Campus Coordinator for Academic Programs Tina Garrett and English and Foreign Language Division Chair Amber Mabus.

Attendance to the conference was made possible by a grant Dr. Lawrence submitted to the Moody Trust Fund as well as from support from the college.

The conference is a place for teach-

ers, course designers and faculty development professionals to attend in-depth conference sessions in instruction, student learning and instructional growth and development. It also gives educators - new and veteran, online and face-to-face - a chance to network with professionals from across the country, around the world and from a wide range of disciplines.

"The group had a wonderful time building stronger bonds internally as well as gaining inspiration and knowledge from others in higher education," Dr. Lawrence said. "We had a great time and enjoyed eating our way through The Big Easy!"

Lady Bulldogs Softball kicks off the fall season 1-1

By Malley Chase Faulkner
Staff Reporter

The Holmes Lady Bulldogs have officially started their fall season with a record of one loss and one win. The Lady Bulldogs played on Wednesday Sep. 6 against the Southwest Bears and the Meridian Eagles at Meridian Community College. The first game was against the Southwest Bears where the Bulldogs came out on top with a win. Charlee Rose Tierce shared her thoughts on the first game.

“We started the game off strong with a line drive catch back to the pitcher Annie Sartin and then two in the park home-runs from Meg Glasgow and Brooke Mitchell.”

The second game against the Lady Eagles also started off strong. Holding the Eagles 5-0 until the last couple innings left the Lady Bulldogs with a loss 7-5.

“We played as a team in both games and made mistakes that we could easily fix, but I don’t think it was a bad first game for us.” said Cambell Blaine, the left fielder for the Lady Bulldogs.

Since kicking off the season, the Lady Bulldogs have taken on Southwest Mississippi Community College, Meridian Community College, Hinds Community College, Jackson State University, Arkansas State University, Mississippi Valley State University, Southwest Tennessee Community College, Delta State University and Southeastern Louisiana.



Hayden Embry joins Lady Bulldogs softball coaching staff

From Staff Reports/Photos

Philadelphia native Hayden Embry has been named assistant coach for the Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs softball team.

The Neshoba Central High School graduate joins the Lady Bulldogs after working one year for Oxford High School, where he was the TV Broadcast and Production Teacher and the Athletic Live Stream Coordinator. He also was a volunteer coach for the softball team there.

At Neshoba Central, he was named the Master Chief Tim Chestnut Class of 2018 Student of the Year. After Neshoba Central, he attended Itawamba Community College and received an associate of arts degree in graphic design. He was also

named the 2019-2020 Quality Enhancement Plan Student Athlete of the Year and was on the dean’s list for two years, MACJC Academic All-State and a member of the NJCAA All-Academic Team.

At Itawamba, he was a member of the tennis team for two seasons. In 2019, he was a Region 23 semifinalist in singles and doubles and a 2019 ITA Consolation Finalist. His 2020 season was cut short due to COVID-19.

After Itawamba, he attended the University of Mississippi, where he received a bachelor’s degree in Integrated Marketing Communications with a specialization in Computer Language and a minor in general business.



Checking in with the Lady Bulldogs soccer team

By Malley Chase Faulkner
Staff Reporter

On Oct. 6, the number 1 ranked Holmes Lady Bulldogs played the number 3 ranked Northwest Rangers. The Bulldogs fell short in the 22nd minute of the match making the score 1-0. Lady Bulldog Bailee Fairley shared a few words on what she believes her team is.

“We have a really strong and competitive team,” Fairley said. “What makes this team special is that we will always fight for each other on and off the field. We believe in lifting each other up and building an encouraging environment.”

I also asked Bailee what the team’s goals were for this season with them being so driven and having so much potential to do remarkable things in the Holmes community.

“I’m excited for the rest of our season;

we have set many goals that we expect to meet for this year,” Fairley said. “This team definitely has a lot of potential and has so much to give.”

It’s good to be on a supportive team with big goals that is there to give you a drive to do bigger things.

When asked what the Lady Bulldogs were most excited about this year, Fairley said “It’s exciting to be on a competitive team that no matter what happens we know we have each other’s back.”

Pictured are members of the 2023 Lady Bulldog soccer team.



Coco Gauff has solidified herself as a tennis legend

By Alyssa Jackson
Staff Reporter

On Sept. 9, 19-year-old Coco Gauff made history by becoming the first American teenager to win the U.S. Open in 24 years. Gauff won against 25-year-old Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus and received her first Grand Slam title.

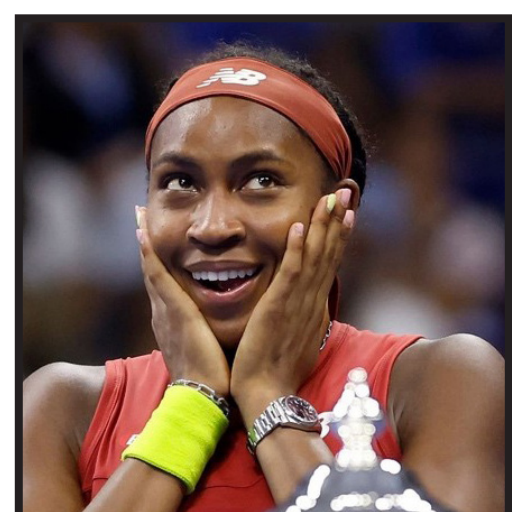
The beginning of the match did not seem to be in Gauff’s favor. The teenager seemed to be floundering during the opening set and was not able to even out the score until nearly an hour and a half

later. Despite this, Gauff was able to gain the upper hand against Sabalenka nearly 30 minutes later.

Overwhelmed by her victory, Gauff fell to her knees on the court ground and sobbed as cheers echoed throughout the packed stadium. Soon after collecting herself, the 19-year-old was seen running straight into her parents’ arms and rejoicing.

The significance of her win is amplified

when considering how Gauff established her fame in 2019 as a then 15-year-old. Her rise to notoriety is attributed to her unexpected win against tennis legend Venus Williams, sister to Serena Williams, whom Gauff is now joining as the only teenagers to have won titles at the U.S. Open.



Bulldogs blow out the Trojans, 58-6

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Bulldogs improved to 3-2 in the North Division and 5-2 overall with a big 58-6 victory over the Mississippi Delta Community College Trojans in Moorhead on Oct. 19.

Holmes will host Northwest Mississippi Community College at 3 p.m. in Goodman for Homecoming. You can watch at holmesccmedia.com/cardinal-channel or listen on the Bulldog Football Radio Network.

The Bulldogs took a lead early in the game when John Ford found Deion Smith on a 54 yard touchdown pass. Jalen Ballard's kick was good, and Holmes led 7-0 with 14:09 left in the first.

Vontrez Rush scored from two yards out with 6:26 left in the first. Ballard's kick made it 14-0.

The Bulldogs added another score with 1:10 left in the quarter when Ford scored

from a yard out. Ballard's kick was good, and the Bulldogs led 21-0.

Smith got his second touchdown on the night on a 34-yard pass from Ford. Ballard's kick was good, and Holmes led 28-0 with 14:49 left in the second.

A 7-yard touchdown pass to Dekari Johnson with 9:10 left in the second, and a Ballard PAT put Holmes up 35-0.

Jarvis Rush then got on the scoreboard with 6:05 left in the second when Lonnie Ratliff found him in the endzone from six yards out. Ballard's kick was good, and Holmes led 42-0.

Mississippi Delta scored their only points of the day with 59 seconds left in the second quarter. The extra point was blocked by the Bulldogs and Laterrius Haynes picked it up and raced in for two more points. Holmes led 44-6 going into halftime.



Men's soccer team defeats Lions, 3-1

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Community College Bulldogs picked up a 3-1 MACCC win at home over the East Mississippi Community College Lions on Sophomore Day, Oct. 20.

Sophomores honored included: Mateo DeLeon, Klelys Gonzalez, Caleb Jones, Tyler Leach, Gavin Parker, Tyler Smith and Patrick Vallean.

The regular season schedule ends on Tuesday, Oct. 24 at Jones College at 7 p.m.

The Bulldogs took 1-0 lead in the 30th minute off the match. The Bulldogs went

up 2-0 in the 33rd on a penalty kick from Christopher Oviedo. Holmes led 2-0 at halftime.

Holmes increased the lead to 3-0 in the 80th minute when Josiah Arroyo scored on an assist from Medina-Ramirez.

East Mississippi score in the 89th minute to end all scoring.

John Smith played 90 minutes in goal and gave up one goal and had eight saves.



Lady Bulldogs soccer pick up 19-1 win over Lady Lions

From Staff Reports/Photos

The No. 2 Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs picked up a 19-1 MACCC win at home over the East Mississippi Community College Lady Lions on Sophomore Day, Oct. 20.

Sophomores honored included: Laila Anderson, Jordan Bertschler, Lillian Harvey, Brianna Lopez, Carmen Mason, Grace Mason, Karly Murphy, Josephine Pittman, Tailynn Rimmel, Lani Roberts, Jaycelyn Russ and Madison Westbrook.

The final regular season ends on Tuesday at Jones at 5 p.m. The Lady Bulldogs, now 15-1 overall and 9-1 in the MACCC, have secured a playoff spot but await the results from Tuesday to see if they are hosting the NJCAA Region 23 Tournament or are traveling to another location in the state. Jones and Northwest are also in the hunt for the MACCC title and the right to host.

Holmes scored nine goals in the first half and 10 in the second half. First half goals included: Rimmel on Russ assist, sixth minute; Bailee Fairley on unassisted, 18th minute; Fairley on Kristen Phillips assist, 19th minute; Olivia Tribolet on K.K. Morris assist, 22nd minute; Christina Guzman on Leslie Carrol assist, 24th minute; Phillips on Sammi Doyle assist, 24th minute; Fairley on Phillips assist, 30th minute; Tribolet goal on Phillips assist, 35th minute; and Phillips goal on Carrol assist.

East Mississippi scored their goal in the 13th minute.

Second half goals included: Russ goal on Tribolet assist, 46th minute; Russ goal on Tribolet assist, 48th minute; Tribolet goal on Lopez assist, 48th minute; Doyle on unassisted, 53rd minute; Tribolet goal on Doyle assist, 55th minute; Lopez goal



on Russ assist, 57th minute; Pittman goal on Russ assist, 58th minute; Fairley on unassisted goal, 62nd minute; Fairley goal on Phillips assist, 64th minute; and Phillips goal on Harvey assist, 65th minute.

Bertschler got the start in goal and played 12 minutes and gave up one goal. Murphy went the rest of the way and had two saves.

Ballard hits game winner to lift Holmes to a 26-24 win

From Staff Reports/Photos

Freshman placekicker Jalen Ballard nailed four field goals here Thursday night including the game winner from 39 yards out as time expired to give the Holmes Community College Bulldogs the 26-24 North Division win over the Itawamba Community College Indians.

With the win, the Bulldogs improve to 4-2 overall and 2-2 in the North Division. Holmes travels to Moorhead Thursday afternoon to play the Mississippi Delta Community College Trojans in another North Division contest.

The Bulldogs got on the scoreboard with 8:52 left in the first quarter when freshman quarterback John Ford found sophomore receiver Bryceton Spencer on an 8-yard touchdown pass. Ballard's extra point put Holmes up 7-0.

Ballard nailed his first field goal of the night with 4:40 left in the first from 45 yards out to give Holmes the 10-0 lead.

Itawamba then converted a field goal in the early second quarter to make the score 10-3 Holmes. The score remained 10-3 at

Ballard, continued on Page 23



Ballard (Continued from Page 22)

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Holmes up 7-0. Ballard nailed his first field goal of the night with 4:40 left in the first from 45 yards out to give Holmes the 10-0 lead. Itawamba then converted a field goal in the early second quarter to make the score

Dismuke joins men's basketball as volunteer assistant coach

From Staff Reports/Photos

Chicago, Illinois native Charles Dismuke II has joined Holmes Community College Head Men's Basketball Coach Jason Flanigan's staff as a volunteer assistant coach.

In 2018, Dismuke attended the University of Southern Mississippi while joining the Men's basketball program as a student assistant. While at Southern Miss, he helped the Golden Eagles finish in a two-way tie for second place in Conference-USA play with a record of 11-7.

In 2019, Dismuke transferred to Jackson State University as a student assistant for the Men's basketball program until he was added to the team roster as a player between 2020 and 2022. In his second season, he and his team went 11-0 in conference play while also winning the SWAC Regular Season Championship. In all,

while in Jackson for three seasons, Dismuke helped the Tigers to a SWAC conference play record of 31-16, along with non-conference wins over the University of Portland, University of Louisiana-Lafayette and Illinois State University.

In the Summer of 2022, he transferred to the University of Mississippi also known as Ole Miss to join the Men's basketball program as a preferred walk-on and student assistant. During his time in Oxford, the Rebels had a tough season but were able to clinch a late season berth to make it to the second round of the SEC Men's Basketball Conference Tournament.

He is a University of Mississippi graduate and holds a bachelor's of business administration with an emphasis in sales marketing.



Washington joins Flanigan's staff as assistant coach

From Staff Reports/Photos

Former Holmes Bulldog and Clinton native Marcus Washington has joined Holmes Community College Head Men's Basketball Coach Jason Flanigan's staff as an assistant coach.

Washington played for Coach Flanigan during the 2013-14 and 2014-15 seasons and help lead the Bulldogs to their first appearance in the NJCAA National Tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas. A last second bucket gave Hill College the win to keep the Bulldogs from their first appearance in the final four. Washington finished with 11 points in the quarterfinal game. As a sophomore, he averaged 10.1 points, 5.3 rebounds and 1.9 assists per game. As a freshman, he averaged 4.8 points and 2.2 rebounds per game.

After Holmes, Washington transferred to University of Louisiana-Monroe and


played two seasons there. At ULM as a sophomore, he averaged 8.5 points per game and 3.9 rebounds per game. As a freshman, he appeared in 20 games and averaged three points and 1.3 rebounds per game.

Prior to coming to Holmes, Washington coached at Clinton Christian in Clinton for three seasons. He was the junior high and high school girls head coach and junior high and high school boys assistant coach. During this time, the boys won two state championships in MAIS 4A and the girls won one MAIS 4A championship. He also worked for Nissan and played semi-pro basketball in Los Mochis, New Mexico.

He is a Clinton High School graduate and is the son of Wayne and Tammy Washington. He has a son, Marcus Washington, Jr., who is two.



Holmes to hold ribbon cutting for soccer field house Nov. 7



Please join us for a

RIBBON CUTTING

for the new

HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE SOCCER FIELD HOUSE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023
AT 10:30 A.M.

Holmes Community College
412 West Ridgeland Ave.,
Ridgeland, Miss.

Follow Holmes Athletics on our website and social



HOLMESATHLETICS.COM

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SCORES, SCHEDULES, ALERTS

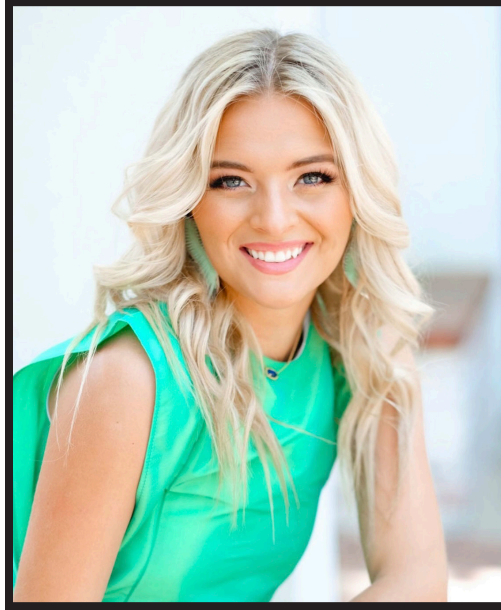


The Growl Staff



Aleesa "Leesa" Booker

Leesa Booker of Madison is a freshman journalism/mass communication major at Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus. She is very excited about her first year at college, meeting new friends and getting to leave class at her own will! In her free time, she loves to sing, dance, act, play the piano, and shop 'til she drops (for anything). Upon finishing her time at Holmes, she plans to transfer to the University of Mississippi and major in film and video production. Booker's career goal is to become a screenwriter/actress or possibly a public relations manager for big budget films.



Malley Chase Faulkner

Malley Chase Faulkner of Daphne, Alabama is a freshman on the Goodman Campus. She is majoring in mass communications and journalism and is on the Lady Bulldogs softball team. On the field, she is often called MC. Faulkner was the 2022 Universal Junior Miss where she was a strong advocate for suicide awareness and prevention. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling and modeling for Amarra Official at the America's World Mart in Atlanta. For the past year and a half, she has worked alongside her mom at their boutique, The Pink Velvet Boutique. When she visits home, she enjoys spending time at the beach with her friends and family. Her career goal is to be a sports broadcaster, hopefully for softball or even baseball.



Alyssa Jackson

Alyssa Jackson of Madison is a freshman journalism/communications major on the Holmes Ridgeland Campus. She is a member of both the Horizons yearbook and Growl newspaper staff. Off campus, Jackson enjoys listening to the latest music releases and spending time with her friends and family. After graduating from Holmes, she plans to attend the University of Mississippi and major in communications. Jackson's career goal is to become a journalist or a public relations specialist for a music corporation.



Destiny Lyons

Destiny Lyons is an elementary/special education major on the Ridgeland Campus. She was born in Wurzburg, Germany on military soil to Donald and Susie Lyons. She has two siblings, Jalen and Tierney Lyons. She is 28 years old and was born on Oct. 10. Her life has been a roller coaster since kindergarten due to her learning ability and ADHD record. She was put on medicine in first grade all the way until high school. She dropped out of school in 2013 to pursue a different route of getting her GED. It took her eight math tests in one year just to obtain her diploma! With all that she's been through, she's learned to never give up! In the future, she'd like to become an elementary education teacher with a concentration in English.



Ashley Steen

Ashley Steen, a native of Jackson, is the prime example of the point that it is not where you start, it is how you respond and finish. She finished high school and decided she wanted to be a nurse since it was natural for her to take care of people. She later became a Certified Nursing Assistant. She worked in this profession for eight years before she realized nursing was just not her calling. However, caring for people remains Steen's passion. After moving to Ridgeland, she enrolled in Holmes. She has touched many people and hearts while being at Holmes. She is now a sophomore majoring in pre-physical therapy. She has dreams and aspirations to work in the sports industry in physical therapy and later get a job in their athletic department for the Dallas Cowboys or New Orleans Saints.



Alanna "River" Wall

Alanna "River" Wall of Madison is a freshman on the Ridgeland Campus. She is a secondary education major with an emphasis in English.



Serenity Washington

Serenity Washington is a sophomore at Holmes Community College. She is majoring in pre-nursing on the Ridgeland Campus. She enjoys watching movies, shopping and hanging out with friends and family. Washington also enjoys being able to meet new people and visiting new environments. Once she graduates, she plans on attending nursing school to become a pediatric traveling nurse for two-three years and then going back to school to become a pediatrician.



Evan Yates

Evan Yates of Kosciusko is a freshman communications major on the Holmes Goodman Campus. He is a member of The Holmes Connection along as well as the contemporary group Coachman Singers. Yates has had a job for over three years as a drummer for the wedding band Stylish. He enjoys watching movies, going to concerts and collecting comic books. Yates plans to continue his communications studies at an undecided university after graduating from Holmes. His long-term goal is to work as a creative director in film and television.