THE GROWL

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

Volume 88
Number 1

Oct. 28, 2026

Holmes' hybrid PN program named #1 in U.S. by Nurse.org

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College has been ranked No. 1 in Mississippi for LPN-to-RN/BSN programs for 2027 by PracticalNursing.org. Visit https://www.practicalnursing.org/lpn-to-rn/mississippi#show to view the full ranking.

The recognition highlights Holmes' commitment to providing practical nursing graduates with opportunities to continue their education and advance their nursing careers. PracticalNursing.org evaluated nursing programs across Mississippi as part of its 2027 rankings.

In addition to the No. 1 ranking, Holmes' Practical Nursing Hybrid Program was recognized as the "Clearest Hybrid Option" in Mississippi.

"Being ranked No. 1 in Mississippi for LPNs continuing to RNs, and recognized as the "Clearest Hybrid Option," is a tremendous achievement," said Holmes Director of Health Science Allison DeWeese. "This recognition reflects Holmes Community College's commitment to providing accessible, flexible, and high-quality nursing education that helps LPNs advance their careers and achieve their RN and BSN goals. Congratulations to the faculty, staff, students, and leadership of Holmes Community College on this well-deserved honor!"

Practical Nursing, continued on Page 6

Kami Beard crowned Homecoming Queen 2026

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are ***(left to right)*** Holmes President **Dr. Jim Haffey**, **J.R. North** (queen's escort), Homecoming Queen **Kami Beard**, Holmes Board of Trustee **Glen Beard** and Holmes Alumni Committee President **Nicki Richardson**.

Holmes Community College celebrated Homecoming on Thursday, Oct. 22 on the Goodman Campus with a day of activities, alumni recognitions, entertainment and Bulldog football. Emorey "Kami" Beard of French Camp was crowned the 2026 Homecoming Queen during the pregame presentation. She was escorted by J.R. North of Ridgeland.

Beard, the daughter of Glen and Karla Beard, is a pre-nursing major. She is actively involved in The Holmes Connection! and Concert Chorale, and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa. A member of Bethsaida Baptist Church, she plans to attend nursing school to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree and become a labor and delivery or NICU nurse. Outside of her studies, she enjoys spending time with family, playing pickleball, watching movies and traveling.

North, son of John Sidney North and Robin North, is a sophomore majoring in Business. He is a member of the Holmes baseball team and Phi Theta Kappa.

Nikki Richardson, president of the Alumni Association, bore the Queen's robe; Board of Trustee member Glen Beard presented the flowers and Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey crowned her.

Homecoming, continued on Page 6

Holmes, G.A. Carmichael partner, open community health center

From Staff Reports/Photos



Dr. James L. Coleman, Jr. shares remarks about the new health center.



Holmes President **Dr. Jim Haffey** addresses the crowd at the ribbon-cutting.

Holmes Community College and G.A. Carmichael have partnered to provide a new community and student health center on the Holmes Goodman Campus, expanding access to health care for students and members of the Goodman community.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house were held Sept. 9 outside the new clinic. College and community leaders gathered to celebrate the partnership and the opening of the health center.

Gregory Moseley, chair of the G.A. Carmichael Executive Board, opened the ceremony with a prayer. Dr. James L. Coleman, Jr. then welcomed attendees and shared remarks about the new health center and its importance to the community.

Dr. Jim Haffey, president of Holmes, and Michael Howard, mayor of Goodman, also addressed those gathered for the ceremony.

The partnership between Holmes and G.A. Carmichael represents a commitment to supporting the health and well-being of students and the surrounding community. The new health center provides a convenient location on the Goodman Campus for health care services.

Following the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Darrius Skinner, Goodman site manager, welcomed guests into the clinic for an open house. Guests had the opportunity to tour the new facility, learn more about the health center and enjoy refreshments.

What's Inside...

- Back to School Events
- Health Science Program Summer Pinnings
- Homecoming Court Announcement
- Sports Photos/Recaps

And More!

Holmes

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

Attendance shouldn't matter more than performance

By M.J. Kersh
Staff Reporter



College students are expected to attend class, complete assignments and prove that they understand the material being taught. But when a student is performing well academically, should missing class have enough power to bring down their grade?

Attendance is important, but it should not matter more than performance.

Many college courses include attendance policies that penalize students for missing a certain number of classes. While these policies encourage students to show up, they do not always take into account how well a student is actually doing in the course.

A student could attend every class and still struggle on tests or fail to complete assignments. Another student could miss a few classes, keep up with the material and continue earning high grades. If the second student has clearly shown that they understand the material, their absences should not outweigh their performance.

College students also have responsibilities outside of school. Many students work jobs, help their families or deal with situations that may occasionally interfere with class. Missing a class does not automatically mean a student is lazy or does not care about their education.

There are obviously some courses where attendance needs to carry more weight. Labs, speeches, group projects and other hands-on classes depend on students being physically present. However, in a regular lecture course, students should have more responsibility over how they choose to learn the material.

College is also a time when students are expected to become more independent. Part of that independence should include managing their own attendance. If a student constantly skips class and begins failing assignments or tests, their grade will naturally reflect that decision.



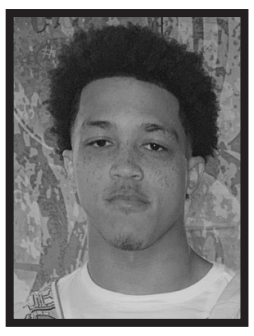
But if that same student can keep up with assignments, study independently and continue performing well, an attendance policy should not be what lowers their grade.

Professors should still encourage students to attend class, and students should make an effort to be there whenever possible. Showing up can make succeeding in a course much easier. Still, attendance should be treated as a tool for success rather than the main measurement of it.

At the end of a semester, a student's grade should represent how well they learned and understood the material. Being in the classroom matters, but what a student actually gets out of that classroom should matter more.

Why taking a gap year before college can be a smart choice

By La'Javeon Griffin
Staff Reporter



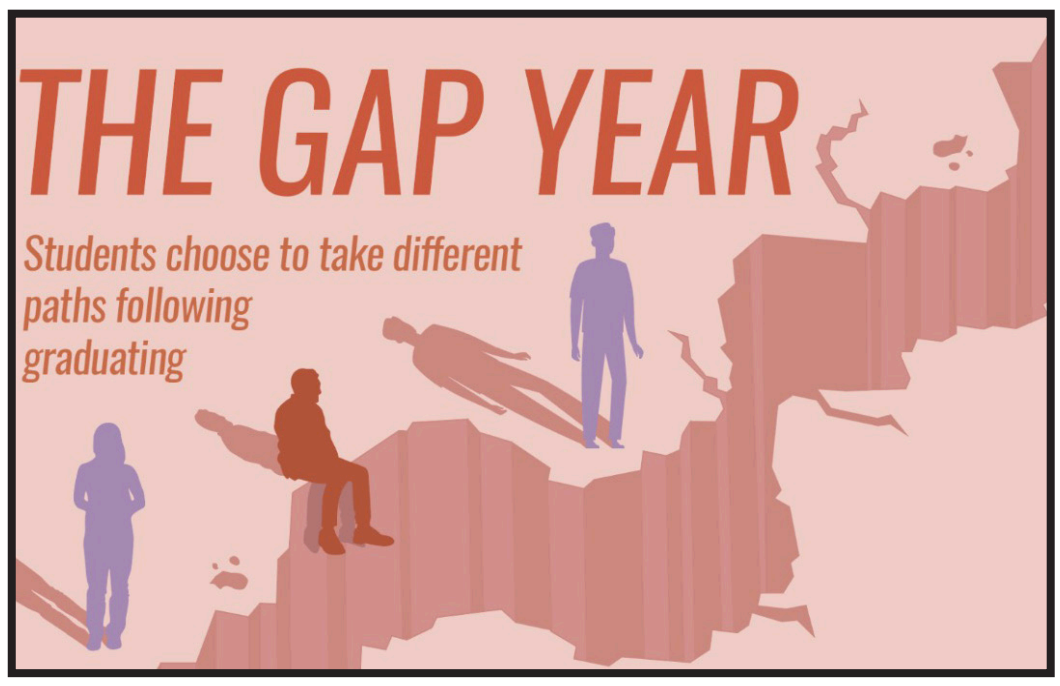
Every year, thousands of high school graduates walk across a stage, receive their diplomas and immediately begin preparing for college. For many students, that is exactly what they want. But for others, the pressure to go straight from high school to college can leave them asking an important question: What am I going to college for?

Graduating high school does not automatically mean someone is ready to choose a career, take on college expenses and make decisions that could affect the rest of their life. That is why I believe students should consider taking a gap year before college. A well-planned gap year can give students time to work, save money, gain life experience and figure out what they truly want before making a major financial and educational commitment.

One of the biggest advantages of a gap year is the opportunity to discover what career path is right for you. Many students enter college without knowing what they want to major in. Some change their major multiple times, while others eventually leave college because they realize they chose the wrong career path. Taking a year to work, volunteer, travel or explore different careers can help students make a more informed decision. It is better to spend one year figuring out your direction than to spend several years and thousands of dollars figuring out that you chose the wrong one.

A gap year can also help students become more financially prepared. College is expensive, and students often must worry about tuition, books, transportation, food and other expenses. Working during a gap year could allow students to save money before starting college. More importantly, earning and managing their own money can teach them responsibility. Those real-world lessons can be just as valuable as what students learn in a classroom.

There is also a personal side to taking a gap year. High school students spend most of their lives following a structured schedule created by their parents and schools. After graduation, they suddenly must make decisions about their education, career and future. A gap year can give young adults time to mature and experience life outside of the classroom. Whether that means working a job, traveling, learning a trade or simply discovering their



interests, students can return to college with more confidence and a clearer purpose.

Some people argue that taking a gap year could cause students to lose their motivation and never return to school. That is a legitimate concern. However, a gap year does not have to mean sitting at home for a year with no plans. The key is having a purpose. Students who create goals, work, save money, learn skills or explore career opportunities can use that year as preparation rather than an excuse to avoid college.

College is a major investment, so students should not feel like they must rush into it simply because everyone else is going. A gap year is not necessarily a year of falling behind. For some students, it could be the year that helps them move forward with a better understanding of who they are and what they want.

Sometimes the best way to move forward is to slow down first. Taking a year to prepare for college could mean entering the next chapter of life with more money, more experience and, most importantly, a clearer idea of where you are going.

The Growl

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

Send to: mbusby@holmescc.edu.

Sonic $7 meal gets a new look

By Ciara Jackson
Staff Reporter



Sonic has changed its popular $7 Big Deal Meal, replacing the chicken bites with a vanilla sundae. The meal still includes a cheeseburger, medium drink and fries or tater tots. The company changed the meal as part of its football season promotion. The company said the updated version was meant to offer customers a sweeter option while continuing to provide value.

Andreya Thompson, a regular Sonic customer, said she likes the change because she enjoys having something sweet with her meal.

"I actually like the sundae better because I always want a dessert after my food," Thompson said.

Some customers prefer the new option, while others miss the chicken bites.

Mr. Tims, another customer, said he would rather have the original back.

"I think the chicken bites made the meal more filling, so I would choose the first version," Tims said.

Even with the change, the meal remains a $7 deal, which some customers say is still a good price.

Thompson said she understands why some customers might be disappointed but thinks the new version is still worth trying.

"Everybody likes different things, but who doesn't like ice cream?" she said.

Tims disagreed, saying the chicken bites were one of his favorite parts of the original meal. "If they brought the chicken bites back, I would still order the $7 meal every day," he said.



Another customer, Ty Jackson, said the price is what matters most. "$7 is still $7, so I'm going to get it," Jackson said.

While customers have different opinions about the change, the $7 meal continues to give Sonic customers an affordable option. Whether customers prefer the sundae or the chicken bites, the new deal gives customers another choice.

The dependent relationship between human and AI

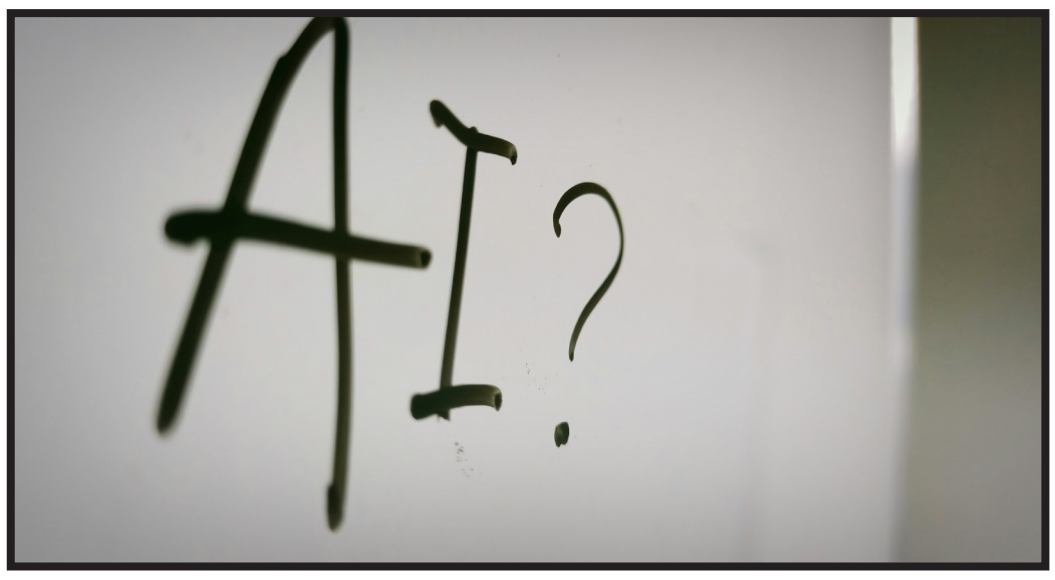
By Kayla Horne
Staff Reporter



You've spent hours stressing over an assignment. You've been paying close attention in class, but the topic just won't click for you. After a few more moments of focusing, you message your friend to ask for help, to which they respond with an "I'm busy at the moment, just use AI." Using AI for work has never been your style but after struggling for so long you decide to give in, saying you'll only do it this once. But before you know it, you're constantly using it for your assignments, sometimes without even thinking.

Artificial intelligence has become more commonly used in today's world than ever before as improvements continue to be made towards it. While AI isn't fully a bad thing, there are many adverse ways in which it is being used. One of these ways being cheating in schools. It's fine to use AI to grammar check or learn more about a topic, until using it becomes less about getting help and more about getting a task out of the way. That is when the line between help and over reliance is crossed.

Reliance on AI has begun to become a serious issue. While it may save the person in the long run, its usage is extremely harmful. The whole purpose of homework is for the student themselves to practice what is being taught, so by using AI to get the answer, no information is truly being obtained. Many students no longer bother asking questions about things topics that they do not understand since they plan on using AI for the assignments anyway. The consequences of this show up through poor test results on topics or even worse, failure to perform certain tasks needed for jobs in the future. If most students in college are using AI to pass classes related to their majors, then who's to say that they will be able to perform the tasks required of them once they obtain jobs in these fields?



I understand that there are times when assignments are truly hard to understand, or moments where a deadline is so close that you need to just knock an assignment out the way. But what do we gain in the long run from relying so heavily on AI? Besides an easy score, there is more loss than gained from this dependance. While it's helpful now, how helpful will it be when in a position where AI is out of reach and one must rely on their own knowledge.

AI is something that cannot simply be gotten rid of in today's world, as it's been grown and developed to the point of no erasure. But just because we have access to it does not mean we should fully rely on it all of the time. While it is very helpful, our own personal knowledge is still incredibly important. Just because something appears more efficient does not always mean it is the best course of conduct.

What is minimum wage really worth?

By Noah Long
Staff Reporter



Minimum wage has always been a topic that gets people talking, especially when it comes to whether workers are actually making enough money to live on. Some people believe that minimum wage jobs are supposed to be entry-level positions and that workers should eventually move on to higher paying jobs. Another believes that even basic jobs should pay enough for someone to afford the necessities of everyday life.

People should be able to live off what they make, but raising wages can be complicated for businesses. One bigger point, though, is that some jobs seem like they should already pay more than they do. Jobs such as teachers, nursing assistants, restaurant workers and construction workers can require a lot of responsibility, but their pay does not always seem to match the amount of work involved. Teachers, for example, do a lot for people and they should probably get paid more.

Jobs involving physical work or dealing with customers all day may not require a college degree, but they can be extremely exhausting. There is of course the argument that not every job should have the same pay. A first job at a fast food restaurant, for example, might be meant to help someone gain experience before moving into a better paying position.

Regardless, there should be a reasonable minimum; someone working full time should not feel like they are barely getting by. Again, though, minimum wage is not really a simple issue. There are arguments for both workers and businesses, and the cost of living can also be very different depending on where someone lives.



Many will surely agree that certain jobs deserve more recognition and better pay than they currently receive. If you work hard, you should be able to make a decent living. While that may seem like a simple idea, it is also one of the main reasons the minimum wage debate continues to be discussed.

Volleyball offers Holmes students a chance to connect between classes

By M.J. Kersh
Staff Reporter



For some Ridgeland Holmes Community College students, the time between classes is more than an opportunity to scroll through their phones, catch up on homework or simply sit around until the next class. It can also be a chance to grab a volleyball and join a game with fellow students.

Students have been gathering outside between classes to play informal games of volleyball, creating a relaxed way for students to stay active, meet new people and enjoy some time away from the classroom

Unlike an organized athletic team, the games are open to anyone who wants to participate. Students do not have to be experienced volleyball players or have any training. The main goal is simply to have fun and get other students involved.

"The only expectations out there are to have fun. No stress involved," said Brody Bohling, a Holmes student and volleyball participant.

The casual nature of the games is part of what makes them appealing and available for everyone. Students can join when they have free time without having to commit to a practice schedule or organized competition. Someone walking by can see a game, say hello and jump in.

For students who spend most of their day moving from one class to another, activities like this can also provide an opportunity to interact with people they might not normally meet. A quick game can turn a few minutes between classes into a chance to make new friends and build a stronger sense of community on campus.

"I think more people would play if they knew they could just come out and join us," said Everett Hocutt, a current Holmes student. "We welcome anyone and everyone."



Getting involved does not always require joining a club, playing an official sport or committing to a major extracurricular activity. Sometimes, it can be as simple as stepping outside and joining a group of students who are already having fun.

Between the current heat advisory and the general adjustment to new schedules, the net hasn't appeared yet. Students should still keep an eye out for it soon! Students who see volleyball games happening between classes are encouraged to come out and participate, regardless of their skill level. As more students become aware of the games, the hope is that more people will be more motivated to put themselves out there and build a community with their peers on campus.

When AI goes too far

By Ciara Jackson
Staff Reporter



AI has become a big part of the internet. At first, AI-generated pictures and videos were something people used for fun. Making funny pictures, videos or creating things that could never happen in real life. I think that side of AI is cool. The problem is that AI has gotten so realistic that it is becoming harder to tell what is real and what is fake.

This becomes a serious problem when people use AI to spread misinformation. Someone can make a video of a person saying or doing something they never actually did, and other people might believe it without checking if it is real. I think there should be a difference between using AI for entertainment and using it to deceive people.

When someone purposely makes fake content to scam people, damage someone's reputation, or make people believe something false, that is when AI starts going too far. I have seen entire social media profiles that were made completely from AI and even some who take other people's videos and change their faces. That's not right. A fake picture or video can create drama, damage trust and ruin relationships over something that never happened. That is one reason I think people should be careful about what they create and/or share.

AI isn't necessarily a bad thing. It can be useful and entertaining when people use it responsibly. However, as it becomes more advanced, people need to think before believing or sharing everything they see online. Just because something looks real doesn't mean it actually happened. In my opinion, AI should be used to be more creative, not make it harder for us to know what is real.



When a paycheck competes with a degree

By Kamie Thompson
Staff Reporter



The last class of the day is finally over. Instead of heading home to do homework or study, a student rushes to the eight-hour shift they are scheduled for at their job. After their shift, the student exhaustedly drives home. Once they get home, they soon realize how many assignments are due at 11:59 p.m. that night. The student barely has time to shower, eat or prepare for the next day, yet they have to work because responsibilities and bills never stop coming.

This is a stressful reality for many college students who are full-time students with a part-time job while trying to pursue their education. Working while attending college can teach responsibility but also creates a difficult choice for students. Students often find themselves choosing between the time needed to earn a paycheck and the time needed to succeed in their academics. College students shouldn't have to sacrifice their degree because they need a paycheck to afford college or other everyday expenses.

As a full-time college student with a part-time job, I understand the difficulty of trying to balance both. Working while attending college is a reality for many students because students have the responsibility of paying for tuition, transportation, food and other expenses. Working can also take away time students need for studying, sleeping or even personal time. Their academic success should not take away from that time.

The National Center of Education Statistics stated, "In 2020, 40% of full-time students and 74% of part-time undergraduate students were employed." This shows that many college students balance work and their education.

Students do not just work because they want extra money, clothes or shoes. Students are working so they can afford to live. Tuition can be very expensive if students don't have scholarships or full-rides. Students do apply for financial aid which can help lower their tuition cost. When I was a senior in high school, I vaguely remember having a meeting with my counselor about college and the expenses. I told her that I wanted to attend a university but that I felt like I wouldn't be able to afford it. She encouraged me to attend a community college first. At a community college I could take my basic courses and prerequisites while retaking my ACT and raising my GPA.

Although, even community college tuition can be expensive. According to the Education Data Initiative, the average cost of college for four years is $38,270. Many students are working to afford tuition, housing, while also trying to save towards their future.

Although working can help students afford college, it can also make it harder for them to succeed academically. Working long hours makes it harder for students to study, finish assignments, prepare for exams and get rest. I have experienced the conflict of receiving bad grades or missing assignments because of work. Specifically, in my Spanish I class, I would always express to my professor that I needed more time to complete assignments. I used to get off of work and work on assignments up until 3 a.m. I did not study as much due to having to rush assignments and rush to get to work on time. It was an extremely stressful situation that affected my GPA. The problem isn't that students are working, but sometimes college can feel like another part-time job.

Some may argue that working while in college is the choice of the student and it shouldn't affect their performance. The student is responsible for managing their time between school and work. It is easier said than done because, even though students are responsible for managing their time, not every student has the option to. Time management is important for students because it can help them not feel overwhelmed and stressed. It cannot always solve the problem. Many students have fixed work schedules. Going against these work schedules can get students written up or fired by managers. Losing their job while attending college could create more financial stress because the students may not have a way to continue to pay their tuition.

Even while students are working, they have a class schedule and assignments piling up. The issue is that some students simply do not have the time to balance all these things without an enormous amount of stress. It's hard for students to balance class schedules, assignments and work shifts in the same 24 hours.

College students shouldn't have to choose between earning the money they need and succeeding academically. Students in college are actively trying to build their careers and future. This is important and can be a stressful time in their life. A student shouldn't have to come home after a long day of classes and an eight-hour work shift and wonder whether they have the motivation or energy to do them. Students also shouldn't have to worry whether they have enough money to pay their bills or tuition. Students' paychecks should not come at the expense of their degree.

From Candidate to Court: How do Holmes 2026 homecoming elections work?

By Kamie Thompson
Staff Reporter



On Oct. 22, Holmes Community College will celebrate its Homecoming. This is an exciting time for many students, especially those who are running for homecoming court or homecoming queen.

There are qualifications for candidates who are interested in running for homecoming court.These candidates had to be full-time students at Holmes. A student is full-time if they are enrolled in 15-21 credit hours. Candidates also had to have at least a 2.0 GPA for any previous college work.

There are many different positions for Homecoming court. There were two maids elected from the freshman class on the Goodman, Ridgeland and Grenada campuses. Each of these campuses also had two students each elected as sophomore maids, and one student each chosen as Student Body Maid.

The Homecoming Queen is selected from the Goodman Campus. Campaigning for these positions is important because it helped these students gain votes. Social media campaigning this year began on Sept 8 with on-campus campaigning starting on Sept. 14. On Oct. 22, the court will be presented before the football game against against Mississippi Delta Community College.



Pictured is the 2025 Holmes Homecoming Court.

Now you see it, now you don't

By Gwen Smith
Staff Reporter



You know the feeling. You find a great movie to watch, and you get completely sucked into the show. You are shuffling through the episodes, one to the next, entirely hooked in on the suspense and the excitement. You ae fully invested and determined to watch it to the end.

Then comes the BANG!

Suddenly, you get the corporation switch-a-roo. You are left completely at a loss, asking yourself: What just happened? Why are they doing this? Where in the h---- are the rest of the episodes? It is the disaster of the day, I am mad, angry and at a loss for words.

BANG! BANG!

Suddenly, nothing to see, nothing is the same. Netflix has switched the rules of the game mid-season. To finish the series you were just enjoying, you suddenly find out you must pay a higher subscription price. Or worse, the show has suddenly been pulled completely and moved to an entirely different streaming site or premium channel.

This is not an unusual error either- it happens constantly. What starts out as a fun weekend treat quickly turns into a complete nightmare on Elm Street, or rather a scam to swindle the viewers for more money. Right there, in a little box in the bottom of the right corner of your screen, a message appears telling you to watch your credits, and the access has changed.

In my ever-rotating brain, Netflix has pulled a classic bait-and-switch ploy. Their hidden motive is obvious: let the audience see just enough to get hooked on the story, and then lock us out. You are blocked, trapped and forced to upgrade to a higher monthly rate just to see how the story ends.

Well for me and my money, I am taking a pass. I refuse to give into the streaming scam. As I click the "X" on the top corner of the screen, I am making my next move. I will be waiting in the wings for the next episode of my favorite shows to pop up further down the line on a different platform.

Until then, Netflix's closed, and I have officially begun my search for a more exciting and brand-new show to watch.

Why I'm optimistic about the Braves this October

By Noah Long
Staff Reporter



As a Braves fan, I have to admit I'm feeling pretty good about this team right now. Atlanta has already fought through a tough Wild Card Series against Philadelphia, and now they are tied 1-1 with the Dodgers in the NLDS. After everything this team has dealt with this season, I think they have a real chance to make a deep playoff run. They finished the regular season with 94 wins, and even though the Dodgers are obviously one of the toughest teams in baseball, I don't think the Braves should be counted out.

One of the biggest reasons I'm optimistic is how many different players have stepped up. Michael Harris has been especially impressive this postseason. In Game 2 against the Dodgers, Harris went 3 for 5 with a double, a triple, an RBI and a run scored. Matt Olson has also continued to be one of Atlanta's biggest offensive threats, while Ronald Acuna Jr. gives the lineup a superstar who can completely change a game with one swing. When those guys are playing well, I think the Braves can score against anybody.

The pitching is another reason I like Atlanta's chances. Chris Sale is scheduled to start Game 3, which is a huge opportunity with the series coming back to Atlanta. Having an experienced pitcher like Sale on the mound in an important playoff game gives me a lot of confidence. The bullpen has also had some big moments, including Ray Kerr, who returned from Tommy John surgery and finished the regular season with a 1.47 ERA. It seems like every series has a player who makes an unexpected contribution, and that could end up being really important.



Maybe I'm just being optimistic because I'm a Braves fan, but I honestly believe this team has a chance to go all the way. At the beginning of the playoffs, I would have been happy just seeing Atlanta win a series. Now, after watching them battle through Philadelphia and split the first two games with the Dodgers, my expectations are a little higher. I think the Braves have the talent, pitching and depth to make a serious run, and I'm excited to see how far they can take it.

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

Practical Nursing *(Continued from Front Page)*

The PN program offers three options to provide students with flexibility: full-time day, part-time evening/weekend and part-time hybrid options.

The full-time day option is offered at the Attala, Grenada and Ridgeland campuses and lasts three consecutive semesters. Attala and Ridgeland accept students each August, while Grenada begins in January.

The part-time evening/weekend option is offered at the Ridgeland Campus every other January in even-numbered years and spans six consecutive semesters. The part-time hybrid option accepts students every other fall in even-numbered years and spans five consecutive semesters.

The hybrid option combines online lectures with in-person laboratory and clinical experiences, providing students with flexibility while maintaining the hands-on learning that is essential to nursing education.

"The Practical Nursing Hybrid option at Holmes provides an incredible opportunity for students to pursue their nursing education while balancing the demands of work, family and everyday life," said Heather Rozier, Grenada Campus Practical Nursing instructor. "We recognize that many of our students are juggling multiple responsibilities, and our goal is to provide a flexible learning environment without compromising the quality and rigor of nursing education. The hybrid format allows students to take greater ownership of their learning while still benefiting from the hands-on experiences, faculty guidance and personal support that are essential to developing safe, competent and compassionate nurses."

Rozier said the opportunity to support students throughout their educational journey is one of the most rewarding aspects of teaching in the program.

"As an instructor, it is especially rewarding to watch these students overcome challenges, gain confidence and achieve goals they may have once thought were out of reach," Rozier said. "This recognition is a testament to the dedication of our students, faculty and the college's commitment to making nursing education more accessible."

For Dr. Christi Blair, PN Division Chair and hybrid instructor, the recognition reinforces Holmes' commitment to meeting students' needs while maintaining the quality and hands-on experience required in nursing education.

"We are honored to have Holmes' Practical Nursing Hybrid Program recognized as the clearest hybrid option in Mississippi," Dr. Blair said. "This recognition reflects our commitment to providing students with a flexible, accessible and high-quality nursing education while maintaining the hands-on learning experiences that are essential to preparing exceptional nurses. We are proud to offer a program that meets students where they are and helps them achieve their goals in nursing."

Holmes' Practical Nursing program prepares students for careers as licensed practical nurses while providing pathways for students who want to continue their nursing education.

The combination of multiple program options and flexible course formats allows Holmes students to select a pathway that best fits their educational and personal needs. The hybrid option allows students to complete lectures online while participating in required laboratory and clinical experiences in person.

The recognition from PracticalNursing.org reflects the college's commitment to providing accessible nursing education and creating opportunities for students to enter the nursing profession and continue advancing their education.

Homecoming *(Continued from Front Page)*

The 2026 Homecoming Court included representatives from the Goodman, Grenada and Ridgeland campuses.

Beard was joined on the Goodman Campus court by Student Body Maid Molly Steed of Kosciusko, escorted by Jack Harkins of Carthage; Sophomore Maids Kaylyn Alese McLendon of Winona, escorted by A.J. Arguello of Ocean Springs, and Alli Sparks of Kosciusko, escorted by Chase Peeples of Brandon; and Freshman Maids Claire Sophia Evans of Madison, escorted by Deuce Carter of Louin, and Mallory Moore of Kosciusko, escorted by Camden Thoms of Meridian.

The Grenada Campus court included Student Body Maid Charlotte "Charli" Woods of Carrollton, escorted by Asa James Clark of Carrollton; Sophomore Maids Katie Grace Ray of Duck Hill, escorted by Reid Blaylock of McCarley, and Olivia Crowley of French Camp, escorted by Owen Garrett of Carrollton; and Freshman Maids Harlee Johnson of Duck Hill, escorted by Cade Barton of Grenada, and Kendall Betts Tyner of Grenada, escorted by Holland Self of Winona.

The Ridgeland Campus court included Student Body Maid Mallory Sutton of Saint Amant, Louisiana, escorted by Gregory Windham of Madison; Sophomore Maids Kaitlyn Nash of Bentonia, escorted by Jonas May of Brandon, and Adelette Nichols of Brandon, escorted by Paxton McGee of Brandon; and Freshman Maids Madison Bidstrup of Corinth, escorted by Cole Thompson of Pelahatchie, and Leah Briscoe of Grenada, escorted by Miles Bailey of Winona.

Homecoming activities included a Visual Arts Show, open athletic practices, a Career and Transfer Fair, Major's Truck Expo, a basketball alumni game, live performances, tailgating and a pep rally. Guests also enjoyed games, inflatables, a mechanical bull and food from Holmes dining facilities and local food trucks.

Homecoming honorees were recognized in McDaniel Auditorium. This year's honorees were Alumna of the Year Allison McBride Schuler of Kosciusko; Distinguished Service Award recipient Margaret Monteith Davis of Grenada; Young Alumnus of the Year Dudley Jacarious Moore of San Diego, California; and Veteran of the Year Ret. Col. James Bridges of Kosciusko.

The 2026 alumni honorees were also recognized on the field, and the Holmes Chorale performed the national anthem before kickoff against Mississippi Delta Community College at Ras Branch Field. After trailing early, Holmes battled back to pull within five points, 52-47, before the final buzzer sounded. Homecoming 2026 brought together Holmes alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends to celebrate Bulldog pride and reconnect with the Holmes community.



Alumni Honorees pose with *(center)* Holmes President **Dr. Jim Haffey**. They are *(left to right)* Alumna of the Year **Allison McBride Schuler**, Distinguished Service Award recipient **Margaret Monteith Davis**, Young Alumnus of the Year **Dr. Dudley Jacarious Moore** and Veteran of the Year **Retired Col. James Thomas Bridges, USAF**.



The **Holmes Connection!** performs in McDaniel Auditorium following Alumni Honoree Recognition.



The **Holmes cheerleaders** keep the crowd hyped during the Homecoming game.



The **Holmes Chorale** performs the Alma Mater in McDaniel Auditorium.



The **Holmes Dazzlers** perform during the pep rally.



Culinary Arts students and instructors stand ready to serve alumni food they prepared for the alumni tailgating tent.

Holmes presents 2026 Homecoming Queen and Maids

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are Goodman court members *(front row, left to right)* Freshman Maids **Claire Evans** and **Mallory Moore**; Student Body Maid **Molly Steed**; Homecoming Queen **Emorey "Kami" Beard**; Sophomore Maids **Alli Sparks** and **Kaylyn McLendon**; *(back row, left to right)* escorts **Deuce Carter**, **Camden Thoms**, **Jack Harkins**, **J.R. North**, **Chase Peeples** and **A.J. Arguello**.



Pictured are Ridgeland court members *(front row, left to right)* Freshman Maid **Leah Briscoe**, **S**ophomore Maid **Kaitlyn Nash**, Student Body Maid **Mallory Sutton**, Sophomore Maid **Adelette Nichols**, Freshman Maid **Madison Bidstrup**, *(back row, left to right)* escorts **Miles Bailey**, **Jonas Mays**, **Gregory Windham**, **Paxton McGee**, **Chase Peeples** and **Cole Thompson**.



Pictured are Grenada court members *(front row, left to right)* Freshman Maid **Harlee Johnson**, Sophomore Maid **Katie Grace Ray**; Student Body Maid **Charli Woods**, Sophomore Maid **Olivia Crowley**, Freshman Maid **Kendall Tyner**, *(back row, left to right)* escorts **Cade Barton**, **Reid Blaylock**, **Asa James Clark**, **Owen Garrett** and **Holland Self**.

Holmes Community College proudly presented the 2026 Homecoming Court during homecoming festivities on Oct. 22. For the Goodman Campus, the court included Homecoming Queen Emorey "Kami" Beard of French Camp and her escort J.R. North of Ridgeland. The court also includes Student Body Maid Molly Steed of Kosciusko and her escort Jack Harkins of Carthage; Sophomore Maid Kaylyn Alese McLendon of Winona and her escort A.J. Arguello of Oceans Springs; Sophomore Maid Alli Sparks of Kosciusko and her escort Chase Peeples of Brandon; Freshman Maid Claire Sophia Evans of Madison and her escort Deuce Carter of Louin; and Freshman Maid Mallory Moore of Kosciusko and her escort Camden Thoms of Meridian.

For the Ridgeland Campus, court members were Student Body Maid Mallory Sutton of Saint Amant, Louisiana, and her escort Gregory Windham of Madison; Sophomore Maid Kaitlyn Nash of Bentonia andher escort Jonas May of Brandon; Sophomore Maid Adelette Nichols of Brandon and her escort Paxton McGee of Brandon; Freshman Maid Madison Bidstrup of Corinth and her escort Cole Thompson of Pelahatchie; and Freshman Maid Leah Briscoe of Grenada and her escort Miles Bailey of Winona.

Finally, for the Grenada Campus, the court included Student Body Maid Charli Woods of Carrollton and her escort Asa James Clark of Carrollton; Sophomore Maid Olivia Crowley of French Camp and Escort Owen Garrett of Carrollton; Sophomore Maid Katie Grace Ray of Duck Hill and Escort Reid Blaylock of McCarley; Freshman Maid Harlee Johnson of Duck Hill and escort Cade Barton of Grenada; and Freshman Maid Kendall Betts Tyner of Grenada and Escort Holland Self of Winona.

Kami Beard

Homecoming Queen Kami Beard, the daughter of Glen and Karla Beard, is a pre-nursing major. At Holmes, she is actively involved in The Holmes Connection! and Concert Chorale, and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa. A member of Bethsaida Baptist Church, she plans to attend nursing school to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree and become a labor and delivery or NICU nurse. Outside of her studies, she enjoys spending time with family, playing pickleball, watching movies and traveling.

Beard was escorted by J.R. North, son of John Sidney North and Robin North. He is a sophomore on the Goodman Campus majoring in business. North is a member of the Holmes baseball team and Phi Theta Kappa.

Molly Steed

Goodman Student Body Maid Molly Steed is a health sciences major and the daughter of Mark and Hollie Steed, and Drew and Melissa Townsend. At Holmes, she serves as an Ambassador and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa. After Holmes, Steed plans to apply to the occupational therapy assistant program at the Holmes Ridgeland Campus and begin the program in August 2027. Outside of school, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, babysitting, playing pickleball and shopping. She is also a member of First Baptist Church of Kosciusko, where she volunteers in the nursery.

Steed was escorted by Jack Harkins, son of Derrick and Marianna Harkins. He is a construction management major on the Goodman Campus and is a member of the Holmes baseball team.

Kaylyn McLendon

Goodman Sophomore Maid Kaylyn McLendon is a biomedical engineering major and the daughter of Mike and Traci McLendon. At Holmes, she is involved in The Holmes Connection!, Concert Chorale and Phi Theta Kappa, where she serves as an officer. She is also a member of Baptist Student Union. McLendon is active in youth events at First Baptist Church of Winona, including serving as a youth leader for summer camps. She also enjoys spending time with friends and family and babysitting. In addition, she is an Arbonne consultant. After Holmes, McLendon plans to attend Mississippi State University to pursue a degree in biomedical engineering.

McLendon was escorted by A.J. Arguello, son of Luke and Allie Applewhite. He is a sophomore majoring in construction management on the Goodman Campus and is a member of the Holmes baseball team.

Alli Sparks

Goodman Sophomore Maid Alli Sparks is a secondary education major and the daughter of Sonny and Courtney Sparks. At Holmes, she is involved in Phi Theta Kappa and cheerleading. Through cheerleading, Sparks participates in campus and community service projects, including visits to nursing homes, school meet-and-greets, Read Across America, Major Experience, Freshman Friday and the Sports Hall of Fame Banquet. She also volunteers in the nursery at First Baptist Church of Kosciusko. Sparks enjoys babysitting, shopping and spending time with friends. After Holmes, she plans to attend Mississippi State University to pursue a degree in secondary education.

Sparks was escorted by Chase Peeples, son of David and Crystal Peeples. He is a pre-nursing major on the Goodman Campus and a member of the Holmes baseball team and Phi Theta Kappa.

Claire Evans

Goodman Freshman Maid Claire Evans is a biological science major and the daughter of Torrye and Kathy Evans. She is active on campus as a member of the Dazzlers dance team and the Baptist Student Union. Off campus, she is a member of New Hope Baptist Church, where she joyfully serves in the choir and works with the Children's Ministry. In her free time, Evans enjoy playing with her German Shepard named King, watching scary movies, traveling, baking and spending quality time with family. She also enjoys making meaningful connections with the people around her. After graduating from Holmes, Evans will transfer to Mississippi State University.

Evans was escorted by Deuce Carter, son of Bryan and Shan Carter. He is a general college studies major on the Goodman Campus.

Mallory Moore

Goodman Freshman Maid Mallory Moore is a business major at Holmes, where she serves as a cheerleader and is an active member of Phi Theta Kappa. The daughter of Destin Moore and the late Lauren Moore, she is the granddaughter of Tim and Sandra Cook of Kosciusko. In addition to her academic and campus commitments, Moore works as a campus work-study student in the business office and has spent the last three years teaching cheer and gymnastics at The Fitness Company in Kosciusko. A member of the First Baptist Church of Kosciusko, she plans to continue her education at Mississippi State University after completing her studies at Holmes. Outside of work and school, Moore enjoys spending time with family and friends, shopping and visiting the beach.

Moore was escorted by Camden Thoms, son of Lake and Katie Thoms. He is an accounting major on the Goodman Campus and a member of the Holmes baseball team.

Mallory Sutton

Ridgeland Student Body Maid Mallory Sutton is the daughter of Royce and Brianne Sutton. She is a pre-nursing major and is actively involved on campus as a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the Holmes women's soccer team. Sutton plans to transfer to a four-year college after graduating from Holmes, where she hopes to continue playing soccer while pursuing her nursing education. Her career goal is to become a labor and delivery nurse.

Sutton was escorted by Gregory Windham, son of Gregory Windham Sr. and Melinda Windham. He is a pyschology major who is active on the Ridgeland Campus as an Ambassador, a member of the Content Creators Club and STEM Club, a leader of the Volleyball Club and a Hall of Fame recipient.

Kaitlyn Nash

Ridgeland Sophomore Maid Kaitlyn Nash is a massage therapy major and the daughter of Rusty and Michelle Nash. She is active on campus as a member of the Student Government Association and Phi Theta Kappa. Nash

Homecoming Maids, continued on Page 8

Homecoming Maids *(Continued from Page 7)*

is also an active participant in campus activities and has been named to the President's List. Nash says she is grateful for the opportunities Holmes has given her and excited to make lasting memories. Passionate about helping others, she plans to continue growing her career in massage therapy after graduating from Holmes and eventually open her own wellness business combining massage therapy and other services to help people feel relaxed, cared for and confident.

Nash was escorted by Jonas May, son of Dr. David and Misti May. He is a freshman on the Ridgeland Campus majoring in biochemistry. May is a Holmes Ambassador and member of the STEM Club, Volleyball Club and Student Government Association.

Adelette Nichols

Ridgeland Sophomore Maid Adelette Nichols is a health sciences major and the daughter of Tommy and Jessica Nichols. At Holmes, she serves as an Ambassador and is a member of the Student Government Association and Content Creators Club. After graduating from Holmes, Nichols plans to earn a bachelor's degree in radiological sciences from the University of Mississippi Medical Center. She then hopes to become a certified create radiation treatment plans for cancer patients. Nichols works as an assistant teacher in the older infants' room at St. Paul Early Learning Center and recently began working PRN as a therapy technician at Methodist Rehabilitation Center. She attends Crossgates Church in Brandon. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends and hobbies including hunting, fishing, boating and shopping.

Nichols was escorted by Paxton McGee, son of Keith and Erin McGee. He is a Culinary Arts major who is active on the Ridgeland Campus as an Ambassador and member of the Content Creators Club.

Madison Bidstrup

Ridgeland Freshman Maid Madison Bidstrup is a marketing major and the daughter of Tanea and Chris Bidstrup. Expressing gratitude for her selection to the court, Bidstrup said she has thoroughly enjoyed her time at Holmes thus far. Outside of her studies, she loves art and plans to apply her creativity to a career in social media marketing or advertising. She also enjoys serving others through her work as an ice cream scooper, hostess and waitress at Sal & Mookie's in The District. An active member of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Bidstrup plans to attend Belhaven University after Holmes to earn her degree in marketing with a minor in graphic design.

Bidstrup was escorted by Cole Thompson, son of Chad and Jessie Thompson. He is an electrical engineering major on the Ridgeland Campus.

Leah Briscoe

Ridgeland Freshman Maid Leah Briscoe is a massage therapy major and the daughter of Jeff and Pam Briscoe. At Holmes, she is involved as an Ambassador and a member of the Student Government Association, Content Creators Club, STEM Club and Phi Theta Kappa. After graduating from Holmes, Briscoe plans to return to her hometown and begin her career in massage therapy. In her free time, she enjoys teaching Pilates and watching movies with her mom. She also enjoys spending time with her family and friends.

Briscoe was escorted by Miles Bailey, son of James and Cori Bailey. He is a freshman on the Goodman Campus majoring in general college studies who serves as a Holmes Ambassador.

Charli Wood

Grenada Student Body Maid Charlotte "Charli" Woods is the daughter of Tim and Jessica Woods. She is an elementary education major and is actively involved on the Grenada Campus. Woods serves as an officer in Phi Theta Kappa and is a Holmes Ambassador. She is also a member of the Grenada Content Creators Club and Baptist Student Union. She has been named to the President's List and Dean's List and was selected as a Class Favorite.

After graduating from Holmes, Woods plans to transfer to the University of Mississippi-Grenada to pursue a degree in elementary education. Her career goal is to become a lower elementary teacher. She currently works as a window teller at the Bank of Winona.

Outside of Holmes, Woods is active at Calvary Chapel, where she serves on the worship team, teaches pre-K Sunday school and manages the church's social media. In her free time, she enjoys reading, playing the piano, watching movies with her younger sister, shooting with her dad and spending time outdoors.

Woods said one of her favorite parts of Holmes has been the relationships she has formed with faculty and fellow students. She appreciates that faculty members care about students beyond their grades and is thankful for the friendships and opportunities that have helped her step outside of her comfort zone.

Being selected for Homecoming Court is especially meaningful to Woods because, as a homeschooled student, she did not previously have the opportunity to participate in traditions such as Homecoming Court.

Woods was escorted by Asa James Clark, son of Mark and Laura Clark. He is majoring in mechanical engineering and serves as a Holmes Ambassador and member of Phi Theta Kappa.

Katie Grace Ray

Grenada Sophomore Maid Katie Grace Ray is the daughter of Louis and Wendy Ray. She is an accounting major and is actively involved on the Grenada Campus. Ray serves as a Holmes Ambassador and Phi Theta Kappa officer and is a member of the Student Government Association, Grenada Content Creators Club and Baptist Student Union. She has been named to the President's List and was selected as a Freshman Homecoming Maid and Class Favorite during her freshman year.

After graduating from Holmes, Ray plans to attend the University of Mississippi to continue her education in accounting, with the ultimate goal of becoming a certified public accountant. She currently works at Universal Awards and Trophies in Grenada.

Ray is a member of Duck Hill Baptist Church, where she serves on multiple committees and volunteers in the nursery. In her free time, she enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time with friends and family.

Ray said her experience at Holmes has given her the opportunity to grow both personally and academically while meeting new people and forming lifelong friendships. She has especially enjoyed her involvement with Phi Theta Kappa and serving as a Holmes Ambassador and is thankful for the faculty, staff and friends who have made her time at Holmes special. Ray said she is honored to have been selected by her fellow students for the 2026 Homecoming Court and is grateful for the opportunity to represent Holmes Community College and make more memories during Homecoming.

Ray was escorted by Reid Blaylock, son of Jason and Terri Blaylock. He is majoring in civil engineering and serves as a Holmes Ambassador and Phi Theta Kappa Vice President of Honors in Action. He is also a member of the Content Creators Club, Baptist Student Union and Student Government Association and has been named to the President's List.

Olivia May Crowley

Grenada Sophomore Maid Olivia May Crowley is the daughter of Whitney and Daniel Crowley. She is an agricultural sciences major and a member of Phi Theta Kappa at Holmes Community College.

After graduating from Holmes, Crowley plans to transfer to Mississippi State University to pursue a degree in veterinary medical technology. Her ultimate career goal is to become a veterinary medical technician. She currently works as a farm hand at French Camp Academy Farms.

Crowley is a member of Mount Zion Baptist Church. In her free time, she enjoys riding horses and playing the piano and guitar. Crowley said she has loved her experience at Holmes and is especially grateful for the people who have made the college feel like home and for the friendships she has formed along the way. She said being selected for the 2026 Homecoming Court was an honor and an opportunity to step outside of her comfort zone, meet new people and form new friendships.

Crowley was escorted by Owen Garrett, son of Jim and Melissa Nester and Kemp Garrett. He is majoring in pre-physical therapy and is a Holmes Ambassador and member of Phi Theta Kappa.

Harlee Johnson

Grenada Freshman Maid Harlee Johnson is the daughter of Kenny and Cecily Johnson. She is a health sciences major working toward acceptance into the Physical Therapist Assistant program at Holmes. and serves as a Holmes Ambassador on the Grenada Campus. After graduating from the PTA program at Holmes, Johnson plans to continue her education at Mississippi State University. Her career goal is to work as a physical therapist assistant.

Johnson currently works as a runner for Harlow Law Firm in Grenada and is active at St. Peter's Catholic Church. In her free time, she enjoys being outdoors, spending time in nature and spending time with her family.

Johnson said one of the highlights of her Holmes experience has been serving as an Ambassador, which has given her the opportunity to meet students from across Mississippi and form new friendships. She said she is honored and thankful to those who selected her to represent her class as a Freshman Homecoming Maid.

Johnson also expressed gratitude to her parents, siblings, grandparents and friends for their support and shared that her Christian faith is an important part of her life. She said she is especially thankful for what Jesus Christ has done in her life and hopes others will come to know His love.

Johnson was escorted by Cade Barton, son of Kate and Brian Barton. He is majoring in mechanical engineering on the Grenada Campus.

Kendall Betts Tyner

Grenada Freshman Maid Kendall Betts Tyner is the daughter of Valarie Williamson. She is a health sciences major who plans to pursue a nursing degree and ultimately work with pediatric patients with Type 1 diabetes. Tyner's passion for helping children with diabetes is personal, as she lost her brother to Type 1 diabetes at a young age. She hopes to use her career to educate children about the condition, support them as they navigate their diagnosis and remind them that they are not alone.

Tyner works at Back Forty Outdoors, where she assists with social media and works at the front counter. She is an active member of Friendship Baptist Church in Grenada and currently holds the title of Miss Tallahatchie County. She will compete for Miss Magnolia State in November. Her platform, #SmileLikeBella, honors one of her best friends, Isabella, who passed away during their junior year of high school. Through the platform, Tyner advocates for teen mental health awareness and works to bring attention to the mental health challenges young people may face.

In her free time, Tyner enjoys spending time with her family, especially her niece and nephews. She said she is thankful for the welcoming environment she found at Holmes. Although she was nervous beginning college without her high school friends, she quickly found a community and formed friendships she will always value.

Tyner said being selected for the 2026 Homecoming Court is meaningful because Holmes and the community have become an important part of her life. She is grateful for the opportunity to represent her class and create memories she will carry with her.

Tyner was escorted by Holland Self, son of Shannon and Jennifer Self. He is majoring in pre-veterinary medicine on the Grenada Campus and is a Holmes Ambassador and member of Phi Theta Kappa and Student Government Association.

The court was recognized prior to kickoff of the Homecoming football game on Oct. 22.

Holmes announces Hall of Fame inductees

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are members of the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Hall of Fame. They are *(front row, left to right)* **Madalyn Caldwell**, **Myla Thortis**, **Gregory Windham**, **Victor Piccone**, **Natalie DeVille**, **Darryl Thompson**, *(back row, left to right)* **Lilly Callum**, **Grayson Green**, **Brandon Shaffer**, **Jonah Clarke**, **Paxton McGee** and **Kate Nesbit**. *Not pictured:* Adelette Nichols.



2026-27 Holmes Community College Goodman Campus Hall of Fame inductees are *(left to right)* **Ally Moore**, **Madison Reyes**, **Hayden Austin**, **Elizabeth Beard**, **SaraBeth Moore** and **Alli Sparks**.



Holmes Community College Grenada Campus 2026 Hall of Fame inductees are *(left to right)* **Lora Cain**, **Reid Blaylock**, **Katie Grace Ray** and **Amber Thompson**.

Holmes Community College recently recognized outstanding student leaders from the Goodman, Ridgeland and Grenada campuses with induction into the 2026-27 Holmes Hall of Fame, the college's highest student honor. Students selected for this distinction demonstrated academic excellence, leadership, service and commitment to the Holmes community.

For the Ridgeland Campus, honorees include Madalyn "Maddie" Grace Caldwell of Brandon; Lilly Callum of Madison; Jonah Clarke of Canton; Natalie DeVille of Madison; Grayson Garrett Green of Jackson; Rylee Kay Kirkland of Sumrall; Charles "Paxton" McGee of Brandon; Kate Gray Nesbit of Brandon; Adelette Grey Nichols of Brandon; Victor G. Piccone of Cayey, Puerto Rico; Brandon Shaffer of Starkville, Darryl "D.J." Thompson, Jr. of Brandon; Myla Shea Thortis of Brandon and Gregory Ar'shawn Windham, Jr. of Madison.

For the Goodman Campus, honorees include Hayden Austin of Yazoo City, Elizabeth Beard of French Camp, Ally Moore of Kosciusko, SaraBeth Moore of Kosciusko, Madison Reyes of Kosciusko and Alli Sparks of Kosciusko.

For the Grenada Campus, the inductees were Reid Blaylock of McCarley, Lora Cain of Carrollton, Katie Grace Ray of Duck Hill and Amber Thompson of Ackerman.

Madalyn Caldwell

Caldwell, daughter of Bobby Caldwell and Wendi Caldwell, is a pre-law major. After Holmes, she plans to earn an undergraduate degree in political science before attending law school. Caldwell also plans to continue her college soccer career at the next level, although she is currently undecided about where she will attend. During her freshman year, she was recognized for her academic achievement through membership in Phi Theta Kappa and earned an ACT Scholarship and President's List honors for both the fall 2025 and spring 2026 semesters. A member of the Holmes women's soccer team, she was named First Team All-MACCC, to the All-Region Team and the United Soccer Coaches All-American Team and was recognized as an NJCAA Second Team All-American.

Lilly Callum

Callum, daughter of Matt and Corley Callum, is a pre-nursing major at Holmes. She is a member of the Holmes women's soccer team and received a soccer scholarship, Board of Trustees Scholarship and Mississippi Eminent Scholars Program Scholarship/Grant. Callum was named to the President's List for fall 2025 and spring 2026 and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa. She was also named Second Team All-MACCC in soccer in 2025. Off campus, Callum volunteers as a soccer coach. After graduating from Holmes, she plans to attend nursing school and pursue a career as a nurse practitioner.

Jonah Clarke

Clarke is the son of Edward and Marcy Clarke. He is a pre-nursing student at Holmes, where he has excelled academically earning a place on the President's List and induction into Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society during both his freshman and sophomore years. He plans to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and continue his education in the nursing field. Outside of academics, Clarke enjoys hunting, fishing and golf, and serves as the head coach of the St. Joseph High School Swim Team.

Natalie DeVille

DeVille, daughter of Christopher DeVille, is a pre-nursing student at Holmes. Her passion for health care and desire to become involved in her community have guided her academic and extracurricular journey at Holmes. DeVille serves as a co-president of the Holmes STEM Club and has worked as a work-study student for the Workforce Development Training Center for more than a year. During the summer, she had the opportunity to work in the new Allied Health building and Fitness Center, where she gained valuable experience in leadership and teamwork. Through her involvement on campus, DeVille has enjoyed building meaningful connections within the Madison County community while maintaining a place on the President's List and participating in student life.

DeVille enjoys expressing her creativity through canvas painting, reading, watching movies and listening to music. Her time in the Madison Central Marching Band before attending Holmes helped develop her lifelong love of music and instilled a sense of discipline that continues to guide her. She also enjoys spending time with her boyfriend, friends and family. After Holmes, DeVille plans to pursue the highest level of education possible in nursing with the goal of becoming a certified registered nurse anesthetist and providing compassionate, high-quality care to her patients.

Grayson Green

Green, the son of Darren Blaine and Lori Holland Green, is a computer networking technology major at Holmes. During his time as a student, he has received the Board of Trustees ACT Scholarship, was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa and was named to the President's List for the fall and spring semesters. Green has also volunteered with the Clinton Brick Street Players community theater, played piano at Ridgeland Place assisted living facility and operated the sound booth at his church.

Following his time at Holmes, Green plans to earn a bachelor's degree in information technology from the University of Southern Mississippi, complete CompTIA, Google and Apple certifications and pursue a career in the computer industry.

Rylee Kirkland

Kirkland, daughter of James and Daphne Kirkland, is a general studies major at Holmes and a forward for the Lady Bulldog soccer team. She was named to the Dean's List in 2026 and received both an ACT Scholarship and a soccer scholarship after graduating from Sumrall High School. After graduating from Holmes, Kirkland plans to attend Mississippi State University, where she will major in kinesiology and pursue a career in sports medicine. She enjoys playing pickleball and hanging out with her teammates.

Paxton McGee

McGee, son of Keith and Erin McGee, is a culinary arts technology major at Holmes. He is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, was named to the Dean's List and serves as a Holmes Ambassador. He served as an escort for the 2025 Homecoming Court and was selected to serve on the 2026 Homecoming Court, as well. After graduating from Holmes, McGee plans to further his education in pastry arts through an internship and pursue his dream of opening a bakery.

Kate Gray Nesbit

Nesbit, daughter of Jeffrey Christian Nesbit and Whitney Herron Nesbit, is a biology major at Holmes and plays forward for the Lady Bulldogs soccer team. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and was named to the President's List and the NJCAA All-Academic First Team, as well. After graduating from Holmes, Nesbit plans to attend nursing school and potentially pursue medical school after gaining experience as a nurse.

Adelette Nichols

The daughter of Tommy Eugene Nichols Jr. and Jessica McDonald Nichols, she is a health sciences major at Holmes. Nichols is an ACT Scholarship recipient, Holmes Ambassador and member of the Student Government Association and Content Creator Club. She was also chosen as a sophomore Homecoming Maid. After graduating from Holmes, Nichols plans to earn a bachelor's degree in radiologic sciences from the UMMC, then pursue certification as a medical dosimetrist and create radiation treatment plans for cancer patients. She hopes to work with children.

Victor Piccone

Piccone, son of Esthermarie Torres, is a pre-physical therapy and sports medicine major. He is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and was named to the President's List while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. He also received an out-of-state men's soccer scholarship to attend Holmes, where he plays defense for the Bulldogs. After graduating from Holmes, Piccone plans to transfer to a four-year institution to earn his bachelor's while pursuing the opportunity to play Division I soccer and eventually sign a professional contract. He plans to earn a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree and become a licensed physical therapist.

Hall of Fame, continued on Page 10

Hall of Fame *(Continued from Page 9)*

Brandon Shaffer

Shaffer, son of Donald and Vanessa Shaffer, is an English major at Holmes and plays forward for the Holmes men's soccer team. He was named to the President's List in spring 2025 and received the men's soccer team Student-Athlete Award. After graduating from Holmes, Shaffer plans to attend a four-year institution, prepare for the LSAT and pursue a law degree.

Darryl "D.J." Thompson, Jr.

Thompson, son of Darryl Thompson Sr. and Teresa Thompson, is a computer science major at Holmes. He was named to the President's List and received a Dean's Scholarship during his freshman year. During his sophomore year, he was again named to the President's List and became a member of Phi Theta Kappa and a Holmes Ambassador while continuing to receive a Dean's Scholarship. As a passionate believer in Christ, he serves his community as a volunteer at his local church: New Vision Fellowship. Thompson plans to transfer to Mississippi State University in spring 2027 to pursue a bachelor's degree in cybersecurity.

Myla Thortis

Thortis, daughter of Shannon and Melanie Thortis, is a pre-law major at Holmes and a defender for the Holmes women's soccer team. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and was named to both the Dean's List and President's List. She also serves as a team captain for the Lady Bulldogs. After graduating from Holmes, Thortis plans to attend a four-year institution to earn her bachelor's degree before attending law school and pursuing a career as a lawyer. She also hopes to continue excelling academically, serve her community and build meaningful, lasting relationships along the way.

Gregory Windham, Jr.

Windham, son of Melinda and Gregory Windham Sr., is a business management major at Holmes. He is a Holmes Ambassador and was selected as an escort for the 2025 and 2026 Homecoming Courts. As a freshman, he was also a member of the Content Creator Club, the STEM Club, the Student Government Association and was a co-founder of the Holmes volleyball program. After graduating from Holmes, Windham plans to earn a bachelor's degree in business administration with concentrations in management and international affairs.

Hayden Austin

The son of Gary and Lindsey Austin, he is a mechanical engineering major at Holmes. Austin is a recipient of the Holmes Plus Scholarship, Foundation scholarships, the Renaissance Bank Scholarship and the ACT President's Scholarship. He is a member of Phi Theta Kappa. At Holmes, Austin serves as an Ambassador and Holmes Plus tutor. He also works as a McDaniel work-study student and serves as a campus project officer for Phi Theta Kappa. Off campus, Austin is an active member of First Presbyterian Church in Yazoo City, where he participates in Bible studies and serves as a Sunday usher. He also works as a landscaper for Wolf Lake Cut Flower Farm and assists with harvesting and processing pecans at Cypress Point Pecans. In his free time, Austin enjoys hunting, fishing, golfing and spending time with family and friends.

Elizabeth Beard

Beard, daughter of Glen and Karla Beard, is majoring in nursing at Holmes. She is a recipient of the Foundation Scholarship and ACT Scholarship and has a 3.8 GPA. Beard has been named to the President's List and serves as president of Phi Theta Kappa. At Holmes, she is also involved in Connection!, Phi Theta Kappa and Concert Chorale. Beard is a member of Bethsaida Baptist Church. In her free time, she enjoys going on walks, babysitting, baking, spending time with friends and family and watching Christmas movies. After graduating from Holmes, Beard plans to attend nursing school to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She then plans to attend CRNA school with the goal of becoming a pediatric CRNA.

Ally Moore

Moore, daughter of Wade and Misty Moore, is a pre-nursing major at Holmes. She has maintained a 4.0 GPA while earning the Holmes Plus Scholarship, President's Scholarship and Woodmen of the World Scholarship. She has also been named to the President's List. At Holmes, Moore is a member of Holmes Plus, Phi Theta Kappa, Student Government Association, Baptist Student Union and serves as a Holmes Ambassador. She has also worked as a work-study student in the business office and biology department. Outside of Holmes, Moore is a member of Thomastown Baptist Church, where she serves as assistant worship leader and Vacation Bible School director. She also gives softball lessons and tutors children. After graduating from Holmes, Moore plans to attend the University of Mississippi Medical Center to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Her long-term goal is to become a nurse practitioner and use her education and career to serve others.

SaraBeth Moore

Moore, daughter of Destin and the late Lauren Moore and granddaughter of Tim and Sandra Cook, is a pre-nursing major. She has maintained a 4.0 GPA and has been named to the President's List. She is also a recipient of the Foundations Scholarship and Dean Scholarship. At Holmes, Moore serves as an Ambassador and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Baptist Student Union and Student Government Association. She has also worked as a business office and biology department work-study student. Moore is a member of First Baptist Church in Kosciusko. During the summer, she worked at Lake Forest Ranch, a Christian summer camp for children, where she worked with children ages 6-8. She helped teach and care for the children while collaborating with staff and adult volunteers from Mississippi and surrounding states to provide a safe, supportive and encouraging environment. After graduating from Holmes, Moore plans to attend the University of Mississippi Medical Center to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Madison Reyes

Reyes, daughter of Ozie and Kenneth Ashford, is a pre-veterinary science major at Holmes. She has been named to the President's and Dean's lists and is a recipient of the W&M Thomas STEM Scholarship. At Holmes, Reyes is an active member of Student Support Services, Mosaic, Holmes Plus and Tri-Alpha. She also serves as vice president of Honors in Action for Phi Theta Kappa and tutors students at the STEM and Mosaic centers. Outside of Holmes, Reyes regularly volunteers at church, school and various club events. She also works part time at her local Walmart. After graduating from Holmes, Reyes plans to complete her bachelor's degree in agriculture at Mississippi State University. She then plans to pursue a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree at Mississippi State University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Alli Sparks

Sparks, the daughter of Sonny and Courtney Sparks, is majoring in secondary education at Holmes. She has been recognized as a Freshman Beauty, Freshman Class Favorite, Freshman Cheer Award recipient and a Freshman Scholar-Athlete. She was also named to the Freshman Dean's List, served as a Sophomore Homecoming Maid and is a cheerleading co-captain. In addition to cheer, she is a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Off campus, she works as a work-study student in the Holmes Foundation's office and volunteers in the nursery at First Baptist Church Kosciusko. After graduating from Holmes, Sparks plans to attend Mississippi State University to continue pursuing a degree in education.

Reid Blaylock

Blaylock is the son of Jason and Terri Blaylock. He is a civil engineering major who has been named to the President's List and selected as a Freshman Class Favorite.

Blaylock has received several scholarships, including the Junior Auxiliary Scholarship, Jefferey Jones Memorial Scholarship, Carrollton Lodge No. 36 Scholarship, Mississippi Association of Supervisors Scholarship, Modern Woodmen of America Scholarship, Bain and Corey Scholarship and iFight Team Dees Scholarship.

He is actively involved on the Grenada Campus, serving as a Holmes Ambassador and vice president of Honors in Action for Phi Theta Kappa. He is also a member of the Baptist Student Union and Grenada Content Creators Club and has served as a Homecoming escort.

Outside of Holmes, Blaylock has gained professional experience through a summer internship with the Mississippi Department of Transportation. He is also involved in his church, where he has served as a DNOW Bible study leader and volunteered with Vacation Bible School.

After graduating from Holmes, Blaylock plans to transfer to the University of Mississippi to continue his education in civil engineering.

Lora Cain

Cain is the daughter of James and Heather Cain. She is a health sciences major who has been named to the President's List and received the Laurie Herbert Scholarship and Junior Auxiliary of Winona Scholarship.

Cain is actively involved on the Grenada Campus as a Holmes Ambassador and a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Through these organizations, she has participated in campus activities, student leadership opportunities and service initiatives.

Following her studies at Holmes, Cain plans to continue pursuing a career in physical therapy. She is considering the Physical Therapist Assistant program at Holmes or further education in physical therapy at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Katie Grace Ray

Ray is the daughter of Louis and Wendy Ray. She is an accounting major who has been named to the President's List and received several scholarships, including the Dean's Scholarship, Valedictorian Scholarship, Rotary Club Student of the Year Scholarship and Leah Fielder Farm Bureau Memorial Scholarship.

Ray serves as a Holmes Ambassador and president of Phi Theta Kappa. She is also involved in the Student Government Association, Grenada Content Creators Club and Baptist Student Union. During her time at Holmes, she has been selected as a Freshman Class Favorite and represented the Grenada Campus as both a Freshman and Sophomore Homecoming Maid.

Outside of Holmes, Ray works at Universal Awards and Trophies in Grenada and is an active member of Duck Hill Baptist Church. She participates in church committees and ministries, including the choir, nursery, sound team, College and Career ministry, special events, Vacation Bible School and missions committee.

After graduating from Holmes, Ray plans to transfer to the University of Mississippi to continue studying accounting. She hopes to earn a master's degree in accounting and become a certified public accountant.

Amber Thompson

Thompson is the daughter of Charlene Mims. She is an associate degree nursing student and a recipient of the Grenada Lions Club Scholarship. She is also a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

Thompson has participated in several community service activities, including the Tiny Blessings Daycare Fall Festival, Mt. Moriah Church Health and Wellness Day in Coffeeville and a church field day and health fair at the Grenada Lake Pavilion. She also plans to participate in Operation Christmas Child in November.

Following completion of her nursing degree, Thompson plans to further her education by earning a master's degree. Her ultimate career goal is to become an associate degree nursing instructor and help prepare future generations of nurses.

These exceptional students exemplify the core values of Holmes through their commitment to academic excellence, leadership and service to their communities.

Leading Ladies of Jackson host voter registration drive in Ridgeland

By Jenelle Farmer
Staff Reporter



In order to encourage students to cast ballots in the November election, the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus partnered with the Leading Ladies of Jackson to host a voter registration event. The event was held on Sept. 3 in the Student Union. Students filled out their voting applications through a form given by the Leading Ladies. Students who registered were also given snacks and beverages.

The organizers provided useful and insightful information about the significance of voting. For students who might have been hesitant to register, their motto, "your vote matters," provided encouragement. Voting for a candidate who best serves the interests of the community is the first step that students may take to help their community.

It can be difficult to register to vote and choose the best candidate. However, the greatest advantage is information, and when we know better, we do better. For more information, or to register to vote, visit https://leadingladies.org.



Kayla Horne attends the voter registration drive held by the Leading Ladies.

Holmes Ridgeland ADN students volunteer at SON Valley Fall Festival

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College Associate Degree Nursing students from the Ridgeland Campus volunteered at the SON Valley Annual Fall Festival on Oct. 16 at Freedom Ridge Park in Ridgeland.

SON Valley is a Christian nonprofit organization that serves adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The annual festival brings residents and their families together for a day of activities and fellowship.

Students helped operate festival stations and assisted with activities. The festival included a petting zoo, face painting, a dunking booth and games.

Their participation provided an opportunity to serve the community while gaining experience through volunteer service.

The event supported the nursing program's community service requirement, which encourages students to become involved in the communities they serve.

Through volunteering, students contributed to an event focused on inclusion, community engagement and support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Their involvement demonstrated the importance of service and compassion.

Proposed fraternity seeks approval at Holmes

By M.J. Kersh
Staff Reporter



Holmes Community College may soon have a new student organization focused on building brotherhood, leadership and multicultural excellence.

Nu Alpha Upsilon, or NAY, is a proposed fraternity currently working to receive official approval and registration from Holmes. The organization was founded by Holmes Ambassador Greg Windham and is expected to share membership and event information if the approval process is completed this fall.

While the group is still in its early stages, its members have already created a mission, motto and symbol to represent what they hope the organization will become on campus.

According to information provided by Nu Alpha Upsilon, the fraternity's mission is "to cultivate a brotherhood built on unity, leadership and multicultural excellence." Its motto is "Rising Together as One," while its symbol is the bulldog.

The group's stated focus on unity and leadership could give students another way to become involved on campus while connecting with others who share similar goals. Student organizations can provide opportunities for members to build relationships, develop leadership skills and participate in events that bring students together.

Windham said the group's next major step is receiving official recognition from the college.

"We hope to have Nu Alpha Upsilon approved by Holmes this fall. From there we'll post info about membership and events. We hope to see you there!" Windham said.



For now, Nu Alpha Upsilon remains in the approval and registration process. No membership requirements or event dates have been announced yet, but Windham said information will be posted once the organization receives approval.

If approved, Nu Alpha Upsilon would become another option for Holmes students looking to get more involved in campus life and be part of a group centered around brotherhood, leadership and multicultural excellence.

Instructor and student promote literacy through read-aloud program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College English instructor LaShonda Levy and student Adam Bell participated in the Choctaw Tribal Schools Read Aloud program on Friday, Oct. 16, at Pearl River Elementary School in Choctaw.

The program promotes literacy and encourages a love of reading among young students. Levy and Bell read to a first-grade class, sharing the book Halloween Mice with the students.

Following the reading, the pair distributed Holmes Community College items and snacks to the children.

Bell, a former student of Choctaw Tribal Schools, graduated from Choctaw Central High School in 2026. He hopes to return to the school system in the future as an English teacher and eventually become a principal.

The visit highlighted Holmes Community College's commitment to community engagement and literacy while allowing Bell to connect with students in the school system where he began his own educational journey.

By participating in the read-aloud program, Levy and Bell helped reinforce the importance of reading at an early age. Experiences such as these can encourage young learners to develop their literacy skills.

Grandes & Gadgets Club connects with seniors through technology

From Staff Reports/Photos



A resident of The Waterford smiles for a photo with Holmes student **Evan Allen**.

On Sept. 22, members of the Holmes Community College Grandes & Gadgets Club visited The Waterford on Highland Colony, a senior living community, to share their technology skills and connect with local residents.

Students and club adviser Suzanne Haney spent time visiting with residents, answering technology-related questions and assisting with a variety of technology needs.

The visit was especially meaningful for one resident, who shed tears of joy and embraced a student after the student helped her regain access to a Facebook account she had been locked out of.

The Grandes & Gadgets Club looks forward to continuing its mission of connecting with local seniors and using technology skills to serve the community. The group will soon visit St. Catherine's Village, where students will once again have the opportunity to lend a helping hand, make new connections and brighten the day of local residents.

The experience gave students an opportunity to put their technology skills into practice while also building meaningful relationships with members of the community. Through these visits, students gain valuable experience helping others navigate technology while learning from the residents they serve.

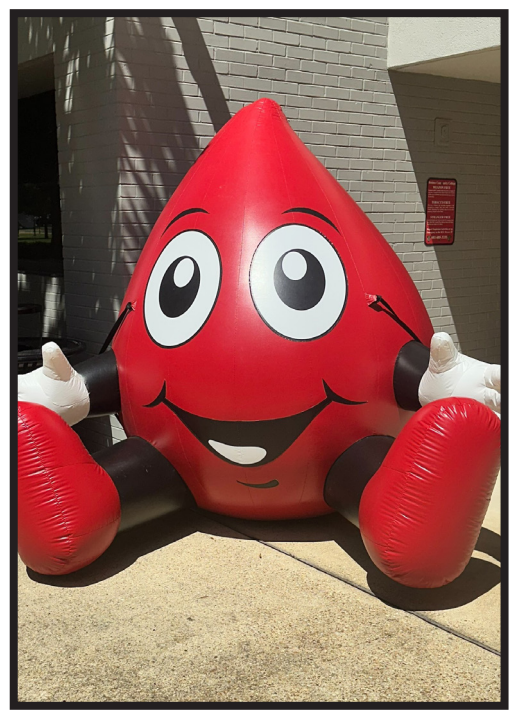
Holmes Ridgeland hosts American Red Cross Blood Drive

By Jenelle Farmer
Staff Reporter



On Monday, Aug. 31, the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus held its first blood drive of the school year with the American Red Cross. The event was from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Ridgeland Hall, and extended through Tuesday, Sept. 1. Students who donated blood received an Amazon gift card or a limited-edition Hello Kitty item. The Red Cross arranged the generous cause to help patients who need blood transfusions. To learn more, or to give blood, visit www.redcrossblood.org.





Mississippi State Capitol offers Internship Program

By Gwen Smith
Staff Reporter



The Mississippi State Capitol is offering a free program that helps young adults learn about leadership and how to interact with others in political positions. This program will take place at the State Capitol, located at 400 High Street, in Jackson.

Representatives from the State Capitol shared information about the internship with students at Holmes Community College on the Ridgeland Campus on Sept. 3 when they set up a table in Ridgeland Hall. The internship program will start begin in early 2027.

For more information on theis internship program, you can contact Amy McAllister, who is the Aassistant Ddirector of Visitors Services.

"This would be a great opportunity to come down and learn new things and get all the experience from the inside that we have to offer," McAllister said.

This internship program will provide training which will give local college students the opportunity to show visitors around and share the history of the Capitol of Mississippi.



Holmes Ridgeland hosts Blast Off Into Fall Ridge Day

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College students, faculty and staff enjoyed Blast Off Ridge Day on Sept. 16 at the Ridgeland Campus.

Hosted by Phi Theta Kappa, the event featured games, activities and opportunities for fellowship. Attendees enjoyed ride-on cars, inflatable games, a 360-degree photo booth and more.

The event brought the campus community together for a morning of fun and connection.







Corn Crunchers win Holmes cornhole tournament

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are winners **Quint Raper** and **Anna Claire Poyner**.

Holmes Community College held a Student and Faculty/Staff Cornhole Tournament on Sept. 30 on the Goodman Campus as part of the college's fall festivities.

The tournament featured friendly competition between students and employees, with the Corn Crunchers claiming the championship. The winning team consisted of Quint Raper and Anna Claire Poyner.

Phi Theta Kappa hosted the preliminary round of the tournament. The event included lunch in the Grove sponsored by the Student Government Association, giving students and employees an opportunity to enjoy food and fellowship.



From then to Now; Alumnus Camden Dixon

By Gwen Smith
Staff Reporter



An employee at Holmes Community College in Ridgeland, Camden Dixon is from the Jackson area where he now lives in Byrum. Dixon's life is incredibly special and rare. He has accomplished so much in such a brief time. His mom passed an early age; he was 15, with a younger brother than who was 13. His aunt, his mom's sister, took up the mantle and raised her two nephews as her own.

An alumnus of the Mississippi School of Arts, and Holmes, Dixon's involvement on the Goodman Campus included being a member of Coachmen, Chorale and The Holmes Connection!. He took a year off school to explore life on the other side and later decided to return to school. Dixon moved around in his career path which even took him to Walt Disney World; he worked there from July 2019 to March 2020. He is very much church oriented; his grandfather is a pastor, and Dixon is quite a musical master.

In his presence, one can not only see his love but can also feel the faith he holds on to. It is a tool that he uses in his life. "Nothing bothers me!" Dixon said, "And my foundation in my faith pushes me." The full story of his life has yet to be told.



Hyundai representative visits Collision Repair students

From Staff Reports/Photos



A representative from Hyundai recently visited Holmes Community College's Goodman Campus to speak with students in the Collision Repair Technology program.

The visit provided students with an opportunity to learn from an automotive industry professional and gain insight into current practices and expectations in the collision repair field. Industry visits also give students the opportunity to connect classroom instruction with real-world applications.

Holmes' Collision Repair Technology program prepares students for careers in the automotive collision repair industry through hands-on training and classroom instruction. Students learn skills related to repairing and restoring damaged vehicles, including body repair, refinishing, structural repair and the use of industry-standard tools and equipment.

Through hands-on instruction, students develop the technical skills needed to enter the workforce and continue building their expertise in the automotive industry. The program emphasizes safety, accuracy and professional practices while providing students with experience in a shop environment.

Industry partnerships and visits such as the Hyundai presentation help strengthen the connection between Holmes students and the automotive industry while providing valuable opportunities for students to learn from professionals in the field.

Attala Practical Nursing students visit Shepherd's Touch

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College Practical Nursing students at the Attala Center visited Shepherd's Touch in Kosciusko to learn about health care services available to underserved members of the community.

Shepherd's Touch is a nonprofit organization that helps meet the medical needs of individuals who may have limited access to health care. Local physicians and dentists volunteer their services, while the organization also provides laboratory work and prescription refills.

The visit gave students an opportunity to learn more about community health resources and the role health care professionals play in improving access to medical services for those in need.such as the Hyundai presentation help strengthen the connection between Holmes students and the automotive industry while providing valuable opportunities for students to learn from professionals in the field.

Holmes Grenada Campus promotes mental health awareness

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College celebrated Mental Health Awareness Day at the Grenada Campus on Oct. 13, encouraging students, faculty and staff to prioritize mental well-being.

Students visited the Corey Forum Lobby to pick up Calmness Kits and access helpful mental health resources. Faculty, staff and students also showed their support by wearing green, the color associated with mental health awareness.

The event provided an opportunity to share resources, encourage positive conversations about mental health and remind the campus community that small acts of kindness can make a difference.

Through activities such as this, Holmes continues to encourage awareness and support for mental well-being among students and employees.







Phi Theta Kappa promotes kindness at Holmes Grenada Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College's Alpha Mu Beta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa celebrated Kindness Awareness Days on Oct. 6 at the Grenada Campus as part of the organization's College Project focused on spreading kindness throughout the college.

Phi Theta Kappa members set up activities in the Forum Lobby to encourage students to brighten someone's day through small acts of kindness. Students picked up stickers, stress balls, keychains and bracelets, wrote appreciation letters for PTK members to deliver to someone on campus and added encouraging messages to kindness pins to share with others.

The event also featured a kindness-themed playlist and a photo booth where students could become the "I" in "KIND."

As part of the initiative, PTK introduced a Kindness Letter Box that will be located in the campus market. Students can write notes of encouragement to place in the box or take a letter when they need a little encouragement themselves.

The kindness campaign began in September, when chapter members placed encouraging posters and messages throughout campus. The ongoing project aims to build a more supportive campus community by reminding students that simple gestures can make a meaningful difference.

Through these activities, Alpha Mu Beta encourages students to give kindness, receive kindness and pass it on to others.



Holmes faculty explore AI, innovative teaching during professional development day

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College faculty from across the district gathered Aug. 28 on the Goodman Campus for a day of professional development, collaboration and learning.

The professional development sessions focused on innovative approaches to teaching and learning, including the growing role of artificial intelligence in education.

Faculty members reflected on their teaching practices, explored ways to rethink traditional assignments and discussed how AI can be used to encourage authentic thinking and meaningful learning experiences.

Sessions included "Intelligent Teaching: Where AI Meets EI," along with discussions on self-reflection and developing assignments that more effectively measure student learning.

The sessions also provided opportunities for faculty members to share ideas and learn from one another as they considered new approaches to bring back to their classrooms.

The professional development day reflects Holmes' commitment to supporting faculty members as they continue to adapt to changes in education and develop new ways to help students succeed.



(left to right) **Ryan Beggs**, **Laura Canard** and **Dr. Tina Garrett** were among the presenters.



(left to right) **Jay Cheatham**, **Dr. Amber Mabus** and **Dr. Antoine Gates** were among the presenters.

Holmes hosts Pre-Professional Mixer on Ridgeland Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College hosted a Pre-Professional Mixer on the Ridgeland Campus to connect students with representatives from colleges and universities offering programs in health care, science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Students explored career pathways, learned about academic programs and spoke with representatives about opportunities in their fields of interest.

Participating programs included Mississippi Christian University Engineering and Physics, Physician Assistant, STEM Pathways and Nursing; University of Mississippi Medical Center Laboratory Science, School of Health Related Professions and Graduate Studies; University of Mississippi Pharmacy; William Carey University Pharmacy and Health Sciences; and Holmes Associate Degree Nursing.

The event provided students with an opportunity to learn more about educational pathways and connect with institutions that can help them prepare for careers in health care and STEM fields.



Holmes PTA students share hands-on experience at Kirk Academy Career Fair

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College physical therapist assistant students participated in the Kirk Academy Career Fair, where they introduced students to the field of physical therapy through hands-on activities.

Kirk Academy students participated in interactive activities designed to give them a glimpse into the work of PTAs while learning more about careers in health care.

The event provided Holmes PTA students with an opportunity to engage with the community and share their experiences and knowledge with younger students.





Holmes alumnus combines passion for weather and journalism

From Staff Reports/Photos



For Kevion McGee, a childhood fascination with weather has grown into a career that combines meteorology, journalism and service to his community.

AHolmes Community College alumnus, he now works as a broadcast meteorologist on weekend mornings and as a journalist during the week. Through both roles, he uses his passion for storytelling and weather to keep people informed and connected to the communities he serves.

McGee said his interest in meteorology began at an early age while watching weather forecasts on television. Inspired by the meteorologists he saw on screen, he eventually decided to pursue the career he had dreamed about since childhood.

His educational journey began at Holmes, where he earned an Associate of Arts and Sciences degree. He continued his education at Mississippi State University, earning a degree in broadcast meteorology with a minor in digital media journalism.

His studies at both institutions helped prepare him for a career that brings together his interests in weather and journalism.

McGee shares weather forecasts, community stories and behind-the-scenes moments from his work. He also uses his journalism background to tell stories about the people and communities he covers.

McGee said he hopes his work will allow him to continue helping others while pursuing the passion that began when he was a child watching weather forecasts on television. From his start at Holmes to his career in broadcast meteorology, McGee is putting his education and passion to work while serving the communities he covers. become a career that brings together his love of weather, storytelling and helping others.

Holmes History Club hosts voter registration drive

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Goodman Campus History Club sponsored a voter registration drive on Oct. 1 to provide an opportunity for eligible individuals to register to vote.

The Holmes History Club is sponsored by instructor Charles Wood.

The event highlighted the importance of civic participation and helped connect members of the campus community with the voter registration process.

Through campus activities such as this, the History Club encourages students to engage with their communities and learn more about the civic process.

Holmes Ridgeland Evening PN serve during annual Buddy Walk

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus Practical Nursing students from the evening/weekend program participated in the 24th Annual Central Mississippi Buddy Walk at Mississippi Christian University on Oct. 3. Held at Robinson-Hale Football Field, the event brough together more than 1,000 participants who formed teams in honor of their buddies with development disabilities. The event also featured games, lunch and entertainment.

As part of their participation, Holmes PN students provided free blood pressure screenings to participants and community members.

Holmes welcomes Mandi Burgess to Ridgeland Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College welcomes Mandi Burgess to the Ridgeland Campus.

Burgess earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in marketing from The University of Southern Mississippi and a Master of Business Administration from Louisiana State University Shreveport.

She previously worked at Auburn University in the Scholarship Office before moving to the Graduate School Office, where she handled domestic admissions. While attending Southern Miss, Burgess also worked as a student employee in the registrar's office.

Burgess was named to the dean's list at Southern Miss and is a member of Sigma Iota Epsilon, an honorary and professional management fraternity, through LSU Shreveport.

Outside of work, Burgess enjoys reading, baking and exploring her creative interests, including painting, linocut printing, calligraphy, surface pattern design and photography. She is a member of First Baptist Church of Madison and the Madison Central High School Parent-Teacher Organization.

Burgess has three daughters. Her oldest, Madison, is a freshman at Holmes' Ridgeland Campus, while her twin daughters, Payton and Taylor, are in 11th grade.

"I am really excited about being here and being a part of the Holmes Community College family," Burgess said.

Holmes welcomes Terri Blaylock to Grenada Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College welcomed Terri Blaylock as an Admissions Representative on the Grenada Campus in August 2026.

Blaylock is a graduate of Mississippi State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Accountancy degree. She brings a strong professional background to Holmes, including eight years of experience as a bank examiner with the Mississippi Department of Banking and Consumer Finance, along with experience in several administrative roles.

As an Admissions Representative, Blaylock assists prospective and current students as they navigate the admissions process and begin their journey at Holmes Community College.

Outside of work, Blaylock enjoys reading, spending time with her family and serving others in her local community. She and her husband of 24 years, Jason, have two sons, Rhett and Reid.

Holmes Community College is proud to have Blaylock as part of the Grenada Campus team and looks forward to the continued contributions she will make to the Bulldog family.

Holmes David Holmesalum returns to lead Fitness Center operations on Ridgeland Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College alumnus David Holmes has joined the college staff as supervisor of operations for the Fitness Center on the Ridgeland Campus.

Holmes attended Holmes from 2014-16, studying pre-athletic training. He also served as a manager for the Holmes basketball program and was recognized in 2017 with the team's Hard Working Manager Award.

Before returning to Holmes, he worked at Club4Fitness as an assistant personal trainer manager. Holmes' experience in fitness and athletics has prepared him to lead operations at the Fitness Center and support the college's commitment to health and wellness.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to continue growing within Holmes Community College and to serve my community through fitness and wellness," he said. "My goal is to create a welcoming environment where students, faculty, staff and community members can improve their health, build confidence and develop lifelong healthy habits."

Holmes said he is passionate about fitness, athletics and helping others reach their full potential. In his new role, he looks forward to creating an environment where members of the Holmes community can pursue their health and fitness goals.

"I look forward to continuing to learn, lead and make a positive impact through the Holmes Wellness Center," he said.

A 2014 graduate of Williams Sullivan High School, Holmes is a member of Walden Chapel in Goodman. His hobbies include fishing, cooking, fitness and traveling.

Holmes welcomes Ashley Bryant as multimedia specialist

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College welcomes Ashley Bryant as a multimedia specialist on the Goodman Campus.

A Holmes alumna, Bryant earned an Associate of Arts degree in fine arts from Holmes before completing a Bachelor of Arts degree in graphic design at Delta State University. Her educational background and professional experience have provided her with a foundation in graphic design, visual communication and creative work.

Before returning to Holmes, Bryant worked remotely as a graphic designer for Tennessee State University. She also worked as a graphic designer and print specialist for The UPS Store and as a contract worker for Delta State University's BRIDGE program.

Bryant's professional experience includes graphic design and print services, allowing her to work in a variety of creative settings. Her return to Holmes brings her educational background and industry experience to her role with the college.

Outside of work, Bryant enjoys drawing, painting and exploring a variety of arts and crafts projects. She also enjoys creating businesses and traveling, reflecting her interest in creativity and entrepreneurship. Bryant is also a big fan of Starbucks and Halloween.

The Holmes Marketing and Communications departments are pleased to have Bryant on the team and appreciate the creativity and professional experience she brings to the college.

Holmes electrical lineman students earn certifications

From Staff Reports/Photos

On Sept. 30, after eight weeks of training, 10 students in the Holmes Community College Electrical Lineman program earned certifications, including pole-climbing certification. The hands-on training includes climbing poles as high as 75 feet.

The 16-week program requires students to complete 608 clock hours of instruction through classroom lessons and hands-on training. Coursework includes CPR and first aid, bloodborne pathogens, chainsaw safety, employability skills, truck driving, pole climbing, protective grounding, underground systems, bucket truck rescue and basic electricity.

Students must hold a Class A commercial driver's license (CDL) permit to participate in the program. For more information about the Electrical Lineman program, contact Mandy Burrell at mburrell@holmescc.edu.





PTK Alpha Mu Beta Promotes Heart Health Through Honors in Action Project

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are PTK Alpha Mu Beta officers **Reid Blaylock**, **Katie Grace Ray**, **Charli Woods and Sylar Vaughn**.

Phi Theta Kappa's Alpha Mu Beta Chapter at the Holmes Community College Grenada Campus put heart health in the spotlight Sept. 28-Oct. 1 with a week of interactive activities, educational displays and a special seminar held in recognition of World Heart Day.

The week was part of the chapter's 2026-2027 Honors in Action project, "Holmes is Where the Heart Is: Recipes for a Bright Future." This year, chapter members are exploring the Honors in Action theme, "How can humans design a better future, and what barriers stand in the way?" Through their research, the students chose to focus on heart health, prevention and the barriers that can keep individuals from making healthy choices.

Throughout Heart Health Awareness Week, PTK members hosted activities in the Corey Forum lobby designed to make health education approachable and interactive for Holmes students and employees. The campaign centered on the American Heart Association's Life's Essential 8: Eat Better, Be More Active, Quit Tobacco, Get Healthy Sleep, Manage Weight, Control Cholesterol, Manage Blood Sugar and Manage Blood Pressure. The chapter's educational materials emphasized that heart health is important throughout the lifespan and encouraged participants to focus on progress and small, sustainable choices.

Students had opportunities to learn through games, demonstrations, giveaways and hands-on displays. As part of the tobacco education portion of the week, students had the opportunity to feel the difference between healthy lungs and lungs affected by smoking. The Grenada County Mississippi State University Extension Office provided educational resources that allowed participants to see an asthma trigger display also helped students better understand how environmental and lifestyle factors can affect respiratory and overall health.

The week concluded with a focus on knowing important health numbers, including cholesterol, blood sugar and blood pressure. Holmes Associate Degree Nursing students joined the project to provide blood pressure checks for students and employees while sharing practical information about proper blood pressure monitoring. The activity reinforced one of the campaign's key messages: individuals can better manage their health when they understand the numbers and risk factors that affect them.

A highlight of the project was the "Holmes is Where the Heart Is: Recipes for a Bright Future" Heart Health Seminar, held Tuesday, Sept. 29, in the Corey Forum on World Heart Day.

PTK officer Katie Grace Ray welcomed attendees before fellow officer Charli Woods introduced a heart health bingo activity. Following the game, Reid Blaylock introduced guest presenter Sara Pollan, a biology instructor at the Holmes Grenada Campus.

Pollan guided participants through an interactive presentation covering how the heart works and practical ways to protect cardiovascular health. Her presentation took participants through all eight areas of Life's Essential 8 and included examples of healthier food choices, ways to incorporate physical activity into everyday life, the effects of tobacco and secondhand smoke, healthy sleep habits, cholesterol, blood sugar and blood pressure. The presentation also encouraged participants to "know their numbers" and talk with a healthcare provider about their individual health and risk factors.

Rather than simply listening to a lecture, attendees were invited to participate throughout the evening. Heart Health Bingo, audience activities and a Kahoot game helped reinforce the information presented, with prizes awarded to the bingo winner and the top three Kahoot participants. Officer Sylar Vaughn concluded the student portion of the program with thank-yous and encouraged attendees to complete a project survey, followed by closing remarks from PTK advisor Bethany Miller.

The Heart Health Awareness Week allowed Alpha Mu Beta members to take the research component of Honors in Action beyond the classroom and turn it into service for the campus community. By combining research, partnerships and interactive education, the chapter sought to show that creating a healthier future does not always require dramatic changes. As the seminar materials reminded participants, small choices can make a big difference in a healthier you.

Phi Theta Kappa is the international honor society for two-year colleges and promotes scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship among its members.

Holmes welcomes students back for fall semester

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College began welcoming students back for the fall semester Aug. 17, with back-to-school activities taking place across its three campuses.

At the Goodman Campus, Holmes Ambassadors and Holmes Cheerleaders helped students move into the residence halls on Aug. 16. The groups assisted students and their families with unloading belongings and getting settled on campus.

The Goodman Campus also kicked off the school year with intramural sports opportunities for students. Games and activities are offered at various times throughout the week, including flag football, volleyball, pickleball and soccer, giving students opportunities to stay active and connect with their classmates outside the classroom.

On the Ridgeland Campus, students were treated to free beignets from Beach Babe Beignets to help start the semester on a sweet note on Aug. 17. On Aug. 18, Ridgeland students enjoyed the Student Activity Fair, where they had a chance to learn more about clubs, organizations and ways to get involved on campus. They also had a special visit from Bully and enjoyed free coffee from Rollin' Beans to help fuel their second day of classes. On the third day of classes, students on the Ridgeland Campus were treated to snacks and drinks for a little morning pick-me-up in between classes.

Welcome Week activities continued on the Grenada Campus during the second week of classes. On Aug. 24, students participated in a Resource Fair in the Forum Lobby, where they explored campus resources and connect with organizations and resources available to Holmes students.

On Aug. 25, Grenada students enjoyed fresh-squeezed lemonade provided by Lemon Squeezy, and the following day, students were treated to mini pancakes courtesy of Willow and Mane.

The back-to-school activities across the Goodman, Ridgeland and Grenada campuses gave students opportunities to connect with classmates, learn more about campus resources and become involved in the Holmes community.

From move-in day at Goodman to activities at the college's commuter campuses, Holmes welcomed students with Bulldog spirit, refreshments and opportunities to get involved as the fall semester got underway.



Students on the Grenada Campus enjoy fresh lemonade during Welcome Week.



Holmes cheerleaders help students move into their dorms on the Goodman Campus on Aug. 16.



Ridgeland students enjoy a treat from Beach Babe Beignets on the first day of class.



Students on the Grenada Campus show off their mini pancakes provided by Willow and Mane.



Ridgeland students pose for a photo with Bully in the Student Union during the Student Activities Fair.

Holmes to host Navigating the Unknown Seminar at Grenada Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes will host its third "Navigating the Unknown" seminar on Nov. 3 at the Holmes Community College Grenada Campus. Set for 9:30 a.m. in the Corey Forum, the presentation will feature a panel of professional and academic leaders discussing guidance and insights with attendees.

Featured panelists include Jonathan Harville, owner of CI Design Group LLC, Miki Turner McCurdy, a mental health nurse with Life Help and Bethany Miller, director of the Quality Enhancement Plan at Holmes.

Delta State University will sponsor the seminar, as well.

These QEP Career Seminars are designed to help undecided students, particularly those enrolled in general college studies, explore majors and connect their strengths directly to future academic and career paths. The goal is to help students navigate their path while also feeling confidence that it is okay to not have it all figured out just yet.

For more information, contact Miller at bmiller@holmescc.edu.



Holmes students explore biblical history through archaeology

From Staff Reports/Photos



Dr. James Hardin presented "Pop Culture, the Bible and Archaeology: A Case Study of David and Solomon" for Holmes Community College students on Sept. 15 in the McGowan Workforce Training Building on the Ridgeland Campus. Dr. Hardin, who is director of the Cobb Institute of Archaeology at Mississippi State University, brought together history, archaeology and popular culture to explore the world surrounding two of the Bible's most well-known kings.

The presentation was hosted by the History and Political Science Department, and J.R. Hall provided the introduction for Dr. Hardin.

Holmes nursing students participate in psychiatric hospital escape room

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College Nursing 4 students put their clinical skills and knowledge to the test during a psychiatric hospital escape room simulation on the Grenada Campus.

Nursing 1 students served as patients during the exercise, helping create a realistic clinical experience for their fellow students.

Throughout the simulation, Nursing 4 students assessed patients, identified important clues, practiced communication and worked together to solve challenges. The activity encouraged critical thinking and teamwork while helping prepare students for real-world patient care.

Holmes Ridgeland hosts Navigating the Unknown Seminar

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College hosted its second Navigating the Unknown Seminar of the fall semester at the Ridgeland Campus in the McGowan Workforce Training Center on Oct. 14. Delta State University sponsored the event.

The seminar featured a panel of professionals who shared insights from their careers and experiences. Panelists included Corey Miletello, a licensed clinical social worker with Miletello Therapy Services and Consulting; Camden Dixon, an admissions representative for the Holmes Ridgeland Campus and Bethany Miller, director of the Quality Enhancement Plan at Holmes. History and Political Science Division Chair Laura Canard served as moderator.

The seminar provided students with an opportunity to hear from professionals and gain perspective as they navigate their college journeys and consider future career paths.

Following the presentation, attendees were treated to Chik-Fil-A breakfast provided by Delta State.

Those interested in serving as mentors may contact Bethany Miller at bmiller@holmescc.edu.



Pictured are panelists *(left to right)* **Corey Miletello**, a licensed clinical social worker with Miletello Therapy Services and Consulting, **Bethany Miller**, director of the Quality Enhancement Plan and **Camden Dixon**, an admissions representative for the Ridgeland Campus with moderator **Laura Canard**, History and Political Science Division Chair.

Holmes STEM Division hosts mock interviews

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Community College STEM Division hosted its annual Fall Mock Interviews Sept. 24 at the Adcock Library on the Ridgeland Campus.

The event gave healthcare students hands-on experience practicing professional interviewing techniques and navigating real-world scenarios they may face in their future careers.

Through role-playing exercises, participants practiced professional communication, patient privacy protection, conflict management, and workplace collaboration. The interactive training was designed to foster critical thinking, build career confidence, and promote professional standards ahead of students entering the healthcare workforce.





Holmes establishes Tri-Alpha Honor Society, Inducts first-generation Class

From Staff Reports/Photos



Student Support Services at Holmes Community College officially welcomed its inaugural class of first-generation college students into the Alpha Alpha Alpha (Tri-Alpha) National Honor Society during an induction ceremony Oct. 21.

The event marked the establishment of the Omicron Mu chapter on the Goodman campus, creating a new avenue to honor academic excellence among students who are the first in their families to attend college.

Franchissica Powell, representing Jackson State University's Kappa Omega chapter of Tri-Alpha, served as the guest inductee officer. Powell led the initiation ceremony and officially chartered the new chapter at Holmes Community College.

"We are proud to celebrate your hard work, dedication and success as we begin this exciting chapter together," Student Support Services representatives said in a statement congratulating the new inductees.

Alpha Alpha Alpha is a national honor society founded to recognize the academic achievements of first-generation college students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

Holmes History Club hosts Champions of Awareness in honor of breast cancer awareness month

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Community College History Club hosted Dr. Teresa Mackey and Angie Burrell for a presentation titled "Champions of Awareness" on Oct. 21. Dr. Mackey is the vice president for compliance and institutional research for Holmes, and Burrell is the executive assistant to the president.

During the event, Dr. Mackey and Burrell shared their personal stories and spoke to students and faculty about the importance of cancer awareness. Following their presentation, History Club representative Nikki Ramsey presented each speaker with a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the organization.





Southern Pine Electric demonstrates safety protocols for Holmes lineman students

From Staff Reports/Photos

Safety Coordinator Jamie Arender and representatives from Southern Pine Electric visited Holmes Community College Sept. 21 to present the "Arcs and Sparks" safety demonstration to students in the Lineman program.

The hands-on demonstration is designed to prepare students for the hazards of the trade before they enter the workforce, emphasizing electrical safety and job-site awareness.

The lineman program is a 16-week workforce training course held on the Goodman Campus (Bulldog Ranch). It is designed to prepare students for entry-level careers in the electrical utility industry, covering core skills such as pole climbing, basic electricity, safety protocols, equipment operation, and CDL preparation.





Holmes hosts Navigating the Unknown Seminar at Goodman Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College hosted its first Navigating the Unknown Seminar of the fall semester at the Goodman Campus in the McMorrough Library on Sept. 10. Millsaps College sponsored the event.

The seminar featured a panel of professionals who shared insights from their careers and experiences. Panelists included Allison Schuler, CEO and chief nursing officer at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Attala; Stan Fisher, chief of police at Holmes' Ridgeland Campus; and Bethany Miller, director of the Quality Enhancement Plan at Holmes. Holmes Recruiter Nikki Boutwell served as moderator.

The seminar provided students with an opportunity to hear from professionals and gain perspective as they navigate their college journeys and consider future career paths.

The Navigating the Unknown Seminar was also held on the Ridgeland Campus and on the Grenada Campus, as well.

Those interested in serving as mentors may contact Bethany Miller at bmiller@holmescc.edu.



Pictured are panelists *(left to right)* **Stan Fisher**, chief of police at Holmes' Ridgeland Campus; **Allison Schuler**, CEO and chief nursing officer at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Attala and **Bethany Miller**, director of the Quality Enhancement Plan at Holmes with moderator **Nikki Boutwell**, Holmes recruiter.

Holmes welcomes 9 new employees

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the new Holmes employees with *(seated, center)* Holmes President **Dr. Jim Haffey**. They are *(front row, left to right)* **Ashley Bryant**, **Michelle Donovan**, **Corrie Torrent**, **Kaylee Chisolm**, *(back row, left to right)* **Lakisha Thompson**, **Lexi Harris**, **Cody Spurlock**, **Steve Kincaid** and **Carla Yarbrough**.

Holmes Community College welcomed nine new employees Wednesday during new employee orientation on the Goodman Campus.

Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey greeted the new staff members, who represent multiple campuses and departments across the college.

New employees include Ashley Bryant, multimedia specialist, Goodman; Michelle Donovan, ADN administrative assistant, Ridgeland; Corrie Torrent, art, Ridgeland; Kaylee Chisolm, library technical assistant, Goodman; Lakisha Thompson, PN instructor, Ridgeland; Lexi Harris, library technical assistant, Grenada; Cody Spurlock, director of bands, Goodman; Steve Kincaid, assistant director of bands, Goodman; and Carla Yarbrough, financial aid advisor, Goodman.

Williamson joins Holmes Police Department on Grenada Campus

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College welcomes Cassidy Garrett Williamson as a police officer with the Campus Police Department on the Grenada Campus, where he will help provide a safe and secure environment for students, faculty, staff and visitors.

Williamson brings years of military and law enforcement experience to Holmes. He proudly served as an infantryman with the 82nd Airborne Division, completing two combat deployments to Iraq. Following his military service, he joined the Grenada Police Department, where he served in a variety of roles, including patrol officer, field training officer, supervisor and reporting agency coordinator. Throughout his career, he has completed extensive training in criminal justice, leadership, emergency response and crisis intervention and remains committed to continuing his professional development.

A Grenada native, Williamson said he was drawn to Holmes because it offers the opportunity to continue serving his community while building positive relationships with students, faculty and staff.

"I'm looking forward to getting to know the students, faculty and staff while helping provide a safe environment where everyone can succeed," Williamson said. "I also hope to build positive relationships across campus and become someone students know they can approach whenever they need help."

Outside of work, Williamson enjoys spending time with his wife, Kassie, and their two daughters, Leah and Avery. Much of the family's free time is spent at the softball field, where he enjoys coaching and supporting his daughters' competitive teams.

One interesting fact about Williamson is that he completed airborne training and jumped from airplanes during his service with the 82nd Airborne Division.

His favorite quote is, "Be kind, but be ready."

Holmes welcomes Lakisha Thompson as PN instructor in Ridgeland

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College welcomes Lakisha Thompson as the new Practical Nursing instructor on the Ridgeland Campus.

Thompson brings more than 15 years of experience in public health and nursing to her new role at Holmes, with a background in long-term care, psychiatric nursing, nursing administration and case management.

She earned her nursing education from Southwest Mississippi Community College of Nursing. Thompson also holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Alcorn State University, a Master of Public Health from Jackson State University and a Doctor of Healthcare Administration from Virginia University at Lynchburg.

Prior to joining Holmes, Thompson served as a clinical instructor at Southwest Mississippi Community College of Nursing. She also worked with Southwest Mississippi Regional Medical Center and Freedom Behavioral Health.

Throughout her career, Thompson has dedicated herself to educating and supporting future healthcare professionals while gaining extensive experience in various areas of nursing and public health.

"I'm excited to be a part of the Holmes family and helping to mentor and equip the new generation of future nurses," Thompson said.

Thompson is a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority and enjoys reading historical fiction novels and autobiographies, participating in community service initiatives and maintaining an active lifestyle through fitness.

She and her husband, John, have three children: Mya, Jontavius and John Jr.

As a Practical Nursing instructor on the Ridgeland Campus, Thompson will provide classroom instruction, clinical guidance and mentorship to students preparing for careers in healthcare.

Michelle Donovan joins Holmes team as ADN Administrative Assistant

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College welcomed Michelle Donovan as the new administrative assistant for the Associate Degree Nursing program on the Ridgeland Campus.

Donovan supports the ADN program, providing administrative support to faculty and students within the department. She brings nearly three decades of administrative and healthcare-related experience to the position. She worked two years as a ward clerk in oncology at North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo, then spent nine years as administrative assistant to the hospital administrator at Community Hospital of Calhoun County. She later worked for 15 years at Bruce Telephone Company, where she managed billing and employee insurance matters, and most recently served as a customer service representative for Farm Bureau Insurance in Madison.

Donovan said the appointment marks a homecoming of sorts. All four of her children attended Holmes' Ridgeland Campus between 2009 and 2022, and her oldest daughter met her husband while a student at Holmes.

"Holmes was my home away from home before I was fortunate to find employment here," Donovan said. "I am so excited to not only be a part of Holmes but thrilled to be part of the CTE program and the ADN department."

Donovan is a 1985 graduate of Bruce High School. In 2004, she was named Parent of the Year at Bruce Elementary School. She is a member of Broadmoor Baptist Church in Madison and enjoys seasonal home decorating, cooking and baking.

She and her husband, David Donovan, have four children: Morgan, Brennan, Ashton and Anniston, as well as a son-in-law, Alex. The couple has three grandchildren: Cohen, Cole and Callen.

Dixon joins Holmes Admissions Department in Ridgeland

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College welcomed alumnus Camden Dixon as an admissions representative on the Ridgeland Campus, where he will assist prospective students as they explore educational opportunities and navigate the admissions process.

A graduate of the Mississippi School of the Arts, Dixon earned his high school diploma with honors in 2019. He continued his education at Holmes, where he majored in entertainment industry studies and graduated with honors from the Goodman Campus in 2022. During his time at Holmes, he was a member of The Holmes Connection, the Coachmen Singers and the Chorale. He also received the Choral Music Award and was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Following Holmes, Dixon earned a certificate in musical theatre from the American Musical and Dramatic Academy (AMDA) in New York in 2023. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Applied Psychology with Alternate Teacher Licensure at Belhaven University.

Before coming to work at Holmes, Dixon served as a voice and acting instructor at 601 Studios and worked as a camp staff member and counselor with Summer Show-Offs. He has also volunteered with Brookhaven Little Theatre, where he has shared his passion for the performing arts and mentoring young people.

Outside of work, Dixon enjoys singing, musical theatre, directing productions, teaching voice and acting, spending time with friends, visiting theme parks and working with children and youth. He is also a member of Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church.

"I am excited to begin this new chapter and step into my new role, where I can continue growing as an educator and mentor," Dixon said. "My background in performing arts, education and working with young people has shaped my passion for creating meaningful experiences that help others build confidence and discover their talents. I look forward to contributing my creativity, leadership and dedication while continuing to learn and grow in this position."

Holmes Grenada welcomes Harris as new library technical assistant

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College welcomed Shanna Alexis "Lexi" Harris to its staff as library technical assistant on the Grenada Campus. Harris joined Holmes on July 1.

A 2025 graduate of Northwest Mississippi Community College, Harris earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in administrative office technology. She brings a passion for learning and a commitment to serving others to her role at Holmes.

A Grenada native, Harris enjoys rescuing animals, gardening, volunteering in her community and learning to play new musical instruments in her free time.

"I am excited to help students while continuing to grow professionally," Harris said.

Harris lives by the motto, "As long as you're alive, you can always restart."

Yarbrough joins Holmes financial aid staff in Goodman

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College welcomes Carla Yarbrough to its staff as Student Aid Advisor/VA Certifying Official on the Goodman Campus. Yarbrough brings a diverse background in banking, retail management, literature and the arts to her new role at Holmes.

She attended Hobart & William Smith Colleges from 2002 to 2004 and Palm Beach Atlantic University ffrom 2004 to 2006, studying English and instrumental music. She graduated from Fair Haven Union High School in Fair Haven, Vermont, in 2002.

Before joining Holmes, Yarbrough worked as a bank teller at Regions Bank in Louisville from 2016-26. Prior to that, she served as a department manager at Petco in Stuart, Florida, from 2009-16.

While attending Palm Beach Atlantic University, Yarbrough served as managing editor of the university's "Living Waters Review," an arts and literature publication. In 2006, she received the university's Editorial Excellence award for her work with the publication.

Yarbrough is passionate about art, music, literature and literacy, as well as animals. Her hobbies include reading, writing, cooking and arts and crafts. She is also an aspiring author and has participated in Extra Life, a charity initiative that raises money for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals through gaming, for 14 years.

She is a member of Sigma Tau Delta, an English honor society and a member of Macedonia Baptist Church in Louisville. Her husband, Steven Taylor Yarbrough, works in Holmes' IT Department and serves as pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church.

Originally from Vermont, Yarbrough has lived in five states, including Connecticut, New York, Florida and Mississippi. She also traveled to Europe twice as a student ambassador through the People-to-People program.

Although she describes herself as naturally introverted, Yarbrough said she enjoys learning about people and their passions.

Holmes welcomes Yarbrough to the Goodman Campus and looks forward to the experience and perspective she brings to the college community.

Torrent joins Holmes faculty as Ridgeland Campus art instructor

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College welcomes Corrie Torrent as an art instructor on the Ridgeland Campus.

Torrent earned both a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Education in Art Education from Mississippi College. Prior to joining Holmes, she taught sixth-grade art at Madison Middle School.

She has received numerous honors throughout her career, including being named Graduate Art Major of the Year at Mississippi College. She has also been recognized as a gallery artist for 3 Houses Studio and earned several awards through Mississippi College's Competitive Showcase.

In addition to teaching, Torrent owns an art business where she travels to art shows to exhibit and sell her artwork.

"I am excited to join the Holmes family and look forward to inspiring students through creativity and artistic expression," Torrent said.

Outside the classroom, Torrent enjoys baking, photography, playing games and interior decorating. She is a member of Grace City Church in Jackson.

Torrent and her husband, David, live with their dog, Tucker.

Holmes Grenada welcomes Harris as new library technical assistant

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College welcomed Shanna Alexis "Lexi" Harris to its staff as library technical assistant on the Grenada Campus. Harris joined Holmes on July 1.

A 2025 graduate of Northwest Mississippi Community College, Harris earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in administrative office technology. She brings a passion for learning and a commitment to serving others to her role at Holmes.

A Grenada native, Harris enjoys rescuing animals, gardening, volunteering in her community and learning to play new musical instruments in her free time.

"I am excited to help students while continuing to grow professionally," Harris said.

Harris lives by the motto, "As long as you're alive, you can always restart."

Holmes honors employees for years of service during Convocation 2026

From Staff Reports/Photos



Tina Boyette was recognized for 25 years of service with Holmes.

Holmes Community College recognized faculty and staff members for their years of dedicated service during Convocation held Aug. 11 in the coliseum on the Goodman Campus.

The annual event welcomed employees from across the college's campuses and centers as they prepared for the start of the academic year. In addition to receiving updates on college initiatives and goals for the upcoming year, employees celebrating service milestones were honored for their commitment to Holmes and its students.

The Holmes employees recognized for five years of service with the college included: Michelle Crawford, Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) instructor, Grenada; Tanya Crider, biological science (eLearning) instructor, Goodman; Sandy Digby, housekeeper, Goodman; Dr. Marty Eckelberry, psychology instructor, Goodman; Brittany Engle, student financial aid advisor, Goodman; Shalon Farris, director of eLearning, Goodman; Erica Fitzhugh, occupational therapy assistant program director/instructor, Ridgeland; Bryce Fleming, maintenance worker, Grenada; Kathie Flowers, maintenance worker, Ridgeland; Bridget Goodnight, head women's basketball coach, Goodman; Lauree Harmon, security guard, Goodman; Aimee Kitching, sociology instructor, Grenada; Hal Merriman, police officer, Grenada; Jovonna Parker, career technical education counselor, Ridgeland; Sara Pollan, biological science instructor, Grenada; Danette Tannehill, ADN instructor, Ridgeland; Lacy Walker, ADN instructor, Grenada and Audrey Young, athletic trainer, Goodman.

The Holmes employees recognized for 10 years of service with the college were Dr. Sarah Clay, librarian, Ridgeland; Katherine Ellard, coordinator of alumni activities/public relations/grants, Goodman; Kim Fowler, administrative assistant for Attala Center and the vice president of workforce development, Goodman; Alfred Green, maintenance worker, Goodman; Ethel Moore, supervisor of custodial services, Goodman; Wesley Noble, head women's soccer coach, Ridgeland; Crystal Tate, admissions representative, Goodman; Dr. Sandra Townes, ADN instructor, Grenada; Mallory Weeks, administrative assistant to the vice president of academic programs, Goodman and Stephanie Wood, multimedia specialist/web analyst, Ridgeland.

The Holmes employees recognized for 15 years of service with the college included: Cindy Bridges, ADN instructor, Ridgeland; Jodie Burchfield, mathematics instructor, Goodman; Dr. Antoine Gates, biological science instructor, Ridgeland; Amanda Jones, nurse navigator, Goodman; Dr. Kristy McClain, chemistry instructor, Grenada; Jeff Newsom, maintenance worker, Grenada; Jon Rost, mathematics instructor, Ridgeland; Dr. Amy Whittington, vice president of career technical education, Goodman and Cherrie Winter, ADN instructor, Grenada.

The Holmes employees recognized for 20 years of service with the college were Lisa Anglin, mathematics instructor, Ridgeland; Sonja Arnett, English instructor, Goodman; Dr. Stacey Coulter, English instructor, Ridgeland; Dr. Bronwyn Martin, vice president of the Ridgeland Campus, Ridgeland and Vincent Sutherland, maintenance worker, Ridgeland.

Finally, Tina Boyette, administrative assistant to the vice president of the Goodman Campus, Goodman, was recognized for 25 years of dedicated service to Holmes.



(left to right) **Lisa Anglin**, **Vincent Sutherland**, **Dr. Bronwyn Martin**, **Dr. Stacey Coulter** and **Sonja Arnett** were recognized for 20 years of service with Holmes.



Pictured are the Holmes employees who were recognized for 15 years of service with the college. They are *(front row, left to right)* **Dr. Antoine Gates**, **Jodie Burchfield**, **Dr. Amy Whittington**, **Jon Rost** *(back row, left to right)* **Jeff Newsom**, **Cherrie Winter**, **Cindy Bridges** and **Dr. Kristy McClain**. *Not pictured:* Amanda Jones.



Pictured are the Holmes employees who were recognized for 10 years of service. They are *(front row, left to right)* **Ethel Moore**, **Dr. Sandra Townes**, **Katherine Ellard**, **Stephanie Wood**, *(back row, left to right)* **Dr. Sarah Clay**, **Kim Fowler**, **Crystal Tate**, **Mallory Weeks** and **Alfred Green**. *Not pictured:* Wesley Noble.



Pictured are the Holmes employees who were recognized for five years of service with the college. They are *(front row, left to right)* **Lauree Harmon**, **Erica Fitzhugh**, **Lacy Walker**, **Michelle Crawford**, **Brittany Engle**, **Aimee Kitching**, **Sara Pollan**, **Kathie Flowers**, **Bridget Goodnight**, *(back row, left to right)* **Sandy Digby**, **Hal Merriman**, **Tanya Crider**, **Danette Tannehill**, **Dr. Marty Eckelberry**, **Shalon Farris**, **Audrey Young**, **Bryce Fleming** and **Jovonna Parker**.

Holmes celebrates graduation of third AWS Information Infrastructure Pre-Apprenticeship Cohort

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 2026 graduates of the AWS Information Infrastructure Pre-Apprenticeship (I2PA) program. They are *(front row, left to right)* **Devin Hawkins**, **Avian Berry**, **Charisse Curtis**, **Jacob Schmelzer**, **Jordan Broadway**, **Kevan Johnson**, *(second row, left to right)* **Joshua Dunson**, **Dylan Prater**, **Kelly Burris**, **Zechariah Young**, **Charles Brown, III**, **Lovdai Poindexter**, *(third row, left to right)* **Gregory Williams**, **Lawrence Brantley**, **Connor Green**, *(fourth row, left to right)* **Austin Boarden**, **James Turner** and **Tyrin Williams**.

Holmes Community College celebrated the graduation of its third cohort of the Amazon Web Services (AWS) Information Infrastructure Pre-Apprenticeship (I2PA) program on Friday, June 26, recognizing 18 graduates who completed the intensive workforce training program.

The third cohort completed the program from June 1-26, gaining foundational knowledge and hands-on experience in information infrastructure, cloud technology concepts and career opportunities within the technology industry.

The graduates included Avian Berry, Austin Boarden, Lawrence Brantley, Jordan Broadway, Charles "Trey" Brown, Kelly Burris, Charisse Curtis, Joshua Dunson, Connor Green, Devin Hawkins, Kevan Johnson, Lovdai Poindexter, Dylan Prater, Jacob Schmelzer, James Turner, Gregory Williams, Tyrin Williams and Zechariah "Zack" Young.

The AWS I2PA program is designed to provide participants with skills and experiences that prepare them for careers in the growing information technology field. Through the program, students explore industry-recognized technology concepts, develop workforce skills and gain insight into potential career pathways.

Holmes launched the AWS I2PA program to help meet workforce demands by providing students with access to high-quality technology training and opportunities for career advancement. The program continues to connect students with skills needed for success in today's evolving workforce.

Following the graduation ceremony, graduates participated in a networking event where they had the opportunity to connect with industry professionals, celebrate their accomplishments and explore future opportunities in the technology sector.

For more information on the program, contact Angie Williams at anwilliams@holmescc.edu.

Holmes Grenada Surgical Technology Class of 2026 celebrates graduation with 100% National Certification Pass Rate

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 2026 Grenada Campus Surgical Tech graduates with their instructor *(center)* **Leah Mitchell**. They are *(left to right)* **Ashlyn Lee**, **Ashlee Chamblee**, **DeQuon Davis**, **Cody Hubbard**, **Riley Boyd** and **Alyssa Ballentine**.

The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus celebrated the achievements of six Surgical Technology graduates during its 2026 Surgical Technology Pinning Ceremony.

The ceremony recognized the graduates' dedication, perseverance, and commitment to providing quality patient care as they prepare to enter the healthcare workforce. Family, friends, faculty, and administrators gathered to honor the graduates and celebrate this important milestone.

The program began with the processional, followed by an invocation from Career Technical Coordinator Slade Redwine. Surgical Technology Instructor Leah Mitchell, CST, welcomed guests before Riley Boyd, class valedictorian, shared remarks on behalf of the graduating class.

Graduates also participated in the Surgical Technology Code of Ethics, led by Alyssa Ballentine, reaffirming their commitment to professionalism, integrity, and compassionate patient care. Mitchell presented awards, certificates and pins before Cody Hubbard delivered the benediction.

The Class of 2026 included Alyssa Ballentine, Riley Boyd, Ashlee Chamblee, DeQuon Davis, Cody Hubbard and Ashlyn Lee.

The ceremony also celebrated another significant accomplishment for the program. The Holmes Community College Surgical Technology Class of 2026 achieved a **100% pass rate on the National Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) examination**, demonstrating the program's commitment to excellence and preparing students for successful careers in the operating room.

"Our students have worked incredibly hard to reach this milestone," said instructor Leah Mitchell. "Their success on the national certification exam is a testament to their dedication, the support of their families, and the quality of education they have received at Holmes."

Holmes graduates two from Industrial Maintenance Program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are *(left to right)* **Riley Rea** and **Michael Brown**.

Riley Rea and Michael Brown have successfully completed Holmes Community College's Workforce Development Industrial Maintenance Program in August, a year-long course totaling 240 clock hours. Rea and Brown completed the program on the Grenada Campus.

The program is designed to equip participants with the knowledge and hands-on skills needed for entry-level roles in industrial maintenance.

Coursework covered basic electricity and electrical wiring, hydraulic and pneumatic systems, mechanical drive systems, maintenance welding, industrial electricity and motor control systems, and programmable logic controllers, or PLCs.

For more information about the Industrial Maintenance Program, contact Nettie Coggin at ncoggin@holmescc.edu.

Holmes Attala Center hosts practical nursing pinning ceremony

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the graduates from Attala County. They are *(left to right)* **Kaitlyn Harlos**, **Brandy Moore**, **Emily Wilson** and **Samantha Cotton**.



Pictured are the graduates from Attala County. They are *(left to right)* **Alexis Wilder**, **Tina Douglas**, **Laravia Griffin** and **Keyanna Wilder**.

Holmes Community College celebrated 19 students during a practical nursing pinning ceremony held Wednesday, June 24 at the Attala Center, marking their preparation to enter the healthcare workforce.

The graduates from the traditional program included Ke'Arra Anderson, Shayla Bland, Samantha Cotton, Tina Douglas, Shakara Fort, Laravia Griffin, TaNila Hallmon, Kendra Myers (class president), Chadsity Lindsey (class vice president), Brandy Moore (class secretary), Leontyne Kelly-Jones (class treasurer), Kaitlyn Harlos, Ashley Lockhart, Omani Ollie, Rha'Leijah Roberson, Marquatte Ware, Alexis Wilder, Keyanna Wilder and Emily Wilson.

The ceremony recognizes the students' completion of the rigorous 12-month certificate curriculum, which combines intensive classroom instruction, laboratory work and hands-on clinical experience at local healthcare facilities.

Graduates of the program receive a practical nursing certificate and are now eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN) to become licensed practical nurses (LPNs).



Pictured are the graduates from Holmes County. They are *(left to right)* **Rha'Leijah Roberson**, **Marquatte Ware** and **Omani Ollie**.



Pictured are the graduates from Carroll County. They are *(left to right)* **Shakara Fort** and **TaNila Hallmon**.



Pictured is **Ke'Arra Anderson**, a graduate from Montgomery County.



Pictured is **Leontyne Kelly-Jones**, a graduate from Madison County.



Pictured is **Shayla Bland**, a graduate from Oktibbeha County.



Pictured is **Ashley Lockhard**, a graduate from Hinds County.



Pictured are the graduates from Rankin County. They are *(left to right)* **Kendra Myers** and **Chadsity Lindsey**.

Holmes Grenada Campus holds Practical Nursing Pinning



Pictured are the 2026 Grenada Campus Practical Nursing graduates. They are *(front row, left to right)* **Adreyunna Edwards**, **Lindsey Tartt**, **Amya Golliday**, **Madison Hughes**, **Tikeisha Harding**, **Teyana Robinson**, **Zaria Turner**, *(back row, left to right)* **Anna Cole**, **Allie Wortham**, **Elizabeth Rabalais**, **Jimmy Singh**, **Monica Steward**, **Corresha Lattimore** and **Sinquetta Hardiman**.

The Grenada Campus of Holmes Community College held its Practical Nursing Pinning ceremony Wednesday, June 24 in the Corey Forum.

During the ceremony, six students were recognized as honor graduates for maintaining an academic average of 90 or above. The honor graduates included Corresha Lattimore, Elizabeth Rabalais, Jimmy Singh, Monica Steward, Lindsey Tartt and Allie Wortham.

Singh was named the class valedictorian for achieving the highest academic standing in the program, and Tartt was named the class salutatorian for earning the second-highest academic standing.

Other graduates included Anna Cole, Adreyunna Edwards (class secretary), Amya Golliday (class president), Sinquetta Hardiman (class treasurer), Tikeisha Harding, Madison Hughes, Teyana Robinson and Zaria Turner (class vice president).

The Practical Nursing program at Holmes is a 12-month certificate program designed to prepare students to provide safe, competent nursing care under the direction of a registered nurse, licensed physician or licensed dentist. The rigorous curriculum combines classroom instruction with laboratory work and clinical experience in local hospitals and healthcare facilities.

Graduates of the program receive a Practical Nursing certificate and are eligible to apply to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN) to become Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs). LPNs play a critical role in the healthcare system, working in various settings such as long-term care facilities, clinics, hospitals and home health agencies.

Holmes Ridgeland Campus celebrates EMS graduation

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the Ridgeland Campus 2026 Paramedic Program graduates. They are *(front row, left to right)* **Chantella Jackson**, **Aly Huskey**, **Lashonda Taylor**, **Jailyn Woods**, **Domonic Boyd**, *(back row, left to right)* **James Bounds**, **Drew Griffith**, **Chase Nielsen**, **Jeff Riggs**, **Jalen Muckelvene** and **Jamicheal Dickerson**.

Holmes Community College held its 2026 paramedic graduation ceremony July 30 at 3 p.m. at the Pat McGowan Workforce Building on the Ridgeland Campus.

The ceremony recognized 11 graduates of the college's paramedics program. The graduating class included James Bounds, Domonic Boyd, Jamicheal Dickerson, Jonathan Griffith, Alyssa Huskey, Chantella Jackson, Jalen Muckelvene, Chase Nielsen, Jeffrey Riggs, Lashonda Taylor and Jailyn Woods. The program is taught by Mark Galtelli, Sandra Hultz and Yancy Brewer.

The ceremony began with a welcome from Galtelli. Brewer then announced Riggs as the EMS Student of the Year, recognizing his outstanding dedication and performance in both clinical rotations and the classroom. Following the recognition, Brewer called each graduate's name, and Galtelli presented them with their certificates. Boyd closed the ceremony by presenting the three instructors with a customized plaque on behalf of the class, honoring their guidance and commitment throughout the program.

The Paramedic program at Holmes prepares students for advanced roles in emergency medicine. Open to nationally registered EMTs, the program is offered at the campuses in Ridgeland and Grenada, with successful completion leading to a certificate or an Associate of Applied Science degree. Paramedics provide direct patient care for a broad range of injuries and illnesses, and while most work on ambulances, graduates also pursue careers such as offshore paramedic, combat or SWAT medic, safety officer or flight paramedic. Experienced paramedics may go on to the Critical Care Paramedic program — a track originally designed and implemented by Holmes' own EMS staff — which prepares graduates for careers in critical care transport.

Holmes Ridgeland practical nursing program honors 14 students

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus Practical Nursing Class of 2026. Pictured are *(front row, left to right)* **Coriyanna Benson**, **Michaela Martin**, **Brianne Monique Daughtery**, **Janiah White**, **Akia Montgomery**, **Abigail Berry**, *(back row, left to right)* **Daneisha McGee**, **Darby Dew**, **Roshunna Taylor**, **Alondra Hopson**, **Raigan Davis**, **Joni Horn** and **Courtney McIntyre**. *Not pictured:* Alexandria Taylor.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus Practical Nursing Program held its pinning ceremony June 24 at 10 a.m. at Olde Towne Community Church, recognizing students completing the program.

The ceremony marked a significant milestone for nursing students as they transitioned from classroom and clinical training into professional practice in the healthcare field.

A total of 14 students were honored during the ceremony. Graduates included Abigail Alycee' Berry, Coriyanna Monae Unique Benson, Brianne Monique Daughtery, Raigan Davis, Darby Dew, Alondra Leshay Hopson, Joni Horn, Michaela Adaya Skye Martin, Daneisha McGee, Courtney McIntyre, Akia Jamilia Montgomery, Alexandria Taylor, Roshunna Micheell'a Taylor and Janiah White.

The ceremony began with a processional of the graduates, followed by an invocation led by Darby Dew, the class vice president. Following the prayer, Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Bronwyn Martin offered welcoming remarks to the audience. Coriyanna Benson, the class president, then offered remarks on behalf of the Practical Nursing Class of 2026.

Following Benson's address, PN Instructor Heather Roberts presented a few special awards. First, Roshunna Taylor was presented the Citizenship Award. Next, Janiah White was announced as the class historian for having the third highest GPA in the cohort, Joni Horn was recognized as salutatorian for having the second highest GPA and Raigan Davis was honored as valedictorian for having the highest GPA. Davis was also named Practical Nursing Student of the Year.

After the awards presentation, Practical Nursing Instructor Dr. Lakesia Sutton called the students to the stage one-by-one to receive their certificates and pins. Dr. Martin presented certificates before Roberts pinned each student. Following the pinning, Raigan Davis, class secretary, led the graduates in reciting the Practical Nurse's Pledge. Finally, Dr. Sutton concluded the program by presenting the Class of 2026 before Roshunna Taylor gave the benediction.

For more information about the Holmes Practical Nursing program, visit https://holmescc.edu/career-technical/practical-nursing/.

Holmes Grenada Surgical Technology Class of 2026 celebrates graduation with 100% National Certification Pass Rate

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 2026 Grenada Campus Surgical Tech graduates with their instructor *(center)* **Leah Mitchell**. They are *(left to right)* **Ashlyn Lee**, **Ashlee Chamblee**, **DeQuon Davis**, **Cody Hubbard**, **Riley Boyd** and **Alyssa Ballentine**.

The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus celebrated the achievements of six Surgical Technology graduates during its 2026 Surgical Technology Pinning Ceremony.

The ceremony recognized the graduates' dedication, perseverance, and commitment to providing quality patient care as they prepare to enter the healthcare workforce. Family, friends, faculty, and administrators gathered to honor the graduates and celebrate this important milestone.

The program began with the processional, followed by an invocation from Career Technical Coordinator Slade Redwine. Surgical Technology Instructor Leah Mitchell, CST, welcomed guests before Riley Boyd, class valedictorian, shared remarks on behalf of the graduating class.

Graduates also participated in the Surgical Technology Code of Ethics, led by Alyssa Ballentine, reaffirming their commitment to professionalism, integrity, and compassionate patient care. Mitchell presented awards, certificates and pins before Cody Hubbard delivered the benediction.

The Class of 2026 included Alyssa Ballentine, Riley Boyd, Ashlee Chamblee, DeQuon Davis, Cody Hubbard and Ashlyn Lee.

The ceremony also celebrated another significant accomplishment for the program. The Holmes Community College Surgical Technology Class of 2026 achieved a **100% pass rate on the National Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) examination**, demonstrating the program's commitment to excellence and preparing students for successful careers in the operating room.

"Our students have worked incredibly hard to reach this milestone," said instructor Leah Mitchell. "Their success on the national certification exam is a testament to their dedication, the support of their families, and the quality of education they have received at Holmes."

Holmes Ridgeland Surgical Technology Class of 2026 celebrates graduation with 100% National Certification Pass Rate

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 2026 Ridgeland Campus Surgical Technology graduates with instructors *(far left)* **Shea Coleman** and *(far right)* **Christin Boyette**. They are *(left to right)* **Abigal Lampard**, **Reilly Kate Lack**, **Quynton Davis**, **Emily Hardwick** and **Mackenzie Evans**.

The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus celebrated the Surgical Technology Class of 2026 during a pinning ceremony on June 24 at 2 p.m. in the McGowan Workforce Training Center.

Five students were recognized during the event: Quynton Davis of Leflore County, Makenzie Evans of Simpson County, Emily Hardwick of Rankin County, Reilly Kate Lack of Rankin County and Abigail Lampard of Webster County.

The ceremony opened with a graduate processional, followed by an invocation led by Abigail Lampard. Career-Technical Education Counselor Jovonna Parker then welcomed attendees before Reilly Kate Lack introduced guest speaker Jared Davis, MD.

Following Dr. Davis' address, Surgical Tech Director Shea Coleman presented special awards. She presented Quynton Davis with the Clinical Student of the Year Award and Abigail Lampard with the Surgical Technology Student of the Year Award. Additionally, Coleman recognized Lampard as the valedictorian for having the highest GPA and Makenzie Evans as the salutatorian for having the second highest. She also announced that the students had a 100% pass rate on the Certified Surgical Technologist (CST) exam.

After the awards presentation, Surgical Tech Instructor Christin Boyette called out each student's name and the graduates received certificates and pins. Parker presented the certificates and Coleman pinned each graduate.

The graduates then recited the Association of Surgical Technologists Code of Ethics before Quynton Davis concluded the ceremony with the benediction.

Holmes holds Adult Education Honor Society Induction Ceremony

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are Holmes students inducted into the Adult Education Honor Society.

On Tuesday, June 2, Holmes Community College held its districtwide National Adult Education Honor Society Induction Ceremony. The society inducted more than 20 students ahead of their graduation ceremony, which will be held in a few weeks.

The ceremony opened with a welcome from Chelia Thompson, Holmes Community College career navigator. The invocation was given by Daphne Higgins, adult education lead instructor at Holmes. Earline Russell-Smith, director of adult education at Holmes, provided a brief history of the program.

The National Adult Education Honor Society chapter at Holmes Community College was established in spring 2024, making Holmes one of the first adult education programs in Mississippi to implement a National Adult Education Honor Society chapter. The establishment of the chapter reflected the Holmes Adult Education Program's commitment to recognizing the achievements, dedication and perseverance of adult learners pursuing educational and career advancement opportunities.

The National Adult Education Honor Society was created to provide meaningful recognition to deserving adult education students while promoting the value of lifelong learning. The organization's mission is to improve student employment opportunities, develop student ambassadors for local adult education programs and increase awareness of adult education among school administrators, community leaders and state legislators.

The pinning ceremony and presentation of certificates were conducted by Sabina Moore, instructor for the Attala Center; Marlena Simon, instructor for the Ridgeland Day Program; and Daphne Higgins, instructor for the Yazoo City Teen Center.

Bronwyn Robertson, a representative of the Mississippi Community College Board Office of Adult Education, offered words of encouragement and recognized the honor society members. Closing remarks were delivered by Russell-Smith.

The 2026 Holmes National Adult Education Honor Society class includes Garrett Bell, Gailyn Brown, Kimberly Cavett-Jackson, Elizabeth Cochran, Evan Coulter, Samuel Davis, Emily Evans, Antionette Garner, Mallorie Harrell, Ethan Hunt, Braxton Latiker, O'Shay Latiker, Maggie Ellington-Massey, Cierra McGee, Edgar Morales, Karanessa Reed, Kayriuana Rose, Latoria Rushing, Bria Shoulders, Shelby Smith, Kenneth Stamps II, Anthony White-Porchia, Mason York and Marquavious Young.

Holmes celebrates 2026 Adult Education Graduation

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are graduates from the Attala Center. They are *(front row, left to right)* **Brandon Ellsworth**, **Reed Chipley**, **Chanze Teague**, **Marleigh Tennyson**, **Mallorie Harrell**, Instructor **Sabrina Moore**, *(back row, left to right)* **Ethan Hunt**, **Demarion McDonald**, **Jaleph Miles**, **Gavin Frazier** and **Matthew Ellsworth**.



Pictured are graduates from the Ridgeland Campus. They are *(front row, left to right)* **Alanna Luckett**, **Sara Grace Harrison**, **Synderica Polk**, **Jazahra Caston**, **Antionette Garner**, **Shanyce Washington**, **James Lowe**, Instructor **Marlena Simon**, *(back row, left to right)* **Alexis Williams**, **Hannah Adams**, **Bria Shoulders**, **Latoria Rushing**, **Marquarious Young**, **Anthony White-Porchia**, **Mason York** and **Evan Coulter**.

Holmes Community College celebrated 49 area students during the 2026 Adult Education Graduation Ceremony held Thursday, June 18 at the Chapel on the Hill on the Goodman Campus.

Instructor Sabrina Moore welcomed guests and delivered the invocation. Instructor Marlena Simon introduced the keynote speaker, Zach Scruggs, executive director of 2nd Chance MS.

Scruggs, an Oxford resident, earned his accounting and law degrees from the University of Mississippi. After practicing law for eight years, he worked in sustainable energy development in Florida and the Caribbean. He returned to Mississippi in 2016 to establish 2nd Chance MS, a nonprofit organization that partners with Mississippi community colleges and civic groups to remove economic barriers for lower-income adult students seeking high school diplomas or skill certifications. Under his leadership, the organization has supported 2,000 adult students, helping 1,271 earn high school equivalency diplomas and 673 obtain employable workforce credentials. Scruggs and his wife, Amy, have three children, Jackson, Augusta and Ellie.

The graduates from Attala County included Garrett Bell, Colin Campbell, Reed Chipley, Brandon Ellsworth, Matthew Ellsworth, Gavin Frazier, Benjamin Harman, Mallorie Harrell, Ethan Hunt, Demarion McDonald, Jaleph Miles, Chanze Teague and Braden Thornton.

The graduate from Choctaw County was Marleigh Tennyson.

The graduates from Hinds County included Hannah Adams, Monica Bonner, Jazahra Caston, Antionette Garner, Joshua Osborn, Synderica Polk, Bria Shoulders and Anthony White-Porchia.

The graduates from Holmes County included Matthew Bardwell and Tay'Shawn Gibson.

The graduate from Leake County was DeQuantavious Hogsett.

The graduates from Madison County included James Cliburn, Elizabeth Cochran, Asia Cowan, Sara Grace Harrison, Chloe Lavender, James Lowe, Alanna Luckett, Konner McAllister, Latoria Rushing, Shelby Smith, Dallas Welch, Alexis Williams and Marquavius Young.



Pictured are graduates from the Yazoo Center. They are *(front row, left to right)* **Karanessa Reed**, **Mason York**, **Evan Coulter**, Instructor **Daphne Monix Higgins**, *(back row, left to right)* **Rashad Combs**, **Kenneth Stamps, II**, **Samuel Davis** and **Avery Staten**.

The graduate from Montgomery County was Randarious Harris.

The graduates from Rankin County included Nevaeh Braden, Shanyce Washington and Trevondrick Williams.

The graduates from Yazoo County included Rashad Combs, Evan Coulter, Samuel Davis, Karanessa Reed, Kenneth Stamps II, Avery Staten and Mason York.

Holmes and St. Dominic Partnership produces New CNAs

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College, in partnership with St. Dominic Health, announced the successful completion of the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Sponsorship Program by its newest cohort of graduates.

The college recently celebrated the newest graduates of the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Sponsorship Program, a collaborative initiative designed to prepare individuals for in-demand healthcare careers through hands-on training and real-world experience. Through this partnership, participants gained the skills needed to provide compassionate, quality care to patients in a variety of healthcare settings.

The CNA Sponsorship Program reflects a shared commitment between Holmes Community College and St. Dominic Health to support workforce development, expand career opportunities, and meet the growing demand for skilled healthcare professionals in the region.

Holmes extends congratulations to the graduates and appreciation to St. Dominic Health for its continued partnership in building a stronger healthcare workforce and improving patient care throughout Mississippi.

Holmes Surgical Technology students capture 2026 Scrub Bowl Championship

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Surgical Technology students represented the college at a recent surgical technology conference, where the Holmes Scrub Bowl team captured the 2026 championship. Representing Holmes in the Scrub Bowl competition were Quynton Davis, Makenzie Evans and Abigail Lampard, and Lampard was also selected as the 2026-27 Association of Surgical Technologists National Student *Liaison.(left to right)* **Emily Hardwick**, **Makenzie Evans**, **Quynton Davis**, **Abigail Lampard** and **Reilly Kate Lack**.

Students in the Surgical Technology program on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus earned top honors as the 2026 Scrub Bowl Champions at a recent surgical technology conference, showcasing their clinical knowledge, teamwork and hands-on skills against programs from across the region.

The Scrub Bowl competition challenges surgical technology students with fast-paced, scenario-based questions and practical decision-making skills used in real surgical environments. Holmes students competed against nine other schools, advancing through four rounds of competition, the semifinals and ultimately a head-to-head championship match. The competition tested students' knowledge of perioperative practice, pharmacology, microbiology, anatomy and physiology, and a variety of surgical specialties.

Representing Holmes were Quynton Davis, Makenzie Evans and Abigail Lampard. After an exciting and closely contested championship round, the team secured victory by a single point, earning first-place honors and claiming the 2026 championship title.

The championship marks another Scrub Bowl title for the Holmes Surgical Technology program, with the program's last first-place finish occurring in 2022. Faculty members said the students' success reflects their dedication, knowledge, critical thinking skills and professionalism, as well as the strength of the Surgical Technology program.

In addition to the team's championship success, Lampard was selected as the 2026-27 Association of Surgical Technologists National Student Liaison. In this role, she will represent surgical technology students from across the nation while contributing to initiatives that advance and strengthen the profession.

This prestigious position has previously been held by four Holmes Surgical Technology students from the Ridgeland Campus, highlighting the program's longstanding commitment to leadership and professional involvement. The opportunity helps increase awareness of the surgical technology profession while developing future leaders who advocate for patients, students and the profession at the national level.

For more information about the Surgical Technology program, visit https://holmescc.edu/career-technical/surgical-technology/.

Father, daughter celebrate graduation together at Holmes

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are *(left to right)* **Joe, Tiffany** and **Madison Cox** following Joe and Madison's graduation from Holmes on May 14. Dr. Tiffany Cox is an Associate Degree Nursing instructor on the Ridgeland Campus where her husband and daughter took classes.

For Joe Cox and his daughter, Madison Cox, commencement at Holmes Community College on Thursday, May 14, marked more than earning degrees — it was a shared family accomplishment rooted in education, service and perseverance.

The father and daughter, both students on the Holmes Ridgeland Campus, crossed the stage during the 10 a.m. commencement ceremony, celebrating the completion of their academic journeys side by side.

"To have the opportunity to walk with my dad was nothing short of a blessing," Madison Cox said. "I am so proud of him and all the hard work he has put in being a student while also being in the Army full-time."

Joe Cox graduated with an Associate of Arts degree in general studies while balancing academics, military service and family responsibilities. He currently serves as Battalion S4 for the 112th Military Police Battalion and plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in supply chain management while continuing his military career in logistics and supply chain management.

Madison Cox earned an Associate of Arts degree in law/legal studies and graduated with honors. She plans to continue her education at Dillard University, where she will pursue a bachelor's degree in political science before attending law school to earn her Juris Doctor degree. Her long-term goal is to become an attorney specializing in civil law before eventually pursuing a career in politics and international diplomacy.

Both Joe and Madison Cox were inducted into Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society during their time at Holmes.

Education is deeply rooted in the Cox family. Joe's wife and Madison's mother, Dr. Tiffany Cox, is an Associate Degree Nursing instructor on the Holmes Ridgeland Campus who earned a Ph.D. in Nursing Education and Administration from William Carey University in 2017.

Joe Cox said Holmes provided encouragement and support throughout his educational journey.

"Holmes Community College provided me with a great learning experience and helped prepare me for the next step in my education and career," Joe Cox said. "I'm thankful for the support from the instructors and staff throughout my journey."

Madison Cox said the experience at Holmes helped shape both her academic goals and personal growth.

"The classes at Holmes pushed me both as a student and as a person and helped me find what I was truly passionate about and wanted to make the focus of my career," Madison Cox said. "Holmes will always be a part of what shaped me into the person I am today and the person I intend on becoming in the future."

Outside the classroom, the Cox family remains active in service and community involvement. They attend Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church in Madison, where Joe participates in the church's military ministry. Joe is also a lifetime member of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Mississippi, and Madison volunteers at the Mississippi Children's Museum.

Together, the father and daughter said graduating from Holmes on the same day made the milestone even more meaningful for their family.

Delta spoils Holmes' Homecoming, 52-47

From Staff Reports/Photos



After trailing early to Mississippi Delta Community College, the Holmes Community College never gave up and got within five, 52-47, before the buzzer sounded on Homecoming 2026.

Delta scored with 9:08 to go in the first quarter on a field goal to lead 3-0. The Trojans then took advantage of Bulldog miscue picking up a fumble and returning it for a touchdown to lead 10-0 with 8:44 left.

The Trojans added another with 8:07 to play in the second on a rushing touchdown and extra point to lead 17-0. The lead went to 24-0 with 5:05 to play in the second on a rushing touchdown. The PAT was good.

Holmes got on the scoreboard with 3:55 left to play in the second when George Wilcox found Jaliel Cameron on a 44-yard touchdown pass. Cohen Clark's extra point was good, and Delta led 24-7.

Delta added another score before the half ended to go up 31-7 with 2:25 to play. Holmes added another score with four seconds to play in the half when Wilcox found Tyran Mosley from six yards out. Clark's PAT was good. Delta led 31-14 at halftime.

The Bulldogs scored early in the third when Wilcox found Mosley down the visitor's sidelines from 62 yards out. The extra point was no good, and Delta led 31-20.

Delta added a touchdwon with 6:27 left to play to make the score 38-20.

Holmes got on the scoreboard again with 2:40 to play in the third when Cameron scored from three yards out. The two-point try was no good making the score 38-26.

Delta scored with 2 minutes to play in the third on a rushing touchdown. The extra point was good, and Delta led 45-26. Holmes answered with eight seconds to play in the third when Wilcox found Skylar Townsend from 24 yards out. Wilcox then connected with Townsend on the two-point try making the score 45-34.

Delta scored their final time with 10:27 left in the game on a rushing touchdown and extra point to make the score 52-34.

Holmes scored with 6:54 to play when Wilcox found Cameron from six yards out. The two-point conversion was no good.

Cameron added the final score of the day from two yards out. Clark's extra point was good ending all scoring.

Wilcox ended 34-of-54 for 389 yards and five touchdowns. Mosley had nine catches for 151 yards while Cameron had seven catched for 103 yards and Jer'Kel Ivy had 11 catches for 61 yards. Cameron had two rushing touchdowns in the game.

Tyricco Henderson and Nicholas Kilpatrick each had six tackles in the game.receiver with 11 catches for 112 yards while KrisJeohn Burks had seven catches for 88 yards. Mosley had four catches for 74 yards and Townsend had four catches for 43 yards. Jeramiah Miller had 18 carries for 90 yards.

Jereon Reed finished with nine tackles while Will Shoemake had seven tackles and one interception while Jordan O'Briant had six tackles and B.J. Lee had five.

No. 1 Holmes knocks off No. 3 Pearl River, 6-4

From Staff Reports/Photos



The No. 1 Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs trailed early in Poplarville on Tuesday night, Oct. 20, but battled back for a 6-4 win over the No. 3 ranked Pearl River Community College Wildcats to improve to 14-0 overall and 9-0 in the MACCC.

Pearl River jumped out in the second minute to lead 1-0 and then went up 2-0 in the 14th minute.

The Lady Bulldogs then answered with two goals of their own. The first goal came in the 18th minute on a goal from Kat Diaz and an assist from Kaylee Ott. Kayla Jones scored on an Amiyah Barnes assist in the 22nd minute to tie the match at two.

Holmes then went up 3-2 in the 57th minute on a goal from Tyler Grace Sims on an assist from Diaz before Pearl River tied the match in the 73rd minute.

The Lady Bulldogs then scored three straight to go up 6-3. Jones added another in the 78th minute, Diaz added another in the 79th minute and Ott added the final goal in the 85th minute. Ott had two assists in the final three goals while Izzy Scott added the other.

Pearl River scored in the 86th minute to end all scoring.

On Oct. 8 in Perkinston, Holmes knocked off Mississippi Gulf Coast, 1-0. Izzy Scott scored on a Jones assist in the 18th minute.

On Oct. 6 in Ridgeland, Holmes knocked off Southwest Mississippi Community College, 7-1. Jennifer Lopez scored three goals while Mallory Sutton, Kat Diaz, London Martinez and Bella Jordan each added goals. Jones, Sutton, Scott, Ott, Maddie Caldwell, Barnes and Avery Lofton each had assists.

No. 1 Holmes defeats Meridian 23-0 on Sophomore Day

From Staff Reports/Photos



The No. 1 Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs improved to 15-0 overall and 10-0 in the MACCC with a 3-0 win over the Meridian Community College Lady Eagles in Ridgeland on Friday, Oct. 23 on Sophomore Day 2026.

Holmes will end the regular season on Tuesday vs. Itawamba at 5 p.m. in Fulton.

After the victory, Holmes recognized sophomores Lilly Callum, Aly Vancor, Rylee Kirkland, London Martinez, Mallory Sutton, Kate Gray Nesbit, Tyler Grace Sims, Myla Thortis, Zion Causey, Sidney Clare Sing and Maddie Caldwell.

Holmes jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the 28th minute on a goal from Grace Harmon on an assist from Kat Diaz.

The Lady Bulldogs added two goals late from Kayla Jones and Izzy Scott on assists from Mallory Sutton.

Bulldog lead early but fall to Rangers, 41-26

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs jumped out early in Goodman on Thursday, Oct. 8 in the first quarter but couldn't hang on as Northwest Mississippi Community College came back to win, 41-26.

Northwest scored first in the game to lead 7-0 with 7:51 left in the first.

Holmes answered the score when Jamarius Grayer took the kickoff 94 yards for the touchdown. The extra point was no good, and Northwest led 7-6 with 7:38 left in the first.

The Bulldogs went ahead 13-7 with 3:13 when Tristan Colenberg found Jer'Kel Ivey on a 39-yard touchdown pass. Cohen Clark's extra point was good.

Northwest pulled to within three at 13-10 after a field goal attempt was good with 42 seconds to play in the quarter.

The Bulldogs increased the lead to 16-10 when Clark nailed a 32 yard field goal.

The Rangers retook the lead 17-16 with 39 seconds before halftime and

Fall to Rangers, continued on Page 29

Fall to Rangers *(Continued from Page 28)*

never trailed the remainder of the game.

Northwest scored twice more in the third before the Bulldogs answered with 4:13 left in the third when Colenberg found Ivy again, this time from five yards out. Clark's extra point made the score 31-23.

The Rangers hit a field goal early in the third to go up 34-23 before Clark answered the field goal with another of his own from 34 yards out to make it 34-26 with 5:16 left in the game.

Northwest ended all scoring with 1:43 to play.

Colenberg was 31-of-53 for 328 yards. Ivy had 10 catches for 106 yards in the game. Will Shoemake had six tackles while Kamar Houston had five and Tyricco Henderson, Ekeeleum Grant and Jayden Hicks each had four.

Men's soccer recognizes six Bulldogs prior to the final home match vs. Meridian

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College men's soccer recognized their six sophomores prior to their match Friday, Oct. 23 with Meridian Community College.

Holmes fell to Meridian 4-0 and will end the season on Oct. 27 in Fulton against Itawamba at 7 p.m.

The sophomores recognized included Hudson Alexander, Jake McGaugh, Victor Piccone, Brandon Shaffer, Silas Sorey and Matthew Todd.



Hudson Alexander



Jake McGaugh



Victor Piccone



Brandon Shaffer



Silas Sorey



Matthew Todd

No. 3 Holmes knocks off No. 1 Jones

From Staff Reports/Photos



The No. 3 ranked Holmes Lady Bulldogs knocked off No. 1 Jones Bobcats, 5-1, at home on Friday afternoon, Oct. 2.

This put Holmes at 10-0 and 5-0 in the MACCC.

The Lady Bulldogs got on the scoreboard in the 27th minute on a goal from Izzy Scott and assist from Tyler Grace Sims. Holmes held a 1-0 lead at halftime.

Kayla Jones made it 2-0 in the 50th minute on an assist from Sims. Holmes made it 3-0 in the 55th when Bella Jordan scored on an assist from Maddie Caldwell. Grace Harmon scored on an assist from Kat Diaz to make it 4-0.

The final goal came in the 79th minute on another goal from Scott and an assist from Avery Lofton.

Jones scored in the 86th minute.

Bulldogs fall to Indians, 31-15

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs fell in Fulton in MACCC North Division action, 31-15.

The Bulldogs took advantage of an Itawamba turnover when Will Shoemake picked up a fumble and raced in from 73 yards. Cohen Clark's extra point put Holmes up 7-0 with 7:19 left in the first.

Itawamba made it 7-3 Holmes after a field goal with 3:14 left in the first.

The Indians took a 10-7 lead in at halftime after a long touchdown run and extra point.

Itawamba added two rushing touchdowns in the third with extra points to lead 24-7 with 1:52 left in the third.

The Indians added another scored with 12:54 left in the game to go up 31-7 after the made extra point.

Holmes added its final score with 2:18 left to go when Tyran Mosley caught a one-yard touchdown pass from Tristen Colenberg. Colenberg then added a two-point pass to Dalyn Jackson to end all scoring.

Holmes falls 28-24 to Gulf Coast in Goodman

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs took a lead in the fourth quarter at home on Thursday night, Sept. 24, but couldn't hang on as Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College took the lead on the next drive and held on for the win, 28-24.

Gulf Coast got the scoring started in the first quarter on a rushing touchdown and extra point to lead 7-0 with 13:03 left in the first.

Holmes answered the score with 6:33 left in the first when freshman quarterback George Wilcox found sophomore receiver Skylar Townsend on a 17-yard touchdown pass. Cohen Clark's extra point was good, and the game was tied at seven.

The Holmes Bulldogs went ahead 10-7 with 13 seconds left in the first when Clark drilled a 42-yard field goal.

Gulf Coast got the final points of the quarter on a rushing touchdown and extra point to lead 14-10.

Gulf Coast took advantage of a Holmes miscue on the next drive when they blocked a punt and raced it in for a touchdown to go up 21-10 with 12:46 left in the second quarter.

Holmes made it 21-16 when Townsend got his second touchdown of the night when he pounced on a football in the endzone for the score. The extra point try was no good with 5:11 left before the half.

Neither team was able to score in the third quarter. Holmes got on the board to retake the lead at 24-21 when Wilcox scored from three yards out. Wilcox then found sophomore receiver Tyran Mosley on the two-point pass play with 14:54 left in the fourth.

Gulf Coast scored on the next drive on a passing touchdown and extra point to end all scoring at 28-24.

Wilcox finished 34-of-53 for 383 yards. Jer'Kel Ivy was the leading receiver with 11 catches for 112 yards while KrisJeohn Burks had seven catches for 88 yards. Mosley had four catches for 74 yards and Townsend had four catches for 43 yards. Jeramiah Miller had 18 carries for 90 yards.

Jereon Reed finished with nine tackles while Will Shoemake had seven tackles and one interception while Jordan O'Briant had six tackles and B.J. Lee had five.

No. 4 Lady Bulldogs knock off No. 1 Lady Rangers

From Staff Reports/Photos



The No. 4 Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs kept rolling in Senatobia on Friday, Sept. 25, as they knocked off No. 1 Northwest Mississippi Community College, 2-0.

The Lady Bulldogs scored in the sixth minute when Kayla Jones scored on a Bell Jordan assist to lead 1-0.

Holmes added their second goal of the night in the 66th minute when Jordan scored on an assist from Kat Diaz.

Bulldogs lose heartbreaker to Rangers, 2-1

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs dropped a heartbreaker in Senatobia 2-1, on Friday, Sept. 25, to the Northwest Mississippi Community College Rangers.

Northwest took the lead in the 41st minute and led 1-0 at halftime. The Bulldogs answered the score in the 47th minute on a goal from Mouhamed Thiam.

The Rangers took advantage of a Bulldog miscue for their final goal when they got an own goal in the 77th minute.

Bulldogs start division play with a 36-33 win over the Coahoma Tigers

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs started the 2026 North Division slate with a 36-33 win over the Coahoma Community College Tigers at home on Sept. 17.

With the win, the Bulldogs moved to 1-3 overall and 1-0 in the North Division.

Coahoma got on the scoreboard late in the first quarter on a quarterback run. The extra point was no good, and Coahoma led 6-0 with 2:27 left in the quarter.

Holmes then took the lead with :55 left in the quarter when freshman Jeramiah Miller scored from four yards out. Cohen Clark's extra point was good, and Holmes led 7-6.

The Bulldogs got the ball right back when sophomore Kamar Houston intercepted a pass and returned it to the Tiger 27. Freshman George Wilcox then found freshman Michael Hall on a long touchdown pass. Clark's extra point was good, and Holmes led 14-6 with :13 left in the first quarter.

The Tigers got a long touchdown run to end the first quarter. After a made extra point, Holmes led 14-13.

With 10:35 left in the second quarter, the Tigers hit a field goal to go up 16-13.

Holmes added a score with 3:24 left in the second when Wilcox found sophomore receiver Tyran Mosley on a 13-yard touchdown pass. Clark's extra point put the Bulldogs up 21-16.

With 1:36 left in the first half, the Tigers retook the lead at 23-21 on a touchdown pass and extra point.

Coahoma went up 30-21 with 10:21 left in the third on a quarterback run. The extra point was good.

The Tigers added a 31 yard field goal with 14:47 left in the fourth to go up 33-21.

Holmes made the score 33-28 after Tristan Colenberg scored from two yards out and Clark added the extra point with 12:40 to play.

The Bulldogs took the lead for good with 2:24 to play when R.J. Evans scored from seven yards out. Wilcox found Mosley for the two point conversion to put the Bulldogs up 36-33.

Wilcox finished 31-of-42 for 288 yards and two touchdowns. Jer'Kel Ivy had six catches for 67 yards while Mosley had eight catches for 83 yards and Jaliel Cameron had four catches for 50 yards.

Houston led the Bulldogs with seven tackles including one tackle for loss and an interception. Ekeeleum Grant, Elijah O'Briant, Sebastian Ford II and Trey Pettway each had five tackles with Pettway having tackle for loss and Grant and Ford each with a half TFL.

Holmes and Co-Lin battle to a 4-4 draw

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs and the Co-Lin Wolves batted to a 4-4 draw in Ridgeland on Tuesday afternoon, Sept. 22. This put Holmes at 5-5-1 for the season.

Manuel Benen scored three goals in the match while Brandon Shaffer added the other.

Holmes fell to East Mississippi 1-0 on Friday, Sept. 18, and fell to Hinds, 5-4, on Sept. 15 in Ridgeland. Shaffer and Matthew Todd each had two goals against Hinds. Hudson Alexander, Cole Childs and Benen each had an assist.

Holmes improves to 7-0 with 4-0 win over Co-Lin

From Staff Reports/Photos



The No. 4 ranked Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs improved to 7-0 on the season after a 4-0 win over Copiah-Lincoln Community College at home on Tuesday, Sept. 22.

This put Holmes 3-0 in the MACCC. Freshman Izzy Scott and Kayla Jones each scored two goals in Tuesday's win. Scott had two assists in the match while Kaylee Ott assisted Scott's second goal.

In other conference matches, the Lady Bulldogs defeated East Mississippi Community College 9-1 on Sept. 18 and Hinds Community College 7-0 on Sept. 15. Against East Mississippi, Scott had three goals while Mallory Sutton, Amiyah Barnes, Maddie Caldwell, Kayla Jones, Mari Blake Gentry and Avery Lofton each added one. SK Foreman had three assists while Delilah Roberts, Barnes, Jones, SK Foreman, Caldwell and Thortis each had an assist. Against Hinds, Kaylee Ott and Bella Jordan each had two goals while Lofton, Scott and Diaz each had one. Foreman, Sidney Clare Sing, Scott and Caldwell each had an assist.

Bulldogs fall to Eagles, 21-7, in a rain-soaked contest in Raymond

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs fell 21-7 to the Hinds Community College Eagles on Thursday, Sept. 10 in Raymond.

With the loss, Holmes fell to 0-3 on the season.

Hinds got on the scoreboard first late in the first quarter on a rushing touchdown. Hinds led 7-0 after the PAT with 1:49 left in the first.

After a lengthy lightning delay, the Bulldogs answered the score with one of their own when freshman quarterback George Wilcox found sophomore receiver Jer'Kel Ivy from 27 yards out. Cohen Clark's extra point tied the game at seven with 13:42 left before halftime.

Hinds retook the lead for good in the third on a passing touchdown and PAT with 12:36 left in the third.

Hinds' final score came in the third one a rushing touchdown and extra point with 2:33 left in the third.

Wilcox finished 16-of-43 for 186 yards. Ivy had five catches for 91 yards.

Jereon Reed had six tackles including two tackles for loss while Nicholas Kilpatrick and TK Qualls each had five tackles with Qualss adding a half sack and a half tackle for loss. Will Shoemake, Jarmoris Davis, Jr. and Sebastian Ford II each had four tackles with Shoemake adding a tackle for loss.

Bulldogs fall to Wolves, 47-27

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs and the Copiah-Lincoln Community College Wolves traded scores in the first half, but the Wolves pulled away in the second half to pull out a non-division win in Goodman on Thursday night, Sept. 3, 47-27. The game put the Bulldogs 0-2.

The Bulldogs got on the scoreboard in the first quarter when freshman quarterback George Wilcox found sophomore Tyran Mosley on a 70-yard touchdown pass. Colston Bennett's extra point was good, and the Bulldogs led 7-0 with 9:19 left in the quarter.

The Wolves answered the score on a quarterback run with 7:49 left in the first. The extra point tied the game at seven.

Co-Lin went ahead 14-7 with 3:45 left in the first on a run. The extra point was good.

The Bulldogs scored in the second quarter when Wilcox found Mosley again, this time from 38 yards out with 7:34 left before halftime. The extra point was no good.

Co-Lin responded with a long touchdown throw to make the score 20-13 after the extra point was no good.

The Wolves scored early in the third on a rushing touchdown to go ahead 27-13 after the extra point was true with 14:21 left.

Wilcox then found Mosley again for this third receiving touchdown of the night from 62 yards out. Cohen Clark's extra point made it 27-20 with 14:02 left.

The Wolves scored twice more in the third, one on a rushing touchdown and the other on a passing touchdown. The extra point was good after the first score, and the two-point pass failed on the second score to make the score 40-20 with 6:36 left in the third.

The Bulldogs' final score of the game came with 14:55 to play when Wilcox found Jer'Kel Ivy from 35 yards out. Clark's extra point made it 40-27.

Co-Lin added another rushing score with 9:44 left in the game. The extra point was good.

Wilcox finished 18-of-34 for 303 yards and four touchdowns. Mosley had three touchdowns on five catches for 192 yards.

Kamar Houston led the Bulldogs with 14 tackles including a tackle for loss. Elijah O'Briant had 10 tackles including a tackle for loss. Jordan O'Briant had seen tackles including one tackle for loss while Eddie Holly had six tackles in the game.

Bulldogs fall to Wildcats in season opener

From Staff Reports/Photos



Freshman quarterback George Wilcox connected on four passing touchdowns on Aug. 27 at Pearl River Community College in the season opener, but the Holmes Community College Bulldogs fell 56-33.

The Bulldogs scored first in Thursday's contest when Wilcox connected with R.J. Evans II from 45 yards out. Pearl River blocked the extra point and raced it back for two points. Holmes led 6-2 with 11:32 left in the first quarter.

Pearl River answered the score and took the lead at 9-6 with 6:21 left in the first.

The Bulldogs retook the lead with 12 seconds left in the first when Wilcox connected with DeCorey Knight from 12 yards out. The extra point was good, and Holmes led 13-9.

Pearl River retook the lead at 16-13 with 8:59 left in the second quarter. They added a safety with 6:40 left in the second to go up 18-13.

The Wildcats added a rushing touchdown with 4:15 left in the second and field goal to up 28-13 with 1:43 left in the second.

Holmes added a score late in the half when Wilcox found Jer'Kel Ivy from 25 yards out. The extra point was good. Pearl River led 28-20 at halftime.

Pearl River increased the lead to 35-20 with 10:05 to go in the third.

Wilcox's final touchdown pass came with 14:11 left in the game when he found Tyran Mosley from 63 yards out. Pearl River led 35-27 at that point.

The Wildcats added three touchdowns with 11:39, 9:29 and 6:42 to go in the game to lead 56-27.

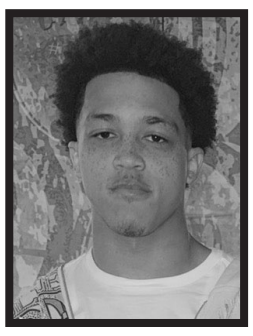
Holmes' final score of the game came with 6:16 when sophomore Erik Gilkey found Ivy from 21 yards out. The extra point was no good.

Wilcox finished 27-of-53 for 351 yards, four touchdowns and one interception. Mosley led with six catches for 93 yards while Ivy had six catches for 86 yards.

Freshman Collin Flanigan led with 11 tackles including three tackles for loss while sophomores Eddie Holly and Kamar Houston each had eight tackles with Holly having two tackles for loss and a fumble recovery and Houston with one tackle for loss.

Holmes fall sports season begins

By La'Javeon Griffin
Staff Reporter



Fall sports are on their way at Holmes Community College, with the Bulldogs competing in football and soccer. Football games are played on the Goodman Campus, while soccer competes at the Ridgeland Campus. The teams represent Holmes in the Mississippi Association of Community Colleges Conference, giving student athletes the chance to compete against other colleges across Mississippi. With a new season beginning, players are working through practices and games to build team chemistry and compete for successful seasons.

Holmes' athletic programs have a strong history of success. The football program has produced 32 players who went on to play in the NFL, while the women's soccer team won the MACJC North Division three straight years from 2016-2018. These accomplishments show current athletes the level of success Holmes teams can reach. Holmes also places importance on academics, with 76 Bulldogs being named scholar-athletes during the 2024-25 season after earning GPAs of 3.4 or higher. These facts matter because they show that being a student-athlete at Holmes means succeeding both on the field and in the classroom.

The start of football and soccer season matters because these sports give Holmes students opportunities that go beyond competition. Athletes can earn scholarships, continue their education and potentially move on to four-year universities or professional sports. Holmes' athletic history proves that those opportunities are possible. The season is about more than winning games; it is about building the skills, discipline and experience that can help Bulldogs succeed long after they leave Holmes.



Turner named pitching coach for the Bulldogs

From Staff Reports/Photos



Madison native Carson Turner has joined the Holmes Community College baseball program as an assistant coach working with the pitching staff.

Turner joins the program after spending the 2026 season as a graduate assistant at Central Missouri, where he worked closely with the pitching staff. During his time with Mules, Central Missouri advanced to the NCAA Division II World Series in Cary, North Carolina.

Prior to his time at Central Missouri, Turner served as pitching coach at Coahoma Community College during the 2025 season. In that role, he was responsible for the development of the pitching staff while assisting with recruiting and overall daily program operations.

A graduate of Central Hinds Academy, Turner began his collegiate playing career at Meridian Community College before continuing at Mississippi Christian University, where he completed his playing career. He earned an Associate of Arts degree from Meridian Community College before receiving a bachelor's degree in Sports Management from Mississippi Christian University.

Bulldog Football Radio Network begins 16th season on Aug. 27

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Football Radio Network will begin its 16th season on Aug. 27 when the Bulldogs open the season at Pearl River Community College in Poplarville at 7 p.m.

The partnership consists of radio stations WLIN 103.7 FM in Kosciusko, WQXB 100.1 FM in Grenada and WTWZ 102.5 FM and 1120 AM in Jackson and reaches nearly one million listeners.

WLIN recently changed its frequency from 101.1 to 103.7 and now reaches all or parts of Attala, Holmes, Montgomery, Carroll, Winston, Choctaw, Webster, Leake, Neshoba and Madison counties, reaching more than 100,000 people. WTWZ covers Madison, Hinds and Rankin counties and reaches nearly half a million listeners. WQXB, located in Grenada, covers Grenada, Carroll, Montgomery, Webster, Quitman, Tallahatchie, Leflore, Calhoun, Yalobusha, Panola and Lafayette counties and reaches more than 350,000 people.

Bulldog Radio, continued on Page 21

Bulldog Radio *(Continued from Page 20)*

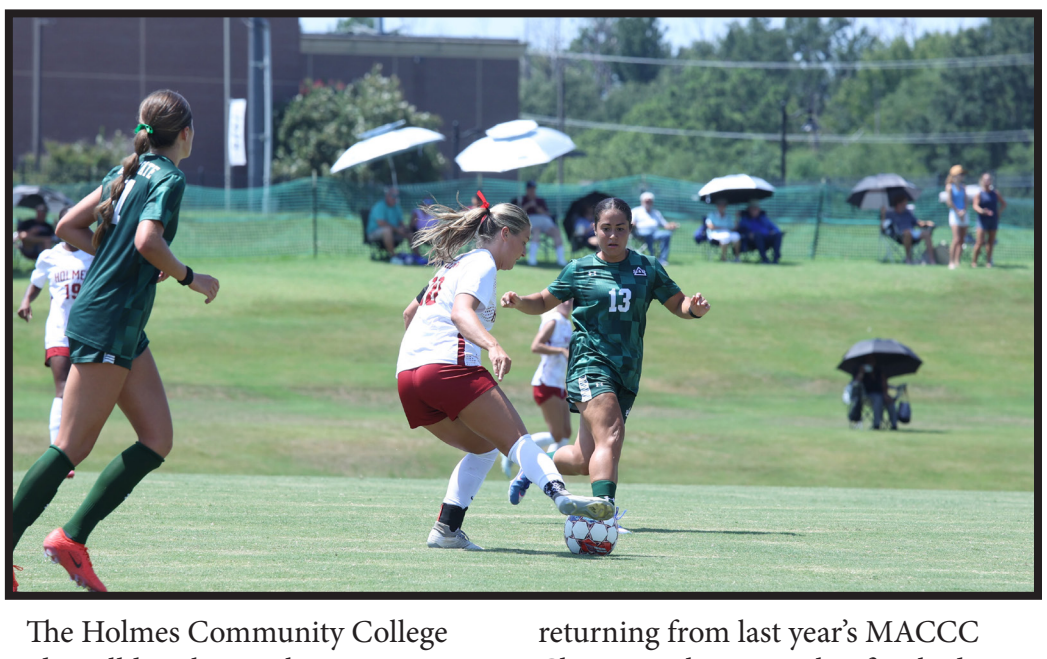
Breck Riley begins his sixth year as the Voice of the Bulldogs and his 14th year as the Voice of the Kosciusko Whippets. Barker begins his eighth year as color commentator for the Bulldogs and is also in his 11th year covering Tri-County Academy football.

Fans can follow the Bulldogs on HolmesAthletics on Facebook and Twitter. Selected games will also be livestreamed at holmesccmedia.com. Complete sports coverage is available at holmesathletics.com.

The 2026 Holmes football season features 10 games, beginning Aug. 27 at Pearl River Community College. The Bulldogs hosted Co-Lin on Sept. 3 at 6:30 p.m. before traveling to Hinds on Sept. 10. Holmes returned home Sept. 17 to face Coahoma and will host Gulf Coast on Sept. 24. The Bulldogs will travel to Itawamba on Oct. 1 and host Northwest on Oct. 8. Holmes will then travel to East Mississippi on Oct. 15 before returning home Oct. 22 to face Mississippi Delta at 3 p.m. The regular season concludes Oct. 29 at Northeast at 6:30 p.m.

Women's soccer begins regular season play on Aug. 22

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs began the 2026 season on Saturday, Aug. 22 at Dallas College-Brookhaven.

This year's team features 11 players returning from last year's MACCC Championship team that finished 17-3 overall and 10-1 in the MACCC. During the postseason, the Lady Bulldogs fell in the Region 23 semifinals to Jones and made it to the NJCAA National Tournament semifinals falling to Heartland.

Returners include: Lilly Callum, goalkeeper, Madison Central; Aly Vancor, goalkeeper, Northwest Rankin; Rylee Kirkland, forward, Sumrall; London Martinez, Midfielder, St. Martin; Mallory Sutton, forward, Saint Amant, La.; Kate Gray Nesbit, forward, Northwest Rankin; Tyler Grace Sims, midfielder, Northwest Rankin; Myla Thortis, defender, Northwest Rankin; Zion Causey, defender, Oak Grove; Sidney Clare Sing, defender, Northwest Rankin; and Maddie Caldwell, midfielder, Jackson Prep. Kirkland and Thortis were both injured and didn't play in the regular season.

Newcomers include: Avery Lofton, forward, Biloxi; Grace Harmon, midfielder, Northwest Rankin; Mari Blake Gentry, defender, Hartfield; Bella Jordan, forward, St. Patrick; SK Foreman, defender, Northwest Rankin; Isabella Zuniga, defender, Destrehan; Ruby Acy, forward; Izzy Scott, midfielder, Jackson Academy; Amiyah Barnes, midfielder, Northwest Rankin; Izzy Smith, forward, Northwest Rankin; Delilah Roberts, defender, Northwest Rankin; Kayla Jones, forward, Clinton; Kat Diaz, forward, Gulf Shores; and Jennifer Lopez, midfielder, Forest.

Wesley Noble returns as head coach of the Lady Bulldogs with Hardy Lewis as assistant coach. Beau Bartholomew is the goalkeeper coach while Miguel Molina and Sarah Keeton Odum are volunteer assistants.

Men's soccer begins regular season play on Aug. 21

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs began the 2026 season on Aug. 21 at Northeast Alabama Community College at 4 p.m.

This year's team is a young squad with four returners and 23 newcomers.

Returners include: Victor Piccone, defender, Luis M. Inglesias; Jacob McGaugh, defender, St. Augustine; Silas Sorey, midfielder, Hartfield; and Brandon Shaffer, forward, Starkville.

Newcomers include: Cooper Tollison, goalkeeper, Mooreville; Colton Cook, goalkeeper, Niceville, Fla.; Cole Childs, defender, Brandon; Byron Theriot, defender, St. Patrick; Lian Noll, defender, home school; Hudson Alexander, defender, Spain Park, Ala.; Cole Sarrette, midfielder, Starkville; Cameron Badurak, midfielder/forward, Gulfport; Matthew Todd, midfielder/forward, Northwest Rankin; Kyan Cohran, defender, Lafayette; Brody Nguyen, midfielder, Biloxi; Manuel Benen, midfielder/forward, home school; Noah Kirk, midfielder, Robert M. Shoemaker, Texas; Trey Walker, defender, Brandon; Payton Taylor, midfielder/forward, St. Patrick; Mouhamed Thiam, defender/midfielder, Madison Central; Gavin Humphries, forward, Biloxi; Ethan Williams, defender, Germantown; Ezra Thompson, midfielder, home school; Addison Carroll, midfielder, Long Beach; Zachary Moore, midfielder, South Pontotoc; and Jackson Eaves, defender, Starkville. Alexander, Badurak and Todd are sophomores.

Matt Convertino returns as head coach of the Bulldogs with Hardy Lewis as assistant coach. Beau Bartholomew is the goalkeeper coach.

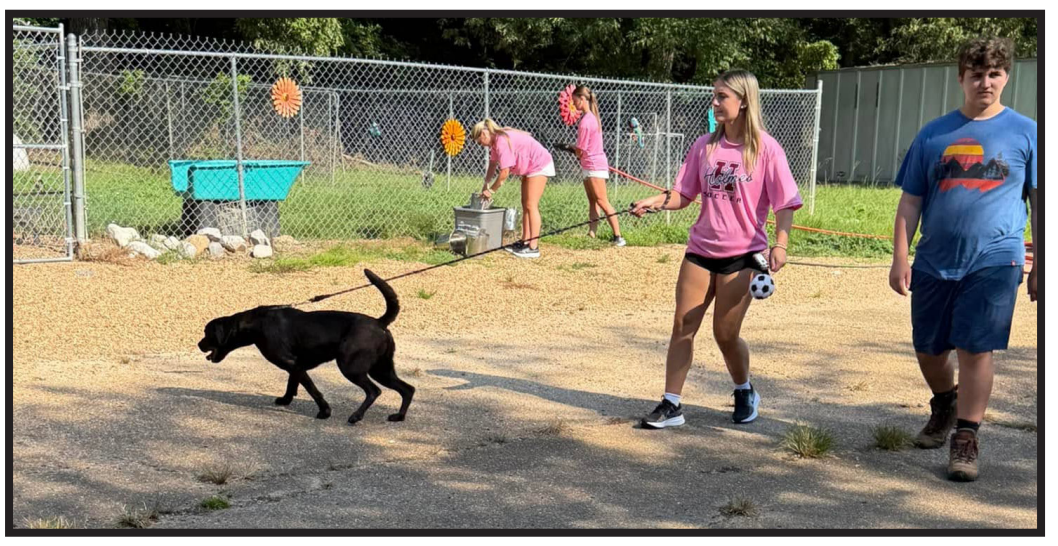
Holmes women's soccer team volunteers at Webster Animal Shelter

From Staff Reports/Photos









Members of the Holmes Community College women's soccer team spent July 12 giving back to the community by volunteering at Webster Animal Shelter.

The Lady Bulldogs assisted shelter staff with a variety of tasks while spending time caring for the animals. The volunteer effort provided the student-athletes an opportunity to serve the community while supporting the shelter's mission of caring for homeless animals.

Community service is an important part of the Holmes student-athlete experience, encouraging students to make a positive impact both on and off the field.

The Lady Bulldogs continue preparing for the upcoming season while demonstrating their commitment to service and leadership throughout the communities Holmes serves.

61 named MACCC All-Academic All-State

From Staff Reports/Photos



Sixty-one student athletes at Holmes Community College have been named to MACCC Academic All State. Seventeen were named named to Distinguished Academic All-State and 44 were named Academic All-State.

MACCC Academic All-State honors (3.8-4.0 GPA, Distinguished Academic All-State) include: Maddie Caldwell, soccer; Anna Korhonen, women's soccer; Callie Neal, women's tennis; Kate Gray Nesbit, women's soccer; JR North, baseball; Victor Piccone, men's soccer; Alejandro Robles, men's soccer; Aly Vancor, women's soccer; Emma Korhonen, women's soccer; Easton Sartin, football; Tyler Grace Sims, women's soccer; Carter Rose, baseball; Markalon Rochell, men's basketball; Andrew Merrell, men's tennis; Vince Glorioso, baseball; Lilly Callum, women's soccer; Mallory Sutton, women's soccer.

MACCC Academic All-State honors (3.25-3.79 GPA, Academic All-State) include: Claiborne Perry, baseball; Jacob Roberts, men's soccer; Lennie Kate Wood, softball; Cyrish Magculang, women's tennis; Faith Arbuckle, women's tennis; Barrett Kuhn, baseball; Allie Henderson, softball; Tyler Hester, baseball; Megan Brewer, softball; Dewayne Brown, football; Brandon Shaffer, men's soccer; Lane Robertson, baseball; Hannah Gilbert, women's tennis; Jalen Smith, football; Jordyn Ashford, football; Deriyon Graydon, men's basketball; Jack Harkins, baseball; Kazzye K Wood, women's tennis; AJ Arguello, baseball; Javarian Mallard, men's basketball; Miguel Matias Agustin, men's soccer; Kamar Houston, football; Daysha Taylor, women's soccer; Eddie Holly, football; Elijah O'Briant, football; Ethan Walker, baseball; Makayla McDaniel, women's tennis; Zion Causey, women's soccer; Chase Peeples, baseball; Avery Smith, softball; Kendall Williamson, men's tennis; Jaxon Cripps, baseball; Jacob McGaugh, men's soccer; Warner Young, baseball; Trey Alexander, men's basketball; Wes Bishop, baseball; Noah Johnson, men's tennis; Dalyn Jackson, football; Colston Bennett, football; Kelsey Joseph, women's basketball; Presley Scarbrough, softball; Cooper Bennett, baseball; Jordan O'Briant, football; Sam Roy, baseball.

Congratulations to all of our athletes on this great accomplishment.

Holmes cheer earns top honors at UCA College Spirit Camp

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Cheer team, led by Head Coach Heather Jones, showcased its dedication, teamwork and commitment to excellence during the UCA College Spirit Camp held July 20 at The University of Alabama, earning multiple Superior evaluations and recognition for its performances.

The Bulldogs entered camp with the goal of building strong, clean routines and continued to grow throughout the weekend. Through hard work, teamwork and a willingness to learn, the squad embraced each challenge while developing both mentally and physically as a team.

Holmes Cheer earned second place in the Fight Song category and received Superior Evaluations in Sideline, Game Day Timeout and Performance Timeout. The Bulldogs also earned a Superior rating in Game Day Traditions.

"Holmes Cheer had a great camp," the coaching staff said. "These cheerleaders set a goal to put solid, clean routines together, and they did just that. With great teamwork, the attitude to push forward, and the eagerness to learn and grow mentally, this team continues to improve."

This year's squad includes Allie Hart Boatner, Brenden Thrasher, Wyatt Nichols, Anna Paige Beith, Kaye Louise Purvis, Cameron Howell, Landon Thornton, Presley Haddon, Katie Druey, Mallory Moore, Kate Norwood, Brayden Hall, Makenzie Reeves, Drake Smith, Ava O'Bryan, Greyson Patton, Jessika Williams, Anna Summers, Shelbee Nipper, Alli Sparks, Tristin Wilson, Hadley Barnes, Lily Hostetler, Emma Roberts, Anna Claire Poynor, Peyton McGlawn and Kameron Fortenberry.

The Bulldogs will carry the momentum from camp into the upcoming season as they continue representing the Holmes Bulldogs with pride.

Stamps named Defensive Assistant/DB Coach

From Staff Reports/Photos



Vicksburg native Chris Stamps has joined the Holmes Community College football staff as a Defensive Assistant Coach in charge of the defensive backs.

Stamps comes from Southwest Mississippi Community College, where he coached linebackers last season.

The Warren Central graduate was named All-State twice and played in the Mississippi/Alabama All-Star game. He played two years at Mississippi State, one year at Northwest Mississippi and finished his undergrad at Middle Tennessee State.

After graduation, he stayed at MTSU as a strength and conditioning intern before taking a role as a graduate assistant at Mississippi Delta in 2020, coaching linebackers.

He then transitioned to a cornerbacks coach at East Central also for one season before taking a job as a graduate assistant coaching defensive backs at the University of Buffalo in 2022.

Stamps took a job as a Defense Quality Control Coach in 2023 in the XFL before returning home to Mississippi State. He spent two years in Starkville coaching linebackers in 2023 and coaching safeties in 2024.

In his five years as a coach, Stamps has coached NFL Players Dee Williams of the New York Giants and Nathaniel "Bookie" Watson of the Cleveland Browns. He also coached Michael Coats Jr., who signed with the University of Nevada and graduated from West Virginia.

Sims named Offensive Assistant/QB Coach

From Staff Reports/Photos



Gainesville, Ga. native Blake Sims has joined the Holmes Community College football coaching staff as an Offensive Assistant Coach working with the quarterbacks.

Sims, a Gainesville High School graduate, comes to Holmes from West Alabama, where he served as wide receiver coach. Prior to coaching at West Alabama, he was Offensive Coordinator and Quarterbacks Coach at Mt. Bethel Christian Academy in Marietta, Ga.

At Gainesville, he played football and ran track his junior and senior seasons. He attended and played for Cass High School his freshman and sophomore years, starting as a sophomore. At Gainesville, played quarterback for head coach Bruce Miller, leading Gainesville to a 14-1 record and a state runner-up finish. He threw for 2,785 yards as a junior in 2008 while rushing for 822 yards and 15 scores. As a senior, he threw for 2,288 yards with 28 touchdowns, and rushed for 863 yards and 13 touchdowns. He twice earned AAA All-State honors by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and the Associated Press (AP) in 2009.

In track & field, Sims was one of the state's top sprinters.

Regarded as a four-star recruit by Rivals.com, Sims was ranked as the No. 33 athlete in the nation. He was also rated eighth in the AJC's 2010 Top 50 prospects in Georgia, No. 43 player by SuperPrep. He chose Alabama over scholarship offers from Tennessee, Georgia, FSU and Michigan.

Sims played four seasons at Alabama, where was a running back and backup quarterback his first three seasons before winning the starting job as a senior. In December 2014, he broke Alabama single season passing yards record, which was previously held by A. J. McCarron. In 14 starts, he passed for 3,487 yards, 28 touchdowns and 10 interceptions. He led the SEC in passing touchdowns.[12] He lost in the Sugar Bowl game in the semifinals to Ohio State, which later won the National Championship. He was a two-time National Champion and one-time SEC Most Valuable Player in 2014.

After Alabama, Sims tried out for the Green Bay Packers and the Washington Redskins as a running back before being signed by the Toronto Argonauts and the Saskatchewan Roughriders of the Canadian Football League. In July 2016, Sims left North America for Australia to continue his professional football career with the Wollongong Devils of the National Gridiron League. He then joined the practice squads with the Atlanta Falcons and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers before signing a reserve/future contract with the Buccaneers on January 2, 2017.

After his release by the Buccaneers, Sims was assigned to the Birmingham Iron of the Alliance of American Football. He then signed the Frisco Fighters of the Indoor Football League and later retired from professional football.

Ferrill named Special Teams Coordinator/DL Coach

From Staff Reports/Photos



Hattiesburg native Tommy Ferrill has joined the Holmes Community College football staff serving as Special Teams Coordinator and Defensive Assistant Coach in charge of the defensive line.

Prior to Holmes, Ferrill coached tight ends at Murray State University for two seasons.

He went to Murray State after coaching at Jackson Academy, where he helped lead the Raiders to 35 in four years including a MAIS 6A State Championship Game appearance in 2021 and three semifinal appearances.

Before his time at Jackson Academy, Ferrill was Head Coach at Germantown High School in Tennessee and served as an assistant coach at Horn Lake High School for five years winning the 2018 6A title. He coached at Biloxi High School for four years and East Mississippi Community College for five years as well. At East Mississippi, he won the 2009 MACJC State Championship and the Mississippi Bowl.

After his high school playing career at Hattiesburg High School, he went on to Mississippi State University, where he played tight end from 2001-03 appearing in 22 games. Tommy has a bachelor's degree in physical education and a master's in technology from Mississippi State.

Ferrill and his wife, Amanda, have three children, Roman, Lucia and Thomas.

Holmes Lady Bulldogs receive championship rings

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs celebrated their historic 2025 season June 22 by receiving their Mississippi Association of Community Colleges Conference championship rings during a ceremony on the Ridgeland Campus.

Head Coach Wesley Noble and the Lady Bulldogs finished the 2025 season 17-3 and claimed the MACCC championship before advancing to the NJCAA Division II Women's National Soccer Tournament in Wichita, Kansas.

The 2025 season marked Holmes' fifth NJCAA semifinal appearance in the last six national tournaments.

At the national tournament, the Lady Bulldogs defeated Rock Valley College 3-0 and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College 1-0 to advance to the semifinals. Holmes' national tournament run ended with a 2-1 loss to Heartland Community College.

Heartland took a 1-0 lead in the 16th minute and carried the advantage into halftime. The Hawks added another goal in the 77th minute to take a 2-0 lead.

Holmes answered in the 84th minute when Tyler Grace Sims scored on a rebound off the Heartland goalkeeper, but the Lady Bulldogs were unable to complete the comeback.

Holmes outshot Heartland 18-4 overall and 7-3 in shots on goal.

Aly Vancor started in goal for the Lady Bulldogs, recording two saves and allowing one goal. Lilly Callum played the final 45 minutes, recording one save.

The championship rings presented June 22 commemorate the Lady Bulldogs' MACCC championship season and recognize the hard work, determination and teamwork that helped Holmes reach the national semifinals.

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

The Growl Staff



Jenelle Farmer

Jenelle Farmer is a freshman mass communication/journalism major from Clinton. Graduating from Providence Christian Academy in 2025, she developed her passion for journalism and photography through her position as Yearbook Club president and her love for getting to know others. With these skills, Jenelle looks forward to exercising her skill with The Growl and Holmes' yearbook staff. For her career, Farmer aspires to become a meteorologist or to work with her favorite broadcasting station, PBS. When she's not looking for the latest scoop, Farmer enjoys reading comics, thrifting and re-watching "The Muppet Show."



La'Javeon Griffin

La'Javeon Griffin is a sophomore business administration major. A graduate of Canton High School, Griffin hopes to build a successful career in the banking and financial industry, with the goal of obtaining a high-paying career that allows him to travel and experience different places. Griffin is motivated by his desire to be financially successful and create a strong future for himself. Outside of school, he enjoys listening to music, traveling, making money, clothes, fast cars and spending time with family and friends.



Kayla Horne

Kayla Horne is a freshman mass communications/journalism major from Ridgeland. A graduate of Ridgeland High School, Horne has always had an interest in creative works such as, theater, creative writing, art, band and digital media. She is very excited to transfer those skills over to The Growl and Holmes yearbook staff! Horne hopes to someday pursue a career in experiential marketing or something similar. Outside of school she enjoys spending time with friends, shopping, drawing and reading new book series.



Ciara Jackson

Ciara Jackson is a freshman general studies major from Lexington. A graduate from of Holmes County Central High School, Jackson walked the stage with B Honors. She enjoys reading, eating and being with friends. Although writing is not something she does often, Jackson is interested in learning more about journalism and improving her communication. She hopes to gain new skills and become a stronger writer throughout the class and during her time writing for The Growl.



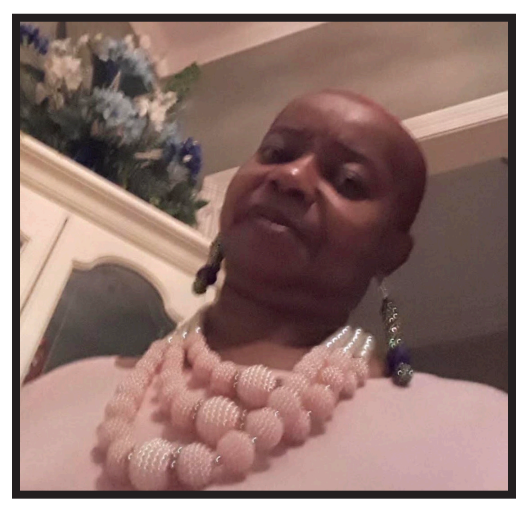
M.J. Kersh

Mason "M.J." Kersh is a sophomore journalism/mass communications major from Brandon. A graduate of Northwest Rankin High School, Kersh was involved with the band, media team and school news staff. He is eager to take on his second year at Holmes, and second year as part of The Growl staff. Kersh is still figuring out where he wants to go after college, but great things are on the horizon! Outside of school, he enjoys working, listening to/playing music, playing pickleball and hanging out with friends.



Noah Long

Noah Long is a freshman mass communications major from Flowood. He graduated from Northwest Rankin High School. He has never worked for a newspaper before but he has an interest in it and is ready to learn and work for a newspaper for the first time with the Growl staff. Long hopes to pursue a career in sports television. He enjoys things like watching movies and listening to music.



Gwen Smith

Gwendolyn Smith, who most people call Ms. Gwen, is a retiree and grandmother of three and god-grandmother of two. Originally from Chicago, Smith worked at Nabisco for 30 years, where she was surrounded by some of the company's most popular cookies, including Chips Ahoy!, Fig Newtons, Oreos and Nutter Butter. She describes herself as a people person who enjoys communicating with others and learning new things. Smith is excited to begin this new journey and hopes to strengthen her writing skills while meeting new people along the way.



Kamie Thompson

Kamieon Thompson is a sophomore in journalism/mass communications major from Madison. A graduate of Madison Central High School, Thompson was involved in broadcast journalism, where she developed a passion for writing and journalism. Thompson became assistant producer of Madison Central's news network. She is excited to use those skills as part of The Growl and Holmes' Horizons yearbook staff. Thompson hopes to pursue a career in broadcast journalism one day. Outside of school, she enjoys shopping, beauty maintenance, journaling, dressing up and taking pictures, and expanding her shoe and purse collection.