



Holmes Community College
Goodman – Ridgeland – Grenada
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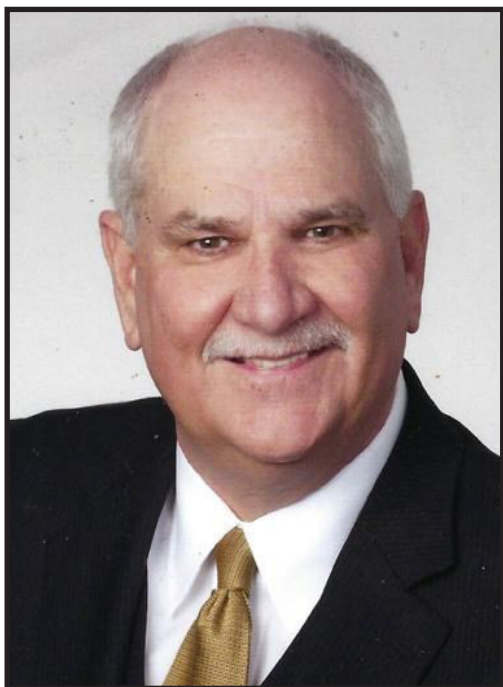
THE GROWL

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Holmes mourns the loss of former Holmes instructor Jimmy Houston

From Staff Reports/Photos



Jimmy Houston

Holmes Community College and the local law enforcement community mourn the loss of former Ridgeland Police Chief and Holmes instructor Jimmy Royce Houston, Sr., who passed away peacefully at his home on Oct. 15, 2025. He was 73.

Houston, who served as chief of police in Ridgeland for more than a decade, joined Holmes Community College after his retirement in 2014, where he led the Criminal Justice Department and mentored countless students pursuing careers in law enforcement.

“Jimmy was an exceptional instructor and a leader in the criminal justice

department as well as for the entire Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus,” said Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey. “He will be sorely missed.”

Houston’s leadership extended far beyond the classroom. Current Ridgeland Police Chief Brian Myers described him as “a great law enforcement officer, leader, husband, father and grandfather.”

Before joining the Ridgeland Police Department, Houston spent 24 years with the Jackson Police Department, where he rose through the ranks to become assistant chief. His distinguished law enforcement career also included serving as chief of police in Flowood and as director of Public Safety Planning and Certification for the State of

Mississippi.

During his career, Houston attended the Drug Enforcement Academy and the FBI National Academy in Washington, D.C., where he completed the rigorous “Yellow Brick Road” training. He also completed the Senior Management Institute for Police Chiefs at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government and served as an adjunct professor for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

Houston was a past president of the Mississippi Association of Chiefs of Police and received the Malcolm E. McMillan Public Service Award in 2018.

Known for his fairness, humility and

Houston, continued on Page 7

Holmes mourns the loss of former Holmes student Ethan Oxley

From Staff Reports/Photos



Ethan Oxley

Holmes Community College is mourning the loss of former culinary arts student Ethan Cole Oxley of Brandon, who died on Nov. 27 after battling non-Hodgkin lymphoma. He was born July 25, 1999.

Oxley graduated from Jackson Prep, where he was known as a true friend and a steady, thoughtful presence among his classmates. He could often be found working diligently on his laptop in the school’s library cubicle area alongside his closest friends. He enjoyed playing online PC games, taking long drives through the countryside and watching stand-up comedy, always

searching for a good laugh.

After graduating from Prep, Oxley enrolled at Holmes on the Ridgeland Campus and joined the Culinary Arts Technology program. He quickly became known for his work ethic and passion for cooking. He was an active member of SkillsUSA, representing Holmes at the 2023 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Atlanta in the culinary arts division after winning first place in the SkillsUSA Mississippi state contest. In addition to his extracurricular achievements, Oxley earned academic recognition on the President’s List in

the spring of 2023 for his outstanding scholastic performance.

Oxley also attended the Mississippi Coding Academy, which offers a six-month software development program integrating training in AI, XR (Extended Reality), drones, robotics, cybersecurity and IT support. The program prepares students for immediate employment in the tech industry, addressing both local and global workforce needs.

Before his passing, Oxley continued pursuing his culinary dreams at the

Oxley, continued on Page 7

Washington crowned Homecoming Queen

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Goodman Campus Vice President **Andy Wood**, the Queen’s escort **Trey Alexander**, 2025 Homecoming Queen **Chasity Washington**, Holmes President **Dr. Jim Haffey** and Holmes Alumni Association President **Matt McCrory**.

On Thursday, Oct. 23, Holmes Community College hosted its annual Homecoming celebration on the Goodman Campus. Chasity Washington of Winona, daughter of Ashley Phillips and Cortez Washington, was crowned 2025 Homecoming Queen prior to kickoff. Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey crowned the queen, Alumni Association President Matt McCrory presented her robe and Goodman Campus Vice President Andy Wood presented her flowers. Washington was escorted by Trey Alexander of Clinton, son of Willie and Angela Alexander, who is a guard on the Holmes basketball team.

The rest of the Goodman Campus court included: Student Body Maid Hannah Stanley of Winona and her escort Charley Dunn of Greenville;

Sophomore Maid Harley Grace Rayburn of West and her escort Braxton Demopulos of Denham Springs, La.; Sophomore Maid Lillie Kate Jones of Winona and her escort AJ Arguello of Ocean Springs; Freshman Maid Tassiana Calloway of Carthage and her escort Kameryn Bailey of Vicksburg and Freshman Maid Tearshanae Mallett of Kosciusko and her escort Andrew Mancell of Kosciusko.

Ridgeland Campus court members included: Student Body Maid Alisha Davis of Flora and her escort Gregory Windham of Madison; Sophomore Maid Ashlyn Dodd of Flowood and her escort Paxton McGee of Brandon; Sophomore Maid Sydney Neely of

Homecoming, continued on Page 8

What’s Inside...

- Student Editorials
 - Pinning Celebrations
 - Student & Employee Highlights
 - Sports Photos/Recaps
- And More!



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

Are you able to defend yourself?

By Daylan Henderson
Staff Reporter



Self-defense is a pivotal part of survival especially for females. Many female college students feel unsafe, have limited knowledge on how to properly use self-defense tools, but many feel that there is more than enough information about how to properly defend themselves.

According to RAINN (2025), 13% of all college students experience an assault with 26.4% being female undergraduates. In 2017 the U.S. Department of Justice stated that 91% of assault victims are females with only 9% being males. These statistics show just how much more often females are targeted for assaults verses males and shows why it is important for females to learn how to properly defend themselves.

In a study done by the University of Washington, 37% of students ages 18-23 carry self-defense weapons but lack the knowledge of how to properly use them. The lack in proper technique greatly lessens the effectiveness of these self-defense items while simultaneously posing a greater risk to the user.

Furthermore, self-defense is much more than just using weapons to protect yourself, but proper martial arts and self-defense training helps as well. Having proper training can help you feel more confident in your abilities while being able to defend yourself properly.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, “the violent victimization rate increased from 16.5% per 1,000 persons to 23.5% per 1,000 persons.” This only increases the need to know how to properly defend yourself.

A common myth about female self-defense is that to protect yourself,

you need to be physically strong when that is not the case. Knowing how to properly use your self-defense tools as well as knowing the correct techniques to deter and fend off attackers.

The main areas to aim for if you are attacked are the eyes, nose, throat, solar plex, groin area and knees. These are weak points on the human body to fend off an attacker. Basic things you can do is stay in well-lit areas or public areas if available, call someone who you know will pick up or the police.

If you are still in a situation where you have to defend yourself, use your self-defense tools. If you can’t fend off an attacker, using a whistle or screaming as loud as you can. The point of this is to draw as much attention to yourself as you possible can.

Self-defense is very important especially for females in college. Be aware of your surroundings and always carry around some form of self-defense item.



College vs. Work

By Lexus Mullins
Staff Reporter



There are many college students at Holmes that juggle both school and work life, showing how committed young adults are to getting their degree while also making money. While school is important, some students don’t get scholarships or grants and have to pay out of pocket. Thus, it leads to many students having to pay for their classes and other necessities. With the cost of living rising, the pressure for students to have a job can be demanding. For many college students, time management is very important but it is also difficult to maintain a schedule. However, it is possible to balance work and school with the right habits and planning out your day. Success often can come down to prioritizing the important things and good time management.

Planning and scheduling ahead of time can be a great way to start off your day. Talking to your boss or

manager and explaining that you are a college student and need time to study or do homework can set up a good relationship with your employer. Communicating lets them know ahead of time when you’ll need time off and what days are the longest for you. This planning can give you a better idea of how to manage your time. Keeping a planner, calendar or a reminder app can help you stay on top of all the things you need to do and when.

Another tip would be to allow a little resting time so you won’t get too overwhelmed. Take 30 minutes of your time to eat, drink plenty of water and take some time out to take a nap. Stressing over school, work and not eating can make everything 10 times worse. Without the proper nutrients your brain won’t function properly, causing you to fall behind. Falling behind is okay just as long as you catch up again and continue on. Set goals for yourself for the week and organize your tasks by the due date. If you have a test Thursday and a lot of homework the day before, take Sunday to do any work for Monday, Tuesday’s work



on Monday and Wednesday’s work on Tuesday so you’ll have plenty of time on Wednesday to study. Don’t be afraid to ask students and teachers for help or advice.

Holmes offers online classes, tutors and also jobs. Holmes offers jobs for students through the federal Work-Study program, the Virtual Career Center and also advertises general job postings. There are also some teachers at Holmes who recommend jobs to stu-

dents who are going into certain fields and tell students how to get there. Regardless if you work a full-time or part-time job, it is important to take care of yourself and keep up with your assignments too. With scheduling, planning and rest, you can dominate both work and school in no time. The important part is to make the most out of your experience at Holmes.



The Growl

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Send to: mbusby@holmescc.edu.

What students really know (or don't)

By Kennedy Proctor
Staff Reporter



I went around campus and asked 10 students some simple questions about current events- just to see if Gen Z is actually paying attention. Let's just say... We might need a group study session for reality. I started with "Did you vote in the Nov.4 election?" more than half said no, and a few blinked and asked, "For what?" That question alone said a lot about how in tune we really are with the world. Then came, "Who's the current U.S. vice president?" I had one student say, "Vance Carter," which sounds more like a SoundCloud rapper than a politician. The correct answer is J.D. Vance, who's serving under President Donald. At least everyone got one right-when asked who's at war with Ukraine,

every student answered Russia. That's good news. That was the last question everyone agreed on. When I brought up student loans, most people froze. A few guessed that they were still paused or forgiven. In reality, federal loan payments are back on, though some borrowers are getting relief through income-driven repayment plans and targeted forgiveness programs introduced this year. As for major protests, the most common answer was the Charlie Kirk demonstrations which started after his September 2025 shooting and reignited debate about political violence and free speech. A few also mentioned abortion rights marches, still going strong this fall after several states passed new restrictions. But not a single person brought the "No Kings" protest- one of the biggest movements of October, where thousands marched against government overreach across the country. When I asked where everyone gets their news, almost every answer was



TikTok or Instagram Reels. Nobody mentioned a traditional news outlet. TikTok's For You Page has basically become the front page of news for most students. And finally, when I asked if they read full articles or just headlines, most admitted they stopped at the headline. We technically "know" what's going on- at least enough to survive a group chat argument. But if this little poll says anything, it's that our generation might need to start reading past the caption before the world changes again without us noticing.

MLB season has come to an end

By Owen Clark
Staff Reporter



The 2025 MLB season has just come to an end in dramatic fashion. This season held many memorable moments both in the regular season and in the playoffs. The first series that started off the MLB season was the Tokyo Series played in Tokyo, Japan between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Chicago Cubs. These two teams have big star players like MVP Shohei Ohtani for the Dodgers and star Pete Crow-Armstrong for the Cubs. The Dodgers had recently picked up a new pitcher from Japan, Roki Sasaki. People were asking the Dodgers

manager if Roki would start the first game, and he had this to say, "With Roki the plan is for him to pitch there. We'll figure out when. A lot of it is more contingent on the unknown of how he responds to spring training and his buildup." Regardless of Roki not starting game one, the Dodgers came out on top winning the first game of the season. The last series of the MLB season was also a win for the Los Angeles Dodgers. The Dodgers beat the Toronto Blue Jays in Game 7 of the World Series 4-3 in extra innings. "I think that game had every single thing you could possibly have," said Dodger's first baseman Freddie Freeman. "Just an absolutely incredible game, incredible series. A grind for

both teams. You know, back-to-back is so hard to do, and to be able to pull that off and be the group that does it, it's absolutely incredible." This win made the Dodgers back-to-back MLB champions. Two of the biggest contributors of this game were Miguel Rojas with his game tying home run late in the ninth to keep the Dodgers in the game. And the other player was World Series MVP Yoshinobu Yamamoto coming into the game after pitching a complete game just a day before and winning the game for the Dodgers. This MLB season had a bunch of big moments. From the first game to the last it was full of action and high levels of baseball.



Growing food, growing hope:
A Jackson garden strengthens community

By MJ Kersh
Staff Reporter



In Ward 2 of Jackson, a once-vacant lot has been transformed into a thriving community garden, filled with an assortment of foods such as collard greens, tomatoes and okra. What began as an idea between two friends has grown into the Great River Elders' Community Gardens, a project dedicated to providing fresh produce while fostering a stronger sense of community. Volunteers, along with members of Fresh Start Christian Church, maintain the garden and lead weekend workshops where residents learn to plant, compost and care for their own food.

For many participants, the garden is more than a source of fresh vegetables — it's a place to connect, contribute and reclaim a sense of control in their neighborhoods. "Jackson has so many areas where people can't easily access fresh, affordable produce," one volunteer said. "We wanted to show that our community can grow what we need — literally." The gardens have already supplied produce to dozens of families and local food pantries. Organizers hope to expand to additional lots across the city, creating more green spaces that provide both nourishment and opportunity for learning. "Every seed we plant is a reminder that something good can come out of struggle," one of the participants said. "We're not just feeding people. We're



feeding hope." The project demonstrates how local initiatives can address larger challenges, including food insecurity, while strengthening bonds within the community. In Jackson, the Great River Elders' Community Gardens shows that even small acts — planting a seed, sharing a harvest — can grow into something much bigger: hope, resilience and connection.

Life on Holmes' campus

By Lexus Mullins
Staff Reporter



Holmes offers more than just classes; it provides a community for students and staff, full of events and opportunities. It is a place where students can learn, connect with others and discover what they are passionate about. Students have plenty to do on campus, from joining clubs to enjoying activities like painting and singing karaoke, as well as playing games such as football or soccer.

Throughout each semester, the Grenada, Ridgeland and Goodman campuses host special events that give students a chance to build friendships and explore their interests. Participating in these activities can help students develop leadership, communication

and social skills, and can also serve as an important stress reliever. Students also build a network when connecting with classmates, instructors and alumni during events, helping them feel supported both socially and academically. This semester, Holmes has hosted a wide variety of events across all campuses. In August, the Grenada Campus held a welcome week with drinks, snacks and merchandise. Ridgeland also hosted a welcome event, the "Soda Social," on Aug. 20. Throughout the month of August, Holmes offered activities such as kickball, pickleball, flag football and a football game.

In September, Goodman students played ultimate frisbee, and Ridgeland hosted "Little Ridge Day." Holmes also held yearbook photos, Homecoming events, additional games and weekly Baptist Student Union meetings. In October, the college offered mock interviews and, in Ridgeland,



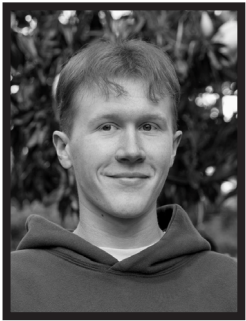
the "RidgeDay: 40th Birthday Bash." On Oct. 20, Holmes celebrated its centennial, kicking off Homecoming Week. Students and staff participated in themed activities, including a "dress like a senior citizen" day.

Many other activities took place throughout the semester, including a

disc tournament, silent disco, engineering seminar, haunted trail, paint party, STEM Day and STEM Fest. Overall, the events at Holmes bring students and staff closer together while making the college experience more meaningful and memorable.

A Wicked History

By Bennett Brantley
Staff Reporter



With the recent release of the second part of the 2024 film adaptation "Wicked," "Wicked: For Good" has already become a box office success and one of the top-grossing movies of 2025. But before the world of "Wicked" was brought to the cinema, the story began 22 years ago at a theatre in New York.

Debating on Oct. 30, 2003, "Wicked" premiered as a Broadway musical at the Gershwin Theatre in New York City, just a few steps away from Times Square. Taking place in the land of Oz, and it focuses on the far-off friendship between a bubbly and popular Glinda, originally played by Kristin Chenoweth, and green-skinned outcast Elphaba, played by Idina Menzel. The show is loosely based on the book

"Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West" by Gregory Maguire, released in 1995, which itself is based on "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" written by L. Frank Baum in 1900. Generating nearly \$60 million dollars in its first year on Broadway, the musical became an instant hit amongst showgoers.

After its first year, "Wicked" went on to win three different Tony Awards, seven Drama Desk Awards, a Grammy and Idina Menzel won a Tony for Best Leading Actress. Since then, the show has expanded overseas and set up permanent production in the United Kingdom at the Apollo Victoria Theatre in London. Along with that, the show has gone on various tours to countries like Japan, Germany, Australia and Brazil.

Today, "Wicked" has amassed over a billion dollars in revenue, being the second-highest earning Broadway production, just behind "The Lion



King." Theoday, the show's leading roles at the Gershwin Theatre are currently occupied by Allie Trimm as Glinda and Lencia Kebede as Elphaba, with Kebede becoming the first-ever black woman to take the role of Elphaba full-time on Broadway. Since its launch, "Wicked" has become an

all-time favorite with its themes of friendship, empowerment and embracing differences, resonating deeply with many fans and followers throughout the years.

Flowood Annual Chili Cook-Off and Park Lighting draws college students and families

By MJ Kersh
Staff Reporter



The holiday season in Flowood officially began on Dec. 4 with the city's annual Chili Cook-Off and Grand Lighting of the Park. The event, held from 5:30–8 p.m. at

Winners Circle Park, brought together local families, students, and community members for a night of food, lights, and festive activities.

For students on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus, the event offered a quick break from upcoming final studies and a chance

to enjoy the season. Many attended with friends to sample chili from local restaurants and fire departments competing for the top prize.

Once the lights were turned on, the park filled with themed displays and walk-through decorations, creating opportunities for photos and socializing. Local vendors sold holiday treats, and live music added to the festive atmosphere.

The event also gave students a chance to connect with the community outside campus. Residents, city officials and business owners all mingled with visitors, making it an informal way to see what Flowood had to offer during the holiday season.



With finals approaching, the chili cook-off and park lighting provided a fun, low-pressure way for students to

take a short break while enjoying local traditions.

Break the silence and save a life

By Daylan Henderson
Staff Reporter



Suicide is never the answer but for some it may feel like the only answer. Suicide is defined as death caused by self-inflicted wounds or injuries with the intent of taking one's own life. Suicide has been and increasingly prevalent issue among college students. Many college students tend to feel overwhelmed with academics, life changes and personal issues that can be hidden below the surface.

According to the Center for Disease Control or CDC in 2000 to 2022, suicide rates have increased by 36%. The suicide rate among college students is seven students per 100,000 which is around 1,100 students a year. Suicide is ranked the second most common

cause of death among college students with those being members of the LGBTQ+ community being four times more likely to attempt suicide.

There are a few signs to look out for such as mentioning feeling like a burden, talking about death more than usual, seemingly depressed, guilty or ashamed of one self, feeling as if you are stuck, giving away cherished objects, engaging in risky behavior, withdrawing oneself emotionally and physically, anxiety, deteriorating academic performance, increased substance use, withdrawing from friends and enjoyed activities, and having drastic mood changes.

If you encounter someone who is showing symptoms of depression or being suicidal ask them if they are okay, be there for them, help them find someone to speak to such as a professional and check in on them frequently. If you feel suicidal or depressed



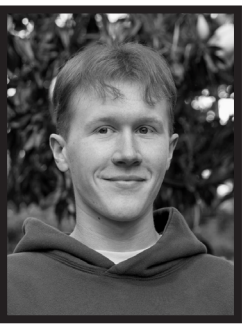
reach out to someone whom you trust, establish a safety plan, and see a professional for help. If you are in immediate danger of self-harm, call 988, the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline available 24/7.

Suicide is a very real and common struggle for college students and should be taken seriously. Recognizing

warning signs can save a life. If you know someone who is dealing with depression or even if you are dealing with depression and suicidal thoughts reach out and get help. There is never any shame in reaching out for help because everyone needs support and can't shoulder situations to this degree alone.

From local choir to global artist, who is Bad Bunny?

By Bennett Brantley
Staff Reporter



Having recently announced headline the Superbowl Super Bowl LX halftime show in Santa Clara, California next February, Bad Bunny has

reached an all-time high in his career and has become one of the biggest artists in recent music history.

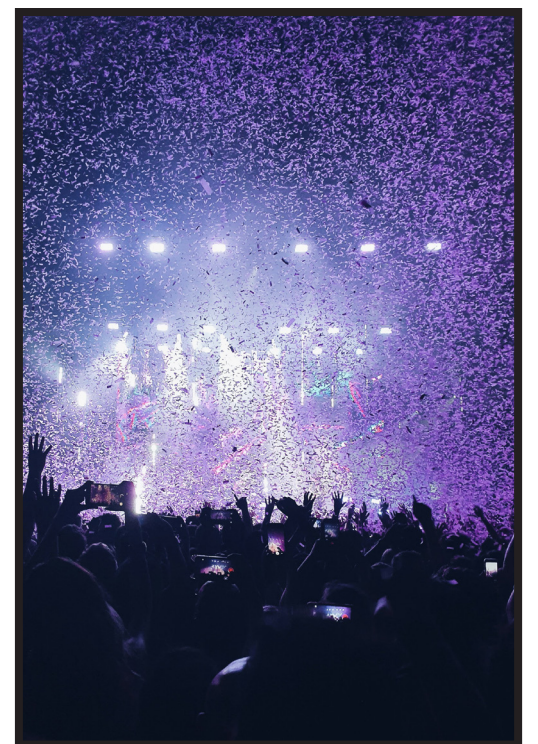
Bad Bunny was born Benito Antonio Martinez Ocasio on March 10, 1994 in Vega Baja, Puerto Rico. He was the oldest of three brothers coming from a middle-class family where his father was a truck driver and his mother was

an English teacher. Growing up, his parents surrounded him with different genres of music from salsa to reggaeton and throughout his childhood he demonstrated an interest in music. He was even a member of his church choir and participated in local talent shows in his early teens.

He first started off making music by mixing different genres and uploading them to SoundCloud before he caught the attention of a DJ who connected him with a record label. It was not long after that when he released his debut album "X100PRE" in 2017 which spent the next two years on the Billboard Top 200 Chart. Over the next few years, he went on to release six more albums, his most recent DeBí

"TIRAR MÁS FOTO'S" having dropped earlier this year and already receiving Grammy nominations.

Since his career launched almost a decade ago, Bad Bunny has broken countless music records and even holds the title for the most streamed album of all time on Spotify, "Un Verano Sin Ti." Drawing inspiration from Puerto Rican culture and experimenting with blending musical genres, Bad Bunny has brought on an onslaught of recognition and pride to his heritage and history alike. Bringing Latino music to mainstream media, he has proudly brought his culture to a completely new and expansive audience.



African-American inventors deserve more credit

By Daylan Henderson & Kennedy Proctor
Staff Reporters



African Americans (Black Americans) have had a lot of hardships; from slavery to having their inventions stolen and not being given credit, to being dismissed and looked down on while being denied recognition. Some of the greatest inventions that were the catalysts for everyday objects from home security systems to potato chips were invented by African Americans. In today's society, African Americans are given Juneteenth, Martin Luther King Day (MLK Day) and Black History Month. Is this enough compensation for the hardships African Americans have faced for centuries?

Marie Van Brittan Brown of Queens, New York along with her husband, Albert L. Brown, invented the first-ever home security system in 1966. The reason for this invention was for people to be able to protect themselves as well as their home. Marie noticed a rise in crime and wanted to do some-

thing to protect not only herself and personal property but also others. She paved the way for modern-day surveillance creating a security system similar to our modern-day CCTV. The surveillance system was a camera that moved vertically through four peepholes and a television to view the camera with a two-way microphone for speaking. Even though her invention was extremely useful she was overlooked because of her gender and race and overshadowed by more modern versions of her invention and greater inventions.

The modern blood bank exists because Dr. Charles Drew refused to accept preventable deaths as normal. Dr. Drew, a pioneering Black American doctor and researcher, changed medicine by creating the first major blood bank system. His name is often unknown because the Red Cross, not him, received most of the public credit, and racism during that time kept his achievements out of textbooks. His work began when he saw how often patients died simply because the right type of blood was not ready or available. While studying transfusions, he realized that blood spoiled quickly, so he developed a method to separate and store plasma, which lasted longer



and could be transported safely. This process made it possible to collect, store and ship blood so hospitals could use it in emergencies, especially during World War II. A standout fact is that he became the first director of the American Red Cross Blood Bank, and many of his methods are still used today.

Garrett Morgan of Paris, Kentucky, is an inventor who expanded on the design of the three-position traffic signal. The first design of the traffic light was only two lights, red and green. Garrett added a third light, yellow, to let those know on the road that they need to use caution, avoid an accident and to be ready to stop. Garrett also struggled with notoriety for his invention because of his race, his invention as another version of an already created



invention, the lack of media coverage and history often focusing on white inventors. Garrett also invented an early version of a gas mask called the Safety Hood that's purpose was to help firefighters breathe while in smokey and gas filled environments.

Benjamin Banneker, a Black American mathematician and astronomer, built one of the first wooden clocks in the United States. He studied a pocket watch, carved every piece by hand and created a clock that kept time accurately for over 40 years. His backstory started with pure curiosity. After examining how the pocket watch worked, he recreated the internal gears

Inventions *(continued from Page 5)*

in wood, adjusting the design until every movement lined up correctly. He made the clock to help him keep track of time for farming and for his sky observations, which required a steady schedule. Fun fact: his clock was so well-made that people in his community came to rely on it. Most people do not know he made it because early American history rarely highlighted Black inventors, which left his accomplishments out of most school lessons.

Caller ID exists today partly because Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson believed phone technology could do more than just ring. Dr. Jackson, a Black American physicist whose research led to caller ID, is often overlooked because major tech companies were credited instead of the individual Black scientists who developed the technology. Her work at Bell Labs helped create

a system that let people see who was calling before they picked up the phone. She began by studying how electrical signals traveled through phone lines, and her research made it possible for simple data like a phone number to be sent ahead of the actual call. This technology came from the need to avoid unwanted or unknown calls as phones became more common. One interesting detail is that her research also helped lead to call waiting and other phone features we use every day.

One day a chef in Saratoga Springs, New York had a customer who complained that his fries were too thick. The chef then sliced a potato extremely thin and fried the sliced potato until it was crispy and topped it with salt. This petty act of revenge was called Sara-

toga Chips, later called Kettle Chips. The chef's name is George Crum, or George Speck, the inventor of the potato chip. Speck is an African and Native American chief who works at Moon's Lake House where the aforementioned situation took place. Speck was mostly overlooked as the inventor of the potato chip because unlike previously mentioned inventors, he was not granted a patent because of his race. The rise in popularity was based around the snack itself instead of the person who made it and the focus on white inventors.

It requires actively acknowledging past injustices, properly crediting Black innovators, and creating equitable opportunities for future generations. True justice and recognition would mean moving beyond commem-

oration to meaningful change.

Holidays like Juneteenth, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and Black History Month are nothing more than empty gestures from a government that has spent centuries ignoring, erasing, and exploiting Black Americans. Symbolic recognition does not fix stolen credit, systemic oppression, or generations of missed opportunities. If the government truly cared, it would do more than slap a holiday on the calendar; it would actively address inequalities, honor Black contributions, and ensure justice beyond empty words. And until that happens, these so-called celebrations are just a convenient way for those in power to look like they care while doing nothing to change the system.

Stranger Things comes to a close

By Owen Clark
Staff Reporter



The show that began all the way back in 2016 is now finally coming to an end. "Stranger Things" season 5 has just been released and will conclude later this year.

This supernatural action-packed show has just released its final season. Fans are loving it. Ratings are going through the roof as when it was first released it immediately became the number one viewed thing on Netflix.

Co-creators, brothers Matt and Ross

Duffer, have been working hard on this ending to the show. This season has been in the works for three years. The brothers told fans teasingly, "It will feature the most violent death of any season."

With more episodes releasing soon, fans can only guess where the story will go next.

So far, only four episodes have been released. With the last episode having a dramatic tone to let fans be on the edge of their seats anticipating what will happen in the episodes the come.

The Guardian's Jack Seale praised the first half of the finale saying the episode was a, "Solidly thrilling 90 min-

utes of flame-throwing, bullet-dodging spectacle that makes good use of what looks like a virtually limitless effects budget, and which culminates in a moment that will have fans standing on their chairs and hollering joyfully."

The effects and budgets for Stanger Things have always been high, but now they are pulling out all the stops for the final episode. The last season is releasing its final episodes on Christmas day, and the season's finale will air on Dec. 3. With this last release, the highly praised series "Stanger Things" will finally have its ending.



Five Nights at Freddy's 2: A Review

By Emma McCarter
Staff Reporter



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He first started off making music by mixing different genres and uploading them to SoundCloud before he caught the attention of a DJ who connected him with a record label. It was not long after that when he released his debut album "X100PRE" in 2017 which spent the next two years on the Billboard Top 200 Chart. Over the next few years, he went on to release six more albums, his most recent DeBí

"TiRAR Más FOToS" having dropped earlier this year and already receiving Grammy nominations.

Since his career launched almost a decade ago, Bad Bunny has broken countless music records and even holds the title for the most streamed album of all time on Spotify, "Un Verano Sin Ti." Drawing inspiration from Puerto Rican culture and experimenting with blending musical genres, Bad Bunny has brought on an onslaught of recognition and pride to his heritage and history alike. Bringing Latino music to mainstream media, he has proudly brought his culture to a completely new and expansive audience.



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

Houston (continued from Front Page)

Known for his fairness, humility and encouragement, Houston left a lasting impact on both his officers and his students. “He loved watching his officers develop into solid, experienced officers who were well-equipped to serve their communities,” his family wrote in his obituary.

Born in Jackson on Jan. 22, 1952, Houston earned an associate degree in criminal justice from Hinds Community College, a bachelor’s degree from Jackson State University, and a master’s degree from the University of Alabama. He is survived by his wife of 55

years, Bonnie Moore Houston; three children, Michelle Houston Ashcraft (Tim), Jay Houston (Devi) and Ashley Houston Arceo (Steven); and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Visitation will be held Monday, Oct. 20, at Broadmoor Baptist Church in Madison beginning at 10 a.m., fol-

lowed by a funeral service at noon. Natchez Trace Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Cheshire Abbey Animal Rescue, or a charity of choice.

Oxley (continued from Front Page)

Chef John Folse Culinary Institute, part of Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana, where he was working toward a Bachelor of Science in culinary arts. “Ethan had a genuine love for culinary arts and was pursuing his bachelor’s degree after graduating from Holmes,” said Chef Alexei Harrison,

Oxley’s instructor at Holmes. “There is no doubt with his determination and work ethic that he would go far in our industry. Ethan was a joy to teach and always had a sarcastic wit about him to keep things fun. His classmates and I will miss him terribly and send the deepest condolences to his family.” Oxley’s interests were as rich and

varied as his personality. He loved the beach, good seafood and videogames. His favorite movie was “The Shawshank Redemption,” and one of his favorite shows was “The Office.” In school, programming was the subject that came most naturally to him. Friends at Jackson Prep nicknamed him “Oxman,” a name that reflected

his resilience, sense of humor and steady confidence. Holmes extends its deepest condolences to the Oxley family and joins them in honoring Ethan’s life, accomplishments and the lasting impact he made on those around him.

Tonya Owens joins Holmes Grenada nursing faculty

From Staff Reports/Photos



Tonya Owens

Holmes Community College welcomes Tonya Owens, who joins the Grenada Campus as a Practical Nursing instructor. Originally from Greenville, Owens has proudly called Grenada home since she was 6 years old and is a 2001 graduate of Grenada High School. Owens is also a devoted mother of five: Liquori (24), Zakayla (22), twin daughters Amaria and Azaria (20) and Mariyah (19). All five of her children have attended Holmes at some point, with two graduating from the Practical Nursing program, one from the EMT program and one currently pursuing an Associate of Arts degree in business administration.

“I’m one proud mom,” she says. Owens earned her Practical Nursing diploma from Northwest Mississippi Community College in 2011 and began her nursing career at Grenada Living Center, where she worked in long-term care for more than seven years. During that time, she also served as a case manager for an insurance company and worked part-time in private duty pediatric nursing. In December 2018, Tonya completed the night/weekend Associate Degree Nursing program at Holmes Community College, then joined Fresenius Medical Care in Greenwood, Mississippi. After a year and a half as an in-center hemodialysis nurse, she transitioned to

the Home Therapy Department, where she spent over five years teaching patients how to perform dialysis at home. Most recently, Owens earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Southern Mississippi, graduating Magna Cum Laude. “I love teaching, so becoming a nurse educator just felt like a natural next step,” she shares. Owens is a member of Perpetual Praise Pentecostal Church in Grenada. In her spare time, she enjoys shopping, cooking, reading, traveling, and watching football. Above all, she loves spending time with her children and celebrating her favorite holiday, Christmas.

Holmes welcomes Roger Aultman as new Ridgeland Campus police officer

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College has hired Roger Aultman, a recently retired law enforcement veteran, as the newest police officer on the Ridgeland Campus. Aultman brings 30 years of full-time experience to the college, including service as an assistant chief. A graduate of Oak Grove High School in Hattiesburg, the University of Southern Mississippi and Harrison County Law Enforcement Academy, Aultman retired in 2019 from the Richland Police Department, where he

served as assistant chief of police. “I worked part-time for the Holmes Campus Police Department in Ridgeland years ago and I am excited about being back,” Aultman said. “It is a great community to serve in, and I look forward to helping maintain a safe and secure environment for our students and staff.” During his distinguished career in Richland, Aultman was recognized with the department’s Officer of the Year award and the 2019 Richland Top

Cop Award. Aultman is a member of the Law Enforcement Executive Development Association and attends Hickory Ridge Baptist Church. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family and friends, gardening and fishing. He and his wife, Jennifer, have two sons, Nick, 27, and Zack, 22.

Culinary Arts program receives donation from MCEL

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Culinary Arts program, housed on the Ridgeland Campus, was thrilled to host Madison County Executive Leadership (MCEL) representatives on Oct. 29 are so thankful for their generous donation to the program. The mission of the MCEL program is to provide members with a deeper understanding of the opportunities in Madison County in an environment that enhances their leadership skills and prepares them to better Madison County as a whole.

Homecoming (continued from Front Page)

On Thursday, Oct. 23, Holmes Community College hosted its annual Homecoming celebration on the Goodman Campus. Chasity Washington of Winona, daughter of Ashley Phillips and Cortez Washington, was crowned 2025 Homecoming Queen prior to kickoff. Holmes President Dr. Jim Haffey crowned the queen, Alumni Association President Matt McCrory presented her robe and Goodman Campus Vice President Andy Wood presented her flowers. Washington was escorted by Trey Alexander of Clinton, son of Willie and Angela Alexander, who is a guard on the Holmes basketball team.

The rest of the Goodman Campus court included: Student Body Maid

Hannah Stanley of Winona and her escort Charley Dunn of Greenville; Sophomore Maid Harley Grace Rayburn of West and her escort Braxton Demopulos of Denham Springs, La.; Sophomore Maid Lillie Kate Jones of Winona and her escort AJ Arguello of Ocean Springs; Freshman Maid Tassiana Calloway of Carthage and her escort Kameryn Bailey of Vicksburg and Freshman Maid Tearshanae Mallett of Kosciusko and her escort Andrew Mancell of Kosciusko.

Ridgeland Campus court members included: Student Body Maid Alisha Davis of Flora and her escort Gregory Windham of Madison; Sophomore Maid Ashlyn Dodd of Flowood and

her escort Paxton McGee of Brandon; Sophomore Maid Sydney Neely of Brandon and her escort Tyler Jackson of Madison; Freshman Maid Mariah Jimerson of Hattiesburg and her escort Houston Griggs of Pearl and Freshman Maid Sarah Grace Nail of Brandon and her escort John David Nugent of Flora.

Finally, Grenada Campus court members included: Student Body Maid Lexi McClain of Vaiden and her escort Landon Grantham of Carrollton; Sophomore Maid Caitlynn Bingham of Maid Kilmichael and her escort Braden Stanford of Winona; Freshman Maid Kelley Evans of Vaiden and her escort Owen Garrett of Carrollton, and Freshman Maid Katie Grace Ray of

Duck Hill and her escort Reid Blaylock of McCarley.

This year's football game against Northwest Mississippi Community College kicked off at 3 p.m. and the final score was 45-10, with Northwest taking the win. Prior to kick-off, the Homecoming Court was recognized, the Chorale sang the national anthem and the 2025 Homecoming Honorees were recognized on the field. Honorees included: Alumna of the Year, Candice Edwards Parish; Distinguished Service Award recipient, Dr. Sidney Wiggins Bondurant; Young Alumna of the Year, Jacob Black and Veteran of the Year, Lt. Col. Norman Hitchcock.

Homecoming festivities kicked off



Alumni Honorees pose with (center) Holmes President **Dr. Jim Haffey**. They are (left to right) Distinguished Service Award recipient **Dr. Sidney Bondurant**, Alumna of the Year **Candice Edwards Parish**, Young Alumnus of the Year **Jacob Black** and Veteran of the Year **Lt. Col. Norman Hitchcock**.



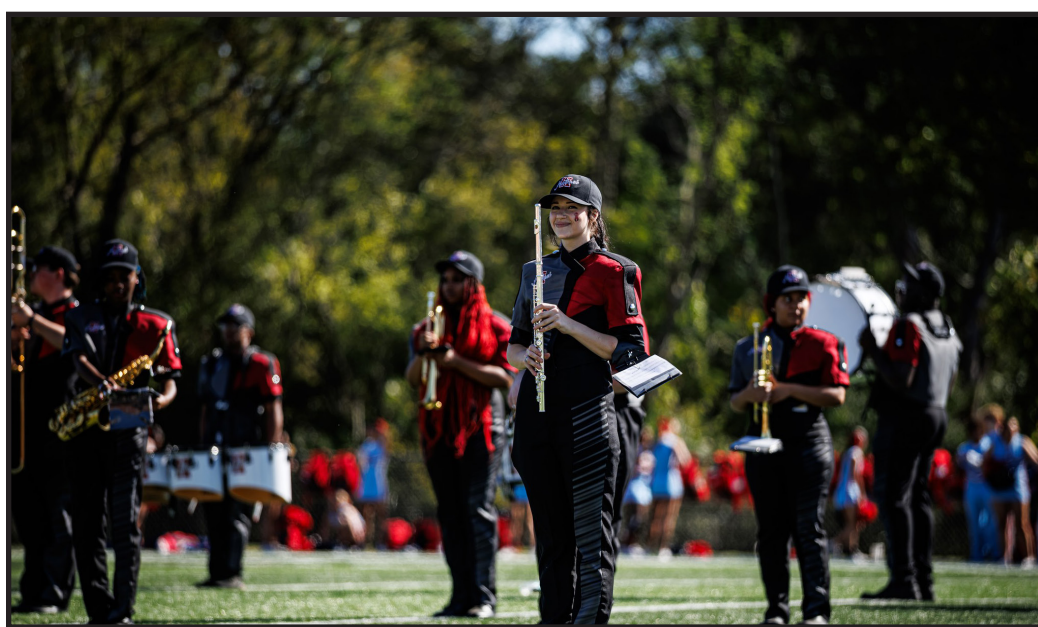
The **Holmes Connection!** performs in McDaniel Auditorium following Alumni Honoree Recognition.



The **Holmes Chorale** performs the national anthem prior to kick-off.



The Holmes cheerleaders lead the way as the Bulldogs run onto the field to play against Northwest Community College.



The **Holmes Marching Band** performs at halftime.



Students attend the Career and Transfer Fair in the Grove, speaking to representatives from four-year universities as well as representatives from various companies.



The **Dazzlers** perform during the pre-kickoff pep rally.



Holmes alumna **Lily Kate Saxton Wallace** (in red sweater) smiles for a photo alongside others ready to watch the performances during Homecoming. She also brought her students (behind her) from Benton Academy!

Homecoming Court 2025



Pictured is escort **Trey Alexander** with Homecoming Queen **Chasity Washington**.



Pictured is escort **Charley Dunn** with Goodman Student Body Maid **Hannah Stanley**.



Pictured is escort **Gregory Windam** with Ridgeland Student Body Maid **Alisha Davis**.



Pictured is escort **Landon Grantham** with Grenada Student Body Maid **Lexi McClain**.



Pictured is escort **AJ Arguello** with Goodman Sophomore Maid **Lillie Kate Jones**.



Pictured is escort **Braxton Demopulos** with Goodman Sophomore Maid **Harley Grace Rayburn**.



Pictured is escort **Kameryn Bailey** with Goodman Freshman Maid **Tassianna Calloway**.



Pictured is escort **Andrew Mancell** with Goodman Freshman Maid **Tearshanae Mallett**.



Pictured is escort **Tyler Jackson** with Ridgeland Sophomore Maid **Sydney Neely**.



Pictured is escort **Paxton McGee** with Ridgeland Sophomore Maid **Ashlyn Dodd**.



Pictured is escort **Houston Griggs** with Ridgeland Freshman Maid **Mariah Jimerson**.



Pictured is escort **John David Nugent** with Ridgeland Freshman Maid **Sarah Grace Nail**.



Pictured is escort **Braden Stanford** with Grenada Sophomore Maid **Caitlynn Bingham**.



Pictured is escort **Owen Garrett** with Grenada Freshman Maid **Kelley Evans**.



Pictured is escort **Reid Blaylock** with Grenada Freshman Maid **Katie Grace Ray**.

Holmes Homecoming Week: Spirit dress up days and more

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College students across all campuses celebrated Homecoming Week with creative spirit dress-up days and a silent disco on the Grenada Campus.

The week kicked off Monday with

“Holmes is 100 Day,” where students dressed as senior citizens to honor the college’s centennial. Tuesday featured “Favorite Holiday Day,” encouraging students to showcase costumes inspired by their favorite holiday.



Goodman Campus staff members pose during “Holmes is 100” Day.



Ridgeland Practical Nursing goes all out for “Rhyme without Reason” Day.



Ridgeland Surg Tech students show up ready for “Rhyme without Reason” Day.



Mr. and Mrs. Claus make an appearance in Goodman on Favorite Holiday Day.



Grenada Campus students stop for a photo during the Silent Disco held on Oct. 22.



Attala Center faculty and staff join in the fun on Favorite Holiday Day.



Grenada staff go for one big rhyming group for “Rhyme without Reason.”

Dr. Lakesia Sutton recognized as a Top Nominated Educator

From Staff Reports/Photos



Dr. Lakesia Sutton

Dr. Lakesia Sutton, a practical nursing instructor at Holmes Community College’s Ridgeland Campus, continues to earn recognition for her leadership, dedication and impact—both in the classroom and within the college community. Most recently, Sutton was named the 2025 Pizza Palooza for Educators “Top Nominated Educator” after receiving an overwhelming number of student nominations. Stu-

dents praised her teaching, compassion and commitment to student success, describing her as an instructor who consistently goes above and beyond to ensure they master course material and feel supported during the demanding nursing program.

Student testimonials highlighted her exceptional teaching style and personal dedication. Students repeatedly praised her ability to simplify complex topics. “She has a remarkable talent for taking complex, difficult-to-grasp concepts in nursing school and breaking them down into clear, understandable parts,” one student wrote. Another student noted, “I’ve never had any questions when it comes to her teaching. She just explains things so well.”

Her dedication to student success was a common theme.

“She makes sure we have everything and more to prepare for this nurse course. She teach to understand,” one nomination stated. Another student wrote, “She goes out of her way to make sure we understand and have all

the tools to be successful in our program... Please Pick Dr. SUTTON she is the BEST and sooooo deserving!”. Students also praised her compassion and mentorship. “Dr. Sutton gives her all to teaching and shows compassion while doing so,” a student shared. “Their patience, dedication, and encouragement make a real difference in the classroom and in our lives, and I feel grateful to have a teacher who truly cares,” wrote another.

In addition to her classroom influence, Dr. Sutton was honored in 2024 as a graduate of the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy (MCCLA). She completed the year-long professional development program on May 6. MCCLA prepares higher education professionals for future administrative and leadership roles across Mississippi’s community college system.

A member of the Holmes family since 2013, Dr. Sutton brings extensive educational and professional experience to her role. She holds a Doctor of

Chiropractic degree from Life University, a Doctorate in Christian Counseling from New Foundations Theological Seminary, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Mississippi Medical Center, a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Jackson State University and an Associate of Arts from Hinds Community College.

Dr. Sutton is also actively involved in professional organizations, including the Mississippi Nurses Association, Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing and the Mississippi Chiropractic Association. Beyond her work, she volunteers with Habitat for Humanity and serves as a registered nurse in the Mission First medical clinic. She is a member of Word of Life Church—Lakeland Campus. Outside of her professional commitments, she serves as a caregiver to her father, Tommie, and enjoys spending time with her dog, Godzo. In her free time, she loves scrapbooking, traveling and helping others through community service.

Holmes Grown: Alumna Kathryn Watkins Erickson builds a legacy in technology and leadership

From Staff Reports/Photos



Kathryn Watkins Erickson

For Holmes Community College alumna Kathryn Watkins Erickson, what began as curiosity in her father’s AutoCAD classroom on the Ridgeland Campus has evolved into a distinguished career spanning innovation, leadership and mentorship in the technology industry.

The daughter of longtime Holmes employees, Erickson is a native of Mississippi who quite literally grew up on campus; her mother also worked at Holmes for the better part of a decade before retiring.

“In kindergarten I took the bus to Holmes and went to my dad’s classroom to wait for him to finish up,” she recalled. “He was teaching AutoCAD, and I thought it was fascinating. As a 5-year-old, I had no idea that I was watching a technology wave happen.”

That early exposure sparked a life-

long interest in technology. When it came time to choose a college, Holmes was the natural next step.

“I was 17 when I started at Holmes,” Erickson said. “I wasn’t ready for a four-year university. I needed the location, smaller class sizes and dedicated teachers that Holmes offered. I learned that my classmates chose Holmes for different reasons - we were all there because we needed something that Holmes provided, and that bonded us.”

While pursuing her studies in computer science, Erickson found herself inspired not only by the subject matter but by the instructors who helped her discover her potential.

“In Zoology I learned how good it felt to do my best work, even if it took longer,” she said. “In Calculus I learned that I could survive anything, but that sometimes I’d need to ask for help. In World History I learned that if you want something to be memorable, you need to tell a good story.”

After graduating from Holmes, Erickson earned her Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering from the University of Southern Mississippi, where she also served as a network administrator. She later earned a Master of Science in Information Security from Johns Hopkins University, a journey that tested her perseverance and self-belief.

“I got a 7 on my first test at Hopkins,” she said with a laugh. “I called my dad and said, ‘I’m coming home.’ But he told me to stay until December since it was already paid for. That advice gave me freedom - to make the most of it. I learned to fail, to get back

up and to keep going.”

Erickson went on to build an impressive career in technology, working with organizations such as the National Science Foundation, MITRE Corporation, Fusion-io and SanDisk, where she led teams in research, cybersecurity and data systems engineering. At MITRE, she patented research that helped government agencies transfer large files more efficiently over slow networks - a key innovation in the federal research space.

After years in the federal sector, Erickson transitioned to the private technology industry, joining DataStax, a leader in cloud database technology. Over nearly 11 years with the company, she has served in multiple leadership roles, including sales engineering manager, senior director of ecosystem partners and vice president of product and strategy. Her work has included rebuilding strategic partnerships with Amazon Web Services, Microsoft and Google Cloud, leading product-led growth initiatives and driving corporate strategy and innovation.

Most recently, Erickson co-authored “Tech Confidential: The Insider’s Playbook for Daring Entrepreneurs” with Denise Koessler Gosnell, offering a candid and entertaining glimpse into the triumphs, challenges and hard-earned lessons of navigating the tech world. In a full-circle moment, Erickson finished writing her book in the Holmes Ridgeland Campus library over the summer while her daughter went to sailing camp in Madison.

“We wanted to share the lessons we learned, the traps we fell into and the

cliffs we leapt from while on this crazy journey,” she said. “We also wanted to help people realize it’s okay to laugh at the absurdity. Sometimes everything feels so serious in the moment, but later you think, ‘Why did I let that get to me?’”

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Erickson is passionate about open-source economics, strategy and painting. She continues to mentor young professionals entering the field and offers practical advice to current Holmes students pursuing technology careers.

“Network your butt off in a way that’s authentic to you,” she said. “Know your values and stick to them - don’t lose yourself. Your bosses aren’t responsible for your mental health. It’s your job to save yourself. Be your own hero.”

Balancing a demanding career with family life, Erickson has also learned what truly matters.

“Your boss will never remember what you did on any given date,” she reflected, “but your kid will remember that you missed their birthday. Regardless of your role at work, you are replaceable. For the people who matter to you outside of work, you are not.”

Looking back, Erickson credits Holmes for giving her the foundation that made all the difference.

“You will learn a lot while at Holmes, but if you do the work to be part of the community, the instructors will invest in you directly,” she said. “That kind of personal investment is rare - and it’s something I still carry with me today.”

Holmes Alumna Dr. Brinda Fuller Willis presents “Why We Call it Soul Food”n Ridgeland

From Staff Reports/Photos



(left to right) Mississippi Humanities Program Officer **Katie Molpus** poses for a photo with **Dr. Brinda Fuller Willis** following her presentation.

Holmes Community College proudly welcomed alumna Dr. Brinda Fuller Willis as the featured speaker for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) event held Oct. 28 in the McGowan Workforce Training Center on the Ridgeland Campus. The presentation was also livestreamed for broader access, and guests enjoyed refreshments prepared by the Holmes Culinary Arts program. The event was free and open to the public.

A member of the Mississippi Humanities Council Speakers Bureau, Dr. Willis explored the rich cultural,

historical and communal roots of Southern cuisine and its deep connection to African American identity and heritage. Her ties to Holmes make the event especially meaningful.

“I was a student on the Holmes Goodman Campus,” Dr. Willis said. “I served on the yearbook staff, and Mrs. Caruthers taught me how to develop photos. I was among the first students to integrate Holmes in 1971, and everyone was still trying to feel their way. My twin sister Linda and I were roommates, and that made a difference, as did the kind, welcoming instruc-

tors.”

Dr. Willis grew up on a large farm in Attala County, just outside of Kosciusko, as the 13th of 14 children.

“We raised everything we ate, and that’s where I learned so much about cooking,” she said. A lifelong member of Palestine Missionary Baptist Church, she graduated from McAdams High School before attending Holmes Junior College in Goodman, where she earned a degree in social science. She went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in social work and a master’s degree in vocational rehabilitation counseling from Mississippi State University, and later earned her Ph.D. in Theology from New Foundations Seminary in Terry in 2007.

After beginning her career in Chicago as a counselor for emotionally disturbed adults, Dr. Willis became involved with the blues community, completing an internship with the Willie Dixon Blues Foundation and working closely with the Dixon family. Her experiences led to a lifetime love of blues culture.

“I’ve always been drawn to the blues,” she said. “I was friends with B.B. King and now serve as an agent for Keith Johnson, the great-nephew of Muddy Waters. I’ll travel anywhere to hear blues music!”

In addition to her work as a writer and speaker, Dr. Willis co-owns Twice as Nice Entertainment, LLC with her identical twin, Linda Walker. Together,

they served as managing agents for blues artists, including Johnson, known as the “Prince of the Delta Blues.” The sisters also co-authored an advice column, “Ask the Twins,” which ran for several years in the Jackson Advocate and gained a devoted readership for its thoughtful commentary on a variety of topics.

Currently a freelance writer for the Jackson Advocate, Dr. Willis has also contributed to Our Mississippi Magazine, BOOM Jackson Magazine, Big City Rhythm & Blues Magazine and The Jackson Free Press. She is the recipient of the 2019 Mississippi Humanities Council Educator’s Award and continues to present programs on Mississippi’s cultural heritage, including topics such as “How We Got the Blues,” “The Great Migration” and “Why We Call It Soul Food.”

Reflecting on her journey, Dr. Willis offered this advice to current Holmes students: “Do your best in every class because you never know what you might be doing later on. My great English teachers at Holmes gave me a foundation I still use today.”

Dr. Willis lives in Richland and is the proud mother of one daughter, Savannah, and grandmother to Charlotte Lucile Gray and Liam Moberg. She will return to Holmes for Homecoming on Oct. 23, as she does nearly every year to visit with her former classmates.

Holmes Ridgeland celebrates graduates from ADN evening program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Ridgeland Campus ADN Class of 2025, evening and weekend track students. They are (first row, left to right) **Yasheaka Bell, Teresa Seymour, Yesenia Rivera, Jennifer Armitage**, (second row, left to right) **Diamond McCallum, Shelby Green, Madison Carpenter, Ruobing Alford**, (third row, left to right) **Kiara Williams, Cassidy Scott, Justin Warren, Ashley Ragan**, (fourth row, left to right) **Danielle Robinson, Mylia Engle**, (fifth row, left to right) **Jeremiah Allen, Wade Altobelli** and (back row) **Alexis Haynes**. Not pictured: Destiny Rogers

Holmes Community College held its Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Pinning Ceremony for the Ridgeland Campus Class of 2025 evening program, on Dec. 10 at the Ridgeland High School Auditorium.

The ceremony marked the transition of nursing students into the professional field, symbolizing their readiness to enter patient care with skill, compassion and integrity. Families, faculty and friends gathered to honor the graduates for their dedication and perseverance throughout the rigorous program.

Dr. Bronwyn Martin, vice president of the Ridgeland Campus, welcomed attendees before Jennifer Armitage offered the opening prayer. Instructor Danette Tannehill presented the traditional pin and candle symbolism, highlighting nursing’s legacy of service and the significance of the Florence Nightingale lamp.

Instructor Dr. Tiffany Cox served as the announcer for the pinning portion of the ceremony, with instructors Virginia Applewhite and Coretta Carter

presenting pins to each graduate. The Class of 2025 honorees included: Ruobing Alford, Jeremiah Allen, Wade Altobelli, Armitage, Yasheaka Bell, Sara Carpenter, Mylia Engle, Ashley Gaines, Shelby Green, Alexis Haynes, Tressie Johnson, Diamond McCallum, Ashley Ragan, Yesenia Rivera, Danielle Robinson, Destiny Rogers, Asia Sandifer, Cassidy Scott, Teresa Seymour, Justin Warren and Kiara Williams.

Following the pinning presentation, instructor Cindy Bridges led the graduates in reciting the Florence Nightingale Pledge, reaffirming their commitment to ethical practice and compassionate care. Allen delivered the closing prayer.

The ceremony also recognized the ADN faculty of the Ridgeland Campus, including Program Chair and Assistant Director Dr. Alice Austin and instructors Virginia Applewhite, Dr. Jennifer Bertucci, Cindy Bridges, Coretta Carter, Dr. Tiffany Cox, Lakiesha McGowan, Danette Tannehill, Dr. Alicia Turner and Niki Walker.

Seven students graduate from Holmes Grenada PTA program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Grenada Campus PTA Class of 2025. They are (left to right) **Instructor Heather Pounds, Carly Flautt, Chasity Robertson, Kasharria Bush, Mady Leach, Joseph Lindley, Kaleb Daniels, Jake Franklin** and **Instructor Jenny Bryan**.

The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus held a Pinning Ceremony for the graduating Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA) program Class of 2025 on Dec. 3 in the Corey Forum, marking the students’ transition from the classroom to professional clinical practice. The ceremony symbolized the graduates’ readiness to enter the healthcare field and begin assisting licensed physical therapists in providing patient-centered care across a variety of settings.

The Class of 2025 included Kasharria Bush, Kaleb Daniels, Carly Flautt, Jake Franklin, Mady Leach, Joseph Lindley and Chasity Robertson. The program is led by instructors Jenny Bryan and Heather Pounds, who guided students through the program’s rigorous academic and clinical curriculum.

Holmes’ PTA program is designed

to prepare graduates to assist physical therapists in delivering physical therapy services in a safe, effective and ethical manner. Students receive hands-on training and real-world clinical experience that equips them to work in hospitals, outpatient clinics, rehabilitation centers and other healthcare environments.

The mission of the PTA Program is to improve the quality of life in the community by implementing a high-quality education program that produces knowledgeable, skilled and marketable physical therapist assistants who are prepared to meet the demands of today’s healthcare workforce.

For more information about the program, contact Program Director Heather Pounds at hpounds@holmescc.edu or (662) 227-2379.

Holmes Ridgeland holds practical nursing pinning ceremony for evening program

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Ridgeland Evening Program Practical Nursing Class of 2025. (front row, left to right) **Instructor Mary Clayton Belk, Alishia Harmon, Koality Naylor, Jamonika Bacon, Ariel James, Latavia Pendleton, Instructor Candice Buchanan**, (back row, left to right) **Anasia Williams, Jasmine Edwards, Jessica Smith, Leah Miller, Cabrini Cooper, Cornesha McDonald, Donnisha Jackson, Alura Mack, Cherica Bouldin** and **Melissa Patten**.

Fifteen students officially entered the nursing profession when the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus Practical Nursing Evening and Weekend Program held its pinning ceremony Thursday, Dec. 11, at 10 a.m. in the McGowan Workforce Training Center.

The Ridgeland Evening Program Practical Nursing Class of 2025 included Alishia Harmon of Crystal Springs, class secretary; Koality Naylor of Jackson; Jamonika O. Bacon of Jackson; Ariel R. James of Jackson; Latavia Pendleton of Hazlehurst; Anasia Williams of Jackson; Jasmine D. Edwards of Madison, class treasurer; Jessica L. Smith of Coffeeville; Leah M. Miller of Madison; Cabrini C. Cooper of Jackson, class vice president; Corneisha A. McDonald of Brandon; Donnisha A. Jackson of McComb; Alura C. Mack of Florence, class pres-

ident; Cherica L. Bouldin of Madison; and Melissa D. Patten of Pearl.

Harmon also gave remarks on behalf of the graduating class. Miller was recognized as class salutatorian, while Edwards was named class valedictorian and received the Achievement Award. Williams and Naylor were also recognized for graduating with honors, earning a 90 or above average.

The ceremony marked the successful completion of the demanding program, preparing the graduates for the next steps in their medical careers. The class was guided by instructors Mary Clayton Belk, Dr. Christi Blair and Candice Buchanan.

For more information about the Ridgeland Evening/Weekend program, contact Buchanan at cbuchanan@holmescc.edu

Cummins graduates with doctoral degree in higher education

From Staff Reports/Photos



Dr. Madison Cummins

Madison Cummins, Holmes Community College’s director of admissions, completed her Doctorate in Higher Education Administration at the University of Southern Mississippi and graduated on Thursday, Dec. 11. A native of Ethel, Cummins has been a member of the Holmes family since 2019. Throughout her tenure, she has served in several roles, including STEM Project director, Development Foundation secretary, financial aid advisor and admissions representative. Her broad experience in student support and academic program leadership has shaped her approach to serving Holmes’ students. “Madison has worked very hard and we are all proud of her,” said Vice President-Goodman Campus Andy

Wood. Cummins holds a Master of Science in Workforce Education Leadership from Mississippi State University, a Bachelor of Science in biology with a psychology minor from Delta State University, as well as an Associate of Arts in general biology from Hinds Community College. Holmes has long been a significant part of Cummins’ life; both of her parents worked at the college during her childhood. Now leading the admissions department, she said she looks forward to continuing her commitment to helping students navigate the enrollment process and begin their educational journeys. “For my doctoral capstone, my study focused on student success outcomes

and program effectiveness related to enrollment, retention and progression,” Cummins said. “The study highlighted key factors influencing student achievement and identified areas where targeted interventions could strengthen support structures and enhance overall educational impact. The findings contribute to ongoing conversations around improving student outcomes in higher education and offer insight into how institutions can better align resources, initiatives and student needs.” Outside of her work at Holmes, Cummins enjoys spending time with her husband, Logan, and their dogs, Dusty and Sandy. She also loves hunting, fishing and being with family and friends.

Holmes Ridgeland EMS students complete program, prepare for national certification

From Staff Reports/Photos



(front row, left to right) Barrett Lee, Kayla Griffin, Dorsey Hamlin, Matthew Brooks, (second row, left to right) Hannah Gatewood, Michael Linzy, Sharroia Whitehead, Ab Lopez, (third row, left to right) Jalin Thompson, Eddie Brookins, Drew Singletary, Tony Esquijarosa, (fourth row, left to right) Valentino Butler, Jefferson R. Agustin Marroquin, (back row, left to right) Tristan Merritt, Wade Nichols, Dyllan Durr and Justin Brewer.

Eighteen students in the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program have successfully completed the program’s rigorous curriculum and are now preparing to take the National Registry Examination to become certified Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics. The EMS students include: Justin Brewer, Eddie Brookins, Matthew Brooks, Valentino Butler, Dyllan Durr, Tony Esquijarosa, Hannah Gatewood, Kayla Griffin, Dorsey Hamlin, Barrett Lee, Michael Linzy, Ab Lopez, Jefferson R. Agustin Marroquin, Tristan Merritt, Wade Nichols, Drew Singletary, Jalin Thompson and Sharroia Whitehead. The program’s completion marks a significant milestone for the students as they take the final step toward entering the emergency medical services profession, where they will provide critical care and lifesaving assistance

in their communities. Holmes’ EMS program is designed to equip students with the knowledge, hands-on skills and real-world training necessary to respond effectively in emergency situations. Graduates are prepared to serve in a variety of settings, including ambulance services, fire departments, hospitals and other emergency response agencies. The EMS program is led by instructors Sandra Hultz, Yancy Brewer and Mark Galtelli, whose dedication and expertise play a vital role in preparing students for the demands of the field. Holmes Community College commends the instructors for their commitment to training the next generation of emergency medical professionals. Holmes congratulates the EMS students on their achievement and wishes them success as they take the National Registry Examination and begin their careers in emergency medical services.

Holmes Goodman holds ADN pinning ceremony

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Goodman Campus ADN Class of 2025.

Holmes Community College’s Goodman Campus recognized the Associate Degree Nursing Class of 2025 during a pinning ceremony on Dec. 11. The ceremony included an opening prayer by Bracie Jamison and a welcome from Patty Jones, assistant director of the ADN program. Class thoughts were shared by Benjamin Ransom, fol-

lowed by the presentation of awards by Amanda Jones and Amanda Crawford. Sara Burwell offered special thoughts and called graduates’ names. Graduates received their nursing pins from Kaitlyn Chunn and participated in the traditional lamp presentation and lighting led by Anna Brittain. The Nightingale Pledge was administered by Janna Gar-

rett and the ceremony concluded with a benediction by Cikhyzan Cleveland. The program also recognized students for academic achievement, leadership and scholarship awards, including honors such as the ADN Academic Excellence Award presented to Briyana Palmer, and the Dean’s and Director’s Award presented to Briyana Palmer and Kim Wright. Dean’s Scholarship recipients were Bailey Engle, Harley Pearson, Jamie Harris, Jasmine Coleman, Jaylea Russell, KaliAnn May, Marquicia Douglas and Shania Clay. President’s List recognition was awarded to Briyana Palmer, Daya Jackson, Jamie Harris and Kathryn Daves. Phi Theta Kappa members recognized were Bailey Engle, Bracie Jamison, Briyana Palmer and Jamie Harris. SNA Class Representatives included Benjamin Ransom, Bracie Jamison, Jaylea Russell, Marquicia Douglas and Shania Clay. The Diverse Coat Society recognized KaliAnn May and Kim Wright. Holmes Foundational Scholarship recipients were Bracie Jamison and Kimberly Love. The Li-

on’s Club Scholarship was awarded to Keyla Mosley. KaliAnn May received the MS Nurse’s Foundation Scholarship. Sumner’s Grant recipients were Bracie Jamison and Jaylea Russell. Benjamin Ransom received the W&M Thomas STEM Scholarship, and Bracie Jamison received the WIOA Scholarship. Shania Clay received the Office of Nursing Workforce Scholarship. The Associate Degree Nursing Class of 2025 includes Caden Alexander, Katelyn Bouldin, Robresha Clay, Shania Clay, Cikhyzan Cleveland, Jasmine Coleman, Zachara Cross, Kathryn Daves, Susan Davis, Marquicia Douglas, Bailey Engle, Imaya Harris, Jamie Harris, Mariah Harris, India Hodge, Daya Jackson, Bracie Jamison, Kimberly Love, KaliAnn May, Ikeyla Mosley, Briyana Palmer, Harley Pearson, Benjamin Ransom, Jaylea Russell and Kim Wright. The graduates from across the region are prepared to enter the nursing profession and serve their communities with skill, compassion and dedication.

Holmes Ridgeland holds Massage Therapy Pinning Ceremony

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Holmes Massage Therapy Class of 2025. They are (front, left to right) Jordan White, Elizabeth Lawanda Brown, Noah Huff, Sheneka Floyd, Jocelyn Murillo-Gamez; (back, left to right) Deanna Burke, Daniella Solano-Ortega, Tiffany Hathorn, Kassandra Aguilar and Ava Walker.

Holmes Community College celebrated its Massage Therapy Class of 2025 during a pinning ceremony held on the Ridgeland Campus Dec. 12. Graduates included Kassandra Aguilar of Jackson, Elizabeth Lawanda Brown of Newton, Deanna Burke of Vicksburg, Sheneka Floyd of Magee, Tiffany Hathorn of Bassfield, Noah Huff of Brandon, Jocelyn Murillo-Gamez of Ridgeland, Daniella Solano-Ortega of Canton, Ava Walker of Florence and Jordan White of Jackson.

Family, friends, faculty and staff gathered to honor the graduates as they

marked the completion of their program and prepared to enter the health-care workforce.

Director of Health Science Allison DeWeese welcomed attendees and congratulated the graduates on their hard work, professionalism and dedication throughout the program.

Graduate Lawanda Brown delivered student remarks, sharing her reflections on the class’s journey and the significance of reaching this milestone.

“Today we gather to celebrate reaching a significant milestone in our lives,” Brown said. “It’s a moment

filled with pride, joy and a sense of nostalgia as we reflect on the journey that has brought us here. When I first stepped into the program I was unsure of what to expect, but I thought ‘I’m already a nurse this will be a breeze.’ Then came long kinesiology. I quickly realized this wasn’t just about learning technique or anatomy; it was about understanding the profound impact that touch can have on our clients’ lives. Massage therapy is more than a profession; it’s a calling to help others heal, relax and find balance. Throughout this journey, we’ve shared countless hours in the classroom, practicing our skills and supporting each other. We’ve formed bonds that will last a lifetime, learning from one another and growing together. Each late-night study session, every practice and all the feedback from our instructor has prepared us to step into the world as competent, compassionate therapists. I want to especially express gratitude to our instructor, Ms. Liz, who has guided us with her expertise and with such passion. Thank you for your patience, your encouragement, your sometimes sternness and for instilling in us the values and professionalism.”

The ceremony continued with guest speaker Kwantrell Green, a motivational speaker known for his message of resilience, purpose and positive transformation. Green encouraged

graduates to approach their new careers with confidence, compassion and a commitment to lifelong learning.

Massage Therapy instructor Liz McLain also addressed the audience, offering words of encouragement and recognizing the determination and growth demonstrated by the class. She then presented the Massage Therapy Student of the Year award to Deanna Burke.

“They are all wonderful, but one student I want to recognize today is someone who has not missed class,” McLain said. “She helps with anything you need help with, comes in early, and that is with her driving an hour each way to school. She is an overall wonderful person who will be a fabulous therapist.”

Career-Technical Counselor Jovonna Parker presented certificates to each graduate while McLain pinned the students, symbolizing their readiness to enter the field.

Ridgeland Campus Vice President Dr. Bronwyn Martin delivered the closing remarks, commending the graduates on their accomplishments and emphasizing the vital role massage therapists play in promoting wellness and improving quality of life.

For more information about the Massage Therapy program, contact McLain at lmclain@holmescc.edu or 601-605-3324.

Holmes Grenada holds ADN pinning ceremony

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Grenada ADN Class of 2025.

Holmes Community College Grenada Campus honored graduates of the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program during a pinning ceremony

held Dec. 11 in the Corey Forum. The ceremony marked the completion of the program for the Class of 2025 and celebrated the students’ dedication to

the nursing profession.

Corie Miller, ADN student, opened the ceremony with prayer. Patty Jones, assistant director of the ADN program, welcomed guests and introduced program faculty and college administration.

Class reflections were shared by Taylor Arrington, who spoke on behalf of her classmates and their journey through the program. Instructor Sandra Towns, PhD, RN, presented student awards recognizing academic achievement and excellence. The ADN Academic Excellence Award was presented to Holly Allbritton, and the Outstanding Student Award was presented to Dylan Blakely.

Instructor Eydie Ricks presented nursing pins to each graduate, symbolizing the completion of their training and entry into the profession. Instructor Michelle Crawford presented the traditional nursing lamps, and Instruc-

tor Arletha Coffey lit the lamps, representing knowledge, compassion, and service.

Instructor Lacy Walker led the graduates in the Nightingale Pledge, joined by fellow nurses in attendance, reaffirming the ethical standards and responsibilities of the nursing profession.

The ceremony concluded with a Florence Nightingale quote that reflects the spirit of the profession: “Nursing is an art: and if it is to be made an art, it requires an exclusive devotion as hard a preparation, as any painter’s or sculptor’s work.”

The Associate Degree Nursing Program at Holmes Community College prepares graduates to sit for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) and to serve their communities with skill, compassion and professionalism.

Holmes Grenada celebrates Practical Nursing graduates

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College-Grenada Campus Practical Nursing Program held its pinning for the 2025 Fall graduates Wednesday, Dec. 10 in the Corey Forum on the Grenada Campus.

Students pinned included: Chuntiqwa Avant, Breck Brewer, Toni Cage, Errlisha Carter, Madison Clark, Shana Ghoston-Flowers, Malynn Griffin, Brittany Hubbard, Jessica Husband, Gabrielle Jones, Tamera Jones, Brittany Lee, Miracle McGee, Kayla Myers, Sluyter Patterson-Thompson, Makenzie Ragland, McKenzie Smith, Teabresha Smith, Narrishia Tucker, Maddison Turner

and Lanie Williams.

Class valedictorian was Shana Ghoston-Flowers while Kayla Myers was named class salutatorian.

Honor graduates included: Jessica Husband, Makenzie Ragland, Teabresha Smith and Maddison Turner.

Class officers included: Shana Ghoston-Flowers, president; Jessica Husband, vice president; Breck Brewer, secretary; Mary Newton, treasurer; Malynn Griffin, co-treasurer; Lanie Williams and Maddison Turner, public relations.

Lexington native and Holmes alumnus Terry Abel honored by NASA for Artemis Program Contributions

Mississippi State University's Bagley College of Engineering contributed to the story and was written by Camille Carskadon



Terry Abel, a 1979 Holmes Junior College graduate and Lexington native, was recently awarded NASA's prestigious Silver Snoopy Award for his contributions to the heat shield of the Artemis I Orion spacecraft. The heat shield is vital to the Artemis Program and the agency's initiative to

return humans to the moon and provide a safe return.

Abel was recognized for his leadership in addressing issues with Orion's heat shield, which developed cracks during the spacecraft's re-entry after the first Artemis test flight. His work leading inspection, testing, and ma-

terials analysis helped improve the design and ensure the safety of future missions.

Abel's path to NASA began in Mississippi. After graduating from Holmes Junior College in 1979, he went on to earn a bachelor's degree in nuclear engineering (1982) and a master's in mechanical engineering (1983) from Mississippi State University.

But for Abel, the roots of his success stretch back to his hometown and his Holmes experience.

"Holmes gave me the foundation I needed," Abel said. "It was a place where people cared about your success — both in and out of the classroom."

The Silver Snoopy Award is one of NASA's highest honors, presented personally by astronauts to less than 1 percent of the agency's workforce. It recognizes outstanding achievements related to flight safety and mission success.

Abel serves as a technical liaison with Lockheed Martin at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Hunts-

ville, AL, where he oversees engineering efforts tied to the Orion spacecraft — the vehicle that will carry astronauts on deep-space missions as part of Artemis.

His efforts previously earned him NASA's Distinguished Public Service Medal in 2017, the agency's highest honor for non-government employees.

As NASA prepares for the next Artemis missions, Abel continues to play a critical role in ensuring Orion's systems meet the demands of deep-space flight. Yet despite the high-tech surroundings of his daily work, he remains grounded in the values instilled in Lexington and at Holmes.

Abel is married to Linda Sims Abel, also a 1979 Holmes graduate. The couple met during their time at the college. He is the son of Alice Abel of Lexington and the late Phillip Abel.

For the Holmes Community College family, Abel's story serves as a reminder that great achievements often begin right here in Mississippi.

Musical ensembles perform for the annual Carols of Christmas

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College's musical ensembles - Holmes Connection!, the Concert Chorale and the Coachmen singers - presented their annual Carols of Christmas event on Thursday, Dec. 4, in McDaniel Auditorium on the Goodman Campus.

Coachmen singers are directed by Mike Yates and Drew Trautman; the Holmes Connection! is directed by Yates and the Concert Chorale is directed by Trautman with Donna Banks as the accompanist.



Coachmen singers perform worship songs during Carols of Christmas.



Chorale Director **Drew Trauman** welcomes everyone.



Connection! performs with special guests, **Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer**, **Frosty the Snowman** and **Santa**.



The **Concert Chorale** performs during Carols of Christmas.

Holmes Ridgeland celebrates wellness with annual Turk-o-Thon event

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus STEM Department hosted its annual Turk-o-Thon on Nov. 17, promoting health and wellness before the holiday season. The event featured several campus programs collaborating to offer services and activities for students and faculty.

The day's activities included therapeutic massages provided by Massage Therapy students, while Culinary Arts students offered participants healthy

treats. Associate Degree Nursing students were on hand to give blood pressure checks.

Fitness opportunities included a yoga flow session led by fitness instructor and Holmes alumna Rochelle Culp Thompson and a turkey trot run that looped around the campus grounds. The event emphasized a healthy start to the holidays through community engagement and hands-on participation from various academic departments.

Holmes Grenada Campus hosts festive student Holiday Wrap-Up

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College’s Grenada Campus celebrated the conclusion of the fall semester by hosting a student Christmas party on Tuesday, Dec. 3.

The event, which provided a relaxing and fun break before finals, featured games, snacks, and a holiday movie for students to enjoy. The campus successfully created a cheerful atmosphere for the academic community.



Holmes Grenada ADN and EMS students participate in mass-casualty training exercise

From Staff Reports/Photos



Evening Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) and Emergency Medical Science (EMS) students at Holmes Community College’s Grenada Campus participated in a mass-casualty simulation on Oct. 27, working together to respond to a staged bus-crash scenario designed to test emergency readiness and clinical decision-making.

The hands-on exercise required ADN students to assess and provide patient care while EMS students practiced triage, stabilization and transport procedures. The simulation emphasized real-world coordination between the two disciplines, mirroring the teamwork essential during large-scale emergencies.

Faculty members from both programs said the training helps students strengthen critical-thinking skills, communicate under pressure and apply classroom instruction in a realistic environment.

The mass-casualty drill is a key component of practical training for both the ADN program, which prepares students for licensure as registered nurses, and the EMS program, which trains students to become emergency medical technicians and paramedics.

The simulation showcased strong collaboration, technical skill and professionalism from all students involved.

Goodman ADN students gain critical real-world experience in county-wide disaster drill

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College Goodman Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) students successfully participated in a crucial county-wide disaster drill hosted by Baptist Attala on Oct.16. The full-scale exercise was designed to simulate a mass casualty event following a tornado, involving 30 mock victims with injuries ranging from mild to severe.

The drill provided a valuable, hands-on learning opportunity for the students to apply and hone their skills in a high-stress, real-world scenario.

Nursing 4 students worked directly at the disaster site, assisting first

responders with initial triage and care. Nursing 2 students were stationed at the mock emergency room, managing victims upon their arrival and assisting with subsequent treatment.

The drill underscored the importance of adhering to the established emergency response protocol, highlighting how following procedures ensures safety, coordination and efficiency when every second is critical in saving lives.

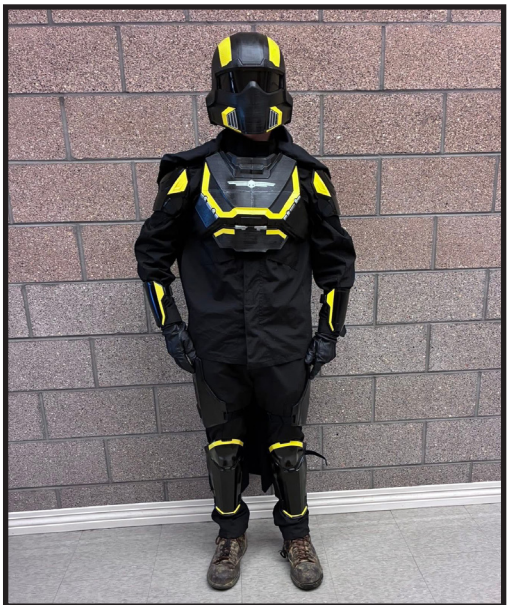
The Goodman ADN Program prepares students for a career as a registered nurse through rigorous coursework and clinical experiences.

Holmes Grenada Campus holds Halloween Costume Contest

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College’s Grenada Campus celebrated Halloween with its annual costume contest on Oct. 31, recognizing students and employees who showcased creativity and school spirit.

Collin Pannell won Best Student Costume for his portrayal of a Super Earth Trooper. Best Employee Costume was awarded to Tyler Winter, who dressed as an astronaut. The Best Duo honor went to Dulce Ramirez and Alex Anderson for their themed costumes as Little Red Riding Hood and the Big Bad Wolf. The event brought festive energy to campus.



Colin Pannell



Tyler Winter



Dulce Ramirez and Alex Anderson

Holmes congratulates new Professional Truck Drivers

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College Workforce Development is pleased to announce the successful completion of the Professional Truck Driver Training program by three graduates from the Grenada Campus.

Kendall Love, Travis Wilks and Marcus Jones have successfully completed the rigorous training curriculum, which equips students with the necessary knowledge and skills to enter the high-demand field of commercial trucking.

The Professional Truck Driver Train-

ing program is designed to prepare students for the Commercial Driver's License (CDL) exam and includes essential training in vehicle inspection, safety regulations, trip planning, and road skills.

Holmes Community College Workforce Development offers specialized training programs designed to meet the labor demands of Central Mississippi businesses, providing individuals with the skills needed for successful careers in various technical and industrial fields.

Holmes collision repair program recognized by Madison County for fire truck refinish

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured with the refinished Madison County fire truck are (left to right) Madison County Mega Site Alliance Fire District Board Members **Bo Jordan** and **Calvin Garrett**; Holmes Vice President and current Board of Trustees member **Joe Adams**; Holmes alumnus and Madison County Fire Coordinator **Minor Norman**, Madison County Board of Supervisors President **Gerald Steen**; Holmes Vice President **Dr. Bronwyn Martin**; Holmes Vice President for Career Technical Education **Dr. Amy Whittington** and Holmes Collision Repair Instructor **Casey Caldwell**.

During their monthly meeting, the Madison County Board of Supervisors recognized Holmes Community College's Collision Repair Technology

program on Nov. 17 for its outstanding work in refinishing a heavy rescue fire truck for the Madison County Fire Department. The project, completed

this fall, was designed to match the department's 9/11 Commemorative Fire Truck and has been praised as a significant contribution to both the county and local first responders.

The recognition was led by Madison County Fire Coordinator Minor Norman, a proud Holmes alumnus with deep ties to the college. Norman not only completed the Industrial Maintenance program on the Goodman Campus, but also played baseball for the Bulldogs during his time at Holmes. His history as a student-athlete and his continued involvement with the college have made him a strong supporter of Holmes' career-technical programs and their role in preparing the local workforce.

During the Board meeting, Norman presented the finished rescue truck and commended the Collision Repair students for their professionalism, craftsmanship and dedication to the project. He emphasized how the partnership with Holmes allowed students to gain real-world experience while helping

enhance the fire department's fleet.

Collision Repair students Conner Campbell, Toba Ghazi, Timothy Pate, Everette Smith, Kendall Williamson and Antonio Wilson completed the painting and refinishing work under the guidance of instructor Casey Caldwell.

The recognition also highlighted the longstanding relationship between Madison County and Holmes Community College—a connection Norman has championed publicly, including earlier this year at a Grip N' Grin event where he shared the students' progress on the truck.

Holmes' Collision Repair Technology program provides hands-on training in automotive painting, refinishing and structural repair, preparing students for careers in the automotive repair industry through rigorous, industry-aligned coursework. For more information about the Collision Repair Technology program at Holmes, contact instructor Casey Caldwell at ccaldwell@holmescc.edu.

Holmes hosts “Holmes for the Holidays” event at Ridgeland Hall

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus celebrated the holiday season with a Holmes for the Holidays event, held in Ridgeland Hall.

The event featured a free hot cocoa bar, a holiday ugly sweater contest, an Engineering Technology Mini Market showcasing student innovations, Christmas card decorating and sweet treats prepared by the college's Culinary Arts Program.

Holmes for the Holidays was hosted with support from the Student Government Association, STEM Club, Engineering Technology Program, and the Culinary Arts Program.



Carr family’s legacy runs deep at Holmes Community College

From Staff Reports/Photos



(left to right) **Jack Carr** and his father **Robby Carr** pose for a photo with Holmes gear from their football days.

As Holmes Community College celebrates its 100th year, few families reflect the college’s deep community roots and history quite like the Carr family of Ridgeland. With three generations of Bulldogs, family land that became part of both the Holmes Ridgeland Campus and Ridgeland High School, and a home still standing beside the campus today, the Carrs have been connected to Holmes since 1960.

Robby Carr, a 1993 Holmes alumnus and former football player on the Goodman Campus, represents the second generation in a long line of Bulldogs. His father, Harvey Price Carr Jr., played football for Holmes in 1960–61, and his brother, Chad Carr, attended Holmes from 1996–97 on the Ridgeland Campus. Continuing the

tradition, Robby’s son, Jack Carr, was a punter for the Bulldogs in 2020.

“The Ridgeland Campus was a cow pasture when I was 10 or 11,” Robby recalled. “We lived in a house off Carr Road—now Topgolf—and later bought the house next door to what is now the campus. Holmes approached my grandfather and dad about buying the land, and those conversations helped shape what the Ridgeland Campus is today.”

In the early 1980s, Robby’s grandfather and great-uncles sold the first 40 acres to Holmes, enabling the Ridgeland Campus to open for classes in 1985. A second land sale in 2001 expanded the property to approximately 80 acres. Robby’s grandfather and one of his brothers also sold another 80-acre tract that is now home to

Ridgeland High School, extending the family’s legacy in local education.

“My dad served four terms—16 years—as Alderman in Ridgeland alongside Mayor Gene McGee,” Robby said. “Public service runs deep in our family. My great-great-grandfather, John Wesley Carr, who moved our family here in 1899, served as Mayor of Ridgeland in the early 1900s. His son, my great-grandfather, Jack Carr—whom my son Jack is named after—also served several years as an Alderman.”

Robby’s connection to Holmes runs deep, stretching from his own time on the football field to his visits cheering on the Bulldogs over the past 30 years—especially when his son Jack wore the team’s jersey. But his ties to Ridgeland go even further back. It was Robby’s great-great-grandfather who first brought the Carr family to the area to work for the Highland Colony Company, a farming business that attracted families from the North with its milder climate and rich agricultural opportunities. In many ways, Robby’s time at Holmes and his ongoing presence at games is a continuation of a legacy that began more than a century ago, rooted in both family and community.

“Many families, including ours, moved South because of the weather,” Robby said.

Today, Robby serves as senior vice president of Origin Bank, a position he has held since 2011, following a decade as assistant vice president at Regions Bank. He holds a bachelor’s degree in business, management, marketing and related support services from Delta State University, where he made both the President’s and Dean’s Lists and played football. He remains actively involved in community leadership, serving as treasurer of the Historical Committee of Ridgeland since 2012, as well as in past roles on the Madison and Ridgeland Chambers of Commerce boards.

Robby’s wife, Suzanne McKnight Carr, is also a 1993 Holmes alumna. Although they didn’t date during college, they reconnected years later and married in 2020. The couple now live in the same home beside the Ridgeland Campus that has been in the Carr family for generations—where their three dogs, Conway (a dachshund), Dixie (a female doberman) and Mijo Von Carr (their newest addition, a male doberman), have become the unofficial mascots for the Holmes soccer team.

“Holmes has been part of my family for as long as I can remember,” Robby said. “It’s more than a college to us—it’s part of our history, our community and our home.”

Goodman History Club donates supplies to Holmes County Food Bank

From Staff Reports/Photos



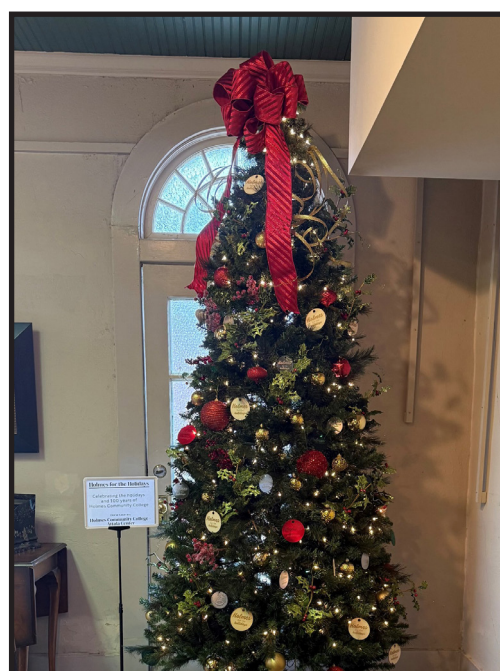
The Holmes Community College Goodman History Club recently completed a campus-wide donation drive, delivering a substantial collection of non-perishable goods to the Holmes County Food Bank.

The food bank, which is partnered with the Mississippi Food Pantry, will distribute the items to individuals and families facing food insecurity in the area.

The effort underscores the club’s commitment to civic engagement and community service.

Holmes Attala Center decorates Christmas tree for Historical Society

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College’s Attala Center decorated a Christmas tree for the Attala County Historical Society at the Mary Ricks Cultural Center as part of a community holiday display.

The Mary Ricks Cultural Center, located in downtown Kosciusko, houses the Attala County Historical Society and serves as a hub for preserving and showcasing the county’s history, culture and heritage through exhibits and community events.

Construction 101: Holmes Community College to offer Construction Readiness Training

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College Workforce Development, in partnership with the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District (CMPDD), will host a Mississippi Reconnect Construction 101 (NCCER Core) training course beginning in January 2026 on the Ridgeland Campus.

As part of the Mississippi Reconnect initiative, the program is designed to help individuals enter or advance in the skilled trades. The course is open to all community members—no prior construction experience required.

Classes will run Jan. 12–Feb. 12, Monday through Thursday, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Participants will gain foundational knowledge in construction safety, hand and power tools, construction math, communication skills

and other essential areas aligned with NCCER Core curriculum standards.

Holmes’ goal is to provide accessible training that empowers individuals to learn a new skill, build confidence and prepare for a high-demand career path. This partnership with CMPDD allows the college to expand opportunities for adult learners looking to reconnect with education and workforce training.

For more information or to register, those interested can call a career coach at one of the following locations:

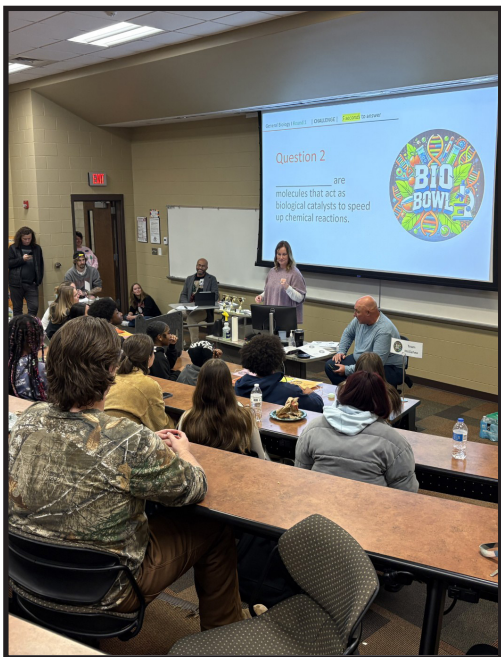
Jackson WIN Job Center: 601-414-7796

Pearl WIN Job Center: 601-936-1903

Vicksburg WIN Job Center: 601-619-2841

Holmes Ridgeland Biology Faculty hosts BIO Bowl

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus biology faculty hosted the annual BIO Bowl on Dec. 3, bringing together face-to-face biology students for a friendly challenge of trivia and review questions to prepare for final exams. Students were invited to compete or cheer on their classmates and instructors as they battled it out to see which instructor's class would reign supreme. It was a fun afternoon of learning, teamwork and friendly competition.

Madison police officer speaks to Holmes government class

From Staff Reports/Photos



Students in Kay Kelly's American National Government class at Holmes Community College's Ridgeland Campus welcomed guest speaker Shift Commander Neil Jenkins of the Madison Police Department. Jenkins shared insights into law enforcement and public service during a discussion titled "What Have You Always Wanted to Ask a Police Officer?" The visit was especially meaningful for the class, as Jenkins is also Kelly's son, providing a memorable opportunity for students to learn from an experienced officer while witnessing a unique

Holmes Grands & Gadgets students assist residents at The Waterford

From Staff Reports/Photos

Students from the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus organization Grands & Gadgets visited The Waterford retirement home on Tuesday, Nov. 18. During the visit, members helped residents with technology questions and devices. One moment stood out to club advisor Suzanne Haney. "One gentleman was losing his sight and could not use his phone," Haney said. "The students showed him how to use Siri, and a whole new world opened up to him. We helped him call his daughter using Siri, and it was so heartwarming when she answered, 'Hi, Dad!!'" Grands & Gadgets is dedicated to bridging the gap between generations through technology support, service and connection.



Holmes hosts Friends After Five networking event

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College hosted former Gov. Haley Barbour's Friends After Five event on Nov. 20 at the Ridgeland Campus, bringing together community leaders, supporters and guests for an evening of fellowship. The event was an incredible networking opportunity for those in attendance. Holmes faculty, staff, students and community members enjoyed refreshments, conversations and making connection.



Lady Bulldogs place seven on the All-MACCC team

From Staff Reports/Photos



On Dec. 8, Holmes Community College Lady Bulldog soccer sophomores Kaylee Avant and Brooklynn Samonski signed to continue their collegiate careers at four-year universities. Avant is set to join Mississippi College, while Samonski will head to the University of South Alabama.

Avant, a sophomore midfielder from Newton County and the daughter of Josh and Lacey Avant, and Samonski, a sophomore midfielder from Nottingham, New Jersey, and the daughter of Shawn and Rose Samonski, were key contributors to the Lady Bulldogs' success over the past two seasons.

Both players earned recognition for their standout play during the 2025 season with selections to the All-MACCC team. Avant was named to the First Team, which placed her into consideration for the NJCAA All-Region team,

while Samonski received an Honorable Mention.

Avant finished among the Lady Bulldogs' leading scorers heading into the NJCAA semifinals with six goals, four assists, and 16 points. Her clutch play was highlighted by scoring the only goal in the 11th minute of the 1-0 victory over Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in the NJCAA tournament. Samonski also contributed offensively during the season, scoring a goal in the 60th minute of a 3-0 win over Hinds Community College. She also helped the Lady Bulldogs secure a 4-0 win over the East Mississippi Community College Lady Lions by assisting Raven Pernell on the opening goal just one minute into the first half.

The Lady Bulldogs finished the 2025 season with an impressive 17-3 record and a MACCC championship.

Bulldogs knock off the Knights, 100-63

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs finished first semester play with a record of 10-1 after defeating the Louisiana Knights, 100-63, at home on Saturday, Dec.13 .

Holmes led 47-27 at halftime and then outscored the Knights 53-36 in the second half.

Isaiah Patrick led the Bulldogs with 23 points off the bench. David Washington had 16 and Trey Alexander added 15. Andrew Mancell led with nine rebounds.

The Bulldogs shot 55.1 percent from the floor, 53.8 from the three-point line and 91 percent from the free throw line.

Lady Bulldogs get 69-39 win over Southwest Lady Bears

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs improved to 7-3 with a 69-39 win over the Southwest Mississippi Community College Lady Bears here Thursday night.

The Lady Bulldogs led 20-0 after one period and 38-15 at halftime. Holmes outscored Southwest 31-24 in the second half to secure the win.

Jessica Cullins led the Lady Bulldogs with 12 points while Lakayla Lewis had 11. Lewis led with nine rebounds.

Sims, Taylor named to the NJCAA All-Tournament Team

From Staff Reports/Photos



Tyler Grace Sims



Daysha Taylor

Tyler Grace Sims and Daysha Taylor have been named to the 2025 NJCAA Division II Women's Soccer All-Tournament Team.

Sims, Taylor and the Lady Bulldogs had a great showing in the national tournament but fell in the semifinals to Heartland Community College, 2-1.

Holmes defeated Rock Valley, 3-0, and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, 1-0, in pool play.

Sims, a Northwest Rankin product from Brandon, scored a goal against Heartland and added an assist in the Rock Valley match. Taylor is a Navarre, Florida product from Navarre, Florida.

Bulldogs improve to 9-1 with win over Meridian

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs improved to 9-1 on the season with a 77-57 win over the Meridian Community College Eagles at home Thursday night, Dec. 11.

The Bulldogs led 36-25 at halftime and then outscored the Eagles, 41-22, in the second half.

Andrew Mancell led the Bulldog with 19 points while Trey Alexander had 13, Markalon Rochell had 12, and David Washington and Kameryn Bailey each had 10. Mancell led with eight rebounds.

Holmes shot 52.7 percent from the floor and 42.9 percent from the three-point line.

Rochell had 18, Bass 13 and Andrew Mancell had 11. Rochell and Mancell each had seven rebounds.

Lady Bulldogs fall to Lady Rangers, 72-58

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs fell to the Northwest Mississippi Community College Lady Rangers, 72-58, in Senatobia on Dec. 8.

Samora Moody and Zion Harvey each had 10 points. Moody had six rebounds while Kelsey Joseph and Harvey each had five.

Against Hinds on Friday, Dec. 5, the Lady Bulldogs won 75-68.

Kelsey Joseph led with 18 points while Cynia Johnson had 12 and Hannah Finley had 11. Lakayla Lewis had eight rebounds while Moody and Harvey each had five.

Lady Bulldogs place seven on the All-MACCC team

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs placed seven players on the All-MACCC team for their play during the 2025 season.

The Lady Bulldogs captured the MACCC title, their fifth in the last seven years. Holmes won their first two pool games in the NJCAA National Tournament before falling in the semi-finals in Wichita, Kansas.

Awards included: Maddie Caldwell, Kaylee Avant, Tyler Grace Sims, Daysha Taylor, First Team; Lilly Callum, Second Team; and Aly Vancor and Brooklynn Samonski, Honorable Men-

tion. Caldwell is a freshman midfielder from Jackson Prep, Avant is a sophomore midfielder from Newton County, Sims is a freshman midfielder from Northwest Rankin, Taylor is a sophomore defender from Navarre, Fla., Callum is a freshman goalkeeper from Madison Central, Vancor is a freshman goalkeeper from Northwest Rankin and Samonski is a sophomore midfielder from Nottingham, N.J.

Caldwell, Avant, Sims and Taylor were then put into consideration for the NJCAA All-Region team.

Holmes defeats Baton Rouge, 60-59

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs held on for a 60-59 win at home on Wednesday night, Dec. 3, over Baton Rouge Community College. Zion Harvey hit two free throws with 48 seconds left to propel the Lady Bulldogs to victory.

Holmes improved to 5-2 overall.

Baton Rouge led 17-13 after one period before the Lady Bulldogs outscored the Lady Bears, 20-11, to lead 33-28

at halftime. Baton Rouge outscored Holmes 31-27 in the second half but it wasn't enough as they missed a shot at the buzzer.

Zion Harvey led the Lady Bulldogs with 18 points while Stella Havard had 12 and Lakayla Lewis had 11. Kiara Shely led the Lady Bulldogs with eight rebounds.

Lady Bulldogs come up short in NJCAA semifinals

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs' run in the 2025 NJCAA Division II Women's National Soccer Tournament came to a close in Wichita, Kansas on Nov. 20 after falling to Heartland, Ill., 2-1.

Holmes finished the season, 17-3, with a MACCC championship. The Lady Bulldogs competed in their fifth NJCAA semifinals in the last six national tournaments. Holmes defeated Rock Valley 3-0 on Sunday night and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, 1-0, on Tuesday night to advance to the semifinals. Heartland will play Northwest Mississippi Community College in the national champion-

ship on Saturday.

Heartland scored in the 16th minute to go up 1-0 and led at halftime.

Heartland scored again in the 77th minute to go up 2-0.

The Lady Bulldogs got on the scoreboard in the 84th minute when Tyler Grace Sims sent a rebounded ball of the goalkeeper into the back of the net.

Holmes outshot Heartland, 18-4, and 7-3 in shots on goal in the contest.

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

Bulldogs get non-conference win over the Rangers

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs improved to 8-1 on the season with a 104-94 over the Northwest Mississippi Community College Rangers in Senatobia on Dec. 8.

Northwest led 49-47 at halftime before the Bulldogs outscored the Rangers 49-47 in the second half.

Trey Alexander led the Bulldogs with 22 points while Tre' Voin Bass added 18, Jhamien Smith had 16, Markalon Rochell had 15, Emajai Horton 13 and Isaiah Patrick 10.

Smith finished with 12 rebounds while Horton had 11.

The Bulldogs shot 53 percent from the floor in the game.

Against Hinds on Friday, the Bulldogs won 92-84 in Utica.

Alexander led with 20 points while Rochell had 18, Bass 13 and Andrew Mancell had 11. Rochell and Mancell each had seven rebounds.

Lady Bulldogs knock off Lady Trojans, 55-47

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs knocked off the Mississippi Delta Community College Lady Trojans, 55-47, in Goodman on Monday night, Nov. 24.

Holmes improved to 4-2 on the season.

Delta led 24-23 at halftime before the Lady Bulldogs outscored the Lady Trojans, 32-23, in the second half to pull out the win.

Cynia Johnson led the Lady Bulldogs with 20 points while Zion Harvey had 14. Johnson had 13 rebounds while Harvey had seven.

Lady Bulldogs pick up 1-0 win over Gulf Coast; head to NJCAA semifinals

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs picked up a 1-0 win over Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Tuesday, Nov. 18 to advance to the 2025 NJCAA Division II Women’s Soccer Tournament semifinals on Thursday, Nov. 20.

Holmes improved to 17-2 overall and will play Heartland at 12:30 p.m. in the semifinals. Heartland defeated Pima to advance.

The Lady Bulldogs scored in the 11th minute on a goal from Kaylee Avant on an assist from Mallory Sutton. Neither team was able to score the remainder of the match.

Aly Vancor got the start and went 45 minutes with three saves while Lilly Callum played the final 45 minutes and had two saves.

Bulldogs get 90-67 win over Baton Rouge Bears

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs used a 58-point second half to get a 23-point win, 90-67, over the Baton Rouge Bears at home on Dec. 3.

Holmes improved to 6-1 on the season.

The game was tied at 32 at halftime. Markalon Rochell led the Bulldogs with 23 points while Isaiah Patrick added 20 and Trey Alexander Jhamien Smith each had 12. Patrick had six rebounds and Rochell had five.

The Bulldogs shot 55.9 percent from the floor and 36.4 percent from three-point range.

Lady Bulldogs finish sweep of Delgado, 68-63

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs finished up a season sweep of Delgado Community College in New Orleans on Nov. 20 with a 68-63 win.

Holmes trailed 31-29 at halftime.

Kiara Shelly led the Lady Bulldogs with 17 points while Zion Harvey had 13 and Samora Moody had 10. Shelly had 12 rebounds.

Against Baton Rouge, the Lady Bulldogs fell 63-40.

Moody led with nine points while Shelly had seven, Cynia Johnson six and Zion Harvey had five.

Holmes wins 3-0 over Rock Valley in NJCAA Pool Play

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs improved to 16-2 overall with a 3-0 win in Wichita, Kansas, on Sunday, Nov. 16 over Rock Valley in pool play of the 2025 NJCAA Women’s Division II National Tournament.

The Lady Bulldogs got on the scoreboard in the eighth minute when Emma Korhonen scored on an assist from Zion Causey. Holmes led 1-0 at halftime.

Korhonen added her second goal in the 60th minute on an assist from Tyler Grace Sims to go up 2-0.

Jessica Adamson scored in the 75th minute on an assist from Akala Jacobs to end all scoring.

Aly Vancor started in goal and had two saves in 45 minutes. Lilly Callum played the final 45 minutes and had three saves.

Bulldogs improve to 5-1 with a 68-67 win over Southern-Shreveport

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs improved to 5-1 overall with a 68-67 win in Shreveport on Saturday, Nov. 22, over Southern University-Shreveport.

Markalon Rochell led the Bulldogs with 23 points while Trey Alexander had 12. Deriyon Graydon led with seven rebounds and added nine points.

On Thursday, Nov. 20, the Bulldogs picked up a 77-59 against Delgado in New Orleans. Holmes led 36-27 at halftime.

Tre’Voin Bass led the Bulldogs with 14 points. Andrew Mancell had 12, Jhamien Smith and Emajai Horton each had 11 and Deriyon Graydon and Jacobe Cavett each had 10.

Against Baton Rouge on Nov. 13, the Bulldogs won 72-70.

Andrew Mancell led with 14 points while Jhamien Smith had 13, Alexander had 12 and David Washington and Rochell each added 11. Rochell led with six rebounds.

Holmes faces Rock Valley in NJCAA Tournament pool play

From Staff Reports/Photos



The No. 2 ranked and No. 4 NJCAA Tournament seed Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs began pool play Sunday, Nov. 16 against No. 11 and

No. 9 NJCAA Tournament seed Rock Valley. Holmes went into the match 15-2 while Rock Valley was 17-2-2. Gulf

Coast was the No. 5 seed and finished No. 5 in the final regular season poll. Leading scorers for the Lady Bulldogs included: Tyler Grace Sims (NW Rankin), 6 goals, 7 assists, 19 points; Mallory Sutton (Saint Amant, La.), 7 goals, 5 assists, 19 points; Kate Gray Nesbit (NW Rankin), 7 goals, 2 assists, 16 points; Kaylee Avant (Newton County), 5 goals, 4 assists, 14 points; Maddie Caldwell (Jackson Prep), 6 goals, 2 assists, 14 points; and Emma Korhonen (Foley, Ala.), 3 goals, 6 assists, 12 points. The Lady Bulldogs scored 2.94 goals per match and gave up less than one goal per match. Aly Vancor (NW Rankin) and Lilly Callum (Madison Central) split time in goal. Vancor recorded 730 minutes in goal, 20 saves and three goals against. Callum had 765 minutes in goal, seven goals against and 44 saves.

Emilia Arias (Carpentersville, Ill.) led Rock Valley with 9 goals, 11 assists and 29 points. Other leaders included: Kassandra Jimenez (Belvidere, Ill.), 8 goals, 8 assists, 24 points; Hailey Wesphal (Winnebago, Ill.), 8 goals, 8 assists, 24 points; Johanna Hawley (Rockford, Ill.), 7 goals, 7 assists, 21 points; and Joscelyn Posada (Cherry Valley, Ill.), 6 goals, 9 assists, 21 points. The Golden Eagles scored 3.57 goals per match and gave up less than one goal per game. Rock Valley gave up 16 goals on the season and played three goalkeepers, including: Sarethia Marquez (Rockford, Ill.), 340 minutes, 0 goals, 4 saves; Kristina Vinger (Dodgeville, Wis.), 405 minutes, 3 goals, 17 saves; and Kailie Murphy (Belvidere, Ill.), 1080 minutes, 13 goals, 37 saves.

Bulldogs fall to Lions, 83-75

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs fell to 2-1 on the season after falling in Scooba on Monday night, Nov. 10 to East Mississippi Community College, 83-75. Holmes led 43-35 at halftime, and the Lions outscored the Bulldogs 48-32 in the second half to pull out the win. Trey Alexander led the Bulldogs with 24 points while Markalon Rochell had 13 and Jhamien Smith had 11. Rochell led in rebounds with five.

Lady Bulldogs knock off Lady Lions, 59-52

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs improved to 2-1 on the season with a 59-52 win over East Mississippi Community College in Scooba on Monday night, Nov. 10. The Lady Bulldogs led 37-24 at halftime. East Mississippi outscored the Lady Bulldogs, 28-22, in the second half, but Holmes pulled out the win. Zion Harvey led the Lady Bulldogs with 20 points while Kiara Shelly had 17. Da'Riyah Mayers led in rebounds with 12 while Shelly had 11.

Lady Bulldogs head to 6th NJCAA Division II Women’s National Tournament

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs were selected as an At-Large Team and the No. 4 seed and are headed to their sixth straight NJCAA Division II Women’s Soccer Tournament (Nov. 16-22) in Wichita, Kansas at the Scheels Stryker Sports Complex. Holmes finished the season, 15-2 and No. 2 in the final regular season poll. The Lady Bulldogs went into the tour-

namment as the No. 4 seed. Teams with automatic bids were UA Cossatot (Ark.), Rock Valley (Ill.), Sussex County (N.J.), Iowa Lakes (Iowa), Heartland (Ill.), Southern Union State (Ala.), Northwest (Miss.) and Pima (Ariz.). The at-large teams included Holmes (Miss.), Jones (Miss.), Mississippi Gulf Coast (Miss.) and Johnson County (Kan.).

Of the 12 teams in the tournament, the Lady Bulldogs had played four of them. Holmes defeated Southern Union State, 1-0, Northwest, 2-1, and Gulf Coast, 2-1 but split with Jones winning 2-1 and falling 2-1 in 2OTs in the Region finale. The remaining pools included: Pool A, No. 1 Johnson County, No. 8 Jones and No. 12 UA Cossatot; Pool B, No. 2 Northwest, No. 7 Iowa Lakes and No. 11 Southern Union State; and Pool C, No. 3 Heartland, No. 6 Pima and No. 10 Sussex County. Winners of each pool advanced to the semifinals. The semifinals were played on Nov. 20 at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. with the national championship on Nov. 22 at 1 p.m. In the final regular season poll, nine of the teams participating were ranked. Johnson County, No. 1, Holmes, No. 2, Northwest, No. 3, Heartland, No. 4, Gulf Coast, No. 5, Jones, No. 7, Rock Valley, No. 11, Pima, No. 13 and Iowa Lakes, No. 15. Sussex, UA Cossatot and Southern Union were unranked. The 2020-21 season was the first

season for a NJCAA Division II Tournament, and the Lady Bulldogs made an appearance in Evans, Ga. Holmes went 2-0 in pool play and then defeated Heartland, 2-1, in double OT before falling to Phoenix in the National Championship game. In 2021-22, the Lady Bulldogs played two pool games and went 1-1 and were unable to advance to the semifinals. The tournament was held in Wichita, Kansas. In 2022-23, the Lady Bulldogs went 1-0-1 in pool play and advanced to the semifinals on penalty kicks. Holmes defeated Jones, 2-1, in the semifinals before falling to Phoenix in the National Championship Game. The tournament was held in Tucson, Ariz. In 2023-24, the Lady Bulldogs went 2-0 in pool play and fell to Jones in the semifinals. The tournament was held in Tucson, Ariz. In 2024-25, the Lady Bulldogs went 2-0 in pool play and fell to Northwest in the semifinals. The tournament was held in Huntsville, Ala.

Bulldogs get 104-54 win over ASU-N

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs improved to 2-0 on the season at home Thursday night, Nov. 6, with a 104-54 win over Arkansas State University-Newport.

The Bulldogs led 44-17 at halftime and then scored 60 in the second pull out the 50-point win.

Jakobe Cavett and Tre’Voin Bass scored 14 points off the bench to lead the Bulldogs. Jhamien Smith followed with 13, Markalon Rochell had 12, Isaiah Patrick had 11 and Lebron Johnson had 10. Deriyon Graydon and Smith each had six rebounds.

The Bulldogs shot 64 percent from the floor and 53.6 from the three-point line.

Lady Bulldogs knock off Lady Dolphins, 93-51

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs picked up a 93-51 win at home on Tuesday, Nov. 4, over the Delgado Community College Lady Dolphins.

Holmes led 31-24 at halftime and then outscored Delgado 62-27 in the second half.

Kiara Shelly led the Lady Bulldogs with 22 points while Zion Harvey had 16. Lakayla Lewis led the Lady Bulldogs with eight rebounds.

Holmes falls to Jones in Region semifinal, 2-1, in 2OT

From Staff Reports/Photos



The No. 2 ranked Holmes Lady Bulldogs fell at home in the semifinals of the NJCAA Region 23/Gulf South District Tournament to the No. 7 ranked Jones College Bobcats, 2-1, in double OT.

Holmes, the MACCC champion and tournament No. 1 seed, fell to 15-2 on the season. The Lady Bulldogs now await word on the NJCAA Division II National Tournament.

Holmes took a 1-0 lead in the eighth minute when Brooklyn Samonski scored. Jones answered in the 14th minute and the match was tied at half-time. Both teams had chances to score in the second half but were unable to.

The match went to the first overtime, and neither team was able to score. Jones scored in the first minute of the second overall to pull out the win.

Bulldogs open season with 72-64 win over Delgado

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs picked up a 72-64 win here Tuesday night over the Delgado Community College Dolphins.

Holmes led Delgado 47-27 at halftime, but Delgado outscored the Bulldogs, 37-25, in the second half to battle back but it wasn’t enough.

Trey Alexander led the Bulldogs with 20 points while David Washington had 10. Andrew Mancell led in rebounds with eight while Tre’Voin Bass had six and Markalon Rochell, Malik McGuire and Washington each had five rebounds.

Lady Bulldogs fall 68-66 in season opener

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs fell here 68-66 in the season opener against Copiah-Lincoln Community College on Saturday.

The game was tied at 30, and Co-Lin outscored the Lady Bulldogs, 38-36, in the second half.

Zion Harvey led the Lady Bulldogs with 25 points while Kelsey Joseph added 13. Cynia Johnson led with six rebounds while Samora Moody, Lakayla Lewis and Kiara Shelly each had five.

Holmes faced off against Jones in Region 23 Tournament

From Staff Reports/Photos



The No. 2 ranked Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs played No. 7 Jones College in the Region 23/Gulf South District semi-finals on Wednesday, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m.

Holmes came into the match 15-1 overall and had won their fifth MAC-

CC championship in the last five of seven years. Jones was 11-4-2 overall. Holmes had defeated Jones in Ellisville, 2-1, on Oct. 10. Northwest faced Gulf Coast in the other semifinal at 4:30 p.m. The winner of the tournament received an automatic berth in the NJ-

CAA National Tournament in Wichita, Kansas.

Leading scorers for the Lady Bulldogs included: Tyler Grace Sims (NW Rankin), six goals, seven assists, 19 points; Mallory Sutton (Saint Amant, La.), seven goals, five assists, 19 points; Kate Gray Nesbit (NW Rankin), seven goals, two assists, 16 points; Kaylee Avant (Newton County), five goals, four assists, 14 points; Maddie Caldwell (Jackson Prep), six goals, two assists, 14 points; and Emma Korhonen (Foley, Ala.), three goals, six assists, 12 points.

The Lady Bulldogs had been scoring 3.06 goals per match and were giving up less than one goal per match.

Aly Vancor (NW Rankin) and Lilly Callum (Madison Central) had split time in goal. Vancor had 675 minutes in goal, 18 saves and three goals against. Callum had 720 minutes in

goal, five goals against and 41 saves.

Leading scorers for the Bobcats had included: Sherline King (Instituto Nacional de Panama), 23 goals, seven assists, 53 points; Magdalena Polrol-niczak (SMS Junior Wroclaw), four goals, three assists, 11 points; Jameyah Hubbard (Tupelo), three goals, four assists, 10 points; and Nadia Sobel (SMS Junior Wroclaw), four goals, two assists, 10 points. The Bobcats had been scoring 2.71 goals per match and were giving up 1.35 goals per match.

Jennifer Huerzeler (BWZ Rapperswil) had played 1170 minutes in goal and had given up 15 goals and had 61 saves. Sara Kate Jefcoat (West Jones) had played 360 minutes in goal and had given up eight goals and had 10 saves.

Bulldogs open season Nov. 4 vs. Delgado

From Staff Reports/Photos



The 2025-26 Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs returned four players from the 2024-25 team. The Lady Bulldogs opened the season on Nov. 1 at 2 p.m. vs. Copiah-Lincoln at home.

Returning players included: Kelsey Joseph, sophomore, guard, Lumberton; Hannah Finley, sophomore, guard, Pontotoc; Da'Riyah Mayers, sophomore, forward, Forest; and Kiara Shelly, sophomore, guard/forward, North Pontotoc.

Newcomers included: Stella Havard, freshman, guard, Central Hinds; Samora Moody, freshman, guard, Greer,

S.C.; Jessica Cullins, freshman, guard, Nettleton; Lakayla Lewis, freshman, forward, Lanier; Zipora Sullivan, freshman, guard, Fountain Inn, S.C.; Jazma Hooks, sophomore guard, Jonesboro, Ark.; Zion Harvey, freshman, guard, Vicksburg; and Cynia Johnson, freshman, Forward, Vicksburg. Hooks was a transfer from Williams Baptist in Arkansas.

Coach Bridget Goodnight returned as head coach of the Lady Bulldogs and is in her fifth year at Holmes. Nathan Roberts is in his first season as the Lady Bulldogs assistant coach.

Bulldogs open season Nov. 4 vs. Delgado

From Staff Reports/Photos



The 2025-26 Holmes Community College Bulldogs returned two players from the 2024-25 team that went 20-8 and fell in the first round the NJCAA Region 23 Tournament. The Bulldogs opened the season on Nov. 4 at 7:30 p.m. vs. Delgado in Goodman.

Returning players included: Trey Alexander, guard, Clinton and Kameryn Bailey, center, Vicksburg.

Newcomers included: Jakobe Cavett, guard, freshman, Clinton; Isaiah Patrick, guard, freshman, Richland; David Washington, guard, freshman, Starkville; Tre'Voin Bass, guard, freshman, Forest Hill; Malik McGuire, forward, freshman, Maumelle, Ark.; Javarian Mallard, guard, freshman, Callaway; Jhamien Smith, forward, sophomore, Erie, Pa.; Andrew Mancell,

forward, sophomore, Kosciusko; Emajai Horotn, guard, freshman, Lanier; Lebron Johnson, guard, freshman, Starkville; Markalon Rochell, forward, freshman, Maumelle, Ark.; and Deriyon Graydon, forward, freshman, Pine Bluff. Smith and Mancell were transfers to the program. Smith had played for Jamestown Community College in 2023-24 and averaged 16.8 points per game and 6.1 rebounds per game. Mancell had played last season at Mississippi Delta and averaged 8.6 points per game and 5.9 rebounds per game.

Coach Jason Flanigan returned as head coach of the Bulldogs and is in his 21st year at Holmes and his 18th as head coach. Marcus Washington is in his third year as the Bulldogs assistant coach.

Bulldogs fall in season finale to Lions

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs battled in Scooba on Thursday, Oct. 30, to a tie early in the fourth quarter with the East Mississippi Community College Lions in the final game of the season but couldn't pull out the win as the Lions won, 50-39.

Holmes ended the season at 3-6. The Lions took a 7-0 lead in the first

quarter on a rushing touchdown with 12:21 left in the quarter.

The Bulldogs answered late in the quarter on a 25-yard field goal from Dan Lindsay making the score 7-3 with 1:32 left in the quarter.

On the next drive, Kam'Ron Robinson picked up a fumble and raced in from 45 yards out. Lindsay's extra

point put the Bulldogs up 10-7 with 47 seconds left in the first.

The Lions retook the lead at 14-10 with 14:23 left in the second on a rushing touchdown and PAT. The Lions increased the lead to 21-10 on a passing touchdown and extra point with 10:20 to play in the second.

Holmes' Easton Sartin scored from two yards out with 6:28. The extra point was no good, and East led 21-16.

The Bulldogs retook the lead at 22-21 with 2:24 left when Chase Richardson found Jamarius Grayer on a 30-yard touchdown pass. The extra point was no good.

The Lions scored with 12 seconds to go in the first on a passing touchdown and two-point conversion and led 29-22 at halftime.

East Mississippi scored early in the third on a rushing touchdown and extra point to go up 36-22.

Holmes answered as Richardson found Cam Joseph from 24 yards out. The extra point was good, and East led 36-29.

Early in the fourth, Richardson struck again finding D.J. Welch from

33 yards out. The extra point was good, and the game was tied at 36.

The Lions went back up 43-36 with 10:12 left in the game when the Lion scored on a rushing touchdown and PAT.

Lindsay added a field goal with 8:49 to play from 28 yards making the score 43-39 East Mississippi.

The Lions scored on a rushing touchdown with 48 seconds to play to end the scoring at 50-39.

Richardson finished the game 39-of-62 for 482 yards and three touchdowns. Grayer and Joseph each led in receiving with 74 yards. Grayer had four catches while Joseph had eight. B.J. Johnson had six catches for 68 yards, Welch had five catches for 62 yards, Jekerious Williams had six catches for 61 yards, KrisJeohn Burks had three catches for 58 yards, and Tristin Purnell had two catches for 50 yards.

Kebian Gilmore led with the Bulldogs with 13 tackles while E.J. Segrest had seven, Jeremy Atkins had six and Kendrick Davis, Tyricco Henderson and L.J. Reynolds had five each.

Lady Bulldogs claim MACCC championship with 3-0 win over Hinds

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs picked up a 3-0 win in Raymond on Tuesday, Oct. 29, to secure their fifth MACCC title in the last seven years.

Holmes finished the regular season, 15-1 overall, and 10-1 in the MACCC.

The Lady Bulldogs took a 1-0 lead in the 19th minute when Maddie Caldwell scored on a penalty kick. Holmes led 1-0 at halftime.

The Lady Bulldogs made it 2-0 in the

60th minute when Brooklynn Samonski scored on an assist from Tyler Grace Sims. The final score came in the 86th minute when Emma Korhonen scored on an assist from Rosamaria Ibarra.

Aly Vancor got the start in goal and had no saves in 45 minutes. Lilly Callum played the final 45 and had one save. TFLs while E.J. Segrest and P.J. Pace each had six tackles.

Bulldogs fall to Rangers on Homecoming 2025

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs fell at home on Thursday, Oct. 23, on Homecoming 2025 to the Northwest Mississippi Community College Rangers, 45-10.

Northwest picked up a Holmes fumble for a score early in the first. The extra point put Northwest up 7-0 with 11:17 to play in the first.

The Rangers scored again with 5:41 left in the quarter on a passing touchdown and extra point and led 14-0.

Northwest added two passing touchdowns and a field goal to go up 31-0 with 1:45 left in the second.

Holmes got three points as Dan Lindsay nailed a 40-yard field goal as the first half ended.

The Rangers scored a rushing touch-

down in the third. With the extra point, Northwest led 38-3. The Rangers a passing touchdown and extra point with 9:53 to play in third and led 45-3.

The Bulldogs final points came with 38 seconds to play when Cole McCarty scored from six yards out. Lindsay's extra point was good.

McCarty finished 23-of-33 for 148 yards. B.J. Johnson had four catches for 43 yards.

Kebian Gilmore had nine tackles and two TFLs while Kendrick Davis had seven tackles, 1.5 sacks and 1.5 TFLs, Jeremy Atkins had seven tackles, 1.5 TFLs while E.J. Segrest and P.J. Pace each had six tackles.

Lady Bulldogs move to 9-1 in the MACCC with win over East Miss.

From Staff Reports/Photos



The No. 2 Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs improved to 14-1 overall and 9-1 in the MACCC after picking up a 4-0 win over the East Mississippi Community College Lady Lions at home on Oct. 24, Sophomore Day.

Women's sophomores included: Kaylee Avant, Kate DeAngelo, Akala Jacobs, Emma Korhonen, AnnaBeth Korhonen, Kellen Maurer, Raven Pernell, Jacie Rouse, Brooklynn Samonski, Brenna Sanford and Daysha Taylor.

Raven Pernell got the Lady Bulldogs on the board in the first half when she

scored on an assist from Brooklynn Samonski in the first minute. Kate Gray Nesbit scored in the 28th minute on an assist from Mallory Sutton. Sutton scored a goal of her own on an assist from London Martinez in the 33rd minute. Holmes led 3-0 at halftime.

Brenna Sanford blasted a goal from distance on an assist from Martinez to end all scoring in the 81st minute.

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

Bartholomew named goalkeeper coach

From Staff Reports/Photos



Coach Beau Bartholomew joined the Holmes Community College soccer staff as the Goalkeeper Coach. A native of Mississippi, Bartholomew played his high school soccer at Northwest Rankin, where he helped lead his team to a North State Championship in 2019. Alongside his high school career, he competed in elite club programs including Mississippi Rush, Brilla, and RSE.

After graduation, Bartholomew

continued his playing career at Holmes Community College during the 2019-2020 season. He now gives back to the game as a Goalkeeper Coach for both RSE and Rush, training and mentoring keepers across multiple age groups.

His experience as a player and coach, combined with his passion for goalkeeper development, make him a strong addition to the Holmes soccer program.

Bulldogs fall to Indians in key North Division matchup

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs jumped out to a 21-9 lead at halftime, but the Itawamba Indians outscored the Bulldogs in the second half to pull out a 44-28 win in MAC-CC's North Division.

With the loss, the Bulldogs fell to 3-4 overall and 3-1 in the North Division. The Bulldogs jumped out to a 7-0 lead early in the first when Chase Richardson found D.J. Welch on a 16-yard touchdown pass. Dan Lindsay's extra

point was good with 10:05 left in the first. Holmes increased the lead to 14-0 with three minutes left in the first when Richardson found Jer'Kel Ivy from 25 yards out. Lindsay's PAT was good. The Indians pulled the score to 14-7 when the Indians connected on a passing touchdown and extra point with 14:54 left in the second. Richardson connected on his third passing touchdown of the game when he found B.J. Johnson from 16 yards out. Lindsay's kick was good, and Holmes led 21-7. The Indians added a safety with 8:37 left in the first half. Holmes led 21-9 at halftime. Itawamba took the second half kick-off back for a score to cut the lead to 21-16 with 14:48 left in the third. The Bulldogs answered back quickly

as Richardson found Tristin Purnell on a 77-yard touchdown pass. Lindsay's extra point was good, and the Bulldogs led 28-16 with 14:33 left in the third. Itawamba scored in the third on a passing touchdown and extra point. Holmes led 28-23 after three quarters. The Indians added a rushing touchdown to take the lead in the fourth. They connected on a passing touchdown and had a scoop and score to end their scoring in the final quarter. Richardson finished the game 23-of-53 for 321 yards and four touchdowns. Purnell led in receiving with six catches for 124 yards. Kebian Gilmore led with 16 tackles (10 solo and six assists) while E.J. Segrest had 15 (seven solo and eight assists).

Bulldogs fall to Wolves; defeat Cedar Valley

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Bulldogs fell in Wesson on Tuesday, Oct. 21, to Copiah-Lincoln Community College, 3-0. Against Dallas College-Cedar Valley on Saturday, Oct. 18, the Bulldogs won 2-0. Bryan Silva and Jacob McGaugh each had a goal. Brandon Shaffer and goalkeeper Jaydon Smith each had an assist. Following these matches, the Bulldogs prepared to face East Mississippi Community College on Sophomore Day in Ridgeland.

Lady Bulldogs defeat Lady Wolves, 2-1

From Staff Reports/Photos



The No. 2 Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs scored two goals in the second half to defeat the Copiah-Lincoln Community College Wolves, 2-1, in Wesson on Tuesday night, Oct. 21. With the win, the Lady Bulldogs improved to 13-1 overall and 8-1 in the MACCC. Holmes then prepared to play East Mississippi on Sophomore Day. Co-Lin took the lead in the 19th

minute and led 1-0 at halftime. Maddie Caldwell scored on a PK in the 66 minute to tie the match at one. Mallory Sutton score in the 83rd minute on a Brenna Sanford to assist to put the Lady Bulldogs ahead for good. Aly Vancor got the start and have one save and gave up one goal in 45 minutes. Lilly Callum had three saves in 45 minutes.

BULLDOG NATION

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The Growl Staff



Bennett Brantley

From Florence, Bennett Brantley is a freshman at Holmes on the Ridgeland Campus and graduating in the spring with an associate degree in communications and journalism. When it comes to campus involvement, he is a member of the Growl, the yearbook staff, SGA and the Ridgeland Phi Theta Kappa chapter. Outside of school, he likes seeing the newest movie releases with his friends, trying new coffee places and traveling with his family. After his time at Holmes, Brantley plans to finish his education at Mississippi State University with a bachelor's degree in graphic design.



Owen Clark

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



C.J. Dedmon

Christopher "C.J." Dedmon is a sophomore on the Holmes Ridgeland Campus majoring in biological sciences. He was born in Jackson, and currently lives in Flora. He is president of the STEM Club, and spends his free time playing Magic the Gathering in professional tournaments. In his spare time, he also writes music and helps his children grow and learn.



Daylan Henderson

Daylan Henderson is a sophomore at Holmes Community College, where he is majoring in mass communications/ journalism. He plans to work as a writer for a news station. He was born in Jackson, but now he lives in Ridgeland. During his free time, he enjoys writing, hanging out with friends, playing games and drawing.



M.J. Kersh

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



Emma McCarter

Emma McCarter of Madison is a sophomore biology major. She will be graduating from the Holmes Ridgeland Campus in the summer with an associate degree. In her free time, McCarter enjoys hiking, camping, sailing and crafting. Other than being involved in The Growl, McCarter is also an English tutor in the Holmes writing lab. After graduation, she plans to finish her bachelor's degree and then earn a doctorate in marine biology at the University of Mississippi.



Lexus Mullins

Lexus Mullins of Eupora will be graduating from Holmes Community College in Grenada this December with an Associate of Arts degree. In her free time, she enjoys watching movies, playing video games and spending time with others. After graduating from Holmes, she plans to move up north to begin her journey in the film industry. There, she will film movies, act in movies and help with backgrounds. After getting experience, she hopes to film her own short films.



Kennedi Proctor

Kennedi Proctor of Brandon is a freshman marketing major currently completing her prerequisites at Holmes Community College before transferring to Jackson State University. In her free time, she enjoys working and spending time with friends. Her ultimate dream is to write for The New York Times. Along with contributing to The Growl, Proctor is also involved with the college yearbook, Horizons. After graduation, she plans to move to Atlanta and pursue a career in writing.