

# MVSU Alumni Chapter award two \$1K scholarships



The Holmes County Alumni Chapter of Mississippi Valley State University awarded two local students \$1,000 scholarships each to attend MVSU. The scholarship applicants were required to write and submit an essay. Pictured above (from left), Holmes County Alumni Chapter President Leroy Riley, Daylisha Washington, scholarship recipient, and Dr. Elizabeth D. Evans, interim vice-president for Academic Affairs at MVSU. (Photo submitted)



Pictured above (at left), Holmes County Alumni Chapter President Leroy Riley presents scholarship recipient Eflora Williams her award. (Photo submitted)

# The homeless: hard to track and aid

*Problems such as tobacco use  
linger without cessation, education*

**Sharon Nettles  
MS Tobacco Free Coalition**

Tobacco use is an alarming problem among the homeless. According to the Public Health Law Center, estimates of the homeless in the U.S. range from approximately 2.3 to 2.5 million people in any given year. At least 70 percent of homeless individuals smoke, which is four times that of the general population.



**January 3** - Marcy Gibson, Lee Arthur Cox, John Adams, Gayle Bell, Ashley Self, Brandy Hester, Michael Smith, Kaylon Cotton, Derek Walker

**January 4** - Bobby Williamson, Myrtis Powell, Lynne Ellison Smithhart, Lisa T. Bethany, Teresha Fields

**January 5** - Karmen Smith, Patrick Bond, Stacie Allen, Lauren M. Ellison, Ronnie Ables, Alandria Ross, Skylar Payton

**January 6** - Allen Wyche Standrod, Robert Davis, Edmond Clark, Coretha Smith, Peggy Ables, Helen Roy, Louis Scott

**January 7** - Torrence Nickerson, Susan Chamblee, Jean Golden Branch, Randy Matthews

**January 8** - Pearce Edwards, Charles Loffin, Ja’Kiya Ja’Liyah Watson, Jarneze Huntley, Christi Thornton Ramage, Tracy Hathcock, Hunter Burns

**January 9** - Doyle Gilmore, Jr., Jeremy Hobson, Cody Holland

The disadvantages faced by this group of people are hard to diagnose and remedy due to many obstacles: not having an address or phone number, lack of transportation, and the list goes on. For these reasons, many of them go without healthcare, support and treatment.

“It’s so hard to reach this group and give them the cessation service and education that they need because they are so hard to track and keep up with,” said Sharon Nettles, Director of the Mississippi Tobacco-Free Coalition of Madison, Yazoo, and Holmes Counties. “In the meantime, they’re going without proper care and are continuing to use tobacco at a disturbing rate.”

The Public Health Law Center also reported that approximately 20 to 30 percent of homeless adults have a serious mental illness along with a 68 to 80 percent prevalence of cigarette smoking. Due to lack of resources, this highly populated group uses tobacco in unconventional ways that raise the likelihood of ingesting infectious agents and toxins. An example of this would be sniping. Sniping is when someone unravels several discarded cigarettes, removes the remaining tobacco and uses it

to reroll a new, fuller cigarette.

“Such habits put them at a higher risk of getting gum disease, such as gingivitis and periodontitis,” said Amy Winter, Director of the Office of Tobacco Control at the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH). “If these conditions go untreated, it can lead to pain, tooth loss and other health problems.

Over age 65, only 20 percent of nonsmokers are toothless, but more than 41 percent of daily smokers are toothless. Tooth loss is a serious condition that can increase the risk of heart disease and other detrimental health issues.”

For help with quitting, and information on the health dangers of tobacco products, visit [www.quitlinems.com](http://www.quitlinems.com), or call the Mississippi Tobacco Quitline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW.



**Bridal  
Registry**

Lorene McCoy  
Ben Courts  
March 9, 2019

**Peoples  
Drug Store**

Court Square 834-2721 Lexington

**Holmes County NAACP  
ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The Holmes County Branch of the NAACP will be holding Elections for branch officers on January 12, 2019 at 11:00 at the Milton Olive Building, Highway 17 in Lexington. Any persons interested in holding an office of participating in the Elections are encouraged to come. For more information contact 662-834-6133.

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**January 3** - Walt and Donna Diggs, Ricky and Claudette Hathcock

**January 4** - Mike and Notie Turner

**January 7** - Lance and Mary Katherine White

To add your birthdays and anniversaries to our list, please send your information by mail to P.O. Box 60, Lexington, MS 39095; fax 662-834-1074; email [hcherald@gmail.com](mailto:hcherald@gmail.com); or stop by our office at 308 Court Square in Lexington. No phone calls, please.