



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

THE GROWL

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October 2, 2017

Homecoming Set for Oct. 21

From Staff Reports/Photos



On Saturday, Oct. 21, Holmes Community College will be hosting its annual all-day Homecoming celebration on the Goodman Campus.

Holmes recently announced members of the 2017 Homecoming Court.

Ridgeland Campus court members include: Student Body Maid Carleigh Achee of Brandon; Sophomore Maids Johnna Davis of Flora and Michelle Patton of Madison, and Freshman Maids Bailey Hudson of Flora and Adrianna Watkins of Madison.

Members of the Grenada Campus court are: Student Body Maid Ashlee Bennett; Sophomore Maids Sierra Anderson and Danielle Mitchell, and Freshman Maids Macie Craddock and Anna Bradlie Blair. All of the maids are from Grenada.

Goodman Campus court members include: Homecoming Queen, Hallie Murtagh of Lexington; Student Body Maid Deonna Carter of Ridgeland; Sophomore Maids Shelby Turner of Sallis and Juliet Warriner of Brandon, and Freshman Maids Miltomia Hay-

mer and Alexis Jones, both of Yazoo City.

This year's football game against Northeast Mississippi Community College will begin at 3 p.m. with the presentation of the Homecoming Court and crowning of the Queen at halftime.

The Homecoming activities for the day begin with an alumni reunion brunch for classes 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000 in the library. The softball

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Arnett named Humanities Teacher of the Year

From Staff Reports/Photos



Sonja Arnett, an English instructor on the Goodman Campus, has been named Holmes Community College's 2017

Humanities Teacher of the Year. She will deliver her scholarly presentation, "Classroom Theatrics: A Touch of Flavor to Academia," on Thursday, Nov. 9 at 2:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Auditorium on the Goodman Campus. The lecture is free and the public is encouraged to attend.

The Humanities Teacher Awards recognize the contributions of humanities faculty at each of the state's colleges and universities. Nominations are made by the college or university president or human-

ities dean.

"When I was told I was chosen as this year's Humanities Teacher of the Year for Holmes, I thought, 'What am I going to say? What am I going to do?' After this initial crisis, however, I started thinking about my daily classroom routine. Every once in a while, I feel it is beneficial to add a little 'spice' to the lesson, a little drama to the routine. So, I am compiling a few of my 'dramatic' lessons to present on Nov. 9. My hope is to demonstrate that

drama can help bridge the gap between the often dry lessons of academia (though important) and the sometimes disinterested, easily distracted student population."

A member of the Holmes family since 2006, Arnett serves as an academic adviser, Writing Center tutor and English instructor. She holds a bachelor's and master's degree in English from the University of Mississippi and her first

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Holmes taps Jones Director of Holmes Attala Center

From Staff Reports/Photos



Dr. Jenny Bailey Jones was named director of the Holmes Community College Attala Center in Kosciusko. In addition to

running the Attala Center, Jenny will continue to serve as an academic dean at the college, overseeing instruction in Goodman and Kosciusko. Dr. Jones is stepping into this role held by Nancy McRight as she begins her retirement from Holmes.

"Holmes is proud to have such a capable leader in Dr. Jenny Jones," said President of Holmes Dr. Jim Haffey. "She blends decades of educational policy experience with youthful enthusiasm and creative ideas. Her experience as dean will allow

her to enhance the academic offerings at the Attala Center, and her passion and close ties to the community will ensure that Attala County and the surrounding area have the college support they need."

A native of Kosciusko, Holmes has been a part of Jones' life since the fall of 1995. She has worked with the eLearning department in two capacities: instructional design coordinator and eLearning coordinator. Before working with eLearning, she served as the portal manager and media

specialist for the IT department for three years. Prior to that, Dr. Jones was an instructor for the Business and Office Technology Department for 12 years. She has also been an instructor for the Mississippi Virtual Community College since 2001.

Dr. Jones earned her doctorate in Instructional Systems and Workforce Development from Mississippi State University in May. She also holds a bachelor's and

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Russell-Smith named District Director of Adult Education/GED

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College Workforce Coordinator and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Director

Earline Russell-Smith was recently named district director of Adult Education/GED for the college.

"With all the changes in Adult Basic Education mandated by changes in federal workforce legislation, I believe that Earline's experience with the Workforce Investment system in Mississippi will be invaluable in this time of transition," said Vice President of Workforce Development Dr. Mike Blankenship. "Earline also brings a desire to help people which is very important with the population served

through Adult Basic Education."

Russell-Smith has worked with the Federal Workforce programs and Workforce Development since 1999. She also served as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) grant coordinator for the college. Holmes is one of five community colleges in the state participating in the grant program, which has given more than 3,000 SNAP (formerly called food stamps) recipients the opportunity to receive training and get a degree as part of a three-year pilot program. Russell-Smith increased the

number of students obtaining financial aid grants for the college through WIOA and SNAPS, and SNAPS grant enrollment has doubled from the previous years.

Russell-Smith has also coordinated and promoted workforce training classes for the Yazoo Educational Center, Attala Center and Goodman Campus. She evaluated instructor's performances and the effectiveness of training programs, making recommendations to ensure all training

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WHAT'S INSIDE...

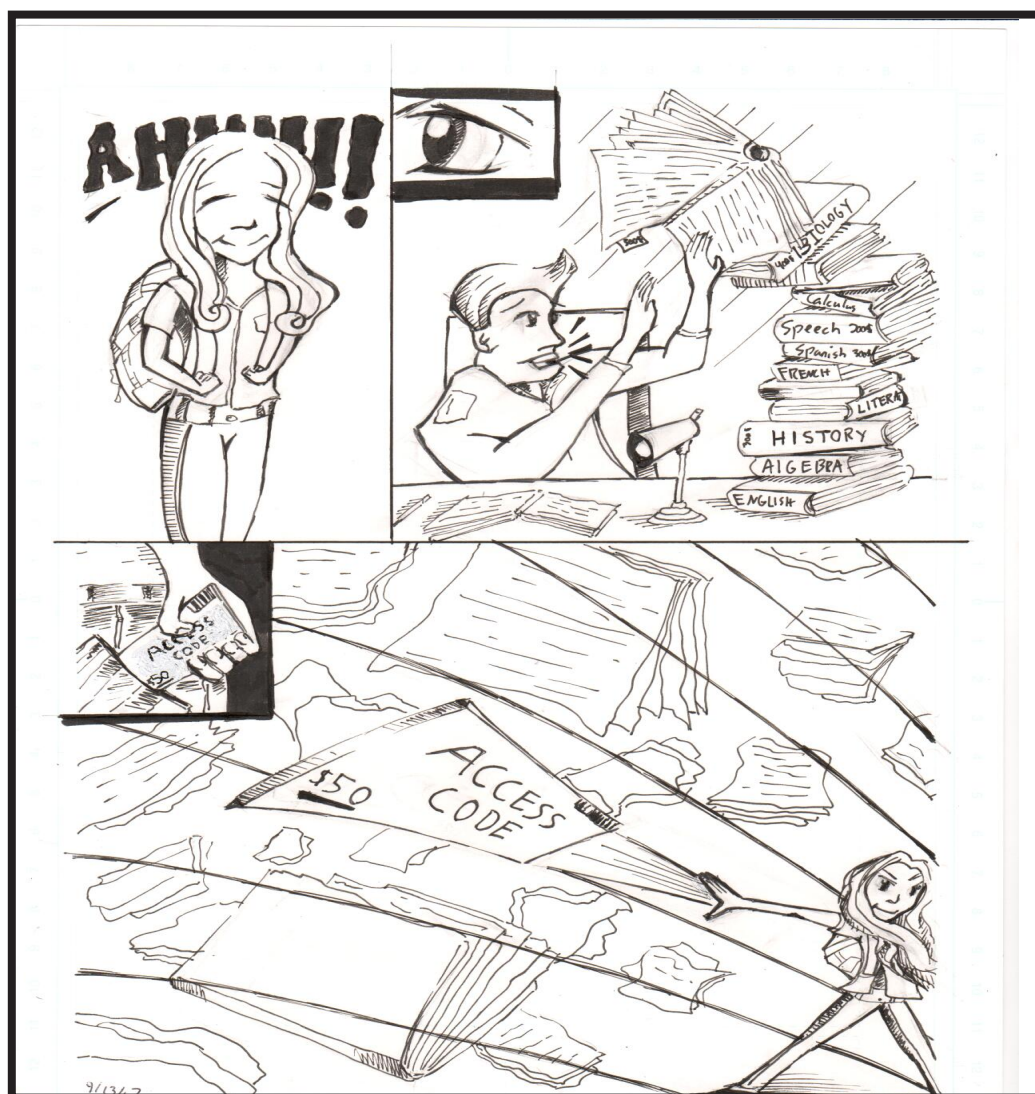
- STUDENT EDITORIALS
- MOVIE REVIEWS
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- SPORTS PHOTOS/RECAPS AND MORE!



**SEE PAGE 9 FOR THE
2017 HOMECOMING
SCHEDULE!**

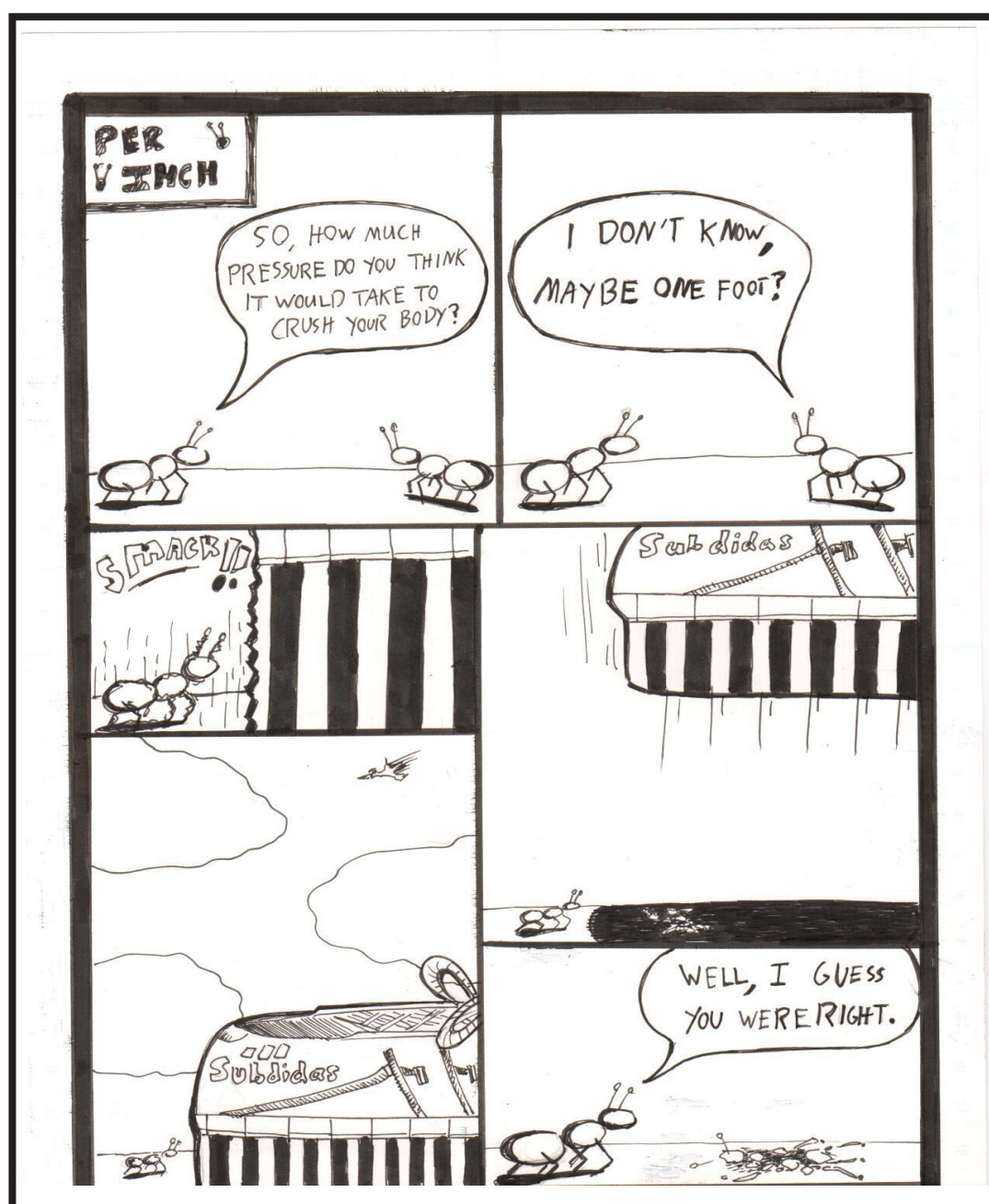
Fall of Text

By Ethan Burton
Growl Cartoonist



Per Inch

By Ethan Burton
Growl Cartoonist



The Growl

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

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

Send to: mbusby@holmescc.edu.

Student Spotlights

To help students, faculty and staff learn more about the current Holmes student body, members of the Growl staff interviewed their peers and shared the interviews in their own unique way for the Student Spotlight section.



Interview by: Chandler Garrett

Name:

The person I interviewed was my twin brother, Christopher U. Garrett. He does not like to let others know his middle name.

Hometown:

Chris was born and raised in Ridgeland.

Major:

Chris' major is art and graphic design due to his interest in art.

Post-Holmes Plans:

"I plan to transfer to Southern Miss to learn animation and later work with my brothers"

Career Ambition:

Chris' career ambitions are to become an animator and game designer.

Hobbies:

Chris' hobbies are playing videogames, drawing and reading mystery books.

Special talents/ Skills:

"I play the trumpet in the Holmes band, draw, and paint"

Keylin Bustillo



Interview by: Malik Jamileh

Keylin Bustillo, 21 years old, is a student at Holmes Community College on the Ridgeland Campus. Keylin is a native of Honduras, and moved here at a young age now living in Madison. Her focus of study is pre-pharmacy right now while she can get some of her courses out of the way at a local community college close to family. Keylin hopes to transfer to Ole Miss to complete her bachelor's degree. While pursuing her degree, she also wants to seek an internship at University of Mississippi Medical Center to ensure her a job after college. Some hobbies Keylin dabbles in are soccer, her true passion, where she enjoys playing the position defense. A talent Keylin has is her ability to multi-task a lot of responsibilities that most people her age do not have. Keylin is attending classes while working part-time at Chik-Fil-A to pay for her own tuition - while leaving time to have fun on the soccer field!

Ashley Elizabeth Reeves



Interview by: David Randall

Q: Where are you from?
A: I am from Brandon. Go dogs!
Q: What are your plans after Holmes?
A: I plan on going to Southern Miss and furthering my education in criminal justice in the hopes to be a homicide detective.
Q: Okay, what are some hobbies of yours?
A: I enjoy performing, acting, singing and dancing. I always have; it has been a pretty big part of my life ever since I joined theatre and show choir in ninth grade.
Q: Do you have special talents or do you have something interesting about yourself that you would like to share with Holmes?
A: Well, other than singing, dancing and acting I really don't have anything. I'm sorry I'm not more interesting!

Joshua Jackson



Interview by: Kanisha Wade

Name: Joshua Jackson
Hometown: Jackson
Major: English
Minor: Communications
What do you plan on doing after Holmes? After I leave Holmes I plan on going to a university such as Belhaven, Mississippi College or the University of Georgia.
Why Georgia? That has always been my favorite school. I grew up watching the college football games so I always liked them, I researched in high school and I liked what they had to offer.
What are your career ambitions? To become a lawyer. English majors get accepted into law school.
Do you want to have your own law firm? Kind of, I want to have enough money to fund my own movement. To create change in the rough neighborhoods.
What are your hobbies? Watching football, writing poetry, I love writing, sports and playing games. I am also part of the icreate club. You should join.
Special talent/skill/ something interesting about you: I am a wordsmith, I have the power to create words. I can do a lot of things with my words. I have the gift of gab.

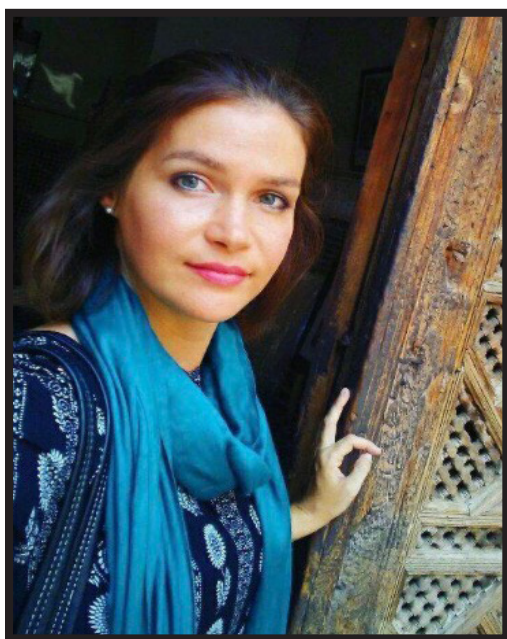
Xavier Thompson



Interview by: Timothy Jones

In an interview with Xavier Thompson, he informed me that he is a native of Jackson. Thompson is a sophomore at Holmes Community College, and he majors in pre-dental. After graduating from Holmes, Thompson plans to attend the University of Mississippi to further his education. He hopes to become a dentist after graduating medical school. Thompson is fast, so he enjoy running on the track, and hopes to become a track star.

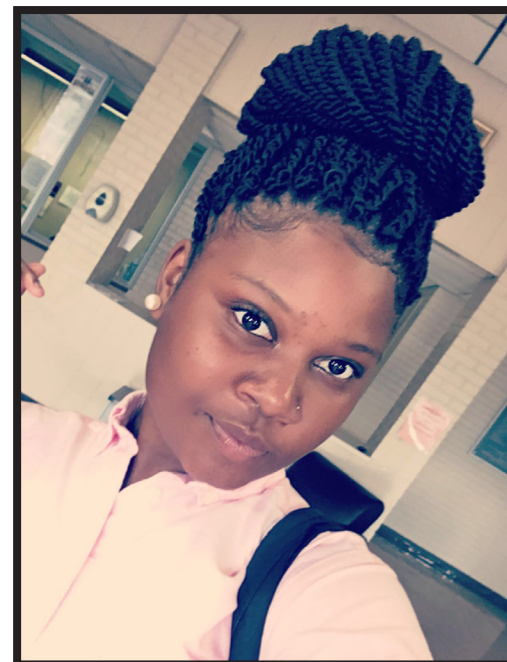
Sharissa Sakcriska



Interview by: Liz Howell

Q: What's your name?
A: Sharissa Sakcriska
Q: What's your major?
A: Criminal justice. But I plan to double major in social justice and criminology when I go to my four-year.
Q: What's your hometown?
A: Oh, gosh. Please don't laugh. I'm from Bentonla.
Q: What would be your ultimate career ambition?
A: I don't know. I want to work at the state crime lab in evidence-related stuff.
Q: And your post-Holmes plans?
A: I'd like to attend Delta State University and major in social justice and criminology.
Q: What are your hobbies? What else about you is especially interesting?
A: I don't really have any hobbies. I love to travel internationally and I like researching my genealogy. I have an identical twin sister. My grandfather was a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. I'd like to say I've got a talent for getting regrettable tattoos and finding cheap prices for far-off countries. That's about it.

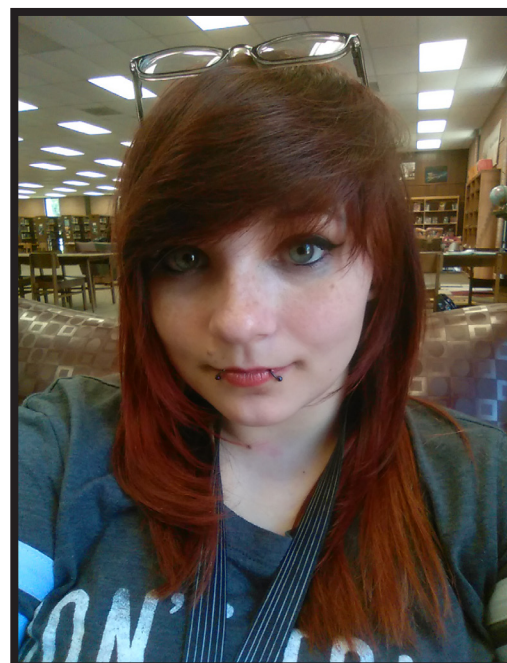
Kyshawanna Sly



Interview by: Cayla Holloway

Kyshawanna Sly is a freshman that attends Holmes Community College. She is from Lexington. Kyshawanna is majoring in psychology. Her plans after Holmes are to transfer to Mississippi State University to pursue her career in psychology. Kyshawanna also wants to get her Ph.D. in Psychology and become a children's psychologist. Her hobbies are dancing, hanging with friends and helping others. Kyshawanna says that she loves listening to people's problems and helping them solve them.

Kiya Hope Alvarado



Interview by: Ethan Burton

I came to the library around 1 p.m. to sit down with my interviewee. We chose to sit in the maroon chairs near the back where the board games are. There were a few people around, but not so many that we couldn't have a conversation.
So, what's your name?
 Kiya Hope Alvarado.
Where is your hometown?
 New Orleans, Louisiana.
What is your major?
 Graphic design.
What do you plan to do once you graduate?
 I plan to go on to graphic design at Delta State. If I do not have a high enough GPA, then I will go into cooking.
What is your career ambition?
 To be a stay-at-home digital artist.
Do you have any hobbies?
 I mostly draw side commissions. If I'm not drawing, then I'm playing all sorts of video games.
What is something interesting about you?
 I have heterochromia, which means that I have two colored eyes. I also once led a volunteer group in high school to help with an animal shelter; I have a deep passion for animals.

Arnett (Continued from Front Page)

teaching position was at Hinds Community College as an adjunct English instructor.

Prior to joining the Holmes faculty, Arnett was employed with Delta Airlines in Jackson from 1994 -2004 as a customer service agent. In that role, she helped people check in, worked at the departure gate and handled baggage service.

"I loved it," Arnett said, "but the job required night/weekend/holiday hours, and I had a young son that I wanted to

spend time with at those crucial times, so I returned to teaching."

To transition back into the field of education, she acquired her emergency teaching license and taught 11th grade English for one year at Norwest Rankin High School. In the spring of 2006, Arnett applied to Holmes, joined the English faculty and has never looked back.

"I adore teaching English and I love my students," Arnett said. "I am grateful daily

to work in this academic environment and to have the love and support of an extraordinary college president, vice president and academic dean. My colleagues inspire me and are fun to work with. I have the greatest job ever. I plan to retire from here!"

Arnett and her husband, Kenny, have been married for 28 years. They have one teenage son, Kenneth Trey, whom she says is her "greatest gift from the Lord." In ad-

dition to teaching and spending time with her family, she also loves taking walks in the country and working the land on her Kubota tractor.

After presenting her lecture this fall, Arnett will be recognized by the Mississippi Humanities Council at the 2018 Public Humanities Awards Reception in February in Jackson.

Jones (Continued from Front Page)

a master's degree in technology with an emphasis in business technology, and a specialist degree in educational technology.

An active member of the community, Dr. Jones sits on the Kosciusko School

District Board of Trustees, the Kosciusko Foundation for Excellence in Education Board and has been a member of Mississippi Educational Computing Association and the Mississippi Business Education Association, just to name a few. She is

also Chairman of the Dual Credit/ Dual Enrollment Committee for the Mississippi Community and Junior College Academic Officers' Association.

Dr. Jones and her husband, William, have two children: Sara Bailey and Lizzie

Kate.

For more information about the Holmes Attala Center, contact Dr. Jones at jbailey@holmescc.edu or (662) 472-9174.

Russell-Smith (Continued from Front Page)

needs were met.

Additionally, Russell-Smith served on the Work Ready Community Board for Holmes and Attala County, and prepared and managed workforce projects - including budgets - through the Mississippi Community College Board accountability system. She is also responsible for designing and implementing the Youth Workforce Academy, which engaged at-risk youth with soft skills and work experience to improve their employability. The program was used as a model for other youth

programs in the Delta area.

"I'm excited that Earline is joining the Adult Education team as our District Director!" said Career Path Specialist Bronwyn Robertson. "It's as though she's been a part of us all along and this only makes it official. I have always found her to consistently exceed expectations in her interpersonal skills, support of staff and work ethic. I've had the opportunity to work with Earline on several projects and I also know her personally; she never fails to impress me with her positive attitude

and encouragement. I am delighted that I'll be working with her again."

Prior to her employment with Holmes in July 2005, she worked as a workforce specialist with the Mississippi Department of Employment Security and as an educator with Chicago public schools.

A native of the Acona Community in Lexington, Russell-Smith currently resides in Coila. She earned her bachelor's degree in education from Jackson State University and her master's in education from Capella University. Russell-Smith is a member

of Steele Chapel Independent Methodist Church where she serves as choir director and a youth leader. She and her husband, Holmes alumnus Prentiss Smith, have three children: Prentiss Jr., Trentiss and Erin. Prentiss Jr. is also a Holmes alum, Trentiss is a senior at J.Z. George High School and Erin is in eighth grade at George Middle.

For more information about the Adult Education/GED program, contact Russell-Smith at esmith@holmescc.edu or (662) 472.9105.

Gaming Club: Not all Dragons

By Liz Howell
Growl Editor



Pictured is **Chandler Garrett**, vice president of the Gaming Club.

The Holmes Community College Gaming Club on the Goodman Campus is a relatively new organization. Though it was started last year, it has taken until this semester for it to truly begin gaining popularity. As it grows in popularity, the club members have been working to add new activities to their meetings. They have recently decided to start a Dungeons and Dragons campaign, which they plan to get underway soon.

"Since it's a chaotic mess trying to organize a dozen people that don't know anything about the game, it provides a fun challenge for the club to overcome," said Ethan Burton, a club member.

The club has been gaining in popularity through the semester. After their table at Freshman Friday attracted

several incoming students, the officers have worked hard to insure the Gaming Club lives up to the excitement that the new students felt when they signed up. They have had a small Mario Kart tournament, a session on how to play Magic Trading Card Game and multiple Cards Against Humanity games. Last week, they held an unofficial contest to see who could stack their D&D dice the quickest, which led to the members attempting to maneuver their character creation around scattered dice of varying sizes.

As they prepare to have a tent for Homecoming, Vice President Chandler Garrett was asked why others should join the club.

"Being part of the Gaming Club means that you will meet other gamers," Chandler said. "You'll get to expand yourself

on other gaming styles and consoles, which leads to a stronger play style. You'll just get better at gaming, which we all want to do. If you ever wanted to start a channel, you could meet others with that goal as well. It's better than being alone. Club of games, meet and conquer!"

The Gaming Club meets in the CCN Room of McMorrough Library at 6 p.m. on Sundays. The officers are Liz Howell, president; Chandler Garrett, vice president; Alyssa Allbritton, secretary, and Chris Garrett, treasurer. Both Liz and Chandler can be emailed with questions or inquiries about club meetings and activities. Their emails are ehowell2@student.holmescc.edu and cgarrett13@student.holmescc.edu.

Rotoract holding raffle for The Angel Tree

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Holmes Rotoract Club, located on the Ridgeland Campus, is currently raffling off a meal for six prepared by Sugar Magnolia Bakery (poppysseed chicken, green beans, yeast rolls, desert and tea) worth \$60. All proceeds will fund "The Angel Tree," a service project that Rotoract does each year for

residents of The Home Place Senior Center in Madison.

Tickets are \$3 each or two for \$5. The drawing will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 31.

The Rotoract Club is a service organization that is in the process of being chartered at the Holmes Ridge-

land Campus. Sponsored by the Madison-Ridgeland Rotary Club, Rotoract brings students together to do service activities in Madison County and the surrounding areas. The club meets twice a month to promote leadership, professional development, and service among college age students. With more than

8,00 clubs in 167 countries, Rotoract members are helping to lead change in communities around the globe.

For more information, contact Rotoract adviser Jennifer Smith at jensmith@holmescc.edu or (601) 605.3394.

Goodman SkillsUSA places third at nationals

From Staff Reports/Photos



IN THE PHOTO: Pictured are the members of the Holmes Community College Goodman Campus SkillsUSA Opening and Closing Team who won third place in the National SkillsUSA competition in Louisville, Kentucky on June 23. They are (front, left to right) Ann Pohlig, Hallie Westbrook, Lauren Martin, and (back, left to right) Lakesha Rand, Kevin Lockett, David Orduna and Jenna Cummings.

The Holmes Community College Goodman Campus SkillsUSA Opening and Closing Team won third place in the National SkillsUSA competition in Louisville, Kentucky on June 23. The team included Jenna Cummings, Kevin Lockett, Lauren Martin, David Orduna, Ann Pohlig, Lakesha Rand and Hallie Westbrook.

“We are very proud of the work the students from the various Career-Technical Education programs put into the competition,” said Will Alexander, an engineering instructor and Goodman Campus SkillsUSA adviser. “The poise these young men and women portrayed was incredible under such strenuous conditions during their national competition. Holmes Community College was well represented by our Goodman representatives.”

This was the 53rd annual National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC), and included a showcase of career and technical education students from across the United States.

More than 6,000 students from every state competed in the national competition, according to a release from SkillsUSA. It is the largest skill competition in the world, with more than 100 hands-on competitions that include robotics, automotive technology, drafting, criminal justice, aviation maintenance and public speaking.

The team advanced to nationals after placing first in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies category at the state competition held by the Mississippi Department of Education at the Jackson Convention Center Feb. 28 - March 1.

Goodman Writing Center holds Grand Opening

By Liz Howell
Growl Editor



Pictured are (front, left to right) Chris Kalil, Abigail Proctor, Liz Howell, Major the Bulldog, Jessica Brown, Sonja Arnett, Chad Moorer and (standing) LaShonda Levy.

On Tuesday, Sept. 5, the Goodman Campus Writing Center held its grand opening. Located in Room 25 in McDaniel Hall, the Writing Center has been a place for students to receive help with papers for the past few years. Despite how long it has been around, this was the first official grand opening of the tutoring center.

The Writing Center director, Chad Moorer, hosted the event, which included an appearance by Major, HCC’s bulldog mascot, and door prizes. A total of 49 students attended, plus the English department, assorted faculty and the three tutors. Jessica Brown, the chair of the English department, said that she believed it to be a success, and Moorer said that he was “pleasantly surprised” by how many attended and that he hopes that it is only an indication of how many clients the center will have this semester.

“I’ve never seen so many people in [the Writing Center] at once,” said Liz Howell, one of the tutors. “No one ever knows where to find us. I know there are people who need help with papers, though, and that’s why we’re here. We help with every step of the writing process--from helping students outline their ideas, to helping them find grammatical errors, to helping with citations. I always brought my papers up here before becoming a tutor. It really helps in the long run; we try to teach students how to find errors on their own.”

The Writing Center is open from 1-3:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday. The tutors are Liz Howell, Chris Kalil and Abby Proctor.

Holmes linemen program alumni aid in hurricane relief

From Staff Reports/Photos



Alumni of Holmes Community College’s electrical linemen program employed with various electric companies are putting their skills to good use in the wake of the recent hurricanes. Although Holmes instructors feel certain that there are other graduates aiding in the relief efforts, there are, for certain, five former students working in Texas and one in Florida.

Following Hurricane Harvey’s devastating destruction, linemen graduates Brook Ables, Shane Arnold, Eric Peterson and Zack White have been working with Entergy to restore power under supervisor Jody Gatlin. Jody Branson is also working in Texas, but with Southern Electric Corporation of Mississippi (SEC). A native of Florida, linemen grad Cade McKedzee head-

ed to his home state to deal with the aftermath of Hurricane Irma with his company, KCI, under supervisor E.S. Hutto.

Harvey made landfall on Aug. 25 in Rockport, Texas, as a Category 4 Hurricane with winds of 130 mph. Even as it weakened to a tropical storm, it dropped 40-52 inches of rain in Texas and Louisiana, causing catastrophic flooding. The historic hurricane not only brought widespread destruction of homes and buildings, but as many as 70 people lost their lives in the storm. Also, according to the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, over 300,000 people lost electricity, making it essential for linemen to come from all over the United States to help restore power.

Meanwhile, Irma - the first Category 4 landfall in Florida since 2004 - remained a Category 1 hurricane through the early morning of Sept. 11 before finally being downgraded to a tropical storm and then a tropical depression. The storm left behind dangerous floodwaters, power outages for millions and a death toll of 22 people in Florida. According to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)’s media center (<http://www.ibew.org/media-center>), more than 10 million Floridians are without power following

Irma, and there are tens of thousands of lineworkers participating in “the largest power restoration workforce in U.S. history.”

Qualified electrical linemen are currently in demand, and the hands-on electrical linemen program at Holmes is taught by instructors with valid experience and specialized education in the field. The students who go through this course must complete 608 clock hours of training over the 16-week course to earn their electrical lineman certificate.

“The young men that went through our program at Holmes are now gaining first-hand experience working in these storms,” said electrical linemen instructor Mac McBride. “This is what they signed up for, this is a lineman’s type of weather, but that doesn’t make the job an easy one. Most will leave at a moment’s notice, not knowing where they are going or how long they will be gone. It’s just a day-to-day thing, moving from one place to another, working around 16 hours a day for sometimes two-four months at a time.”

McBride describes how these linemen must deal with some pretty difficult conditions in the storm aftermath: excruciatingly long days, dangerous flood waters, difficult driving

conditions, piles of debris, swarms of mosquitos and people breaking traffic control rules just to come observe the storms’ effects.

“Sometimes these guys might be in situations where getting hot meals, washing their clothes daily and getting a good night’s sleep are not possible,” McBride said. “Sometimes hotel rooms may not be available and they have to stay in emergency accommodations such as trailers pulled up on-site. On top of that, their families must make adjustments since they could possibly have to stay for weeks at a time. This is no easy task, but when they are out there, they are their brother’s keeper, watching out for one another.

“I can also say from experience: there is no greater satisfaction for a lineman than finally getting the power restored after an outage, throwing a switch and watching those lights come back on. It’s like watching a Christmas tree once you’ve strung up all the lights and finally switch it on. It’s a beautiful thing, and a great feeling to know you’ve helped so many people.”

The electrical linemen program at Holmes is currently offered on the Goodman Campus. Those interested must have a high school diploma or

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Hurricane Relief (Continued from Page 5)

GED certificate, be 18 years of age or older and be prepared pass a drug test as well as a Department of Transportation (DOT) physical.

After completion of the program, each trainee will be able to drive commercial vehicles requiring Class A license, and will have the necessary knowledge and physical training to successfully work in the electrical

lineman field. Program graduates will understand all aspects of the electrical lineman safety manual, make connections of meter loops, transformers, and other equipment on de-energized poles, assist with the framing and installation of poles and apparatus on the ground, read and understand general information on the REA specification book, assist in the burying of cable

and other related work, differentiate between an energized and de-energized structure and recognize appropriate hazards, make basic connections and disconnections, check voltage/amperes and operate vehicles and equipment (bucket trucks, digger derrick trucks, forklifts, etc.) safely.

“We are proud of these young men who go through this program and feel

confident that they are equipped to handle the tough but rewarding job of being an electrical lineman,” McBride said. “We’re also glad to know that they are using those skills to help other people.”

For more information on the program, contact Earline Russell-Smith at esmith@holmescc.edu or (662) 472.9105.

Ridgeland Campus holds Voter Registration Drive

From Staff Reports/Photos



On Wednesday, Sept. 20 and Thursday, Sept. 21, the Holmes Ridgeland Campus History and Political Science Department hosted a voter registration drive in Ridgeland Hall. In addition to the voter registration table, instructors went into classes and let students know how, when and why they should

register. As a result of the drive, 103 people from nine different counties registered to vote. There were 35 from Hinds County, 33 from Rankin, 29 from Madison, one from Holmes, one from Lafayette, one from Scott, one from Sunflower, one from Warren and one from Yazoo.

(left) **Adrianna Watkins** registers to vote while instructors **J.R. Hall** and **Kay Kelly** look on during the voter registration drive on Sept. 21.

Ridgeland ADN volunteer at Senior Fest

From Staff Reports/Photos



IN THE PHOTO: The Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus freshman ADN students pose for a group photo prior to assisting with Senior Fest on Sept. 22 at the Mississippi Trade Mart.

The 41 Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus freshmen Associ-

ate Degree Nursing (ADN) students participated in the 19th Annual St.

Dominic Senior Wellness Fest on Sept. 22. Held at Mississippi Trade Mart in downtown Jackson, the annual event is one of Mississippi’s largest senior events of the year.

The event including free screenings, vaccination shots, door prizes, food, performances by “The Victory Belles” and an opportunity for attendees to bring donation items for homeless veterans. The ADN students helped in numerous ways such as conducting blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose screenings; handing out popcorn; welcoming attendees at the door; giving out goody bags and signing attendees in/directing them where to go.

The ADN freshmen for the 2017-2018 school year include: Crystal Anderson, Emily Baldwin, Lauren Berl, Brooke Boteler, Christian Bourn,

Gabriel Bridgeman, Jacy Cauthen, Madison Clausel, Narzeunna Collins, Lauren Coon, Rebecca Dickard, Mathias Dryden, Audrey Johnson, Caleb Jones, Samuel Jones, Jessica Knott, Nicole Leber, Kristen Lee, Jenny Liles, Kadedria Luckett, Andrew Miller, Madalyn Morris, Bayly Moss, Amanda Nicholson, Kelsey Oswald, Alice Shelton, Quentin Shines, Jr., Catherine Shofner, Tamara Sims, Jamie Smith, Kelsey Smith, Madelyn Smith, Shelby Smith, Rebecca Strong, Darya Thompson, Kelly Thompson, Alexis Topik, Stacy Trejo, William Vanderford, Kaitlyn Westcott and Tori Withers.

For more information on the ADN Program at Holmes Ridgeland Campus, contact Alice Austin at (601) 605.3419 or aaustin@holmescc.edu.

Ridgeland Campus adds HAVOC to student organizations

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured (left) is president of HAVOC, **Jesse B. Qualls**, recruiting students to be a part of the new student organization during the Student Activities Fair on Aug. 24.

Holmes Ridgeland Campus sophomore Jesse B. Quall recently held the inaugural meeting for a new student organization called HAVOC on Sept. 28. As president of the club, Qualls recruited members at the student activity fair in August and led the first meeting.

HAVOC is a multimedia cloud, Holmes Allied Video/Online Club, which will meet the last Thursday of every month in the Library Conference Room.

“We are normal people that want to create something for everyone to enjoy,” Qualls said.

Multimedia Specialist Barin von Foregger serves as the staff adviser for the student organization.

This organization will give students interested in multimedia an opportunity to share their creativity with one another and

learn from one another, as well.

Qualls added that the following quote by Robert J. Sawyer perfectly sums up HAVOC: “Everything is cross-platform now. That’s part of the reality that we live in - a multifaceted, multimedia world- and I’m delighted to be a part of that.”

For more information about the organization, contact Qualls at jqqualls1@student.holmescc.edu or show up for the next meeting on Thursday, Oct. 26. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Hankins named Alumnus of the Year

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is **Alumnus of the Year Albert "Al" Burton Hankins, Jr.**

The Holmes Community College 2017 Alumnus of the Year recipient is Grenada native Albert "Al" Burton Hankins, Jr. The award will be presented on Oct. 21 at this year's Homecoming Celebration held on the Goodman Campus.

As soon as Al graduated from Holmes, he began working full-time for his family business, Hankins Lum-

ber Co., Inc., in Grenada. Following his father Burton's death in May of 2001, he took over the company as CEO and president.

Al credits his father for instilling a strong work ethic in his children from an early age. His father and uncle, Bewel Hankins, started off as a small business, Hankins Lumber Sales, in 1950. A few years later, they purchased a planer mill in Winona and in 1957, built the planer mill outside of Grenada in the small community of Elliot, where the company's headquarter is located today.

By the 1960s, the Hankins brothers added a sawmill and dry kilns to their business, but just a few years later, Bewel passed away. Burton took over sole leadership of the company following his brother's death and continued to run a client-oriented, successful business that offered high-quality products. The company became incorporated in 1972 as Hankins Lumber Co., Inc. and continued to grow, complete with construction of a new planer mill and major renovation of the sawmill in the late '90s.

Al is quick to contribute the busi-

ness' continuing prosperity to the solid foundation his father and uncle established. He and his younger brother Lee, who serves as vice president of the company, have worked in the shops, boiler rooms and mills.

"Every facet of this mill, I have been in," Al said.

Hankins Lumber Co. now employs 155 workers and manufactures more than 150 million feet of lumber annually. The company also manages southern yellow pine tree farms scattered across the state, producing 120 million board feet per year.

In addition to his work for the family business, Al also serves as a commissioner for the Mississippi Forestry Commission; a position that entails a six-year term of leadership in forest protection, management, inventory and information distribution.

As hard work seems to run in the family, Al is not the only Hankins who has accomplished great things. His sister Clara is also a Holmes alum, and both of them believe in the impact the school has made on the lumber industry. To show their appreciation, the Hankins donated \$75,000 to the

Holmes Forestry Technology Program on the Grenada Campus in 2015.

Al recalls that his father served on the Holmes Board of Trustees years earlier and contributed quite a bit to the school.

"Many of our employees at Hankins Lumber, including myself, have attended some of the evening programs offered at the college," Al said. "Holmes helped me so much and I can see how it helps the younger people as well; especially our future foresters. We want to invest in our industry's future."

Hankins Lumber also hosts a few of Holmes' Forestry Technology classes each year, allowing students to tour the facilities and experience first-hand what they learn in the classroom.

Al and his wife, Jewel Mooney Hankins, have two children: Mandy McCormick, 39, who works at Hankins Lumber Co., and Amber Lee, 33, a registered nurse. The Hankins also have two grandchildren: Stephanie Davis, 18, and Ashlyn Lee, 13.

Foster named Veteran of the Year

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is **War Veteran of the Year James C. Foster.**

Holmes Community College is proud to honor Kosciusko native Corporal James Cline Foster, Sr. (Class of '49) as the 2017 Veteran of the Year. The award will be presented on Oct. 21 during the Homecoming celebration

held on the Goodman Campus.

Cpl. Foster served in the U.S. Marine Corp during World War II in the Southwest Pacific islands of Peleliu and Okinawa. During the Okinawa campaign, which was the last and largest of the Pacific island battles, he was wounded in combat by a sniper and medically discharged. It was just a few short years later that he enrolled in Holmes.

While at Holmes Junior College, as it was called in the '40s, Cpl. Foster was an active member of the College Agriculture Club. His experience at Holmes served him well as he continued his studies at Mississippi State University, earning a bachelor's degree in agriculture and a master's in education.

"One thing I always say is that Holmes is close to my heart," Cpl. Foster said.

After teaching agriculture for nine years, then serving as a teacher and

basketball coach for 10 years in Leake and Attala counties, Cpl. Foster took on the role of principal for McAdams High School for eight years. Following his position at McAdams, he was voted Superintendent of Education; a position he held for 16 years in Attala County before retiring in 1987.

Always proud of serving his country, Cpl. Foster was a longtime member of the American Legion, a state commander and local DAV (Disabled American Veterans) commander for five years. He has also been a member of VFW Post #1983 since 1947 and member of DAV since 1968. Cpl. Foster has also been a part of the Military Order of the Purple Heart since 1990, and served on the Mississippi State Veteran Affairs Board as chairman from 1992-2000. He was even instrumental in the Martha Jo Leslie State Veterans Home being built in Kosciusko.

One of Cpl. Foster's most admirable accomplishment was founding the

Aisle of Honor Program. Each Memorial and Veteran's Day, this program honors those who died serving this country by lining the cemetery with over 700 flags during the programs. The pavilion at the Aisle of Honor is named the James C. Foster Pavilion.

In 2015, Cpl. Foster received the American Legion Blue Cap Award for distinguished service to the community and country. In addition to being active in veteran activities, he is also a Mason (Masonry is the oldest fraternity in the world), a member of Shriners International (a spin-off from Freemasonry) and a longtime elder of the Thomastown Christian Church.

Cpl. Foster and his late wife, Edna Earl Foster, who he was married to for 63 years, have two children: Jamie Foster, 66, and Tommy Foster, 70. He also has seven grandchildren: Cheri Hunt, Barry Foster, Chase Foster, Dylan Foster, Anna Foster, Abby Talkington and Arin Foster.

Branscome named Distinguished Service Award Recipient

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is the **Distinguished Service Award recipient Edward Hayes Branscome.**

The Holmes Community College 2017 Distinguished Service Award

recipient is Edward Hayes Branscome of Grenada. The award will be presented on Oct. 21 at this year's Homecoming Celebration held on the Goodman Campus.

A lifelong resident of Grenada, he was elected to serve on the Grenada Bank Board as a director in 1982. When it became Grenada Sunburst Bank, he served as a director, and as a member of the Executive Committee, the Loan Committee, the Trust Committee and the Audit Committee. When Grenada Sunburst merged with Union Planters, Branscome served as a member of the board for the Grenada Region until 1997.

When James "Jimmy" Robertson passed away in 2012, Branscome became a trustee of Robertson's Trust. Robertson was a veteran banking executive from Grenada for over 45 years.

"Jimmy was a dedicated supporter of

the Grenada community and instructed me to use a large portion of his remaining estate to help Holmes Community College," Branscome said.

On Sept. 15, 2014, the Robertson Trust provided \$205,600 through the sale of 20,000 shares of Regions Bank stock in order to establish the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program at Holmes. On April 22, 2015, the Robertson Trust donated \$100,000 to establish scholarships for the program and an additional \$75,000 on Sept. 27, 2016, bringing donations to a total of \$380,600 from Robertson's Trust.

"Holmes means so much to this community," Branscome said. "I am honored to have been a part of establishing the PTA program at Holmes, and so glad we were also able to create scholarships for the program so that interested students can pursue their career dreams."

Branscome earned his bachelor's degree in agriculture from Mississippi State University upon graduating from John Rundle High School. His agricultural degree served him well, as he was in the cattle and land business for a number of years. While studying at MSU, he was a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity, Alpha Zeta honorary agricultural fraternity and Omicron Delta Kappa honorary leadership society. A class of '60 alumnus, he served as a member of the MSU Alumni Board from 1993-2015.

A member of the Grenada Rotary Club, Branscome formerly served as president and as district governor of Rotary International District 680. He was also recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow and in 1982, he organized the

(Continued on Page 8)

Branscome (continued from Page 7)

first Rotary Youth Leadership Conference, which is still held annually in District 680.

Additionally, Branscome is a past director of the Grenada County Chamber of Commerce, has served on the Trust and Investment Committee for the Delta Area Council of Boy Scouts of America and on the Executive Committee of Forward Grenada, Inc. He

is an active member of Grace Baptist Church, as well.

“Mr. Branscome is a very generous man with a kind heart,” said Meg King, director of the PTA program at Holmes. “I know him very well, as he and I were Grenada Junior Auxiliary Charity Ball King and Queen together in 2002. He understands the importance of providing a quality college education in Grenada and the positive

impact it will have on individuals, families and the community.

“Mr. Branscome and I have had long discussions about the PTA program and how the scholarship can help change the trajectory of an entire family. We believe in the PTA program at Holmes and our PTA students. Mr. Branscome shares this vision and we are grateful for his service to Holmes Community College and to the Grenada communi-

ty.”

Branscome and his wife, Martha Faye, have two children: Beth McCaugh, CFO of Pinnacle Trust in Madison, and Brad Branscome, president of Guaranty Bank and Trust in Grenada. The Branscomes also have three grandchildren: Jonathan and Elizabeth Stevens, and Josh Branscome.

Barksdale named Young Alumnus of the Year

From Staff Reports/Photos



Pictured is Young Alumna of the Year Award recipient Xan Barksdale.

Former Holmes Community College Bulldog and pro baseball player turned author, Xan Barksdale (class of '02), is the college's Young Alumnus of the Year. A native of Madison, Barksdale played for the Bulldogs in the 2001 and 2002 seasons, where he was a two-time All-State selection and All-Region XXIII after the 2002 season. Outside of baseball, he majored in engineering and was a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society. After earning his associate degree at Holmes, he played two seasons at the University of Mississippi while pursuing his bachelor's in business administration. Barksdale helped the team host their first regional in 2004 and was named “Most Dedicated Player.” After his playing days at Ole Miss, he spent time with the

Atlanta Braves organization. In 2007, he retired from professional baseball to accept the position as assistant coach at the University of Louisville. While there, they won the College World Series and were Big East Champions for three consecutive years. Barksdale also served as a recruiting coordinator/assistant coach for East Tennessee State University and a USA Baseball Catching Coordinator. In 2008, he started Xan Barksdale Baseball, LLC, which is an online-based business offering baseball-related products, software, books and information. He is now fully focused on his position as CCO (Chief Catching Officer) of his company, and will soon release his fourth book, “The Art and Science of Calling Pitches.” Barksdale also travels to conduct speaking engagements and

has been the featured guest on a number of baseball podcasts. As a result of his numerous accomplishments, he was inducted into the prestigious Holmes Community College Sports Hall of Fame in April of 2013. “I think giving back is really important,” Barksdale said. “Because of my coaching career, I haven't been able to come back to Holmes as much as I wanted to over the past few years. Now that I have a little more free time, I plan to spend more time on campus and spend more time with the players and do as much as I can. I want to let them know that Holmes is a great place to be. I'm proud of coming from here and like to come back here.”

Kosciusko to offer Manager's Food Safety Course

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College is offering the Manager's Food Safety Course at the Attala Center in Kosciusko on Thursday, Oct. 26. The course last from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and cost \$150.

The 8-hour course satisfies the Mississippi Department of Health Requirements and involves discussions on foodborne illnesses, including information

on specific foodborne pathogens and biological toxins like shellfish poisoning, contamination and food allergens.

The course also covers prevention, with information regarding purchasing and receiving guidelines, food preparation, holding and serving guidelines, food safety management systems, sanitation guidelines for facilities and

equipment and integrated pest control.

For more information or to register for the class, contact Earline Russell-Smith at (662) 472-9105 or esmith@holmescc.edu, or call the Attala Center at (662) 290-0808.

Holmes alumna gets \$30K scholarship

From Staff Reports/Photos



IN THIS PHOTO: Pictured is (left) Lexington native Lily Fran McCrory being awarded the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship from Dr. Ed Hill, a family physician from Tupelo.

Lexington native Lily Fran McCrory, a graduate of Holmes Community College and graduate of Mississippi State University, was recently awarded the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship valued at \$30,000 per year for her medical training at the University of Mississippi School Of Medicine in Jackson at the annual scholarship ceremony. McCrory is the daughter of Frankie and Robin McCrory of Lexington.

Created in 2007, the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program (MRPSP) is designed to provide more primary care physicians in rural areas of Mississippi. During medical school, each MRPSP scholar receives \$30,000 per year based on available funding. Consistent legislative support of the MRPSP translates to 60 medical students receiving a total of \$1,800,000 to support their education this fall.

“The Mississippi Legislature cele-

brates with these Mississippians from across the state in their commitment to improving healthcare for rural Mississippians by becoming rural primary care physicians,” said Buck Clarke, Chairman of MS State Senate Appropriations.

In addition to the legislative support, four privately funded scholarships are also awarded this year. Other benefits include personalized mentoring from practicing rural physicians and academic support.

Upon completion of medical training, MRPSP scholars must enter a residency program in one of five primary care specialties: family medicine, general internal medicine, medicine-pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology or pediatrics. The MRPSP Scholar must provide four years of service in a clinic-based practice in an approved Mississippi community of 20,000 or fewer population located more than 20 miles from a med-

ically served area.

MRPSP provides a means for rural Mississippi students to earn a seat in medical school and to earn a \$120,000 medical school scholarship in return for four years of service and learn the art of healing from practicing rural physicians.

For more information, contact MRPSP Associate Director Dan Coleman at 601-815-0564, jdcoleman@umc.edu or <http://mrpsp.umc.edu>.

Homecoming (Continued from Front Page)

HOMECOMING 2017 GENERAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE DAY Saturday, October 21 On the Goodman Campus

9 a.m.	Alumni Reunion Brunch for Classes 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000 in Library
9:30 a.m.	Softball Alumni Game
10 a.m.	Football Class of 1965 Reunion (Mississippi Room in Library)
10:30 a.m.	Baseball Inter-Squad Game
	Art Department Opens (until 2 p.m.) Coliseum Opens
	Basketball Scrimmage
11 a.m.	Honoree Recognition in McDaniel Auditorium
11:30 a.m.	Coachman and Connection! Performance in McDaniel Auditorium
Noon	Lunch in the Grove (until 1:15 pm.)
	Little Bulldog Zone (for kids) opens in the Grove
	Steel Band Performance in the Grove
	Honorees Lunch with the President in the Grove
12:45 p.m.	Concert Choir Performance in Chapel on the Hill
1 p.m.	Annual Alumni Meeting in the CCN Room of Library
1:30 p.m.	Parade Begins at Cook Dorm
2 p.m.	Pep Rally Held in Main Parking Lot
2:30 p.m.	Band Enters the Football Stadium
2:45 p.m.	Honorees Recognized on the Football Field
2:55 p.m.	National Anthem Performed by the HCC Chorale
3 p.m.	Kick-off with Northeast!!
Halftime	Presentation of the Homecoming Court and Crowning of the Queen

Need a cool place to sit? Or a minute away from the crowd? The McMorrough Library will be open to all guests! Come visit and enjoy a cold glass of water and light snacks on us!

For our SEC fans: The games will be on in the lobby of Grenada Hall and the Lorange Student Center so you don't have to miss one minute of any game!

alumni game follows at 9:30 a.m. and the football class of 1965 will meet in the Mississippi Room in library at 10 a.m.

Next, the baseball team will play an inter-squad game beginning at 10:30 a.m. Simultaneously, the art department will host an open house in the library (which lasts until 2 p.m.), the Little Bulldog Zone (for kids) opens in the Grove and the basketball team will play a scrimmage in the coliseum.

Holmes will also be recognizing this year's Alumnus of the Year, Albert Burton Hankins, Jr., along with the Distinguished Service Award Recipient, Edward Hayes Branscome; the Veteran of the Year James, Cline Foster and the Young Alumna of the Year Award recipient, Xan Barksdale, during a special ceremony in McDaniel Auditorium at 11 a.m.

Following the recognition, the Coachman and Connection! will perform in McDaniel Auditorium and lunch will be served in the Grove at noon. During lunch, the Little Bulldog Zone will be available for children and the steel band will perform.

At 12:45 p.m., the choral will perform in the Chapel on the Hill. Following the performance, the Homecoming Parade will begin at Cook Dorm and end with a pep rally in the main parking lot. The alumni honorees will be recognized on the field and the Choral will perform the National Anthem prior to kick-off at 3 p.m.

Micheal Edmonds: Once Bully, Always Bully

From Staff Reports/Photos



They say every dog has its day and for recent Holmes alum Michael Edmonds, that day was Saturday, April 8. That was the day that Mississippi State University informed Michael, the current Holmes mascot that he had been chosen to be MSU's Bully for the 2017-18 school year.

The son of Arthur and Tammy Edmonds of Yazoo City, Michael earned his Associate of Arts degree in Communications from Holmes on May 12. Active in student life, he was not only Holmes Bully, but also an Ambassador, a member of MOSAIC, a Horizons yearbook staff photographer and president of Student Government Association. Michael was chosen as Mr. Holmes CC for the Goodman Campus, as well.

"Graduating from Holmes was one of the best experiences of my life," Michael said. "I'm a first-generation college graduate in my family and everybody was so excited for me. I have to give Cheerleading Coach Heather Jones credit for me ending up at Holmes to begin with...she and I go to church together in Yazoo City and she talked me into coming to Holmes and trying out to be the mascot. I'm

not going to lie, I was scared out of my mind the first week of mascot camp, but Coach Jones encouraged me every day and served as a great mentor.

"I loved being the mascot at Holmes, but I'll be honest, I never imagined I would try out to be the mascot for Mississippi State University. As my time at Holmes was coming to an end, though, I thought, why not try out at MSU? I'd had such a great experience with it at Holmes. The try-out was intense! The day started off with an interview that morning and then later we performed at Super Bulldog Weekend, which was one of the most exciting experiences I've had so far. I could lift my hand, or paw rather, and the crowd would go wild."

The role of Bully at MSU will not only entail Michael entertaining the crowd during football games, home basketball games and other athletic events, it will also include community involvement. He will take pictures with children pre-game, visit with fans, make alumni appearances, show up for university functions and even appear at some outside events such as alumni weddings and birthday parties.

"I can already tell that there are many similarities between being Bully at Holmes and at MSU," Michael said. "I know I'll still go to some of the same mascot camps because when I went to the Cheerleading and Mascot Camp at The University of Alabama with Holmes, all the SEC mascots were there too. Also, while at Holmes, I was involved in a lot of community service and events outside of athletics, just as I'll continue to do at MSU.

Bully for the 2017-18 school year at Mississippi State University. "Some of my favorite memories involve visiting the sick children at Blair E. Batson Hospital. Making those kids smile was one of the best things in the

world. I also loved how kids would run up to me at football games yelling 'Bully, Bully!' as they excitedly asked to take their photo with me. It was so much fun to brighten their day and I'm thrilled that I get to continue doing that."

The Holmes cheerleaders and Bully also helped out with cheerleading campus for elementary aged kids, visited all of Holmes' campuses for events like Fall Fest and Spring Fling and assisted with promotion for the college.

"I will say, one of the funniest experiences I had as Bully was when we went to perform for the Yazoo City Boys & Girls Club," Michael said. "We were all dancing around, getting the kids excited and Coach Jones told me to go into the crowd of children. The next thing I know, all the kids start tackling me, trying to pull my tail off, take my head off, just basically trying to take me apart. I start grabbing the rails to get away from them and keep my costume on. It was time for Bully to exit! We decided that was the last time I'd go out into a crowd of small children like that!"

"One of my favorite experiences as Bully was going to Disney World with the cheerleaders for the UCA College National Championship. Another great memory is when I helped the marketing and communications departments with the President's Report video. We were showcasing the new fitness center in Ridgeland and I did all kinds of things as Bully, from yoga to using the weight machines to floating around the massive pool in an inner tube. It was a challenge trying not to get the Bully suit wet, but the whole experience was a lot of fun!"

Michael intends to continue his studies in marketing at MSU. He is grateful for how his stint as Bully has helped him in his major and will continue

to when he transfers. As a Holmes student, he worked closely with the marketing department on a number of recruiting/promotional pieces, including video, photo shoots and live appearances. He will continue to have such opportunities at MSU, learning more about their jobs in marketing as well as all the ins and outs of the SEC.

Despite the ways in which the Bully experience will be similar from Holmes to MSU, Michael is quick to point out the key differences.

"The day of try-outs at MSU I thought, this is going to be easy, I've got this in the bag," Michael said. "Then I got up there, saw the stadium and my heart started racing. Performing at Super Bulldog Weekend and at the Governor's Cup (for MSU) was exhilarating, but it was a lot more people than I'm used to performing in front of at a community college. I'm used to most people knowing it's me inside the suit and being used to seeing me a good bit. At these events, no one knew who was inside the suit. The cameras were everywhere and the fans were going crazy. Despite how overwhelming it was at first, it was an amazing experience and I was thrilled to learn I'd made the cut to be (MSU's) Bully!"

"For anyone interested in becoming a college mascot, my advice is to get out there, be big with your emotions and be yourself! It is all about improvisation and having fun with it."

For information about Holmes Community College and becoming a mascot, contact Heather Jones at (662) 472.9099 or hjones@holmescc.edu.

For information about becoming a Mississippi State University mascot, contact Melissa Nichols at (662) 325.0350 or MNichols@saffairs.msstate.edu.

Faculty and Staff recognized at Opening Convocation

From Staff Reports/Photos

On Aug. 7, Holmes Community College held its annual district-wide Opening Convocation in Frank Branch Coliseum on the Goodman Campus.

The theme this year was “No Place like Holmes,” and the event included “The Wizard of Oz” themed decorations and costumes, delicious treats, trivia, prizes, relay races, a performance by the Holmes cheerleaders, an address by President of Holmes Dr. Jim Haffey and a presentation of awards.



Pictured (above) are Ridgeland Campus employees recognized for 10 years of service with the college. Pictured are (front, left to right) Rachel Bickerstaff, Stephanie Blue, Amanda Lindsey, Allison DeWeese, (back, left to right) Roy McDonald, Barbara Puryear, Makeaba Latiker, Brooke Hood and Steve Deaton.



Pictured (above) is Diane Allgood, who was recognized for 30 years of service with the college.



Pictured (above) is HR Director Julia Brown with (left) Joanna Spell, recognized for 25 years.



Pictured (above) are (left to right) Dr. Lindy McCain, Cham Blain and Tish Stewart; recognized for 20 years of service with Holmes.



Pictured (above) are Grenada Campus employees recognized for 10 years of service with the college. Pictured are (front, left to right) Jimmie Hall, Ginger Meriwether, Tracy Herring, Ann Weaver, (back, left to right) John Misita, Heather Guest, Slade Redwine, Craig Kirkendall and Gwen Lordeon.



Pictured (above) are employees from every campus recognized for five years of service with the college. The five-year recipients included: Emily Bennett, Evelyn Bishop, Ashley Bryle, Buster Bueche, Laura Canard, Brandy Culpepper, Jeanette Dawson, Frank Edwards, Justin Langford, Kevin Leopard, Chad Moorer, Frances Nix, Santosh Parakkal, Eddie Pearce, Bronwyn Robertson, Brian Simmons, Jerry Smith, Chanda Sykes, Mary Haralson, Jim Thompson, Steven Tiller, Sherry Weeks and LaTaryl Williams.



Pictured (above) are employees recognized for 15 years of service. They are (left to right) Casey McDaniel, Diane Harman, Nancy McRight, Yoshika Stingley, Michael Pawlik, Wendy Grace, Jennie Pegg, Larry Morgan, Mary Leigh Poole, Leslie Spell and Gloria Benson.



Pictured (above) are Goodman Campus employees recognized for 10 years of service with the college. Pictured are (front, left to right) Dorothy Garrett, Tonya Wooten, Wesley Leopard, Mike Yates, Jimmie Hall, (middle, left to right) David Powell, Angie Burrell, Dana Nichols, (back, left to right) James Bordelon, Wadell Walden, Julia Brown, Rosemary Self, Derrick Rainey and Willie Roby.

“I have spent literally one-third of my life at Holmes between my time as a student and faculty member,” Land said in her response. “Holmes truly has a piece of my heart and my passion for this institution runs deep. I love that we are a family, and I take pride in working with students so they too can love Holmes like I do.”



Pictured (above) is Vice President of Academic Programs Dr. Fran Cox, who received the “Scarecrow: If I only had a brain” Award. This award was voted on based on who has implemented innovation to improve/grow the college.



Pictured (above) is District Director of Career-Technical Education Dr. Amy Whittington, who received the “Tin Man: Wherever You Go, Leave a Heart Print” Award. This award was based on who has impacted others’ careers at Holmes.



Pictured (above) is Stephanie Wood, district graphic designer, who was presented an award for having the best answer - as voted on by her colleagues - to the prompt, “Explain what ‘No Place like Holmes’ means to you.”

“Holmes has been a part of my family for generations,” Wood said in her response. “Dad used to drive us to Goodman just to show us the dorms he lived in and eat in the cafeteria. One of Mom’s favorite photos is from her Holmes PN Pinning back in the 70’s. She had on the white hat and all. My sister graduated from Holmes and was an employee. I attended, now I am an employee. Holmes has always been a part of our family and has always felt like home.”

The runner-up for having the best answer to the prompt “Explain what ‘No Place like Holmes’ means to you” was Amy Land, educational programs instructor on the Grenada Campus.



Pictured (above) is Cynthia Abel, recruiter/student activities coordinator for the Grenada Campus, who received the “Cowardly Lion-Not Anymore” Award. This award was based on who has accomplished professional/personal goals.

Continued on Page 11

Opening Convocation (Continued from Page 10)



Pictured (above) is **Roy McDonald**, a member of the Ridgeland Campus maintenance staff, who received the "Emerald City Award." This award was for a member of the maintenance crew, ground crew or custodial services crew who went beyond his/her duties to keep Holmes beautiful.



Pictured (above) is **Miracle Redmond**, admissions representative/switchboard operator and winner of the "Glinda the Good Witch" Award for the Goodman Campus. These awards, voted on by all faculty and staff, were given to employees who have demonstrated exceptional customer service.



Pictured (above) is **Bethany Miller**, administrative assistant to the vice president and academic dean in Grenada and winner of the "Glinda the Good Witch" Award for the Grenada Campus. These awards, voted on by all faculty and staff, were given to employees who have demonstrated exceptional customer service.



Pictured (above) is **Mary Haralson**, a student aid advisor in the financial aid office and winner of the "Glinda the Good Witch" Award for the Ridgeland Campus. These awards, voted on by all faculty and staff, were given to employees who have demonstrated exceptional customer service.

Cox earns doctorate from William Carey



Pictured is **Dr. Tiffany Cox**.

Tiffany Cox of Ridgeland, an Associate Degree Nursing instructor on the Holmes Community College Ridgeland Campus, recently completed her Ph.D. in Nursing Education and Administration at William Carey University. After defending her dissertation, "An Examination of Non-Nursing Students' Attitude of Nursing as a Career Choice for Males," Dr. Cox

officially received her degree on Aug. 11 during a ceremony held at Temple Baptist Church in Hattiesburg.

Prior to earning her doctorate, Dr. Cox earned a Master of Science in Nurse Education from University of Mississippi Medical Center in 2012. She has also completed coursework at the Delta State University School of Nursing, received a Master of Public Policy and Administration from Jackson State University, earned certification in Enterostomal Therapy from The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Alcorn State University.

Dr. Cox has been a part of the Holmes family since 2013. She started off teaching practical nursing courses, but began instructing the ADN courses soon after.

"Dr. Cox joined the Associate Degree Nursing program in 2013 and has exemplified the epitome of professional excellence in nursing education since joining Holmes Community College," said Dr. Alice Austin, assistant director for the ADN program. "She has been a great asset to the program here in Ridgeland and we are so proud of her

for earning her Ph.D."

Prior to working at Holmes, Dr. Cox was employed with University of Mississippi Medical Center from 2004-2013. Over the tenure of her time at UMMC, she worked as a case manager for the hematology/oncology department, as a psychiatric utilization manager, as a pediatric utilization manager and as a quality initiative coordinator. Before UMMC, Dr. Cox worked at St. Dominic's Hospital as a staff nurse; at Serv-U Home Health Agency as a team leader/admission nurse; at Sta-Home Health Agency as a patient care manager and enterostomal therapist; at Mississippi State Hospital as a shift supervisor and RN and at Interim Staffing Agency in Hyattsville, Maryland, as a PRN staff nurse.

In addition to her extensive background working in management and nursing, Dr. Cox also has experience in public policy as part of the Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) program. PMF is a prestigious, two-year training and development program at a U.S. government agency. Administered by the Office of Personnel Management, it is for U.S. citizens with a recent graduate degree. As part of the pro-

gram, Dr. Cox was a safety and health specialist for USDA Forest Service in Washington, DC, and worked on rotation site for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Agency Center for Mental Health Services in Rockville, Maryland.

Dr. Cox has received a number of honors awards, including making the William Carey University President's List as a doctoral student and winning the Rosie Lee Calvin Nurse Educator Award, among numerous others. She is a member of the Holmes Faculty Association, the ADN Student Affairs Committee, Healthy at Holmes, Sigma Theta Tau, Honor Society of Nursing, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, the Mississippi Nurses Association, American Nurses Association and Eliza Pillars Registered Nurses Association and has held a number of other professional memberships, as well.

To learn more about Holmes' ADN program, contact Director of Nursing Dr. LaWanda Herron at lherron@holmescc.edu or (662) 227-2305.

To learn more about Dr. Cox, check out her professional exposé at <https://sites.google.com/site/professionalinfluence/>.

Holmes/Ivey to offer Intro to Plumbing course

From Staff Reports/Photos



The Holmes Community College Attala Center is partnering with Ivey Mechanical to offer an Introduction to Plumbing Trades paid training course. Fifteen students will be selected for the program, which will run from Oct. 9 to Dec. 8.

The course, taught by Carl Bibbs, will run Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Attala Center, located on 620 West Jefferson St. in Kosciusko. There

is no charge to take the course.

To apply for the program, applicants must have a GED or high school diploma, a valid driver's license and must be able to pass a drug test. Applicants must also possess the Career Readiness Credential- Silver Level. The ACT National Career Readiness Certificate (ACT NCRC[®]) is an assessment-based credential that measures and certifies the essential work skills needed for success in jobs across industries and occupations.

The course will prepare students to assemble, install and repair pipes, fit-

tings and fixtures for heating, water and drainage systems according to specifications and plumbing codes. Students who are interested in applying for the training program must email their resume to Danny Brunt at danny.brunt@iveymechanical.com or Curtis Turnbo at Curtis.Turnbo@Iveymechanical.com no later than Sept. 11.

Ivey Mechanical Company is a nationally recognized mechanical contractor specializing in projects that demand the most exacting mechanical expertise. Ivey is a merit-shop contractor. Ivey has hundreds of management

and field professionals with experience in all types of mechanical construction. With these industry veterans, Ivey has successfully completed projects in more than 30 states.

To learn more about Ivey Mechanical, visit: <http://iveymechanical.com/>.

For more information about the Holmes Introduction to Plumbing Trades, contact Director of Adult Education/GED Earline Russell-Smith at (662) 472-9105 or esmith@holmescc.edu.

Wakfu the animated series

By Chandler Garrett
Growl Reporter



“Wakfu,” a French animated TV show and videogame, is about the adventures of a young boy by the name of Yugo who is a reincarnated king of a surviving race called the Eliatropes. Not a lot of people may have seen this show or even heard of it. It is not familiar to a lot of Americans but it is very popular in France. Starting in 2008, “Wakfu” has come a long way with the first season containing 26 episodes. With the success of season one, “Wakfu” was renewed for a second season in 2011 and then later renewed for a season three this fall. Following the release of season two, “Wakfu” caught the eyes of a lot of American

viewers. The directors, Anthony Roux and Fabrice Nzini, would not have guessed that “Wakfu” would have grown in such a way. I have enjoyed the first two seasons of “Wakfu” myself and cannot wait for season three to be released. Filled with action, adventure, comedy, and romance, “Wakfu” has what any kind of adventurer would love in a show.

IT: The Scariest Movie in the Past Decade?

By David Randall
Growl Reporter



“IT” makes a very compelling argument for being the scariest movie in the past decade; with the scares, pure tension and even balances itself with great moments that will bring you back to your childhood. The movie breaks the “Reboot” curse in that it separates itself from the 90s mini series and stamps itself as the version of the book to watch. This movie is also surprisingly heartwarming, filled with a emotion, and really funny; with young child love, and the blunt humor we all had, it reminds you of the pure fun you had as a child. If you watch for an outright scare fest, you will be disappointed, because it is so much more than that horror; make no mistake, the movie is scary, but it takes

time with it’s characters, develops them and makes you care about them; something every movie should do, but some don’t. The only gripe I had with the movie was pacing; you’d be in one place and then it’d switch to a completely different place.

Bill Skarsgård is everything you’d think as Pennywise, absolutely terrifying.

The child actors steal the movie. Usually, with child actors, they put in the weakest performance out of the entire cast. This wouldn’t work in this particular movie, because the entire movie hinges off them, but they put in the strongest performance, and it’s what might propel some into future movies, and spark their careers.

The standouts in this movie were Bill Denbrough (Jaeden Lieberher), Richie Tozier (Finn Wolfhard), Beverly Marsh (Sophia Lillis), and Eddie Kaspbrak (Jack Dylan Grazer). These children stole the show with humor and emotion, my favorite out of the bunch is being Richie Tozier (Finn Wolfhard), maybe that’s because I felt like he represented me as a kid, and you’ll see that in the movie. Each kid kind of appeals to other people’s sense of their childhood. I had a couple friends who I saw the movie with, and they each appealed to different kids. You can tell that a movie is a good, if it hits you on emotional level like that. If you see the movie, pay attention to that.

Bill Skarsgård brings it as Pennywise, and he doesn’t hold back. From the first scene he is in, which is almost page to page from the book, it lets you know what he is. He hates children, that’s about as blunt as I could put it,

and almost doesn’t do it justice. Tim Curry’s take on Pennywise (from the 90s mini series) was almost a very straight to the point pedophile, who enjoyed messing with kids. I say mess and not torture, because Bill Skarsgård’s take, tortures these kids. It’s physiological, and really disturbing at times. I can tell you right now, I will never go to sewer drain or eat popcorn again. (reference to the movie, watch it!)

Guy’s, go see this movie. I highly recommend it, the actors are great. The character development is spot on, and make sure to go into this movie with a clear mind; don’t go in expecting a scarefest, you will be disappointed. Bill Skarsgård is brilliant as Pennywise, and he will scare you. The only problem I’d say with the movie is pacing, but the rest of the movie makes up for it in an amazing story with wonderful child actors. In saying that, I will say that the movie “IT” gets 4.5



The Reboot of DuckTales

By Chandler Garrett
Growl Reporter



Many fans may remember the adventures of Scrooge McDuck and his nephews Huey, Dewey and Louie back in 1987. Some were probably too young or not even born yet to have seen the development of “DuckTales” by Jymn Magon based on the comic by Carol Barks. Many believed that this reboot of the classic series would end up like the other reboots made, like “Teen Titans Go” or the new reboot of “Ben 10” or “Powerpuff Girls.”

This reboot is nothing like the failures produced by Cartoon Network. Developed by Matt Youngberg and Francisco Angones, “DuckTales”

(2017 series) provides a more unique art style. It stays true to the original content unlike the other reboots. Though some cannot make a vivid opinion on this reboot since only two episodes have been released, others can say this is a step forward in the right direction on how to make a reboot. This is a series to keep up with and enjoy. If you loved the original “DuckTales,” you will love this new 2017 version!

Jackson's Finest: The Fondren Area

By Malik Jamileh
Growl Reporter



Pictured are patrons hanging out at Sneaky Beans coffee house in the Fondren Area.

The Holmes student body drowning in all their schoolwork can take a break for a night out in the Fondren area.

The streets are flooded with stands, art, live music, strangers and entertainers. There is a diversity of people that range from all ages who all mingle with one another. Public discussions and protests are seen on the streets to get across their agenda. The streets are decorated with graffiti and public attractions to take pictures in front of.

The array of restaurants consists of Cuban, Mediterranean, soul food, Italian, Thai, pizza and Mexican. Salsa Dance Studio lays out a mat in the streets for their dancers to perform. Individual artists bring their pieces to auction off and get more publicity. Local bands will come out and play on the patio of Sneaky Beans for more exposure of their music. Come out and enjoy the city life for a night and see what Fondren has to offer!

Coffee Shops in a Nutshell

By Matthew Wolak
Growl Reporter



Pictured is Growl Reporter **Matthew Wolak** enjoying his coffee.

Coffee is the second most valued trade commodity to date. Every day, the world consumes close to 2.5 billion cups of it. The average American will spend roughly \$1,092 a year for his or her coffee pick-me-up. So where does

the capital area of Mississippi stand on this pie chart?

Most commonly referred to as the "McDonald's of coffee," Starbucks is the current dominating coffee store, having over 25,000 shops open worldwide; 13,000 of them residing in the U.S. One might actually find it surprising that the Jackson Metro area doesn't share the same amount of vast enthusiasm for the multi-billion-dollar company as the rest of the world does. That's not to say Mississippians don't love their coffee, but other options reside in the Magnolia State capital.

The most common café in town, Cups Espresso Café, is a Mississippi-based coffee shop with locations in place throughout the Jackson Metro area, quite literally. With residence in Fondren, Flowood, Brandon, Madison, Clinton, Downtown Jackson and

other places, there's actual story to the "go local" attitude they advertise. To make each location unique, the owners decorate their shops with the projects of local artists. Their menu consists of pretty standard shop options with addition with some originals, their most popular being The Blondie.

Cafés have a social atmosphere but when one needs to get their coffee on a go, most will turn to Seattle Drip stands (with one based in Flowood now owned by Mocha Mugs). They are a drive-thru exclusive seller of coffee found on the edge of Ridgeland and Jackson. Their customers frequent the drive-thru due to the quality, availability and their Frappuccinos. If you're in a hurry but still want quality, look no further.

Local shops have seen a rise in popularity in the past year. The two

most notable are M7 Coffee House and Sneaky Beans in Fondren; both young shops recently introduced to the area. Each one has a unique menu that leaves customers wanting more. Both privately owned, the shops have a renovated style to their stores. Sneaky Beans, located in the artistic hub of Fondren, hosts monthly art shows and has local musicians play on its porch. M7, based just outside of the Holmes Ridgeland Campus, also has the same open atmosphere as its counterparts. They are most notable for their drink, The Hazy Baby, which has the special ingredient of Nutella.

As you can see, the Jackson area of Mississippi has a vast amount of options for your coffee needs. These businesses not offer a quality product but also a quality experience. You just have to know where to look.

Holmes Community College GOLD Program

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**Social Science Club Annual
Food/Clothing Drive**

**The Social Science Club is
collecting for a local food pantry,
the homeless and Operation
Christmas Child. There are drop
off boxes located near the entrances/
exits of Ridgeland Hall and Madison
Hall.**

**Items requested: Canned goods, dry
goods and hygiene products. For more
information, contact Makeaba Latiker
(601)605.3354.**

No. 3 Bulldogs fall to No. 17 Rangers, 33-13

From Staff Reports/Photos

The No. 3 ranked Holmes Community College Bulldogs fell behind early and were never able to catch up to the Northwest Mississippi Community College Rangers after halftime as Northwest won, 33-13, in Goodman on Thursday, Sept. 28.

With the loss, the Bulldogs fell to 4-1 overall and 2-1 in the North Division. Holmes travels to East Mississippi this Thursday, Oct. 5, at 7 p.m. in another North Division contest. You can listen to the game on the Bulldog Radio Network starting with pregame at 6:30 p.m.

The Rangers took a 7-0 lead with 5:30 to play in the first quarter when Jack Abraham connected with JaVonta Payton on a 10-yard touchdown pass. Drake McCarter's extra point was good.

The Rangers increased the lead to 13-0 with 4:22 to play in the second quarter when Cole Rotenberry scored on a 26-yard pass from Abraham. The extra point was no good, and Holmes

trailed 13-0.

The Bulldog defense got Holmes on the scoreboard with 1:35 left before halftime when Martavious Adams intercepted Abraham and raced 61 yards untouched down the home sidelines. Connor McKay's extra point was good, and Holmes trailed 13-7 at halftime.

Northwest added another score in the third quarter when Monta Thomas scored on a two-yard run. McCarter's extra point was good, and Northwest led 20-7 with 5:39 left in the quarter.

Thomas then scored again for the Rangers with 14:53 left to play in the game from 48 yards out. McCarter's extra point was no good, and Northwest led 26-7.

The Rangers final score came with 11:39 when Payton caught a 27-yard touchdown pass from Abraham. The extra point was good, and Northwest led 33-7.

Holmes got their only offensive touchdown with 6:47 to play when Jesse Wilson found Steven Burdette in



the endzone from 12 yard out. McKay's extra point was blocked, and the scoring ended at 33-13.

The Bulldogs ended with 321 total yards, 206 yards on the ground. Cameryn Brent had 12 carries for 85 yards.

Sheppard Jones and Quindarrius Whitley each had nine tackles with

Jones adding a tackle for loss. Lorenzo McCaskill had eight tackles while Tyshon Spencer had seven tackles with three tackles for loss and a forced fumble.

Lady Bulldogs move to 7-0 on the year with a 3-2 win over Meridian

From Staff Reports/Photos

Despite an hour rain delay on Tuesday, Sept. 19, the Holmes Community College Lady Bulldogs improved to 7-0 on the season after picking up a 3-2 non-division win over the Lady Eagles of Meridian Community College on the field at the Ridgeland Campus.

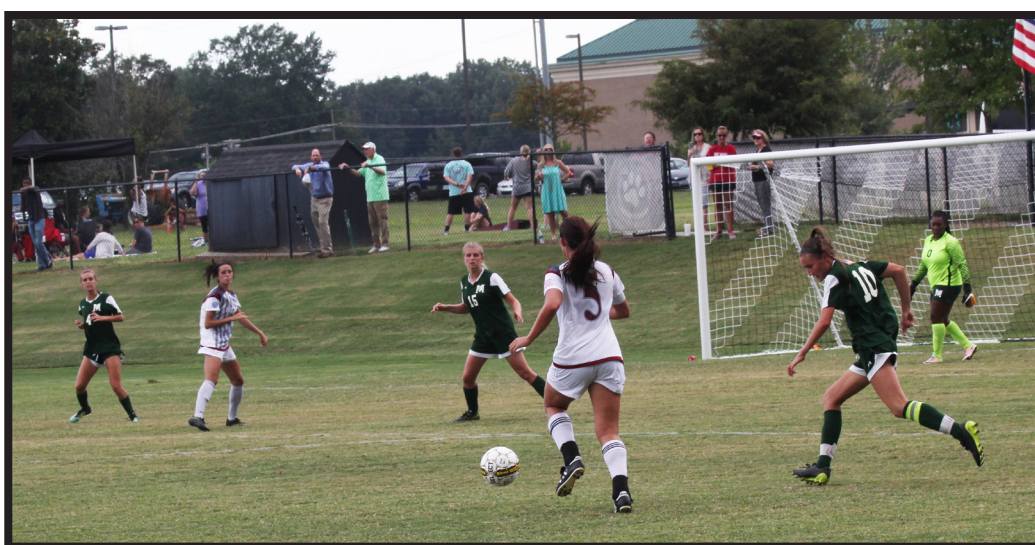
Holmes took a 1-0 lead in the seventh minute when Kendal Walsh scored on a Brooke Burrell assist.

Meridian tied the game in the 28th minute on a free kick and then took a

2-1 lead in the 32nd minute on a penalty kick.

Holmes tied the game at two in the 35th minute on a goal from Courtney Turner on an assist from Anna Claire Stewart.

After 10 minutes of play in the second half, the lightning and rains came forcing both teams to seek shelter for an hour before play could be resume. The Lady Bulldogs took the lead for good in the 59th minute when Britain Welzien scored off an assist from Pepper Ann Filbert.



Bulldogs fall 3-1 to Southwest, will take on East Central Oct. 4

From Staff Reports/Photos

The Bulldogs men's soccer team lost 3-1 to the Southwest Community College Bearson Friday, Sept. 29 at Freedom Ridge Park in Ridgeland.

The Bears took a 1-0 lead when Ty Ware took a through ball from Michael Escobar and scored after going one-on-one with the Holmes keeper.

Escobar put the Bears up 2-0, at 71:07, after scoring from inside the 18 on a ball played across the face on the

goal by Santiago Martinez.

The Bears (7-2-2) increased their lead to 3-0 at 73:57 after Nate Bond played a ball behind the Holmes back line and passed the ball to PJ Irwin who then scored on a one-time volley.

Holmes (2-6) avoided the shutout with a goal at the 82:29 mark.

This game followed the Bulldogs reeling off four straight goals in the final 70 minutes to defeat the Meridian Community College Eagles, 4-2, on the field at the Ridgeland Campus

Sept. 19. Rolando Sanchez picked up his second hat trick in that game.

Next, the Bulldogs will take on the East Central Community College Warriors on Wednesday, Oct. 4, at 4 p.m. at East Central.



Lady Bulldogs defeat Southwest Bears, 5-1

From Staff Reports/Photos

The 19th-ranked Holmes Lady Bulldogs picked up a win over the Southwest Community College Bears on Friday, Sept. 29, at Freedom Ridge Park in Ridgeland. Kendal Walsh scored twice in the first half, the first on an assist from Sarah Donahoo and the second on an assist from Madison Deslatte, to give the Lady Bulldogs (9-0) a 2-0 lead by the end of the first half.

The Bulldogs continued ahead, with Pepper Ann Filbert scoring with an assist from Sarah Chastain. Lady Bear Lesley Walker scored the only goal for Southwest.

Nikki De La Garza scored a goal on an assist from Brooke Burrell, bringing the final score to 5-1.



Business over Pleasure in the NBA

By Tamera McCook
Growth Reporter



The National Basketball Association, also known as the NBA, has grown widely in popularity over the years. From Steph Curry to LeBron James, many athletes are becoming more popular by the day, and getting paid millions in the process. This past summer Stephen Curry signed one of the biggest contracts in the NBA, receiving a five year 201 million max deal according to cbsports.com. Many athletes of this generation are receiving big pay days, but at what expense?

Kevin Durant, One of the league's biggest stars, was the center of much of the controversy last summer. He was a free agent and everyone expected him to

return to the Oklahoma City Thunder, the team who had drafted him and given him the opportunity to become the player he is today. Many teams were courting him, but no one really expected him to change teams, especially after making it to the conference finals that same year.

Kevin Durant shook up the sports world when he decided to sign with the Golden State Warriors, the team that had just eliminated him from the playoffs that same year. Everyone had an opinion about his decision, but it would prove to be the best decision he had ever made thus far. This past NBA season Kevin Durant, won an NBA championship, Finals MVP (most valuable player), Olympics gold medal, and he placed himself in the conversation with LeBron James, the league's most dominant player today. In one season he went from being the most hated player in the NBA to the second best player in the world all because he took control of his life and decided to do what was best for him.

While Kevin Durant may have received criticism for leaving his former organization, many players do not have that choice.

A few weeks ago Kyrie Irving, an all star point guard for the Cleveland Cavaliers, made it very clear that he wanted to request a trade out of Cleveland. The Cavaliers eventually traded him to Boston and received all star point guard Isaiah Thomas, Jae Crowder and a few other players for him. As soon as media and fans got news of the trade many were upset. Fans started burning Boston Celtics jerseys and going to social media to express their discontent with the trade. Many Cavaliers fans also burned Kyrie Irving jerseys as a way to express their anger and disappointment. Although Irving requested a trade out of Cleveland, Isaiah Thomas had no say so in that matter. He was just an innocent bystander who was happy where he was, but was uprooted and traded which quickly reminded him that even though this is something he loves to do, it's still a business. At the end of the day these players don't play for free and every decision that is made is never personal, but strictly business.

It is the business mindset that the players have that allow them to market themselves, which puts them in the position to

be able to cash in on seven figure endorsements and other contracts outside of them playing ball. Some players even take pay cuts in order to help their team. For instance, Kevin Durant took less money that he was offered this summer in order to keep the core of the Warriors together. Although some may consider that a personal move, I still look at it as business. He has to put himself in the best situation possible in order to keep winning, which will result in bigger pay days.

Players have decided to take their destiny back into their own hands, just as the Owners, General Managers, and other top executives have been doing for years. Fans are growing increasingly upset because instead of waiting on a team to cut, trade, or just simply do away with them, they are speaking up and doing what makes them happy. Although many fans may not like the decisions a player makes by changing teams, it is no different than a player being traded. Carmelo Anthony has a no trade clause in his contracts but if he decides to leave the New York Knicks, he does so willingly. I think that is a hell of a way to go, how could anyone be mad at that?

Cheerleaders visit children at Blair E. Batson

From Staff Reports/Photos



IN THIS PHOTO: Pictured are the 2017-2018 Holmes cheerleaders with (the toddler in the middle) one of the Blair E. Batson patients, a little girl named Journey from Kosciusko.

The Holmes Community College Cheerleaders visited the patients and their families at Blair E. Batson Children's Hospital on Thursday, Sept. 7. The cheerleaders performed a pep rally for them featuring cheers yelling "gold" for the month of September's slogan "Going Gold" (September is Childhood Cancer awareness month and the color is gold.) Following the pep rally, the cheerleaders provided crafts and games for the patients to play with and enjoyed visiting with them and their families.

The 2017-2018 cheerleaders include: Anderrious Donalson, Marquell Sanders, James Cobb, Lamar Land, Jason Ables, Loftin Price, Cole Dennis, Abby Singletary, Emileigh Hearn, Allie Dunn, Asia Purvis, Kayla Dowdy, Shelby Grantham, Indira Perry, Kayla

Rawson, Tori McGee, Olivia Chandler, Gillian Chavez, Ana Posey Jones, Lexi Brown and Kalyn Robinson. Managers for the squad are Lake Shipp and Katie Mason.

Sanchez named MACJC Player of the Week

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College sophomore midfielder Rolando Sanchez of Covington, Louisiana, was named the MACJC Offensive Player of the Week for his play in Holmes' 4-2 win over Meridian Community College on Sept. 19.

Sanchez took three shots all on goal and had three goals in the match.

McCaskill named MACJC Defensive Player of the Week

From Staff Reports/Photos



Holmes Community College freshman linebacker Lorenzo McCaskill from Southfield, Michigan, was named the MACJC Defensive Player of the Week for his play in the game versus Coahoma Community College on Sept. 21.

McCaskill finished the Coahoma game with 17 tackles (10 solos and seven assists), tackle for loss and one forced fumble.



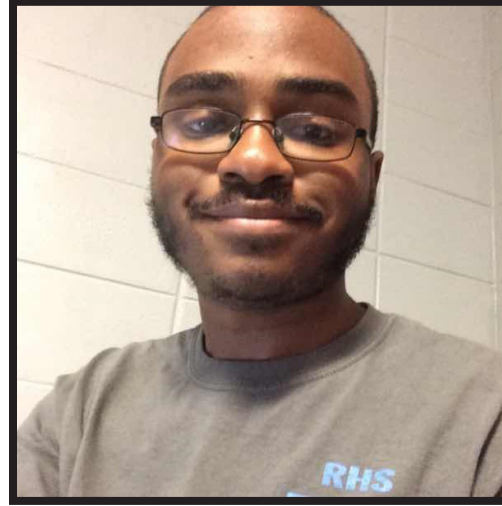
The Growl Staff



Liz "Cape Girl" Howell
Editor
 Hometown: Zama
 Major: English (Creative Writing and American Literature)
 Campus: Goodman
 Future Plans: I aspire to be an author and teach at a community college or a small university.
 About Me: My activities include: Sunday school teacher, nursery worker and children's activities director at Zama Baptist Church; Hallmark Editing Chair for PTK; president of the Holmes Gamer's Club; tutor in Writing Center; part-time associate campus bookstore; member of MOSAIC and private tutor. Last year I won first place in the poetry section of the Goodman Campus' Creative Writing Competition.



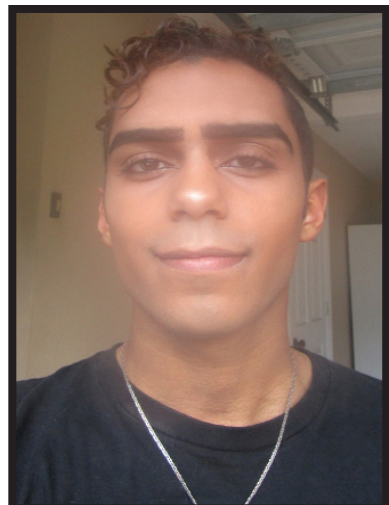
Ethan Burton
 Hometown: Goodman
 Major: Liberal Arts/Journalism
 Campus: Goodman
 Future Plans: My current plans are to attend Ole Miss after graduating from Holmes to earn a degree in journalism with an emphasis in digital media art.
 About me: I am a member of the Growl, serve as a work study for Holmes Goodman Library and am involved with Main Street Baptist Youth Group. I am passionate about drawing using pencil as well as pen and ink media.



Chandler E. Garrett
 Hometown: Ridgeland
 Major: Drama/Theatre Arts
 Campus: Goodman
 Future plans: I hope to become a film and voice actor.
 About me: I have been in the band since sixth grade. I enjoy writing, hanging out with friends, playing games and going to the movies with friends and family.



Cayla Holloway
 Hometown: Pickens
 Major: Communications/Journalism
 Campus: Goodman
 Future plans: I plan to continue my studies in communications and journalism at a four-year college.



Malik Jamileh
 Hometown: Flowood
 Major: Journalism
 Campus: Ridgeland
 Future plans: I plan to transfer to the University of Southern California where I will continue with my degree with a minor in social media. In the long run, I hope to one day work for a huge newspaper company or take on freelance writing. It is very likely that I'll work in the field of journalism one day, as I am very passionate about what I do. I am motivated to express what I care about through writing.
 About me: I enjoy public debates and Martial Arts.



Timothy Jones
 Hometown: Jackson
 Major: Psychology
 Campus: Ridgeland
 Future plans: I plan to attend the University of Mississippi to receive my Bachelor of Arts, Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in psychology. Upon graduating from the University of Mississippi, I plan to attend the University of Mississippi Medical School to obtain my Doctor of Medicine.
 About Me: I enjoy the social and natural sciences, so that is why I decided to study psychology with with a concentration in neuropsychology. I am also vice president for the Natural Science Club.



Tamera McCook
 Hometown: Jackson
 Major: Mass Communications
 Campus: Ridgeland
 Future plans: My career ambition is to become a sports analyst for ESPN.
 About Me: My hobbies include spending time with my children, traveling, cooking and watching/discussing basketball and football. I am also team mom for the Byram Knights football team and cheerleading squad. I am excited to finally be fulfilling my dream of being a mass communications major.



David Randall
 Hometown: Brandon GO DOGS
 Major: Sports Journalism
 Campus: Ridgeland
 Future Plans: To go to Ole Miss and continue my studies. My ultimate dream is to be on ESPN one day, but my main goal is to do sports for a local tv station.
 About Me: I love to play videogames in my free time (mostly FIFA), I like to play football, soccer and basketball, and I love watching movies and TV shows!



Matthew Wolak
 Hometown: Born in Las Vegas, Nevada, raised in Brandon
 Major: Liberal Arts
 Campus: Ridgeland
 Future Plans: After two years of studying at Holmes I will transfer to Southern Miss to pursue a major in media production.
 About Me: I have a strong passion for the arts, including acting, photography, creative writing and most notably film. When I'm not on campus you can most likely find me at your local coffee shop. I'm currently a work study for the Holmes Marketing and Recruitment Department and also an intern for Red Squared Prod. in Midtown, Jackson.