



Holmes Community College
Goodman – Ridgeland – Grenada
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THE GROWL

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Mason Harrell named Most Beautiful

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the Top Five in the 2024 Holmes Community College Parade of Beauties pageant. They are (left to right) Taylor Estus of Madison, Swayze Brewer of Brandon, 2024 Most Beautiful Mason Harrell of Flora, Leilani Montgomery of Yazoo City and Meredith Meriwether of Holcomb.

Mason Harrell of Flora was crowned Holmes Community College's Most Beautiful during the 2024 Parade of Beauties pageant held Feb. 20 in McDaniel Auditorium on the Goodman Campus. She was crowned by 2023 Most Beautiful Allie Williamson of Grenada.

Harrell is the daughter of Hope and Kevin Ables, and Chris and Allison Harrell. She is an elementary education major on the Goodman Campus. Harrell is also an Ambassador and President's List Scholar. In her free time, she enjoys riding horses, hanging out with friends and family, hunting and going on mission trips. Upon graduation, Harrell plans to transfer to Delta State University to obtain her bachelor's degree followed by earning a master's in education.

In addition to Harrell, the Top Five Beauties included Swayze Brewer

of Brandon, Taylor Estus of Madison, Meredith Meriwether of Holcomb and Leilani Montgomery of Yazoo City. The Top 10 included Harrell, Brewer, Estus, Meriwether, Montgomery, Lily Clark of Calhoun City, Claudia Ford of Brandon, Presley Fulgham of Kosciusko, Bralyn McGee of Kosciusko and Mackenzie Ward of Durant. Clark was named Most Photogenic, as well.

The pageant included interviews with judges earlier in the day and the evening gown competition. Tina Boyette directed the pageant with Haley DeNoon and Amanda Lindsey serving as assistant directors. Nikki Boutwell served as Master of Ceremonies, and Jonah Lyons and Jordan Leech escorted the contestants. Additionally, The Holmes Connection!, under the direction of Mike Yates, provided entertainment at intermission.

Laura Canard presents Humanities Lecture

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are (left to right) Humanities Teacher of the Year Laura Canard and Molly McMillan, program officer with the Humanities Council.

Laura Canard of Madison, division chair for the Holmes Community College History and Political Science Department, was selected as the 2023-24 Holmes Humanities Teacher of the Year. She delivered her scholarly presentation, "The Value of Knowing the Past," on Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024, at 1:45 p.m. in the McGowan Workforce Training Building on the Ridgeland Campus. A reception followed the presentation in the lobby. The lecture was free and open to the public.

In her presentation, 'The Value of Knowing the Past,' Canard discussed the importance of knowing history by highlighting different historical events and their importance in the world today as well as in individual's per-

sonal lives. She pointed out some key components to elaborate on the value of history: history gives us context for our lives, history gives us a vision for the future, history gives us empathy for other cultures/people groups and history gives us the ability to understand ourselves.

Canard, who teaches in Ridgeland, has taught history and political science courses for Holmes for 13 years on both the Goodman and Ridgeland campuses. Additionally, she has served as a Phi Theta Kappa advisor for both the Kappa Alpha Chapter and the Alpha Lambda Sigma Chapter. From 2013-15, she was the Healthy at Holmes

Humanities, continued on Page 6

8 students named to Phi Theta Kappa All-MS Academic Team

From Staff Reports/Photos



Baker Avant

Colin Crosby

Lilia Deason

Ashlyn Gillespie

Jaden Gonzalez

Mary Patton
Henderson

Luke Walker

Isaiah Wilson

Holmes Community College students Baker Avant of Carrollton, Colin Crosby of Ridgeland, Lilia Deason of McCool, Ashlyn Gillespie of Greenwood, Jaden Gonzalez of Brandon,

Mary Patton Henderson of Kosciusko, Luke Walker of Gluckstadt and Isaiah Wilson of Madison were all named to the 2024 Phi Theta Kappa honor society All-Mississippi Academic Team.

Nominations are based on outstanding academic performance and service to the college and community.

Baker Avant

Avant, son of Alyssa and Greg Avant, is an accounting major on the Grenada

Phi Theta Kappa, continued on Page 6

WHAT'S INSIDE...

- STUDENT EDITORIALS
- RECENT HAPPENINGS ON CAMPUS
- SPORTS PHOTOS/RECAPS AND MORE!



**SEE PAGE 5-7
TO SEE HALL OF
FAME 2024!**

Tis' the season - The Academy Awards

By Aleesa Booker
Staff Reporter



My favorite time of year, besides Christmas, is finally here. It is officially Oscar season. This year's Oscars are hot and spicy, sad and more sad, funny and a little

too funny. The 2024 Oscars have some big lenses to fill. Last year, the Oscars were stacked. Let's see if this year's Oscars is worth watching or if it's a bust.

This year will make it The Academy Awards' 96th year premiering. The Oscars are amongst one of the most prestigious awards to win and one of the most important Hollywood nights. However, in recent years they've broken out into the scene with big blockbuster hits that aren't "traditional Oscars." What is "traditional Oscars?" Well, the Oscars have a longstanding history with sad and melodramatic movies. That's just a little prequel, now for this year's nominees.

Now I won't make this article as long as any of the nominated movies. So, I'll just give you some of my favorite categories and nominees from this year.

Best categories this year:

- Best Picture
- Best Director
- Best Screenplay
- Best Adapted Screenplay
- Best Original Song

Best Actress

- Honorable Mentions:
 "Barbie" - Best Picture
 "The Holdovers" - Best Picture
 "Killers of the Flower Moon" - Best Picture
 "Maestro" - Best Picture
 "Oppenheimer" - Best Picture
 "Past Lives" - Bbest Picture
 "Poor things" - Best Picture
 "The Zone of Interest" - Best Picture
 Jonathan Glazer, "The Zone of Interest" - Best Director
 Yorgos Lanthimos, "Poor Things" - Best Director
 Christopher Nolan, "Oppenheimer" - Best Director
 Martin Scorsese, "Killers of the Flower Moon" - Best Director
 Justine Triet, "Anatomy of a Fall" - Best Director
 Lily Gladstone, "Killers of the Flower Moon" - Best Actress
 Ryan Gosling, "Barbie" - Best Supporting Actor
 America Ferrera, "Barbie"- Best Supporting Actress
 Danielle Brooks, "The Color Purple" - Best Supporting Actress
 "What Was I Made For?" ("Barbie") - Best Original Song
 "May December" - Best Original Screenplay

In my own opinion, I believe that the Oscars have an amazing nominees list. It's the perfect mixture of what viewers like to watch, industry standard and traditional Oscars. My overall favorite category this year is Best Picture. In this category you have movies from



all walks of film, including "Barbie," a comedy mixed with realism and "Oppenheimer," a historical period piece. Sadly, I am not on the Oscar committees so I have my own takes on all the lists this year.

Okay, I lied, I don't really have a huge take on the lists this year because they are all nearly perfect. I digest a lot of films, and I mean a lot, and most of the films this year are actually ones that I was hoping to see get nominated. The few things that I would change would be removing "Maestro" from Best Picture, (beautiful yet very controversial) add Greta Gerwig to Best Director (she had an amazing year), add Ariana Greenblatt for Best Supporting Actress (she had an amazing performance in Barbie) and lastly, remove "I'm just Ken" from Bbest Original Song (I adore the song just not the right award's ceremony).

Lastly, there is nothing like talking about the Oscars without a little bit of drama. Once the nominees came out, many people were upset that we didn't see Greta Gerwig nor Margot

Robbie nominated for their works in the "Barbie" movie. Critiques went as far to mention that Ryan Gosling being nominated but not the other two quintessential parts of the movie was proving the movie's point. I agree, both ladies should have been nominated. However, spotlighting the fact that neither one was nominated while America Ferrera was nominated is proving a different point made in the "Barbie" movie. That sometimes other Barbies can be overshadowed. So, I believe we can be upset, but also give respect for America Ferrera and all the other great nominations this year.

The Academy Awards, for the most part, recognized the many talented people who put in hard work this year to make some of the most beautiful cinematic masterpieces ever seen. Maybe next year will be better. But this season isn't a wrap just yet, it's only getting started.

Let the good times roll

By Johnvonda Jackson
Staff Reporter



Mardi Gras is always a good time! It is a huge event celebrated in New Orleans, as well as neighboring states, every year. Especially in New Orleans, thousands

of people caome from everywhere to join in the celebration. Attendees wear outfits or, at least, wear purple, green and gold attire and embellish themselves with colorful necklaces gathered from the floats from the prior parades. One might observe several unique outfits, children alongside their

families interspersed throughout the town, while visitors and locals enjoy themselves immensely.

Spectators of the parade sit on the ground or in special benches set on ladders, engaged in orb throwing, playing audio recordings, indulging in delicious cuisine and observing the passing masses during the intervals amongst parades. During Mardi Gras, most businesses that are not necessary stay closed due to the celebrations.

Prepared individuals are mindful of preparing a substantial bag to collect the many kinds of beads and souvenirs they will get in the festivities. Let the good times roll!



The Growl

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Send to: mbusby@holmescc.edu.

The problem with the Grammys

By Alyssa Jackson
Staff Reporter



The annual Grammy Awards are known as music's most important night. Earning an award, or even a nomination, from the event is seen as the ultimate achievement

for musicians. Other music award shows, such as the American Music Awards and Billboard Music Awards, often include fan voted categories. The Grammys differ from other programs due to their nominees and winners being chosen by the Recording Academy, rather than the public. The process has allowed the Grammys to uphold a prestigious reputation. However, this process, and those involved, have not gone without criticism from the public.

Music listeners have criticized the criteria, or lack thereof, that the Recording Academy use for the awards. Members of the academy have given hypocritical reasons as to why they picked winners, a recent example being the justification of this year's Album of the Year winner.

Taylor Swift took the award home for her album "Midnights," and the academy stated that they felt that Swift deserved the honor not only for the album itself, but for the explosive year that the artist had.

Swift has been a powerhouse in the

music industry for over a decade; the public could not escape seeing her name in 2023 due to her stadium tour, new music releases and album re-releases. The singer is arguably more popular than ever, receiving numerous achievements and awards in the past year alone. It is easily understandable why the academy would decide that Swift deserved to take home the biggest of the night, but some were confused by their logic.

Confusion swept the internet because the same justification was used to explain why Beyonce did not receive Album of the Year at the 2023 Grammy Awards. Members of the academy shared they felt that since Beyonce had already seen ample success in other aspects of her career, including winning other smaller Grammy categories, they should grant the main award to another nominee. This has rekindled a conversation that transpires nearly every year after the awards, especially within recent years. The academy's reasoning was not the only thing to spark this conversation, another catalyst being Beyonce's husband himself, Jay-Z.

After receiving the Dr. Dre Global Impact Award, Jay-Z used his speech time to criticize the academy's tendency to ignore Black musician's work when it comes to the bigger categories, specifically Album of the Year.

"I don't want to embarrass this young lady, but she has more Gram-



mys than everyone and never won Album of the Year. So even by your own metrics, that doesn't work," the rapper stated.

Beyonce made history at last year's awards for being the most Grammy-awarded artist in history. Despite holding this title, she has never won Album of the Year. The last Black artist to take home the award was Lauryn Hill in 1999, despite many Black artists having chart topping projects since then. The concern with Album of the Year winners is not the only issue the public is taking with the Grammys, but rather the overall exclusion of minority artists from the big awards.

Many viewers believe that the awards would rather create new categories to avoid nominating more minorities in the more notable categories. The most glaring example of this was

Tyla's win at this year's ceremony. The singer's song "Water" took the internet and charts by storm after its release. It spent 21 weeks in the Billboard Top 100, the song spending 12 of those weeks being in the top 10. However, rather than nominating Tyla for record or song of the year, the Grammys created a brand-new category dubbed Best African Music Performance.

The accusations of racial bias in the Grammy Awards have been in discussion for decades, but as years progress watchers seem to be less and less forgiving of this pattern. It is not a question of are these artists creating music worthy of receiving notable awards; public approval and chart longevity showcasing that they are, but rather if the academy is willing to put their own prejudices aside.

The price of overconsumption

By Aleesa Booker
Staff Reporter



In an ideal world, the cheaper option that works the same will always be the best. However, we don't live in an ideal world.

From ten thousand Stanley cups to too many steps in your skincare routine, overconsumption has become an expensive problem. The craze of having a surplus of one item blew through social media apps and landed into people's homes. Now, critics are wondering if overconsumption is really worth the price.

What is overconsumption?

To put simply, overconsumption is having one too many of one thing. If you walk into someone's room who has one too many candles, then you would probably think they have a problem. But when you see everyone doing it, it might seem like it's becoming the norm. Overconsumption

has always been an issue, but now it's being celebrated. Now that we've talked about the definition, let's talk about what's encouraging it.

Why does it happen?

Social media. Okay fine, I can't blame this for everything, but I can blame it for overconsumption. For me, like many others, I love scrolling on social media to see new things. I see influencers trying new products that I eventually buy. This is where the problem starts. Influencer culture allows certain products exposure and a new audience. However, when you are being influenced to buy multiple of one thing for "aesthetic" purposes, this is where it becomes a problem.

Where's the creativity?

One effect of overconsumption is that it allows for almost no lack of diversity. Everyone wants the same thing and has the same thing. Overconsumption leads to uniformity, lack of innovation and no newness.



Money, money, money

Just like pretty much everything else, nothing is free. Buying a new perfume that everyone has is one thing, buying 12 is another. Some people can't financially keep up. And making it common to buy a surplus of one item might leave them out of the loop.

How do you protect yourself?

I'm not going to leave you on a cliff hanger. There are ways for you to save

yourself some extra cash. One, you can desensitize yourself to trends. Seeing new items doesn't mean you have to have them. Wait a two-to-three-month period before buying to see if you still really want it. Another way is only getting one. The most important way to shield yourself is making sure, at the end of the day, you only get one.

Unlike many other problems, overconsumption is a problem that can easily be solved by self-control. Although it might not seem like it, overconsumption is the least of our worries.

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Are girls ever just girls?

By Alyssa Jackson
Staff Reporter



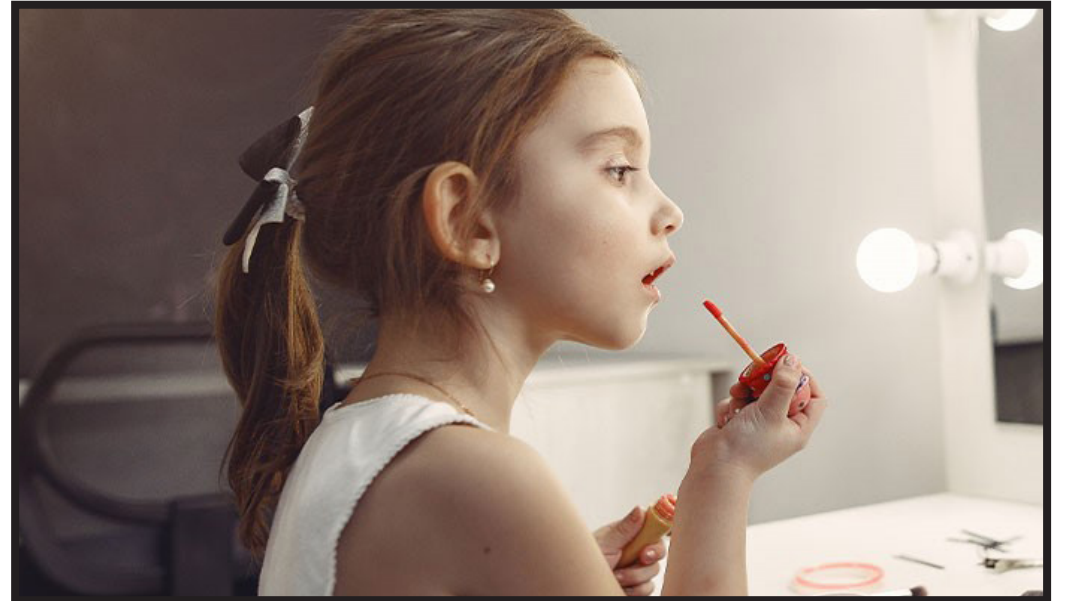
The humorous phrase “20-year-old teenage girl” riddled social media for the latter half of 2023; women of all ages used it to joke that they still harbor the mentality of a teenager. While this phenomenon is lighthearted, it does pose the question of, are these women immature, or are girls conditioned to take on a mature mindset before getting to fully experience their adolescence?

Recently, women have gone to social media to express their concern for the number of young girls seen shopping in Sephora. It’s been said that girls are picking up products containing retinol and other “anti-aging” ingredients, despite them being far from the intended customer age. Women have shared

their worry toward these girls, wondering why they feel the need to use such products. Truth be told, this situation is a tale as old as time.

A significant part of girlhood is spent wanting to be older and seen as mature. Girls have always emulated the older women they see, whether it be secretly putting on their mother’s makeup, or even copying the way they hear TV characters speak. With the rise of adolescents with free internet access, exposure to content detailing extensive beauty routines is inevitable for girls. They are seeing women with extensive beauty routines across every social media platform, it is nearly inevitable that they feel the need to follow in suit. The unfortunate truth is that while young girls are attempting to seem more mature, there is a nearly equal number of women who would love to go back to their younger days.

Though girlhood is spent desiring to



be an age where you are taken seriously and seen as mature, womanhood is spent longing for the days of carefree youth. For the past year, there have been consistent trends in women’s fashion that incorporate youthful motifs. The brand Sandy Liang is largely responsible for these trends. The

brand’s clothes are often adorned with lace bows, pastel colors and flowy silhouettes. Women on social media share that they are “healing their inner girl” by finally letting themselves enjoy the things they denied their younger selves.

Spill your Guts: Olivia Rodrigo, the rising pop-punk princess

By Aleesa Booker
Staff Reporter



Ever needed a song to quell your inner teenage girl? Ever needed a song that articulates your biggest insecurities, but also your best features? Well, Olivia has two

whole albums dedicated to this. From boy-crazy girls to heartbroken women, Rodrigo tells the story of a young girl in and out of love with her first album “SOUR.” Then, she doubles down and portrays the pure feminine rage linked to dating. She captivated the world and our hearts. But who is she?

It all started when I got my “Driver’s License”

Olivia Rodrigo is a 21-year-old singer-songwriter from California. Rodrigo got her first taste of “popstar pump” in 2020 when her song “All I Want” went viral. But this song wasn’t the start of it all. On Jan. 28, Rodrigo released the song “Driver’s License.” “Driver’s License” is a song filled with romantic resentment and jealousy. This song allowed fans to do some investigating.

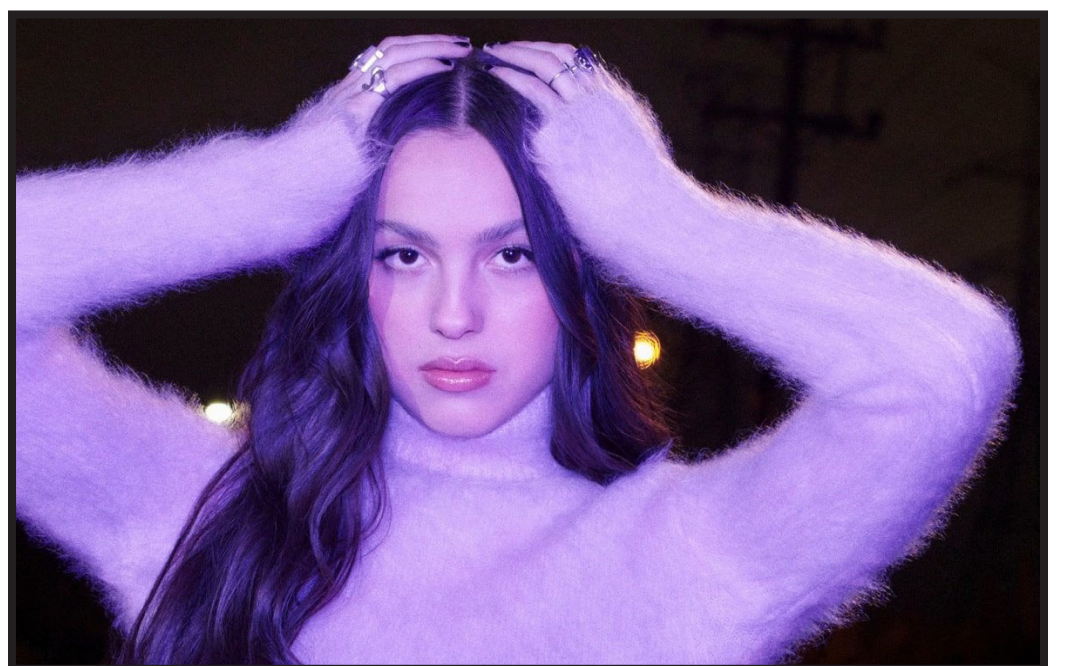
“You’re probably with that blonde girl.” This line is rumored to be about another honorable pop diva, Sabrina Carpenter. Nevertheless, the song took over the charts within the first week of it being released.

Later in 2021, she dropped her first album “SOUR.” It has chart-topping singles like “Traitor” and “Déjà vu.” She went on her world tour for this album and played at over 48 venues. Now, she is currently touring for her second album “GUTS.” Although Rodrigo has proven she’s a force to be reckoned with, how does all this make her the next pop princess?

It’s all logical

With most teen pop music it usually fades after a few months. However, Rodrigo is on her second number-one album. Rodrigo has a large fan base span, from young girls who don’t have their driver’s licenses to women who have had theirs for 10 years. Having a large fan base amplifies her reach. We all want someone to relate to. Rodrigo embodies every stage of the “woman experience.” Not only that, she is just a girl.

“Sometimes you see one thing and



then you’re thinking about it all day,” says the 21-year-old singer in her interview with the Los Angeles Times.

She was always a relatable figure, but with her first album, she became a relatable singer.

All I want is more

While Rodrigo has captured our hearts for the past three years, here are some more artists to listen to if you like Olivia Rodrigo. Gracie Abrams is an indie pop artist who explores the

death of childhood into adulthood with a bit of romance mixed in. Billie Eilish is an indie pop artist who writes songs of all different caliber that explore our deepest secrets and insecurities. Laufey is an indie pop artist who loves to play with instrumentals that make you feel like you’re not listening to a song about heartbreak. Sabrina Carpenter is a fun version of Olivia and loves to rhyme and show the beauty of being in love and finding your people.



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Effect of Social Media Use on Education

By Johnvonda Jackson
Staff Reporter



Social media use among youths has impacted their education positively and negatively. One significant effect is that social media use has led to the sharing and distribution of educational materials, hence knowledge acquisition.

However, too much usage has led to an addiction to jargon and abbreviations. Most social media users use the abbreviations but cannot spell them in real life. Also, some youths using social media use terms blindly because they cannot define or give their true

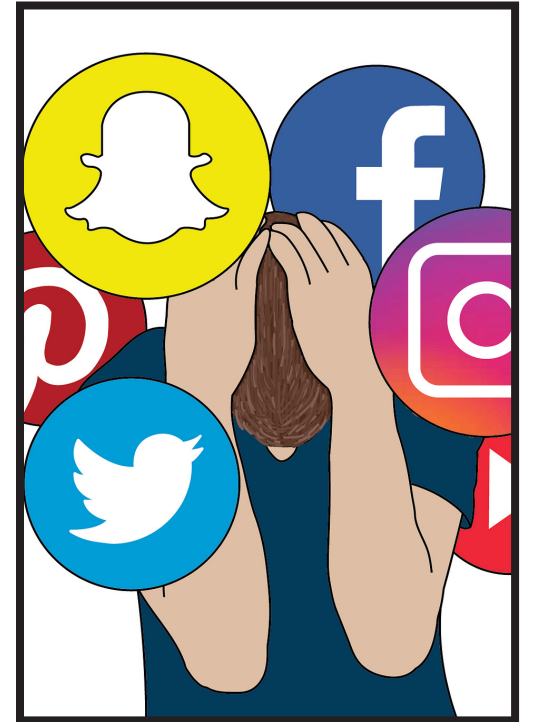
meaning. Some of these words are abusive, yet the users use them confidently because they do not understand their true meaning.

When spelled, some abbreviations have more than one meaning. For instance, 'tml,' a commonly used abbreviation by many youths when commenting on social media, may have different meanings, such as thank me later, too much love or even tomorrow maybe too late. When such terms are used, they may cause confusion and misunderstanding among social media users because they are unaware of the intentions of the user.

The excessive use of abbreviations and slang names may spread to academics. Youths may become used to

such teams, forget the right words and use them in their writing, resulting in poor performance in class. For example, when writing, some may write 'gonna' instead of 'going to.' This impacts their writing skills. It may also result in misspelling of words because users may get confused about the right spelling of the word. This is because every social media user tries to write words in the simplest way possible and others may get used to such words and when writing them in their academic, they may misspell them.

Lastly, social media use may degrade English by eroding language norms and grammar, causing language degradation over time.



Urban Air Adventure brings the fun to the Jackson area

By Johnvonda Jackson
Staff Reporter



A new place for kids to enjoy themselves has hit the Jackson area, filled with so much fun! It is a trampoline and adventure park for not only kids, also for adults who

want to have fun. Urban Air is open Monday through Friday, and you can also book your child's birthday party

or any fun event there.

You can buy tickets online and see what attractions they have to offer. They have mini go-karts, climbing walls, ropes courses and more. Urban Air Adventure is located at 6370 Ridgewood Ct Dr, Jackson, MS 39211. People in the area are so excited that Urban Air is here so their kids can have a place to go and have fun.

To learn more or buy tickets ahead of time, visit <https://www.urbanair.com/mississippi-jackson/weekly-activities/>.



Concert tickets are too expensive

By Alyssa Jackson
Staff Reporter



The summer season is often the time when music artists choose to put on concert tours around the world. It seems that 2024 is no different, artists from all genres

have either announced or started their tours for the late spring and summer seasons. With these events, a conversation around ticket prices has become a hot topic. Concert goers have noticed a steady increase in ticket prices in recent years, however it seems that they have risen to alarming prices.

Ticketmaster is the largest and most used ticketing site. Concert goers get most, if not all, their tickets from the company. Music companies partner

with Ticketmaster because of its accessibility and popularity. Tickets can be found on other websites, but they are often put for sale by resellers who double or triple the price. Because of companies' relationship with the ticketing mogul, Ticketmaster introduced their dynamic ticket pricing, also known as Official Platinum tickets.

Dynamic pricing gives artists and their companies the option to adjust ticket prices based on demand. Buyers took issue with this being implemented, stating that the pricing puts profit above the fans of artists. During the 2000s to 2010s, it wasn't uncommon to buy concert tickets for less than \$100, but now most would be lucky to find seats in the nosebleed sections at that price. It has become the standard for concert tickets to range from \$200 to \$1,000, some tickets even reaching



\$4,000.

The public has questioned how Ticketmaster has gotten away with their prices for so long. Some have expressed that they feel as if the company is becoming a monopoly because of its lack of competition and control

over the ticketing market. Going to concerts is no longer an activity that someone with an average income can afford to do frequently. Many question if the astronomical prices of tickets will soon lead to the end of live music.

TO LEARN ABOUT MORE UPCOMING EVENTS AT HOLMES AND STAY INVOLVED ON CAMPUS, VISIT DOG TRACKS ON THE HOLMES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Humanities (continued from Front Page)

Coordinator on the Goodman Campus, as well.

Canard attended Holmes from 1996-97 before transferring to Mississippi College. She earned both a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Master of Social

Science in History and Political Science from MC. In addition, she was a student-athlete who played basketball at both Holmes and at MC.

Canard has three children; Coleman (21), Cooper (18) and Mary Crawford

(18).

“This is a program conducted by the Mississippi Humanities Council, and we are honored to present this award to Laura,” said Holmes Vice President for Academic Programs Dr. Jenny Bailey

Jones.

In addition to presenting at Holmes, Canard will be recognized for this honor at the Mississippi Humanities Council’s annual spring gala on March 22 in Jackson.

Phi Theta Kappa (continued from Front Page)

Campus. He is active on campus as vice president of scholarship for the Alpha Mu Beta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, vice president of Student Government Association and as a member of Baptist Student Union. He is also a President’s List Scholar, President’s ACT Scholarship recipient, a 2023 Business Administration Award recipient, a 2023 Grenada Campus Favorite and an inductee to the Grenada Campus Hall of Fame.

Avant also volunteered as audio/visuals director for Providence Baptist Church in Carrollton his freshman year, and serves as youth director for Holcomb Baptist Church as a sophomore. Additionally, he has served as a 911 dispatcher for Carroll County E-911 since 2022. Avant is skilled in graphic design and photo/video editing, so he often assists family and friends with projects, as well. After Holmes, he plans to transfer to Mississippi State University to pursue a Bachelor of Accountancy. He then plans to work toward a Master of Professional Accountancy and study to become a licensed CPA. Avant also has a dream of one day becoming an attorney.

Colin Crosby

Crosby, son of Brandi and Stacy Crosby, is a mechanical engineering major on the Ridgeland Campus. He is also a Hall of Fame inductee, President’s List Scholar, Phi Theta Kappa vice president, Ambassador, Rotaract member, calculus tutor and Hall of Fame inductee. He wrapped Christmas presents for Mission First with Rotaract and served as an escort for the 2023 Homecoming Court, as well. Additionally, Crosby is employed as a part-time barista at Mocha Mugs Coffee Shop and serves as a mentor/leader for middle and high school students at

Colonial Heights Baptist Church.

Crosby plans to attend Mississippi State University where he will pursue a bachelor’s in mechanical engineering. During his summers and second year at MSU, he plans to co-op to gain job experience and make personal connections with future employers. Crosby is also interested in pursuing a master’s in automotive engineering. He wants to use his degree to design cars and make them greener. Crosby also said that if the Lord allows him to be financially stable enough to do this, He wants to open a repair shop out of his house to provide free labor and car repairs to families who can’t afford repairs themselves.

Lilia Deason

Deason, daughter of Lorie and Glenn Deason, is a business management technology major on the Goodman Campus. She is vice president of Baptist Student Union, a lead team member, worship team member, member of the Holmes Chorale and a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Off campus, Deason is a worship leader at McCool Baptist Church, assistant director of VBS, a substitute Sunday school teacher, a committee member of the McCool 39108 Committee and a barista for CC’s Bake Shop. After Holmes, she plans to work in business management technology-related fields to gain hands-on experience so she can own her own business one day.

Ashlyn Gillespie

Gillespie, a pre-vet major on the Grenada Campus, is the daughter of Velvet and George Gillespie. She is an Ambassador, Phi Theta Kappa vice president of leadership, Student Government Association secretary and treasurer, and a member of Baptist

Student Union. Gillespie is also a Hall of Fame inductee, President’s List Scholar, Dean’s Scholarship recipient, 2023 Grenada Campus Favorite, 2022 Homecoming Freshman Maid, English Composition Award recipient and a member of the Honors Social Science class. Outside of Holmes, she is a member of First Baptist Church of Greenwood and works at Webster’s Food and Drink. After completing her studies at Holmes, Gillespie plans on transferring to Mississippi State University as a junior with a major in animal and dairy science. After graduating from Mississippi State, she hopes to be accepted into the university’s veterinary program, with a long-term goal of becoming a veterinarian with her own practice.

Jaden Gonzalez

Gonzalez, son of Cheryl and Mario Gonzalez, is a microbiology major on the Ridgeland Campus. He is active on campus as a vice president for the Phi Theta Kappa Alpha Lambda Sigma Chapter. He also served as an escort for the 2023 Homecoming Court. Off campus, Gonzalez is a veterinarian assistant at Oakdale Animal Hospital and intermittent employee at MVRDL (MSU veterinary lab). He is also a member of the worship team and college worship team at Fondren Church. As a freshman, he was awarded the Biological Sciences Award during the Holmes Spring Awards Ceremony. Upon graduation from Holmes, Gonzalez will be attending Mississippi State University to earn a bachelor’s degree and apply for vet school. He plans to continue working at different clinics to acquire experience for his future career as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

Mary Patton Henderson

Henderson, daughter of Connie and Ricky Henderson, is a business administration major on the Goodman Campus. She is also president of Phi Theta Kappa and a Bulldog cheerleader. Additionally, Henderson was voted as the 2023 Holmes Community College Homecoming Queen. She is also a member of First Baptist Church Kosciusko, where she teaches preschool Sunday school, and is employed with Holt & Company in Kosciusko. After Holmes, she plans to attend Mississippi State University to pursue her marketing degree.

Luke Walker

Walker, son of Sandra and Mark Walker, is a computer networking technology major on the Ridgeland Campus. He is involved in Phi Theta Kappa and off campus, enjoys working as a small engine mechanic. Walker’s career goal is to become a computer hardware engineer.

Isaiah Wilson

Wilson, son of Deanna and Nate Wilson, is a mass communications major on the Goodman Campus. He is an officer for Phi Theta Kappa, a member of Baptist Student Union and was voted as a 2024 Class Favorite. Wilson also plays the music for Holmes basketball games. Off campus, he works at Raising Canes. Upon graduation from Holmes, Wilson plans to attend either Mississippi State University or Jackson State University.

For more information about Holmes’ Phi Theta Kappa chapters, visit https://www.holmescc.edu/student_life/clubs/ptk/index.aspx.

For more information about Phi Theta Kappa, visit <https://www.ptk.org/>.

Holmes ready to assist as AWS plans to invest \$10 billion for multiple data centers in Madison County

From Staff Reports/Photos



Amazon Web Services, Inc. (AWS) is investing \$10 billion to establish multiple data center complexes in two Madison County industrial parks. The project is a planned \$10 billion corporate investment and will create at least 1,000 high-paying, high-tech jobs. This investment by AWS is the single largest capital investment in Mississippi history and four times the size of the previous largest economic development project.

AWS is the world’s most comprehensive and broadly adopted cloud. These data centers will enable customers of all sizes and across all industries, such as health-care, manufacturing, automotive, financial services, public sector, telecom, and more, to transform their businesses. Millions of customers—including the fastest-growing startups, largest enterprises, and leading

government agencies—are using AWS to lower costs, become more agile and innovate faster. The new data centers will contain computer servers, data storage drives, networking equipment, and other forms of technology infrastructure used to power cloud computing.

Mississippi Major Economic Impact Authority funds will be used to assist with infrastructure needs, workforce training and site development.

“Mississippi has done it again,” Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves said. “This record-shattering \$10 billion private sector investment will not only create 1,000 high-tech, high-paying jobs for Mississippians, but it will result in our state remaining at the forefront of innovation.

“Mississippi is building a business

climate that is ripe for further growth, especially in the technology sector,” he said. “On top of that, we’re doing what it takes to prepare our workforce to take on these high-paying jobs of the future. There really is something special happening here in Mississippi, and the world is noticing.”

“MDA is proud to have been instrumental in the successful culmination of this transformative \$10 billion project,” MDA Executive Director Bill Cork said. “This monumental win underscores Mississippi’s attractiveness for major investments and signifies a boost to our economic landscape.

“The high-quality, good-paying employment opportunities AWS is bringing to Madison County exemplifies our commit-

Amazon, continued on Page 7

Amazon (continued from Page 6)

ment to creating a stronger Mississippi and advancing the overall well-being of our communities,” he said. “MDA is excited about the numerous positive impacts AWS will have on the state’s growth and prosperity, and we thank the AWS team for its well-placed confidence in our business climate and workforce.”

“Since 2011, AWS has invested more than \$108 billion in its infrastructure across the United States to support customers of all kinds, and across all industries, in their digital transformation,” AWS Director of Economic Development Roger Wehner said. “Building on this, we are excited to expand our operations into Mississippi through this planned \$10 billion investment, which will tap into the burgeoning tech sector across the state to create new, well-paying jobs and boost the state’s Gross Domestic Product each year. We look forward to delivering new workforce development opportunities and

educational programs that support the next generation of talent across the Magnolia State.”

With the construction scheduled for the Holmes Community College district, the College stands ready to assist wherever necessary to see the project come to fruition.

“Last week, after a special session of the legislature, we celebrated the coming of the largest economic development project in the history of Mississippi,” Holmes Community College President Dr. Jim Haffey said. “The Amazon data centers spread out over 1700 acres on two sites in Madison County will have a capital investment of \$10 billion. (That is the equivalent of 100 businesses each building a \$100 million company in one county).”

“The electricity required for this one project is the equivalent of powering 700,000 homes per year,” he added. “This will give our district a distinct advantage

in a reliable power grid for future generations, and ability to add other projects to it.

“I have no doubt that a major reason this location was chosen was our reputation to deliver high quality workforce training, career and technical programs, adult basic education, and academic classes that lead to STEM degrees,” Dr. Haffey said. “We will play a major role in helping the project succeed. The first focus will be to help train the hundreds of construction workers that will have to build highly sophisticated electrical systems. In tandem with that, we will anticipate a major role in training the over 1000 workers that will be needed at just the locations themselves.”

Haffey said the Madison County area has a lot of momentum, and the College is a big part of that. He said due to the facility coming to Madison County, it should have a very positive impact on our Madison county funding for future generations.

“Holmes Community College is very excited about the recent announcement that two hyperscale data centers will be located in Madison County,” Holmes Community College Workforce Development Vice President Dr. Mike Blankenship said. “Holmes Community College Workforce Development will stand ready to assist in any training that the company may require.”

“Holmes Community College currently provides Electrical Lineman training which will provide a resource for the required electrical utility infrastructure improvements required for the grid expansions required for this project,” he said. “We are proud that Amazon has chosen to locate in Madison County, and Workforce Development will do everything we can to help ensure their success.”

Dr. Bronwyn Martin named Shelton Award recipient

From Staff Reports/Photos



Dr. Bronwyn Martin

Dr. Bronwyn Presley Martin, director of marketing and recruiting, is the 2023 recipient of the Shelton Award. The Paul and McCrea Shelton Scholarship was established by long-time Holmes Community College supporters, Paul and McCrea Shelton, to be awarded to exemplary Holmes employees and students. Mr. Shelton is a member of the Holmes Legacy Club and formerly served on the Holmes Development Foundation Board of Directors.

The Sheltons have acted as selfless servants and leaders in their community, while maintaining a strong loyalty to Holmes. True to their namesake, the Sheltons have demonstrated and lived by the same criteria required of scholar-

ship recipients. To be considered for the award, individuals must possess qualities of dedication, leadership and service, for both Holmes Community College and for the communities in which they live. Candidates, who must be nominated, must also exhibit an outstanding professional performance. One \$500 scholarship is awarded each December to an employee from either the Goodman or Ridgeland Campus, and two \$300 scholarships are awarded each fall and spring semester to students; one student from the Ridgeland Campus and one student from the Goodman Campus.

“Having known the Sheltons, I am especially honored and humbled to receive this meaningful recognition from my peers,” Dr. Martin said. “Mr. Paul is a precious man, and I have been blessed to get to know him and his family over the years. Watching him care for Mrs. McCrea with such love and adoration while she was ill was a beautiful testimony of God’s grace and mercy.”

Dr. Martin is a native of Pickens and the daughter of Ann Presley Brunson of Ridgeland and the late Dr. John Rhett Presley, Sr.

“The college has always been a part of my life,” Dr. Martin said. “I grew up within a few miles from the Goodman Campus. Daddy played football at Holmes (#73 tackle) and loved sharing fond memories about his time at the College,” Dr. Martin said.

While she was raised in Holmes County, Dr. Martin has now resided in Madison County for 17 years; she is proudly anchored to Holmes Community College’s

district.

“Living and working in our community provides me with a tremendous sense of understanding of our employee and consumer needs,” Dr. Martin said.

Dr. Martin earned a Bachelor of Arts in political science and Master of Arts in higher education and student personnel from The University of Mississippi. After college, she started her career in higher education as a career planning specialist/instructor with The University Mississippi Career Center. In 2006 she joined the Holmes family as an ABE/GED instructor before transitioning into the role of workforce development coordinator where she served Madison County employers for seven years.

Since 2014, she has served as Holmes’ director of marketing and recruiting, and she will soon begin the next chapter in her career. Effective July 1, 2024, she will act as the vice president of the Ridgeland Campus.

“I am excited about leveraging my network in Madison County to build and strengthen relationships with key constituents, policy makers and decision makers for Holmes Community College’s future growth and development,” Dr. Martin said.

While a milestone in her higher education journey was attaining her Doctor of Education (2022) from Delta State University, she is proud to have also invested her efforts in leadership development opportunities including the Mississippi Community College Leadership Program, Leadership Madison County, and the Community College Policy Fellows Program (CPFP).

One of her most cherished recognitions was being recognized for the Phi Theta Kappa Distinguished College Administrator Award (2023) for working with student leaders to solve problems on campus and in our communities.

Dr. Martin has been involved in numerous professional and civic organizations over the years such as American Advertising Federation, American Society of Training and Development, Capital Area Human Resource Association, Junior League of Jackson and Mississippi Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions Officers.

“Giving back to the community that has been part of my life and given so much to me is incredibly fulfilling,” Dr. Martin said. “It is a blessing to help others succeed while strategically aligning my career path to promote progress in our communities. It has been an honor to pay it forward to prospective and current students, workforce trainees, graduates and community members by meeting their needs in different stages of my career. As a firm believer in God’s word, Proverbs 16:3 tells us to, ‘Commit your work to the Lord and your plans will succeed.’”

Dr. Martin resides in Madison, is married to Brandon and has two children, Presley (16) and Hudson (12). She is a current member of Madison Methodist Church. When she is not working or at one of the children’s sporting events, she is often found patronizing Orangetheory Fitness or working in her yard.

Foundation Golf Tournament set for May 2

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Development Foundation, Inc. Golf Classic will be held Thursday, May 2, at Deerfield Golf Club in Madison.

Registration and lunch begin at 11 a.m. Play will begin at noon. A social will be held immediately following the completion of play.

Corporate/team sponsorships are avail-

able for \$600. The sponsorship includes a four-player team, green fees, cart fees, lunch and hole sign. Hole sponsorships are available for \$100.

The form can be found at <https://news.holmescc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024golfregistrationform.pdf>.

Contact Allison DeWeese for more information at 601-605-3430 or adeweese@holmescc.edu. Forms can be faxed to (601) 605-3411 or mailed to Holmes Community College, Attn: Allison DeWeese, 412 W. Ridgeland Ave., Ridgeland, MS 39157. Entry forms are due by April 26.

Pictured (left) are the 2023 Foundation Golf Tournament winners, Team PaintPlus Construction. They are (left to right) Kevin Connor, John Thompson, J.T. Blair and Scott DeLoach.

Grenada Campus announces Hall of Fame 2024

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 2024 Grenada Campus Hall of Fame inductees. They are (left to right) **Radleigh Woods, Meredith Meriwether, Ashlyn Gillespie and Baker Avant.**

Each year, Holmes Community College faculty and staff members select the winners for the prestigious Hall of Fame. This year, the Hall of Fame inductees from the Grenada Campus included: Baker Avant of Carrollton, Ashlyn Gillespie of Greenwood, Meredith Meriwether of Holcomb and Radleigh Woods of Winona.

Baker Avant

Avant, son of Alyssa and Greg Avant, is an accounting major on the Grenada Campus. He was voted Mr. Holmes 2024 for the Grenada Campus, and chosen as a member of the Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi Academic Team, as well. Avant is very active on campus at Holmes. He serves as an Ambassador, vice president of scholarship for the Alpha Mu Beta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, vice president of Student Government Association and as a member of Baptist Student Union. Avant is a President's List Scholar, President's ACT Scholarship recipient,

2023 Business Administration Award recipient and a 2023 Grenada Campus Favorite, as well.

Avant serves as youth director for Holcomb Baptist Church and has served as a 911 dispatcher for Carroll County E-911 since 2022. He is skilled in graphic design and photo/video editing, so he often assists family and friends with projects, as well.

"After Holmes, I plan on attending Mississippi State University and continuing to work toward a Bachelor of Accountancy degree," Avant said. My career plans for the near future include working with a local bank, which will further my experience in the business world. At MSU, I also plan to minor in pre-law studies and take the Law School Admissions Test sometime during my junior year. After I graduate from Mississippi State, I plan to attend law school at the University of Mississippi School of Law. There, I plan to earn my J.D. degree with a concentration in business law. My future career plans focus on being an attorney for

small businesses and local governments, playing a key role in their day-to-day legal operations. My experience in business, along with a career as an attorney, would help lead to a fulfilling and prosperous career."

Ashlyn Gillespie

Gillespie, daughter of Velvet and George Gillespie, is a pre-veterinary major. She is an Ambassador, Phi Theta Kappa vice president of leadership, Student Government Association secretary/treasurer and a member of Baptist Student Union. Gillespie is also a President's List Scholar, Dean's Scholarship recipient, English Composition Award recipient and a member of the Honors Social Science class. She was a 2022 Freshman Homecoming Maid, and named a Grenada Campus Favorite as both a freshman and sophomore.

Outside of Holmes, Gillespie is a member of First Baptist Church of Greenwood and works at Webster's Food and Drink.

"Upon completion of my studies at Holmes, I intend to transfer to Mississippi State University to further pursue my academic endeavors," Gillespie said. "There, I will continue studying and enroll in pre-vet classes for my junior and senior years. Upon graduation, I will apply to various vet schools and hopefully be accepted into Mississippi State's program. If all goes according to plan, I will graduate from the vet program with honors. Later on, I hope to serve my hometown community by becoming a very successful vet with my own clinic specializing in emergency and shelter medicine. For the time being that is my main plan, but you never know what the future will bring!"

Meredith Meriwether

Meriwether, daughter of Ginger and Al Meriwether, is an engineering major. She serves as an Ambassador, president of Phi Theta Kappa and is a member of Baptist Student Union and Student Government Association. Additionally, she is a President's List Scholar who was named a Beauty in the Parade of Beauties pageant and voted a Freshman Homecoming Maid. She is also a competitive dance instructor/studio manager for Prestige Dance Company and a local math tutor for high school students.

"After leaving Holmes, I plan to attend Mississippi State University to obtain a bachelor's degree in civil engineering," Meriwether said. "I plan to work for a privately-owned engineering firm while I am in the process of taking the required certification tests to become a certified engineer. After I complete the certifications, I will continue to work and possibly pursue a master's degree in engineering. My ultimate plan is to one day become a partner for a major engineering firm, and own a competitive dance studio.

Radleigh Woods

Woods, daughter of Tina and John Garrett, is a pre-dental hygiene major. She is an Ambassador, member of the Student Government Association and Baptist Student Union. Woods is also vice president of service for Phi Theta Kappa, a President's List Scholar and a Class Favorite. Additionally, she is a member of First Baptist Winona, an aftercare worker for First Baptist Church Preschool, an assistant at Hoover Dental Office and a Mission Hope volunteer.

"After Holmes, I plan to apply to a dental hygiene program," Woods said. "Upon completion, I hope to become a dental hygienist and work for a local dentist

Ridgeland Campus announces Hall of Fame 2024

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the Ridgeland Campus Hall of Fame 2024. They are (front row, left to right) **Analise Johnson, Camille Scott, Presleigh Powers, Brooke Barron, Tori Dew, Mary Katherine Hamilton, Jaycelyn Russ,** (back row, left to right) **Graham Lambert, Cedravious Davis, Colin Crosby, Jaden Gonzalez and Patrick Vallean.**

Each year, Holmes Community College faculty and staff members select the winners for the prestigious Hall of Fame. This year, the Hall of Fame inductees from the Ridgeland Campus included: Brooke Barron of Brandon, Colin Crosby of Ridgeland, Cedravious Davis of Canton, Tori Dew of Canton, Jaden Gonzalez of Brandon, Mary Katherine Hamilton of Madison, Analise Johnson of Sandhill, Graham Lambert of Canton, Presleigh Powers

of Carthage, Jaycelyn Russ of Madison, Camille Scott of Brandon and Patrick Vallean of Olive Branch.

Brooke Barron

Barron, the daughter of Molly Staley and Chris Barron, is a radiologic sciences major. She is also a Holmes Ambassador and a member of Rotoract Club. She volunteered at Mission First for Rotoract Club, as well. Upon

graduation from Holmes, she plans to attend the University of Mississippi Medical Center's radiologic technologist program, and after that go on to specialize in ultrasounds.

"I have loved my time Holmes but I am excited for my next chapter!" Barron said.

Colin Crosby

Crosby, son of Brandi and Stacy Crosby, is a mechanical engineering major. He is a President's List Scholar, Phi Theta Kappa vice president, an Ambassador, Rotaract member and calculus tutor. He wrapped Christmas presents for Mission First with Rotoract and served as an escort for the 2023 Homecoming Court, as well. Additionally, Crosby is employed as a part-time barista at Mocha Mugs Coffee Shop and serves as a mentor/leader for middle and high school students at Colonial Heights Baptist Church.

Crosby plans to attend Mississippi State University where he will pursue a bachelor's in mechanical engineering. During his summers and second year at MSU, he plans to co-op to gain job experience and make personal connections with future employers. Crosby is also interested in pursuing a master's in automotive engineering.

"I want to use my degree to design cars and make them greener without compromising the enjoyment of driving a fast-gas-powered car," Crosby said. "Everything I do is ultimately to glorify God. If the Lord allows me to be financially stable enough to do this, I want to open a repair shop out of my house to provide free labor and car repairs to families who can't afford repairs themselves. This will allow me to make personal connections with people and help their physical needs so I can try to help their spiritual needs too."

Cedravious Davis

Davis, son of Trenina Davis, is an art major who loves to draw and design various things. He is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and has been on the Dean's List both years at Holmes. Davis has also volunteered for and donated to the Stewpot nonprofit organization. Upon finishing his time at Holmes, he plans to attend Mississippi State University to further his education in business marketing. Davis recently established a baking business, Ceds Creationz, LLC.

"I have been baking for years so being able to do that was such a huge

Ridgeland HOF, continued on Page 9

Ridgeland HOF (Continued from Page 8)

goal for me!” Davis said. “Although I do have my own business, my ultimate goal is to be an established creative director so that’s what I am working towards. I would love to work in the entertainment industry.”

Tori Dew

Dew, daughter of Delsey and Andy Dew, is a kinesiology major. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and has participated in trying to expand the Baptist Student Union chapter at the Ridgeland Campus. Dew works part-time at a daycare where she takes care of two year olds. She also volunteers at her church with community/church projects, is a member of her church’s praise team and serves at the Ministry Center every other Sunday, which is a ministry that provides food and clothing to families in need. As a freshmen, Dew worked full-time at Panera Bread in Ridgeland.

“After Holmes, I will continue my education at Mississippi State University to obtain my bachelor’s degree in kinesiology,” Dew said. “Following that, I plan on attending University of Mississippi Medical Center to earn my Doctorate of Occupational Therapy.

Jaden Gonzalez

Gonzalez, son of Cheryl and Mario Gonzalez, is a microbiology major. He is active on campus as a vice president for the Phi Theta Kappa Alpha Lambda Sigma Chapter. He also served as an escort for the 2023 Homecoming Court. Off campus, Gonzalez is a veterinarian assistant at Oakdale Animal Hospital and intermittent employee at MVRDL (MSU veterinary lab). He is also a member of the worship team and college worship team at Fondren Church. As a freshman, he was awarded the Biological Sciences Award during the Holmes Spring Award’s Ceremony.

“After I graduate from Holmes, I will be attending Mississippi State University to complete my bachelor’s degree and apply for vet school,” Gonzalez said. “I will also continue working at

different clinics to acquire experience for my future career.”

Mary Katherine Hamilton

Hamilton, daughter of Michelle Marie and Trevor Ernest Hamilton, is a business management major. She is an officer for Phi Theta Kappa and completed an internship with Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society Headquarters during her sophomore year. Additionally, she is employed as a bookseller at Barnes & Noble and serves as a church nursery worker for Saint Richards Catholic Church. She has been named to the President’s List, as well.

“I plan to transfer to Southern Miss where I will be majoring in business administration (entrepreneurship),” Hamilton said. “There I will learn how to run my business and gain knowledge from my professors. From there, I hope to own my own bookstore where I will focus on helping the children in my community to learn the fun and enjoyment in reading and teach them how to read.”

Analise Johnson

Johnson, daughter of Kimberly Warren and wife of Kaleb Hagar, is a criminal justice major. She is an Ambassador, Phi Theta Kappa president and a President’s List Scholar. She also completed an internship at Phi Theta Kappa Headquarters. As a freshman, she was a Freshman Class Favorite and part of Student Government Association, as well.

“After I graduate from Holmes CC, I plan to transfer to Mississippi College in the fall of 2024 and go into their Homeland Security/ Intelligence Analysis program,” Johnson said.

Graham Lambert

Lambert, son of Lori Lambert, is a communications major. He is an Ambassador, Student Government Association president, Phi Theta Kappa chapter officer, Rotoract member and President’s List Scholar. He is also

a Dean’s Scholarship recipient and served as an escort for the 2023 Homecoming Court.

“I plan to transfer to Mississippi State after Holmes. After I graduate with my bachelor’s, I would love to work at a college in the recruiting department.”

Presleigh Powers

Powers, daughter of Teresa and Jeff Powers, is a pre-occupational therapy major. She is an Ambassador and involved in Student Government Association, Rotoract Club and Phi Theta Kappa. She also received the STEMMY Award both years at Holmes and was elected a Sophomore Homecoming Maid. As a freshman, she was also active on campus, serving as an Ambassador, SGA member, Phi Theta Kappa member and STEM Club member. She is an active member of her church’s college group, as well.

“My future plan is to transfer to Mississippi College and major in psychology,” Powers said. “Later I will apply to University of Mississippi Medical Center’s occupational therapy program.”

Jaycelyn Russ

Russ, daughter of Kimberly and Jerry Russ, is a mechanical engineering major. She plays forward for the Lady Bulldogs soccer team. This season, she was in the starting lineup for 22 games, including 11 conference games. She scored 20 goals, with three of those being game-winning goals. Russ also had 11 assists. The Lady Bulldogs finished the season, 19-3, and won a share of the MACCC title. Additionally, Russ represented the Lady Bulldogs as part of the North women team in the 2023 MACCC All-Star Soccer Game post-season.

“After Holmes, I plan to transfer to a four-year college to finish my degree and continue playing soccer,” Russ said.

Camille Scott

Scott, daughter of Shimika and

Christopher Scott, is a general studies major. She is active in her community, and has volunteered at the Women and Children’s Homeless Shelter in Jackson, Webster Animal Shelter in Madison and Bridging Gaps for Life nonprofit organization. Scott has also served as a Vacation Bible School (VBS) volunteer and worked in children’s ministry and the church nursery. Additionally, she helped with Canopy Children’s Solution’s 5K race, is a mentor for the nonprofit Operation Shoestrings and has worked at the YMCA Organization for Kids. She is employed with Great American Cookies in Flowood, as well.

“After I leave Holmes Community College, I will pursue my bachelor’s degree in psychology at Mississippi State University,” Scott said. “After I graduate from Mississippi State University, I plan to pursue my career working in human services or criminal justice. I enjoy working with people of all cultures and desire to serve marginalized communities, and those who have been disenfranchised in society.”

Patrick Vallean

Vallean, son of Yolandria and Trevor Taylor, is a mechanical/automotive engineering major. He is a forward for the Bulldog’s soccer team and a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Vallean was nominated as a United Soccer Coaches Junior College Scholar All-American. He was in the starting lineup for 14 games this season and scored a goal that helped the Bulldogs defeat William Carey University JV with a 7-0 win. As a freshman, he scored two goals for the Bulldogs, helping them defeat Tougaloo and Meridian Community College.

“I plan to continue my education at Mississippi State University, and I would like to work for Mazda or Toyota to design cars,” Vallean said.

For more information about the Ridgeland Campus Hall of Fame honor, contact Pamela Fells at pfells@holmescc.edu.

Goodman Campus announces Hall of Fame 2024

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 2024 Goodman Campus Hall of Fame inductees. They are (front row, left to right) **William Carter**, **Demeria Moore**, **Audrey Eldridge**, (back row, left to right) **Eli Rigby**, **Ethan Wood** and **Cole Moudy**.

Each year, Holmes Community College faculty and staff members select the winners for the prestigious Hall of Fame. This year, the Hall of Fame inductees from the Goodman Campus

included: William Carter of Kosciusko, Audrey Eldridge of Vaiden, Cole Moudy of Brandon, Demeria Moore of Goodman, Eli Rigby of Kosciusko and Ethan Wood of Kosciusko.

William Carter

Carter, son of Sharon and Thomas Carter, is a mechanical engineering major. Carter is a pitcher and outfielder for the Bulldogs baseball team, a member of Phi Theta Kappa, a President’s Scholarship recipient and a part of Holmes Plus. He has been on the President’s List and Dean’s List, as well. Additionally, Carter played football for the Bulldogs as a freshman while also playing baseball. Upon graduation from Holmes, he plans to either transfer to Mississippi State University to finish his bachelor’s degree, or attend a four-year college to play baseball. If he attends MSU and does not play baseball, Carter plans to obtain internships or co-ops in hopes to start his career as soon as he finishes his degree in mechanical engineering.

Audrey Eldridge

Eldridge, daughter of Tara and Adam Eldridge, is a biological sci-

ence/pre-nursing major. She is active on campus as an Ambassador, part of Phi Theta Kappa’s leadership team, a STEM work-study (lab assistant and tutor) and a participant in intramural sports. Eldridge was a Sophomore Homecoming Maid, as well. Outside of Holmes, she is a member of New Salem Baptist Church and a dance instructor at Hotshotz Dance Company. As a freshman, she was involved in Phi Theta Kappa, Ambassadors and intramural sports as well as Baptist Student Union. She also worked at McAnerneys Steakhouse and volunteered for a food pantry, tornado relief efforts and hospital care.

“My plans after Holmes are to attend nursing school at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson and graduate with a bachelor’s degree in nursing,” Eldridge said. “After gaining experience in the healthcare workforce, I plan to continue my education and obtain a master’s degree in nursing

Goodman HOF, continued on Page 10

Goodman HOF (Continued from Page 9)

to become a family nurse practitioner. In the future, I plan to work rurally and give back to our communities and grow a family in the area.”

Cole Moudy

Moudy, son of Michelle and Tate Moudy, is a mechanical engineering major. He is a pitcher for the Holmes Bulldogs baseball team. Moudy is also a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society and Holmes Plus, a scholarship program for students interested in a STEM/Health Sciences Pathway.

“I am undecided about the next step in my education, but I do plan on earning a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering at some university,” Moudy said. “I would like to become an engineer in the sports field and help design new sports technology.”

Demeria Moore

Moore, daughter of Ethel and Dud-

ley Moore III, is a computer science major. She is part of Holmes Plus, a tutor (STEM Lab and Student Support Services MOSAIC), treasurer for SSS MOSAIC, a member of Baptist Student Union, a member of Phi Theta Kappa, a Foundation Scholarship recipient (both years) and served as a counselor for the Global Teaching Project. She also received the English Composition Award, was a Musial Award Honoree, was named a Class Favorite both years and placed in the Creative Writing Contest both years.

“Since joining the student body at Holmes, I have striven to exemplify what it means to be a Holmes Bulldog and a Holmes Plus Scholar,” Moore said. “After being a Bulldog for so long, I would hate to give that up. So, upon graduating from Holmes, I plan to further my education at Mississippi State University. There, I will pursue a major in biological science and computer science.

“Along with my studies, I plan to

spend my summers participating in Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REUs) to grow my technical and analytical skills at some of the most prestigious laboratories in the nation,” Moore said. “After earning my bachelor’s, I will use my degree to gain endorsements in biology and computer science in order to spread my love of STEM to future generations and become a leader in the field of education.”

Eli Rigby

Rigby, son of Jennifer and Scott Rigby, is a mathematics major. On campus, he is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the Holmes Connection! show choir.

“I plan to transfer to Mississippi College after graduating from Holmes and pursue my bachelor’s degree in mathematics,” Rigby said.

Ethan Wood

Wood, son of Donna and Andy Wood, is a sports administration major. He is an infielder and pitcher for the Bulldog baseball team, a member of Phi Theta Kappa and a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). As a freshman, he was also a member of Phi Theta Kappa and FCA, and was named as a MACJC Academic All American. Additionally, he lettered in Holmes football as a freshman and lettered in baseball both years.

“My plans after Holmes are to continue playing college baseball at a university while furthering my education,” Wood said. “My plans after that are to be a coach and to help young people be the best version of themselves that they can be.”

For more information about the Goodman Campus Hall of Fame honor, contact Tina Boyette at tboyette@holmescc.edu.

Holmes Grenada announces Creative Writing Contest winners

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is **Ashlyn Gillespie**, who won the Literary Essay category. Other winners (who were not available for a photo) were Abbigale Kidd and Marisa Logan.

Each year, the Holmes Community College Grenada Campus holds a Creative Writing Contest. All winners receive cash prizes furnished by the Holmes Foundation. First- and second-place winners are forwarded to the Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association Contest and will be published in Holmes’ literary magazine, “Reflections.”

Winner of the Poetry category was Abbigale Kidd of Winona for “Yes, I Left” and “I Hate You.”

Winner for the Short Story portion was Marisa Logan of Coffeeville for “A Glimpse of the End.”

Finally, Ashlyn Gillespie of Greenwood was the Literary Essay winner for “Sherlock on the Spectrum.”

For more information about the Grenada Campus Creative Writing Contest, contact Amy Land at aland@holmescc.edu.

Holmes Goodman announces Creative Writing Contest winners

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are the 2024 Goodman Campus Creative Writing Club winners. They are (front row, left to right) **Bella Settlemir**, **Katie Jones**, **Alex Swilley**, **Jay March**, (back row, left to right) **Demeria Moore**, **Garian Edwards**, **Shamya Walker** and **Kaylyn Barrett**. Not pictured: Kaylee Everett.

English instructor William Chad Moorer announced the winners of the 2024 Creative Writing Contest for the

Holmes Community College Goodman Campus. All winners receive cash prizes furnished by the Holmes Foun-

Association Contest and will be published in Holmes’ literary magazine, Reflections.

In the Poetry Category, Shamya Walker of Camden won first place for “Deep Down,” Jay March of Tchula placed second for “A Broken Knight” and Walker won third place for “Mirror.”

In the Short Story Category, March won first place for “Hometown Hero,” and Demeria Moore of Goodman won second place for “Grandma’s Strength.”

In the Creative Non-Fiction (personal essay) division, Garian Edwards of Grenada won first for “The Voice of a Feared Man.”

Finally, in the Literary Essay Category, Katie Jones of Sallis won first place for “Perception versus Reality in Passing,” Bella Settlemir of Kosciusko won second for “God of Love, God of Hate” and Alex Swilley of Kosciusko came in third for “A Good Christian Is Hard to Find.”

Holmes Goodman Campus announces 2024 Who's Who

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are Miss and Mr. Holmes Community College for the Goodman Campus, **Naja Mays** and **Ethan Wood**. Mays and Wood are both from Kosciusko.

The Holmes Community College Goodman Campus announced the 2024 Who's Who recipients. Mr. and Miss Holmes for the Goodman Campus are Ethan Wood and Naja Mays, both of Kosciusko.

Class Favorites include Kaylyn Barrett of Kosciusko, Garian Edwards of Grenada, Destyne Hemphill of Durant, Jay March of Tehula, Demeria Moore of Goodman, Bella Settlemir of Kosciusko, Jenessa Washington of Kosciusko and Isaiah Wilson of Madison.

Ethan Wood, son of Donna and Andy Wood, is a sports administration major. He lettered in football and baseball as a freshman at Holmes, and is an infielder and pitcher for the Bulldogs baseball team this season, as well. Wood is also a member of Phi Theta

Kappa and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He is a member of Kosciusko Church of Christ, as well. After Holmes, Wood plans to continue his academic and athletic career at a four-year institution.

Naja Mays, daughter of Moteka Beecham and Timothy Mays, is a pre-radiologic sciences major. She is active on campus as a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Baptist Student Union and as a work-study for McMorrough Library. Additionally, Mays attends church at Hudson Missionary Baptist Church, enjoys shopping, spending time with family and binge-watching TV shows. After Holmes, she plans to attend the University of Mississippi Medical Center to obtain her bachelor's degree in radiology.



Kaylyn Barrett



Garian Edwards



Destyne Hemphill



Jay March



Demeria Moore



Bella Settlemir



Jenessa Washington



Isaiah Wilson

Holmes Grenada Campus announces 2024 Who's Who

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are Miss Holmes Grenada **Taylor Carver** of Grenada and Mr. Holmes Grenada **Baker Avant** of Carrollton.

The Holmes Community College Grenada Campus announced the 2024 Who's Who recipients, which includes Mr. and Miss Holmes and Class Favorites. Mr. and Miss Holmes for the Grenada Campus are Baker Avant of Carrollton and Taylor Carver of Grenada.

Class Favorites are Emma Brasher of Grenada, Ashlyn Gillespie of Greenwood, Alyssa Melton of Grenada and Radleigh

Woods of Winona.

Baker Avant, son of Alyssa and Greg Avant, is an accounting major on the Grenada Campus. He is active on campus as an Ambassador, vice president of scholarship for Phi Theta Kappa, vice president of Student Government Association and as a member of Baptist Student Union. He is also a President's List Scholar, President's ACT Scholarship recipient, a 2023



Pictured are Grenada Class Favorites (left to right) **Radleigh Woods**, **Ashlyn Gillespie** and **Emma Brasher**. Not pictured: Alyssa Melton.

Business Administration Award recipient, a 2023 Grenada Campus Favorite and an inductee to the Grenada Campus Hall of Fame. Avant was named to the 2024 Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi Academic Team, as well.

Avant also volunteered as audio/visuals director for Providence Baptist Church in Carrollton his freshman year, and serves as youth director for Holcomb Baptist Church as a sophomore. Additionally, he has served as a 911 dispatcher for Carroll County E-911 since 2022. Avant is skilled in graphic design and photo/video editing, so he often assists family and friends with projects, as well. After Holmes, he plans

to transfer to Mississippi State University to pursue a Bachelor of Accountancy. He then plans to work toward a Master of Professional Accountancy and study to become a licensed CPA. Avant also has a dream of one day becoming an attorney.

Taylor Carver, daughter of Tamara Carver, is a computer science major. She is active on campus as an Ambassador and Student Government Association representative. Off campus, Carver works at It's Fashion. Upon graduation from Holmes, she plans to attend the University of Southern Mississippi and pursue her career in computer science.

Holmes Ridgeland Campus announces 2024 Who's Who

From Staff Reports/Photos



Mary Peyton Barnette



Swayze Brewer



Caroline Brister



Lauren Dew



Graham Lambert

Pictured are **Brooke Barron** and **Cedravious Davis**, Miss Holmes and Mr. Holmes for the Ridgeland Campus.

Cedravious Davis, son of Trenina Davis, is an art major who loves to draw and design various things. He is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and a Hall of Fame inductee. Davis was also named to the Dean's List as a freshman and a sophomore. One of his favorite hobbies that he enjoys is attending the gym at Holmes. He has gone consistently for seven months and said that everyone is always so welcoming. Davis also enjoys reading at the local Barnes & Noble, traveling and advocating for a progressive and positive lifestyle.

"I think everyone should adapt this habit

of doing what you love and never forgetting to be the best person you can be, not only for others, but for yourself!" Davis said.

Davis has also volunteered for and donated to the Stewpot nonprofit organization. Upon graduation from Holmes, he plans to transfer to Mississippi State University to further his education in business marketing. He aspires to be a creative director in the entertainment industry, and hopes to one day have his name on a film or organization.

"I just want to showcase my creativity

and marketing skills in many ways as possible," Davis said. "With my baking business, CedsCreationz, which I've had for almost four-five years, I plan on continuing to bake more cakes and treats. I've been fortunate enough to make various desserts for special occasions from weddings, birthdays, baby showers, retirement and more. I hope to continue to create desserts as it has been a passion of mine since I was a younger child. Hopefully one day I'll establish a B&M (physical business)."

Brooke Barron, the daughter of Molly Staley and Chris Barron, is a radiologic

sciences major. She is also a Holmes Ambassador, member of Rotoract Club and Hall of Fame recipient. She volunteered at Mission First for Rotoract Club, as well. Upon graduation from Holmes, she plans to attend the University of Mississippi Medical Center's radiologic technologist program, and after that go on to specialize in ultrasounds.

"I have loved every minute I've spent at Holmes CC, they have opened many doors for me," Barron said. "I am so grateful to be chosen as the 2023-24 Miss Holmes!"

Gonzalez named Coca-Cola Academic Team Gold Scholar

From Staff Reports/Photos



Jaden Gonzalez

Jaden Gonzalez of Brandon, a sophomore on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus, has been named a 2024 Coca-Cola Academic Team Gold

Scholar and will receive a \$1,500 scholarship.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation sponsors the Coca-Cola Academic Team program by recognizing 50 Gold, 50 Silver, and 50 Bronze Scholars with nearly \$200,000 in scholarships annually. Each scholar also receives a commemorative medallion.

"The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation has a long history of providing financial assistance to outstanding students at community colleges," said Jane Hale Hopkins, President of the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. "We are proud to partner with Phi Theta Kappa to make it possible for more deserving students to achieve their educational goals and support tomorrow's global community leaders."

Students are nominated for the academic team by their college administrators. Selection is based on academic achievement, leadership, and engagement in college and community service. Gonzalez, son of Cheryl and Mario Gonzalez, is a microbiology major who serves as a vice president

for the Phi Theta Kappa Alpha Lambda Sigma Chapter. He also served as an escort for the 2023 Homecoming Court. Off campus, Gonzalez is a veterinarian assistant at Oakdale Animal Hospital and intermittent employee at Mississippi Veterinary Research and Diagnostic Laboratory System. He is also a member of the worship team at Fondren Church. Upon graduation from Holmes, Gonzalez plans to transfer to Mississippi State University to complete his bachelor's degree and apply for vet school.

Coca-Cola Academic Team members will be recognized in both local and statewide ceremonies. They will also be recognized internationally during Phi Theta Kappa's annual convention, PTK Catalyst, in Orlando, Florida, April 4-6.

"We thank the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation for recognizing these student leaders and for investing in their futures," said Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner, President and CEO of Phi Theta Kappa. "Scholarships like these are integral to the success of these students in reaching their educa-

tional and career goals."

About the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation celebrates and empowers visionary leaders who are refreshing the world. Supporting more than 1,400 exceptional college students each year, it awards \$3.55 million in scholarships annually through three nationally recognized programs. Learn more at coca-colascholarsfoundation.org.

Phi Theta Kappa is the premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of students at associate degree-granting colleges and helping them to grow as scholars and leaders. The Society is made up of more than 3.8 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters in 11 countries, with approximately 240,000 active members in the nation's colleges. Learn more at ptk.org.

Dr. Rachelle Moore named Director of Library Services at Holmes

From Staff Reports/Photos



Dr. Rachelle Moore

Dr. Rachelle Moore was recently named director of library services at Holmes Community College. She previously served as the Grenada Campus librarian.

Moore is a Holmes alumna who earned her Associate of Arts degree in elementary education before transferring to Mississippi State University to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in interdisciplinary studies. Following her bachelor's degree, she earned her master's degree in library and information science from The University of Southern Mississippi. Moore recently completed her Doctor of Education in higher education administration and leadership from The University of Southern Mississippi.

Prior to her role as a librarian at Holmes,

she served as the district librarian at West Tallahatchie School District and the library media specialist at Kirk Academy. She began working at Holmes in March of 2018.

"When I first joined Holmes as an assistant librarian, it was my opportunity to learn about academic libraries and its changing dynamics," Moore said. "I am thankful Holmes has given me the opportunity to continue to grow in my profession. The family atmosphere at Holmes is truly special."

Born in Laurel, she is the youngest of five children. She is married to Mark, pastor of Stonefield Church of God, and they have two sons, John Mark and Jacob. John Mark, his wife Haley and grandson, Hampton, live in Minter City. Jacob, his

wife Katie and granddaughter, Sylvie, are stationed in Fort Carson, Colorado.

Moore is a member of the New Century Book Club, Daughters of the American Revolution-Grenada Chapter and the Mississippi Library Association where she serves as co-chair of the Nominating Committee. She is also a member of Beta Phi Mu and the Southeastern Library Association where she serves on the Membership Committee. In her spare time, Moore enjoys reading, singing and playing the piano.

Grenada EMT Basic Class holds graduation ceremony

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured are EMT graduates (front row, left to right) Emily Pearson, JaTaylor Riley, Davi Jo Flippo, Anna Barnhill, (middle row, left to right) Joseph Pyron, Nathan Hitt, Lindsey Huffman, (back row, left to right) Sharina Kincaid, Cleo Crain, Dakota Slosky, Will Birdsong and Hannah Grace Jacks.

The Holmes Community College Grenada Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Basic class had their graduation ceremony on Thursday, Feb. 29. The class completed the eight-week course and the students are now ready to take the National Registry Exam.

Members of the class include Anna Barnhill, Will Birdsong, Cleo Crain, Nathan Hitt, Lindsey Huffman, Hannah Grace Jacks, Sharina Kincaid, Emily Pearson, Joseph Pyron, Taylor Riley, Dakota Slosky and Davi Jo Flippo. Riley finished the class with the highest overall average.

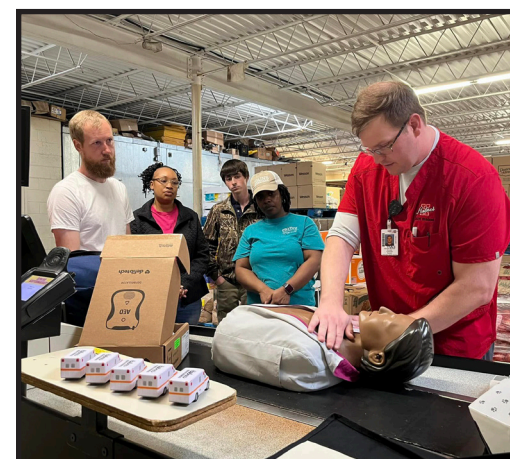
EMT is a one-semester instructional course that prepares individuals to provide basic emergency medical care and transportation for critical and emergent patients who access the emergency medical system. Students who complete the course are eligible to take the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician Cognitive and Psychomotor Exams and become state certified.

Grenada ADN donate AED to local grocery store, provide training

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Community College Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program on the Grenada Campus donated an AED to one of the local grocery stores in downtown Grenada, Spains. The ADN students worked diligently to raise funds to purchase the AED.

On March 5, the students presented the AED to the grocery store, and trained employees on how to use it and to do CPR. They also provided blood pressure checks to customers.



Holmes Phi Theta Kappa Chapters shine at Regionals

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Phi Theta Kappa chapters on all three campuses of Holmes Community College attended the Mississippi/Louisiana Regional Conference and Awards Gala held Feb. 29 –March 1 at William Carey University in Hattiesburg.

The Lambda Sigma Chapter from the Ridgeland Campus received the following awards: Top 10 Most Distinguished Chapter in the MS/LA Region, Most Distinguished Honors in Action, first place for Honors in Action Theme 7, Top 10 in College Project and designation as a Five Star Chapter. Additionally, Graham Lambert of Canton was named a Golden Key recipient and mathematics instructor and advisor Stephanie Blue won a horizon Advisor Award.

The Alpha Mu Beta Chapter from

the Holmes Grenada Campus was recognized for Most Distinguished in Honors in Action Theme 3 and was designated as a Five Star Chapter. Academic Counselor (and advisor) Cynthia Abel was named a Horizon Advisor Award recipient, and Ashlyn Gillespie of Greenwood received the Golden Key Award, as well.

Finally, the Kappa Alpha Chapter from the Holmes Goodman Campus was named a Three Star Chapter and advisor and history instructor Charles Wood was awarded the Horizon Advisor Award. In addition, Mary Patton Henderson of Kosciusko was named a Golden Key recipient.

Phi Theta Kappa officers will attend PTK Catalyst 2024 at the Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center in Orlando, Florida April 4-6.



Pictured are Grenada Campus PTK officers (left to right) Radleigh Woods, Baker Avant, Ashlyn Gillespie and Meredith Meriwether with their awards.



Pictured are Ridgeland Campus PTK officers/members (left to right) Jaden Gonzalez, Colin Crosby, Mary Katherine Hamilton, Analise Johnson and Graham Lambert with their awards.



Charles Wood, Horizons Advisor Award



Cynthia Abel, Horizons Advisor Award



Stephanie Blue, Horizons Advisor Award



Pictured is Mary Patton Henderson, Goodman's PTK president who won a Golden Key Award.



Pictured are (left to right) Advisor Will Alexander, Advisor Charles Wood, Isaiah Wilson and Advisor Simonee Miller with awards.

Holmes DE student receives large scholarship to MSU

From Staff Reports/Photos



Laura Box

Holmes Community College dual-enrolled high school student Laura Box of Jackson recently received a Presidential Endowed Scholarship to Mississippi State University, which is one of the college's most prestigious

freshman awards. The daughter of Julia and Michael Box, she is homeschooled and attends Holmes as a dual enrollment student.

Box will attend MSU in the fall where she will double major in industrial engineering and business administration and earn a minor in mathematics. She will be a student at the Shackouls Honors College at State. The Presidential Scholarships are awarded to, on average, 40 of the most outstanding entering freshmen on a competitive basis per year. According to MSU's website, it is worth approximately \$75,000, which covers tuition and housing for four years of undergraduate study, as well as \$6,000 for study abroad and \$4,000 for undergraduate research.

Box is a member of First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, where she is active in the youth group and student choir, and serves as a Vacation Bible School volunteer. She is also a member of Victors Homeschool Sports tennis team and a piano student of Dr. Rachel Heard with the Millsaps College Conservatory of Music. Box

takes ballroom dance classes, as well, and is employed as a Chick-fil-A Team Leader, a lifeguard, a dog sitter and a piano teacher.

Additionally, Box participated in Mississippi State's Adkerson School of Accountancy Accelerating Students into the Accounting Profession (ASAP) Camp where her team won first place in the Shark Tank competition. She was also published in the December 2022 issue of Parents & Kids Magazine for her essay, "A Message of Encouragement from Ukraine," and she won first place in Holmes' Creative Writing competition 2023 for her essay, "Blame Shifting." She has numerous other accolades and accomplishments, as well, including placing in half marathons, winning medals for her piano performances in various festivals and being inducted into Phi Theta Kappa honor society. She is also a President's List Scholar at Holmes, and was inducted into the Mu Eta Sigma National Math Honor Society, the Eta Sigma Alpha National Home School Honor Society and the Christian Home Educators Connection

30+ ACT Club.

Box's career goal is to work at an automotive manufacturing facility, like Nissan in Canton, designing systems to reimagine waste materials in all areas of production.

"I have the mindset and skills needed to be an industrial engineer," Box said. "I love processes and details, and my mind is inclined toward math. My values include leadership, creativity and the discipline to seize every opportunity. Wasted materials are equivalent to wasted resources. I aim to convert waste into usable materials that optimize costs and lead the automotive industry to cleaner, safer and less costly manufacturing."

For more information about the Presidential Scholarship at MSU, visit <https://www.honors.msstate.edu/scholarships/>.

For more information about Holmes' dual enrollment program, visit <https://holmescc.edu/dual-enrollment-dual-credit/>.

Ridgeland ADN participates in UMMC's Disaster Response Program

From Staff Reports/Photos

Some of the Holmes Community College Associate Degree Nursing sophomore students from the Ridgeland Campus participated with the University of Mississippi Medical Center's Disaster Response Program on Feb. 23. This was a full-scale exercise for those that have attended the Basic and Advanced Disaster Life Support courses. For the exercise, the students were utilized to help the course participants understand the traumatic injuries that may occur in a disaster scenario. The students received a casualty card and an explanation of their injuries. Addition-

ally, the students witnessed pre-hospital treatment during a mass casualty event and saw how it differs from day-to-day care. This exercise fell right in line with content studied in the Nursing IV course this semester.

"We thank Mr. Brian Garrett with UMMC's Disaster Response Program for allowing our students to participate," said Ridgeland ADN instructor Dr. Tiffany Cox.

*Photo provided by UMMC.



Holmes hosts district-wide Career Fairs

From Staff Reports/Photos

Holmes Community College hosted a Spring Career/Transfer Fair on the Goodman Campus on March 7. The Career Fair for the Ridgeland Campus is set for March 21 and the Grenada fair is on March 26. Every event will be held from 9-11 a.m.

These fairs allow representatives in attendance to share industry, company and employment information. Universities are also invited to come and share higher education opportunities to upcoming Holmes graduates. A table and two chairs will be provided for all representatives, and they will bring their tablecloth, handouts, giveaways, etc.

There is no charge to companies and universities who participate in the fairs. Holmes students also may attend the Career/Transfer Fair free of charge. Anyone

interested in signing up for a table can click this link to RSVP. All details are on the form.

"I look forward to the career and transfer fairs every year," said Holmes Ridgeland Campus Career-Tech Counselor Jovonna Parker. "There's a ton of excitement from students, industry partners and the campus community. The event meets the needs of students in different phases of their educational and career journey. Some students are still exploring career options, some will graduate soon so they are seeking full-time employment opportunities, and many are planning higher education opportunities beyond their associate in arts and associate of applied science degrees. We are pleased to highlight the Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degree programs

that allow career technical students to use their technical courses toward a bachelor's degree."

In addition to the fair, Holmes also offers a virtual career center called College Central. Employees who register with College Central have the ability to post job opportunities, view resumes and schedule interviews with potential employees. The virtual career center allows current students, alumni as well as community members to view these job opportunities and submit resumes. All of these services are provided free of charge. To register, visit <https://holmescc.edu/virtual-career-center/>.

For more information on the event, contact Career Technical Administrative Assistant Jessica Leverette at jleverette@holmescc.edu or (601) 605-3386.

CAREER FAIRS
9 - 11 AM @Holmes

MARCH 7 GOODMAN	MARCH 21 RIDGELAND	MARCH 26 GRENADA
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Students on the Holmes Community College Goodman Campus engage with employers during the Career Fair on March 7.



Students learn more about TempStaff opportunities at the Goodman Career Fair on March 7.



Representatives from Ivey Mechanical share opportunities with students at the Goodman Career Fair on March 7.

Holmes represents at Capitol Adult Ed Day

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College Adult Education instructors, staff and students participated in Adult Education Day at the state Capitol on March 5. Chelia D. Woodfork-Thompson, the college and career navigator for Holmes, is the state fellow for Mississippi at the Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE), which organized the event. Adult Education staff and students from community colleges all across the state, as well as representatives from the Mississippi Community College Board MCCB Workforce, Career and Technical Education Division attended the event.

Holmes offers Adult Basic Education

classes in several locations in its district. These classes are open to the public for those who have not completed high school or wish to increase their functioning level to enter college, training, or the job market. The Adult Education and GED Department encourages all adults that are interested to become involved in one of its programs.

To learn more about Holmes Adult Education, contact Chelia D. Woodfork-Thompson at cwoodforkthompson@holmescc.edu.

To learn more about COABE, visit <https://coabe.org/>.

Social and Behavioral Science Honors Program visits state hospital

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Community College 2024 Social and Behavioral Science Honors Program on the Goodman Campus visited the Mississippi State Hospital at Whitfield on Wednesday, March 6 where they toured the facility. The tour was followed by lunch at Papitos in Madison.



Holmes to host Sports Hall of Fame on April 11

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Community College Alumni Foundation is hosting the annual Sports Hall of Fame Banquet on April 11. The event will be held in Frank Branch Coliseum on the Goodman Campus at 6 p.m. Sports Hall of Fame has been organized to recognize former coaches and athletes who made major contributions to intercollegiate athletics while attending Holmes.

The honorees will be Larry Hart, football player and coach; Richard Worthy, basketball; Shane Michael

Trosclair, baseball; Gerald Gibson, football; Walter Holman, football and Shelton Richardson, football.

Alumni and friends interested in attending may call the Alumni office at (662) 472-9134 to purchase tickets.



Holmes to host Concert and Art Show in Goodman

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Community College Fine Arts Department is holding a Concert and Art Show on Thursday, April 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Auditorium on the Goodman Campus. This event will include a visual art show, and performances by the concert band, percussion ensemble, jazz band, concert chorale, Coachmen Singers and student recital solos.

For more information about the event, contact Chair for Fine Art Jay Cheatham at jcheatham@holmescc.edu or (662) 472-9097.



Stop by for a visual art show and performances by the Concert Band, Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Band, Concert Chorale, Coachmen Singers and student recital solos.

Holmes to hold tryouts for Dazzler Dance Team

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College is bringing back the Dazzler Dance Team for the 2025 school year. Dazzlers are part of the Holmes Marching Band. This Fine Arts program is a way for Holmes students to showcase their skills and Bulldog spirit while possibly earning a scholarship.

The Holmes Dazzler Dance Team is a performance squad that promotes college involvement, support and showmanship. The squad members act as ambassadors of goodwill and entertainment at various college and community functions including but not limited to home football and select basketball games.

Dance clinics will be held Friday, March 22 and Friday, April 5 from 3:30-5 p.m. Tryouts will be Thursday, April 11 starting at 3 p.m. in the Montgomery Fine Arts Building. Application information can be

found following the QR code and on the Holmes website: <https://holmescc.edu/fine-arts/dazzlers-dance-team/>.

To be eligible to tryout, interested students must attend at least one dance clinic.

Tryouts will consist of hip hop, jazz, pom, and technique. Requirements for tryouts are:

- Form-fitting black dance clothing
- Jazz shoes and sneakers
- Hair and makeup- clean and professional

For more information, please contact Wendy Grace at temiller@holmescc.edu or Justin Craft at jucraft@holmescc.edu.

If selected to be part of the team, scholarships may be available.

Goodman ADN travels to Grenada to use simulation lab

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Community College Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program on the Goodman Campus traveled to the Holmes Grenada Campus on March 9 to use their simulation lab. There, the students were able to learn, in a “hands on” manner, how to deliver babies using the simulation lab technology.



Grenada’s CTE Show on the Road hits Choctaw County

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Community College Career Technical Education (CTE) Departments across the district participate in a “Show on the Road” recruiting event throughout the school year. The Grenada Campus’ “Show on the Road” made a stop at Choctaw County High School on March 8.

Instructors from all the CTE programs gave students hands-on opportunities to learn more about the various options at Holmes. These events involve all of Holmes’ campuses, and the CTE instructors go to high schools all throughout the college’s nine-county district.



Gwendolyn Lordeon teaches students CPR while talking about the nursing programs.



Craig Kirkendall shares with students about Holmes’ industrial technology program.



James Floyd shares with students about Holmes’ forestry program.

Goodman holds Phi Theta Kappa induction ceremony

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Community College Kappa Alpha chapter of Phi Theta Kappa honor society held their induction ceremony in McDaniel Auditorium on the Goodman Campus on March 7. Over 30 students were inducted into the honors society.

Following the ceremony, Mississippi State University hosted a reception for students and their parents/guests. The Goodman Campus Phi Theta Kappa advisors include Will Alexander, Simonee Miller and Charles Wood.



Wallace and Grayson receive MACCC postseason honors

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs placed two players --- Cameron Wallace of Little Rock, Arkansas, and Hobert Grayson of Gonzalez, Louisiana --- on this year's All-MACCC team following the 2023-24 season.

Wallace, who was named First Team and Freshman of the Year, led the Bulldogs in scoring with 18.5 points per game with 593 points scored. He shot 57.9 percent from the floor (230-of-397) and 70.2 percent from the free throw line (127-of-181). He averaged 7.5 rebounds per game, 1.4 assists per

game, 1.5 steals and one block per game.

Grayson, a sophomore, was named Honorable Mention. He finished the season with 15.1 points per game with 469 points scored. He shot 58.3 percent from the floor (179-of-307) and 81.4 percent from the free throw line (105-of-129). He averaged 7.6 rebounds per game, 1.6 assists per game, 1.8 steals and one block per game.

Roberts receives MACCC postseason honor

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College freshman Bella Roberts of Winona has been named to the All-MACCC team following the 2023-24 season.

Roberts, who was named Honorable Mention, led the Lady Bulldogs in scoring with 13.5 points per game with 350 points scored. She shot 35.8 percent from the floor (98-of-274), 34.3 percent from three-point range (61-of-178) and 71.5 percent from the free throw line (93-of-130). She averaged 4.2 rebounds per game, 1.3 steals per game and one assist per game.

Lady Bulldogs finish season with win over Hinds, 76-66

From Staff Reports/Photos

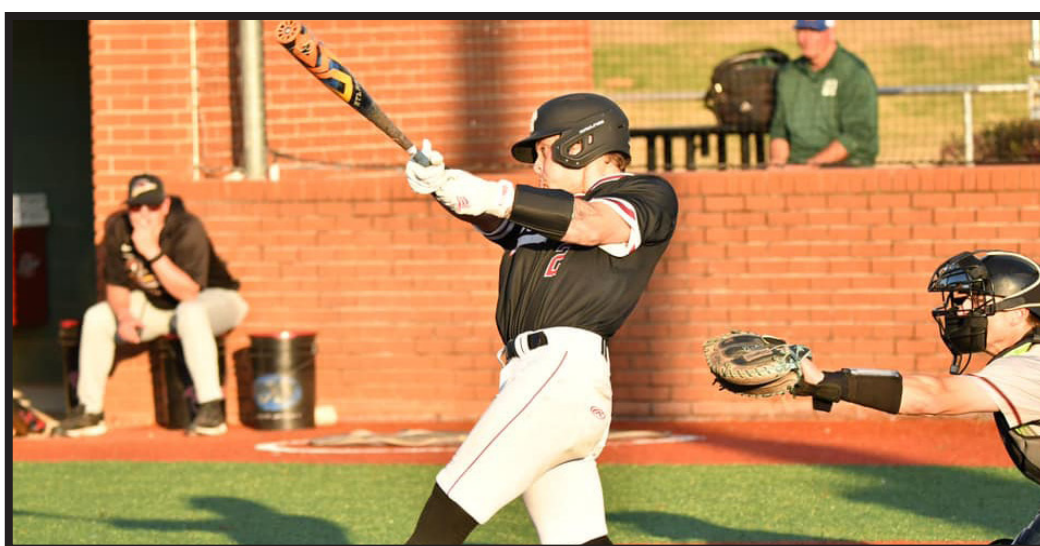


The Holmes Lady Bulldogs finished the 2023-24 campaign on a winning note with a 76-66 win over the Hinds Community College Lady Bulldogs. They had hopes of making the NJCAA Region 23 Tournament, but they found out after the games on Thursday, March 7, that they did not make it due to the Massey rating.

Holmes finished the season 15-12 and 6-8 in the MACCC. Holmes led 39-32 at halftime and outscored Hinds 37-34 in the second half for the win. Darranya Wright and Bella Roberts each had 23 points while Kelsey Federick had 10. Wright and Federick both pulled in 10 rebounds Holmes shot 41.8 percent from the floor in the game.

Bulldogs fall to Eagles in MACCC action

From Staff Reports/Photos



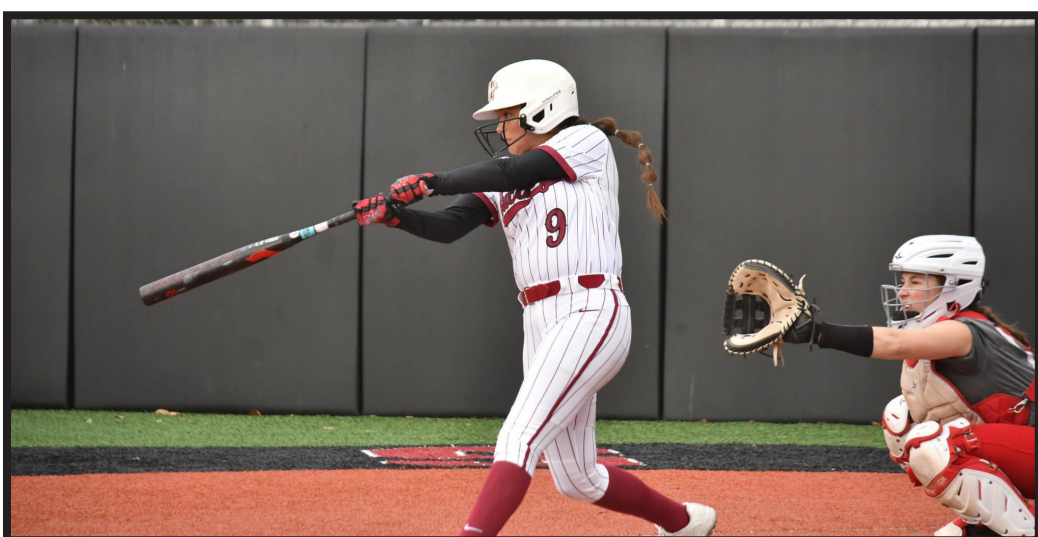
The Holmes Community College Bulldogs fell twice at home on Saturday, March 16, to Meridian, 10-3 and 6-3 in MACCC action.

In game one, Hunter Bethel got the start and suffered the loss. Josh Fleming also pitched in the game. Brenden Skirtech led the Bulldogs with two hits including a homerun and a double. Matthew Reed added a triple.

In game one, Aidan Bellman got the start and suffered the loss. Will Carter also pitched in the game. Nicholas Schwing led the Bulldogs with two hits including a double. Amari Conley added a double.

Lady Bulldogs take two from the Lady Wolves

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Lady Bulldogs picked up two wins at home on Thursday, Feb. 29, over Arkansas State University, 9-1 in five innings in game one and 13-6 in game two.

Charlee Rose Tierce went five innings and picked up the win. She gave up one run on six hits with five strikeouts. Blair Walsh, Meg Glasgow, Abbie McGee and Brooke Mitchell each had two hits with Walsh and Maicee Coleman each adding a homerun.

In game two, Annie Sartin went seven innings and gave up six runs on seven hits with seven strikeouts and four walks. Jadyn Miles led the Lady Bulldog with three hits while Walsh and McGee each had two hits with Walsh and McGee adding a homerun. Kayla Jennings had a grand slam in the game.

Bulldogs fall in Region 23 semifinals to Bobcats, 73-72

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs trailed to Jones College by as much as 13 in the final minutes of

Thursday, March 14's Region 23 semifinals but battled back to only get to within one, 73-72, before time expired

ending any hope of making the finals and the 2023-24 season.

Holmes finished the season 23-9.

Jones led the entire first half of the game and led 34-30 at halftime. Holmes took a one point lead, 35-34, lead with 19:09 left in the game when Hobert Grayson made a layup and was fouled and made a free throw. The lead was short-lived as Jones retook the lead seconds later. The lead switched again shortly after on a Cameron Wallace layup to make the score 37-36.

The Bobcats increased the lead to 13 with 3:34 before Holmes began their comeback. Dacory Porter's two free throws made it 72-61 with 3:18 left.

Wallace's layup made it 73-63 with 2:07 left before Jalen Tatum got a steal and layup with 1:58 to make it 73-65. A Porter steal with a Grayson dunk made it 73-67 with 1:40 left. Tatum dunked with 25 seconds left to make it 73-69 before Jamar Jenkins hit a three pointer with less than a second left to end scoring at 73-72.

Jenkins led the Bulldogs with 17 points including four three-pointers. Porter had 14, Grayson and Wallace each had 13 and Tatum had 11. Grayson had 12 rebounds.

Holmes shot 41 percent from the floor (25-of-61) and 66.7 percent from the free throw line (16-of-24).

Lady Bulldogs fall to Lady Warriors

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs fell 60-41 on Monday, March 4, to the East Central Community College Lady Warriors in Decatur.

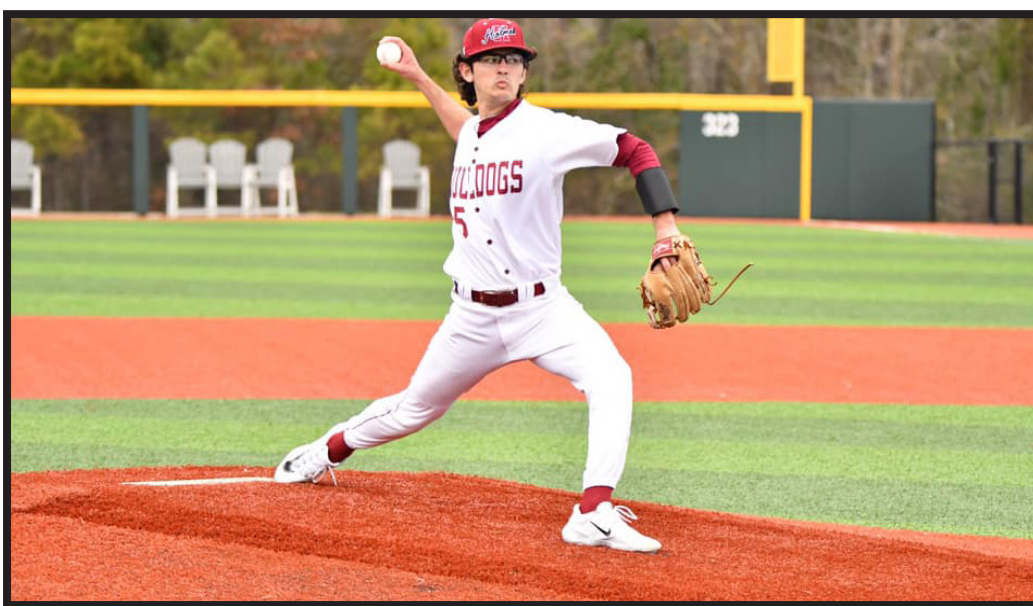
The Lady Warriors led by nine at halftime, 24-15 and then outscored the Lady Bulldogs 36-26 in the second half.

Zi'A Shields and Darranya Wright each scored nine points to lead the

Lady Bulldogs while Kelsey Federick had eight. Federick had 11 rebounds in the game.

Bulldogs split with Indians

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs split two games on Wednesday, March 13, with the Itawamba Community College Indians winning 6-5 in 10 innings and falling 16-6 in game two. The Bulldogs played at ICC.

In game one, Cole Moudy got the start and went six innings and gave up two runs on two hits with five strikeouts and two walks. Holton Hartzog went four innings and picked up the win. He gave up three runs on one hit with six strikeouts and one walk.

Nicolas Schwing had three hits for the Bulldogs while Hunter Azemar,

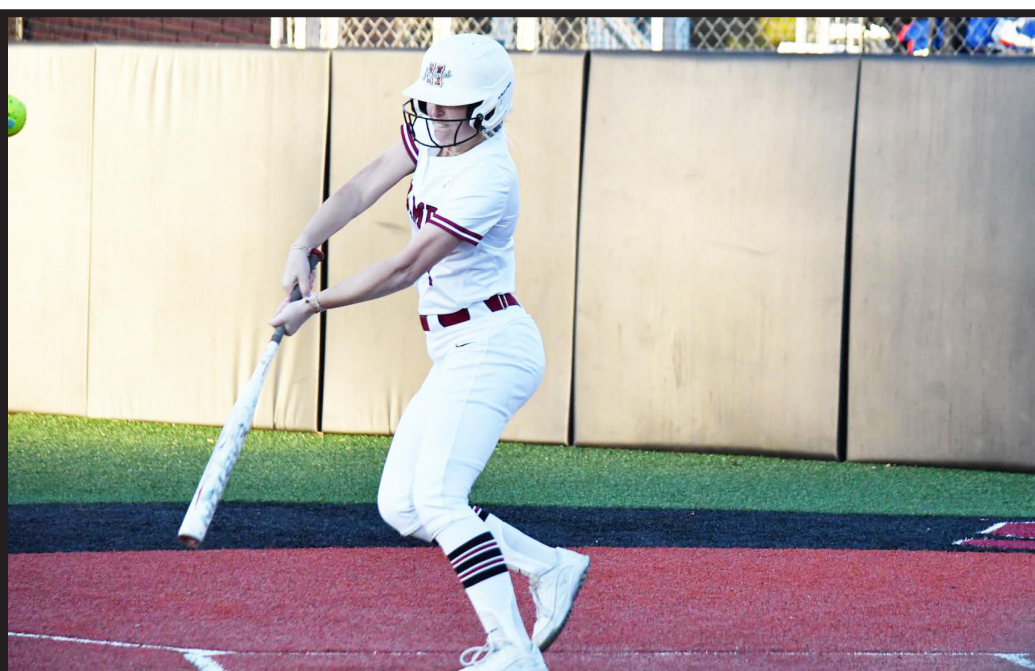
Hunter Bethel and Andrew Dinkelacker each had two. Azemar had a two-run homerun while Brenden Skirtech added a double.

In game two, Skirtech got the start and suffered the loss. He went two innings and gave up three runs on three hits with four walks. Seth Terrell, Houston Wedgeworth and Drew Newman also pitched in the game.

Azemar and Skirtech each had two hits with Skirtech having two doubles with Azemar and Adam Francisco each having one double.

Holmes splits with Itawamba

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs split two games at home on Wednesday, March 13. Holmes took game one, 4-3, and fell 4-0 in game two.

In game one, Annie Sartin got the start and picked up the win. She went seven innings and gave up three runs on five hits with two strikeouts and one walk. Jady N Miles led with two hits. Abbie McGee had a double.

In game two, Charlee Rose Tierce got the start and suffered the loss. She went five innings and gave up three runs on

six hits with one strikeout and three walks. Sartin went the final two innings and gave up one run on two hits with one walk. Brooke Mitchell picked up the only hit of the game.

Against Jones last Saturday, the Lady Bulldogs fell 7-4 and 16-4.

In game one, Sartin suffered the loss. McGee and Maicee Coleman each had two hits.

In game two, Tierce suffered the loss. McGee led with two hits.

Bulldogs advance to NJCAA semifinals with win over East Miss.

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs picked up an 81-69 win at home on Monday, March 11, over the East Mississippi Community College Lions to advance to the semifinals of the NJCAA Region 23 Tournament.

Holmes, now 23-8, will play Jones, now 25-6, who knocked off Baton Rouge in their quarterfinal game, 80-75. Thursday's game time and location is still TBA due to roof issues at Mississippi College.

Holmes led 41-37 at halftime and

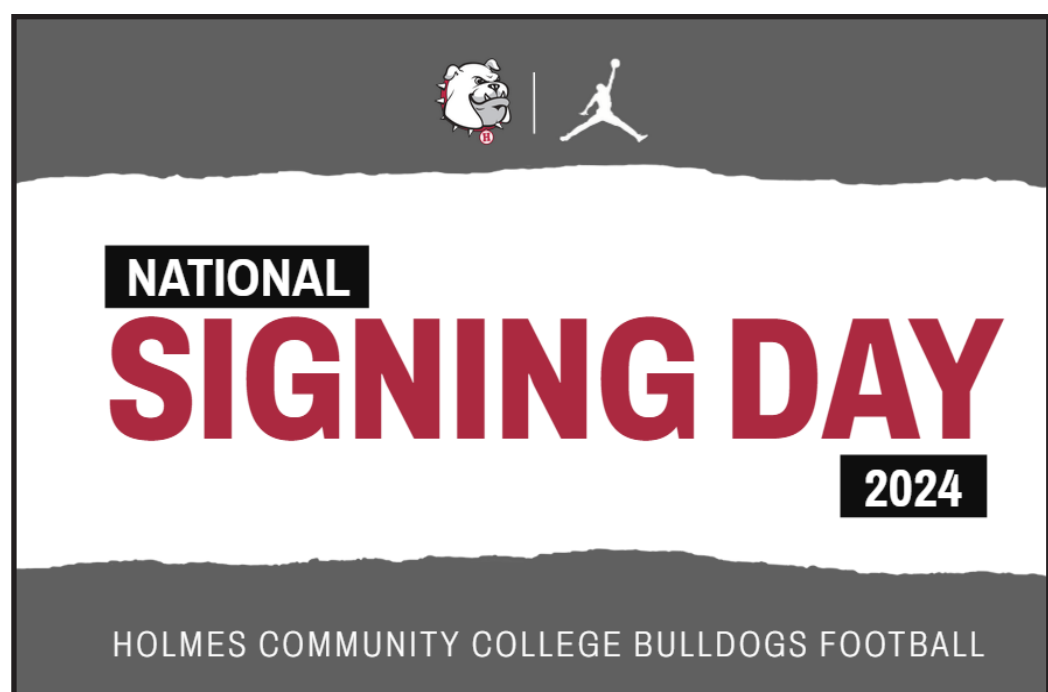
outscored the Lions, 40-31, in the second half.

Jamar Jenkins led the Bulldogs with 19 points including four three-pointers while Cameron Wallace had 18, Hobert Grayson had 17, Dacory Porter had 14 and Jalen Tatum had 11. Wallace led with 12 rebounds.

The Bulldogs shot 53.2 percent from the field (33-of-62) and 40 percent from the three-point line (8-of-20).

Thirty-five to join Bulldogs for 2024 season

From Staff Reports/Photos



Thirty-five newcomers will join the Holmes Community College football team for the 2024 season.

Newcomers include: Jeremy Atkins, Jr., DB, West Jefferson, La.; Malik Bell, DT, Oxford; Montaine Bonner, DE, Oxford; Antwone Breland, OL, Hattiesburg; Hubert Broadnax, OL, Gulfport; Cayden Burger, WR, Petal; Brandon Elam, OL, Brandon; Charlie Fair, QB, Grenada; Michael Gibson, OL, Union; Kebian Gilmore, LB, Clarksdale; B.J. Johnson, WR, Greene County; Allen Jones, DT, West Jones; Cam Joseph, WR, Gulfport; Sean McGill, OL, Gulfport; Braylon McKinion, OL, Northwest Rankin; Trip Maxwell; QB; Hartfield/South Alabama; Andrew

Merrell, P/K, Bogue Chitto; B.J. Mitchell, LB, Hattiesburg; Isaiah Morgan, OL, Gulfport; Jaquavous Pace, CB, Kosciusko; Tristin Purnell, WR, Winona; Chance Richardson, DB, Winona; Chase Richardson, ATH, Winona; Kam'Ron Robinson, CB, Winona; Jake Rogers, LB, West Lauderdale; Jaylin Rogers, OL, Union; Easton Sartin, RB, Bogue Chitto; De'Jarious Segrest, LB, Copiah Academy; Skylar Townsend, WR, Tanner, Ala.; Raheem Vance, QB, Olive Branch; Tavares Wade, RB, Hattiesburg; Keegan Ware, DB, Vicksburg; Jabari White, DE, Oxford; Jekerious Williams, CB, Grenada; and Lionel Williams, DE, Hazlehurst.

Bulldogs fall in MACCC openers at Jones

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Bulldogs fell twice in Ellisville to the Jones College Bobcats, 10-1 and 6-3.

In game one, Aidan Bellman got the start and suffered the loss. He went seven innings and gave up eight runs on 10 hits with five strikeouts and two walks. Carson Moon made his first appearance of the season in one inning of work. He gave up two runs on two hits with one strikeout and three walks. Walker Long, Hunter Azemar, Jacob Lott and Andrew Dinkelacker each had one hit.

In game two, Hunter Bethel got the start and suffered the loss in 4 2/3 innings. He gave up four runs on six hits with two strikeouts and two walks. Josh Fleming went 1 1/3 innings and gave up two runs on one hit with one strikeout and three walks. Hunter Azemar led the Bulldogs in hitting with three hits including a homerun and two doubles.

Lady Bulldogs take three of four games in Hinds CC Tournament

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs took three games in the Hinds Tournament on Feb. 23 and 24 played in Vicksburg at Sports Force Park. The Lady Bulldogs defeated St. Charles 8-7 in eight innings and Baton Rouge, 8-0 on Friday and defeated Metropolitan 6-4 and fell to Kirkwood, 12-4, on Saturday.

In game one Friday vs. St. Charles, Mollie Swilley got the start and went 6.1 innings. She gave up four runs on seven hits with four strikeouts and two walks. Chesney Beckham went 0.2 innings while Avery Roark went one inning. Lizzy Carpenter and Swilley each had two hits with Swilley adding a double. Blair Walsh had a double.

In game two Friday, Annie Sartin

got the start and went six innings. She gave up two hits in the game with three strikeouts. Gracie Williams, Maicee Coleman and Mhina Balthrop each had two hits with Williams and Balthrop each adding a double. Walsh had a triple.

In game one Saturday vs. Metropolitan, Charlee Rose Tierce got the win in seven innings. She gave up four runs on eight hits with nine strikeouts and two walks. Meg Glasgow led with three hits including a triple.

In game two Saturday vs. Kirkwood, Avery Roark got the start and suffered the loss. She went two innings and gave up six runs on nine hits with a walk. Annie Sartin also pitched in the game. Meg Glasgow led with two hits.



The Grawl Staff



Aleesa "Leesa" Booker

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



Alyssa Jackson

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



Johnvonda Johnson

Johnvonda Jackson of Canton is a sophomore majoring in health science on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus. She plans to graduate this spring and join the nursing program at Holmes. She enjoys spending time with her kids and family. This is her first year with the newspaper. She is so excited about it.