

Eleven head to high school from McLain

Students from the 8th grade class at McLain Attendance Center that will be heading to Greene County High School in the fall are (Back row, L-R) Tyler Watts, Keldrin Blackston, My'Kal McLeod, Brandon Sumrall, Anthony London Jr., Clayton Freeman (Front row) Madison Hathorn, Brooklyn Roberts, Annsley Franks, Serenity Blakely and Emily Darr.



Largest-ever class graduates from JCJC

By KELLY ATWOOD
Student Publications Advisor

Jones County Junior College held its 90th annual commencement ceremony on May 5, with its largest ever graduating class of 677 students.

JCJC President Dr. Jesse Smith pointed out to the graduates and audience special attributes of this year's class, including 10 SkillsUSA winners, seven regional winners, the number one baseball team in the nation, the number one softball team in the nation, and the number one nursing program in the state.

"This class is truly remarkable," he said.

Another first this year was the introduction of military honor cords. Now any veteran or service member attending Jones may obtain a cord for graduation ceremonies. The 200 red, white and blue cords, selected to honor all branches of service, were purchased by funds provided to the institution from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Graduation keynote speaker, Sidney L. "Sid" Salter, the chief communications officer and director of the office of public affairs at Mississippi State University, told the students about time, perseverance and focus, and how those attributes contribute to a lifetime of success and fulfillment.

Salter told the students of interesting achievements made in his years of journalism, including interviewing presidents, covering murder trials and elections, and having

excerpts published in the nation's largest newspapers.

"Focused effort is not enough," Salter explained. "For every success that I've been fortunate to enjoy, every achievement, there have been abject failures, bitter disappointments, wrenching heartaches and embarrassing mistakes. Such was life for me, so will life be for most of you."

He challenged the graduates to recognize what is most valuable in their lives with a quote from Jerry Zucker, a Hollywood producer: "It doesn't matter that your dream came true if you spent your whole life sleeping." Wake up!" Salter explained when he was younger that he sacrificed time with his family as he attempted to get ahead in his career, but those missed times can't be retrieved.

He also quoted Carl Sandburg several times: "Time is the coin of your life. It is the only coin you have, and only you can determine how it will be spent. Be careful lest you let other people spend it for you."

He asked students, based on how they live in the coming decades, what would their obituary state.

"What mark will you make on the world?" asked Salter. "Whose lives will you change or save or influence? You have youth and time on your side. You have intelligence and ability. You have Carl Sandburg's words to remind you. May you spend the coin of your life wisely."

U.S. Marine Corps veteran Madison DeLoach of Ellisville, who was one of sev-



Greene County High School alumna April Pierce is shown here receiving her diploma from JCJC President Dr. Jesse Smith during one-of-two commencement ceremonies held on the Ellisville campus on May 5.

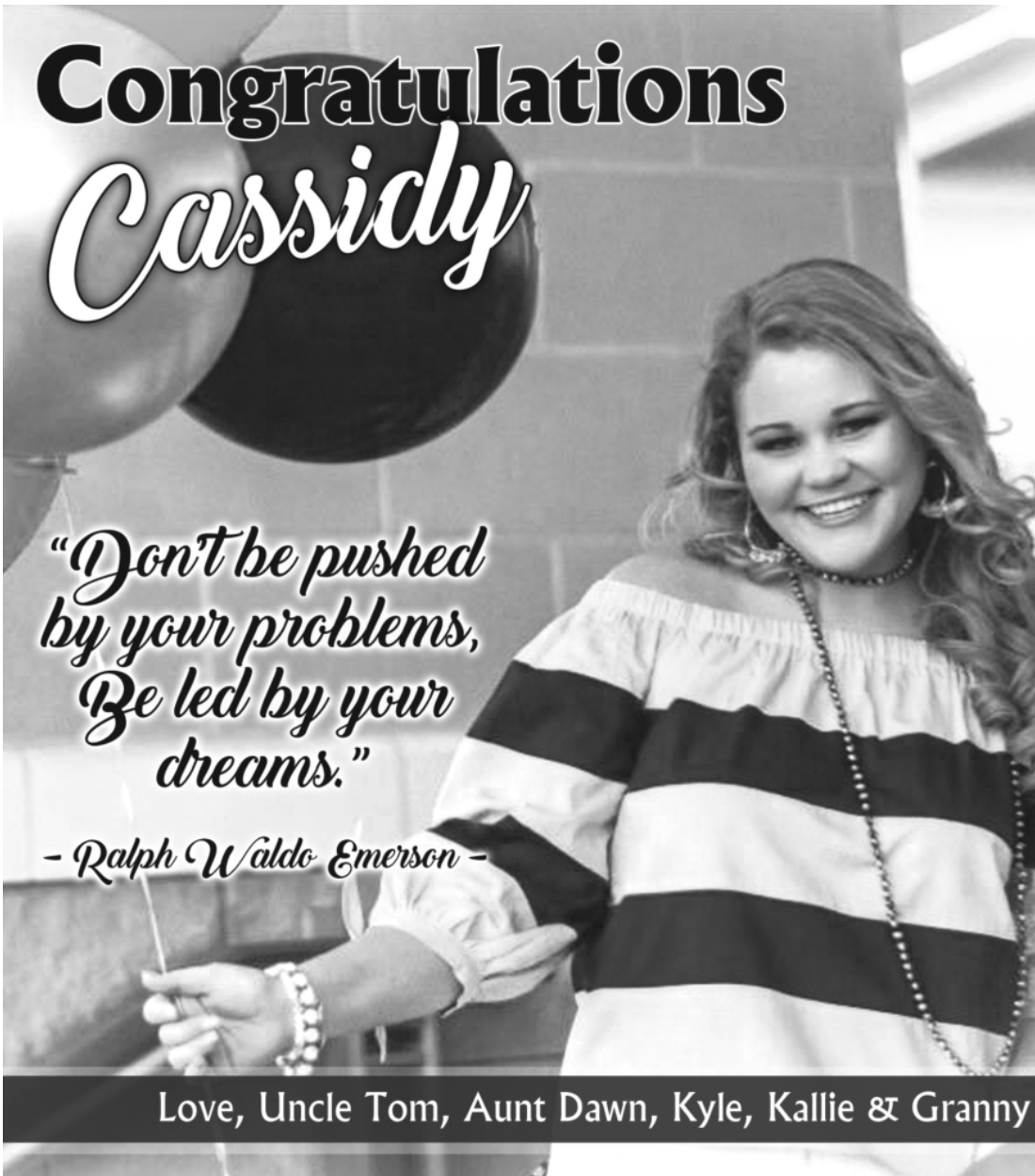
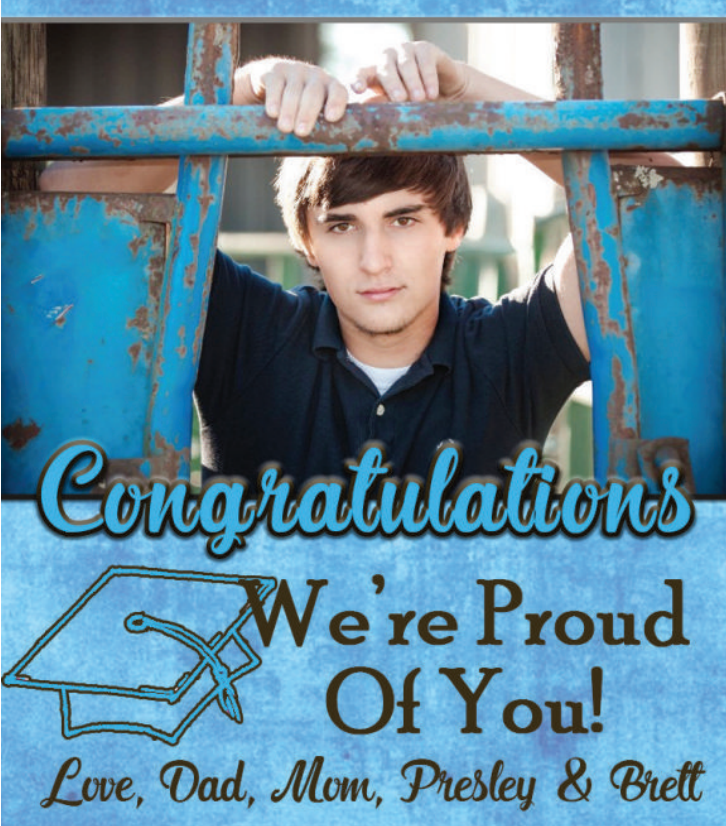
eral students wearing JCJC's new military honor cord during graduation, said Salter's speech really made him think about the value of time.

"I've lost a lot of friends," DeLoach said. "You should live every day like it's your last."

DeLoach plans to receive a dual degree from MSU in business and electrical engineering. Before he heads to Starkville, he plans to take advantage of half-price summer tuition at Jones to take some of his required advanced math courses.

Summer classes begin May 30 and summer tuition is \$60 per credit hour. To find out more, visit www.jcjc.edu or call (601)477-4257.

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