

Campus Events

Monday, February 1
Spiritual Emphasis Week
Basketball @ Hinds
5:30/7:15 Summit

Tuesday, February 2
Spiritual Emphasis Week
Wesley Foundation
Bible Study, 6:30 P.M.

Thursday, February 4
Basketball @ Meridian
5:30/7:30 P.M. Meridian

Monday, February 8
Registration for Accelerated Online Classes starts
Basketball @ Gulf Coast
5:30/7:15 P.M. Summit

Tuesday, February 9
Cupcakes for a Cause, 6:00 P.M. in Cafeteria
Wesley Foundation
Bible Study 6:30 P.M.

Thursday, February 11
Basketball @ Co-Lin
6:00/7:30 P.M. Wesson

Sunday, February 14
Valentine's Day

Monday, February 15
Basketball @ Jones
5:30/7:15 P.M. Summit

Tuesday, February 16
Wesley Foundation
Bible Study 6:30 P.M.

Thursday, February 18
SMCC Community College Choral Festival in Meridian
Basketball @ East Central
5:30/7:30 P.M. Decatur

Friday, February 19
SMCC Community College Choral Festival in Meridian

Saturday, February 20
5th annual MS Well Driller Continuing Education Seminar

Tuesday, February 23-26
State Tournament North Women

Wednesday, February 24-26
2016 MS Collegiate DECA State Conference

“Winterland Wonder”

By Christian Green, Cody Pol, and Ashley Prejean, staff writers

During the first week of December, Stage Band debuts their annual Christmas show. The Christmas Stage Band Show has become a community favorite since its conception in the early 20th century. This year's Christmas Stage Band show is a “Winterland Wonder.” The show features a variety of Christmas show tunes that excite the audience during each part of the program. The Stage Band performers start the show off with “Let the Celebration Begin,” where their main goal is to catch the audience's attention and draw them into the show. This year's Christmas Stage Band show includes performances such as “The Christmas Song,” “Silver Bells,” “All I Want for Christmas is You,” “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear,” “Baby, It's Cold Outside,” “Dig That Crazy Santa Claus,” “Welcome to Our World,” and “I'll be Home for Christmas!”

Everything about the show is set to captivate the audience. The lights alone are magical, changing as each group goes on to perform. The attire of each performer is impeccable and stylish. It truly is a small piece of Christmas magic cast into the auditorium. We step out of Summit and into a true winter wonderland.

During the Saturday performance, Santa decides to stop by and pay all the little boys and girls a visit! Santa has a special treat for each and every one of them. All of the children are called onto the stage, gathering around Santa in front of the entire audience. Stage fright does not stop these kids from rushing to be close to Santa. Before he has his elves pass out presents, Santa asks all of the children what they want for Christmas. He lets them talk into the microphone so everyone can hear, and the children just love it! He asks if they have been naughty, of course none of them have, and he asks if they have been nice, which they have been. All of the little girls are given a Barbie doll to play with and keep, and all of the little boys receive a toy truck. There is nothing better than seeing the Stage Band



Maleigha Taylor, Laken Brock, and Wes Wroten sing “Let the Celebration Begin.”

photo by Chuck Barnes

dancers act as elves and pass out presents to excited children. This spectacle is a special treat for the audience, and it brings everyone joy to watch all of the excited children have a wonderful time during the Christmas Stage Band Show. It really is a winter wonderland for everyone in attendance.

After the intermission, Stage Band vocalists perform a medley of “Jingle Bells.” Then, Southwest's Steel Pan ensemble steps out on stage to perform “Green Sleeves.” Next, the Southwest Choir performs “I'll Be Home for Christmas.” Throughout the show, special performances are given by Lacey Quiroz, Reagan Myers, Jonathon Traigle, Matthew Stewart, Mariha Beadle, Laken Brock, and Wes Wroten.

One performer worthy of addi-

tional recognition is Jonathon Traigle. Traigle, one of Southwest's very own, traveled to audition for the final season of American Idol and won a spot! He was invited to travel to Hollywood for the final auditions!

After all of these performances, all students who are part of this fabulous show are called to the stage to perform “Joy to the World.” This final number is endearing to the audience; from the soft melodies to the powerful vocals, the piece moved every person in attendance. As the curtain is about to close, the performers all take a bow while the audience claps rapturously. Each student who participates shows a great amount of enthusiasm and talent. This year's Christmas Stage Band show is another one for the books.



Jonathan Traigle plays “Run, Run Rudolph.”

photo by Chuck Barnes

SGA goes political at MACJC event

By Christian Green, staff writer

The Sophomore Student Government Association Officers travel to Jackson for the MACJC Legislative Appreciation Luncheon. In Jackson, the officers participate in Student Voices, where they speak to their legislators about the importance of funding community colleges and how attending community college has influenced their lives. The culinary departments of Mississippi's finest community colleges prepare a catfish dinner for the students. Legislators are greeted by Student Voices from each community college, and some colleges even provide entertainment. This is an important event because the Mississippi Fiscal Year 2017 budget is a hot topic for the current legislative session. If the legislators fail to fulfill past promises of community colleges' mid-level funding, community college tuition could rise, and col-



James Brumfield, Board of Trustees member; Trask Neyland, Technology Chair; Austin Pruitt, Sophomore Treasurer; Aurora Diaz, Vice-President; Abbey Hooks, President; Seth Nieman, Sophomore Secretary; Christian Green, Treasurer; Katelynn Roberts, Sophomore President; Dr. Bill Ashley, Vice-President of Student Affairs and Director of Athletics

lege budgets could be cut dramatically. Students meet Lieutenant Governor Tate Reeves,

Mississippi Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann, District 97 Representative Sam Mims,

District 38 Senator Tammy Witherspoon, among other politicians from around Mississippi.

The event is held at the First Baptist Church of Jackson.

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The Pine Burr

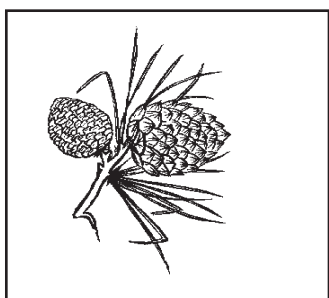
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Offices are located in Kenna Hall, Room 29; the telephone number is 276-3843. The staff invites readers to submit opinion columns and letters to the editor. Pine Burr, Kenna Hall, Summit, MS 39666.

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Southwest Mississippi Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries and grievances regarding the non-discrimination policies: Rhonda Gibson, Director of Disability Support Services, 601-276-3885; Dr. Bill Ashley, Vice President of Student Affairs and Title IX Coordinator and Director of Athletics, 601-276-3717, 1156 College Dr., Summit, MS 39666.



Quote of the Month

“Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”

-Francis of Assisi



BEAR AWARE

In order to effectively communicate emergency information to SMCC employees and students, SMCC has implemented a rapid alert and notification system developed by SchoolCast. BearAware is a service that allows employees and students of SMCC to receive alerts, news, or other emergency information via text, email, or by phone. Participation in Bear Aware is not mandatory but encouraged. At this time, the only information entered into the SchoolCast database is the student's "smcc.edu" email address.

Please read the following because our procedures for handling Bear Aware have changed. An email has been sent to all current students, faculty, and staff with their login information for Bear Aware. Students, faculty, and staff no longer need to request this information by emailing bearaware@smcc.edu.

New Bear Aware Support Procedure for Students

If a student has trouble with their Bear Aware account, they will need to follow the same procedure that has been established for email. The student will need to contact a faculty or staff member and the faculty or staff member can submit a support request to support@smcc.edu. Do not instruct a student to email support@smcc.edu, send the request on their behalf. We do this because the IT department has no way to verify the identity of the student, so this is the best method we have to protect the student's account. Once again, there is no need for anyone to email bearaware@smcc.edu for help with Bear Aware. Moving forward, this account will be designated for communication in an emergency situation only.

New Bear Aware Support Procedure for Faculty and Staff

If you have trouble with your Bear Aware account, send an email to support@smcc.edu to create an IT support ticket. If you do not have a Bear Aware account, you may request one by also sending an email to bearaware@smcc.edu to create an IT support ticket. If you previously sent a request to bearaware@smcc.edu and it hasn't been answered, forward your request to support@smcc.edu to create an IT support ticket.

Words from the SGA President

Hey SMCC Students,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas break and is having a great spring semester so far. I want to welcome all new and transfer students to Southwest. There is a lot going on this semester. It is important that you get involved in activities at Southwest. From athletic events to student activities, there is always something to do! You will create friendships that will last a lifetime. I know that I personally have made so many friends here at Southwest. Finally, I want to take the time to go over some upcoming events that SGA will be sponsoring. On February 9 we are having "Cupcake for a Cause" and our very own "Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras Parade." I hope to see everyone there! Let's have a great semester and remember to get involved. Let's Go Bears!



Abbey Hooks

Abbey Hooks
SGA President

It is a new year



Reagan Myers

“It’s a great day to be a Bear!”
Now, I know most of you have heard this saying on campus

Editorial
By Reagan
Myers,
Editor

before. When asked what does it mean to me, I reply with, it means being the very best that you can be every day. It means rising above the trials and tribulations of life and giving it your best everyday! I think this is the way that we need to look at this new semester and New Year. Things always come out more successfully when you have a positive attitude! As you have started this New Year off, many of you have probably set New Year's Resolutions, which are goals to

attain throughout the year. When most people think about setting goals for themselves, most goals are personal in nature. For example, getting fit/in better shape; successfully completing another year of school, or accomplishing a certain goal, such as completing a marathon or climbing a mountain. Others may set goals such as reading the entire *Bible* or reading all the books by their favorite author. Our goals reflect who we are and where we want to go from this point.

Just remember though, every day will not be sunshine and roses, but you must keep putting one foot in front of the other. Set your goals high and push yourself to be a better person! Always believe in yourself and never give up! As Ralph Marston states, “Don’t lower your expectations to meet your performance. Raise your level of performance to meet your expectations. Expect the best of yourself, and then do what is necessary to make it a reality.”
It’s a great day to be a Bear!

SMCC’s Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy

Southwest Mississippi Community College (SMCC) is required by federal regulations to establish minimum standards of satisfactory academic progress (SAP) to determine a student's eligibility to receive federal Title IV student aid for their chosen program of study. Federal Title IV student aid programs available at SMCC are:

- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)
- Federal Work-study Programs (FWS)

To maintain student financial aid eligibility, the student must progress satisfactorily toward completing a chosen academic or career-technical program.

Qualitative Requirement – GPA and % of Hours Passed
SAP will be measured according to the following criteria:

- Cumulative Semester Hours Attempted *
- Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA)
- Percentage of Semester Hours Passed*

- 1 – 29-1.5-66.7%
- 30– 59-1.75-66.7%
- 60 and above-2.0-66.7%

*All attempted classes will count in hours attempted, including classes from which the student withdrew – Grade “W”. According to individual program standards, Associate Degree Nursing, License Practical Nursing and Cosmetology will require a higher GPA for SAP.

Status Review and Notification

A student's entire academic record will be evaluated to determine eligibility for financial aid, whether or not financial aid was received for all semesters or the student was granted an Academic Restart. Students transferring

from another school on financial aid suspension or probation may be placed on financial aid warning for the first semester at SMCC. Students will be notified by mail if placed on a Warning Semester.

Warning Semester
Any student who fails to meet the satisfactory academic progress standards will be placed on financial aid warning for one semester. Financial Aid Warning may be assigned without an appeal or other action by the student. During this warning semester, a student will continue to be eligible for Title IV funds. Only one semester of warning will be granted to students.

Failure to meet Warning Semester Requirements
If the minimum SAP standards are not achieved upon completion of the warning semester, all federal aid will be suspended.

Appeals Process

A student can appeal the suspension of their financial aid if one or more of the following situations occurred:

1. Death in the Family
2. Injury or Illness
3. Special Circumstances

When completing the appeals application the student must also disclose what has changed in their situation that will allow them to meet the SAP requirements at the end of the next evaluation. After completing the appeal, the director will determine if the student will be placed on Probation and/or Academic Plan. If approved for an Academic Plan, the terms of this plan will be mailed to the student. The student must acknowledge their Academic Plan by signing and return the plan requirements letter to the Financial Aid Office. During the Probation and/or

Academic Plan semester, a student will continue to be eligible for Title IV funds. At the end of each payment period, while on Financial Aid Probation, the student must meet the terms of their Probation and/or Academic Plan to continue receiving Title IV Funds. Academic progress will be evaluated at the end of each semester. The results of this evaluation will be mailed to the student.

Failure to meet Probation and/or Academic Plan Requirements

If a student fails to meet the terms of their Probation and/or Academic Plan financial aid will be suspended.

Committee Appeals Process

If the student wants to appeal this decision, the student must submit a committee appeals application to the financial aid office. Once the committee makes their decision, the Financial Aid Director will contact the student in writing.

Quantitative Requirement – Time Frame (Length)

As required by federal regulations, a student must complete the program of study (major) within a time frame not to exceed 150% of the published length of the program. All courses including, but not limited to, withdrawals, repeats and accepted transfer hours from another college, will be counted in the time frame. Students who reach the 150% limit will no longer be eligible to receive federal financial aid. A student is ineligible when it becomes mathematically impossible for him to complete his program within the 150% of the length of the program. An appeal may be considered on a case by case bases.

Other Required Considerations

All coursework for students, including any semesters that students did not receive financial aid, will be included in the SAP review.

Incompletes: A grade of “I” incomplete will count as an “F” in all financial aid calculations. Once the incomplete is removed, the actual earned grade will be used. The student will need to advise the financial aid office when the change is made.

Repeats: Students may repeat a passing course one time with a D or better and receive Title IV funds. Any additional repeats of the same course will not be Title IV eligible.

Add – Drops: Title IV financial aid will not be adjusted once late registration ends. However, all attempted classes, including dropped courses, will count toward your GPA and percent needed to continue eligibility.

Withdrawals: Students may withdraw from a class and receive no credit with a grade of “W.” Classes from which students withdraw will count in the hours attempted.

Developmental courses: These courses will be treated in the same manner as regular courses since students receive institutional credit and grades for these courses.

Transfer Credits: All credit hours from another institution, that are required courses for the students program, will count in the hours attempted. Credits hours received at a non-accredited institution, where Title IV funds were not received by the student, will not be included in the financial aid calculation of attempted hours

Movie review: Star Wars: The Force Awakens

By Ashley Prejean,
co-editor

Spoiler Alert This article contains spoilers from Star Wars: The Force Awakens.

Star Wars has been a major franchise since it originally aired. At some point, even if you are not a fan of the series, everyone has seen or heard about Luke and Leia, Hans Solo, Darth Vader, and even Chewbacca. This Christmas season, the much anticipated, sec-

ond generation Star Wars: The Force Awakens airs, and the fans just pour in for the midnight showings and special premieres. This iteration brings back many of our favorite characters and introduces many new characters.

We see a side of the storm troopers we have never seen before when Finn makes a major life change by becoming a traitor to the First Order and aiding the Resistance. We get to see the struggle of light and dark in Kyo

Ren (formerly known as Ben Solo). He has chosen to follow the dark side as a sith, but he still has the light inside of him struggling against him internally. He strives to live up to his grandfather's legacy. As the son of Hans Solo and General Leia, he is following the legacy of Anakin Skywalker, or more commonly known as Darth Vader. Then there is Rey, a lonely girl in the desert waiting in vain for her family to return. She is forced to go on a

journey, for the force is calling to her, and she has to help locate Luke Skywalker, who has gone missing since Kyo Ren slaughtered the Jedi before he turned.

This movie is a great experience and will most likely be enjoyed by all ages. Even if you are not a fan of the originals, this is a great standalone film that does reference the prequels, but it has enough of a storyline that you will not be lost.

Plan for the future

By Ashley S. Prejan
co-editor

As students at SMCC, we all face the decision of what to do after we graduate. Do we find a job, or do we continue our education at a four-year university? For some, the path of finding a job is the best fit, but some may decide to continue their education. Those who do decide to continue their education can rest assured that Mississippi has a great variety of colleges; one in particular is Mississippi College.

Mississippi College is an ideal choice for students who want a well-rounded education, at a fair price, that is not too far from home. With a 16:1 student to teacher ratio, students will receive a great amount of one-on-one time from their instructors, making the transition from junior college to a major university tolerable. Mississippi College is located in Clinton, Mississippi, just an hour and a half drive from the McComb/Summit area. For incoming transfer students, MC offers over eighty undergraduate programs for students to choose from, such as Nursing, Social Work, Biology, and so much more, and they can also continue on to do graduate studies in over fifty subject areas, including law school.

Price is always a major contender when deciding on what college you want to attend, and at MC, they offer over \$53 million dollars every year in scholarships and financial aid. Many students at SMCC are members of Phi Theta Kappa, and one of the major draws to the university is the PTK scholarship they offer. MC is a private university, but by the price, it is hard to believe. The average price for a semester is less than eight thousand dollars, and that is for up to eighteen hours! Keep in mind the fact that they offer many scholarship opportunities to prospective students.

The student life of Mississippi College is exciting. The campus is host to over 70 different clubs and organizations, including Student Government Association, Intramural Sports, Tribes, and so much more. MC also boasts 17 different NCAA Division II sports teams for both men and women. Mississippi College is a very diverse institution. The student body is comprised of students from twenty-nine different countries, and the university offers thirteen different destinations for study abroad opportunities. There is something for everyone at Mississippi College. The best thing to do if you are interested in Mississippi College is to log on to their website and schedule a visit. There is no time like the present to make your future dreams a reality!

New Year plans

By Martin McKnight,
staff writer

It is a new year, a chance to start over fresh. As we start off the New Year, we reflect on the things in life we should be grateful for, such as having good health and a roof over our head. However, many people like to start their New Year off with a resolution or promise to themselves. On January 1st, we all make those resolutions; however, when January 2nd rolls around, we seem to have already forgotten or broken that resolution. A good idea to help you stick to the "New Year, New Me" mentality is to follow these helpful suggestions. First, you could create a Vision Board and attach all of your short-term and long-term goals as a reminder in a place where you can see it every day. If that does not interest you, you can always try buying a chalkboard and hanging it on the door.

Once you accomplish that goal, you can erase it to see the progress you have made. This will allow you to add or change your goals in the long run. Now, if you do not want your goals displayed for everyone to see, you can take a more private route and get a mini book or journal to write down your goals and resolutions. A more tech-savvy way to save your resolutions is to create a memo list in your cell phone. Just try to make sure you keep your resolutions and continue writing your goals and ambitions down for the New Year.

Bear Trackers serve Southwest



Pat Young, advisor; Raney Hewitt, Katelynn Roberts, Me'Oshia Williams, Daley Roberts, Brittany Brumfield, Madison Martin, Emily Ashley, President; Sanetra Forbes, Jenna Lee, Aurora Diaz, Jenna Van Dan, Tyronica Williams, Haley Simmons, Karinlee Brister, advisor; second row: Jordan Fitzgerald, Brittany McGuire, Mattie Pigott, Kelly Campbell, Lauren McCaffrey, Abbey Hooks, Alissa Adam, Tamara Cowart, Emily Baughman, Elizabeth Smith, Reagan Myers, Taylor Wilson; third row: Justin Givens, Ardemis Wesley, Kohl Rester, Robert Pickett, Bernard Nichols, Joey Elliott, Cameron Catchings, Treasurer Not pictured: Caitlin Harrell

Baseball team plans for season



Jesse Pittman, John Marcus McDowell, Darrell Montiforte, Alex Smith, John Miles McNeese, Aaron McKay, Tyler Pigott, Gerald Groue, Zach Giacona, Dallas Smith; second row: Duncan Cornfoot, Jarvis Warner, Tanner Whittington, Dylan Spiers, Carr Young, Ross Buckley, Brady Anderson, L.D. Coney, Walt Aldridge, Jacob Buchanan, Kyle Coleman; back row: Kaleb Clarke, Ryan Holland, Blake Dunaway, Ben Maddox, Brady Wilson, Braden Smith, Leighton Whitehead, Steven Williams, Blake Johnson, Darian Tunstall

Lady Bears prepare for season



Kayla Sanchez, Rebecca Davis, Jana McEwen, Austin Pruitt, Mary Vogle, Kristie Sanchez; second row: Jessie Penton, Kelcey Bremenkamp, McKenzie Brock, Markia Quinn, Lexie Johnson, Gianca Holmes; back row: Jeney Hudson, Paige Harvey, Macy Fulton, Jordan Fitzgerald, Jenna Duff, Emily Tuminello

Honor Society inducts ADN graduates



pictured: Dr. Melissa Temple, Director of Associate Degree of Nursing; Kayla Mendez, Alexandra Gautreaux, Angelena Sharp, and Alecia Hollis, ADN instructor These three graduates are the first to be inducted into the Alpha Delta Nu Nursing Honor Society Gamma Rho Chapter. They graduated this December. To be inducted into the honor society, the students had to have an overall 3.0 GPA and maintained a 3.0 in all nursing courses. They also must demonstrate conduct on campus and the clinical areas that reflect integrity and professionalism. The students completed a Capstone project on health promotion while in nursing school.

HTML has its own language

By Luke Snow,
staff writer

HTML is a web development language used by companies, websites, and countless other software developers. HTML is essentially a programming language much like Java and PHP, but the format has many different commands and functions that allow you to create a surprising amount of features for your project. I have been learning HTML for some time, and I want to share my knowledge of this great language with you. With this article, I will demonstrate to you how to create a very basic HTML webpage. First, you need to acquire "Notepad++." This program is free and easily downloaded from "notepadplusplus.org." Now that you have Notepad, we can begin to punch in some code!

Before we do that, we must set up the file. Open Notepad++, and create a new file. Name the file anything you want, but be sure to designate it as an HTML file. An example would be "mypage.html". Save it to a folder. I usually have a separate folder just for web projects, and I recommend you do, too! Once it is saved, right-click and hit "open with Notepad++."

Congratulations, we can now begin typing the actual code! You will notice that Notepad++ looks very different from Notepad. You will see many numbered lines at the left-hand side of the page; pay attention to these. Type this code exactly, excluding all semicolons. `<!DOCTYPE html> ; <html> ; <head> ; <title>Page Title</title> ; </head> ; <body> ; <h1>This is a Heading</h1> ; <p>This is a paragraph.</p> ; </body> ; </html> .`

You now have the code typed up, and it is ready to run! Feel free to change "This is a Heading" and "This is a paragraph" to whatever you want. That was just to show you what a heading and paragraph look like in HTML. Now, SAVE YOUR WORK! Save it as whatever you desire as long as it is designated as an HTML file such as "myfile.html". Once you do that, you can run the file in a browser, and "Voila!" you have created your very own HTML page!

New year means new beginning

By Tamera Bateaste,
staff writer

Why are New Year's Resolutions so difficult to keep? I think it is because throughout the year, we want to achieve new things and do better. So every New Year's Day, we make a vow to ourselves aiming for a fresh start in the new year.

If you've made a resolution to become more active, get fit, and live healthier this year, here are four tips to help you carry your resolution out through the end of the year and turn it in to a lifestyle change in order to live a stronger, healthier life in 2016.

First, keep it simple; your goal should be clear and specific. Don't make too many resolutions. Instead, focus on one goal, such as, "I will run a mile three times each week."

Second, get into a routine. Plan out a daily routine to help you stay on track. If your resolution is to exercise more, think through your schedule and choose a time for your workouts that you can keep consistent day-to-day and week-to-week.

Third, find accountability. None of us can do it alone; find a friend or family member you trust to help hold on to your resolution. Better yet, choose a friend who has a similar goal, so you can hold each other accountable and keep the motivation going.

Fourth, track your progress. The best resolution is a measurable resolution. Use a calendar, journal, or app to track your progress and evaluate your accomplishments throughout the year. For example, to see how much weight you have lost! Happy New Years!

Academic success prepares football players

By Michael D. Gunnell
Southwest
Sports Information

With structure and nurturing from their coaches and faculty, the academic performance of college athletes is increasing by leaps and bounds at Southwest. That increase is noticeable with the number of football players who are graduating early (i. e., in December of their sophomore year).

In the fall of 2015, Southwest had 21 sophomores on their football roster. Of that number, 15 graduated in December. Head coach Tucker Peavey said "Obviously, this shows we have a plan in place for them to now to get out of school in a timely manner with their degree and to do it quite well. When you look at the GPA's of those guys who graduated, they were all in really good shape and got themselves eligible to move on to bigger and better things and that's the objective."

"Once they get here," Peavey went on, "we want to help them (achieve) the things that they want to do after they leave and their time is done here at Southwest. It's a credit to the faculty, to the administration and to those kids for listening to what we tell them to do and put forth the effort and realizing that it's something that's very achievable."

Peavey said graduating in December is important for football players because "I think for those who are going to continue playing, which most of them are, it allows them to get to their new school and go through spring training and get a leg up on the team for next year, especially for those guys who won't get there until the summer. I think it's a big advantage for them athletically, but it also gives them that additional semester in school to achieve that next degree they're after."

In Peavey's three seasons at the helm of the Bear football program, a total of 35 players have signed to continue playing at a four-year school. Peavey attributes that to the "quality of the players, because there are other schools that are interested in them. But, it's also a tribute to the combination to what they and we have been able to achieve academically. We have to get the academics or football's not an option. We've got to continue getting better and better (and) we won't be satisfied until we have 100% of those guys (continue to play football if they want to)."

Southwest Vice-President for Student Affairs and Director of Athletics Dr. Bill Ashley said, "When our athletic programs prove they can help a kid get to the next level, this helps our college attract extremely talented students who are capable of academic success."

"Eventually," Ashley went on, "our goal is to increase the number of talented athletes on our rosters who can excel at meeting today's increasingly rigorous academic standards. This makes recruits and their families very interested in Southwest."

"Likewise," Ashley continued, "four-year schools will know that they can count on Southwest athletes to be able to enroll and contribute to their programs immediately after playing for the Bears. In turn, these four-year schools will refer their quality athletes to Southwest. Eventually, as talent improves, then we are planning on improved success in our athletic competition."

Looking at National Signing Day (February 3), Peavey said "Obviously, we want to sign the best players we can. I think that you see more of those guys (that we do sign) are leaving Southwest and going (on) to play at four-year schools is a tribute to our talent level increasing. But, certainly, we're a long way from where we want to be so we want to get better each year."

Taking an extremely early look at the 2016 season, Peavey said "It's real early so the sun's going to rise and set a lot of times between now and then. But, I think it's going to be better (than 2015).

(continued on this page)

Law and Seals receive scholarships from the MS Nurses Foundation



pictured above are the following: Dr. Melissa Temple, Rosalyn Howard, Emily Law, Victoria Seals, and Cathy Andrews

Southwest Mississippi Community College's Associate Degree Nursing student Emily Law of Magnolia and Victoria Seals of McComb were the recipients of the Spring 2016 MS Nurses Foundation School Nursing Scholarship. Dr. Melissa Temple, SMCC Director of Nursing, along with Rosalyn Howard, Executive Director of MS Nurses Foundation, and Cathy Andrews, (pictured far right), SMCC LPN to RN Transition Instructor, presented Victoria Seals with

the Mississippi Nurses Foundation Emma Burdonne Young School of Nursing Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to a 3rd semester SMCC ADN student who has exhibited leadership, scholarship, and community involvement. Emily Law's scholarship money was raised through the MS Nurses Foundation dinner theater fundraiser held at SMCC in September. Proceeds from the fundraiser went towards area nursing scholarships.

Foundation plans "Elvis" event



: SMCC Foundation President Mike Bridwell, Foundation Vice-President Bill Garner, Foundation Director Lea Touchstone, SMCC President Dr. Steve Bishop, SMCC Vice-President of Career-Technical Education Jeremy Smith, and Foundation Treasurer Jake Gazzo plan the SMCC Foundation, Inc., event The Gospel Side of Elvis starring the world-renowned Blackwood Quartet and Al Joslin as Elvis. The

performance will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 6 in the Hurst Auditorium in the Fine Arts building on the campus. The doors will open at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15.00 and can be purchased at SMCC, Pike County Baptist Association, Amite County Farm Bureau, Justin Stoll State Farm, and Opposite Ends. For ticket information please call (601) 276-4809 or (601) 276-2000.

SMCC's Carpentry students complete Summit Fire Station



Stan McMorris, Summit Fire Chief; Trey Kirkland, Monticello; Joe Cornacchione, Carpentry Instructor; Darnell Amon, Magnolia; Charles Rollins, McComb; and Tyjuan Chatman, Bogue Chitto. Not pictured are Clifford ZayZay and Zebeedee Hornsby

The SMCC Carpentry Class finished out the Summit Firehouse as some of the projects performed this semester. Students framed the inside of the building, insulated and panel the interior. The Carpentry

program is a one year program and students can enter the program in the spring or fall semesters.

(Continued-Academic success prepares football players)

I think we've improved each year." He said in 2015 "we had a strange year with injuries that had a big impact on our team as far as wins and losses go, but it never affected the way (the players) went about their business. So, we want to continue that and we're looking forward to bigger and better things next (season)."

PLAYERS WHO HAVE SIGNED-WITH FOUR YEAR SCHOOLS, 2013-15

- 2015
- Justin Blue: Jackson State
- Chris Calcote: Arkansas-Monticello
- Vincent Calhoun: University of Minnesota
- Cliff Fernandez: Iowa State University
- Ashton Jackson: University of West Alabama
- Reed James: University of West Alabama
- CJ Johnson: Delta State University
- LaDarion Peterson: Delta State University
- Jamarian Roberts: Delta State University
- Josh Samander: Mississippi College
- Shuntez "Ed" Smith: Arkansas-Monticello
- Kameron Williams: Delta State University
- Travis Williams: Southern Arkansas
- 2014
- De'Angelo Ballard: Alabama A & M
- Rakeem Battle: UT-Martin
- Zavian Bingham: Jackson State
- Omarious Bryant: Western Kentucky
- E. J. Carthan: Arkansas-Monticello
- Dekendrick Johnson: Delta State
- Chris Jones: Northwestern State
- Nicholas McDonald: Southern University (Baton Rouge)
- Jonathan McNair: Faulkner University
- Carnell Owens: Bethel University
- Ladarrius Slocum: Faulkner University
- Guy Stallworth: Grambling
- Terrien Steele: Faulkner University
- Tyler Stutzman: University of Southern Mississippi
- Tra'Vez Taylor: Delta State
- Jarvis Wallace: Missouri Southern
- Kelvin Williams: UT-San Antonio
- 2013
- Dalvin Acker: Langston University (Okla.)
- Troy Egana: Langston University (Okla.)
- Jamal Hall: East Central University (Okla.)
- C. J. O'Quinn: Mississippi College
- Maurice Magee: Mississippi College

Scholars compete

By Seth Nieman and Christian Green, staff writers

The Scholar's Bowl Team visits Northeast Mississippi Community College in Booneville, MS, for the Mississippi Community College Sectionals Tournament. This competition is the major deciding factor for the Community College National Tournament held in Atlanta, Georgia, at the end of February. Southwest A Team, which included Seth Nieman, Abbey Hooks, Aurora Diaz, Justin Campbell, Matthew Stillman and Christian Green, won four rounds and lost one. Southwest B team, which consisted of Neil Chadala, Mattie Pigott, Mohammad Mohammad, and Cody Pol, won three rounds and lost two. Christian Green, with 55 points per game, kept his 1st Place title in Mississippi for the second year in a row and the Southwest A team finished the tournament in 2nd. Dori Richardson and Karen May serve as advisors for the Scholar's Bowl Team and were very proud of the team's performance at sectionals! Following the competition, the team got to enjoy lunch at Johnny's Drive In, which is a local restaurant in Tupelo that features many vintage photos and items from Elvis Presley. The team still has a high probability of making it to the national competition and will find out at the end of January!

Bears beat Co-Lin Wolves



By Michael D. Gunnell
Southwest Sports Information Director

December 4, 2015

Holding a 22-point halftime lead over visiting Pearl River, the Lady Bears survived a second-half comeback attempt to open MACJC South Division play with a 71-55 win Thursday night.

With the win, the Lady Bears moved to 7-1 on the season and 1-0 in the South. The Lady Wildcats dropped to 1-6 and 0-1.

An old-fashioned three-point play by Gabriella Cortez and Teshia Jones' long-range three gave the Lady Bears an early 6-0 lead. They went on to a 25-10 lead at the end of the first quarter, behind Cortez's 10 points.

The second quarter was all Southwest as the Lady Bears moved out to a 42-19 lead on Jones' layup with 2:05 on the clock. They then took a 43-21 advantage into the locker room at the half.

Back-to-back buckets by Cortez had the Lady Bears up 47-23, and seemingly in complete control, with 7:48 left in the third quarter. But, the Lady Wildcats outscored the Lady Bears 17-4 the rest of the quarter to pull to within 11 points, 51-40, with one quarter still to play.

In the fourth quarter, the Lady Wildcats narrowed their deficit even further, to 55-49, with 7:16 remaining. But, back-to-back three pointers from Alissa Adam and Kristy Armwood pushed the Lady Bears back out to a 61-49 lead and they went on to pick up the 16-point win.

"I'm very proud of our ability to play with different lineups versus various situations," said fourth-head Lady Bears' head coach Brent Harris. Alissa showed great leadership."

Cortez had a double double, with 22 points and 15 rebounds, to lead the Lady Bears. Adam had 17 points and seven assists while Jones also scored 17 points. The Lady Bears made good on 15 of 21 free throws.

Asia Thibodeaux topped the Pearl River offense with 22 points. The Lady Wildcats hit 10 of 20 charity shots.

The Bears played tough, but not quite tough enough, as they opened MACJC South Division play Thursday night with a 69-59 loss to visiting Pearl River.

With the loss, the Bears fell to 4-4 overall, and 0-1 in the South. The Wildcats moved to 5-3 and 1-0. The game was a back and forth affair in the early going with four lead changes in the first 3:53. But, Pearl River took an 8-7 lead with 16:07 on the clock and they would retain the lead the rest of the night.

With Terrell Miller scoring the Bears' first 11 points, the home team trailed 14-11 with 13:16 on the clock. But, the Wildcats would later push their lead to 34-24, with 0:57 to go in the half and they took a 34-26 lead into the locker room at intermission.

The Bears continued to play tough in the second half, but each time they would make a run at the lead, the Wildcats would find an answer to the challenge.

Emanuel Thompson's basket and free throw pulled the Bears back to within five points, 36-31, with 18:51 left in the game. But, 1:29 later, the Wildcats were back up to an 11-point, 42-31, lead.

Trailing 45-31, free throws from Chris McIntosh and a three-point play by Rodrick Sikes brought the Bears back to within eight, 45-37, with 13:49 to play.

Four more times, the Bears would pull to within eight points, but they would be unable to cross that barrier as the Wildcats held on for the 10-point win.

"Pearl River played pretty good," said Bears' head coach Thomas Gray. "We were not focused on our game plan (and) did not do a good job on the boards. They outrebounded us 35-17. We just all around need to have a sharper focus and be able to get into the flow of the game more."

Sikes topped the Bears in scoring with 17 points while Miller finished the game with 13 points. The Bears hit 14 of 18 free throws.

Pearl River's Cortez Mitchell led all scorers with 24 points. The Wildcats made 12 of 17 free

throws.

December 8, 2015

Finding field goals hard to come by, the Lady Bears relied on free throws Monday night as they eased out of Utica with a 70-64 MACJC South Division win over the much-improved Hinds Lady Bulldogs.

With the win, their fifth straight, the Lady Bears moved to 8-1 on the season and 2-0 in the South. Hinds fell to 5-4 and 0-2.

Hinds took a quick 6-0 lead in the game before a Gabriella Cortez free throw and three-point bucket made it 6-4 with 7:40 left in the opening quarter. Later in the quarter, the Lady Bears scored 10 of 12 points to take a 17-10 lead and they went on to hold a 19-15 advantage at the end of the quarter.

The Lady Bears held a slim 21-19 lead with 7:37 left in the half before an 11-4 run, keyed by a pair of Teshia Jones three-pointers, helped them to a 32-23 lead at the end of the first 20:00.

Hinds came back to within five points, 34-29, on an Adrianna Kemp jumper with 8:04 left in the third quarter. Answering with an 11-4 run, capped by a pair of Ke'Asia Gray free throws, the Lady Bears quickly extended their lead up to 10 points, 42-32, with 5:29 on the clock. Hinds then closed the gap to 49-43 at the end of the quarter.

With the Lady Bears hitting 15 of 16 free throws in the fourth quarter, and getting 12 points from Alissa Adam, they led by as many as 12 points. Hinds was unable to get any closer than eight points until Hilary Kemp's three-pointer with 0:09 left brought about the final six-point deficit.

"Hinds is much improved, there's no doubt about that" said Lady Bears head coach Brent Harris. "We didn't play great, but we had one starter out (Lillie Snowden). I thought Kristy Armwood did a great job filling in for (her) and I thought Alissa Adam had an exceptional night. All in all, we got the win, but there are some things we need to work on."

The win came despite the Lady Bears hitting only 33 percent from the field. That was offset by them hitting 26 of 33 free throws.

Adam led the Lady Bears, and all scorers, with 25 points, including 12 of 14 free throws. She also had five assists. Jones and Cortez both were in double figures with 14 points. Armwood led the Lady Bears on the boards with seven rebounds.

Hinds also shot only 33 percent from the field. They were led by Adrianna Kemp's 15 points and made good on 16 of 22 free throws.

The Bears had an unexpectedly easy time of it Monday night in Utica as they picked up a much-needed 74-37 win over the Hinds Bulldogs in a MACJC South Division contest.

The win, in their final game of 2015, moved the Bears to 5-4 overall and 1-1 in the South. Hinds dropped to 4-5 and 1-1.

The first few minutes of the game gave no indication as to what was to come for the Bears. Hinds took an early 3-0 on a Trojuan White trey and were up 12-6 with 8:39 left in the first half.

Then, things began to click for the Bears. With a pair of Emanuel Thompson free throws serving as the starting point, the Bears outscored their hosts 36-4 to take a 42-16 going into intermission.

The second half was all Bears. A Lafayette Rutledge jumper made the score 51-21 with 15:55 still to play and Hinds was unable to come any closer than 24 points (56-32). A late 13-0 run put the Bears up by 39 points, 74-35, with 0:57 to go. David Robinson's layup for Hinds, with 0:39 on the clock, resulted in the final score.

"I'm definitely excited," said Bears' top man Thomas Gray, "not necessarily just about the win, but that was a huge win. A win in Utica is always tough to come by. Hinds is a really good ball club."

"I'm just excited to see our guys pay attention to detail on the defensive end," Gray continued, "just really being locked in to our (scouting report). (Assistant) Coach (Andy) Farrell had those guys ready to play. The guys paid attention and really bought into it, not just (the scouting report) but also what we had to do offensively to be successful."

Rutledge led all scorers with 18

points on 7-9 field goals. Terrell Miller finished with 12 points and 12 rebounds while Thompson scored 11 points. The Bears made 25 of 33 free throws.

January 12, 2016

Things continued to fall in place for the Lady Bears Monday night as they picked up their eighth straight win with an 80-56 victory over the visiting Meridian Lady Eagles.

With the win, the Lady Bears moved to 11-1 overall and, at 3-0, are tied with Jones County for the top spot in the MACJC's South Division.

The Lady Bears took an early 5-2 lead on Teshia Jones' three-pointer with 7:56 left in the opening quarter. A pair of Gabriella Cortez free throws gave them their biggest lead, 15-10, with 2:10 remaining on the clock and they carried a 16-14 advantage into the second quarter.

The second quarter belonged to the Lady Bears. Shalisa Hawthorne's three-pointer, with 8:05 left before the half moved them into a double-digit lead, 25-14. Hawthorne's trey, capping a 10-0 run, made the score 35-18 with 4:06 on the clock. The Lady Bears then scored the final seven points of the half to carry a 42-22 lead into intermission.

It was more of the same for the Lady Bears in the third quarter. A'Keyia McDyess' jumper with 2:31 on the clock moved the home team out to their biggest lead of the night, 62-35, and they led 64-42 heading to the fourth quarter.

The Lady Eagles (1-11, 0-2 South) pulled back to within 14 points, 67-53, with 5:53 left in the game. That, however, would be as close as they would come as Alissa Adam's three-pointer closed out a game-ending 9-0 Lady Bears run to give them the 24-point victory.

"We were very good in the second quarter," said Lady Bears head coach Brent Harris. "Our press got us some easy baskets (and) Ke'Asia Gray made some great plays. But, we are still learning how to finish games. So, we are still a work in progress."

Jones led four Lady Bears in double figures with 17 points. Hawthorne finished the night with 14 points while Adam had a double-double, with 13 points and 10 assists, and Cortez had 11 points. The Lady Bears hit nine of 12 free throws.

Meridian's Roshonae Rice led all scorers with 26 points. The Lady Eagles were 13-21 from the free throw line.

What had the makings of a blowout in the first half turned into a nail-biter in the second as the Bears held on for a 70-61 win over the visiting Meridian Eagles Monday night.

The win, their third in a row, moved the Bears to 7-4 on the season and 2-1 in the MACJC South Division. Meridian dropped to 3-8 and 0-2.

After three ties in the first 4:38 of the game, the Bears used back-to-back three pointers from Bryce Baker and Terrell Miller to take a 12-6 lead with 14:44 on the clock.

A bucket from Mario Doyle with 8:53 to go in the half gave the Bears their first double-digit lead at 25-14. A 10-3 run late in the half increased their advantage to 35-17 with 2:44 left in the half and they were on top 39-24 at the break.

Meridian refused to go quietly into the night, however. Leading by 15, 45-30, with 15:48 left in the game, the Bears saw Meridian go on a 10-2 run to pull back to within seven, 47-40, with 11:57 left. Four free throws by the Bears then pushed the lead back to 11, 51-40, with 8:51 to play. Meridian then outscored the Bears 12-5 to close the gap to four points, 56-52, with 5:41 still on the clock. After a jumper and pair of free throws by Miller extended the Bears' lead back to double digits, 62-52, with 2:14 left, Meridian used a 9-2 run to draw to within three points, 64-61, with 0:37 still showing.

"It was a great effort on Meridian's part," said second-year Bears' head coach Thomas Gray. But, based on film study, Gray said he knew Meridian played hard and never gave up "and that's what we saw (in the second half). I think we got a little complacent and kind of slacked (off) a little bit."

"I'm just glad we could finish this game out, make really big free throws. Free throws won us this game in the second half."

Miller led all scorers with 21 points in the game and he topped the Bears with eight rebounds. Thompson was also in double figures with 14 points. The Bears were good on 26 of 37 free throws with 14 of 15 coming in the second half.

Ken' Darrius Hamilton and Devin Paicley-Smith both had 20 points for Meridian. The Eagles made six of eight free throws.

January 15, 2016

It all came down to free throws Thursday night in Perkinston as the Lady Bears defeated the host Mississippi Gulf Coast Lady Bulldogs, 66-59, for their ninth straight win.

Both teams made 20 field goals, including five from three-point range. The difference maker was free throws as the Lady Bears made 11 of 12 while Gulf Coast only attempted six and made four.

With the win, the Lady Bears moved to 12-1 on the season and, at 4-0, remained tied with Jones County atop the MACJC South.

The game was tight from the start with four ties and two lead changes in the first 4:51 of the opening quarter. Baskets from Teshia Jones and Alissa Adam gave the Lady Bears an early 4-0 lead. A Gabby Cortez jumper with 2:31 on the clock pushed the score to 20-10 and the Lady Bears held a 20-14 advantage at the end of the quarter. The Lady Bulldogs (9-4, 1-3) pulled back to within four points, 29-25, with 3:00 to play in the second quarter. But, ending with Jones' layup at the buzzer, the Lady Bears finished the half on a 9-2 run to take a 38-27 lead into the locker room.

The Lady Bears seemed on the verge of putting the game out of reach in the third quarter. After seeing the Lady Bulldogs draw back to within five points, 39-34, with 8:21 on the clock, the Lady Bears went on an 11-4 run, capped by Jones' three-pointer, to go up 50-28 with 5:39 showing. However, their hosts were not ready to give up just yet, closing out the quarter on a 12-0 run to leave the Lady Bears on top 50-47 headed to the final quarter.

A three-pointer by the Lady Bulldogs' Ka'Nosha Fairley tied the score at 50-50 with 9:15 left in the game. But, a trey and two free throws by Jones and Lillie Snowden's jumper put the Lady Bears in front 57-50 with 5:24 to go. The Lady Bulldogs were unable to come any closer than four points the rest of the way and the Lady Bears went on to get the seven-point victory.

"This was a very nice road win," said Lady Bears' fourth-year head coach Brent Harris. "Teshia and Gabby (Cortez) led us offensively. We were great from the free throw line and defensively we made enough plays."

Terrell Miller's short jumper with 0:01 on the clock put the cap on an amazing night for the Bears as they upset the previously undefeated Mississippi Gulf Coast Bulldogs, 89-88, in double overtime in Perkinston.

The win, their fourth in a row, moved the Bears to 8-4 overall and, at 3-1, kept them in second place in the MACJC South (the win also moved the Bears to a perfect 4-0 on the road). Gulf Coast dropped to 12-1, 3-1.

The Bears took an early 2-0 lead on Bryce Baker's jumper, but the Bulldogs quickly responded to go up 4-2 with 17:19 left in the half.

With the Bears trailing 28-18, and 7:03 on the clock, three-pointers from Emanuel Thompson and Lafayette Rutledge served as bookends to a 17-7 run to end the half. This pulled the Bears back to within two points, 37-35, with much more to come. A Terrell Miller three-pointer helped the Bears outscore the Bulldogs 9-4 to open the second half and take a 44-41 lead with 18:06 on the clock. The teams battled hard the remainder of the half, trading baskets and the lead.

With the score tied 71-71, the Bears had a chance to secure the win in regulation. But, four missed free throws down the stretch cost them that chance and, together with a missed desperation shot by the Bulldogs, sent the game into extra play.

The Bears took a 77-72 lead midway through the first overtime, but the host Bulldogs would not give up easily as they outscore the Bears 10-5 over the next 2:30 to force yet another extra period.



Alissa Adam drives for the goal.

photo by Garrett Graves

A pair of Miller free throws and an old-fashioned three-point play by Chris McIntosh put the Bears up 87-83 early in the second overtime. But, again, the Bulldogs would not go quietly, scoring five straight points to take an 88-87 lead with only seconds remaining.

With time running down, and a third overtime looking likely, Miller rebounded and put back a missed shot to score the winning points. A desperation three-pointer by the Bulldogs missed its mark allowing the Bears to bring home the win.

"I'm just so excited for our guys," said Bears' head man Thomas Gray. "We could have folded after missing those free throws (at the end of regulation). We came out strong in the first overtime, but had Gulf Coast come roaring back and tie it up again. We could have given up (then)."

Gray the Bears could have also given up in the second overtime, "because the same thing happened. We raced out to a lead, they came back and took the lead with about a minute left. I just can't fathom our guys continually fighting, never giving up (and) never saying die. I'm so proud for how they fought adversity and how they overcame the trials of being on the road and I'm just glad God had his hand on these guys tonight and allowed them to finish."

Miller led all scorers with 33 points and 19 rebounds in the game. He had 24 points, and 12 of the rebounds, in the second half and overtime and hit 15 straight free throws, after going 0-2 in the first half, to finish 15-17 from the line. Thompson ended the game with 22 points and eight rebounds.

January 19, 2016

The Lady Bears saw their winning streak come to an end at nine Tuesday night with an 80-67 overtime loss to visiting Co-Lin. With the loss, the Lady Bears dropped to 12-2 on the season and, at 4-1, into a second-place tie with East Central in the MACJC's South Division

Four ties and three lead changes highlighted the first quarter of the contest. A 9-2 run, capped by a Gabby Cortez jumper, gave the Lady Bears their first lead of the night, 12-9, with 5:22 on the clock. The lead was 20-18 for the home team before Co-Lin's Kelley Allen bucket knotted the game at 20-20 at the end of the quarter.

Trailing 25-20 with 9:17 left in the second quarter, the Lady Bears scored six straight to take a 26-25 lead with 6:52 on the clock. Co-Lin held a 34-30 lead late in the quarter before the Lady Bears scored the final eight points of the half, including three-pointers from Adam and Kristy Armwood, to take a 38-34 lead in the break.

The Lady Bears were on top 42-37, with 6:53 left in the third quarter before Co-Lin went on a 9-0 run to take a 46-42 lead with 2:41 on the clock. A 10-0 run, highlighted by a Teshia Jones' trey, then helped the Lady Bears take a 52-47 lead at the end of the quarter. Neither team could move ahead by more than four points in the fourth quarter. The Lady Bears were up 52-48 with 9:17 to play while Co-Lin (12-2, 3-2 South) held a 59-55 advantage with 3:41 left.

A free throw by Adam put the Lady Bears on top 61-59 with 0:43 to play in regulation, but Co-

Lin came back to tie the game at 61-61 on Tytiana Hall's jumper with 0:16 on the clock. The Lady Bears had a chance to win the game in regulation, attempting two free throws with 0:01 left, but the misses sent the contest into overtime.

Overtime belonged to Co-Lin as they outscored the Lady Bears 19-6 to escape with the win.

"We missed some great opportunities to get this one," said Southwest head coach Brent Harris. "We fought hard inside, but they (Co-Lin) really hurt us in the post."

However, "it is (just) one game," Harris continued, "and we (had) won nine in a row. We must learn from it (the loss) and get better immediately."

Adam led the home team with 20 points and nine assists. Jones was also in double figures with 18 points while Cortez netted 13. The Lady Bears made eight of 19 free throws.

Allen led all scorers with 28 points. Co-Lin hit 17 of 21 free throws. The Bears defeated arch-rival Co-Lin, 94-75, before a packed house in Summit Tuesday night. The Bears' fifth straight win moved them to 9-4 overall and, at 4-1, into a three-way tie for first in the MACJC South.

Trailing 5-3 early in the game, the Bears went on a 19-6 tear, with three three-pointers from Emanuel Thompson and two from Terrell Miller, to take a 22-11 lead with 13:22 left in the first half.

The lead went to 30-14, with 8:01 left in the half, on back-to-back treys by Miller and Lafayette Rutledge. Three pointers from Miller and Thompson then helped the Bears take their biggest lead of the night, 49-25, with 1:16 on the clock and they went on to hold a 51-29 advantage at intermission.

Leading 67-48, with 12:57 left in the second half, the Bears saw Co-Lin pull back to within 12, 68-56, with 10:59 remaining. However, that would be as close as the visitors would get the rest of the way.

A Miller jumper with 6:33 on the clock moved the Bears out to an 82-64 lead. They then tied their biggest lead of 24 points, at 93-69, with 1:37 to play before Co-Lin (2-12, 0-5 South) scored six of the game's final seven points to reach the final score.

"We were really fortunate to be able to shoot the ball like we did," said Bears head coach Thomas Gray of his team's 16-23 shooting from behind the three-point line. "That was something we haven't been able to do and probably won't be able to again." "I probably have more respect for (Co-Lin head) Coach (Kenny) Bizot than any other coach," Gray went on, "because of what he stands for. We have some really good coaches in this league and Coach Bizot is at the top. So, anytime you beat a team like Co-Lin you feel very fortunate and very blessed to walk out with (a win)."

Rutledge led all scorers with 24 points on 9-11 shooting from the field, including 4-5 from behind the three-point arc. Miller had his second straight double-double with 23 points (7-10 from the field; 4-4 from three-point range) and 19 rebounds while Thompson also had 23 points (5-7 from three-point range). The Bears were good on 14 of 21 free throws.

Mills takes helm

By Michael Gunnell, Sports Information Director

Southwest Vice-President for Student Affairs/Director of Athletics Dr. Bill Ashley has announced the hiring of Zach Mills as head coach for the men's soccer program and also that Mills will serve as interim coach for the women.

Mills came to Southwest in 2012 after three seasons as coach of the boys' soccer team at his alma mater, Petal High School. As a sophomore and senior, he led the Panthers in scoring and played in the Mississippi High School All-Star game in his final season. In his first season as coach, he helped guide the team to a district championship.

A 2010 graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, with a degree in Business Administration, Mills also attended and played soccer at Jones County Junior College and Delta State University. He is currently working toward a Master's degree in Spanish and also a Master's in TESOL (Teaching English to speakers of other languages). In between his second and third seasons at Southwest, Mills played professional soccer in Peru. He led his team in scoring with 32 points.

"First, I want to thank (Southwest president) Dr. (Steve) Bishop, Dr. Ashley and the Board members for giving me this opportunity," Mills said. "I'm very blessed. I thank God for my abilities (and) I'm glad Southwest has noticed my skills and the effort I've put toward (the soccer programs)."

Mills also thanked Gallant "for everything I've learned. I'm excited for him. I'm glad he got his opportunity. But, I can't wait to put my own personal touch on this program. I'm looking forward to next season and am looking forward to the spring because all of our players can't wait to improve (and) train hard." "The players coming back are excited," Mills said, "(and) the (new) players coming in are excited and I'm very excited, as well, about the next season. We're ready to go." Ashley said that Mills is "an enthusiastic, young and budding soccer coach. He has also been a strong student advocate while working in the housing department of the SMCC Student Affairs Division. He has played collegiate as well as professional soccer." "Zach brings strong organizational skills, leadership and a strong background in soccer to the college," Ashley continued. "He is a fine example for our student-athletes. I feel he will propel our men's soccer program to the next level and will bring stability to the women's program until we search for and hire our women's head coach in the coming weeks."

Try out Area 51 Extreme

By Ashley Prejean, co-editor

Are you tired of the same old activities? Well, sometimes you need to spice things up and try something new. Area 51 Extreme Air Sports in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, will definitely deliver some excitement to your routine. Area 51 is a short drive away, located in a prime area of Baton Rouge that will give you access to the local restaurants and everything the city has to offer. What exactly is Area 51? Area 51 is a gigantic building filled to the brim with gravity-defying trampolines, obstacle courses, foam pits, and much more.

Area 51 has something for everyone. The facility offers open jump for different age groups starting at 9 a.m. Also included are extreme dodgeball, aerial skills, trapeze, air dunk, ninja obstacle courses, and more. For adults, the cost is \$13 for a one-hour flight and \$20 for a two-hour flight. Monday-Thursday, Area 51 has open jump from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and on Friday and Saturday, they have extended hours, 9 p.m. to midnight for ages 15 and up.

Area 51 is a great place for everyone. Some of the special activities offered are dodgeball tournaments, glow-in-the-dark nights, and more. Be sure to check out their website and Facebook page for the latest and greatest from Area 51 Extreme Air Sports!

Bass Club competes



Scott Nichols, Logan Morel, Cole Nunnery, Tucker Adams, Corey Kelton, Parker Ursrey, and Addie Boone, advisor (Not pictured are Hunter Maxwell and Justin Reynolds.)

Southwest Mississippi Community College is proud to announce its new Bass Fishing Club. The organization consists of eight SMCC students: (Pictured left to right) Scott Nichols of Tylertown, Logan Morel of Smithdale, Cole Nunnery of Smithdale, Tucker Adams of Smithdale, Corey Kelton of Gloster, Parker Ursrey of Summit, and Addie Boone, SMCC Advisor. (Not pictured are Hunter Maxwell of Summit and Justin Reynolds of Smithdale.) Members will compete in

seven collegiate fishing tournaments in the southeastern U.S. and host a fishing tournament on March 19, 2016 at Lake Okhissa. Scenic Rivers Development Alliance is sponsoring the SMCC Bass Club with additional support from Rockin' Willy's, Freak Outdoors, McComb Tackle Box, The Mechanic Shop, Hammer Rods, Keith White Ford-Lincoln, Emmett's Marine, and JJAZ Trucking.

Workforce students graduate



Instructor, Craig Rowell, Chris Davis, Dan Moore, and William Jones. Congratulations to our EMT-B Night Class Fall 2015 graduates for successfully completing the EMT Skills that are outlined in the National Standard Curriculum developed by the United States Department of Transportation and additional skills required by the Mississippi Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services.



Instructor, Wade Wicker, Pat McGowan, Katelynne Ferguson, Elisabeth Tanner, Amber Smith, and Josh Bass. Congratulations to our EMT-B Day Class Fall 2015 graduates for successfully completing the EMT Skills that are outlined in the National Standard Curriculum developed by the United States Department of Transportation and additional skills required by the Mississippi Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services.



Mattie Jefferson, Tamara Taylor, Jessica Bowers, Whitney L. Wilson, Instructor Robin Spring RN, MSN, Serena Lewis-Hancock, Christy Frost, Haley Turnage, and Catherine Wilkinson. Congratulations to our Home Health Aide Fall 2015 graduates! These students completed 80 hours of Home Health Aide Training. Home Health Aides help the elderly, sick, and disabled maintain their safety, health and independence in the comfort and convenience of their own homes.

What is college life

By Ashley Prejean, Co-Editor

What is college life? When you think about college, the stereotype consists of tales of all-nighters, parties, and an overload of extracurricular activities. You do not normally think about how to pay for daycare, having to leave class to pick up a sick child, or planning a family dinner for a picky eater that night.

Parenting and college do not seem to go together. It feels almost taboo to bring it up. However, that is far from the truth. I am a sophomore here, and I have children. I am considered a non-traditional student, and I know I am not alone. So many couples are choosing to start their families early and either go to school while they have little ones or wait until their kids are in kindergarten.

Parenting is one of the hardest things in the world. Someone else's entire well-being is up to you. As a parent myself, I can

attest to this. I have to seem that I know what I am doing from my kids' point of view, but really, I have no clue. I learn as I go. Parenting is a full-time job with loads of overtime, and it does not leave room for much more than eating and getting a few hours of sleep. Add to that a full-time class load and a job to support said children, then you will fully understand what it feels like to walk in my shoes.

Sometimes it can feel so lonely being a college parent when you are in a classroom surrounded by eighteen and nineteen year old students who do not have the weight of another's life on their shoulders. Kids look up to their parents, and as a parent, I want to make my children proud of me and be a good role model, but it is hard work. When my kids are older, I want them to look at me and know I did this for them in order to make life just a little easier for our family. Trying to juggle work, school, and family life

can be hectic and draining.

The day in the life of a student who is also a parent can go something like this: wake up, shower, eat breakfast, get the kids dressed, load the car, drop the children off at daycare, go to class, leave school, pick the kids up, go to the doctor's office, go to the pharmacy, go to the grocery store, head home, fix dinner, help the kids with homework, bath time, clean up, study/homework, go to bed, and start over again. A parent can wake up before the sun between five o'clock in the morning and six o'clock and stay up until way past midnight the same night. We run off four hours of sleep and a pot of coffee.

With such a hectic schedule, it can be difficult for student parents to get involved in all the wonderful extracurricular activities that Southwest offers. I know I always struggle to find time to join anything, but I still work and take care of my kids. I never have found time to participate in those

extracurricular activities, so I always feel that I am lacking something from my college experience. This year, I have made more of an effort to make sure I can be more involved. It may seem like a small amount compared to some, but joining the yearbook and newspaper staff has allowed me to feel more integrated into the school, and I love it!

There is no better feeling than knowing you are part of a school as amazing as Southwest. The teachers are always understanding when it comes to students who have children. I have seen firsthand how the teachers are willing to work with the student parents. They genuinely want all of the students to excel. In the end, whether you have children or not, when you graduate it is the same for us all. We accomplished a major milestone in our lives, and we are all on our way to bigger and better things to make a bright future for ourselves and the little ones who look up to us.

Spanish basketball player likes Southwest

By Seth Nieman, co-editor

After spending nineteen years born and raised in Spain, twenty-year old Sean Smith made a life-changing decision when he decided to come play college basketball at SMCC. Sean was born in Madrid, Spain, and attended the Canarias Basketball Academy in Las Palmas, Spain, and chose to attend SMCC after talking about the move with Bears assistant coach, Andy Farrell. He was interested in the education that he could receive and the good basketball program. "It's been a real good experience so far," Sean said.

Sean says he has already noticed many differences between the two countries' lifestyles, specifically being the food, language, and the people. "The style of basketball is a lot more physical and faster in the U.S.," Sean said. Sean has also visited England and France as well.

Sean's father, Michael Smith, played professional basketball overseas for sixteen years in Spain, and also on the country's national team in 1995 and 1997 at the European championships. Sean also has a twenty-year old sister that is currently working in London.

Some of his hobbies include hanging out with his friends, getting sleep, and he also used to play soccer in his spare time. Sean's favorite NBA team is the New York Knicks, and he also formerly went up against the Knicks' star player, Kristaps Porzingis, during his time at the Canarias Basketball Academy.

Sean hopes to earn a scholarship at a Division I basketball program following his two years at Southwest. He hopes to one day be able to play on the professional level, and even back in his home country of Spain.

Mardi Gras traditions

By Ashley Prejean, co-editor

Mardi Gras became a legal holiday in Louisiana in 1875; it was originally a Christian holiday originating in Rome. When we think of Mardi Gras, also known as Fat Tuesday or Carnival, we usually think about delicious king cake, flashy beads, and crazy parades. Many people celebrate this cultural holiday, yet the tradition's meanings have been forgotten.

To celebrate Mardi Gras, many people like to wear masks. In the days of old, everyone wore a mask to escape social class. This allowed people to be someone else for a little while. For a little fun fact, in New Orleans, it is a law that all float riders must wear a mask.

The throwing of beads began because of their colors. The king wanted them to symbolize royalty, so the colors are purple for justice, gold for power, and green for faith. They started out as glass, but they evolved into the plastic beads we have today. Now they are a prime point of Mardi Gras.

Every year in New Orleans, a man is named king. He is known as Rex, the King of Carnival. The very first Rex was the archduke of Russia. There is now an organization that elects a high-ranking city executive to be given a symbolic key to the city.

King cake is something everyone has enjoyed at some point; it is based on the three kings who brought baby Jesus gifts on the twelfth day of Christmas. The baby in the cake is meant to represent Jesus, and the three royal colors represent the kings. Usually king cake is eaten from January 6th all the way until Mardi Gras.

All of the traditions we celebrate for Mardi Gras bring us together for a time of fun, merriment, and a memorable experience. Therefore, this Mardi Gras season, be sure to stay safe, have fun, and catch a lot of beads! "Laissez les bons temps rouler!" Let the good times roll!



Intramurals: Dodgeball

Bill Wallace, Director of Intramurals



Winners- Bucs: Tyler Vanderslice, Brianna Nettles, Dusty Brock; second row: Robert Pickett, Tyler Shell, Patrick Devin



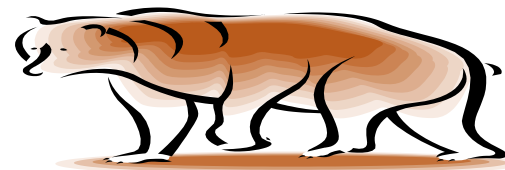
Runner Up- 954: Trey Fleming, Jeney Hudson, Sidney Davis, Jr.; second row: Allen Virgin, Ravian Pierce, Mah'Lon Robinson, Duke Dantzier

By Olivia Griffin, staff writer

The intramural program, which is led by Coach Bill Wallace, is now hosting basketball in the P.E. building. The P.E. building is located across from the Grill and right behind the cafeteria. Every

Wednesday at 5:30 P.M., teams gather to compete against one another in hopes of becoming the number-one team. Last Wednesday, there were 108 students who came out to play and support each other. Coach Wallace hopes to have many more students come to and engage in intramural sports.

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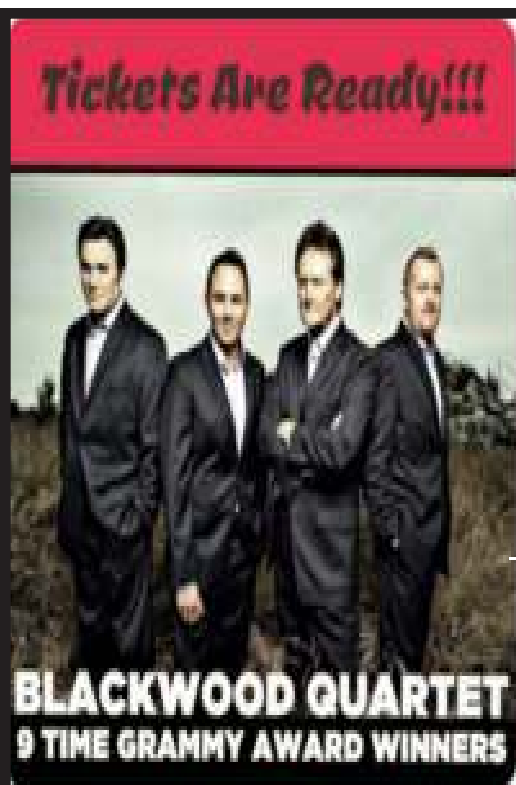
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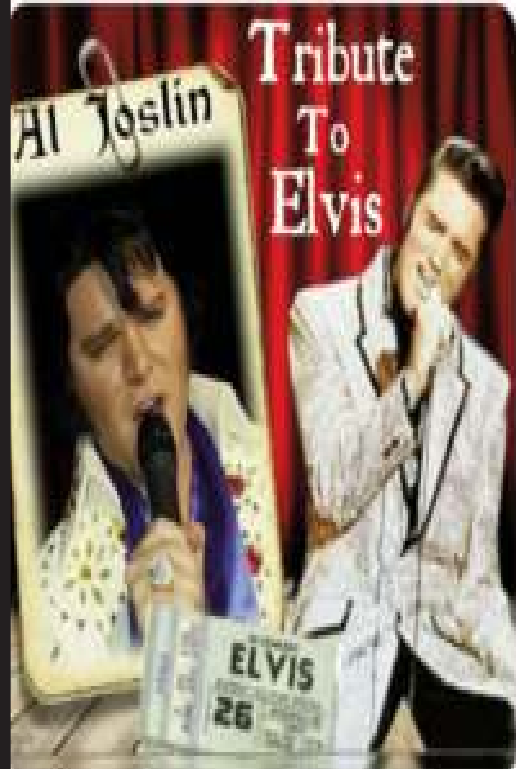
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